WASWANIPI GEOTOURISTIC MAP

THE CREE MINERAL EXPLORATION BOARD / CONSEIL CRI SUR L'EXPLORATION MINÉRALE

ABOUT WASWANIPI

Waswanipi mean «Light on the Water» in Cree.
«It describes our past when we used the torch light fuelled by pine tar, to spear and catch sturgeon that had gathered to spawn at the mouth of Waswanipi River»
(www.waswanipi.com).

Waswanipi, a Cree community of over 1,750 people (https://fr.wikipedia.org), is the most southern Cree community and situated in a location that is within reasonably easy access to neighbouring municipalities. The town area has more than 233 sqare kilometers and the Waswanipi territory covers an area of 365 square kilometers (http://histoire-du-quebec.ca/waswanipi). Before 1976, the community home-base was a trading post 15 km west on the island located in Waswanipi lake. Today, the community has been located about 275 km north of Val-d'Or
(www.waswanipi.com).

In 1763, the Northwest Company, formed by English fur merchants from Montreal after England took control of France's colony, were the first to open a full time trading post in the Waswanipi area. By 1800, they had moved their place of operations to Waswanipi Island (www.waswanipi.com).

In the 1950s the whole Waswanipi region opened up to outside exploitation as the Chibougamau copper boom resulted in the opening of a railway and a highway which skirted the shores of Waswanipi Lake. Thousands of workers migrated to the surrounding region as mines opened in Desmaraisville and Matagami and sawmill operations began in Miquelon-all on Waswanipi lands
(www.waswanipi.com).

Cree Nation of Waswanipi
1, Chief Louis R. Gull Street
Waswanipi, Qc
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Waswanipi at the end of the 19th century

The post of Waswanipi at the end of the 19th century. The post was called Woswonaby and was further downriver on the Waswanipi River, about 35 kilometers from the current site.
Chabot, Denys (2002), Société d'histoire et de généalogie de Val-d'Or-Fonds Denise D'Aragon

The Matagami name was borrowed from the Cree language and means "water meeting places" because of the presence of Matagami Lake, the meeting point of the Allard, Bell and Waswanipi rivers.

The geologist Robert Bell explored these lands in 1895, and around 1912 began a first exploration in the hope of finding diamonds, but without success. Over the years, new research is being sought, and finally, the data collected by the prospectors' teams can detect the presence of deposits of silver, copper, gold, zinc and other minerals. In 1957, we discovered half a dozen deposits and people began to flock to the area.

In 1959, an asphalt road was built, connecting Amos and Matagami (before, it was accessed only by seaplane). In 1960, three mines opened in Matagami: Mattagami Lake, Orchan and New Hosco (http://histoire-du-quebec.ca/matagami). The city of Matagami is created in 1963 (https://greibj.ca/fr/territoire/municipalites).

It was in 1955 that Chapais was founded as a mining village and named in honor of the politician and writer Thomas Chapais. Two years ago, the Opemiska company began the operation of the first mine on a site discovered in 1929 by prospector Leo Springer (https://issuu.com/jeffcloutier/docs/histoire_-jamesie).

From 1960 to 1972, the Chapais and Chibougamau mining camp is the largest copper producer in Eastern Canada (Histoire de la Jamésie, 2012).

ASSINICA NATIONAL PARK RESERVE PROJECT (3193 km2)

The Assinica National Park Reserve is a protected area of 3193 km2, passing through the Waswanipi community, in the north and as well on a tiny part to the east. Made official in 2011, this protected area was the topic of discussion for several years between the Quebec government and the Cree People. This outcome is due to the passionate leadership of the Cree People in the field of conservation of their natural heritage.
http://snapqc.org/en/index.php/campaigns/assinica

The Study area is covering an area of 6198 km2 which includes several major lakes and rivers.

The Broadback River (*Ch enwaapuskaau sibi* in cree) cross the study area. It is one of the major rivers flowing into James Bay and this river is a popular canoe-camping destination. Its mouth is on the Rupert Bay , in the southern end of the James Bay, near the Cree village of Waskaganish.

A portion of the Evans Lake (*Chishe saakahiikan* in cree) is lying within the study area. This lake is a widening of the Broadback River and is located in a boggy area. Long, rounded bays give it an irregular shape. It is named for Sir John Evans (1823-1908), an English archeologist, geologist and paper manufacturer and influential member of a number of learned societies.
http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/parcs/reseau-parcs-nationaux/documents/projet-parc-Assinica-ang.pdf

GEOLOGICAL HISTORY

About 2.7 billion years ago, in a process lasting tens of millions of years, the Chibougamau area was underlain by a multitude of amazing volcanoes which provides a huge volume of lava. In this area, the volcanic rocks were formed under water.

The Waswanipi land is part of the Canadian Shield and lies within the Superior geological Province. This land is covered from north to south, by a tiny part of the Opinaca Subprovince, the Archean Opatica Subprovince and the Abitibi Subprovince. These subprovinces are mainly composed by volcano-plutonic or metasedimentary groups.

The Opinaca subprovince is mainly composed metagrauwacke, migmatite and granite such as the Broadback River granite (Larbi & al., 2015, Davis and al., 1994). The Opatica subprovince is mainly composed by granite and paragneiss units.

In the area, principals mineralizations can be especially founded are gold deposit such as Bachelor Mine, copper, zinc, silver and iron minralizations. Furthermore, diamondiferous deposits have also been recognized in the region such as the Le Tac and Ailly-W-1 deposits.

Waswanipi Lake

Waswanipi River

Waswanipi River

Proposed Waswanipi-Lake Aquatic Reserve

Assinica Park Project
- Assinica National Parc Reserve
- Study area

- Road
- Railway
- Power line
- Hill / Mount
- Airport
- Fuel Station
- Fishing/Outfitting/ Outdoor Adventure
- Fall

- Past producer mine
- Mining properties & Development deposit
- Deposit with tonnage

Worked deposit / **Showing**
- Gold (Au)
- Copper (Cu)
- Zinc, Lead (Zn, Pb)
- Vanadium (V)
- Iron (Fe)
- Uranium (U)
- Silver (Ag)
- Nickel (Ni)
- Lithium (Li)

- Fault

Quaternary
- Esker
- Sand, esker, moraine, silt, argilite, varve

Proterozoic
- Dyke, Gabbro
- Siltstone
- Conglomerate
- Sandstone
- Carbonated Rock

Archean
- Granite
- Granodiorite
- Tonalite
- Pegmatite
- Diorite
- Monzonite
- Gneiss
- Migmatite
- Paragneiss
- Anorthosite
- Felsic Volcanic Rock
- Intermediary Volcanic Rock
- Mafic Volcanic Rock
- Amphibolite
- Ultramafic Rock

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