

## Hollow Water Reserve

Hollow Water lies approximately 190 kilometres north of Winnipeg and is accessible by Highway #304. The name originated from the word Wanipigow, which means "hollow water" or, more literally, "hole in the water." One explanation for the name states that in the past, a river flowing west from the country of many hills to the great lake ran into a hole and disappeared (4). However, more commonly the name is explained by the "hole" or "hollow" that is created as the water at the mouth of the Wanipigow River twists and circles into a whirlpool before it flows into Lake Winnipeg.

People have lived in the area for at least 6,000 years (see section **Overview: The History of the Manigotagan Area**). People lived off the land as hunters and gatherers, relying on the area's natural resources. Today's economic activities, fishing, hunting, trapping and wild rice harvesting, continue to reflect the strong bond between the land and the people. Fishing is one of the most important of these activities, as more than 100 of the 700 residents of the area are directly employed in the fishery (2). However, there is concern about the state of Lake Winnipeg and the future of the fishing industry due to pollution of the lake (2). The connection between the land and the people is a reminder of the importance of protecting water resources, which includes good pollution prevention practices for paddlers (see section **Environmentally Friendly Camping**).

Hollow Water First Nation is governed by a chief and council under the *Indian Act*. As of September 2006, the population of Hollow Water was 1,507, however, about one third live off the reserve (3). The primary education centre for students from Manigotagan, Aghaming, Seymourville and Hollow Water, is the Wanipigow School on the Hollow Water Reserve (6). Hollow Water's native language is Anishiiinabe (8).

Hollow Water has been participating in the planning exercise for the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin planning initiative. The objective of this planning process is to bring together local communities, First Nations, industry and environmental organizations to develop a vision for land and resource use in the area that respects both the value of the boreal forest and the needs of local communities.

In order to strengthen their arguments, the community has been developing various resources. Hollow Water and Black River have established a working relationship to cooperate to develop information related to their traditional land use areas. The intention is to document ecological knowledge/indigenous land values with a view to applying this knowledge as a tool to foster livelihood security for the members of the First Nations. The result will be an information database regarding native land values of First Nations people on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg, which will document relevant traditional ecological and cultural knowledge of how indigenous land use customs can support appropriate economic opportunities for the First Nations people involved. Soaring Eagle Environmental School in Hollow Water has the goal of furthering education towards protecting and monitoring their traditional territories.

Hollow Water is a progressive First Nation community that is striving to improve the quality of life for its members through various programs. For example, Hollow Water developed the Community Holistic Circle Healing Program (C.H.C.H.), a formal process towards healing for both victims and victimizers of sexual abuse. This program is unique

in that it adds and integrates aboriginal concepts to the judicial system (1,7). Seen by many as a preventative, is the Marathon Canoe Racing program, which targets aboriginal and especially female participation. The program is designed for long-term training of power, aerobic enhancement, healthy eating, event planning, and most important, commitment (5). Even though competition is not a main focus, the teams have been very successful at two international competitions in 2006 (for more information, see **Section on Marathon Canoe Racing**).

Hollow Water is very friendly and welcoming to paddlers. **Check out the services listed in the document mngtgn\_191.**

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### Sources:

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