



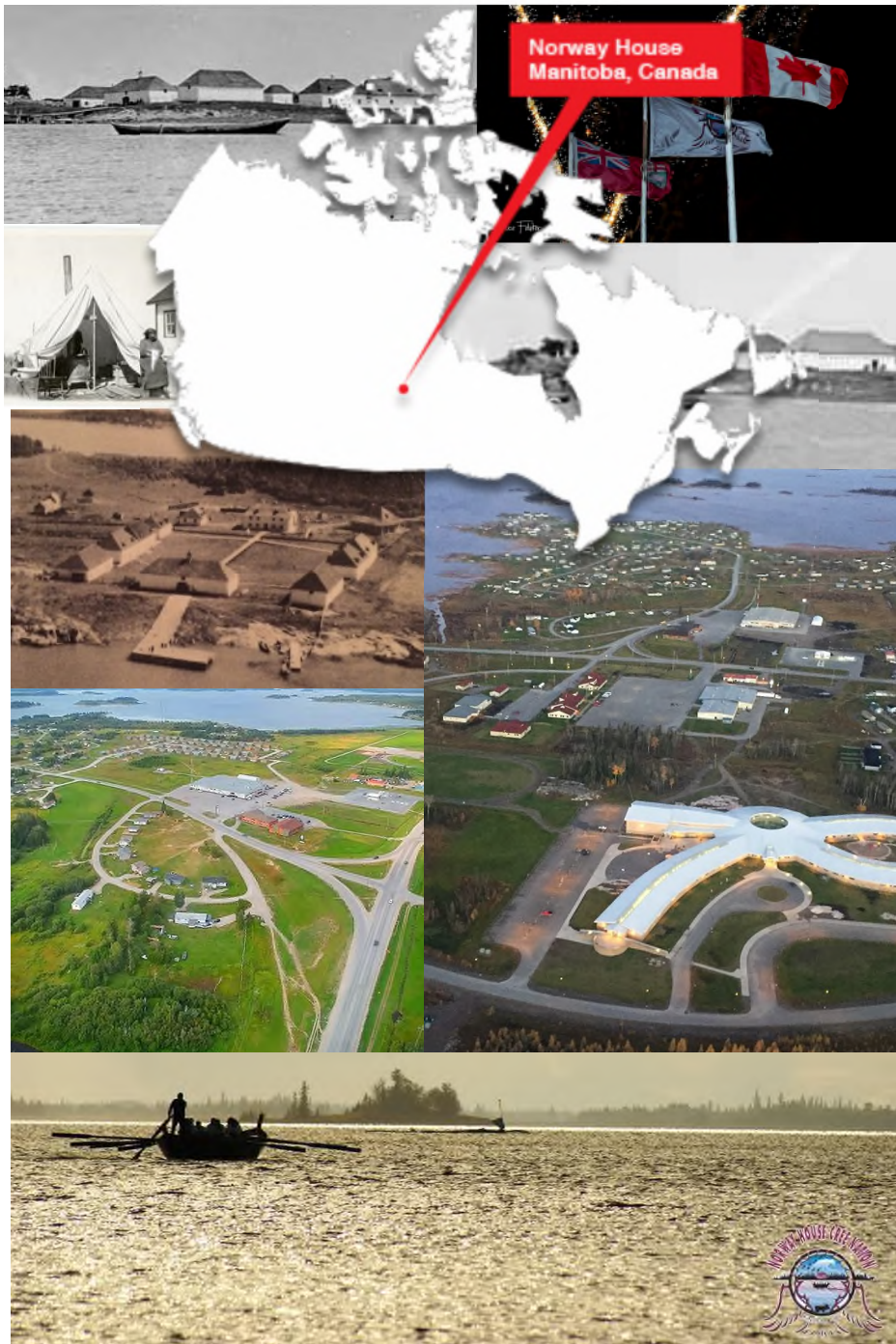
**NORWAY HOUSE CREE NATION**  
KINOSAO SIFI

*Ben J. Allen*

# Manitoba's Best Kept Northern Secret

Home of... **TREATY & YORK BOAT DAYS**





## Community Special Events & Celebrations

- Treaty & York Boat Days
- Norway House Powwow
- Pipoon (Winter) Festival
- Sasquatch Ice Fishing Derby
- Sports Tournaments
- Community Feasts & Celebrations
  - New Years Day Feast
  - Annual Goose Feast
  - Aboriginal/Canada Day Celebration
  - Community Gathering (Women, Elders, & Family)
  - Thanksgiving Community Feast
  - Christmas Holiday Activities
  - Halloween Party
  - Aboriginal Veterans & Remembrance Day
- Tourism
- Frontier Fiddle Jamboree







### Education Facilities:

- HeadStart
- Day Care
- Mack River School
- Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Center
- Culture & Education Center/ University College of the North.

### Economics

- Commercial Fishing
- Natural Resource Development
- Tourism

### Major Local Employers

- Norway House Cree Nation
- Frontier School Division
- Health Canada
- NorthWest Company
- Local Business

### Churches

- Anglican
- Roman Catholic
- United Church
- Pentecostal
- Traditional Cree



# Welcome to Norway House Cree Nation

Welcome to our Community, you will be intrigued with what we have in store for you! We are the Home of the World-class York Boat Races on Little Play Green Lake, the host of fabulous community festivals, beautiful scenic views, all with a thriving economy venture - it all will just get so much better than this!

We have many opportunities in entertainment that are sure to be enjoyed, places and food to enjoy are some to never forget, like our famous traditional delicacies of fresh walleye and northern pike, goose feasts and our traditional Community Thanksgiving to name a few.

You will find our recreational opportunities are endless, enjoy biking, hiking, canoeing and the enjoyment of walking on the Hubert Hart Wellness Track at the Chief Ken Albert Memorial Park or site seeing the areas of our Community, Including the famous Rock Paintings of Paimusk Creek, or World Class Fishing of Molson Lake Lodge for lake trout, sturgeon, walleye and the great Northern Pike.

Come stay awhile--you'll be glad you did! Norway House Cree Nation has certainly been blessed year-round with a wide range of cultural, social, and recreational activities and a vast Historical significance to Canada that is just a few samples of what awaits you, we hope to see you there!

### Norway House Cree Nation Chief and Council



**Left to Right:** Councillor James Dixon, Councillor Langford Saunders, Councillor Darlene Osborne, Chief Larson Anderson, Councillor Hubert Hart, Councillor Deon Clarke and Councillor Anthony Apetagon.

# Norway House Cree Nation Governance

Located on the northern tip of Lake Winnipeg and the eastern channel of the Nelson River, the Norway House Cree Nation community is truly at the center of Northern Manitoba's unsurpassed beauty!

Acting as an entryway to the Northern and Eastern communities of Manitoba through year round provincial highway access and winter roads, a provincial airport and the C.F. Gilbert Laugher, Norway House Cree Nation is a proud and thriving community of nearly 8,000 residents.

Norway House Cree Nations' governing body of our organization includes the Chief and Council who make every effort to include the Elders and the Youth in its deliberations and consultations. Norway House Cree Nation is committed to local Self-Government. And where steps are being taken in to gain control of its health, education, economic development and general administration.

The need to realign the organizational structure of Norway House Cree Nation now reflect the required three levels of government - Legislative, Judiciary and Executive. These eventually lead towards Cree Nation Self-Governance, with a primary strategy of a wholistic approach to maintenance within three main components of physical, mental and spiritual confidence which are then integrated into the traditional lifestyle of caring, sharing, and relationships. The common needs supported by common efforts to produce common benefits for all in a caring society.

Norway House Cree Nation has and will continue to formulate itself with the objective to ensure all services are retained or enhanced upon an orderly and timely manner. The lifestyle of our membership must be adhered to and recognized at all times. As a direct result, Norway House Cree Nation is adjusting its organizational structure to take into consideration Land and Natural Resources, Recreation, Remedial Works and Infrastructure, Employment, Training and Education, Economic Development, Environment, Health, Social, and Culture.



**The Health Centre of Excellence** is the culmination of 30 years of visioning and planning by Norway House Cree Nation to provide a full complement of community-based services that integrate and facilitate health and wellness from birth through to the end of life.

The fully integrated Health Centre will provide diagnostic and treatment services, patient care and community health services to residents of Norway House Cree Nation, the affiliated town of Norway House and the surrounding region.

In addition to addressing the healthcare needs of the community, the Health Centre will create education and training opportunities for the people of Norway House Cree Nation while continuing to serve as a training hub for physician education through the U of M Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing.

The design of the Health Centre is the result of a collaborative process, anchored in the vision of a holistic, culturally integrated wellness environment that welcomes and strengthens a sense of community. Spaces support the coming together of western and traditional medicines, so that all who receive care feel welcome. Integrated throughout the landscape and architectural design are references to the communities' strong spiritual connection to its heritage and culture and to the regions land and watercourses.





# A few Community Places & Events

Today, Norway House Cree Nation is recognized as a progressive community and boasts a large number of amenities, including a hospital, a personal care home, educational facilities, post-secondary facility, public work facilities and business establishments.

The leadership believes in self-reliance and sustainability through economic development. Various economic ventures have been undertaken such as the Pharmacy, bus transportation, Cellular & Communications System, York Boat Inn, Diner, Kistapinanihk Shopping Mall, Kinosao Sipi Multiplex Recreation Center, Entertainment Center, Broadband, Radio & local Broadcasting and Funeral Home.

The Newest of these Initiatives include: Quickstop Convenience store, gas station with a second Tim Horton's outlet and the developments surrounding the tourism Industry which expand on the Chief Ken Albert Memorial Park, Sea Falls Cabins, and the New Molson Lake Lodge as a start.

Our Community recognizes that education is the key component for a self-sustaining community. By emphasizing and providing quality education, the vision of Norway House Cree Nation is to grow strong economic, community and personal foundations and resources for its members.







**Norway House was designated a National Historic Site of Canada May 30, 1932.**

The heritage value of Norway House is primarily in its historical associations as the Hudson's Bay Company's principal inland depot for the fur trade.

Norway House was home to the Council of the Northern Department of Rupert's Land Meetings, coordinating all trade activities throughout western/northern Canada;

In 1875, Treaty No. 1 between the Saulteaux (Ojibway), the Swampy Cree First nation people and the Crown was made here.

It was also the site where the Rev. James Evans invented the Cree Syllabic System.

**Building of Norway House (The First Norway House)**

In 1816 Lord Selkirk sent out a band of Norwegians, to build a road from York Factory to Lake Winnipeg and a series of supply posts.

They built Norway House at Mossy Point (west side of outflow) in 1817 replacing the former Jack River post at that location

**Norway House offers sanctuary for Refugees from the Seven Oaks Incident, 1816**

Settlers from the Red River Colony found temporary refuge here in 1815 and 1816-17 after they were attacked by forces of the rival North West Company.

On June 19, 1816, a group of Metis with Cuthbert Grant killed Semple and 20 of his men at Seven Oaks.

On June 21, 1816 The Colonists left for the North by Boat with the Sheriff, Alexander Macdonell.



## Rev. James Evans

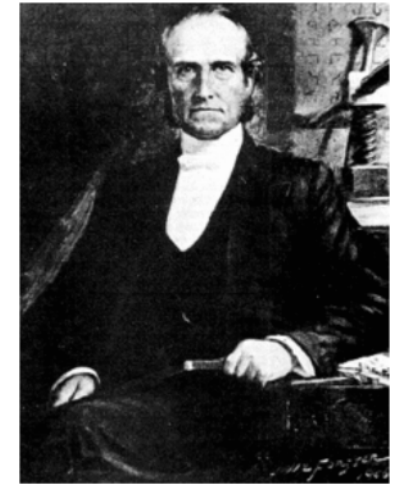
In the spring of 1841, James Evans, a British Wesleyan Methodist missionary, founded a mission at Norway House. In 1925, it officially joined the United Church of Canada and, seven years later, the original church was replaced by the present building. During the mission's centennial celebrations on 19 June 1940, the facility was renamed the James Evans Memorial United Church. A plaque commemorating the Rossville Mission was unveiled in 1998 by the Manitoba Heritage Council. The building is no longer used as a church.

During his career Evans studied several native languages. He devised a syllabary for the Ojibwa (1836) and Cree (1840) languages, which he used for teaching, translating and writing. He translated and printed portions of the New Testament, hymns and other material. He published his book *Speller and Interpreter*, in Indian and English, for the use of the mission schools, and such as may desire to obtain a knowledge of the Ojibway tongue in 1837.

Evans died suddenly of a heart attack following a missionary rally in Lincolnshire, England in November 1846.

In 1955 his remains were brought from England and reburied at Norway House.

Emmanuel College Library of Victoria University in the University of Toronto







## Norway House Importance to Western Canadian History—Building Norway House (2) ‘The Archway’

Norway House (2) known for its arched portal over the central hall/walkway was (constructed) established on this site in 1825-26.

Surviving buildings include:

- The Archway Warehouse (1839-1841);
- The Gaol (1855-1856), and
- The Powder Magazine (1837-1838)

The Deane-Simpson Party, that stayed up in the Arctic three years (1837-1839) and who mapped 1,284 miles of Canada’s Arctic coast was planned in Norway House.



The Isbister Building at the University of Manitoba is named in honour of Alexander Kennedy Isbister, an English Metis, son of Thomas Isbister—Norway House Post Manager.

### The Existing Buildings

The warehouse (1840-41), the most significant and intact of the group, is the oldest warehouse of Red River frame construction in Western Canada and the oldest log structure in Manitoba on it’s original site. As well, its modified Georgian style, commonly used by the HBC, incorporates a rare archway that cuts through the building, doubling as the post’s riverside gateway. (Canada’s Historic Places)



The Jail (1855-56), a small structure built of local granite to the southeast of the warehouse, is Manitoba’s oldest extant lock-up (Canada’s Historic Places)

The Powder Magazine Remains (1837-38) located some distance from the post, are the oldest in-situ ruins of a stone gun powder storage facility in Western Canada and also are notable for their cut limestone elements, unusual for the buildings type, time and place. (Canada’s Historic Places)



Treaty No. 5 was signed at Norway House, September 24, 1875.

Treaty 5 covered 100,000 Square Miles, and took in parts of Northwest Ontario and Saskatchewan and included the largest number of First Nation Communities under a single Treaty in Manitoba.

The First Nation communities that entered into Treaty No. 5 include: Norway House, Chemawawin, Berens River, Black River, Bloodvein, Cross Lake, Fisher River, Grand Rapids, Hollow Water, Kinonjeoshtegon, Little Black River, Mosakahiken, Opaskwayak and Poplar River. \*\*from the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba

### Taken from the Lieut.-Gov. Morris dispatch dated October, 1875

At nine in the morning on September 23 from the decks of the Hudson’s Bay’s steamer Colville, they spotted Mossy and Montreal points at the Nelson River. The Colville was then piloted up through Play Green lake to the Norway House post by Roderick Ross of Norway House.

This marked the first time a steamer navigated Play Green Lake and the Nelson River to Norway House.

Lieut.-Gov. Morris commented that this portion of the trip bore a “remarkable resemblance to the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence River.”

Meetings began the morning of the 24th and concluded with the signing of Treaty 5 in the mid-afternoon.

The Colville left Norway House at half-past three in the afternoon and anchored at Kettle Island in Play Green Lake at half-past five preparing for their trip to Grand Rapids.

