



AREA 3 - MATHESON ISLAND



Traditional Community Name:
None Known



Population:
Approximately 140



Matheson Island School:
Grades: Nursery to Grade 9
Enrollment: Approximately 20
Staff: Approximately 7



Access:
All-weather road with one ferry crossing (ice bridge in winter)



Indigenous Language(s):
Anishnaabemowin (Ojibwe)



Average Temperatures:
January
High -13 °C Low -23 °C
Extreme Low -32 °C
June
High 15 °C Low 9 °C
Extreme High 15 °C



Treaty Territory:
Treaty 2



Location:
On Lake Winnipeg, approximately 236 km north of Winnipeg.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

Local amenities on Matheson Island include a public beach, indoor skating rink, ball field, and community hall. The island is located at the northwest corner of the Lake Winnipeg Narrows, a 2.5 km channel that separates the lake into a northern and southern basin. Findings of Indigenous pottery, arrowheads, and rock paintings in the Narrows suggest the area has been an important travel route since time immemorial.

The area was originally known as "Snake Island" because of a major garter snake den located on the island. For a long time Matheson Island lacked any permanent residents thanks to the snakes and a rocky shale shoreline that made access difficult. This changed in the late 1800s when a group of Métis people left the Red River Colony to settle there. As the human population grew, the snake population dwindled. In 1903, Snake Island was renamed "Matheson Island" after Daniel Matheson (1849 - 1918) who had been a lighthouse keeper on nearby Black Bear Island. Today, the island's economy is based on commercial fishing, peatmoss harvesting, and trapping.



SUBSIDIZED HOUSING ON MATHESON ISLAND

There are two, three-bedroom houses for staff located near the school. Both houses are fitted with a fridge, stove, washer and dryer. Pets are allowed. The principal's residence (shown at left) has additional accommodations in the second story for use by visiting staff members. Heat and electricity are included in the rent and Frontier School Division provides maintenance. Wireless internet is available but is the responsibility of the tenant.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

At Matheson Island School, most literature chosen for English Language Arts at all grade levels feature Indigenous authors and themes. Other relevant Indigenous literature and resources are highlighted during Indigenous Event days, such as a unit on Treaty Education introduced to students in advance of Louis Riel Day. With a cultural advisor directing, school staff, students, and community members recently erected a tipi on the school grounds. Since then, the school/community tipi has been used as a gathering place for traditional storytelling, teachings, and land-based education.

REASONS TO JOIN FRONTIER SCHOOL DIVISION

- Our 39 school communities are populated with friendly people and are located in some of the most scenic areas of the province.
- There are many opportunities to engage with local Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers and to participate in local cultural events and activities.
- Frontier School Division is dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages and cultures, as well as advancing the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee.
- We provide our teachers with PD and other supports to ensure our students receive a quality, inclusive education that includes Indigenous perspectives, local language(s), and cultural programming.
- Frontier School Division has a unique 3-tiered, grassroots governance system to help provide meaningful, appropriate, and locally relevant education in our schools.
- Frontier School Division spans nearly 75% of the province and is organized into 5 Areas.



Frontier School Division Contacts

Phone: +1 (204) 775-9741

Email: Frontier@fsdnet.ca (for general inquiries)

HR@fsdnet.ca (for careers information)

