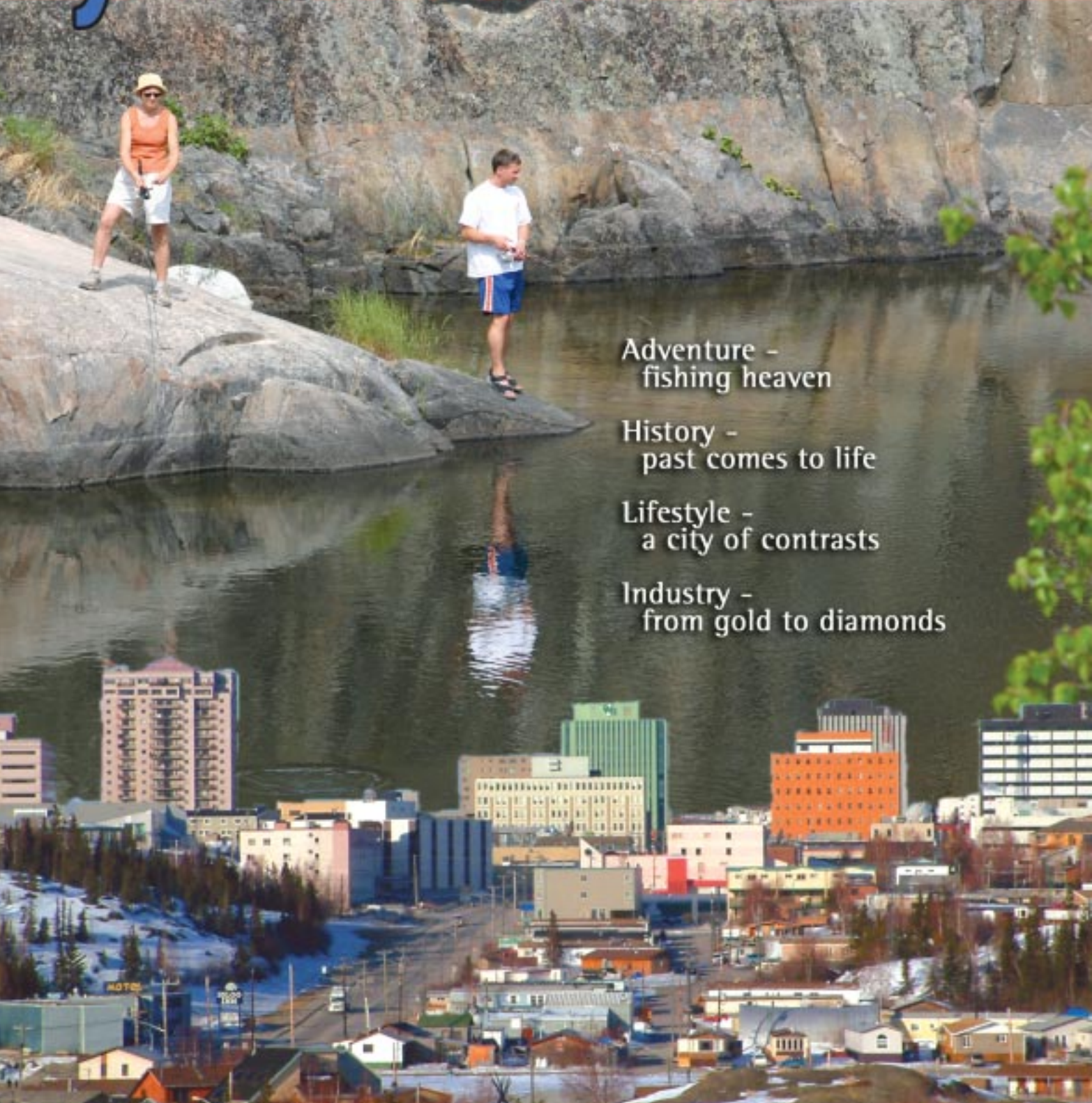


Visitors Guide **YELLOWKNIFE** 2005

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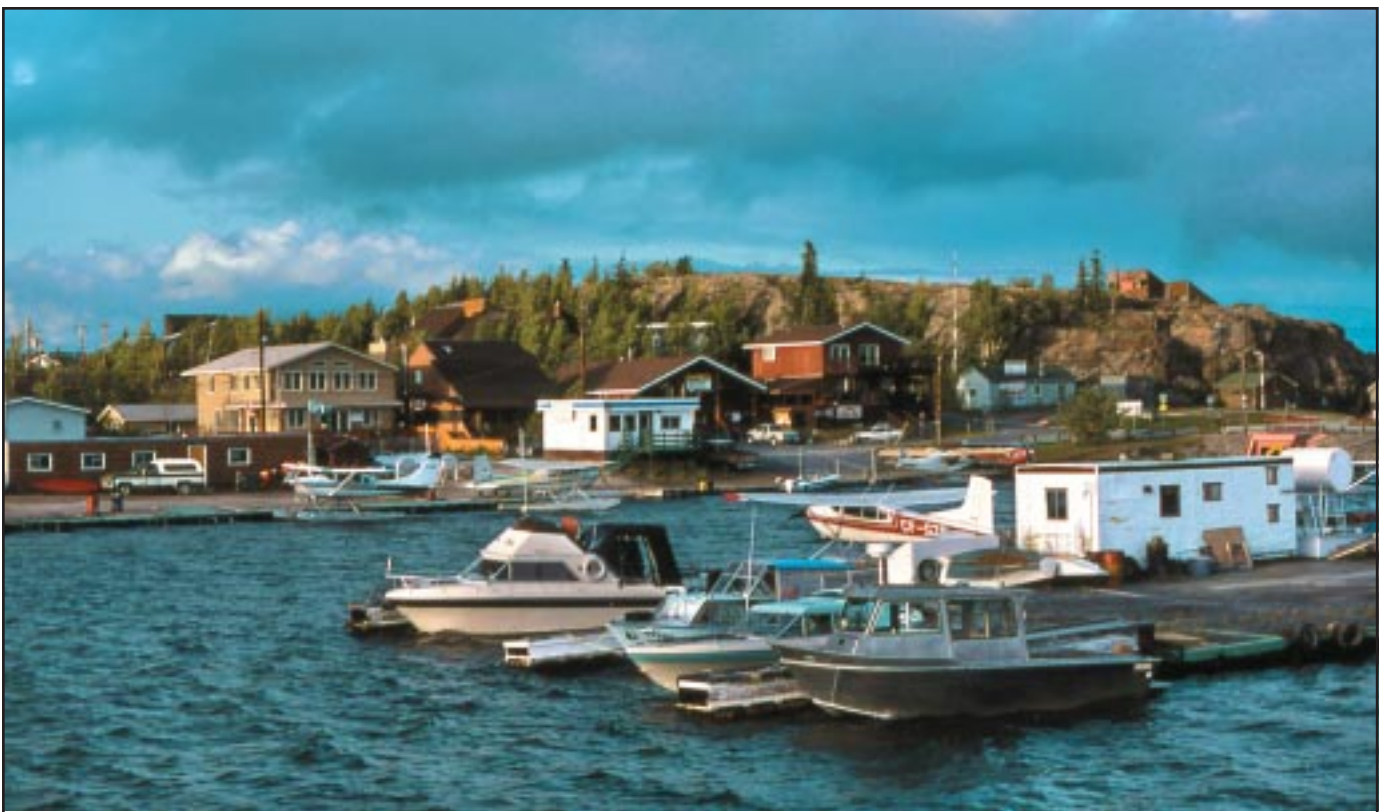


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past comes to life

Lifestyle -
a city of contrasts

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from gold to diamonds



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Inside

Welcome to the North!

The Yellowknife Visitors Guide 2005 will give you a close look at the NWT's amazing capital city. Enjoy your visit, and don't be surprised if you come back soon!



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Cover photos: NNSL Staff



*A golden history
A brilliant future!*

Our Story

There's something about Yellowknife that captures the imagination of those who come to visit and those who come to work.

Northern paradise

A frontier city on the edge of the barrens, Yellowknife embodies the romance and lore of the North with all the modern conveniences any traveller could expect.

Home to a wealth of art, theatre and restaurants, it also offers wilderness adventures rarely found elsewhere. Whatever your pleasure, sample some Northern flair for an unforgettable experience.

Boasting one of the country's fastest growing economies, this bustling city of more than 19,000 doubles as the main shopping district for the territories' smaller communities with first-class shops and malls.



Alex Glancy/NNSL photo



Big business and opportunity abound, and this mining town, built on gold and now diamonds, continues to maintain a strong devotion to its early history.

This cosmopolitan city offers visitors a wealth of experiences without losing any of the informality, friendliness and relaxed pace of a small town. easy-going population blends cultures from across the country and around the world.

EARLY INHABITANTS

The Dene people, who have called the North home for thousands of years. The word Dene is the aboriginal term for “the people.”

The name Yellowknife comes not from the gold mines within the city, but from a Dene tribe known as the Yellowknives because they used copper instruments.

In the Dogrib language, the city is called “Somba K’e” meaning “where the money is.”

CELEBRATE CHALLENGE

Isolation and climate has affected Yellowknife as much as its inhabitants. Until the early 1960s,

Yellowknife skyline over Niven Lake.

no road link existed between Yellowknife and southern Canada and Yellowknifers could often be cut off from the outside world for weeks at a time.

Transporting goods by air came was expensive so supplies were shipped by barge between June and October when Great Slave Lake was ice-free.

Naturally, the first supply barge of the year was reason to celebrate. It was this isolation that bred the independent spirit and pride associated with people of the North.

Modern jets fly in and out of the airport several times a day now and connect Yellowknife with Edmonton and Grand Prairie along with other NWT communities.

Fresh produce, meats and all forms of goods stock retail shelves within the city thanks to the Mackenzie Highway, but for a few weeks each year,

Houseboats, sailboats, docks and various old buildings on Franklin Avenue in Old Town.

Yellowknifers still get a taste of their history and isolation. The Mackenzie River ferry crossing at Fort Providence and the ice road are closed due to the spring thaw.

So as a true Northerner would do, embrace the challenge and celebrate life in the ‘Knife.



Susan Catling/MNSU photo

June 21 is Aboriginal Day - celebrations will take place in communities around the NWT.

Welcome to Yellowknife

Diamond Capital of North America™



Photo by Jiri Hermann



Yellowknife, Diamond Capital of North America™, is like no other city I've ever visited and I've been proud to call it my home for many years.

If I were to sum up Yellowknife in a single idea, I would call it a place of beautiful contrasts. On the north shore of Great Slave Lake, modern high-rise towers overlook the rustic heritage buildings of Yellowknife's not-so-distant frontier past.

A modern metropolis meets a vast wilderness. The brilliance of summer's midnight sun gives way to dazzling winter displays of the aurora borealis.

Yellowknife is a capital city at the edge of the wilderness, surrounded by history, culture, adventure and prosperity. As I walk the streets, I'm amazed by the people I meet - diamond workers, mining and petroleum executives, aboriginal leaders, artists, teachers, prospectors, tourists, adventurers and entrepreneurs. No one seems to be missing from the fascinating and friendly mix. Best of all, I stop and chat with the long-time residents who remember this town when it was little more than a remote gold mining outpost.

I hope you will discover our city as a place to visit, a place to do business or a place to call home. Enjoy your stay.

Yellowknife, "Where a Golden History Meets a Brilliant Future."



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Gordon Van Tighem".

Gordon Van Tighem
Mayor of Yellowknife

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Representing over 500 Yellowknife businesses, the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce has much to offer both the business and pleasure traveller! Drop by our offices in the Visitors Centre.



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Lifestyle

Yellowknife will grab you and won't let go. The culture, recreation and historic opportunities it has to offer get into your blood and you're bound to return.

Vibrant center of the North

Visitors to Yellowknife delight in the wealth of experiences offered as modern construction and lifestyles meet with the area's rich history.

The gleaming office towers of downtown lead to the rustic Woodyard cabins and blend with the historic buildings of Old Town offering visitors a double helping of Northern life – both past and present.

English, French and aboriginal languages such as Slavey, Cree, Dogrib and Chipewyan are commonly heard on city streets along with the international dialects of the growing immigrant population.

To help you get a taste of what this amazing city is all about, here are a few tidbits to keep in mind.



Jennifer Geens/NNSL photo

LOCATION

Yellowknife is situated almost 910 kilometres by air and 1,700 km by road from Edmonton, Alberta., the closest large southern city and main supply point. Yellowknife is just north of the 62nd parallel on the North Arm of Great Slave Lake, which is the 10th largest freshwater lake in the world.

The purple flowers of Fireweed are common along the side of the NWT's highways.

Terry Krueger/NNSL photo





Daniel Tselele/ANNSI photo



Andrew Ravey/ANNSI photo

A snowmobiler hydroplanes his sled by the entrance to the Dettah ice road. Ramps at the Yellowknife skatepark provide excitement for the city's young riders.

ACTIVITIES AROUND

With a young population and a long winter to fill, Yellowknife is well equipped with both indoor and outdoor facilities.

One swimming pool, two ice arenas, an eight-sheet curling rink, several school gymnasiums and outdoor ballparks, gymnastics club, Long Lake Beach, tennis courts, an 18-hole golf course, mini-golf course, plus private racquet and exercise clubs fill out the list of sport facilities. There are numerous organizations in the arts and volunteer sectors for all ages and interests.

Naturally, there is the great outdoors.

In the winter, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and ice fishing are popular. In summer, fishing, camping, boating, gardening and exploring under 24-hour sunlight keeps visitors and Yellowknifers busy.

Yellowknife has its own unique festivals including Raven Mad Daze in June, Festival of the Midnight Sun and Folk On The Rocks in July and Caribou Carnival/Canadian Championship Dog Derby at the end of March.



Chris Eugler/ANNSI photo

SLIDE AND GLIDE ALONG BEAUTIFUL TRAILS

The ski season here may be longer than in any other Canadian city and the Yellowknife Ski Club takes full advantage of it with 14 kilometres of trails that can challenge beginners and experts alike.

Breathe some fresh air and enjoy Canada's North as you weave in and out of lightly wooded outcrops or flow nicely out onto Great Slave Lake. Some trails can even be enjoyed at night.

Make sure to be well prepared. The only element that slows Yellowknife skiers and biathletes down is the temperature. When the thermometer dips below -30C, it becomes more difficult to slide along the trails. Call the Yellowknife Ski Club at 669-9754 for more information.

Skiers take advantage of great spring weather.

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GOLF UNTIL DAWN

Yellowknife's 18-hole course is a golf addict's paradise and it's always busy.

Club president Russ Anderson said events are generally booked well before the beginning of the season.

"We have a full slate of tournaments."

The world-famous Canadian North Midnight Classic is one such event. Held every June, the tournament is so popular that the more than 300 spots available are usually reserved well in advance.

"We get golfers from Australia, Europe and there are always Americans," Anderson said.

Part of the attraction is the course's sand fairways and portable artificial turf hitting surfaces.

"It's unique," he said.

If you're a links enthusiast, It's an experience you have to try.

"It takes a couple of rounds to get used to it," he said. "After that it's not much different from golfing on grass."

Although a May through September season may be short for most courses, golfers here can make the most of long daylight hours during the height of summer. When was the last time you had time to get in 36 holes after work?time," said Anderson.



Lisa Scott/NNSL photo

There are many chances to test your skills on the Yellowknife golf course including participation in the Volker Stevin Golf Tournament which takes place in July.

POPULATION

With the NWT population estimated at 42,810, Yellowknife's 19,056 residents make it the territories' largest community. Home to one of the country's fastest-growing economies, the city boasts 6,347 private dwellings.

Hay River ranks as the territory's second-largest town with a population estimated at 3,876. Inuvik, one of the country's northernmost towns, is home to 3,586 residents. Fort Smith is fourth largest with 2,514 inhabitants.

Kakisa takes the title of smallest community in the NWT with an estimated population of 40 people.

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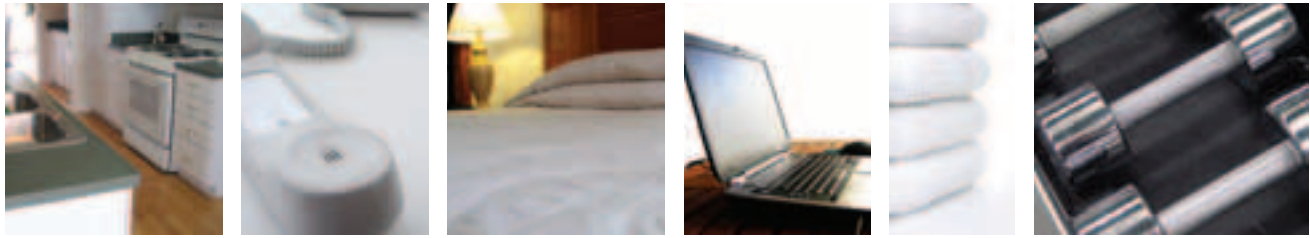
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Chris Puglia/NNSL photo

Chris Puglia/NNSL photo

1. Enjoy the spectacular views along the Frame Lake Trail.
2. Go for a boat ride on Great Slave Lake.
3. Go to the beach at Long Lake or Prelude Lake and enjoy a swim North of 60. The water is great!
4. Spend \$15 on a three-day fishing licence and try your luck at any one of the many nearby lakes.
5. Visit the city's many galleries for an appreciation of the best Northern arts and crafts.
6. Experience the sandy links of the Yellowknife Golf Club.
7. Pick up some caribou steaks and have a barbecue.
8. Drive out on the Ingraham Trail, the "road to resources," and hike to Cameron Falls.
9. Take the self-guided walking tour of Old Town.
10. Or relax and read a book outside at 3 a.m.



Celebrate **Winter**

WEATHER WONDERS

Yellowknife is glorious year round. There are but a few rainy days in summer while the skies are generally clear and blue come winter. Precipitation is light with about 15 cm of rain and 135 cm of snow falling annually.

The highest temperatures are recorded in July with averages in the low 20C range and occasionally rising above 30C.

Winters are long and cold with plenty of -30C to -40C weather in December and January. On occasion the city will even experience a numbing -50C.

Winds average 14 km/h year-round. During severe winter cold, winds can diminish almost entirely and humidity is quite low, so sub-zero temperatures are less punishing than one might expect.

1. Bundle up, get those layers on and stay up late to watch the Northern Lights.
2. Catch a ride on a dog sled or a snowmobile.
3. Check out Amazing Family Sundays at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre to learn more about the culture of the NWT.
4. Don't miss the castle Snowking builds on Yellowknife Bay near Old Town every March. Really, there's nothing else like it.
5. Put on your Sorels, toque, gloves and parka and head out for a walk across Frame Lake. Keep your eyes open for snowmobiles.
6. Lace up your skates for a few turns around the outdoor rink on Frame Lake.
7. Go tobogganing at Bristol Pit or on one of the hills around town.
8. Try your luck at ice fishing on one of the many nearby lakes.
9. Have your picture taken in front of the Yk Centre's outdoor thermometer. It's a shocker!
10. Strap on some snowshoes and break your own trail in the bush.

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photo courtesy of Blachford Lake Lodge

Northern lights dance above the Blachford Lake Lodge. The lodge recently won the 2004 Tour Operator of the Year Award presented by NWT Tourism.



Lifestyle

Vivid visions and glowing skies

When it comes to Northern attractions, nothing inspires like the legendary Aurora Borealis.

A special attraction annually for thousands of Japanese tourists, listen carefully as the Northern lights pulse and glow in the night sky. Do they make a noise? Do they approach when you whistle?

Find out for yourself and glimpse something amazing when you visit Yellowknife. The city boasts some of the best Aurora viewing in North America.

Most active during the late fall and early winter, the Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, are visible only on clear and cloudless nights.

BEAUTIFUL SCIENCE

Northern Lights are caused by electromagnetic radiation waves from the sun.

The waves excite various gasses in the atmosphere hundreds of kilometres above the Earth, resulting in the dramatic and shimmering curtains of green, blue and red light.

Constantly dancing and moving through the sky, the Aurora are easier to photograph than you might think. Simply use fast 400 ASA colour film, a wide-angle lens set at the largest aperture and exposure times of 10 to 60 seconds – you're best to use a tripod, too.

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Linco Schoenne (center) and Diane MacIntosh, Retail Advertising Manager. Winning submission by Kim Poulter (left).

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Kristine Bourque of Just Furs



Retail Advertising Manager Diane MacIntosh presents Kristine Bourque (left) her plaque. Winning submission by Tim Van Dyn Hoven of Richfield, Wisconsin, USA.

2003

Roy Williams of Roy's Radio Shack



Retail Advertising Manager Diane MacIntosh presents Roy Williams (center) his plaque. Winning submission by Terrance E. Pamplin (right).

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Watch history unfold

Founded on gold in the late 1930s, "Old Town," Yellowknife's original settlement on the rocky shores of Great Slave Lake, remains to this day as one of the city's most precious jewels.

Beautiful and historic, the narrow, winding roads lead to the sensational vistas offered from Latham Island and the Dene village of Ndilo or to the colourful and eclectic cabins of the Woodyard.

Nearby is a unique collection of businesses, some of which are among the city's oldest. No visit to Yellowknife is complete without experiencing the wonders of Old Town.

HERITAGE TOUR

The city's heritage committee has prepared a free, pocket-sized guidebook and map of enjoyable walking tours of Old Town.

Stroll through Willow Flats, down on the shore of Yellowknife Bay. One of the favoured souvenirs of Yellowknife is a replica of the Ragged Ass Road street sign — you can pick one up at the Northern Frontier Regional Visitors Centre.

Across Franklin Avenue, wander through Peace River Flats on Back Bay.

photo courtesy of Christine Rudolph



A walk through Old Town is a mix of history and natural beauty.

Surprise your friends with some trivia when you see Lois Lane. Margot Kidder, who played Lois Lane in the movie Superman, was born in Yellowknife. The roadway is named after her and long-time resident Lois Little.

CITY'S FINEST VIEW

Climb 'The Rock' or Pilot's Monument and gaze along the lake to the city's skyline while you learn some Northern history. Atop this rock sits a dedication to the North's famous bush pilots. A beacon also serves as a safety warning for boaters and snowmobilers in the area as it blinks whenever aircraft approach or land.

A jaunt across the causeway brings you to Latham Island. At one time, before the construction of the bridge, the water-taxi business here was prosperous, especially when a liquor store opened on the mainland.

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Culture

With a climate and lifestyle unlike anywhere else in the country, it's no surprise Northern art is unique, highly varied and sought-after world-wide.

Artistic treasures



Dorothy Westerman/NNSL photo

Paintings of every medium by aboriginal and non-aboriginal artists from across the North capture the drama and scope of the Arctic landscape and the people who live.

Hand-made prints from Northern studios are available in Yellowknife and are world famous for their powerful designs and stories.

Pieces to fit every budget are available. Works can often be purchased in art-card format as well as full-sized originals and reproductions.

Stores can also provide biographical information about the artists along with advice on framing, packing and shipping services to anywhere in the world.

CARVINGS AND CRAFTS

City galleries also carry extensive collections of Dene, Inuvialuit and Inuit carvings.

The materials are almost as varied as the works. Known for their simplicity of design and masterful skill, artists often use traditional methods that have been handed down for generations.

Bone, wood and hide are also used to

Artist Antoine Mountain works on a painting at Northern Images.

make detailed replicas of Inuit tools, harpoons, stretched skin drums and miniature kayaks.

Once used to teach children the skills to hunt and fish, these items are now produced for sale as well.

Visitors from outside Canada should take note that some countries forbid the importing of sea mammal products, such as seal skin or walrus ivory.



FASHIONABLE ART

With leather fringes, fur trim and beautifully embroidered or beaded floral patterns, Dene jackets of the western Arctic are truly striking pieces of artwork.

Usually made of stroud, which is a lighter weight wool blend with a tighter weave than duffel, they are durable, functional and one of a kind.

Kamiks are the Inuvialuit version of winter boots and a treasure for any collector.

The outer kamik is a moccasin made of sealskin soles that come up around the sides of the foot. A well-made pair of Kamiks is completely waterproof.

Tanned hides, beautifully embroidered with decorative trim, beads and tufted caribou or moose hair are used to make Dene moccasins. Fur trim is optional and may vary as different pelts have different qualities.



Photos courtesy of Christine Rudolph



Sculpture and painted rocks are on display in Old Town. Handmade beaded and embroidered moccasins are available around the city and make great keepsakes.

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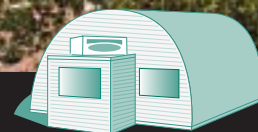
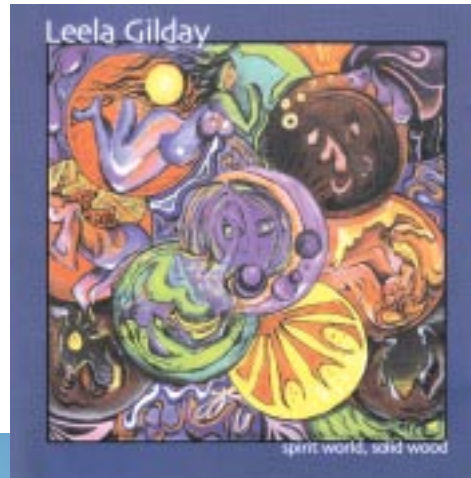


Photo by Christine Rudolph



Beautiful handmade Dene beading.



Various styles also exist from indoor slippers to knee-high outerwear appropriate for any season.

BEAUTIFUL SOUNDS

Like everything else, Northern music is as unique as the people it comes from.

To listen to some of the territories' talents, check out the shelves at Yellowknife's music stores for some self-produced CDs and tapes by Northern artists.

Truly Something, a CD released by CBC North, brought together some of the highlights of 20 years of True North concerts.

The disc features: Kashtin, Susan Aglukark, an Arviat singer/songwriter whose last release was, Dreams for You; Tudjaat — cousins Madeline Allakariallak and Phoebe Atagoyuk; Leela Gilday, a Metis singer from Yellowknife; and Inuit singer Lucie Idlout of Iqaluit.

Other performers include: Yukon artist Matthew Lien, Paul Andrew (Focus North and Northbeat); Aupilarjuk, and elder from Ranking Inlet; The Peters Drury Trio, and a duet of Yellowknife fiddler Lee Mandeville teamed up with Northern Quebec accordion player Andrew Attagutaluk.



Chris Puglia/NNSL photo

The performance arts are vibrant around Yellowknife; musicians have released many recordings.



Daniel T'selele/NNSL photo

A golden history
A brilliant future!



History

First culture

A small number of Dene first settled on the shores of Great Slave Lake. The northernmost of the Prairie Chipewyan tribes, they subsisted off the lush bounty provided by the land and well-stocked lakes.

Fishing for pike, trout and whitefish, the Dene also hunted the caribou herds that roved the land in the tens of thousands.

They fashioned implements made of almost pure copper, a metal found in sparse deposits in surface rock near the Arctic Ocean. For this reason, after encountering the Dene in the 1770s, British explorer Samuel Hearne called them the Yellowknives.



John Curran/ANNSI photo

What would a trip out on Great Slave Lake be without a nice fire and a couple of can of beans to cook with your fresh catch?

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Living along the edge of the tree-line — where southern forests end and Arctic tundra begins — the Dene occasionally traded and feuded, with the Inuit of the Arctic coast.

As populations grew, the Yellowknives also competed for territory with other Dene tribes, principally the Dogrib.

Led by Chief Akaitcho, the Yellowknives went to war, but the Dogrib fought back. After a series of raids in 1823, the Yellowknives were weakened and Dogrib Chief Edzo and Akaitcho finally made peace.

Many of the surviving clan would perish a century later when an influenza epidemic brought on by incoming prospectors and explorers decimated the population.

photos courtesy of Christine Rudolph



Home to about 180 Dene, Ndilo is located on Latham Island.

PRESENT DAY

Today's Yellowknives live throughout the city, but there are two distinctly Dene neighbourhoods: Dettah and Ndilo.

Located across Yellowknife Bay east of the city, Dettah is a small community with a population of about 180.

A traditional outpost camp for centuries, by 1950 a community had begun and permanent residents had settled. In the summer it's a mere 15-km drive from the city along the Ingraham Trail.

Come winter, a six-km ice road is plowed across Yellowknife Bay making the drive even shorter.

The location provides Dene with close access to both the land and the city.

There are no stores or services in Dettah, which means "Burnt Point," reflecting its rocky, almost treeless setting.

Located on Latham Island just past Old Town, Ndilo, which means "End of the Point," is also home to about 180 Dene.

The neighbourhood was once known as Rainbow Valley for the brightly coloured homes built along the shores of Back Bay.



HONoured NAMES

Northern pioneers and founders are recognized around the city for their role in history.

Street names like Bromley, England, Byrne and Finlayson in the newer Frame Lake South district honour some of the city's original entrepreneurs. In many cases, the businesses continue to be family run.

A visit to Old Town will reveal street names like Otto, McDonald, McAvoy and Anderson-Thompson, some of the city's early prospectors, pilots and surveyors. Jock McMeekan, for whom the McMeekan Causeway is named for, used his newspaper, *The Yellowknife Blade*, to campaign for the bridge that links Old Town to Latham Island.

Gordie Latham was a southern school-teacher turned bush pilot and adventurer.

Doornbos Lane recalls one of Yellowknife's most celebrated characters, the late Tom Doornbos, a shrewd Dutchman who hauled water by the pail on a shoulder yoke for Old Town restaurants. He was later to become a wealthy landowner and poet.

Two areas of town, Northland Trailer Court and the Matonabee area, both on Frame Lake, have taken on the names of original bush planes: Norsman, Stinson, Bellanca and Dakota are among them.

Franklin Avenue, the city's main traffic thoroughfare, recalls Sir John Franklin. His ill-fated expedition of the 1820s cost the lives of two ships' crews.

"The House of Horrors," also known as the "Snake House," is on its last legs and may not survive another winter. It was built in 1938 by Alphonse "Frenchy" Cyres, and has served under various circumstances as a residence, barber shop, and transient centre. Its most notorious claim to fame, however, is the reputation it gathered as a bootlegger's lair and bawdy house during the 1940s.



Past comes to life

NNSI photo

The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre gives visitors a chance to see how life in the North has changed over the decades.

Experience history first hand at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. Browse the amazing displays and ancient artifacts that unlock the exciting and colourful stories of Canada's great North.

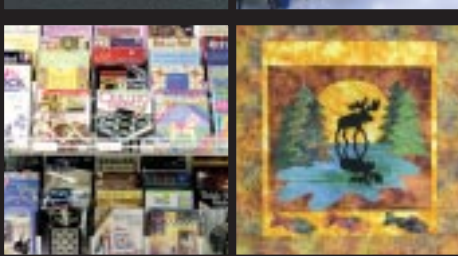
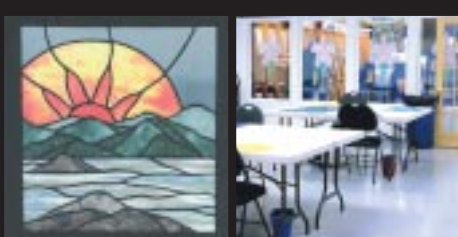
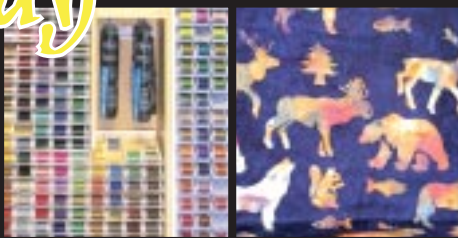
On the edge of Frame Lake, just minutes from downtown, it's the perfect starting point for the visitor interested in learning more about the Northwest Territories. Even long-time Northerners will find there's always something new and fresh to discover.

Opened in 1979 by Prince Charles, the centre offers a glittering collection of antiques, relics, dioramas, photos and other exhibits which breathe life into the North's past.

The NWT Archives, which is a prominent part of the Northern Heritage Centre, contains a large collection of historical documents about the North, such as photographs, maps, books, manuscripts and sound recordings, most of which are accessible to the public.

Visitors should take note that renovations to the museum are underway so that not all galleries will be accessible to the public. A 25th Anniversary celebration is planned for 2006.

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Taste the past

Bring along your appetite for this history lesson because the Wildcat Cafe, one of the city's original restaurants, is a great spot to lounge over coffee and an afternoon snack or relax and dazzle the tastebuds with a fresh-off-the-boat fish dinner. Enjoy a taste of the past!

Open only during the summer, this rustic and inviting eatery not far from the shore of Back Bay, has been feeding Yellowknifers for more than 60 years.

Built in 1937, the cafe thrived on the business of the bush pilots, prospectors and other early settlers who helped open up the North. By 1939 it was also established as the city's first and favourite ice cream emporium serving cones, banana splits and sodas.

Little of the cafe has changed from its humble beginnings. The wooden floors and tables complement the old log walls and ceiling. Caribou antlers, a muskox skull, sketches and old photos add to the cafe's ambience. Visiting today is like a step back in time.

Photos courtesy of Aaron Whitefield

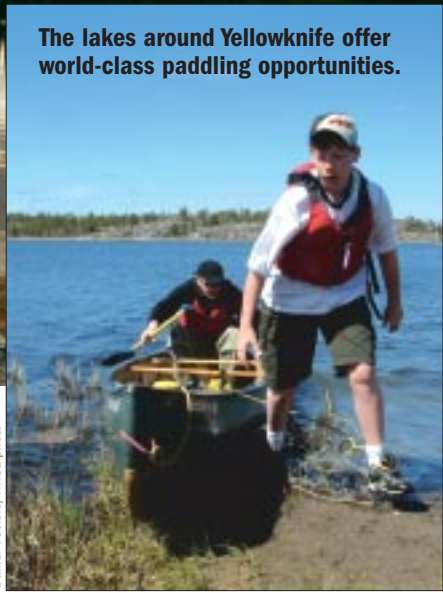


The Wild Cat Cafe in Old Town, open in the summer only, is a popular tourist attraction and backdrop for photos.



photo courtesy of Christine Rudolph

Reid Lake in the evening.



Daniel Tselic/NNSL photo

The lakes around Yellowknife offer world-class paddling opportunities.

Classic Canadian canoe trip

There's something truly Canadian about a canoe trip.

The Dene of the NWT have paddled the rivers and lakes for generations, stopping to hunt and fish at traditional sites used for thousands of years.

The NWT Parks Department has maps and brochures outlining popular lake and river routes that can be enjoyed by first-time or serious paddlers alike.

Spend some time around the shore of Great Slave Lake. Local wildlife and distinct, colourful houseboats offer plenty to see.

The Tibbitt Lake loop is a great weekend adventure for beginner paddlers. The 15-kilometre, two-portage route will take you to Goop Lake, Upper Terry Lake and Terry Lake.

Hidden Lake is also great for one, two- or three-day trips that include three portages.

Whitewater fans will want to try Cameron River trips or head to the Tartan Rapids. Other popular paddle tours include Pensive Lake, Jennejohn Lake and Powder Point.

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BLACKSMITH SHOP

The Fireweed Studio on 49th Avenue is an old blacksmith shop originally constructed at the Giant Mine site in 1938. The log structure was moved to its current location in 1974 and is seasonally used by the Yellowknife Guild of Arts.

BACK BAY CEMETERY

On the west shore of Back Bay, this site is accessible through the Ski Club trails. There is no plaque to commemorate the site, but there are a number of graves that date back to the 1940s.

MONUMENTAL VIEW

The plaque on Pilot's Monument was changed in 1999 after someone pointed out an error in the wording.

The original plaque, installed in 1967, related the bush pilot's push into uncharted territory, but, did not mention the aboriginal people who already inhabited the North.

The new tribute is equally honourable, and more encompassing of Yellowknife's great history.

CLASSY ROOM

Mildred Hall schoolhouse is named after Yellowknife's first teacher. The one-room building sits on the same lot as the much larger Mildred Hall school on Franklin Avenue.

OLD STOCK

The old Hudson's Bay Co., warehouse, constructed in 1945, was the original HBC store in Yellowknife.

HISTORICAL SITES

- Wildcat Cafe - 3509 Wiley Rd.
- Canadian Pacific Float Base - 3502 Wiley Rd.
- Old Weaver and Devore Store - 3535 Wiley Rd.
- Hudson's Bay Co. Warehouse - 3501 Wiley Rd.
- Fireweed Studio - 5210 49th Ave.
- Old Mildred Hall Schoolhouse - 5048 50th Ave.
- Bank of Toronto Building - 7 Otto Dr.
- Call (867) 920-5674 for more information.

From 1936 until 1954, Harry Weaver and Bud Devore created a cornerstone for the community at the Weaver & Devore Trading Ltd. store. Today, the Weaver family still operates a general store across the street from the historical site in the heart of Old Town.

photo courtesy of Christine Rudolph

*A golden history
A brilliant future!*



Adventure

Sleep under the midnight sun

Anyone who has spent time camping in the North knows what a wonderful experience it is. Pristine lakes, unspoiled wilderness and long sun-lit days await those with a sense for outdoor adventure.

TRAIL OFFERS A WEALTH OF OPTIONS

Drive the 70-km Ingraham Trail, just east of Yellowknife. Named after pioneer innkeeper Vic Ingraham, the partially paved, two-lane road leads to numerous lakes and rivers, almost all of which offer trout, pike and pickerel fishing, as well as canoeing and hiking. Territorial parks – many of which were recently upgraded — have also been established at several attractive wilderness sites.

Stop by the Regional Visitors Centre on your way out of town for more information.

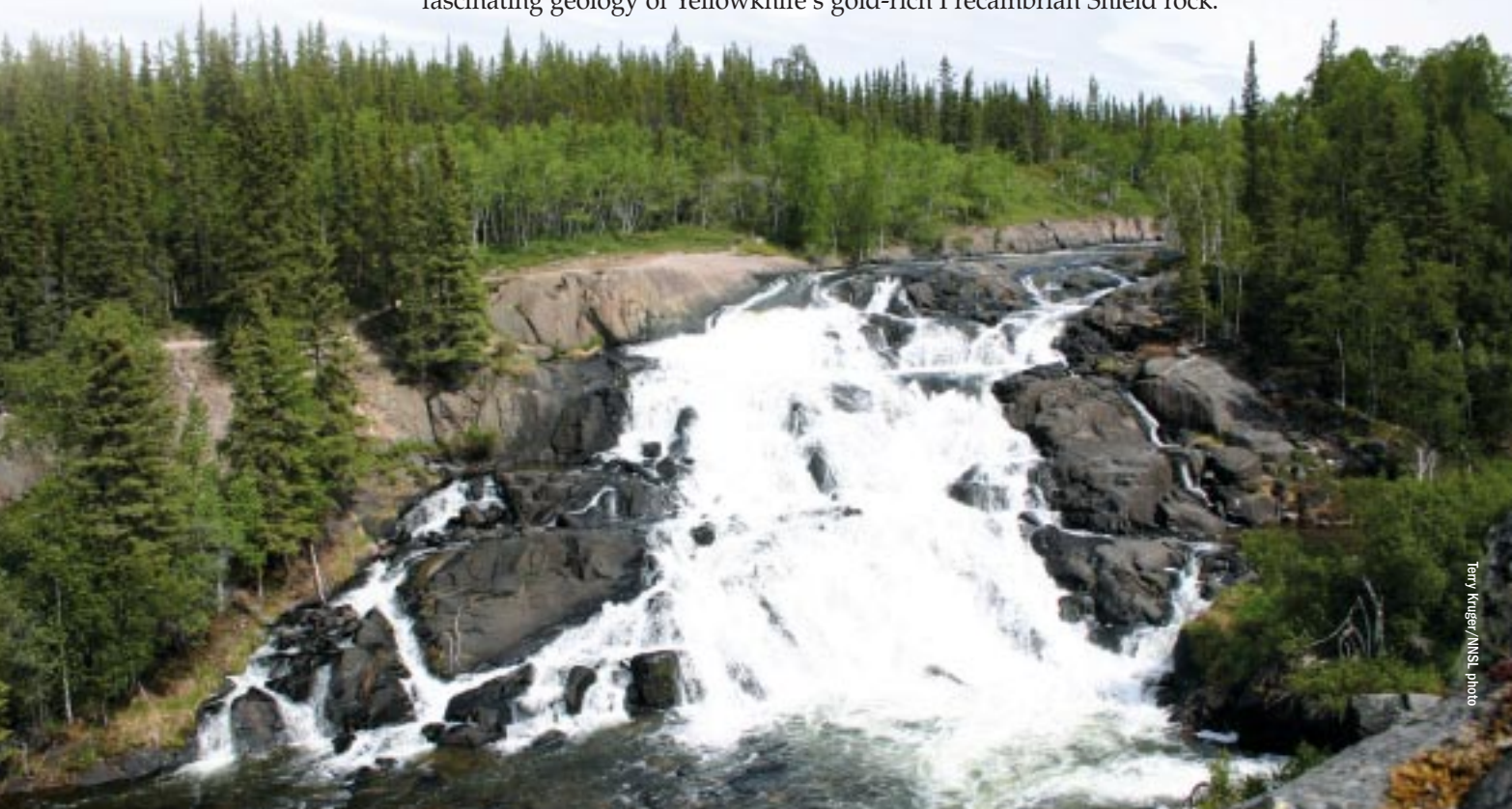
Cameron River falls is a popular spot for tourists and area residents. The falls are 46 km from Yellowknife off the Ingraham Trail. It's a 1.2 km hike into the falls from the parking lot, along a well-marked trail that can be walked by young and old.

FRED HENNE/LONG LAKE TERRITORIAL PARK

On the shores of Long Lake next to the Yellowknife Airport, the park offers 105 campsites, showers, a tourist information kiosk, kitchen shelters and an interpretative centre. There is even a concession stand, a boat launch and room for RVs with electrical hook-ups.

Groups and special events can also take advantage of the large stage and activity centre at the site.

The Prospector's Trail is a four-km loop around the park with signs that explain the fascinating geology of Yellowknife's gold-rich Precambrian Shield rock.



Northern wilds

WOOD BISON

On the drive to Yellowknife, motorists can expect to encounter the largest free-roaming bison population in Northern Canada, numbering about 2,000 animals.

The wood bison is the largest native land mammal in North America.

Generally taller and less stocky than plains bison, a bison bull can measure more than 1.8 metres high at the shoulder and weigh more than 1,000 kg.

Cows are smaller with an average weight of 550 kg. The wood bison has a pronounced hump and less hair on the front legs and throat.

Both males and females have short, black horns extending upwards from the sides of the head, with the males horns having a thicker base.



Terry Krueger/ANSL photo

A lone wood bison keeps a close eye on traffic that passes by along Highway 3 north of Fort Providence.

CARIBOU

A long-time staple of Northern life, it's no wonder caribou are known by many names. Inuit call caribou "tuktu." Members of the Chipewyan tribe call the animal "et-then," and to the Dogrib it's known as "ek-wo." Slavey Indians call caribou "ekwe."

European explorers naturally called the animals reindeer, the term used for this species in the Old World.

Both woodland and barrenland caribou inhabit the Yellowknife area. Adult male barren-ground caribou are about 1.1 metres high at the shoulder and, in the fall after a good season of feeding, weigh approximately 140 kg. But after a month of mating, a caribou's weight drops to about 100 kg in November.

Woodland caribou are generally larger and heavier.

The colour of a caribou's coat ranges from light beige during the winter to dark brown with a white belly and mane during the summer.

Come fall, caribou become a more uniform light brown.

Compared to any member of the deer species, barren-ground caribou have the largest antlers in relation to body size. It is the only deer species in females grow antlers as well. Antlers are shed and re-grown each year.

SET YOUR SIGHTS

Most wild animals in the NWT are nocturnal and feed and forage at night. The best time to catch a glimpse of these amazing creatures is in the late evening or early morning.

An ideal way to get a great view is by canoe, silently paddling along lakeshores or drifting down slow rivers.

2005 City of Yellowknife

Geographical Location:
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Elevation: 206m (680 feet)
Population 19,056
Declared Capital 1967
(Baseline map courtesy City of Yellowknife)



Ingraham Trail

- Highway #4 to:
- Dettah 15km
 - Giant Mine 3km
 - Ingraham Trail Lakes & Campgrounds
 - Cameron Falls 40km
 - End of Road 70km



Walking Trails



LYNX

The populations of this member of the cat family are most plentiful in the southwest NWT and Mackenzie Delta. Depending heavily on snowshoe hares for food, the lynx population fluctuates with that of the hare.

Medium-sized animals, lynx have grey-brown fur that darkens to reddish brown in late spring.

Adults weigh up to 10 kg and with long legs and thick fur.

Distinctive features include ear tufts, a ruff of fur around the face and a short, black-tipped tail. With snowshoe-like paws adept at travelling over deep snow, the lynx has adapted well to life in the North.

FOX

Often seen prowling around city streets and lurking in the alleys, the



Andrew Raven/NNSL photo

You don't have to go very far to see wildlife around Yellowknife. The red fox can be found within city limits. A typical male fox weighs about 5.4 kg and stands about 35 cm at the shoulder, while the vixen is usually slightly smaller.

red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) looks very much like a small dog. It's the long, bushy tail that gives it away.

The red fox has a pointy face and ears. It can grow up to one metre in length, with its tail accounting for almost half of that. The fur industry often refers to red foxes as coloured foxes because it has three separate colour phases.

About 45 to 75 per cent of the fox population has a reddish-brown coat with a white chest, abdomen and tip of the tail. Black hairs run down their legs and backs.

About 20 to 44 per cent are considered to be cross foxes and are grey-brown with black hairs that form a 'cross' across the shoulders.

Silver foxes, the rarest strain, make up only from two to 17 per cent of red foxes. Black with a white tip of the tail, it has a variable amount of silver frosting on the guard hairs. The red fox is a shy, nervous animal with acute hearing and a keen sense of smell. It's most active at night.

BLACK BEARS

An animal of fascination and myth, this pleasant looking animal is to be treated with extreme caution. Common in the Yellowknife area, these bears range from 1.5-1.8 metres long and can stand almost a

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metre tall at the shoulder.

On average, males weigh 115-170 kg, while females are smaller tipping the scale at 90-115 kg.

A broad head, short neck, small black eyes, round ears, a long snout and short tail usually obscured by the animal's long coarse hair characterize these animals. But it's name is a bit of a misnomer. Black bear fur colour can range from blond to brown to black.

In the NWT the most common is black, with a tan muzzle and often a white 'V' on the chest. The eyesight on these animals is poor, but their hearing and sense of smell are excellent. Good swimmers, black bears can also run surprisingly fast. Short claws that are curved and non-



Paul Bickford/NNSL photo

Anytime you go out on the land, it's a good idea to be bear-aware - their keen sense of smell will bring them to your food if you're not careful.

WHAT TO PACK

Bring your binoculars, rubber boots and bug repellent. Refer to these books: Banfield's Mammals of Canada, published by the National Museum of History, and People and Caribou in the NWT, published in the NWT by the territorial Department of Renewable Resources.

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retractable are used for climbing trees in search of food or escape.

Bear cubs spend a lot of time in the trees at rest, play, or as refuge when danger threatens. Solitary animals, black bears tend to stick to a home range that varies from 75 to 200 square-km.


WOLF

Both tundra and boreal wolves are common in this region. Adult males average about 35-40 kg, while females are smaller, weighing about 30-35 kg.

From the nose to the tip of the tale, the length of male wolves can

vary from 1.5-2.0 metres. Females range from 1.4-2.0 metres. This animal's tail makes up nearly one-quarter of the total length.

Colouration can vary from pure white to black, with accompanying shades of cream and brown. The most common colour, however, is grey. The wolf's coat is thick — composed of long, coarse guard hairs and short under fur. A wolf in the NWT sheds its coat only once a year: in the late spring.



Welcome to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories





Photo by Jiri Herrmann

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Terry Krueger/NNSL photo

Keep your eyes peeled for Sandhill Cranes that spend summers in the NWT. They're common sights along the Mackenzie Highway and Highway 3 between Fort Providence and Rae/Edzo.

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