

# GRAND MARAIS

## WALKING TOUR PROJECT



# GRAND MARAIS

## WALKING TOUR PROJECT



## A GUIDE FOR THE GUIDES



# GRAND MARAIS

## WALKING TOUR PROJECT



# TRAINING KIT



# GRAND MARAIS

## WALKING TOUR PROJECT



# TOUR THEMES



# GRAND MARAIS

## WALKING TOUR PROJECT



# SAMPLE TOUR





**GRAND**  
**MARAIS**  
Heritage

The Grand Marais Walking Tour Project has been developed by the Grand Marais Heritage Committee.

The Grand Marais Heritage Committee works under the auspices of the St. Clements Heritage Committee, the appointed body that advises the Council of the Rural Municipality of St. Clements on local heritage issues. We are grateful to the St. Clements Heritage Committee for their ongoing support and direction.

The Grand Marais Walking Tour Project was supported with funding from the Heritage Grants Program of Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage. We are grateful for that support.

# GRAND MARAIS

## WALKING TOUR PROJECT





# **GRAND MARAIS**

## **WALKING TOUR PROJECT**



## GRAND MARAIS WALKING TOUR PROJECT

# INTRODUCTION

**A** **walking tour of Grand Marais** provides visitors and townsfolk with a great opportunity to discover some of the key historical, cultural, architectural and natural highlights that make our community interesting and worth visiting.

This guide has been developed for the people who might be asked to lead a tour – that is for the staff members of the Grand Marais Community Central Heritage Wing who will act as hosts and guides.

### Why a Walking Tour?

Walking tours have become popular and successful ways for a community to get visitors, and even locals, out of their cars and trucks, and onto sidewalks and streets that encourage a slow and deliberate exploration of a community's attractions—usually focused on buildings—and also to enjoy the natural pleasures that can attend a walk – sunshine, bird songs, the sound of a breeze in the trees.

It should be noted that a simple walking tour also has positive benefits for good health. Additionally, walking tours have a low impact on the environment, and typically have no costs built into them – unless, that is, the tour should include a stop for some kind of edible treat (more on that later).

## Why a Walking Tour for Grand Marais?

The Grand Marais Heritage Committee has done a great deal of work focusing on our local history, and on sites that reflect and describe that history. Our major accomplishment to date has been the development of the Heritage Wing of the Grand Marais Community Central Building. Award-winning displays, and rich interactivity, have made this a must-see destination for thousands of visitors to the area since it opened in 2014. Interesting and informative displays on fishing activity, Métis culture, and other important sites and themes make this an ongoing site for visitor attention.

At the same time, the Grand Marais Heritage Committee has worked with the Historic Resources Branch of Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage on a pan-Manitoba initiative that is intended to record as many historic sites as possible, and to highlight select buildings as being especially significant to the community. (There are 50 Manitoba communities presently involved in these kinds of projects.) Called Special Places, the Grand Marais project was undertaken in 2011, and we recently started putting up attractive signs that mark our community's most notable buildings – those few places that we as a community need to honour and preserve, places that sum up our history, and which in their architectural character are best able to describe to onlookers the important aspects of our past – at places that are interesting and attractive.

Tour guides/hosts may wish to consult the binders produced for the Grand Marais Special Places project for additional information about that project, and about the individual buildings featured in it – for facts, architectural and historical information, and photographs. Guides may also wish to consult an important follow-up project that highlights 11 of the community's most important buildings; this information is also presented in a binder (called *Landmarks*) available at the Grand Marais Community Central Heritage Wing. One final research project that should be consulted focuses on the community's important legacy of stone construction features. Called *Stone Construction in Grand Marais: An Investigation*, this is an excellent resource on a

fascinating aspect of our local heritage, and like other projects is available as a binder at the Heritage Wing (or from a member of the Grand Marais Heritage Committee).

All of this work—at the Heritage Wing and via our Special Places project—has inspired the Committee to undertake a natural next step in our ongoing heritage outreach – a heritage tour. A tour will continue to build on our successes, and combine the work done for the Heritage Wing and the Grand Marais Special Places project.

As we worked through the options for a tour, it became clear that we actually needed two distinct tour options: one a guided tour (which in the following materials will be shown as three different options); and one a cycling tour. Our consultants for this project have noted that a typical walking tour is focused on buildings in a tight urban situation, which allows for lengthy discussions about architecture in front of major pieces of design and construction (think of the Exchange District tours in Winnipeg, with scores of major buildings and fascinating architecture lined up in easy-to-walk situations). But Grand Marais does not lend itself to this kind of activity – our buildings are much more modest, but more importantly the most interesting sites (which will elicit the most discussion opportunities) are spread too far apart. The solution to this has been to include a great deal of historical, cultural and natural facts and themes, focused at distinct nodes along a tour route. And to have the tours be guided by staff from the Heritage Wing, who we will be calling hosts/guides throughout this project.

Please note that this tour does not include Grand Beach, which is part of a provincial park, and so not under the jurisdiction of the Grand Marais Heritage Committee.

This tour is categorized as cultural eco-tourism, in that it fosters awareness for the environment and cultural practices in the local community. Walkers can experience Grand Marais Boulevard, a mile-long lakefront thoroughfare and its adjacent cottages, some of which bear stone fences and other architectural features dating back to the resort's earliest days. As the boulevard rises up the lateral moraine left by prehistoric glacial debris from Lake Agassiz, tour-goers can take in excellent views of the south

basin of Lake Winnipeg and can return to public areas where they can take in amazing lake sunsets the way they were meant to be seen.

They will discover Grand Marais's hidden beaches, as well as a small network of foot trails which some locals claim pre-date European settlement, created and used by Indigenous peoples in the area – Ojibway, Saulteaux, Cree. Tour participants will learn about the community's Metis heritage and some of their cultural traditions, and experience a portion of the Trans-Canada Trail. They can also learn about the ecology of Lake Winnipeg. Tour-goers will hear about ecotourism when they learn about the conservation efforts to protect the piping plover. And of course we hope that, as cultural travelers, tour-goers will be interested in local artisan handicrafts and local restaurants.

## **How to Do a Walking Tour**

There are two essential aspects of a good guided walking tour – a well-researched, interesting and informative tour text and a well-trained tour guide. The following collections of materials have been developed to ensure that a walking tour guide/host has the background and skills to undertake an excellent tour of Grand Marais. There are three sections included in this product:

**Training Kit** – This part of the project contains a wealth of information to ensure that host/guides know how to undertake and organize a tour, and how to deliver interesting and accurate information to visitors.

**Tour Themes** – This collection of subjects and themes (along with interesting details and facts) constitutes the complete catalogue of materials that a host/guide can adapt for their own purposes, or for a tour group that has its own objective and interests – for example only for buildings, or only for natural things, or based on time constraints, etc. There are 37 themes included in this section, copiously illustrated with accompanying images and photographs that can also be used to inform the subject at hand.

**Sample Tour** – This packaged tour is presented as a “real-time” option for tour guides. Guides are free to use it “as is,” or adapt or add information to it. The tour has been developed as a self-directed cycling tour (and thus will be posted on the St. Clements Heritage Website), but certainly can be modified and adjusted for a host/guide’s distinct walking tour requirements.

# GRAND MARAIS

## WALKING TOUR PROJECT



# TRAINING KIT



## GRAND MARAIS WALKING TOUR PROJECT

# TRAINING KIT

**T**he following information has been developed to ensure that the host/guides leading a Grand Marais walking tour will have adequate knowledge about leading a group of people. Most of this information is of the common-sense variety, but there invariably will be entries that touch on subjects, and solutions, that might not have been readily apparent.

## Qualifications for being a Tour Host/Guide

There are no formal educational requirements for leading a walking tour: no Ph.D. in History, no Masters in Architecture. Most tour-goers simply want a guide who will provide them with some insights into local buildings, community history, and also to have some interesting stories and solid facts at hand. This information has all been developed in two following sections: Tour Themes and Sample Tour.

The one innate skill that a host/guide must bring to the subject is personality.

Other important qualifications include: a sense of humor, wit, an ability to think on your feet, and good overall communication skills. A tour guide obviously needs to be comfortable with people; they need to be outgoing. They are essentially ambassadors for the community, ensuring that visitors come away not just with some great information, and a sense of the place, but also a sense of the people here – friendly, happy and into it. People with a pride of place, and pride in their heritage.

Tour guides will interact with a cross-section of people and personalities. A host/guide must be able to think fast, because there's no way to predict what the people in a group will ask, say, or do.

Following is a list of qualities, adapted from [www.foodtourpros.com](http://www.foodtourpros.com), that tour guides should keep in mind:

### 1. Strong Communication Skills

Being a guide is all about having strong communication skills. It's ok to be a quiet person, but if you have to communicate with new people on a daily basis, you just have

to be able to do it well. On a basic level guides should be great at projecting their voices across a group, and be able to do so in a clear and easy to understand way. On an interpersonal level, being great at knowing how to communicate well with people is a huge asset.

## **2. Personable & Outgoing**

This skill takes communication to the next level. Guides shouldn't just be able to communicate well, they have to be great conversationalists with outgoing personalities. which isn't something you can teach. There can be a bit of social awkwardness when a new group of strangers show up, and a guide should be able to break that immediately to help people feel comfortable talking to each other and their guide. This ensures later on they feel open to add comments or add questions along the way. (see later for tips)

## **3. A Memory Like a Steel Trap**

While we have developed a range of support materials, tour guides need to retain a lot of facts and data when walking people around a locale – but they also need to be a good story-teller. Guides simply can't get the information wrong, spend extra time trying to remember those facts, or spend the whole tour reading from a piece of paper. Their memory should be good, so that it seems as if they've just always known these facts when they recite them. But most of all, the story needs to sound like it's their own.

## **4. Improvisational Skills**

Guides need not put on an improv show, but the ability to change things up on the fly and play off the energy of the group is important. Attendees will likely have additional questions or comments along the way. These things shouldn't throw a guide for a loop, they should be able to adjust their script as needed. Sticking too closely to it could end up making your tour-goers feel like there's no room for them to say anything at all.

## **5. Just Enough Enthusiasm**

Just as guides often play off the energy of the group, tour-goers will also feed off the energy of their guide. A guide has to be enthusiastic about the things they're talking about, but not so enthusiastic that they fail to sound genuine, of that they are involved in a lecture.

## **6. Humour**

Just like being outgoing and enthusiastic, humour can be the perfect tool to cut any tensions and as always adds an extra layer of entertainment for guests.

## **7. Punctuality**

Punctuality is a can't-do-without quality for tour guides. If a host/guide isn't on time to meet arriving attendees at the meet-up location there will be confusion, frustration and unhappy tour goers.

## **8. A Keen Sense of Direction**

Outside of the fact that a tour guide should know where they're going, they should also be able to help direct guests. That's because the Grand Marais tours may start and end



in different locations. Often guides have to be prepared to give some general directions to help people get to where they need to be when the tour is complete.

### **9. Knowledge of a Local**

Anyone can memorize and recite facts. Though it's not a requirement, some of the best guides are locals themselves. What's great about this quality is that in addition to the planned facts and statistics, they can bring their own knowledge, experience and personal anecdotes to the tour. This can make a tour feel particularly special for guests who are looking for a genuine experience outside the typical tourist attractions.

### **10. Passion for Their Locale**

Last but certainly not least, true passion and interest can take a tour from typical to outstanding. Anyone can point and recite facts, but those who really love what they do can pass that passion on to tourists and locals to make them feel it too. Plus those with passion for their tour locale, bring their own experience to the tours they give.

## **Tour Logistics**

There are a few logistical issues that a host/guide should note in anticipation of a tour.

First – tour numbers. It is suggested that tour groups not be larger than 12 guests. If more people sign up for a tour it is advisable to arrange for separate tours on different days.

Tours will mainly take place on the wide public boulevards that define Grand Marais, but it will sometimes be necessary to walk on vehicle thoroughfares, and so fairly frequent monitoring of traffic will be necessary. It will also be necessary to provide occasional directions to the tour participants to move to one side when vehicles are passing.

When the tour group stops to listen to the guide, it is important that all guests are in a safe situation, and not near the street. At the same time, we occasionally will be stopping near private property – it will be necessary at such points to remind guests not to trespass too obviously – that is, they should not mozie into someone's yard.

A fundamental responsibility of a host/guide is to make sure the tour is as safe as possible. The guide will monitor the group's activities to ensure everyone complies with the site's or guide's safety regulations. In our case, this means ensuring that all tour-goers are advised to wear comfortable shoes, carry bottled water, wear sunscreen and bring a hat.

In cases where the tour guide opts to develop a specialized tour (see Tour Themes for content suggestions) they will need to reconnoitre and plan itineraries as well. They must thoroughly research the proposed route prior to giving the tour, and be prepared and organized for each step of the process, from greeting visitors upon arrival to arranging rest spots along the route.

## Travel Manitoba Tourism Initiatives

Travel Manitoba, the Province of Manitoba's tourism arm, has recently developed a marketing strategy to better identify and support different tourism niches. This has been done as a partnership with the Government of Canada's Destination Canada.

Travel Manitoba is using a tool called the Explorer Quotient to identify specific tourism types. The Explorer Quotient goes beyond traditional market research of defining people. It looks deeper at individuals' personal beliefs, social values and views of the world to learn exactly why different types of travellers seek out entirely different travel experiences. An Explorer Quotient Toolkit provides tourism businesses with valuable insights into why and how different people like to travel.

Destination Canada opens its observations about tourist types with a statement about Canada's Personality:

Canada is intriguing, and refreshingly different from what you would expect.  
Canada has a youthful spirit, with an open and informal approach to life.  
We're warm, welcoming and witty. Most of all, we're authentic people with experiences we'd like to share. This personality should shine through in the words and images used to describe our awesome country to the world.

The Explorer Quotient includes these following nine tourist types:

### **Cultural explorer**

You are a very active traveler who enjoys frequent weekend escapes. Always on the move, you immerse yourself in nature, local culture and history.

### **Cultural history buff**

You strive to go beyond your own roots to understand the history and culture of others. You are the most likely to own a passport, and you enjoy solitary travel.

### **Free spirit**

Something of a thrill-seeking hedonist, travel satisfies your insatiable need for the exciting and the exotic.

### **Gentle explorer**

You like to return to past destinations and enjoy the security of familiar surroundings. You appreciate convenience, relaxation and typically look for all the comforts of home.

### **No-hassle traveler**

A bit of an escapist, you search for worry-free and secure travel. You look for relaxation, simplicity, and a chance to experience the outdoors with family and friends.

### **Personal history explorer**

You travel to gain a deeper understanding of your ancestry and heritage. Your travel tends to be a shared experience, both during and after the trip.

### **Rejuvenator**

For you, travel is a chance to totally disconnect and get away from it all. When you travel, you want to stay in top hotels where you are most comfortable, secure, and can...

### **Virtual traveler**

Tending not to travel very often, you prefer the comforts of home to the uncertainties of new places or cultures.

### **Authentic experiencer**

Your travel type is something of an improv artist, exploring nature, history and culture, all on the path to personal development.

Travel Manitoba has noted the two obvious tourist types that would be most interested in our rich and varied history and heritage, and specifically in the Grand Marais Walking Tour, with each noted with additional observations and cues about their character and interests. It would be good for hosts/guides to review this material and keep these visitor qualities in mind when dealing with tour participants – you can bet that they are all one of these three distinct types.

### **Cultural explorer**

You seek constant opportunities to embrace, discover, and immerse yourself in the entire experience of the culture, people and settings of the places you visit. Not content to just visit historic sites and watch from the sidelines, you want to participate in the modern-day culture as well. You often attempt to converse with locals, attend local festivals, or go off the beaten path to discover how people truly live. You are:

- positive
- open-minded
- curious
- risk-taker
- flexible
- easy-going
- energetic
- creative

#### **Most likely to be seen at**

- heritage sites
- cultural events
- museums
- festivals
- B&Bs
- hostels

## **Cultural history buff**

You strive to go beyond your own roots to understand the history and culture of others. When you travel, you are likely pursuing a personal interest or hobby, making the experience more rewarding. Travelling alone or in small groups, you seek the freedom to observe, absorb and learn at your own pace, unhurried by others or driven by rigid schedules. You are:

- idealistic
- positive
- open-minded
- independent
- detailed
- curious
- progressive
- considerate

### **Most likely to be seen at**

- B&Bs
- museums
- galleries
- heritage sites
- festivals
- dining with locals

## **Personal history explorer**

You travel to gain a deeper understanding of your ancestry and heritage. Your travel tends to be a shared experience, both during and after the trip. You feel safer when you stay at branded hotels and like to travel in style, comfort and security. You like to visit all of the important landmarks, so a carefully planned schedule, often as a part of a group tour, ensures experiences of a lifetime. You are:

- conforming
- traditional
- ambitious
- aspiring
- anxious
- social
- family-oriented

### **Most likely to be seen at**

- luxury hotels
- top restaurants
- main attractions
- shopping
- organized groups
- museums

## Tour Design, Summary and Organization

Like most walking tours, the Grand Marais tour is focused on buildings as a primary focus of attention. Thus historic cottage and cabins, churches, commercial sites and a few key non-building sites (cemetery, etc.) are heavily represented. And in the following tour materials there has been a great effort to ensure that architectural terms and building themes are adequately defined for novice tour guides.

However, given that few of these sites have the typical range of architectural charms that define many other types of walking tours (that is, there are no fancy details, no grand styles), the Grand Marais tour also includes a variety of other subjects that will ensure a thoroughly informative and compelling experience for visitors and guests.

These other subjects include natural themes like flora and fauna (plants and animals). And they include historical themes like Métis community origins, community layout, etc. Each one of these subjects has been carefully drafted so that guides will be able to locate an appropriate site to discuss the subject, along with carefully researched facts and details so that information is interesting and accurate.

The next entry in this guide provides some additional background for guides to help them better appreciate the key focus of any walking tour – buildings.

## Talking About Buildings and Architecture

People often find it challenging, even intimidating, to talk about buildings. They think that buildings—and especially ARCHITECTURE—can only be intelligently explored by people with deep knowledge of the subject: architectural historians, architects, builders.

THIS IS NOT TRUE.

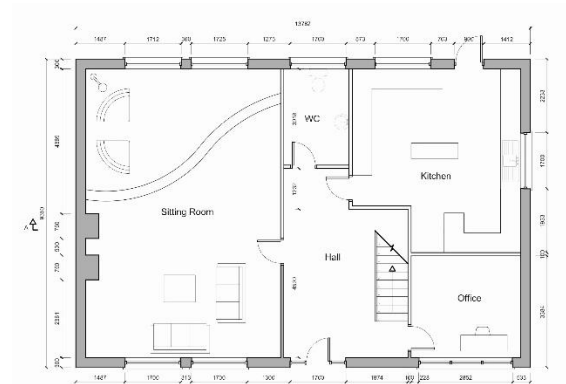
It may be true that the historic styles, theories, features and details that attend major buildings might be more profitably presented by an architect, builder or architectural historian. But most buildings easily lend themselves to “amateur” attention and discussion.

Following are some of the key issues, and especially terminology, that will help tour guides when they are focusing a group’s attention on a particular building; please note at the same time that texts in Tour Themes and Sample Tour have been developed to provide individualized architectural information for many sites.

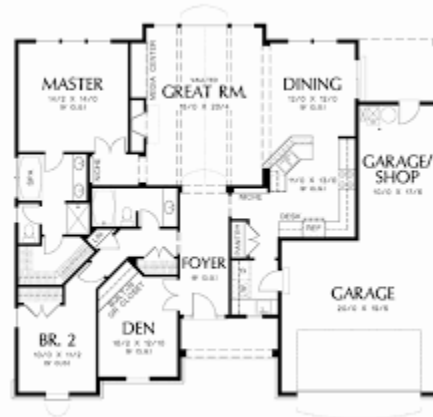
Every building has three key structural and formal components: the foundation, the body of the building (where all the rooms and main functions are), and the roof. Professional people connected to buildings will usually talk about the “plan” and the “elevations.” This

just means how the building floor(s) are arranged (the plan) and then how the exterior walls look (the elevations).

It is the variety of approaches to the main body and the roof that really define the building – what style it is, how sophisticated it is, how well designed it is, even how expensive it is. Some images give you a sense of this:



A simple building plan



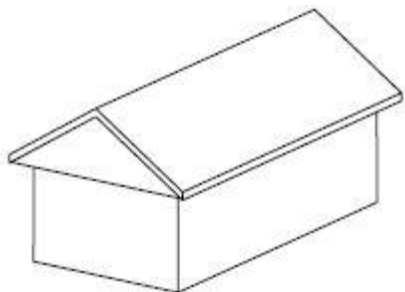
A complex building plan



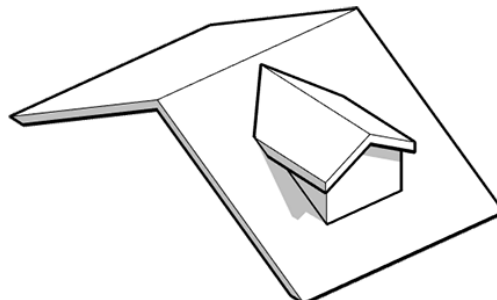
A simple building elevation



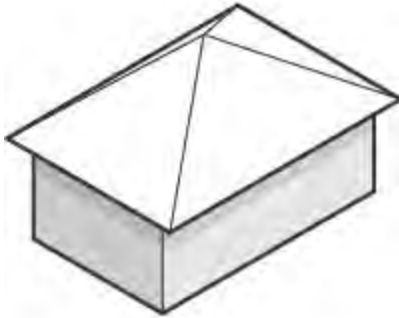
A complex building elevation



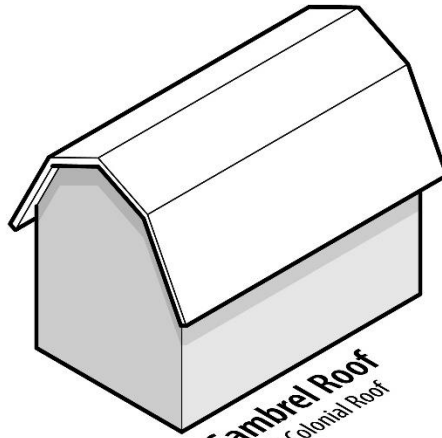
A basic gable roof



A gable roof with a dormer – this lets light in



A hip roof



A gambrel roof

The gable roof is easiest to build. When you add dormers, the construction gets trickier and the cost gets higher. A hip roof is harder to build and more expensive, as is a gambrel roof. You will most often find gable roofs in Grand Marais, and some with dormers. There are a few with hipped roofs – in Manitoba and in cottage country these are often called cottage roofs. You usually see a gambrel roof on a barn – we have one of those in Grand Marais

Some terms that might arise in the Grand Marais Walking Tour, are defined here:

**Porch** – an exterior feature to a building forming a covered approach or vestibule to a doorway

**Verandah** – a large open porch, usually roofed and partly enclosed as by a railing and often extending across the front and sometimes the side of a house

**Eave** – the overhanging lower edge of a roof

**Column** – a rigid and slender upright support often of shaped wood or stone having a cylindrical shaft with a capital (top) and base (bottom piece)

**Balustrade** – a railing with supporting balusters; balusters are a number of closely spaced support for a railing

**Fenestration** – the design arrangement of windows and doors

**Mullions and Muntins** – the two main framing elements seen on windows; a mullion is the vertical member; the muntin is the horizontal member of the frame

**Symmetry** – the balanced design of a main building façade; with a centrally-placed door and mirror images of all features on either side

**Asymmetry** – the unbalanced presentation of a main building façade, with an offset door and windows and features placed randomly

Nearly all buildings in Grand Marais are modest, and without major architectural character. The few that have architectural ambitions are attended to in the tour texts.

Only three formal architectural styles are mentioned in the tour texts. The following entries provide some background and key characteristics.

### **Romanesque Style**

Romanesque is an architectural style of medieval Europe characterized by semi-circular arches. There is no consensus for the beginning date of the Romanesque style, with proposals ranging from the 6th to the 11th century, this later date being the most commonly held. Examples of Romanesque architecture can be found across the continent, making it the first pan-European architectural style since Imperial Roman architecture. The Romanesque style in England is traditionally referred to as Norman architecture. Combining features of ancient Roman and Byzantine buildings and other local traditions, Romanesque architecture is known by its massive quality, thick walls, round arches, sturdy pillars, barrel vaults, large towers and decorative arcading.



St. Bridget Church in England is a good example of Romanesque (built beginning 1130).



## **Gothic Style**

Gothic architecture flourished in Europe during the High and Late Middle Ages. It evolved from Romanesque architecture and was succeeded by Renaissance architecture. It originated in 12th century France and lasted into the 16th century. Its characteristics include the pointed arch, the ribbed vault and the flying buttress. Gothic architecture is most familiar as the architecture of many of the great cathedrals, abbeys and churches of Europe. It is also the architecture of many castles, palaces, town halls, guild halls, universities and to a less prominent extent, private dwellings, such as dorms and rooms.



Chartres Cathedral in France is one of the best known Gothic buildings – dating to 1194-1220.

## **Rustic Style**

Rustic architecture is a style of architecture in the United States and Canada, used in rural government and private structures and their interior design. It was influenced by the American craftsman style. The American Craftsman style was a domestic architectural style and lifestyle philosophy that began in the last years of the 19th century. As a comprehensive design and art movement it remained popular into the 1930s. However, in decorative arts and architectural design it has continued with numerous revivals and restoration projects through present times.



The Administration Building at Riding Mountain National Park is a good example of the Rustic Style – built in the 1930s.

## Tour Guide Communication Tips

Let's assume a tour guide has done their research and pored over all the printed information in this guide. They're ready! Or are they? No matter how prepared a guide is, they must be able to deliver information in a way that sparks peoples' interest and keeps them clamouring for more. Successful guides are skilled communicators who should try to project an infectious enthusiasm through their commentary. Following are some additional tips about effective communication for a walking tour.

### **Keep Their Attention**

While texts have been prepared for all sites and subjects for the Grand Marais Walking Tour, it is important that hosts/guides not just read from notes. Reading an entire tour from supplied texts can be boring for everyone concerned. Be as dramatic as you feel comfortable being. Build suspense and excitement. Deliver your commentary with a variety of expressions and inflections, gestures and pace. Also feel free to use local jargon. For example, in days past many local beachgoers referred to Grand Beach as "The Front" or "The Front Beach", while the cobblestone beaches of Grand Marais were referred to as "The Back Beach". Before indoor plumbing, outhouses were used and the term "Honeyman" was used to denote the person employed to empty outhouse pails, even though some were known to be female, and the "Honeyman" was a small team.

### **Stay on Topic**

Try to stay on topic even if your tour-goers' attention turns to other things. It's important to remain on time when moving from site to site. If tour-goers have been told that their route will cover 1.5 km and take 1 ½ hours to complete, then members must keep moving at a steady pace.

### **Any Questions?**

Always ask if anyone has any questions before moving on to another topic. And always paraphrase the question back to tour-goers before you provide an answer. This lets everyone have the opportunity to understand what it is you are answering. It also acknowledges the merit of the question, and makes the person who asked it feel they are a valued member of the tour. If one person wants to know how a stone fence was built you can bet others want to know that too.

### **Personal Anecdotes**

If hosts/guides have some personal anecdotes about a site or theme, these should certainly be added to the tour experience. At the same time, anecdotes that stray into gossip or might be seen as disrespectful should be avoided.

### **Word choices**

Empty qualifiers and large sweeping generalizations can undermine the tour experience. Stay away from words like fantastic, most, best, worst, etc., or fluffy words such as pretty, nice, cute, etc. Remember, as the Travel Manitoba Explorer Quotient

has identified (above) – heritage tourists often are looking for accuracy in their visiting experience.

### **Sensory Observations**

Draw on all five of our senses. Is it hot or cold? Is it silent and still? Do the pounding waves from Lake Winnipeg sound like jackhammers in a storm? Do the dead and dying fishflies smell like a fisherman's market? These are all good things to add as colour commentary on the tour.

### **Can Everyone Hear Me?**

Good tour guides talk slowly and make sure they can be heard. As a public speaker, you should never feel the need to rush through a presentation. Because anxiety tends to make people speak much faster than they normally would, you should be aware of your rate of speech. Make a conscious point of speaking slowly. If your speech is happening at a more manageable rate, it will be easier for you to feel like you're in control. At the same time, speaking slowly does not mean speaking in a monotone: good tour guides keep a steady speaking pace and use that extra time to inject more expression into their presentation. And they also make strong eye contact. When appropriate they use hand gestures to reinforce their messages.

### **Flip Your Mindset to Ease Your Nerves**

Even the most seasoned tour guides can get nervous prior to presenting. The most effective way they take the pressure off is to change your mindset and think about the audience rather than themselves. Remember that a tour guide is there to provide tour-goers with valuable information and if the audience members leave with one or two new interesting facts or ideas, reminders, or a new perspective, a tour guide will have made it worth their while.

### **Minimize Filler Words and Stammering**

Filler words include things such as "like" and "um". They are words that only exist in a live presentation because the tour guide's mind needs a second to catch up with the rest of the speech. Mishaps like this and other verbal slip-ups are most often the result of anxiety. While anxiety is totally natural and is to be expected, it's a good sign you need to slow down. A speaker speaking slowly is better than one who is stuttering through important lines. And if a guide needs a moment to recollect their thoughts in the middle of their speech, they usually allow themselves the time to pause.

### **Pause for Effect**

Much as with an emphasis technique on a given word, a well-placed silence can say a lot. Pauses are a good thing to place after a particularly heavy or important idea has been stated, or in between relatively unrelated points to serve as a sort of paragraph break.

### **Chat Up Audience Members Before the Tour Begins**

Good tour guides meet and mingle with the people they are going to be speaking to before they begin their tour. This kind of approach warms an audience up to them. It also lets them gauge a tour-goer's sense of humour, which is particularly critical if the tour guide inadvertently loses their place in a tour, or flubs a line. This pre-tour observational time can also be used to gauge which audience members might be amenable to ongoing focus over the course of the tour – as people to ask questions of, or just to joke with.

### **Closing statements and summary**

At the end, the audience will be looking for some closure to signal the tour's end. Take this as an opportunity to ask for any final questions. If you're so inclined you can also recommend a local establishment that offers snacks and refreshments for those who are famished or thirsty after the tour.

## **Sample Introductory and Concluding Scripts**

The following prepared texts have been developed for hosts/guides to help them with two key moments of a walking tour – the introduction and the conclusion. These set the tone. Guides should obviously feel free to adjust and adapt these for their own purposes, and for their own voice – that is, how they would actually speak, and what they would actually say. Some additional introductory speaking tips are included for the main body of the tour.

### **Introduce Yourself**

Hello everyone. My name is Lindsey. On behalf of the Heritage Committee of Grand Marais, I'd like to welcome you all on today's tour. The tour will take about 1 ½ hours . Right now I'd like to take a minute to familiarize you with the area and discuss some brief safety precautions. Firstly, I ask that you check and make sure that you have comfortable walking shoes on. You might want to ensure you have water, a hat, and sunscreen lotion with you.

### **Introduce the Location**

Today, we are going to explore and learn more about the natural and built environments that make Grand Marais a special and interesting place. Grand Marais is primarily a cottage destination, but it has a rich cultural history and is also an amazing site of natural beauty.

It is claimed that Grand Marais was first noted by the son of the great French explorer, Pierre Sieur de la Verendrye in 1737. We will actually talk about that a bit more over the course of the tour.

But it was not until the late 1800s and early 1900s that Métis settlers established a fishing settlement here. In the period of the mid-1800s “Granmaree” was a destination for local farmers who would visit the fishing station established here to buy whitefish in the fall, after the harvest was done.

The roots of change here at Grand Marais can be traced to the year 1903, when the Canadian Pacific Railway established a full-scale summer playground called Winnipeg Beach on Lake Winnipeg’s west side. It was less than an hour’s commute by train. Overnight, Winnipeg Beach was a roaring success. Not to be overtaken in this new kind of commercial venture, the Canadian Northern Railway (later Canadian National; CNR) established its own competing summer vacation spot on the east side of Lake Winnipeg – and called it Grand Beach.

The little community at Grand Marais was completely recast between 1914 and 1916, by the CNR’s local development, as railway workers quickly took up lots in Grand Marais. By the early 1920s there was a firmly established summer community here.

Between about 1920 and 1960, Grand Marais was a thriving summer place, with a host of businesses along Grand Beach Road, and hundreds of cottages and cabins dotting the old beach line.

## **Tour Stops**

Use some of the following opening statements to get the tour going:

In front of you is...

On your right/left you will see...

Up ahead...

As we turn the corner here, you will see...

In the distance...

If you look up you will notice...

Off to the north...

Look to the east...

To your west...

In a few minutes we'll be passing...

We are now coming up to...

As you will see...

You may have noticed...

Take a good look at...

I'd like to point out...

We were just talking about...

Myrtle was just asking about...

## **Closing Statements and Summary**

Thank you so much for the opportunity to guide you through the Grand Marais tour. I hope that you have learned something. At least I hope you have come to see what a cool place this is – via its history and its natural splendours.

So - On behalf of the Grand Marais Heritage Committee I'd like to thank you for your time and for joining me today.

I'd be happy to take questions, if anyone has them.

Oh – and one final thing. If anyone has a hankering for an ice cream or a hot dog, please head on down to Grand Beach Road for some fine fixins.

# GRAND MARAIS

## WALKING TOUR PROJECT



# TOUR THEMES





## GRAND MARAIS WALKING TOUR PROJECT

# TOUR THEMES

**T**he following 37 entries constitute all the potential themes, subjects and issues that can inform a walking or cycling tour of Grand Marais. Themes are grouped according to general subjects: Lake Winnipeg and associated issues/themes; History; Buildings and Structures; and Natural Aspects.

Each entry is presented via a two-page spread, with text on the left-hand side, and images on the right. Texts have been developed to be accurate and informative. They are also arranged so that a guide/host will immediately see the key statement up front and in bold type. Following statements and facts are short and direct, and bulleted for effect. Images will help the host/guide better understand and communicate information.

## LIST OF SUBJECTS

### THE LAKE AND OTHER PHYSICAL QUALITIES

1. Lake Winnipeg – Key Physical Aspects
2. Lake Winnipeg – Place in History
3. Lake Winnipeg – Modern Issues
4. Local Geology
5. Lagoon and Marsh
6. Community Layout

### HISTORY

7. Community Name
8. Local Metis History
9. Aboriginal History at Grand Marais
10. Trails
11. Fishing and Farming History
12. Back Lanes

13. Honey Wagons
14. Municipal Services
15. Notable People

## **BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES**

16. St. Jude's Church
17. St. Jude's Cemetery
18. Lanky's Hot Dog Stand
19. Harry's Hideout
20. Historic Cabins – Things to Look For
21. Historic Cabins – South End
22. Historic Cabins – North End
23. Old Commercial Strips
24. Stone Fences
25. Stone Construction and Features
26. Log Cabins
27. Notable Modern Cabins and Buildings

## **NATURAL ASPECTS**

28. Typical Local Deciduous Trees
29. Typical Local Coniferous Trees
30. Typical Local Vegetation
31. Typical Local Song Birds
32. Typical Local Birds of Prey
33. Typical Local Scavenging Birds
34. Typical Local Water Birds
35. Typical Local Mammals
36. Typical Local Insects
37. Summer Weather Statistics

## Lake Winnipeg – Key Physical Aspects

### **Lake Winnipeg is one of the world's largest freshwater lakes**

- It is 24,514 square kilometres, or nearly 10,000 square miles in area.
- It is the fifth largest lake in Canada and is larger than Lake Ontario; and it is the 10th largest lake in the world by surface area. It covers just under 4% of all of Manitoba.
- Lake Winnipeg's most southerly point is about 34 miles north of Winnipeg at the mouth of the Red River. It is here that it forms a freshwater river delta called the Netley-Libau Marsh.
- The lake is about 436 kilometres long; or 270 miles, about the same distance as a return trip from Brandon to Winnipeg.
- At its widest point it is about 110 kilometres (70 miles) across, while its total shoreline is about 1,750 kilometres (1,100 miles).
- On average the lake is about 12 metres deep (40 feet) except for point off the northeast shore of Black Island (north of here), where it reaches its maximum depth of about 36 metres – 120 feet.
- In terms of its volume, of course the lake is massive – 284 cubic kilometres (1 kilometre wide by 1 kilometre high by 1 kilometre long), equivalent to more than 6 billion times the volume of a standard 14 by 28 foot backyard pool.
- Lake Winnipeg has a large, deeper north basin and a smaller, comparatively shallow south basin.
- The two basins are separated by The Narrows, through which waters from the south basin ultimately flow northward.
- The lake's watershed (the area of land where all of the water that falls into it and drains off of it goes to a common outlet) is huge. Some of its major tributaries include the Bloodvein, Poplar, Red-Assiniboine and Winnipeg rivers.
- The Lake Winnipeg watershed is the second largest in Canada and includes parts of four provinces and four U.S. states. The drainage basin is nearly 1,000,000 km<sup>2</sup> in size.
- Lake Winnipeg, along with lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis, are the last remains of glacial Lake Agassiz, a huge glacial lake (see Local Geology section).
- More than 23,000 permanent residents live in 30 communities along the shores of Lake Winnipeg, including 11 First Nations communities.
- Seven Manitoba Provincial Parks are located on the south basin of Lake Winnipeg including Hecla/Grindstone, Beaver Creek, Camp Morton, Winnipeg Beach, Elk Island, and Grand Beach.



## Lake Winnipeg – Place in History

**Lake Winnipeg is one of the most important bodies of water featured in Canadian history.**

- English explorer Henry Kelsey in 1690 was likely the first European to see and travel on Lake Winnipeg.
- The lake's name is presumed to have been adopted from the Cree word for "murky" or brackish waters – "win-nipi".
- Local Aboriginal people had a legend to account for the appearance of the murky waters. They said it was the work of a spiteful spirit who delighted in tormenting humans. He had been captured and punished by an old woman of one of the tribes. The spirit escaped, hiding itself in the water, and after that, displayed its temper by stirring up the mud at the bottom of the lake.
- The lake was an important transport link between the Hudson Bay's Company port of York Factory and the fur-trade hinterlands of the Red-Assiniboine watershed. One of the main routes was the Nelson River which starts at the north end of the lake and flows into Hudson Bay.
- The Hudson's Bay Company used Lake Winnipeg to provision its many forts in order to trade with Aboriginal peoples.
- On the return trip, traders brought back large canoes loaded with furs.
- In 1812 Lord Selkirk's boats traversed the length of Lake Winnipeg on their way to founding the Red River Colony, at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers in present-day Winnipeg.
- Later the lake gave its name to Winnipeg in the new province of Manitoba.



La Verendrye travelling down a northern Manitoba river to Lake Winnipeg, From Kids Britannica.



Aerial view of Lower Fort Garry, near Selkirk.

## Lake Winnipeg – Modern Issues

**Lake Winnipeg is frequently in the news, because of a variety of issues.**

- A major issue is its use in the production of hydroelectricity. Since the construction of a lake-outlet control structure at Jenpeg, the lake levels are maintained at about 217 m to ensure an adequate supply of water for the numerous hydroelectric generating stations on the Nelson River. Lake Winnipeg is the world's 3rd largest hydroelectric reservoir in the world.
- Since the lake is relatively long and narrow, interesting wind and wave effects occasionally take place.
- When prevailing northerly winds blow along the length of Lake Winnipeg, they exert a horizontal stress on its surface. Surface waters move in the direction of the wind and pile up along the windward south shores – a phenomenon known as a setup or wind tide. Setups greater than 1 metre above normal lake levels have been recorded along many of southern Lake Winnipeg's recreational beaches, and the associated high waves with their uprush effects have caused considerable storm damage, backshore flooding and shoreline erosion. The highest setups occur in the fall, when the northerly winds are strongest. If the winds die down suddenly, the waters rush northward, then slosh back and forth in a process called seiching.
- Nutrient loading to Lake Winnipeg and concentrations of nutrients in Lake Winnipeg have increased over the past several decades. 7,900 tonnes of phosphorus enter the lake each year, but only 2,400 leave through its outlet, resulting in 5,500 tonnes of net phosphorus loading.
- Higher nutrient concentrations generally occur at the very south end of the lake and decline moving northwards. Elevated nutrient concentrations at the southern end of Lake Winnipeg are likely associated with the nutrient-rich inflow of the Red River.
- Six aquatic invasive species are known to occur in Lake Winnipeg. These are the common carp, rainbow smelt, white bass, the water flea, Asian tapeworm, and spiny water flea. Although it is difficult to predict impacts to Lake Winnipeg, these species may potentially alter ecological relationships among native species, affect ecosystem health and function, the economic value of ecosystems, and human health.
- A recent invasive species found more and more in the lake is the zebra mussel. These are D-shaped, fingernail-sized mollusks. One mussel can produce up to one million eggs during a single spawning season. Zebra mussels can damage algae, which in turn affects fish stocks. In some zebra mussel infestations whole fish populations have been decimated.



Pine Falls Dam, an important local source of hydro power.



View of erosion on Grand Marais shoreline, just west of Grand Marais Boulevard South. Note the use of large boulders to try and stabilize the cliff bank.



Zebra Mussels, a newly invasive species to Lake Winnipeg.



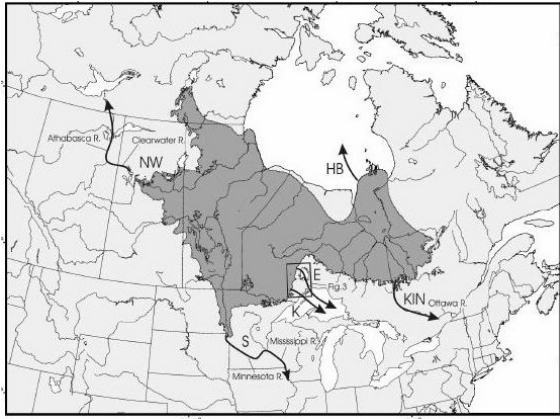
## Local Geology

**The Grand Marais-Grand Beach area is a remnant of ancient glacial activity, and of the action of an equally ancient lake, called Lake Agassiz.**

- You can still see this heritage in various physical attributes, and even in some of our current buildings – stones used in foundations, chimneys and fences.
- Some history: The ancient geological aspect that gives us our current Grand Marais landscape began about 30,000 years ago.
- During the last Ice Age the northern half of North America was covered by a continental ice sheet, which advanced and deteriorated with variations in the climate. As the ice sheet disintegrated, it created at its front an immense lake formed from its meltwaters – Lake Agassiz.
- Around 13,000 years ago, Lake Agassiz came to cover much of Manitoba, northwestern Ontario, northern Minnesota, eastern North Dakota and Saskatchewan. It was larger than any contemporary lake in the world and approximately the size of the Black Sea.
- The lake drained at various times. The final drainage raised world-wide sea levels between 1 and 3 metres (3 to 10 feet).
- Numerous lakes formed in the old glacial lake basin. The best known are the so-called Great Lakes of Manitoba – Lake Winnipeg, Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis.
- One last feature of the Ice Age was the formation of the Belair Moraine. A moraine is any glacially formed accumulation of debris (soil and rock) that occurs when glaciers move, or when they melt.
- The Belair Moraine extends from Beausejour to Lake Winnipeg. It runs 100 kilometres, and includes Grand Marais and Grand Beach.
- The moraine is the result of two vast ice sheets making direct edge-to-edge contact about 14,000 years ago. As they moved they caused the rocks below them to grind together, depositing huge amounts of white sand, gravel and boulders, with the largest boulders called erratics.

### Where to Look

There are good spots on the western sections of Central and Lakeview, looking east, by which to see the big hill in the distance; the remaining stone fences are good places to look at various kind of rocks – granite and limestone especially; and sections of Central are good places to see erratics.



Lake Agassiz – shaded area.



Limestone is a sedimentary rock, formed from ancient organic materials pressed under enormous weight.



Granite is a common type of igneous rock, formed by volcanic action, and distinguished by its coarse grains.



Example of an erratic, large boulders that are left “stranded” in the landscape as glaciers receded.

## Lagoon and Marsh

**Grand Marais is bordered by the Grand Beach campsite to the north, Lake Winnipeg to the east, and a mixture of lagoon waters and marshes to the east and south. Beyond the lagoon and marsh is the Belair Provincial Forest.**

- The marshes that surround Grand Marais are non-tidal, freshwater marshes and occur along the edges of sheltered, shallow waters along the boundaries of Lake Winnipeg. Most of the marshes are located alongside the lagoon.
- The water in the lagoon, once known as the North Harbour, flows in and out of the lagoon and Lake Winnipeg via the channel located at Grand Beach.
- Marshes sustain a diversity of life that is disproportionate with their size. Canada has over 127 million hectares of the world's wetlands, a whopping ¼ of the world's total.
- If the boreal forests are the lungs of our region, then wetlands are the kidneys – removing all kinds of toxins from the ecosystem.
- Non-tidal marshes are the most prevalent and widely distributed wetlands in North America. Highly organic, mineral rich soils of sand, silt and clay underlie these wetlands, while lily pads, cattails, bulrushes, reeds, grasses and sedges provide a great habitat for waterfowl, amphibians and small mammals.
- A whole host of birds can be found in the Grand Marais marshes: red-winged blackbirds, mergansers, wood ducks, great blue herons, mallards, kingfishers, cormorants, grebes (see sections on birds).
- Early mornings and early evenings are the best time to see these birds.
- Unfortunately, people have often seen wetlands as wastelands or barriers to agricultural or residential development. Only recently, as our society recognizes the valuable role wetlands play both for our environment and economy, are new strategies to conserve and restore wetlands developed.
- It can be difficult to tell the difference between marsh grasses and sedges and rushes. A good way to identify them is by their stems. A common rhyme about their stems, which helps to identify them, goes like this: “Sedges have edges, rushes are round, grasses are hollow, what have you found?”
- The marsh at the far southern end of Grand Marais (adjacent the point) features a white sand sandbar with marshland bordering a small inlet on one side and Lake Winnipeg on the other. This area has become a favourite for para-kiting.
- It is also worth noting other nearby natural sites that are really worth a visit: Spirit Rock Trail in Grand Beach, Ancient Beach Walk in eastern Grand Beach, and further south the Brokenhead Wetland Interpretive Trail (a few kilometres south of the junction of Highway 59 and P.R. 12).



Basic view main features of Grand Marais via an old CNR map (ca. 1915) – townsite in light brown, and key water areas in blue – Lake Winnipeg, Main Beach, Lagoon and Marsh. Also note the CNR lines that ran into Grand Beach and also continued on to Victoria Beach. There was no station at Grand Marais, but the train stopped at what is now Vassar to drop off and pick up passengers.

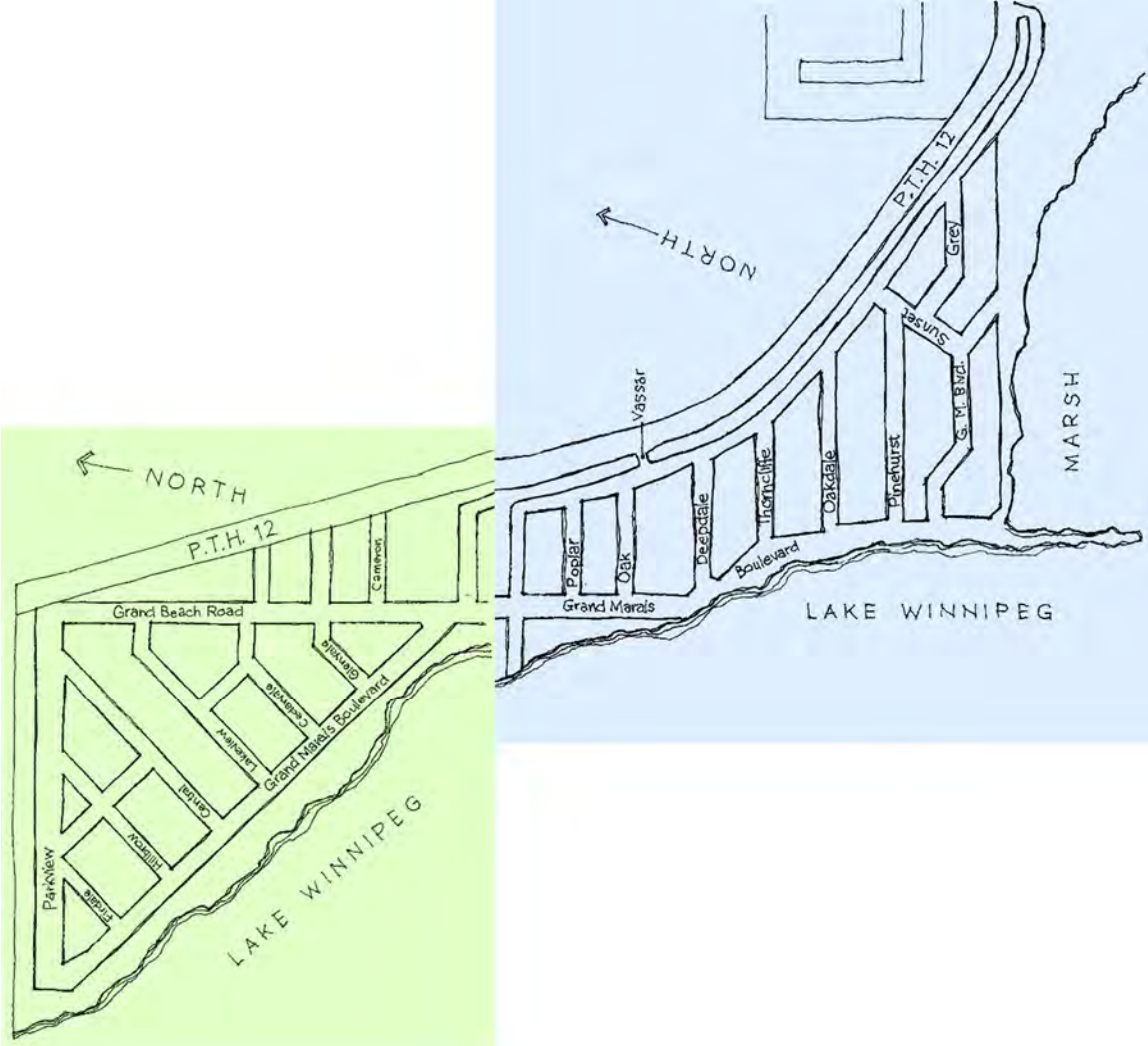
It is interesting to note that while the old highway ran alongside the rail line for much of its course, once it entered Grand Marais it veered off in a sort of dog leg, and then formed up as the present line of Grand Beach Road – which until the 1960s was the main vehicular route straight into Grand Beach.

## Community Layout

**As has been noted, the community of Grand Marais has its roots in long-ago Metis history, when those earliest settlers came to the area in the 1870s to undertake fishing, farming and lumbering.**

- We can presume that there was no obvious community plan at that time – no streets and no lot lines. Lots and buildings were carved out of the woods.
- That all changed with the advent of the Grand Beach Park development, in 1914, and certainly in 1916 with the arrival of the first train.
- Very quickly Grand Marais took on a much more familiar community layout, as cabins went up and main streets and side streets were developed.
- If you look at the community from the air, you would see the main thoroughfares forming a large figure 8, with the centre of the 8 at the intersection of Grand Beach Road and Grand Marais Boulevard (where the old barn and former Grand Putt are now).
- And so you have a very distinct set-up: a sort of north end and south end. The walking tour acknowledges this, with its two tour options.
- The south end is mostly level. The terrain rises slightly as you head north, and then there is a fairly dramatic rise of terrain on the western half of the community; this is most evident with the big slope on Parkview, and also on Central.
- For the most part the original layout is still with us – with tidy streets, beautiful trees and broad boulevards (where you can still find the occasional public amenity – water pumps and horseshow pits – see Municipal Services).
- But there are two changes that have slightly altered the community dynamic:
- The loss of the old CNR line, which used to run along the same right-of-way of the highway and into Grand Beach.
- The development of major dykes at the southern extent of Grand Marais Boulevard. As you walk or drive this part of the street, check out the height of the road and then the levels of the lake on one side and the cabins on the other – you can see how these abodes would be awash in Lake Winnipeg without the dyke.

Map of Grand Marais showing the two halves – north area in green and south area in blue.



## Community Name

**It is said that one of the members of the famous La Verendrye family, early explorers of Western Canada, gave this area its name – “Grand Marais” – the Great Marsh.**

- There does not appear to be any basis in the historical record for this claim.\*
- On the other hand, it is a fact that one of the La Vérendryes explored the eastern side of Lake Winnipeg in the spring of 1739, and undoubtedly would have passed by, in a canoe brigade, what is now Grand Marais.
- The most famous of this family was the father - Pierre Gaultier de Varennes et de La Vérendrye, 1685-1749, thus aged 64 at this death.
- He was a fur trader and explorer. The expeditions he organized, and which were spearheaded by his sons, were the first to open the country from Lake Superior to the lower Saskatchewan and Missouri rivers to the French fur trade.
- Fur-trade forts that the La Vérendryes established in what would become Manitoba were called Fort Maurepas I (Winnipeg, near The Forks), Fort la Reine (Portage la Prairie), Fort Maurepas II (Pine Falls area) and Fort Dauphin (near Winnipegosis). None of these survived long and all traces of them are gone.
- It was actually Pierre's sons, in particular Louis-Joseph and Francois, who were most active in explorations of the West, and of ongoing communications and fur trade with various Aboriginal groups along the way.
- Louis-Joseph and Francois, and two colleagues, were the first Europeans to have crossed the Great Plains and to see the Rockie Mountains in Wyoming.
- It was Louis-Joseph (1717-1761; also called The Chevalier), who traveled down the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg in 1739. His father had directed his son in this effort – so as to examine all tributary rivers, topography and local Aboriginal peoples along the way, presumably to determine potential fur-trade opportunities.
- It is not hard to imagine the 22-year old explorer, and his canoe crew, passing right by Grand Marais as they headed south, first via the Red River, and then the Assiniboine, back to Fort la Reine – their home base.
- Louis-Joseph de La Vérendrye died in 1761 when the ship he was traveling in, returning to France, was sunk off the coast of Cape Breton. He was 44 years old.
- Fun Fact: There is a character in the *Assassins's Creed: Rogue* video game named Chevalier de la Vérendrye.
- Additional research on the community name suggests that local Metis people called it “grand maree.”

\* Researchers for this project have reviewed *Journals and Letters of Pierre Gaultier de Varennes de la Vérendrye and His Sons* (The Publications of the Champlain Society, Volume 16, 1927, 548 pages) and found no reference to Grand Marais.

There are three statues in Winnipeg honouring Pierre Gaultier de Varennes et de La Vérendrye:



1938 Statue in La Vérendrye Park in St. Boniface just to the east of St. Boniface Hospital.



La Vérendrye (on left) and Father Jean-Pierre Aulneau in a sculptural group in front of St. Boniface Cathedral.



Sculpture of La Vérendrye at the east entrance of the Legislative Building.



## Local Métis History

**Before Grand Marais and Grand Beach were developed as major recreational destinations in the early 1900s, this area was home to many Métis people.**

- Métis settlers were involved in fishing, farming and lumbering, and there was a thriving Métis presence here. So who exactly are the Métis? Well, as they say: It's complicated.
- The word Métis is derived from the French term meaning "mixed." The first Métis people were noted in Eastern Canada as early as the 1600s. But it was the Red River region in Manitoba where the Métis Nation was really born.
- Just a little bit of history: As the fur trade moved west, many French-Canadian fur traders married indigenous women, mainly Cree, Ojibway, or Saulteaux. With these connections, Indigenous peoples could establish good relationships with European fur-trading partners, and both prospered.
- The children of these unions gradually formed a distinct group in the West. They grew up with a combination of French-Catholic and Indigenous cultures and spiritual beliefs. This led to a distinct way of life.
- Things really started to change for the Métis in 1812 when Lord Selkirk's Scottish settlers arrived near present-day Winnipeg to establish a farming community. Métis and fur traders were not happy with this new situation – the farmers threatened the old fur-trade way of life.
- But the settlers stayed, and over the next 60 years, the Red River Settlement gradually became more agricultural, and more European. Indigenous peoples were forced out, and even though they had French connections, the Métis could see they might be next.
- In 1869, as negotiations were going on to bring Manitoba into the Canadian Confederation, the Métis, led by Louis Riel, undertook a rebellion. They were especially concerned about losing their language and property rights.
- The rebellion was stopped by the arrival of Canadian forces, and the Métis were suddenly in trouble. For years they seem to have disappeared. But of course they were not gone. They were living quiet, normal lives all across the province, and even in small, thriving communities – like at St. Laurent and Grand Marais.
- And by the 1970s and 1980s, the Métis Nation was once again stirring, recalling its proud traditions. In 2003 the Supreme Court of Canada granted the Métis the right to hunt for food. This was greatly significant, as it was the first instance in which the government affirmed the existence of the Métis as a distinct Aboriginal people.
- In Manitoba, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) is an effective voice for ongoing issues of legal rights. And in Grand Marais we have an equally strong and proud voice in this larger community. You can see the distinctive Métis flag and visit the MMF offices over on Parkview.



Metis Flag – the flag uses the symbol for eternity (sideways 8) in white on a blue background.



Metis Beadwork – an important Metis artform.

## Aboriginal History at Grand Marais

**There are today very few hints of Aboriginal habitation at or around Grand Marais. But given its proximity to Lake Winnipeg (and its abundant fish), its marsh (and thus birds) and heavily wooded terrain (for firewood and building materials), we cannot doubt that there were many Aboriginal peoples who lived here.**

- A search through history and Aboriginal oral histories shows us that the Indigenous peoples of this area were known as Anishinaabe.
- Anishinaabe is an ethnic term, referring to the shared culture and languages of the Algonquian tribes of the Great Lakes area. As groups migrated west, they came to refer to themselves as Ojibway, Saukteaux or Oji-Cree. These groups were not identical to each other, and they had their own individual identities, cultural beliefs and practices, and independent leadership.
- Migration west was likely due to a smallpox outbreak around the Great Lakes. We can assume that early settlement along the east side of Lake Winnipeg, including Grand Marais, was forged by Ojibway peoples.
- The arrival of European (French and English) explorers and fur traders in the 18th and 19th centuries, was to have a huge impact on Anishinaabe peoples. This area, part of the area around the south basin of Lake Winnipeg, and near the great Winnipeg River, was a major part of the fur trade network, and Aboriginal peoples here would have been active in the fur trade.
- Aboriginal peoples throughout Canada were sidelined and even harassed and denied rights through the 19th century, and all ultimately were moved to reserves. These moves were based on treaties.
- The ancestors of the Anishinaabe people of Sagkeeng, Peguis, and Brokenhead First Nations signed Treaty #1 in 1871. Each Anishinaabe tribe or First Nation is politically independent and may have its own government, laws, police, and services, just like a small country.
- Grand Marais has some immediate Aboriginal neighbours: We are close to the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation (south), and Sagkeeng First Nation (east).
- We are also slightly connected to Chief Peguis and his Ojibway band, which had settled in an area north of present-day Selkirk in the late 1700s, probably in the Netley Marsh area. And Chief Peguis' brother Red Deer was from the area of the Broken Head River.
- I'd like to leave you with some Anishinaabe beliefs and words:
- Gitchi Manitou is the great creator god of the Anishinaabe. He is abstract, benevolent, and does not directly interact with humans, and is rarely if ever personified in Anishinaabe myths. It is Gitchi Manitou who created the world.
- An easy Anishinaabe word is miigwech (pronounced mee-gwetch), which means "thank you."



Ojibway tipis – note at the top the typical tipi form—a cone shape—but covered with bark and hides.



Chief Peguis (ca. 1774 –1864) Sauteaux chief, who moved from the Great to what is now southern Manitoba in the 1790s. In 1817 he signed the first treaty with Lord Selkirk.

## Trails

**As people walk through Grand Marais, they often find strange little side-paths and crooked trails that do not seem to be part of the existing grid street system.**

- So what are they? It is thought that some of these footpaths and trails are the remnants of old Ojibway trails. This makes sense.
- We know this area was inhabited by Ojibway peoples for thousands of years. And since Ojibway peoples were migratory – moving with the sources of food (game as it migrated and fruit as it ripened) they had to adjust their movements according to the seasons. And so it is thought that these footpaths could have been small parts of larger pathways for large-scale tribal migrations to and from their favorite hunting, fishing and berry-gathering places.
- Interesting fact: Aboriginal paths and trails around the world have proven to be the easiest routes to walk from place to place for very long distances – hundreds and thousands of miles.
- We will not necessarily be going on any of these paths – they are a little rugged and tight. But here are some highlights:
- The footpaths begin at the end of St. Clements Avenue and extend through an area of scrub bush, alongside cottages, where they end at Hillbrow Avenue. A small footpath leads to several cottage frontages which do not have street access on Hillbrow Avenue. But you should note that these are not private, and if you want you can mozie on up.
- There are also several footpaths that connect Grand Marais to the Grand Beach Campsite, and a well-known footpath that leads from Grand Beach to Spirit Rock.
- For many years cottagers used these footpaths as a type of thoroughfare that is intended for use only by pedestrians. The trails are narrow and no other forms of traffic such as motorized vehicles and horses would be able to access them. And really it must be noted that while this has been noted for cottagers as a prime user of these trails, I am told that this really means kids – and that these little trails and paths were seen as great ways to quickly get away from parents.
- The footpaths at Grand Marais are still used today as shortcuts and shaded routes that provide a natural respite, away from traffic on hot summer days. Isn't it interesting that these paths, perhaps forged by Ojibway peoples hundreds of years ago, are a lasting vestige of a much simpler time?

Images of trails. Probably the best place to see and explore these trails is along St. Clements Avenue just to the north of Lakeview.



## Fishing and Farming History

**There are only a few sites left to recall the pre-cottage history of Grand Marais – when it was more of a fishing and farming locale.**

- The most obvious sites that recall our agricultural past are on Grand Beach Road – at the little farmsite where Grand Beach Road intersects with Grand Marais Boulevard, basically at the centre crossing of the community's figure-8 layout.
- Here you can see the tell-tale building – a little barn with its distinctive barn roof. This type of roof is called a gambrel, and was common for barn designs throughout western Canada. It allowed for more hay storage in the loft area.
- It is doubtful that this site actually was a large farmsite. It was more likely a place where subsistence farming took place – and where the barn held a few animals (maybe a cow and some chickens).
- The other site connected to local agriculture is further north on Grand Beach Road, at the intersection of Glenvale. This is the old dairy/creamery building. It would have been a place where local farmers brought their milk for processing.
- It is presumed that, like most small creameries of the day, the Grand Marais building would have mostly been the site where owners processed cream into butter.
- This was very important in the 1930s, and the Great Depression, when the so-called “cream cheque” kept many Manitoba farm families with a few extra coins in their pockets.
  
- Our historical connection to fishing has a much longer history (see Métis entry), but there is only one building left in Grand Marais that can be connected to that important part of our heritage.
- This is a little building on Pinehurst Street (#35), once the home of Karl Hendrickson.
- You can see that this building was a further back from the lake – in earlier times when the lake was high the water would have come close to this place.
- Fishing shacks and fish sales activities were until recently quite close to the western end of Pinehurst, and along the Point.



Barn at the intersection of Grand Beach Road and Grand Marais Boulevard North.



Karl Hendrickson House at 35 Pinehurst.

### Fishing Facts

- In 2010-11, 1069 licensed fishers and their helpers were employed in the commercial fishery on Lake Winnipeg.
- During the 2010-11 season, 4,498,370 kg (round weight) of walleye were caught by commercial fishers on Lake Winnipeg. Harvests of lake whitefish and sauger were 1,503,881 and 223,840 kg (round weight), respectively.
- In 2010-11, the total landed value of commercial fish production of Lake Winnipeg was just over \$16 million.

### Common fish taken out of Lake Winnipeg

- Pickeral
- White Fish
- Pike
- Jack
- Perch



## Back Lanes

**One interesting physical feature that distinguishes the residential/cottage areas of Grand Marais from Grand Beach, is back lanes.**

- When you walk or drive along Grand Marais's streets, of course you see mostly modest low-rise houses and cottages, neatly set in a row, with a sheltered, lawned yard facing the main street. Their front façades shine brightly and many feature lovely bright cottage colours, flowering plants and whimsical cottage decorations.
- And given that this is a nice little town, from about the 1920s onward, cottages began to be separated by back lanes, which created access from the rear – a pretty common approach in any urban environment, allowing unsightly activities, like garbage collection and messy work, to be undertaken.
- I suppose I need to digress here for one rather unsavoury truth about the history of Grand Maris. Well, actually the whole history of the world – and that is the fact that we did not always have indoor plumbing. Or indoor toilets. I think we are all familiar with the concept of the outhouse, or privy – the place where you had to go to do your business, in the little building set over a deep (and smelly) pit.
- Well – this was fine on a farm, where few people lived, and noxious smells would easily dissipate. But not so great at a summer-time resort with thousands of people living cheek by jowl. And so back to the back lane – and the Grand Maris solution.
- If you walk down nearly any of these back lanes (and we will check at least one), you will find a narrow alley (just big enough for a truck) and the occasional little outhouse.
- Of course now that we have indoor plumbing and septic tanks, the outhouse is a relic of the past, but there are some still here and there, and even some that are really cool.
- Most cabins had outhouses that were strategically placed on the owner's property line between their yard and the back lane. Outhouses were equipped with back hatches which swung open and upwards. The sanitation workers (called "honey men"; see next entry) would then arrive in the pitch black of night, via the back lane, open the hatch, grab the pail, empty it and replace it in the outhouse. The convenience of back lane access, and outhouse placement, made their jobs faster and more efficient. Additionally, the back lane ensured no one saw them at night and that they did not have to carry pails long distances and through very visible front yards.
- Take a walk down a back lane and discover for yourself the beauty of a canopy of shade trees. Along the way, you might notice more than a few historic outhouses, restored or repurposed in a nod to a simpler time.



Typical back lane. You can usually pick out an old outhouse in the distance.

## Honey Wagons

**As noted in the section on back lanes, Grand Marais relied on the age-old bucket toilet system, and so on the devices of the so-called honey wagon and honey man.**

- Just for clarity: The bucket toilet consists of a seat and a portable receptacle such as a bucket or pail. By placing a small wooden shed overtop of the toilet, a cottager had an outhouse.
- The waste removal system at Grand Marais was based on the British Rochdale process.
- In Grand Marais, the local municipality employed workers to empty and replace the buckets. Known as night men in England, these workers were referred to as the “honey men” in Grand Marais, although the task was carried out by female and males alike over the years.
- Where, one wonders, did the term “honey man” come from. The system of municipal bucket toilet collection was widespread in Australia where “dunny cans” persisted well into the second half of the twentieth century. The workers who emptied these buckets were called “dunny men”, an obvious rhyming word with honey.
- However, a bucket toilet has also traditionally been called a honey bucket, an English moniker. A honey wagon is a slang word for the modern vacuum truck, which vacuums waste from septic tanks and delivers it to waste management sites. The English folk etymology supporting the word honey as a substitute for waste is thought to refer to the honey-coloured liquid that comes out the vacuum trucks when they empty their cargo.
- One might ask how outhouse odours were kept to a minimum.
- One solution was to rely on Mother Nature and hope there were the usual strong summer breezes Lake Winnipeg conjures.
- In earlier times sawdust, ashes from bonfires, or creosote were placed in the bottom of the outhouse. Today, creosote clinkers can be found in some yards in Grand Marais, generally a good clue as to where an outhouse once stood. Eventually, however, ashes, tar and creosote gave way to strong disinfectants.
- The honey men wore protective rubber wear and respirators while emptying sewage pails, all coloured black which provided perfect camouflage for working at night.
- Many humorous memories and stories are associated with the outhouse and it doesn’t require much probing to find them among cottage goers. As well, many people came to look fondly on their bathroom retreat and fondly giving them names such as Moldy Manor, Lou’s Loo, The Moon Room, The Thunder Room and more.

The back lane that runs parallel to Grand Beach Road (west side) has a very good collection of old outhouses.

Note the interesting little designs, decorations and the small lower door flaps that were used by the “honeymooner.”



## Municipal Services

**Because Grand Marais is a village, and not controlled by the Province like Grand Beach, the community has had to develop its own public infrastructure – of services and people to undertake public functions. We note the main ones.**

### Fire Hall

- The original fire hall was located just to the south of the current fire hall on Grand Beach Road (now used for apartments). The original fire hall was a small log building and the fire service was dependent on local volunteers.

### Town Constable

- Policing at Grand Marais/Grand Beach was started in 1923, and constables received their first uniforms in 1927. Grand Marais continued to have constables during the war years, and during 1945 there was a female Constable on staff, Miss Margaret Delaney. By 1950 the area was under the watchful eye of the RCMP along with four local volunteer residents. The local Police were paid \$43/week. Local police were still on the scene during the 1950s and 60s. The Police Station was located on Grand Beach Road across from Playland. Constable Frank Rogoski, a towering man, was the Constable and was well-known in the area, always accompanied with his German shepherd dog Carmel. Frank had his work cut out for him. One local referred to his tenure as days when "...the Beach was really swinging and the Boardwalk was in bloom!" Mr. Rogoski built a new bungalow on Pinehurst Street and it was rumored to have a "drunk tank" in its basement for local rowdies.

### Government Pier

- Located on the lake, and at the head of Central, this large pier was a major piece of construction, with huge boulders stretching out into the lake. It was used by commercial fishermen and bargemen, as well as for pleasure-craft. It has been abandoned and nothing much is left of it.

### Water Pumps

- Water pumps ensured that residents could get fresh water during the summer months. This was before there were private wells. Nearly every street in Grand Marais had a pump, and these were usually located at a half-way point on the street – to ensure fair access. You can still see a few of the old pumps here and there.

### Horseshoe Pits

- Horseshoe pits were a private undertaking, but often were seen as public amenities. There were quite a few of these scattered around the community. You can still find a few remnants of these here and there.



Frank Rogoski House on Pinehurst.



Government Pier at southern extent of Central.



Typical water pump



Horseshoe pit at Cedarvale and St. Clements Avenue.



Old Grand Marais Firehall was a little log building, and originally stood just to the south of the site of the more recent firehall (itself now redeveloped as apartments).

## Notable People

**Several of the buildings and sites noted on the tours are associated with important people in the history of Grand Marais – either as well-known community leaders or for their long association with the public – as storekeepers or by providing high-profile and long-lasting services. Only places that are still standing will be noted here.**

- Karl Hendrickson – associated with a small cabin at 35 Pinehurst. Mr. Hendrickson was a well-known local fisherman, and presumed to be one of the last local people involved in the fishery.
- Magistrate – Grand Marais’s magistrate, the person who oversaw legal matters in the community, was associated with two places – one on Grand Marais Boulevard South and the other over on Parkview.
- Nick Hill – associated with a largish cabin on Grand Marais Boulevard at Oak – southeast corner; Nick Hill (1932-2003) was famous for his “C’mon Down” delivery for a three-room group at Kern-Hill Furniture Co-Op Store. He was also very active in Grand Marais/Brand Beach events, and was especially known for his come-one-come-all August Long Weekend party and fireworks at this cottage site.
- Dave Mulligan – associated with 990 Grand Marais Boulevard / Mr. Mulligan (1893-1981) was a long-time city councilor in Winnipeg (1950s and 1960s) and was also Deputy Mayor. He was a CNR employee, and was in charge of the old Grand Beach Hotel in the late 1950s, and until its closure. He and his wife Pearl (1900-1969) were very active in Grand Marais and at Grand Beach in social and commercial situations. Mr. Mulligan was awarded the Centennial Medal in 1970 and he and Pearl were noted as Scouts of the Buffalo Hunt, an honour of the Manitoba Historical Society. Dave and Pearl developed this site as Greenwood Place, one of the places throughout Grand Marais that offered cabins for rent during the 1950s and 60s.
- Harry Blake-Knox – associated with a Modern circular cottage at 83 Hillbrow (North Section). Mr. Blake-Knox was an important character in Grand Marais, active on local council, publisher of the local newspaper, The Spotlight, and founder of the Grand Beach Electric Company. He was also responsible for Harry’s Hideout, an important movie and dance emporium active in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1992, the 125th anniversary of Canada, he was awarded the Commemorative Medal.







Karl Hendrickson House at 35 Pinehurst.



Mulligan Fence at 990 Grand Marais Boulevard South.



Nick Hill Cabin, Grand Marais Boulevard South at Oak.



Blake-Knox Cabin from the early 1960s. 83 Hillside.



Magistrate's Cottage, 275 Grand Marais Boulevard



Magistrate's Cottage, 36 Hillbrow Avenue.

## St. Jude's Church

**Built in 1896, and thus 18 years before the summer-time community of Grand Marais was established in 1914, St. Jude's Anglican Church is the oldest remaining building in the village. It is also the strongest connection to the original Métis community that settled here.**

### What to Look For

- The church is actually of log construction, but that pioneer building technology is covered with shiplap horizontal boards. This was a common construction approach for many pioneer log buildings. Building with logs was seen as primitive and unsightly, and so builders usually covered the logs with cut boards.
- In terms of its architectural style, the church is carried out in the very popular Gothic Revival style.
- That style, which was based on the churches and castles of the medieval period (12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries) in France, England, and Germany, was revived in England in the late 1700s, and gained great popularity through the 1800s.
- Gothic Revival buildings in England were seen as a way to revive ancient traditions, and to honour the glorious past.
- The most famous Gothic Revival building in England was the Houses of Parliament. The present Canadian Parliament Buildings are also done in the Gothic Revival style.
- The Gothic Revival style is characterized with steep rooflines, pointed arches, and heavy ornamentation (like gargoyles, delicate wooden trim, castle-like stone and brick features).
- St. Jude's is a modest example of the Gothic Revival style. Its clearest connection to the style is via its crenelated tower that rises from the front porch – this is a feature very common on old Medieval castles.

### Also

- The church is surrounded by a cemetery that contains the gravesites of many of Grand Marais's earliest inhabitants. See next entry.



St. Jude's Anglican Church

## St. Jude's Cemetery

**St. Jude's Anglican Church is surrounded by a cemetery that contains the gravesites of many of Grand Marais's earliest inhabitants.**

- Walking through the cemetery, keep your eye out for some of the old-time Grand Marais family names: Linklater, Knott, Cook, Thomas.
- St. Jude's is also a good example of a small garden cemetery, the type of burial ground that was popularized in Victorian England and Europe, where fine headstones for loved ones were placed in lush landscaped spaces, with lawns and trees. These garden cemeteries became popular places for walks and even Sunday picnics.
- A fascinating aspect of garden cemeteries was the use of expensive gravemarkers, sometimes in marble and granite, and especially the use of a wealth of sculptural and engraved symbols.
- The use of these symbols was a way to convey to passers-by some additional information about people buried there. So besides birth and death dates, a visitor was also expected to understand that certain symbols evoked a sense of the personality of the deceased.
- Some common forms and symbols were clearly religious – the Christian Cross (the key expression of faith), angels (emissaries between this world and the next), a dove (the Holy Spirit, signifying the soul; purity and love), a flame or lighted torch (eternal life), and hands clasped in prayer
- Other symbols were natural motifs – the all-seeing eye with rays of light (symbol for God; the human foot (associated with humility), the hand pointing up (indication that the soul has risen to Heaven), hands together/clasped (symbol of matrimony).
- The most common symbols were flowers and plants – which makes sense: they are beautiful, delicate and in their various features. They are also ephemeral, lasting but a few days; but because they also hold the potential for renewal, they have become the perfect symbol suggesting the poignancy in the cycle of human life and death. Common flowers to look for are Calla Lily (beauty, marriage), Rose (beauty, purity; often found on women's gravestones), Daisy (innocence, love of the Virgin Mary, Olive branch (forgiveness and peace), Oak leaves (strength, endurance, honour, and faith), Wreath (victory over death through redemption), Ivy (immortality and fidelity), Weeping Willow Tree (immortality).

A much more detailed exploration of gravemarkers and symbolism in Manitoba, *A Guide to Funerary Art in Manitoba*, can be found at:

[http://heritagemanitoba.ca/images/pdfs/tellTheStory/Guide\\_to\\_Funerary\\_Art\\_Heritage\\_MB.pdf](http://heritagemanitoba.ca/images/pdfs/tellTheStory/Guide_to_Funerary_Art_Heritage_MB.pdf)



Wooden Cross



Rose



Calla Lilly



Clasped Hands



Weeping Willow

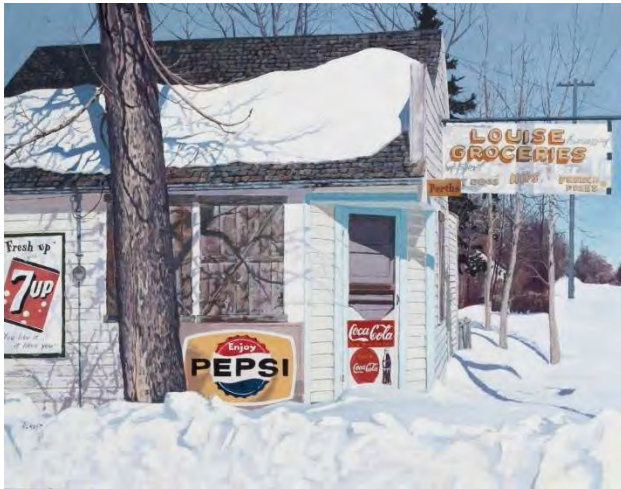
## Old Commercial Strips

**It's hard to imagine today, but from the 1920s and well into the 1960s, Grand Marais was a major commercial nucleus, with scores of businesses along Grand Beach Road and Parkview Avenue (facing onto Grand Beach Provincial Park).**

- Many of these businesses were of course seasonal – open only from late May to early September – thus only about four months. Many were only open for July and August, when school was out, and kids and their moms descended on the place.
- A lot of the businesses were small restaurants – with names like Mama and Papa Joe's (current site of pizza place), The Blueberry Patch (house a few doors south of the old firehall), Hilltop Restaurant (gone), Mike's BBQ (current site of small cabin just around the corner on Parkview from Grand Beach Road). You can imagine the fare – hot dogs, burgers and fries. The only place left from that era is Lanky's (see next entry).
- But there were little convenience stores too: Fingold's and Lou's (both gone).
- We also had other commercial places: Playland (vacant green building, which had a ferris wheel behind), a post office and Tesslers Store (Grand Beach Road S at Oak), the Kingo Bingo Hall (now the local Manitoba Metis Federation offices), Rosie's Bakery (recently burned) and the Mini-golf site.
- There were larger places as well – the lumber yard (still there on the highway), and a biggish grocery store called Campers, where Potenza's is now.
- An interesting commercial aspect was the presence of little cottage/motels, several of which are still here – see McMillans on Grand Beach Road and the set of little cabins (Lakeview Village) on Parkview – these latter ones have an interesting history – brought here in the 1950s from an area in Winnipeg near the Granite Curling Club. This part of our history is still active in places like Stormy's Cove and the site at the far north corner of Grand Beach Road.
- You can see that these little motels were really only places to sleep – they were so small; but then you were here on vacation, and mostly outside or at the beach!

### Where to Look

- As you walk north or south along Grand Beach Road, imagine the many places lining this thoroughfare, alive with kids and moms, and hot dogs and fries.
- Also note that people from Grand Beach often came over for food and breakfast.



'Corner Store, Grand Marais' a painting by Robert Kost.



Playland



Lakeview Village Cabins



Stretch of buildings along Parkview.



McMillans Motel

## Lanky's Hot Dog Stand

**Lanky's Hot Dog Stand—“Home of the Foot Long”—is the last remaining site along Grand Beach Road that recalls the line of commercial establishments that once dominated this strip.**

- The original stretch of Grand Beach Road was packed with places serving fast foods and entertainments, but also groceries and other necessities.
- Lanky's, which was put up in 1950, still expresses that summer-time resort atmosphere, with a frankly unsubstantial building, and with informal, hand-made features, whose gaudy colours are at once jazzy, fun and light-hearted.
- Why is it called a hot dog? New York City sports cartoonist Tad Dorgan, who caricatured German figures as dachshunds in the early 1900s, generally earns credit for popularizing the term hot dog because he could not spell dachshund. His talking sausage cartoons denigrated the cheap wieners sold at Coney Island, crassly suggesting they contained dog meat. It was such bad publicity that in 1913, the Chamber of Commerce actually banned the use of "hog dog" from signs on Coney Island.





Lanky's Hot Dog Stand

## Harry's Hideout

**Harry's Hideout was a fixture in the community for about a decade, beginning in 1956 and operating until the late 1960s. It was a major destination and landmark. And it still stands.**

- The facility, known primarily as a movie theatre but also as a dancehall, was the brainchild of Harry Blake-Knox.
- The Hideout offered evening movies in the summer-time twice a day and dances on Saturday night.
- Harry Blake-Knox was an important character in Grand Marais, active on local council, publisher of the local newspaper, *The Spotlight*, and founder of the Grand Beach Electric Company.
- (See his cottage in the section on modern cottages and buildings).
- In 1992, the 125th anniversary of Canada, he was awarded the Commemorative Medal.



Images above show Harry's Hideout during its heyday and under construction in 1956.

## Historic Cabins – Architecture + Features and Details

**Grand Marais, like all historic Lake Winnipeg communities—Grand Beach, Victoria Beach, and even Gimli and Winnipeg Beach across the lake—still has some fine examples of early buildings that help us recall earlier days of life at the beach. When people relaxed, swam, played, and basically took the day off.**

- Many of these historic buildings are old cottages and cabins.
- As we embark on our tour, it is to these buildings that we will look to for a sense of the history of this community, and to the elements of architecture that give it a sense of place. (Note that a set of significant places, identified by the Grand Maris Heritage Committee, are featured in two following sections – for the south and north ends of the community.)
- In Grand Marais the early cottages were quite distinct from cottages in other places.
- We proudly claim a building heritage derived from CNR workers, the first to build summertime cottages here. And we look to a design aesthetic defined by modest building sizes, rough-and-ready building materials, handyman construction, and in particular we look to the ingenious design of features and details. That’s where the genius lies.
- See Training Kit and the section on “Talking About Architecture,” for technical terms that can be used for this section.

### **Where to Look in the South End**

The western stretch along Thornccliffe, which includes the Bremont Cottage (see next section); and the western stretch of Oakdale. There are several good cottages in the immediate vicinity of these two spots.

### **Where to Look in the North End**

The eastern stretch of Grand Marais Blvd (set of small cabins) as well as western areas of the Blvd; and the whole stretch of Central and Lakeview (each with many interesting places). Three cabins in a row on St. Clements Ave, between Central and Lakeview, offer an interesting comparison of forms and details – all in one handy batch.

### **What to Look For**

Roof shapes – note especially the so-called cottage roof – a hipped shape

Porches and Verandahs – note how open and airy these are

Shutters – note how people have decorated some of these; also note how these are often wooden and closed down at the end of the season

**Please respect the privacy of owners’ property limits.**

## Some Cottage Examples



Cottage on Thorncliffe



3 small cabins east end of Grand Maris Blvd N.



Cabin with interesting roof Grand Maris Blvd N.



Typical older cabin on Central – note large windows and nice entrance.



Typical older cabin on Central – note nice stone steps, airy verandah.



One of three cabins on St. Clements Ave – note 1960s forms and features.



One of three cabins on St. Clements Ave – note typical cottage roof.



One of three cabins on St. Clements Ave – note fun colours and stone steps.



Cottage on Lakeview – note the varied windows shapes and sizes – very informal.

## Historic Cabins – South End

**One set of Grand Marais’s notable cottages is in its southern half: Stone Fence Cottage, Bremont Cottage and Oak Manor. As we pass by these places I will discuss why each is significant.**

### **Stone Fence Cottage**

- This cottage is also called the Stewart Cottage. It was built in 1928.
- With its exquisite and impressive stone fence and fanciful cottage rising at the top edge of a sloped yard, the site is a landmark.
- The cottage itself is important, a good example of the kind that defines Grand Marais cottage designs. The fact that the building has high integrity, with materials, features and fixtures surviving from the 1920s, is remarkable.
- And of course the fence is perhaps the best known of its type in the community, which prides itself on the legacy of its stone fences and front steps – see separate section on those features.

### **Bremont Cottage**

- Called “Bremont,” the Whyte-Gibson Cottage, whose first summer dwelling was built around 1928, is an excellent example of the type of modest, informal cottages that defined Grand Marais in its early years.
- The hand-made quality of the original cottage is eloquently expressed in various surviving features and details, like the overall rustic form, the rubblestone chimney, wooden window frames with shutters, and original door. Inside, the cottage retains much of its original physical integrity.
- Additionally, an older shed with large vertically-operated shutters and even the original wire fence are still present on the site.

### **Oak Manor**

- Built in the 1920s Oak Manor (also called the Doyle Cottage) is one the best local examples of the kind of traditional cottage form that can be found in many other Manitoba summer communities.
- With its shallow pyramidal roof and wide verandah, the form is of a type.
- Inside, the original log construction is apparent in the exposed beams and rafters.
- The whole cottage, inside and out, has exceptionally high integrity, with siding, floor and wall materials and stone fireplace all still intact, lovingly preserved for nearly 100 years.

**Please respect the privacy of owners’ property limits.**



Stone Fence Cottage  
275 Grand Marais Boulevard



Oak Manor  
27 Oak Avenue



Bremont Cottage  
13 Thorncliffe Avenue



Notable cottages have been highlighted with signs that look like this one – at the church.

## Historic Cabins – North End

**Another set of Grand Marais’s notable cottages is in its northern half: Broken Tree Cottage, Oakleigh Lodge, McGee Cottage and Ashgrove Cottage. As we pass by these places I will discuss why each is significant.**

### **Broken Tree Cottage**

- Broken Tree Cottage (also called Kurtz Cottage) is a major Grand Marais landmark. Built in the 1920s, this is the largest and most ambitious of the several distinctive log cottages and cabins that still stand here. Note its grand size, distinctive form and saddlenotch log construction. Also note its beautiful stone chimney. The cottage also has an interior that is nearly original in all finishes and details.

### **Oakleigh Lodge**

- Oakleigh Lodge (also called Watt Cottage) was constructed in 1922. It was the site of the local magistrate’s office for many years. The cottage is strikingly placed on a tall stone foundation. The large building has many exterior qualities from its earliest days, as well as many features and fixtures inside as well, including a large stone fireplace, wooden floors and ceiling, and many intact windows.

### **McGee Cottage**

- The McGee Cottage, built in 1922, is an excellent example of cottage design of the time. Note its simple basic form, shallow gabled roof and modest main face. One of the key features of the cottage is the fine stone steps – see separate entry on those features.

### **Ashgrove Cottage**

- Ashgrove Cottage is one of the best remaining sites recalling how Grand Marais cottage owners often developed small complexes of buildings for rental purposes. A fine main cottage, from 1922, dominates the yard. Behind it are several outbuildings that were once used by guests. One of these still reveals the modest and distinctive wooden pole construction that was used in its construction. Throughout all of the buildings are excellent intact examples of the kind of hand-made, ingenious features and details that define the cottage character of so many Grand Marais cottages and cabins – summery, whimsical and durable.

**Please respect the privacy of owners’ property limits.**





Broken Tree Cottage  
77 Grand Marais Boulevard



Ashgrove Cottage  
31 Central Avenue



Oakleigh Lodge  
36 Hillbrow Avenue



McGee Cottage  
52 Hillbrow Avenue



Notable cottages have been highlighted with signs that look like this one – at the church.

## Stone Fences

### **Grand Marais's stone fences are one of its key heritage attributes.**

- There were once at least 25 stone fences in Grand Marais, according to old-timers. There are six left today.
- There are some legends and tall tales about the construction of the fences. Some people think they were built by convicts from Stony Mountain Penitentiary. Some think they were built by workers stranded here when the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike closed the city, including railway operations. It is doubtful that these stories are true – but you never know.
- It is thought, by local researchers, that most of the fences went up in the 1930s and 1940s.
- Each of the remaining six stone fences (one is only marked by its grand stone posts), is a remarkable achievement.
- They all were built by hand, and likely were formed by stones taken from the nearby beach shore. One can imagine a human chain throwing stones along a line and finally to the fence construction site.
- Each of the remaining fences has its own distinct architectural qualities, as if designed with a historic architectural style in mind.
- See which one matches these descriptions: one is like a Victorian lace design, with sweeping curves and dainty posts; two are like Gothic Revival churches, with their top edges pointy and craggy; one is like a Romanesque Revival castle, solid and stout. And two display the typical rubblestone construction of many old barn foundations – one of these, which encircles a whole property, has a total of 425 feet (130 metres) worth of stone in its construction, making it the longest stone fence in the province!
- There are some stone fences in other nearby communities – at Winnipeg Beach and Gimli, but none of these rival even the remaining collection at Grand Marais.
- Isaac Fence: 275 Grand Marais Blvd. S.
- Barnfather/Garrioch Fence: 391 Grand Marais Blvd. S.
- McQuade/Mulligan Fence: 990 Grand Marais Blvd. S.
- Summerhill Fence: Midpoint of Central – east side
- Denardi Fence: Midpoint of Lakeview – east side
- Lanken Fence: North end of Lakeview – east side

**Please respect the privacy of owners' property limits.**



Isaac Fence



Barnfather/Garrioch Fence



McQuade/Mulligan Fence



Summerhill Fence



Denardi Fence - posts



Lanken Fence

## Stone Construction and Features

**Grand Marais still has a number of old stone features—chimneys, front steps, even sidewalks—that remind us of the creativity, and ingenuity, of the first generation of cabin builders.**

- (Also see previous section on the most visible of historic stone features – fences.)
- As we walk this tour, I will point out a few examples of these historic features.
- One thing to note about them is that they are typically built of smallish stones, often taken from the ground during construction, and more often from the beach shore.
- A **chimney** had to be of some fire-resistant material, given the heat and sparks given by the fireplaces inside. And what better option than the stones that were just lying around.
- Many of the old chimneys have been torn down, given their rough construction.
- But a few still stand, and these are important reminders of our heritage.
- A really interesting, and apparently unique feature in Grand Marais, are the distinctive **front stair** designs that once graced many old local cottages and cabins.
- Some of these are still left, and still tell their interesting story of design and construction.
- So what you see here are steps made up of stone and then the ballustrades (the technical term), that is the side features also of stone, and ending at their lower parts with circular/spiral features – very cool.
- One wonders who started this trend. And also what they were used for – to rest a cool beer or to sit on?
- One last stone feature is only seen in a few places. And I will not be able to point them out – they are too rare: stone **sidewalks**. But keep an eye open: maybe the next time you are visiting someone here take a second to check them out.

### **Where to Look for Stone Features**

You might have to keep an eagle-eye out for old stone chimneys – but if you look at the side walls of older cottages you might see some.

You can actually see many examples of stone stairs throughout the community, but a few good examples to keep in mind:

6 Poplar – can get a close look at construction

81 St. Clements Ave (corner with Cedarvale) – can get fairly close to see this feature

36 Hillbrow – Oakleigh Cottage + 52 and 56 Hillbrow (these latter ones require going past #36 and further along Hillbrow)

Mid-point of Central – east side – major example of stone stairs.

**Please respect the privacy of owners' property limits.**



Stone Chimney at Bremont Cottage –  
13 Thorncliffe



Exquisite example of stone stair feature –  
56 Hillbrow



Exquisite stone chimney at Broken Tree Cottage  
– 77 Grand Marais Blvd N.



Good example of stone stair feature –  
52 Hillbrow



Typical stone stair feature – 6 Poplar.



Major example of stone stairs – midpoint of  
Central – east side.

## Log Cabins

**Besides the fine stone features that mark many of Grand Marais's buildings, our community also is blessed with an interesting heritage of log buildings.**

- This is not surprising, given that there are plenty of trees here.
- But it is also interesting to note that the use of logs, and the distinctive architectural qualities that attend construction with logs, was a long history of use in resort communities.
- The style is called Rustic or National Park, and in places like Banff and Yellowstone (United States) there are fantastic log buildings. They feature beautiful combinations of local log and stone that really seem to have come from the land.
- The Rustic style was a very deliberate attempt to make buildings different from more common institutional buildings of the day (early 20<sup>th</sup> century); visually appealing; with lots of nice details.
- Rustic buildings are also heavily influenced by the Arts and Crafts style – with attention to fine wood detailing.
- In Manitoba there are good Rustic examples at Falcon and Riding Mountain Parks.
- In Grand Marais our log-building stock is more modest, but certainly still fascinating.
- We have a very distinct character of log construction – we might even call it the Grand Marais Log Style. Local buildings with this character feature saddle notch corner joins. Saddle notch is seen as less sophisticated, but can be more appealing visually. (See examples on next page.) They also typically feature a porch area with slender vertical pieces for lower wall areas.
- Some builders chose a “faux” log construction, with exterior sheathing that mimics logs.
- As we go on this tour I will point out some of the fine remaining examples, and we can sometimes take a closer look at features and details.

### **Where to Look**

Oh-So-Kose on northern end of Grand Beach Road – west side

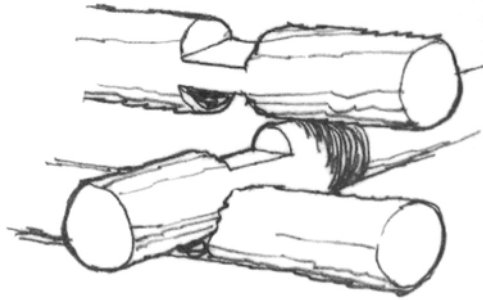
Broken Tree Cottage – 77 Grand Marais Blvd N

Log Cabin on Grand Marais Blvd N, west of Lakeview

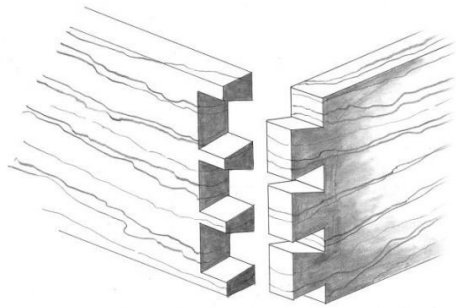
### **What to Look For**

Saddlenotch corner joints

Small upright pieces on porches and other parts of buildings – the really interesting and distinctive feature.



Saddle Notch, the kind of log joining technology used at Grand Marais.



Dovetail Notch joining is seen on many old log buildings in Manitoba.

### Local Examples



O-So-Kose Cabin, North end of Grand Beach Road – west side.



Log Cabin on Grand Marais Blvd N, west of Lakeview - Excellent example of Grand Marais log style – note main building with saddlenotches and porch area with slender vertical pieces for lower wall area.



"Faux: log cabin - Lakeview

## Notable Modern Cabins/Buildings

**Besides the fine collection of historic cabins and cottages that dot the streets of Grand Marais, there have been modern additions to our building collection that add to our overall architectural character, and also remind us that this a living and growing community.**

- As we go on our tour, I will point out some of the important new additions, and we will have a closer look at design and some construction features and details.
- You will be able to use some of these observations whenever you come across similar cabins in the area, or just in your everyday observations about Modern architecture.

### South End

- Big O (on Grand Marais Boulevard South (on lakeside), just south of Oak); note the large “O” feature on the north side.

### North End

- 1960s style Cabin (Grand Marais Boulevard North at Cedarvale); this style can be seen in many more modern cabins throughout Grand Marais; note the shallow gable roof that defines the overall form, and the open verandah and large windows; also note that slender vertical elements that help define the style.
- Modern Cottage/House (107 Grand Marais Boulevard North); major new addition to the community; important design of Winnipeg architecture firm Syverson-Monteyne; note modern dramatic forms, materials, windows, railings; also note various outbuildings in the yard.
- Blake-Knox Cabin (83 Hillside); note the round-shaped plan; very unusual and interesting; meant to be a statement.
- Retro Cabin (61 Hillside); note the whole complex of small cabins behind the older one; also note all the very interesting hand-made features and details.
- Boat-shaped Cabin (Grand Beach Road north of Cedarvale); note the interesting roof shape.





Cabin called The Big "O" on Grand Marais Boulevard South just south of Oak.



Blake-Knox Cabin from the early 1960s. 83 Hillside.



1960s Style Cabin. Grand Marais Boulevard North, at Cedarvale.



Boat-shaped cabin on Grand Beach Road – west side.



Two views of Retro Cabin on St. Clements Ave., at Hillbrow (western half of lot).



Modern 2000s design by architecture firm Syverson Monteyne of Winnipeg, 107 Grand Marais Boulevard North.

## Typical Local Deciduous Trees

**Grand Marais has a canopy of beautiful trees. The following entries highlight the most common deciduous trees (those that shed their leaves annually), along with some handy identifying features, and good places to find them.**

- Bur Oak (also called Scrub oak) – this is a common deciduous tree on many yards and on some boulevards. Look for distinctive lobed leaves and coarse trunk bark. In the fall cottage-owners are kept busy (and awake) with the sound of thousands of acorns dropping onto roofs and decks. Of course squirrels and chipmunks love acorns, But so do deer and geese – so the fall is a good time to see these critters where there are groves of bur oaks – like where.
- American Hazelnut – just a bit hard to find, and identify. Look in the spring for the catkins that hang from branches – these are what. The leaf is broad and jagged. If you are lucky you will find the hazelnut at some point. The leaves are a bit orangy in the spring – another giveaway.
- Saskatoon is a showy native shrub of the Rose Family that can grow up to 7 m (23') high. The long leaves have an oval outline. Young leaves are bright green then turn bluish green with age. The fruit is about a half inch across, and globe shaped.
- Manitoba Maple (also called the Box Elder) – 5-20 metres tall (15-60 feet); a common sight throughout Manitoba, and all over Grand Marais; identified by its distinctive leaf – a long tapered form that usually grows in a grouping; its seeds are like paired wrinkled insect wings; where to find a bunch
- Trembling Aspen (White Poplar) – a medium-to-tall tree with slender trunk and stout ascending branches forming an open, round-topped crown. Its bark is smooth, greenish-grey to whitish, becoming rough and furrowed. Leaves are simple, egg-shaped to nearly circular, abruptly pointed. Before its leaves come out it has drooping hairy catkins.

Visit this site for more examples and information:

<https://www.thinktrees.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Field-Guide-to-the-Native-Trees-of-Manitoba.pdf>



Bur Oak



American Hazelnut



Saskatoon Berries



Manitoba Maple



Poplar

## Typical Local Coniferous Trees

**Grand Marais has a canopy of beautiful trees. The following entries highlight the most common coniferous trees (those that are needle-leaved and do not shed; they are evergreen), along with some handy identifying features, and good places to find them.**

- Balsam Fir – this is a handsome and beautiful coniferous tree; it is distinguished by its branches and needles – these are soft, rounded or notched at the tip, about 1 inch long, and usually spreading into one plane (that is – flat); the trunk bark is grey, often roughened by raised resin blisters and becoming cracked and scaly on older trees.
- Black Spruce – another Grand Marais favourite; this tree is distinguished by its single, short stalked, sharp-pointed needle, about 8-15 millimetres (½ inch) long; and by its tree bark, which is thin, and with brown-to-greyish scales. A dense evergreen tree; crown generally irregularly pyramidal and symmetrical but tip often club-shaped; lower branches extending to ground with tips upturned.
- Key differences between a fir and a spruce tree: spruce needles are sharply pointed, square and easy to roll between your fingers; fir needles are softer, flat and cannot be rolled between the fingers; also, look for the number of needles that come out of the same spot on a twig – if a twig bears needles in groups of two, three, or five, you can safely call it a fir; if the twig carries its needles singly, it's a good bet you've got a spruce.
- Jack Pine - a medium-sized tree with a narrow, open crown; its bark is brownish with thin irregularly furrowed scales. Its fruit is a brown cone 1 - 3 inches long, usually curved, occurring in pairs.
- Tamarack (Larch) – a small tree with an open, light-green, crown. The only native Manitoba conifer that loses its needles each autumn. Branches are slender, flexible, and slightly hairy. The needle are (¾ - 1 ¼ inches) long, in clusters and are pale green in summer and yellow in autumn.

Visit this site for more examples and information:

<https://www.thinktrees.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Field-Guide-to-the-Native-Trees-of-Manitoba.pdf>



Balsam fir



Black spruce



Jack Pine Cones



Tamarack

## Typical Local Vegetation

**There are many native plants and shrubs that the people of Grand Marais look to with pride and so on. (Trees are featured in their own section.)**

- Here are some of the key ones, discussed with reference to distinguishing features where appropriate – leaf form, bark, fruit, other interesting features or qualities.
- Saskatoon bush – is a small to large shrub belonging to the rose family; it is most easily identified by its bunches of rich purple berries, which are picked in late August – just look for people pulling down branches and harvesting the fruit; the saskatoon was an important food source for indigenous peoples and early pioneers; it is also an important food for wildlife during the winter season; today saskatoons are used in pies, jams, syrups ice cream toppings, liqueurs and flavour concentrates.
- Ox-eye daisy – this is actually a weed; and not really native to Manitoba. However it is very common in Grand Marais, a conspicuous and lovely adornment in the spring and early summer. It was introduced from Europe in the early 1800s, and quickly became established. It is identified by its white daisy appearance, and its concentration in distinct patches – can be seen in yards and boulevards.
- Bulrushes- also called the Great Bullrush, is not to be confused with the cattail; the bulrush is also distinguished by long leaves, and its growth in ponds and marshes; but it does not have the cattails long brown seed pod; it has much smaller flower and seed heads.
- Cattails – a distinctive plant along the shores of shallow ponds, lakes and marshes; the cattail is distinguished by its long succulent leaves and especially by its seed form – a so-called spike that turns from green to brown, and is a favourite thing for kids and decorators and so on.
- Common Reed Grass – this is found in ditches and borders of lakes, streams and marshes; can grow from 1 to 3 metres (3 to 10 feet); major distinguishing feature is the reddish seed crown.



Saskatoon Bush and Berries



Ox-eye Daisy



Bulrushes



Cattails



Common Reed Grass

## Typical Local Song Birds

**Wild birds are amazing to watch. Grand Marais, which is surrounded by deciduous woods, scrub/shrub, native grassland, sedge and grasses, a large freshwater lake and freshwater marsh is a great place to watch them. Some of the most delightful are songbirds.**

- Songbirds make up almost half of the world's 10,000 bird species.
- Fun fact: They learn their songs and perform them using a specialized voice box called a syrinx where the trachea splits into two bronchial tubes. Each side of the syrinx is independent so birds can produce two pitches at once!
- But why do birds sing? It's a good question, because for songbirds singing is exhausting and alerts predators.
- Well, researchers have determined that singing proclaims and defends their territories, but more importantly is vital to attract and impress potential mates.
- Singing is a chance to show off, and incidentally, if one hears a bird singing it's generally a male. Female songbirds use short, simple calls.
- Songbirds can also mimic other species—like frogs, cats, and even car alarms. And birds love to sing in the morning, although so far scientists do not really know why.
- For anyone truly interested in this subject you really need a good field guide, some binoculars and some patience in finding the many songbirds you can find here I am going to just focus on a few of the more familiar songbirds that appear in Grand Marais in the summertime. The ones that are special given their colourings and songs – so will not mention all the more common ones – like chickadees, robins, sparrows and so on. Who knows, we might actually see some of these along the way.
- The House Wren is named for its tendency to nest around human homes or in birdhouses. Very active and inquisitive, bouncing about with its short tail held up in the air, pausing to sing a rich bubbling song, it adds a lively spark to gardens and city parks despite its lack of bright colors.
- The Yellow Warbler has some of the brightest colours in the warbler world. In breeding plumage, its bright yellow colouring shine out from the leafy thickets where it nests. It has a sweet song, sounding a little like "sweet, sweet, sweet looka-thew."
- The Baltimore Oriole adult male is orange on the underparts shoulder patch and rump. All of the rest of the male's plumage is black. The adult female is yellow-brown on the upper parts, and dull orange-yellow on the breast and belly. The male sings a loud flutey whistle, and usually does his singing from the tree canopy.
- The American Goldfinch, with its amazing gold and black colouring, is a common summer sight, calling "perchickory" in flight. In most regions this is a late nester, beginning in mid-summer, to assure a peak supply of seeds for feeding its young.

It is important to note that nearly all of these songbirds migrate south in the late summer and fall. Many go all the way to the lush rain forests of Mexico, Central and South America – a 5000 kilometre trip (3100 miles)! A lot of work for little wings!





© Terry Spill

Wren



Oriole



Warbler



American Goldfinch

## Typical Local Birds of Prey

**Grand Marais is also a good place to view a range of birds of prey. Following are some tips to identify and find them.**

- A good place to get a fairly good look at ospreys is actually back on the highway to Winnipeg. Turn left off of Provincial Trunk Highway 12 while heading west/east, onto Provincial Road 38E and immediately look right at the cluster of wooden utility poles. You can often see an Osprey in their huge nest. Ospreys, are a single species found worldwide that specializes in catching fish and building large stick nests.
- Osprey – a very distinctive fish-hawk, it is found along coastlines, lakes, and rivers almost worldwide. Usually seen flying over the water, hovering, and then plunging feet-first to catch fish in its talons. After a successful strike, the bird rises heavily from the water and flies away, carrying the fish head-forward with its feet. Bald Eagles sometimes chase Ospreys and force them to drop their catch.
- Red-tailed Hawks – are the most widespread and familiar large hawk in North America, designed for effortless soaring. An inhabitant of open country, they are commonly seen perched on roadside poles or sailing over fields and woods. Although adults usually can be recognized by the trademark reddish-brown tail, the rest of their plumage can be quite variable.
- Peregrine Falcon – is one of the world's fastest birds; in power-diving from great heights to strike prey, the Peregrine can reach 200 miles per hour. Regarded by falconers and biologists as one of the noblest and most spectacular of all birds of prey. Although it is found on six continents, the Peregrine is uncommon in most areas; it was seriously endangered in the mid-20th century because of the effects of DDT and other persistent pesticides.



Red-tailed Hawk



Osprey



Peregrine Falcon

## Typical Local Scavenging Birds

**Some of the most familiar birds in the Grand Marais area are actually scavengers. And as such they play an important role in the ecosystem by consuming the dead animal and plant material.**

- Sort of fun fact: Many birds that feed on carrion have adaptations or strategies to deal with the risks associated with eating long-dead flesh. Stronger stomach acids can kill many disease-causing bacteria, and birds that regularly dig into carcasses, such as vultures, often have bare faces and heads to minimize insect and bacteria infestation.
- You will not likely be surprised to hear three common bird names as we discuss scavenging birds. But the fourth may surprise you.
- First, the Crow:
- American Crow – crows are thought to be among our most intelligent birds, and the success of the American Crow in adapting to civilization would seem to confirm this. Despite past attempts to exterminate them, crows are more common than ever, and their distinctive caw! is a familiar sound over much of the continent. Sociable, especially when not nesting, crows may gather in communal roosts on winter nights, sometimes with thousands or even tens of thousands roosting in one grove.
- Common Raven – often a raven's deep croaking call will alert the observer to a pair of ravens soaring high overhead. An intelligent and remarkably adaptable bird, living as a scavenger and predator, it can survive at all seasons in surroundings as different as hot desert and high Arctic tundra.
- Fun Fact: People are often confused about the difference between a crow and a raven. First – ravens are larger. Second, crows don't arrive back to Manitoba until late March, while ravens stay all year long. Finally, their calls: the call of the raven is like a large croaking or crow. The crow sticks to caw-caw-caw.
- Turkey Vulture – a familiar sight in the sky over much of North America is the dark, long-winged form of the Turkey Vulture, soaring high over the landscape. Most birds are believed to have a very poor sense of smell, but the Turkey Vulture is an exception, apparently able to find carrion by odour.
- Bald Eagles – these majestic birds are common sights at Grand Marais. But they are not always so majestic in habits: they often feeds on carrion, including dead fish washed up on shore, and it steals food from Ospreys and other smaller birds. At other times, however, it is a powerful predator. Seriously declining during much of the 20th century, the Bald Eagle has made a comeback in many areas since the 1970s.



Bald Eagle



Raven



Turkey vulture



Crow

## Typical Local Water Birds

**As we have seen, Grand Marais seems to be enclosed by water on all sides – the broad expanse of Lake Winnipeg on its west, the marsh on its south, Grand Beach Bay on its north and the Lagoon on its eastern side. So naturally we have quite a collection of water birds in the summertime.**

- I will not be discussing the most common water birds, given their great familiarity: so no geese, no ducks and no seagulls. I must say though, that those who are interested in the great variety of these types of birds, and their common appearance at Grand Marais, might want to consult a good bird guide to see just what we have.
- American White Pelican – is one of the largest birds in North America, with a 9-foot wingspan. Occurs far inland, feeds cooperatively in shallow lakes, does not dive from the air for fish. Despite its great size, a spectacular flier, with flocks often soaring very high in the air, ponderously wheeling and circling in unison.
- Double-crested Cormorant – this dark, long-bodied diving bird floats low in the water with its thin neck and bill raised; perches upright near water with wings half-spread to dry. The Double-crested is the most generally distributed cormorant in North America, and the only one likely to be seen inland.
- Red-necked Grebe – a large grebe of northern marshes and coasts. Not especially wary when not molested by humans. Colorful, noisy, and conspicuous on its nesting territory, it seems a different bird in winter, when it is gray and silent, a solitary bird of offshore waters. Not often seen flying except in migration.
- Great Blue Heron – widespread and familiar, the largest heron in North America. Often seen standing silently along inland rivers or lakeshores, or flying high overhead. Highly adaptable, it thrives around all kinds of waters from subtropical mangrove swamps to desert rivers to the coastline of southern Alaska.
- Belted Kingfisher – is often first noticed by its wild rattling call as it flies over rivers or lakes. It may be seen perched on a high snag, or hovering on rapidly beating wings, then plunging headfirst into the water to grab a fish. Found almost throughout North America at one season or another.
- Piping Plover – a small plover with a very short bill. Its pale back matches the white sand beaches and alkali flats that it inhabits. While many shorebirds have wide distributions, this one is a North American specialty. Many of its nesting areas are subject to human disturbance, and it is now considered an endangered species in all parts of its range.



Pelican



Great Blue Heron



Cormorant



Kingfisher



Grebe



Piping Plover

## Typical Local Mammals

**Because there are over one and three-quarter million types of animals in the world, no one knows just how many animals are located in Manitoba. But probably not more than a million. Maybe less in fact.**

- Anyway, there is still a multitude of living things all around us here at Grand Marais. Anyone truly interested in this subject needs a good field guide, some binoculars and some patience in finding the animals you are seeking.
- But here are a few of the more common animals you may see at Grand Marais. I'm only going to mention two small ones and two big ones – the animals you have a good chance of seeing.
- Two medium-sized animals I will only mention: the racoon and the skunk. Both rather obnoxious and thankfully both nocturnal – so you are not likely to come across one during the day.
- Least Chipmunk: This small critter can be seen scurrying around yards all over Grand Marais. It is the smallest and most widespread chipmunk in North America. Here is an Indian legend on “how the chipmunk got its stripes.
- These are cute beyond belief. But beware: they adapt to humans very quickly and if you have any food on you they will happily climb and jump onto you. And so on.
- Richardson's Ground Squirrel: Often mistakenly called gophers, it's pale yellow with small grayish markings which allow it to be easily camouflaged amongst prairie grasses. They are often seen standing on their back legs or taking a dust bath.
- White-tailed Deer: Although the white-tailed deer is both skittish and nocturnal, don't be surprised if you come across them in early evenings. The white-tailed deer is the smallest member of the North-American deer family. And although “small,” they usually eat about seven pounds of buds, twigs, leaves, and berries a day. And even with full stomachs they can easily outrun predators – adults can sprint up to 50 miles per hour and leap as high as 10 feet and as far as 30 feet in a single bound. White-tailed deer can live as long as 15 years. Bu the way – only the underside of their tails are white.
- Black Bear: Black bears are frequent visitors here. These bears can run up to 48 kph, and can run great distances without stopping They are proficient swimmers and have an acute sense of smell. They mate in June with cubs developing in October. They do not hibernate but do enter a state of deep sleep for winter. Young cubs are born in January and they emerge in April. Black bears reach full size in about six years, are mainly nocturnal and should be considered unpredictable. They will eat almost anything as they are omnivorous.





Least Chipmunk



Richardson's Ground Squirrel

## Typical Local Insects

**As we have seen, Grand Marais, like other Manitoba communities, has a bounty of fascinating birds that arrive in the spring, and then leave in the fall. It is important to remind ourselves why they find our place so attractive. Hint – it's the bugs.**

- Occasionally annoying but often beautiful and inspiring, Grand Marais has a number of common insects that any long-term resident would point to with glee. The following very short list only notes some insects that are really “lake” bugs – so we are leaving out wasps and bees, spiders and thankfully mosquitos.
- Fishflies are actually burrowing mayflies. A mayfly begins life in the soft bottom of lakes and rivers, and they can live there for two years or more. They have gills, which is how they live in the water, where they feed on organic matter. They are unusual in the insect world, in that they moult as adults (like a snake). Since mayflies are well nourished before they emerge, once they are flying around, they have no need for food. During their entire adult lifespan, they don't eat. They don't even have developed mouth parts. The adult stage of the mayfly is brief, with adults living for just a few days. And one last interesting fact: more mayflies equals a healthier lake.
- Commonly called No-see-ums, this little biting midge is formally called *Ceratopogonidae*. They are found in any aquatic or semiaquatic habitat throughout the world, as well as in mountain areas. Females of most species are adapted to suck blood from some kind of host animal for the purpose of reproduction – like a mosquito. No-see-ums earn their name – they are usually only 1mm (about 1/16”)
- Fireflies are winged beetles, commonly called lightning bugs for their conspicuous use of bioluminescence during twilight to attract mates or prey. This chemically produced light from the lower abdomen may be yellow, green, or pale red, About 2,100 species of fireflies are found in temperate and tropical climates. We just have the one species here in Grand Marais: *Photinus pyralis*, or the Common Eastern Firefly.



Fish Fly



No-See-Um



Firefly

## Summer Weather Statistics

**In Grand Marais, you are in a climatic wonderland – at times beautiful and other times dangerous.**

- **First, the beauty:** We are a sunny place; according to Environment Canada, Manitoba ranked first for clearest skies in Canada year round. But we are prone to high humidity in the summer months with the extreme of 53.0 °C (127.4 °F) in Carman, which set the highest humidex recorded in Canada.
- For climate nerds: Southern Manitoba falls into the humid continental climate zone (called Köppen Dfb). Temperatures here are similar to the semi-arid climate zone, but this region is the most humid area in the Prairie Provinces with moderate precipitation.
- The Physics of Sunsets: It is important to know that the best sunsets (according to Stephen F. Corfidi, in Weatherwise magazine (1996)) requires clean air as its main ingredient, common to brightly colored sunrises and sunsets. Which is why we have amazing sunsets.
- **Now, the beast:** Grand Marais, sitting on the eastern edge of a mighty lake, is prone to summer storms. And we have had some doozies.
- Weather Bomb: In late October of 2010, Grand Marais was one of the communities hard hit by a so-called weather bomb. The bomb actually made it to #9 on Environment Canada's round-up of weather stories for the year. For three, a massive and powerful fall storm muscled its way across North America. The unusual system fascinated meteorologists because its strength was similar to a Category 3 hurricane. Weather advisories were issued for a buffet of severe weather: tornadoes, blizzards, gales, wind-driven rains, heavy snows and thunderstorms. Lumped together, the ugly mix was called a "weather bomb" because of a central pressure drop of 28 millibars in 24 hours, which is a hallmark of this type of storm. It was in Manitoba where the storm had its greatest impact. The Manitoba lakes, already at record-high levels, rose more than a metre under the wind and pressure stress. Northerly winds blew down the lake for more than 100 km, piling water on the south shore. Huge waves chewed up sand dunes and scoured the fragile shoreline. Waves crashed over earth dikes and rock breakwaters. Rocks were tossed on shore as frantic volunteers trenched and sandbagged.
- Tornado: On August 5, 2006 a tornado killed one woman at Gull Lake; you can still see the path of this storm along Highway 59, just north of P.R. 304 (Beaconia), where a whole area of trees is obviously missing on the west side of the highway.



A storm and a sunset over Lake Winnipeg.

## GRAND MARAIS WALKING TOUR PROJECT

# SAMPLE TOUR

**T**he Grand Marais Sample Tour is presented as a cycling tour, but is easily adapted for use as a walking tour. And in fact, if it is necessary to break the tour down into smaller tour routes (given that some older tour participants might not be able to do the whole tour), this can be easily accomplished with the two tour areas noted here – north and south areas. All of the themes covered in the Tour Themes section of the project are included here, connected in some way to at least one of the tour stops.

One general aspect that is not completely carried over from the Tour Themes regards our natural heritage – the nature of a self-guided cycling tour does not lend itself to a focus on individual plants and creatures. But we would like at least to provide some highlights so that cyclists can be aware of some key natural attractions as they make their way through our community. A brief section at the outset of the guide provides this background. Where guides/hosts rework this material for a walking tour they may wish to add those more fulsome descriptions to their tour scripts.

# GRAND MARAIS CYCLING TOUR

The Grand Marais Cycling Tour is about 7 kilometres (4.5 miles) long, and typically takes about an hour and a half to do. The tour basically follows three main thoroughfares – the south stretch of Grand Marais Boulevard, the north stretch of Grand Marais Boulevard, and the commercial strip along Grand Beach Road. All of these thoroughfares are busy with vehicles on weekends, so cyclists should be attentive to drivers.

Tour stops on these main streets have been developed so that tour-goers will be safely separated from traffic. The tour also takes visitors onto side roads, and even onto paths and trails – we have endeavoured to note places where bicycles can be locked up if there is a need for a stop that takes a cyclist away from the immediate attraction. There are two side streets—Central and Lakeview—that are quite steep, and we have designed the route so that cyclists can go down Central (steeper) and up Lakeview.

Grand Marais is handily divided into two main sections – a south area and a north area. In fact the community layout can be seen as a “lazy” Figure-8 – see map following, which allows for an easy and efficient tour. Visitors may be interested to know that the main parts of the tour are part of the Trans-Canada Trail, the longest network of trails in the world. Once complete, it will extend over 22,000 kilometres between the Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic Oceans.

These are the subjects that will be covered over the course of the tour:

## THE LAKE AND OTHER PHYSICAL QUALITIES

- Lake Winnipeg – Key Physical Aspects
- Lake Winnipeg – Place in History
- Lake Winnipeg – Modern Issues
- Local Geology
- Lagoon and Marsh
- Community Layout

## HISTORY

- Community Name
- Local Metis History
- Aboriginal History at Grand Marais
- Trails
- Fishing and Farming History
- Back Lanes
- Honey Wagons
- Municipal Services

## BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

- St. Jude’s Church and St. Jude’s Cemetery

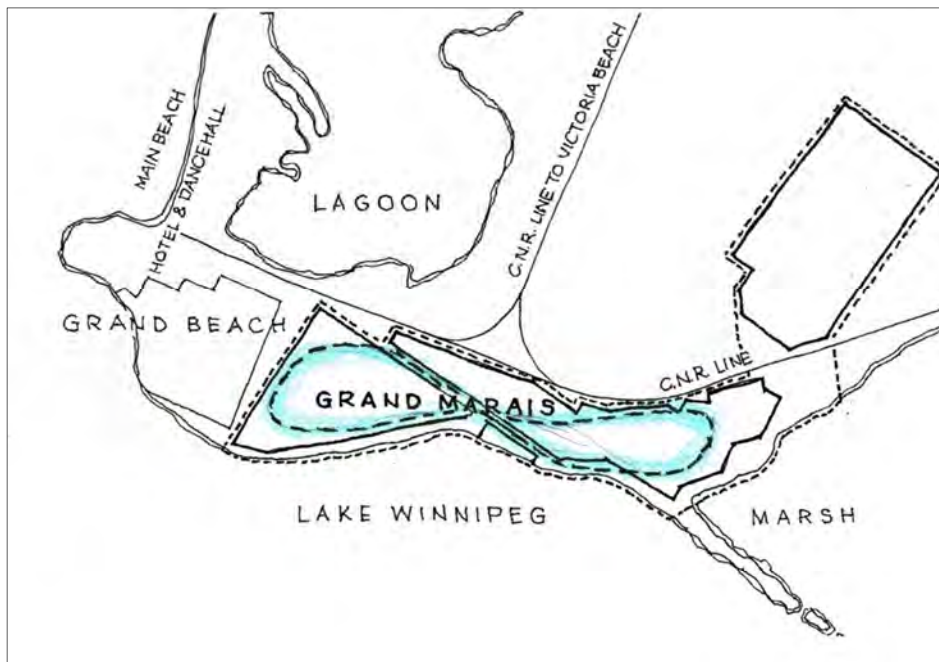
- Lanky's Hot Dog Stand and Harry's Hideout
- Historic Cabins – Things to Look For
- Historic Cabins – South End
- Historic Cabins – North End
- Old Commercial Strips
- Stone Fences
- Stone Construction and Features
- Log Cabins
- Notable Modern Cabins

## Community Layout and Tour Routes

The following sketch maps give a good indication of the basic outline of Grand Marais and of the two areas—south and north—that make up the tour.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO PUBLIC WASHROOMS ON THE TOUR ROUTE.**

**ALSO – MANY OF THE TOUR STOPS WILL TAKE CYCLISTS CLOSE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY. PLEASE RESPECT THE PRIVACY OF OWNERS' PROPERTY LIMITS.**



This map, derived from an old CNR map ca. 1915, shows the local environs of Grand Beach, Grand Marais, Lake Winnipeg and the Lagoon and Marsh. North is to the top left corner. The map also shows, via the “lazy” Figure-8, highlighted with a dotted line and coloured blue, the basic form of the community’s main thoroughfares – it is this configuration that makes for a fairly easy and efficient cycling tour.



# Grand Marais – South End Tour Route



The tour of the South End is shown in green outline with dotted lines, with key stops identified with large asterisks. The tour starts at St. Jude's Church (at Grey and Sunset), at the lower right area of the map. The tour then moves gradually west and north, down Pinehurst to Grand Marais Boulevard South, north along the Boulevard, with four short side stops on Oakdale, Thorncliffe, Oak and Poplar. The South End tour effectively ends at the park, shown here at the upper left corner of the map.

**Please respect the privacy of owners' property limits.**

## Grand Marais – North End Tour Route



The tour of the North End is shown in green and orange outlines with dotted lines, with key stops identified with large asterisks. The two colours are used to distinguish overlapping directions of the tour. The tour starts at lower right section of the map, in the large park facing Lake Winnipeg, at the intersection of Grand Beach Road and Grand Marais Boulevard North. The tour then proceeds up the incline of the Boulevard, with several stops along the way, and all the way to Firdale (upper left). A short trip down Firdale and back down Hillbrow, with stops of interest along the way, ultimately takes a cyclist back down the Boulevard and then north along Central, with a number of points of interest along that street. A turn right, at the bottom of Central, and then a short distance south, leads visitors onto Lakeview and St. Clements Avenue and back to Grand Beach Road. There are various attractions along this strip before the tour concludes at the starting point – the park.

**Please respect the privacy of owners' property limits.**

# NATURAL ATTRACTIONS

As noted above, cyclists should keep their eye out for certain natural attractions—plants, birds and animals—that will likely be visible here and there along the tour route. Here are some typical sights to keep in mind, along with images to help identify them.

## DECIDUOUS TREES

**Grand Marais has a canopy of beautiful trees. The following entries highlight just a few of the most common deciduous trees (those that shed their leaves annually), along with some handy identifying features.**

Bur Oak (also called Scrub oak) – this is a common deciduous tree on many yards and on some boulevards. Look for distinctive lobed leaves and coarse trunk bark. In the fall cottage-owners are kept busy (and awake) with the sound of thousands of acorns dropping onto roofs and decks. Of course squirrels and chipmunks love acorns, But so do deer and geese – so the fall is a good time to see these critters where there are groves of bur oaks.

Manitoba Maple (also called the Box Elder) – 5-20 metres tall (15-60 feet); a common sight throughout Manitoba, and all over Grand Marais; identified by its distinctive leaf – a long tapered form that usually grows in a grouping; its seeds are like paired wrinkled insect wings.

Trembling Aspen (White Poplar) – a medium-to-tall tree with slender trunk and stout ascending branches forming an open, round-topped crown. Its bark is smooth, greenish-grey to whitish, becoming rough and furrowed. Leaves are simple, egg-shaped to nearly circular, abruptly pointed. Before its leaves come out it has drooping hairy catkins.



Bur Oak



Manitoba Maple



Poplar

## CONIFEROUS TREES

Balsam Fir – a handsome and beautiful tree; it is distinguished by its branches and needles – these are soft, rounded or notched at the tip, about 1 inch long, and usually spreading into one plane (that is – flat); the trunk bark is grey, often roughened by raised resin blisters and becoming cracked and scaly on older trees.

Black Spruce – another Grand Marais favourite; this tree is distinguished by its single, short stalked, sharp-pointed needle, about 8-15 millimetres ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch) long; and by its tree bark, which is thin, and with brown-to-greyish scales. A dense evergreen tree; crown generally irregularly pyramidal and symmetrical but tip often club-shaped; lower branches extending to ground with tips upturned.

Key differences between a fir and a spruce tree: spruce needles are sharply pointed, square and easy to roll between your fingers; fir needles are softer, flat and cannot be rolled between the fingers; also, look for the number of needles that come out of the same spot on a twig – if a twig bears needles in groups of two, three, or five, you can safely call it a fir; if the twig carries its needles singly, it's a good bet you've got a spruce.



Balsam fir



Black spruce

## PLANTS AND GRASSES

**Grand Marais's wide boulevards and marsh areas are great places to see smaller plants.**

Ox-eye daisy – this is actually a weed; and not really native to Manitoba. However it is very common in Grand Marais, a conspicuous and lovely adornment in the spring and early summer. It was introduced from Europe in the early 1800s, and quickly became established. It is identified by its white daisy appearance, and its concentration in distinct patches – it can be seen in profusion in yards and boulevards.



Ox-eye Daisy

Bulrushes- also called the Great Bullrush, is not to be confused with the cattail; the bulrush is distinguished by long leaves, and its growth in ponds and marshes; but it does not have the cattail's long brown seed pod; it has much smaller flower and seed heads.

Cattails – a distinctive plant along the shores of shallow ponds, lakes and marshes; the cattail is distinguished by its long succulent leaves and especially by its seed form – a so-called spike that turns from green to brown, and is a favourite for kids and decorators.

## COLOURFUL SONGBIRDS

**Grand Marais is a summer-time home to scores of species of song birds. Three of the most colourful are noted here.**

The Yellow Warbler has some of the brightest colours in the warbler world. In breeding plumage, its bright yellow colouring shine out from the leafy thickets where it nests. It has a sweet song, sounding a little like "sweet, sweet, sweet looka-thew."

The Baltimore Oriole adult male is orange on the underparts shoulder patch and rump. All of the rest of the male's plumage is black. The adult female is yellow-brown on the upper parts, and dull orange-yellow on the breast and belly. The male sings a loud flutey whistle, and usually does his singing from the tree canopy.

The American Goldfinch, with its amazing gold and black colouring, is a common summer sight, calling "perchickory" in flight. In most regions this is a late nester, beginning in mid-summer, to assure a peak supply of seeds for feeding its young.



Bulrushes



Cattails



Warbler



Oriole



American Goldfinch

## **WATER BIRDS**

**Given our proximity to many bodies of water—lake, marsh and lagoon—there are scores of interesting water birds to see. We only note one here, given its great size and frequency of appearance:**

American White Pelican – is one of the largest birds in North America, with a 9-foot wingspan. Occurs far inland, feeds cooperatively in shallow lakes, does not dive from the air for fish. Despite its great size, a spectacular flier, with flocks often soaring very high in the air, ponderously wheeling and circling in unison.



Pelican

## **MAMMALS**

**There are lots of animals in the area, with the most commonly seen being the chipmunk.**

Least Chipmunk: This small critter can be seen scurrying around yards all over Grand Marais. It is the smallest and most widespread chipmunk in North America. These are cute beyond belief. But beware: they adapt to humans very quickly and if you have any food on you they will happily climb and jump onto you.



Least Chipmunk

## INSECTS

**There are many interesting insects at Grand Marais, but the most easily seen and readily identified is the mayfly, locally called a fishfly.**

Fishflies are actually burrowing mayflies. A mayfly begins life in the soft bottom of lakes and rivers, and they can live there for two years or more. They have gills, which is how they live in the water, where they feed on organic matter. They are unusual in the insect world, in that they moult as adults (like a snake). Since mayflies are well nourished before they emerge, once they are flying around, they have no need for food. During their entire adult lifespan, they don't eat. They don't even have developed mouth parts. The adult stage of the mayfly is brief, with adults living for just a few days. And one last interesting fact: more mayflies equals a healthier lake.



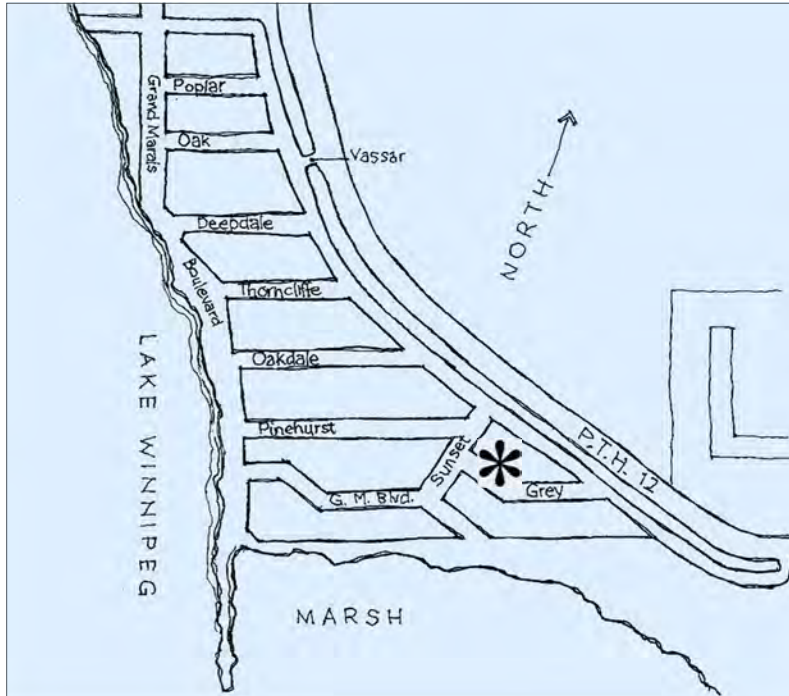
TOUR

A

SOUTH END



# STOP #1



## Special Instructions

No instructions to note.

## Location of Tour Stop

Stop #1 of the Grand Marais Cycling Tour is at St. Jude's Church and Cemetery, at the intersection of Grey and Sunset.

## Subject/Themes to be Covered

- St. Jude's Anglican Church
- St. Jude's Cemetery
- Métis Heritage

## St. Jude's Anglican Church

**Built in 1896, and thus 18 years before the summer-time community of Grand Marais was established in 1914, St. Jude's Anglican Church is the oldest remaining building in the village. It is also the strongest connection to the original Métis community that settled here.**

### What to Look For

The church is actually of log construction, but that pioneer building technology is covered with shiplap horizontal boards. This was a common construction approach for many pioneer log buildings. Building with logs was seen as primitive and unsightly, and so builders usually covered the logs with cut boards.

In terms of its architectural style, the church is carried out in the very popular Gothic Revival style. That style, which was based on the churches and castles of the medieval period (12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries) in France, England, and Germany, was revived in England in the late 1700s, and gained great popularity through the 1800s.

Gothic Revival buildings in England were seen as a way to revive ancient traditions, and to honour the glorious past.

The most famous Gothic Revival building in England was the Houses of Parliament. The present Canadian Parliament Buildings are also done in the Gothic Revival style.

The Gothic Revival style is characterized with steep rooflines, pointed arches, and heavy ornamentation (like gargoyles, delicate wooden trim, castle-like stone and brick features).

St. Jude's is a modest example of the Gothic Revival style.

Its clearest connection to the style is via its crenelated tower that rises from the front porch – this is a feature very common on old Medieval castles.



St. Jude's Anglican Church

## St. Jude's Cemetery

**The church is surrounded by a cemetery that contains the gravesites of many of Grand Marais's earliest inhabitants.**

Walking through the cemetery, keep your eye out for some of the old-time Grand Marais family names: Linklater, Knott, Cook, Thomas.

St. Jude's is also a good example of a small garden cemetery, the type of burial ground that was popularized in Victorian England and Europe, where fine headstones for loved ones were placed in lush landscaped spaces, with lawns and trees. These garden cemeteries became popular places for walks and even Sunday picnics. A fascinating aspect of garden cemeteries was the use of expensive gravemarkers, sometimes in marble and granite, and especially the use of a wealth of sculptural and engraved symbols. The use of these symbols was a way to convey to passers-by some additional information about people buried there. So besides birth and death dates, a visitor was also expected to understand that certain symbols evoked a sense of the personality of the deceased.

Some common forms and symbols were clearly religious – the Christian Cross (the key expression of faith), angels (emissaries between this world and the next), a dove (the Holy Spirit, signifying the soul; purity and love), a flame or lighted torch (eternal life), and hands clasped in prayer. Other symbols were natural motifs – the all-seeing eye with rays of light (symbol for God; the human foot (associated with humility), the hand pointing up (indication that the soul has risen to Heaven), hands together/clasped (symbol of matrimony).

The most common symbols were flowers and plants – which makes sense: they are beautiful, delicate and in their various features. They are also ephemeral, lasting but a few days; but because they also hold the potential for renewal, they have become the perfect symbol suggesting the poignancy in the cycle of human life and death. Common flowers to look for are Calla Lily (beauty, marriage), Rose (beauty, purity; often found on women's gravestones), Daisy (innocence, love of the Virgin Mary, Olive branch (forgiveness and peace), Oak leaves (strength, endurance, honour, and faith), Wreath (victory over death through redemption), Ivy (immortality and fidelity), Weeping Willow Tree (immortality).

A much more detailed exploration of gravemarkers and symbolism in Manitoba, A Guide to Funerary Art in Manitoba, can be found at:

[http://heritagemanitoba.ca/images/pdfs/tellTheStory/Guide to Funerary Art Heritage MB.pdf](http://heritagemanitoba.ca/images/pdfs/tellTheStory/Guide%20to%20Funerary%20Art%20Heritage%20MB.pdf)



Wooden Cross



Clasped Hands



Rose

## Local Métis History

**Before Grand Marais and Grand Beach were developed as major recreational destinations in the early 1900s, this area was home to many Métis people.**

Métis settlers were involved in fishing, farming and lumbering, and there was a thriving Métis presence here. So who exactly are the Métis? Well, as they say: It's complicated.

The word Métis is derived from the French term meaning "mixed." The first Métis people were noted in Eastern Canada as early as the 1600s. But it was the Red River region in Manitoba where the Métis Nation was really born. Just a little bit of history: As the fur trade moved west, many French-Canadian fur traders married indigenous women, mainly Cree, Ojibway, or Saukteaux. With these connections, Indigenous peoples could establish good relationships with European fur-trading partners, and both prospered. The children of these unions gradually formed a distinct group in the West. They grew up with a combination of French-Catholic and Indigenous cultures and spiritual beliefs. This led to a distinct way of life.

Things really started to change for the Métis in 1812 when Lord Selkirk's Scottish settlers arrived near present-day Winnipeg to establish a farming community. Métis and fur traders were not happy with this new situation – the farmers threatened the old fur-trade way of life. But the settlers stayed, and over the next 60 years, the Red River Settlement gradually became more agricultural, and more European. Indigenous peoples were forced out, and even though they had French connections, the Métis could see they might be next.

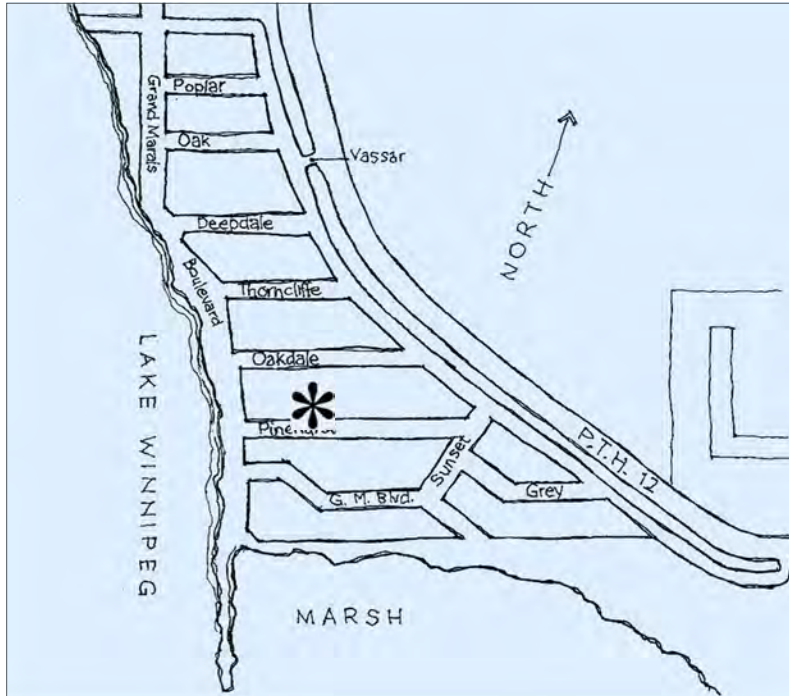
In 1869, as negotiations were going on to bring Manitoba into the Canadian Confederation, the Métis, led by Louis Riel, undertook a rebellion. They were especially concerned about losing their language and property rights. The rebellion was stopped by the arrival of Canadian forces, and the Métis were suddenly in trouble. For years they seem to have disappeared. But of course they were not gone. They were living quiet, normal lives all across the province, and even in small, thriving communities – like at St. Laurent and Grand Marais.

And by the 1970s and 1980s, the Métis Nation was once again stirring, recalling its proud traditions. In 2003 the Supreme Court of Canada granted the Métis the right to hunt for food. This was greatly significant, as it was the first instance in which the government affirmed the existence of the Métis as a distinct Aboriginal people.



In Manitoba, the Manitoba Métis Federation is an effective voice for ongoing issues of legal rights. And in Grand Marais we have an equally strong and proud voice in this larger community. You can see the distinctive Métis flag (above) and visit the MMF offices over on Parkview at Hillbrow.

# STOP #2



## Special Instructions

No instructions to note.

## Location of Tour Stop

This part of the tour takes visitors about three-quarters of the way west on Pinehurst, and to a small grey cabin on the north side.

## Subject/Themes to be Covered

- Fishing

## Fishing History

**There are only a few sites left to recall the pre-cottage history of Grand Marais – when it was more of a fishing and farming locale.**

Our historical connection to fishing has a much longer history (see [Métis](#) entry), but there is only one building left in Grand Marais that can be connected to that important part of our heritage.

This is a little building at 35 Pinehurst Street, once the home of Karl Hendrickson.

You can see that this building was further back from the lake – in earlier times when the lake was high the water would have come close to this place.

Fishing shacks and fish sales activities were until recently quite close to the western end of Pinehurst, and along the Point.

## Other Nearby Stops

Just to the east of the Hendrickson Cabin is a 1950s bungalow set up at the end of a lot (#33) – this was the home of Frank Rogoski, Grand Marais's Police Constable for many years. Policing at Grand Marais/Grand Beach was started in 1923, and constables received their first uniforms in 1927. Grand Marais continued to have constables during the war years, and during 1945 there was a female Constable on staff, Miss Margaret Delaney. By 1950 the area was under the watchful eye of the RCMP along with four local volunteer residents. The local Police were paid \$43/week. Local police were still on the scene during the 1950s and 60s. The Police Station was located on Grand Beach Road across from Playland. Constable Frank Rogoski, a towering man, was the Constable and was well-known in the area, always accompanied with his German shepherd dog Carmel. Frank had his work cut out for him. One local referred to his tenure as days when "...the Beach was really swinging and the Boardwalk was in bloom!" It was rumoured that the Rogoski Cottage had a "drunk tank" in its basement for local rowdies.



Karl Hendrickson Cabin on Pinehurst.



Frank Rogoski House on Pinehurst.

# STOP #3



## Special Instructions

Cyclists may want to secure their bicycles on one of the posts in this vicinity, and while reviewing tour texts take a small excursion south down what is locally called “The Point” – a stretch of beach and rock that separates the lake from the marsh.

## Location of Tour Stop

This stop on the tour turns south (left) from Pinehurst onto Grand Marais Boulevard South, and to the bench on the beachside looking toward the lake.

## Subject/Themes to be Covered

- Lake Winnipeg – Key Physical Aspects
- Lagoon and Marsh

## Lake Winnipeg – Key Physical Aspects

### Lake Winnipeg is one of the world's largest freshwater lakes

It is 24,514 square kilometres, or nearly 10,000 square miles in area. It is the fifth largest lake in Canada and is larger than Lake Ontario; and it is the 10th largest lake in the world by surface area. It covers just under 4% of all of Manitoba.

Lake Winnipeg's most southerly point is about 34 miles north of Winnipeg at the mouth of the Red River. It is here that it forms a freshwater river delta called the Netley-Libau Marsh. The lake is about 436 kilometres long; or 270 miles, about the same distance as a return trip from Brandon to Winnipeg. At its widest point it is about 110 kilometres (70 miles) across, while its total shoreline is about 1,750 kilometres (1,100 miles).

On average the lake is about 12 metres deep (40 feet) except for point off the northeast shore of Black Island (north of here), where it reaches its maximum depth of about 36 metres – 120 feet.

In terms of its volume, of course the lake is massive – 284 cubic kilometres (1 kilometre wide by 1 kilometre high by 1 kilometre long), equivalent to more than 6 billion times the volume of a standard 14 by 28 foot backyard pool.

Lake Winnipeg has a large, deeper north basin and a smaller, comparatively shallow south basin.

The two basins are separated by The Narrows, through which waters from the south basin ultimately flow northward. The lake's watershed (the area of land where all of the water that falls into it and drains off of it goes to a common outlet) is huge. Some of its major tributaries include the Bloodvein, Poplar, Red-Assiniboine and Winnipeg rivers.

The Lake Winnipeg watershed is the second largest in Canada and includes parts of four provinces and four U.S. states. The drainage basin is nearly 1,000,000 km<sup>2</sup> in size. Lake Winnipeg, along with lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis, are the last remains of glacial Lake Agassiz, a huge glacial lake (see Local Geology section).

More than 23,000 permanent residents live in 30 communities along the shores of Lake Winnipeg, including 11 First Nations communities.

Seven Manitoba Provincial Parks are located on the south basin of Lake Winnipeg including Hecla/Grindstone, Beaver Creek, Camp Morton, Winnipeg Beach, Elk Island, and Grand Beach.



Lake Winnipeg in darker blue. The lakes to the west are Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis.

Together these three are known as Manitoba's Great Lakes.



## Lagoon and Marsh

**Grand Marais is bordered by the Grand Beach campsite to the north, Lake Winnipeg to the east, and a mixture of lagoon waters and marshes to the east and south. Beyond the lagoon and marsh is the Belair Provincial Forest.**

The marshes that surround Grand Marais, especially just to the south of this stop (accessible here via a thin peninsula called The Point) are non-tidal, freshwater marshes and occur along the edges of sheltered, shallow waters along the boundaries of Lake Winnipeg. Most of the marshes are located alongside the lagoon.

Marshes sustain a diversity of life that is disproportionate with their size. Canada has over 127 million hectares of the world's wetlands, a whopping  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the world's total.

If the boreal forests are the lungs of our region, then wetlands are the kidneys – removing all kinds of toxins from the ecosystem.

Non-tidal marshes are the most prevalent and widely distributed wetlands in North America. Highly organic, mineral rich soils of sand, silt and clay underlie these wetlands provide a great habitat for waterfowl, amphibians and small mammals.

Unfortunately, people have often seen wetlands as wastelands or barriers to agricultural or residential development. Only recently, as our society recognizes the valuable role wetlands play both for our environment and economy, are new strategies to conserve and restore wetlands developed.

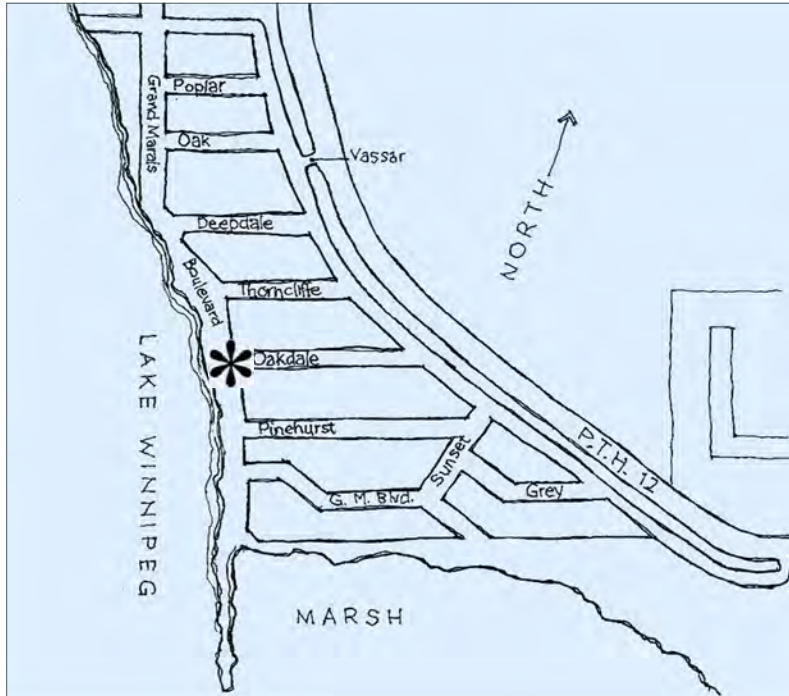
As cyclists are approaching this stop on the tour, they will notice the slight incline from Pinehurst up to the Boulevard. This part of the Boulevard, and stretching north to Thorncliffe, is actually a large man-made dyke that protects current cottages from Lake Winnipeg waters. In older times these areas often would have been flooded, especially in the spring.

It is worth noting other nearby natural sites that are really worth a visit: Spirit Rock Trail in Grand Beach, Ancient Beach Walk in eastern Grand Beach, and further south the Brokenhead Wetland Interpretive Trail (a few kilometres south of the junction of Highway 59 and P.R. 12).



View of a marsh. Note the heavy water and grasses flourishing in the wet environment.

# STOP #4



## Special Instructions

This section of the tour focuses mainly on historic cottage architecture: two cabins that have been noted by the community as being historically significant (and so marked with signs), and others nearby these that have interesting features and details.

It is recommended that cyclists secure their bicycles and walk this short section of the tour.

## Location of Tour Stop

This section of the tour takes in Grand Marais Boulevard South, and also short excursions down two side streets, Oakdale and Thorncliffe.

## Subject/Themes to be Covered

- Historic Cabins – South End
- Historic Cabins – Things to Look For

## Historic Cabins – South End

There are two old cottages in this section of the tour that have been identified through community heritage research as having notable historical and architectural significance.

### **Bremont Cottage**

#### **Location: 13 Thorncliffe**

Called “Bremont,” the Whyte-Gibson Cottage, whose first summer dwelling was built around 1928, is an excellent example of the type of modest, informal cottages that defined Grand Marais in its early years.

The hand-made quality of the original cottage is eloquently expressed in various surviving features and details, like the overall rustic form, the rubblestone chimney, wooden window frames with shutters, and original door. Inside, the cottage retains much of its original physical integrity.

Additionally, an older shed with large vertically-operated shutters and even the original wire fence are still present on the site.

### **Stone Fence Cottage**

#### **Location: 275 Grand Marais Blvd**

This cottage is also called the Stewart Cottage. It was built in 1928. With its exquisite and impressive stone fence and fanciful cottage rising at the top edge of a sloped yard, the site is a landmark.

The cottage itself is important, a good example of the kind that defines Grand Marais cottage designs. The fact that the building has high integrity, with materials, features and fixtures surviving from the 1920s, is remarkable.

And of course the fence is perhaps the best known of its type in the community, which prides itself on the legacy of its stone fences and front steps – see Stop #5 for a more detailed exploration of these subjects.

**Please respect the privacy of owners’ property limits.**



Stone Fence Cottage



Bremont Cottage



Notable cottages have been highlighted with signs that look like this one – at the church.

## Historic Cabins – Architecture + Features and Details

**Grand Marais, like all historic Lake Winnipeg communities—Grand Beach, Victoria Beach, and even Gimli and Winnipeg Beach across the lake—still has some fine examples of early buildings that help us recall earlier days of life at the beach. When people relaxed, swam, played, and basically took the day off.**

Many of these historic buildings are old cottages and cabins. This part of the tour, which takes visitors a few steps down Oakdale and Thorncliffe, reveals some of the buildings that help define the history of this place, and to the elements of architecture that give it a sense of place.

In Grand Marais the early cottages were quite distinct from cottages in other places. We proudly claim a building heritage derived from CNR workers, the first to build summertime cottages here. And we look to a design aesthetic defined by modest building sizes, rough-and-ready building materials, handyman construction, and in particular we look to the ingenious design of features and details. That's where the genius lies.

### Where to Look

The western stretch along Thorncliffe, which includes the Bremont Cottage (see previous section); and the western stretch of Oakdale. There are several good cottages in the immediate vicinity of these two spots

### What to Look For

Roof shapes – note especially the so-called cottage roof – a hipped shape

Porches and Verandahs – note how open and airy these are

Shutters – note how people have decorated some of these; also note how these are often wooden and closed down at the end of the season

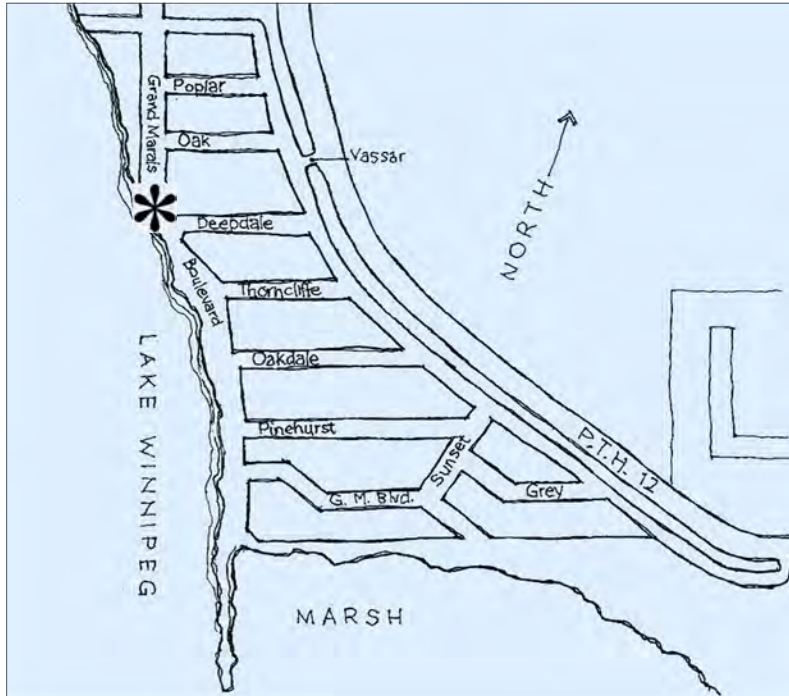


Cabin on Oakdale – note the cottage roof and window arrangement.



Cabin on Grand Marais Blvd S – note the broad bank of windows.

# STOP #5



## Location of Tour Stop

This section of the tour begins just north of Deepdale on Grand Marais Boulevard South, and also includes two side streets (Oak and Poplar) and minor excursions down those streets.

## Subject/Themes to be Covered

- Lake Winnipeg – Modern Issues
- Notable Modern Cabins
- Local Geology
- Stone Fences
- Stone Construction and Features
- Historic Cabins – South End
- Historic Cabins – Things to Look For

## Special Instructions

This section of the tour focuses mainly on historic cottage architecture, especially via a cabin that has been noted by the community as being historically significant (and so marked with a sign), and others nearby that have interesting features and details. This section also focuses on stone fences, other stone features, and an example of modern cottage design.

It is recommended that cyclists secure their bicycles and walk this short section of the tour.

## Lake Winnipeg – Modern Issues

**Lake Winnipeg is frequently in the news, because of a variety of issues.**

A major issue is its use in the production of hydroelectricity. Since the construction of a lake-outlet control structure at Jenpeg, the lake levels are maintained at about 217 m to ensure an adequate supply of water for the numerous hydroelectric generating stations on the Nelson River. Lake Winnipeg is the world's 3rd largest hydroelectric reservoir in the world.

Since the lake is relatively long and narrow, interesting wind and wave effects occasionally take place. When prevailing northerly winds blow along the length of Lake Winnipeg, they exert a horizontal stress on its surface. Surface waters move in the direction of the wind and pile up along the windward south shores – a phenomenon known as a setup or wind tide. Setups greater than 1 metre above normal lake levels have been recorded along many of southern Lake Winnipeg's recreational beaches, and the associated high waves with their uprush effects have caused considerable storm damage, backshore flooding and shoreline erosion. The highest setups occur in the fall, when the northerly winds are strongest. If the winds die down suddenly, the waters rush northward, then slosh back and forth in a process called seiching.

Nutrient loading to Lake Winnipeg and concentrations of nutrients in Lake Winnipeg have increased over the past several decades. 7,900 tonnes of phosphorus enter the lake each year, but only 2,400 leave through its outlet, resulting in 5,500 tonnes of net phosphorus loading. Higher nutrient concentrations generally occur at the very south end of the lake and decline moving northwards. Elevated nutrient concentrations at the southern end of Lake Winnipeg are likely associated with the nutrient-rich inflow of the Red River. Six aquatic invasive species are known to occur in Lake Winnipeg. These are the common carp, rainbow smelt, white bass, the water flea, Asian tapeworm, and spiny water flea. Although it is difficult to predict impacts to Lake Winnipeg, these species may potentially alter ecological relationships among native species, affect ecosystem health and function, the economic value of ecosystems, and human health. A recent invasive species found more and more in the lake is the zebra mussel. These are D-shaped, fingernail-sized mollusks. One mussel can produce up to one million eggs during a single spawning season. Zebra mussels can damage algae, which in turn affects fish stocks. In some zebra mussel infestations whole fish populations have been decimated.



Zebra Mussel



Note the erosion here – loss of cliffside and attempt to stop erosion with large boulders

## Notable Modern Cabins/Buildings

Besides the fine collection of historic cabins and cottages that dot the streets of Grand Marais, there have been modern additions to our building collection that add to our overall architectural character, and also remind us that this a living and growing community.

One place to note is locally called “The Big O.” Located on the lake side of Grand Marais Boulevard, and a bit south of Oak, you need to get a little north of the site to look back to see the feature that gives the place its name – the large “O” that opens into the side of the cottage.

**Please respect the privacy of owners’ property limits.**

## Other Nearby Stops

This stretch of the tour includes two spots of note – one a little, hidden beach, and the other the old cottage of a notable Winnipeg businessman.

### **Little Beach**

Just to the north of “The Big O” is a little sand path leading down to the lake. Take a few minutes to explore this special little stretch of sand and rock. Locals often have their own family nick-names for this so far un-named site: Ladybug Beach, Hidden Beach, Little Beach.

### **Nick Hill Cottage**

Just to the north of “The Big O,” at the intersection of Oak is a large cabin – the former home of Nick Hill. Nick Hill (1932-2003) was famous for his “C’mon Down” radio ads for the “three-room group” offered by the Kern-Hill Co-op Store in Winnipeg. Nick was very active in Grand Marais/Grand Beach events, and was especially known for hosting the local “Lipsync” night, and for his come-one-come-all August Long Weekend party and fireworks at this cottage site.



“Big O” Cabin



Nick Hill



Path leading down to Little Beach

## Local Geology

**The land upon which Grand Marais sits, and the stones from which many of its buildings and structures are made, have their origins roughly 4 billion years ago, with what is now called the Canadian Shield.**

The Shield is a large area of igneous and high-grade metamorphic rock which forms the ancient geological core of North America. It is more than 3.96 billion years old, dating to the Archean Eon of the Precambrian Era, and makes up some of the earth's oldest rock. At one time, most of the Shield's terrain featured jagged mountain peaks about 12,000 metres or 39,000 feet high – much higher than most modern mountain ranges. Due to millions of years of erosion those Shield peaks now form rounded, low relief hills. The Canadian Shield was also known for its volcanic activity. The subsequent cooling and solidification of lava forms igneous and metamorphic rocks. There is no exposed Shield bedrock at Grand Marais, but it is important to note that much of the community's rock and ground formations find their origins in the Shield.

The key feature we will be looking for at this stop at the types of stones that are featured in the stone fences of Grand Marais.

Igneous rock is formed through the cooling and solidification of molten rock material – lava. Over 700 types of igneous rocks have been described, The most common igneous types are granite and basalt, both visible in our fences.

Metamorphic rocks have been modified by heat, pressure and chemical processes, Exposure to these extreme conditions has altered the texture of the rocks. Common types of metamorphic rock include quartz and gneiss, which can sometimes be seen in our fences.

Sedimentary rocks are formed by the deposition of material at the Earth's surface and within bodies of water. Particles that form a sedimentary rock by accumulation are called sediment. Common examples of sedimentary rock are limestone and sandstone, both visible in the stone fences.



Sample of local granite.



Samples of local limestone.



## Stone Fences

**Grand Marais's stone fences are one of its key heritage attributes.**

There were once at least 25 stone fences in Grand Marais, according to old-timers. There are six left today.

There are some legends and tall tales about the construction of the fences. Some people think they were built by convicts from Stony Mountain Penitentiary. Some think they were built by workers stranded here when the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike closed the city, including railway operations. It is doubtful that these stories are true – but you never know. It is thought, by local researchers, that most of the fences went up in the 1930s and 1940s.

Each of the remaining six stone fences (one is only marked by its grand stone posts), is a remarkable achievement. They all were built by hand, and likely were formed by stones taken from the nearby beach shore. One can imagine a human chain throwing stones along a line and finally to the fence construction site.

Each of the remaining fences has its own distinct architectural qualities, as if designed with a historic architectural style in mind.

Three of these fences are on this stretch of this part of the tour – two noted here and the third a bit further down Grand Marais Boulevard. See which one matches these descriptions: one is like a Victorian lace design, with sweeping curves and dainty posts; one is like a Gothic Revival church, with its top edges pointy and craggy; and one is like a Romanesque Revival castle, solid and stout.

Locations:

Isaac Fence: 275 Grand Marais Blvd. S.

Barnfather/Garrioch Fence: 391 Grand Marais Blvd. S.

McQuade/Mulligan Fence: 990 Grand Marais Blvd. S.



Isaac Stone Fence



Barnfather/Garrioch Stone Fence

**Please respect the privacy of owners' property limits.**

## Stone Construction and Features

**Grand Marais still has a number of old stone features—chimneys, front steps, even sidewalks—that remind us of the creativity, and ingenuity, of the first generation of cabin builders.**

Stone chimney are more visible in the northern half of this tour, so this stop will only focus on a site with stone front steps – at a site at 6 Poplar just east of the Boulevard.

These stairs are a really interesting, and apparently unique feature in Grand Marais, used on many old local cottages and cabins. Some of these are still left, and still tell their interesting story of design and construction.

So what you see here are steps made up of stone and then the ballustrades (the technical term), that is the side features also of stone, and ending at their lower parts with circular/spiral features – very cool. One wonders who started this trend. And also what they were used for – to rest a cool beer or to sit on?



Typical stone stair feature

**Please respect the privacy of owners' property limits.**

## Historic Cabins – South End

There is another old cottage in this section of the tour that has been identified through community heritage research as having notable historical and architectural significance.

### Oak Manor

#### Location: 27 Oak

Built in the 1920s Oak Manor (also called the Doyle Cottage) is one of the best local examples of the kind of traditional cottage form that can be found in many other Manitoba summer communities. With its shallow pyramidal roof and wide verandah, the form is of a type.

Inside, the original log construction is apparent in the exposed beams and rafters. The whole cottage, inside and out, has exceptionally high integrity, with siding, floor and wall materials and stone fireplace all still intact, lovingly preserved for nearly 100 years.



Oak Manor  
27 Oak Avenue



McQuade/Mulligan Stone  
Fence

**Please respect the privacy of owners' property limits.**

## Other Nearby Stops

This stretch of the tour includes one other spot of note – the third of the three stone fences in the southern part of the community.

### McQuade/Mulligan Fence

#### Location: 990 Grand Marais Boulevard (west side)

This long fence, spanning two lots, has the overall architectural character of an ancient Romanesque castle, solid and stout. This major edifice marks the site of two well-known figures in early Grand Marais history: Dave and Pearl Mulligan.

Dave Mulligan (1893-1981) was a long-time city councilor in Winnipeg (1950s and 1960s) and was also Deputy Mayor. He was a CNR employee, and was in charge of the old Grand Beach Hotel in the late 1950s, and until its closure. He and his wife Pearl (1900-1969) were very active in Grand Marais and at Grand Beach in social and commercial situations. Mr. Mulligan was awarded the Centennial Medal in 1970 and he and Pearl were noted as Scouts of the Buffalo Hunt, an honour of the Manitoba Historical Society.

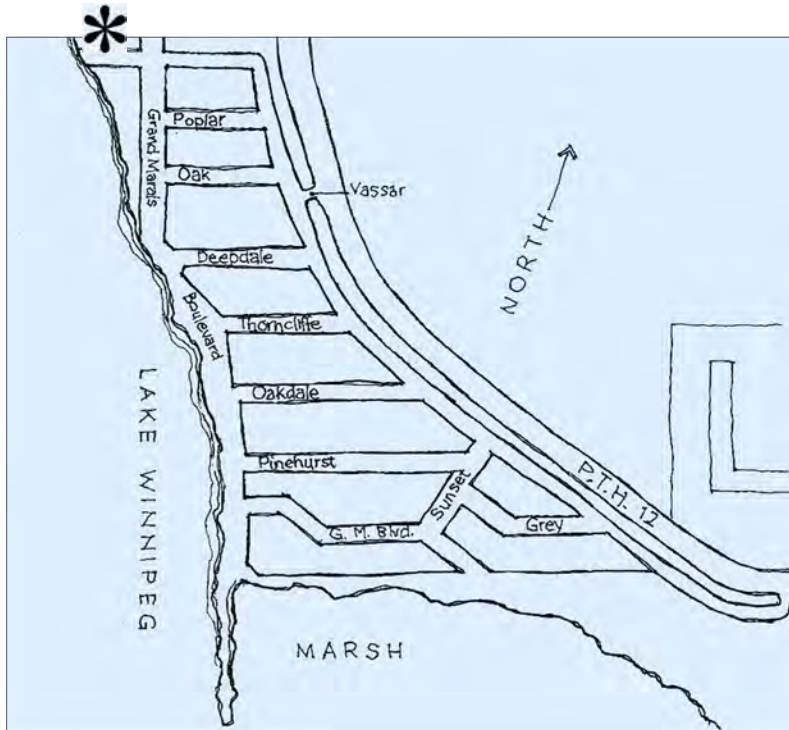
Dave and Pearl developed this site as Greenwood Place, one of the places throughout Grand Marais that offered cabins for rent during the 1950s and 60s.



Dave Mulligan with  
daughter Tannis, ca. 1940.

**Please respect the privacy of owners' property limits.**

# STOP #6



## Special Instructions

This is a good spot to sit on the bench in the park and take in vistas of the lake.

## Location of Tour Stop

The final stop of the southern section of the tour is at the large park facing onto Lake Winnipeg and at the intersection of Grand Marais Boulevard and Grand Beach Road.

## Subject/Themes to be Covered

- Lake Winnipeg – Place in History
- Community Name
- Community Layout

## Lake Winnipeg – Place in History

**Lake Winnipeg is one of the most important bodies of water featured in Canadian history.**

English explorer Henry Kelsey in 1690 was likely the first European to see and travel on Lake Winnipeg.

The lake's name is presumed to have been adopted from the Cree word for "murky" or brackish waters – "win-nipi".

Local Aboriginal people had a legend to account for the appearance of the murky waters. They said it was the work of a spiteful spirit who delighted in tormenting humans. He had been captured and punished by an old woman of one of the tribes. The spirit escaped, hiding itself in the water, and after that, displayed its temper by stirring up the mud at the bottom of the lake.

The lake was an important transport link between the Hudson Bay's Company port of York Factory and the fur-trade hinterlands of the Red-Assiniboine watershed. One of the main routes was the Nelson River which starts at the north end of the lake and flows into Hudson Bay.

The Hudson's Bay Company used Lake Winnipeg to provision its many forts in order to trade with Aboriginal peoples. On the return trip, traders brought back large canoes loaded with furs.

In 1812 Lord Selkirk's boats traversed the length of Lake Winnipeg on their way to founding the Red River Colony, at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers in present-day Winnipeg.

Later the lake gave its name to Winnipeg in the new province of Manitoba.



Aerial view of Lower Fort Garry, near Selkirk. This was a major Hudson's Bay Company fort.

## Community Name

**It is said that one of the members of the famous La Vérendrye family, early explorers of Western Canada, gave this area its name – “Grand Marais” – the Great Marsh.**

There does not appear to be any basis in the historical record for this claim. On the other hand, it is a fact that one of the La Vérendryes explored the eastern side of Lake Winnipeg in the spring of 1739, and undoubtedly would have passed by, in a canoe brigade, what is now Grand Marais.

The most famous of this family was the father - Pierre Gaultier de Varennes et de La Vérendrye, 1685-1749, thus aged 64 at this death. He was a fur trader and explorer. The expeditions he organized, and which were spearheaded by his sons, were the first to open the country from Lake Superior to the lower Saskatchewan and Missouri rivers to the French fur trade.

Fur-trade forts that the La Vérendryes established in what would become Manitoba were called Fort Maurepas I (Winnipeg, near The Forks), Fort la Reine (Portage la Prairie), Fort Maurepas II (Pine Falls area) and Fort Dauphin (near Winnipegosis). None of these survived long and all traces of them are gone.

It was actually Pierre's sons, in particular Louis-Joseph and Francois, who were most active in explorations of the West, and of ongoing communications and fur trade with various Aboriginal groups along the way. Louis-Joseph and Francois, and two colleagues, were the first Europeans to have crossed the Great Plains and to see the Rocky Mountains in Wyoming.

It was Louis-Joseph (1717-1761; also called The Chevalier), who traveled down the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg in 1739. His father had directed his son in this effort – so as to examine all tributary rivers, topography and local Aboriginal peoples along the way, presumably to determine potential fur-trade opportunities.

It is not hard to imagine the 22-year old explorer, and his canoe crew, passing right by Grand Marais as they headed south, first via the Red River, and then the Assiniboine, back to Fort la Reine – their home base.

Louis-Joseph de La Vérendrye died in 1761 when the ship he was traveling in, returning to France, was sunk off the coast of Cape Breton. He was 44 years old.

Fun Fact: There is a character in the Assassins's Creed: Rogue video game named Chevalier de la Vérendrye.

Additional research on the community name suggests that local Metis people called it “grand maree.”



Sculpture of Pierre Gaultier de Varennes et de La Vérendrye at the east entrance to Manitoba's Legislative Building.

## Community Layout

**As has been noted, the community of Grand Marais has its roots in long-ago Metis history, when those earliest settlers came to the area in the 1870s to undertake fishing, farming and lumbering.**

We can presume that there was no obvious community plan at that time – no streets and no lot lines. Lots and buildings were carved out of the woods.

That all changed with the advent of the Grand Beach Park development, in 1914, and certainly in 1916 with the arrival of the first train.

Very quickly Grand Marais took on a much more familiar community layout, as cabins went up and main streets and side streets were developed.

If you look at the community from the air, you would see the main thoroughfares forming a large Figure 8, with the centre of the 8 at the intersection of Grand Beach Road and Grand Marais Boulevard (this stop on the tour).

For the most part the original layout is still with us – with tidy streets, beautiful trees and broad boulevards (where you can still find the occasional public amenity – water pumps and horseshow pits).

But there is one major change that altered the community dynamic: the loss of the old CNR line, and then the alteration of the highway route into Grand Beach.

The old rail line used to run along the present site of the main access highway, and a vehicular road ran beside it along its southern edge. Imagine a ten-car passenger train chugging along here every weekend – it must have been quite the sight and sound.

The old highway used to jog into Grand Marais and then made a straight bee-line via Grand Beach Road right up to the old hotel and rail station there. But when Grand Beach was transferred to the Province as a park, in 1961, that access was eventually cut off (at Parkview) and now the two communities are quite separated – except for pedestrians and cyclists, who are still free to access the park area via the many access points along Parkview.



Ten-car passenger trains were a common presence in Grand Marais and Grand Beach for many years. There was a large station at Grand Beach, but the train only stopped at Grand Marais to allow passengers on or off – they had to be waiting along the tracks at what is now Vassar Road.

TOUR

**B**

NORTH END



# STOP #1



## Special Instructions

We suggest visitors walk their bicycles over to the north side of Grand Marais Boulevard to check out the two sites discussed here – one at the corner and the other just a few steps along the Boulevard to the north.

## Location of Tour Stop

Stop #1 of the northern section of the cycling tour begins in the large park facing onto Lake Winnipeg and at the intersection of Grand Marais Boulevard and Grand Beach Road.

## Subject/Themes to be Covered

- Farming History
- Historic Cabins – Things to Look For

## Farming History

**There are only a few sites left to recall the pre-cottage history of Grand Marais – when it was more of a fishing and farming locale.**

The most obvious sites that recall our agricultural past are on Grand Beach Road – at the little farmsite where Grand Beach Road intersects with Grand Marais Boulevard, basically at the centre crossing of the community’s figure-8 layout.

Here you can see the tell-tale building – a little barn with its distinctive barn roof. This type of roof is called a gambrel, and was common for barn designs throughout western Canada. It allowed for more hay storage in the loft area.

It is doubtful that this site actually was a large farmsite. It was more likely a place where subsistence farming took place – and where the barn held a few animals (maybe a cow and some chickens).

The other site connected to local agriculture is further north on Grand Beach Road, at the intersection of Glenvale. This was the old dairy/creamery.

**Please respect the privacy of owners’ property limits.**

## Historic Cabins – Things to Look For

Take a look at three little cabins lined up just to the west of the old farmsite. These are typical of the kinds of small and modest places that old-time campers would have stayed in – likely only to sleep, given that otherwise they would have been on the beach or enjoying the sunshine in any number of other venues. Architecturally the cabins are good examples of their type – “cute” might be the operative word – with cottage roofs, bright windows with shutters and fanciful colours.

**Please respect the privacy of owners’ property limits.**



Barn

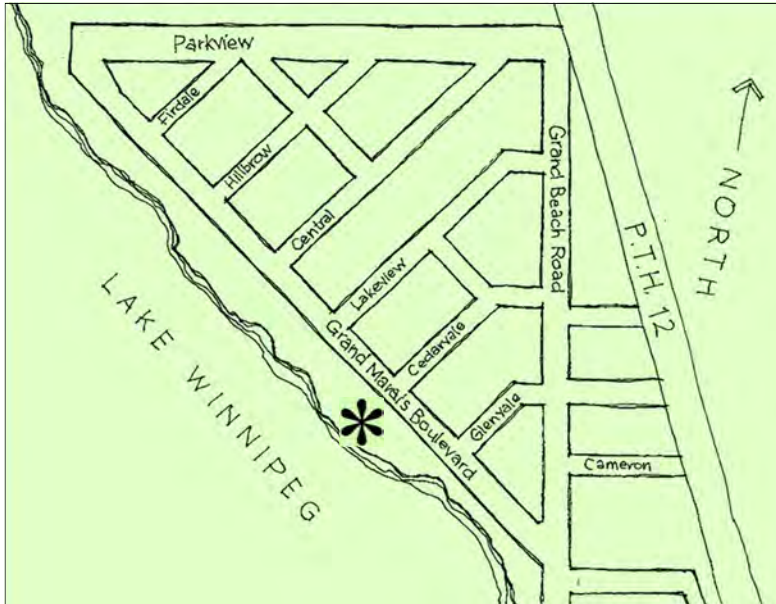


Dairy/Creamery at Grand Beach Road and Glenvale



Little cabins on Grand Marais Blvd N.

# STOP #2



## Special Instructions

This is an outlook area providing good views to the lake and back to the cottage area of the south section of the community.

## Location of Tour Stop

This section of the tour is focused on a raised grass area overlooking the lake and just to the south and east of Glenvale.

## Subject/Themes to be Covered

- Aboriginal History at Grand Marais

## Aboriginal History at Grand Marais

**There are today very few hints of Aboriginal habitation at or around Grand Marais. But given its proximity to Lake Winnipeg (and its abundant fish), its marsh (and thus birds) and heavily wooded terrain (for firewood and building materials), we cannot doubt that there were many Aboriginal peoples who lived here at various times.**

A search through history and Aboriginal oral histories shows us that the Indigenous peoples of this area were known as Anishinaabe.

Anishinaabe is an ethnic term, referring to the shared culture and languages of the Algonquian tribes of the Great Lakes area. As groups migrated west, they came to refer to themselves as Ojibway, Saulteaux or Oji-Cree. These groups were not identical to each other, and they had their own individual identities, cultural beliefs and practices, and independent leadership.

Migration west was likely due to a smallpox outbreak around the Great Lakes. We can assume that early settlement along the east side of Lake Winnipeg, including Grand Marais, was forged by Ojibway peoples.

The arrival of European (French and English) explorers and fur traders in the 18th and 19th centuries, was to have a huge impact on Anishinaabe peoples. This area, part of the area around the south basin of Lake Winnipeg, and near the great Winnipeg River, was a major part of the fur trade network, and Aboriginal peoples here would have been active in the fur trade.

Aboriginal peoples throughout Canada were sidelined and even harassed and denied rights through the 19th century, and all ultimately were moved to reserves. These moves were based on treaties.

The ancestors of the Anishinaabe people of Sagkeeng, Peguis, and Brokenhead First Nations signed Treaty #1 in 1871. Each Anishinabe tribe or First Nation is politically independent and may have its own government, laws, police, and services, just like a small country.

Grand Marais has some immediate Aboriginal neighbours: We are close to the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation (south), and Sagkeeng First Nation (east).

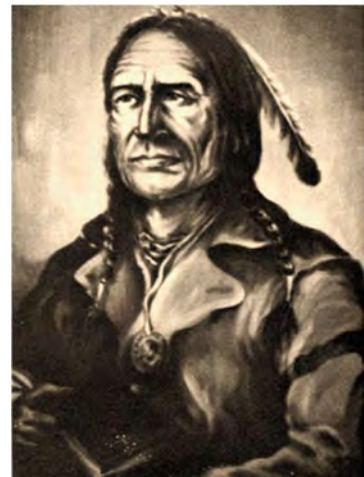
We also slightly connected to Chief Peguis and his Ojibway band, which had settled in an area north of present-day Selkirk in the late 1700s, probably in the Netley Marsh area. And Chief Peguis' brother Red Deer was from the area of the Broken Head River.



Typical Ojibway tipis.



Ojibway family and their canoe.



Chief Peguis (ca. 1774 – 1864) Saulteaux chief, who moved from the Great to what is now southern Manitoba in the 1790s. In 1817 he signed the first treaty with Lord Selkirk.

# STOP #3



## Special Instructions

This stop is actually the start of a section of the tour that will take cyclists along the service road that provides a more pleasant ride along the Boulevard, and all the way to Firdale at the western edge of the community. There are a number of places to look at along the way, and walking the bicycle might be the best way to appreciate this section of the tour.

## Location of Tour Stop

The section of the tour begins where a service road takes pedestrian traffic off Grand Marais Boulevard North, at the intersection of Glenvale.

## Subject/Themes to be Covered

- Notable Modern Cabins and Buildings
- Log Cabins
- Historic Cabins – North End
- Historic Cabins – Things to Look For

## Notable Modern Cabins/Buildings

**We have already seen one example of a thoroughly modern cabin over on Grand Marais Boulevard South (The Big O). This northern stretch of the Boulevard provides some more examples.**

1960s style Cabin (Grand Marais Boulevard North at Cedarvale); this style can be seen in many more modern cabins throughout Grand Marais; note the shallow gable roof that defines the overall form, and the open verandah and large windows; also note that slender vertical elements that help define the style.

Modern Cottage/House (107 Grand Marais Boulevard North); major new addition to the community; important design of Winnipeg architecture firm Syverson-Monteyne; note modern dramatic forms, materials, windows, railings; also note various outbuildings in the yard.

**Please respect the privacy of owners' property limits.**

## Log Cabins

**Besides the fine stone features that mark many of Grand Marais's buildings, our community also is blessed with an interesting heritage of log buildings.**

Log cabin architecture has a long history in resort communities. The style is called Rustic or National Park, and in places like Banff and Yellowstone there are fantastic log buildings. They feature beautiful combinations of local log and stone that really seem to have come from the land.

The Rustic style was a deliberate attempt to make buildings different from more common institutional buildings of the day (early 20th century); visually appealing; with lots of nice details. Rustic buildings are also heavily influenced by the Arts and Crafts style – with attention to fine wood detailing. In Manitoba there are good Rustic examples at Falcon and Riding Mountain Parks.

In Grand Marais our log-building stock is more modest, but certainly still fascinating. We have a very distinct character of log construction – with the saddle notch corner join versus the dovetail. Saddle notch is seen as less sophisticated, but can be more appealing visually.

We will start our review of Grand Marais log cabins with the most impressive: Broken Tree Cottage, one of our most notable heritage sites – see next entry



Modern architect-designed cottage at 107 Grand Marais Blvd N



1960s style cabin at Cedarvale and Grand Marais Blvd N

## Historic Cabins – North End

**Broken Tree Cottage (also called the Kurtz Site) is one of Grand Marais’s most important cottages.**

### **Broken Tree Cottage**

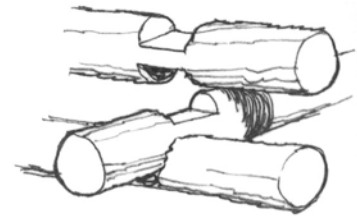
**Location: 77 Grand Marais Blvd N.**

Broken Tree Cottage (also called Kurtz Cottage) is a major Grand Marais landmark. Built in the 1920s, this is the largest and most ambitious of the several distinctive log cottages and cabins that still stand here. Note its grand size, distinctive form and saddlenotch log construction. Also note its beautiful stone chimney. The cottage also has an interior that is nearly original in all finishes and details.

**Please respect the privacy of owners’ property limits.**



Broken Tree Cottage  
77 Grand Marais Blvd N



Saddlenotch log construction detail.

## Historic Cabins – Architecture + Features and Details

All along the tour we have been noting some of Grand Marais’s fine older cabins and cottages. There are a few more along this stretch that are worth an extra look.

**Please respect the privacy of owners’ property limits.**



Cabin with interesting roof,  
Grand Marais Blvd N

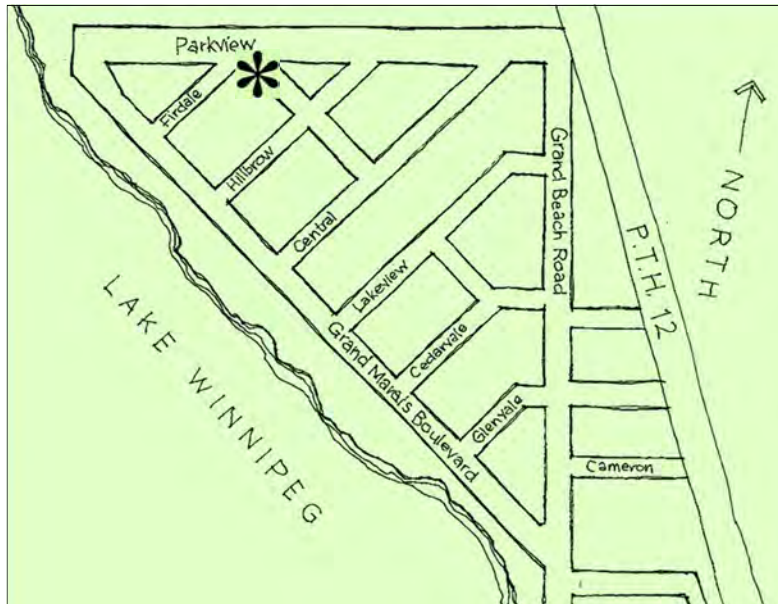
## Government Pier

Located on the lake, and at the head of Central, this large pier was a major piece of construction, with huge boulders stretching out into the lake. It was used by commercial fishermen and bargemen, as well as for pleasure-craft. It has been abandoned and nothing much is left of it.



Sign at Government Pier

# STOP #4



## Location of Tour Stop

This part of the tour begins at the northern end of Firdale and continues down St. Clements Avenue and back down Hillbrow to Grand Maris Boulevard North.

## Subject/Themes to be Covered

- Notable Modern Cabins and Buildings
- Historic Cabins – North End

## Special Instructions

This stop is actually the start of a section of the tour that will take cyclists along a short stretch of road to the intersection of Hillbrow, with a few stops along the way, and then down Hillbrow to the service road along the Boulevard. There are a number of places to look at along the way, and walking the bicycle might be the best way to appreciate this section of the tour.



## Notable Modern Cabins/Buildings

**We have already seen example over on Grand Marais Boulevard of modern cabins, and we will see two more interesting examples along this section.**

Retro Cabin (61 Hillside); note the white complex of small cabins behind the older one; also note all the very interesting hand-made features and details.

The second site is actually towards the end of this section of the tour – towards the southern end of Hillbrow and on the right-hand side. This ca. 1960s cabin is on a circle plan, which gives the place a slightly space-shippy appearance. This was the home of a major Grand Marais character – Harry Blake-Knox. Mr. Blake-Knox was active on local council, publisher of the local newspaper, *The Spotlight*, and founder of the Grand Beach Electric Company. He was also responsible for Harry's Hideout, an important movie and dance emporium active in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1992, the 125th anniversary of Canada, he was awarded the Commemorative Medal.

**Please respect the privacy of owners' property limits.**



Retro Cabin at 61 Hillside



Blake-Knox Cottage at 83 Hillbrow

## Historic Cabins – North End

**Two more of Grand Marais’s notable cottages are in this section of the tour.**

It is worth taking a bit of a detour to access and view these two sites, but it is just a bit tricky. And you will certainly need to secure your bicycles – maybe over at DJs, where there are bicycle stands. At what appears to be the northern end of Hillside there is actually a stony path that leads up a whole other section of Hillside – this is marked by a street sign, but for many people they are deterred because there is clearly no street – just a path. But this is a public thoroughfare, and at the top are these two cottages.

### **McGee Cottage**

**Location: 52 Hillbrow**

The McGee Cottage, built in 1922, is an excellent example of cottage design of the time. Note its simple basic form, shallow gabled roof and modest main face. One of the key features of the cottage is the fine stone steps – as we have seen, a major architectural feature of many Grand Marais cottages.



McGee Cottage  
52 Hillbrow Avenue



Oakleigh Lodge  
36 Hillbrow Avenue

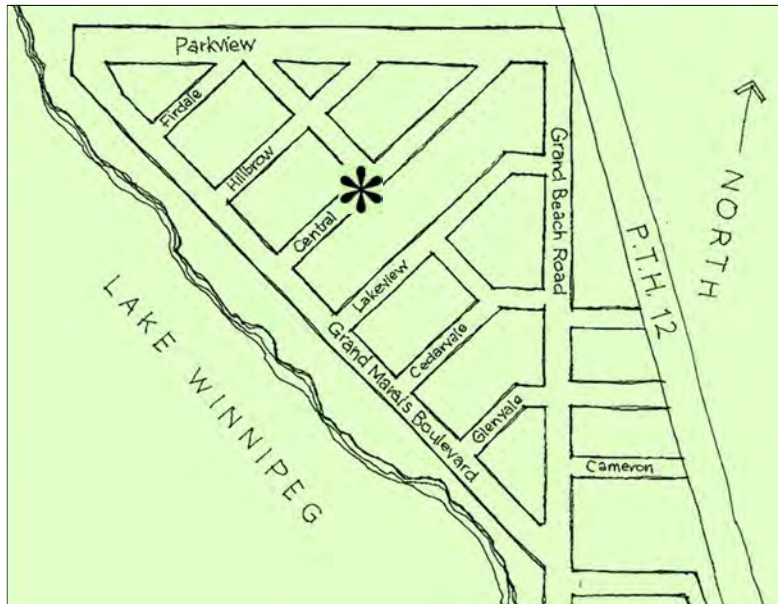
### **Oakleigh Lodge**

**Location: 36 Hillbrow**

Oakleigh Lodge (also called Watt Cottage) was constructed in 1922. It was the site of the local magistrate’s office for many years. The cottage is strikingly placed on a tall stone foundation. The large building has many exterior qualities from its earliest days, as well as many features and fixtures inside as well, including a large stone fireplace, wooden floors and ceiling, and many intact windows.

**Please respect the privacy of owners’ property limits.**

# STOP #5



## Special Instructions

This stop actually includes the whole of Central Avenue. Cyclists will fairly easily determine where they might ride for a short section and where they should just stop and walk.

## Location of Tour Stop

The part of the tour begins at the southern end of Central, and continues all the way north along that thoroughfare, ending where it empties onto Parkview.

## Subject/Themes to be Covered

- Local Geology
- Historic Cabins – Things to Look For
- Historic Cabins – North End
- Stone Fences
- Stone Construction and Features
- Old Commercial Strips

## Local Geology

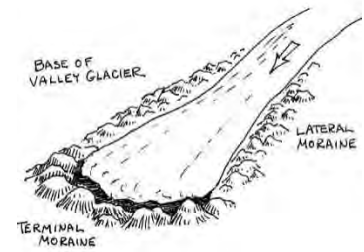
**The Grand Marais-Grand Beach area is a remnant of ancient glacial activity, and of the action of an equally ancient lake, called Lake Agassiz. And one of the good places to actually see these features is at the crest of Central.**

Some history: The ancient geological aspect that gives us our current Grand Marais landscape began about 30,000 years ago. During the last Ice Age the northern half of North America was covered by a continental ice sheet, which advanced and deteriorated with variations in the climate. As the ice sheet disintegrated, it created at its front an immense lake formed from its meltwaters – Lake Agassiz. Around 13,000 years ago, Lake Agassiz came to cover much of Manitoba, northwestern Ontario, northern Minnesota, eastern North Dakota and Saskatchewan. It was larger than any contemporary lake in the world and approximately the size of the Black Sea. The lake drained at various times. The final drainage raised world-wide sea levels between 1 and 3 metres (3 to 10 feet).

Numerous lakes formed in the old glacial lake basin. The best known are the so-called Great Lakes of Manitoba – Lake Winnipeg, Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis. One last feature of the Ice Age was the formation of the Belair Moraine. A moraine is any glacially formed accumulation of debris (soil and rock) that occurs when glaciers move, or when they melt. The Belair Moraine extends from Beausejour to Lake Winnipeg. It runs 100 kilometres, and includes Grand Marais and Grand Beach. The moraine is the result of two vast ice sheets making direct edge-to-edge contact about 14,000 years ago. As they moved they caused the rocks below them to grind together, depositing huge amounts of white sand, gravel and boulders, with the largest boulders called erratics.

### Where to Look

There are good spots on the western sections of Central and Lakeview, looking east, by which to see the big hill in the distance; and sections of Central are good places to see erratics.



Sketch showing moraines that form at the front and sides of a glacier.



View to hills in the background, which are actually the Belair Moraine.

## Historic Cabins – Features and Details

**As we have seen throughout this tour, Grand Marais, still has some fine examples of early buildings that help us recall earlier days of life at the beach.**

There are several very interesting cabins and cottages along Central.

**Please respect the privacy of owners' property limits.**

## Historic Cabins – North End

**One other Grand Marais's notable cottage is on Central.**

### **Ashgrove Cottage**

#### **Location: 31 Central**

Ashgrove Cottage is one of the best remaining sites recalling how Grand Marais cottage owners often developed small complexes of buildings for rental purposes. A fine main cottage, from 1922, dominates the yard. Behind it are several outbuildings that were once used by guests. One of these still reveals the modest and distinctive wooden pole construction that was used in its construction. Throughout all of the buildings are excellent intact examples of the kind of hand-made, ingenious features and details that define the cottage character of so many Grand Marais cottages and cabins – summery, whimsical and durable.

**Please respect the privacy of owners' property limits.**



Major example of stone stairs – midpoint of Central – east side.



Ashgrove Cottage  
31 Central Avenue

## Stone Fences

**As was noted in the southern part of the tour, Grand Marais's stone fences are one of its key heritage attributes.**

Just as a reminder: There were once at least 25 stone fences in Grand Marais, according to old-timers. There are six left today. Each of the remaining six stone fences (one is only marked by its grand stone posts), is a remarkable achievement. They all were built by hand, and likely were formed by stones taken from the nearby beach shore. One can imagine a human chain throwing stones along a line and finally to the fence construction site.

### **Summerhill Fence: Mid-point of Central – east side**

This is an especially fine stone fence, bristling and powerful. The stone fence is at the midpoint and on the right-hand side going down.

**Please respect the privacy of owners' property limits.**

## Old Commercial Strips

**The exit for this part of the tour, at the northern end of Central, takes cyclists onto Parkview. This was an important commercial area at one time, with many establishments more often serving campers in Grand Beach, who would have easy access via paths and trails to this area.**

One set of buildings was further up the hill, to the west, but none are there now – the most notable was a large grocery store called Campers, which was on the current site of Potenza's Pizzeria.

One site visitors can more easily check out is just a bit to the west. Now called Lakeview Village, this was one of the typical small motel operations that provided accommodation for visitors. These cabins were brought here in the 1950s from an area in Winnipeg near the Granite Curling Club.

## Other Nearby Sites

As you take the turn onto Grand Beach Road, check out the little log building on the west side. Called O-So-Kose, this is one of the fine log structures still standing.



Summerhill Stone Fence



Historic view of commercial buildings on Parkview.



Lakeview Village Motel



O-So-Kose Log Cabin

# STOP #6



## Special Instructions

This stop actually includes the whole of Lakeview Avenue. Cyclists will fairly easily determine where they might ride for a short section and where they should just stop and walk.

## Location of Tour Stop

The section of the tour begins at the western end of Lakeview, takes some minor side trips along the way, and ends at Grand Beach Road to the north.

## Subject/Themes to be Covered

- Trails
- Back Lanes
- Honey Wagons
- Historic Cabins – Features and Details

## Trails

**As people walk through Grand Marais, they often find strange little side-paths and crooked trails that do not seem to be part of the existing grid street system.**

So what are they? It is thought that some of these footpaths and trails are the remnants of old Ojibway trails. This makes sense.

We know this area was inhabited by Ojibway peoples for thousands of years. And since Ojibway peoples were migratory – moving with the sources of food (game as it migrated and fruit as it ripened) they had to adjust their movements according to the seasons. And so it is thought that these footpaths could have been small parts of larger pathways for large-scale tribal migrations to and from their favorite hunting, fishing and berry-gathering places.

Interesting fact: Aboriginal paths and trails around the world have proven to be the easiest routes to walk from place to place for very long distances – hundreds and thousands of miles.

We will not necessarily be going on any of these paths – they are a little rugged and tight. But here are some highlights: The footpaths begin at the end of St. Clements Row and extend through an area of scrub bush, alongside cottages, where they end at Hillbrow Avenue. A small footpath leads to several cottage frontages which do not have street access on Hillbrow Avenue. But you should note that these are not private, and if you want you can mozie on up.

There are also several footpaths that connect Grand Marais to the Grand Beach Campsite, and a well-known footpath that leads from Grand Beach to Spirit Rock.

For many years cottagers used these footpaths as a type of thoroughfare that is intended for use only by pedestrians. The trails are narrow and no other forms of traffic such as motorized vehicles and horses would be able to access them. And really it must be noted that while this has been noted for cottagers as a prime user of these trails, I am told that this really means kids – and that these little trails and paths were seen as great ways to quickly get away from parents.

The footpaths at Grand Marais are still used today as shortcuts and shaded routes that provide a natural respite, away from traffic on hot summer days. Isn't it interesting that these paths, perhaps forged by Ojibway peoples hundreds of years ago, are a lasting vestige of a much simpler time?



View of trail



## Back Lanes

**One interesting physical feature that distinguishes the residential/cottage areas of Grand Marais from Grand Beach, is back lanes.**

When you walk or drive along Grand Marais's streets, of course you see mostly modest low-rise houses and cottages, neatly set in a row, with a sheltered, lawned yard facing the main street. Their front façades shine brightly and many feature lovely bright cottage colours, flowering plants and whimsical cottage decorations.

And given that this is a nice little town, from about the 1920s onward, cottages began to be separated by back lanes, which created access from the rear – a pretty common approach in any urban environment, allowing unsightly activities, like garbage collection and messy work, to be undertaken.

I suppose I need to digress here for one rather unsavoury truth about the history of Grand Maris. Well, actually the whole history of the world – and that is the fact that we did not always have indoor plumbing. Or indoor toilets. I think we are all familiar with the concept of the outhouse, or privy – the place where you had to go to do your business, in the little building set over a deep (and smelly) pit.

Well – this was fine on a farm, where few people lived, and noxious smells would easily dissipate. But not so great at a summer-time resort with thousands of people living cheek by jowl. And so back to the back lane – and the Grand Maris solution.

If you walk down nearly any of these back lanes (and we will check at least one), you will find a narrow alley (just big enough for a truck) and the occasional little outhouse.

Of course now that we have indoor plumbing and septic tanks, the outhouse is a relic of the past, but there are some still here and there, and even some that are really cool. Most cabins had outhouses that were strategically placed on the owner's property line between their yard and the back lane. Outhouses were equipped with back hatches which swung open and upwards. The sanitation workers (called "honey men"; see next entry) would then arrive in the pitch black of night, via the back lane, open the hatch, grab the pail, empty it and replace it in the outhouse. The convenience of back lane access, and outhouse placement, made their jobs faster and more efficient. Additionally, the back lane ensured no one saw them at night and that they did not have to carry pails long distances and through very visible front yards.



View of back lane

## Honey Wagons

**As noted in the section on back lanes, Grand Marais relied on the age-old bucket toilet system, and so on the devices of the so-called honey wagon and honey man.**

Just for clarity: The bucket toilet consists of a seat and a portable receptacle such as a bucket or pail. By placing a small wooden shed overtop of the toilet, a cottager had an outhouse. The waste removal system at Grand Marais was based on the British Rochdale process.

In Grand Marais, the local municipality employed workers to empty and replace the buckets. Known as night men in England, these workers were referred to as the “honey men” in Grand Marais, although the task was carried out by female and males alike over the years.

Where, one wonders, did the term “honey man” come from. The system of municipal bucket toilet collection was widespread in Australia where “dunny cans” persisted well into the second half of the twentieth century. The workers who emptied these buckets were called “dunny men”, an obvious rhyming word with honey. However, a bucket toilet has also traditionally been called a honey bucket, an English moniker. A honey wagon is a slang word for the modern vacuum truck, which vacuums waste from septic tanks and delivers it to waste management sites. The English folk etymology supporting the word honey as a substitute for waste is thought to refer to the honey-coloured liquid that comes out the vacuum trucks when they empty their cargo.

One might ask how outhouse odours were kept to a minimum. One solution was to rely on Mother Nature and hope there were the usual strong summer breezes Lake Winnipeg conjures. In earlier times sawdust, ashes from bonfires, or creosote were placed in the bottom of the outhouse. Today, creosote clinkers can be found in some yards in Grand Marais, generally a good clue as to where an outhouse once stood. Eventually, however, ashes, tar and creosote gave way to strong disinfectants.

The honey men wore protective rubber wear and respirators while emptying sewage pails, all coloured black which provided perfect camouflage for working at night.

Many humorous memories and stories are associated with the outhouse and it doesn't require much probing to find them among cottage goers. As well, many people came to look fondly on their bathroom retreat and fondly giving them names such as Moldy Manor, Lou's Loo, The Moon Room, The Thunder Room and more.



Outhouses

## Historic Cabins – Features and Details

**As we have seen throughout this tour, Grand Marais, still has some fine examples of early buildings that help us recall earlier days of life at the beach.**

There are several very interesting cabins and cottages along Lakeview and via a detour along St. Clements Avenue. In fact, a set of three cabins on the north side of St. Clements Ave. really gives a good compacted sense of cabin life in Grand Marais. Each has its own distinct identity – one a 1960s cabin with broad roof and large windows in the main face, the next a tidy little cottage-roofed gem in country colours, and the third, at the corner, a fanciful place with bright colours, intact shutters and wealth of details

**Please respect the privacy of owners' property limits.**



Typical cabin in this area, on Lakeview. Note the “faux” log finish and fine stone foundation and stairs.



Three cabins, set in a row, on St. Clements Ave.

## Nearby Sites

### Water Pumps

Water pumps ensured that residents could get fresh water during the summer months. This was before there were private wells. Nearly every street in Grand Marais had a pump, and these were usually located at a half-way point on the street – to ensure fair access. You can still see a few of the old pumps here and there.

### Horseshoe Pits

Horseshoe pits were a private undertaking, but often were seen as public amenities. There were quite a few of these scattered around the community. You can still find a few remnants of these here and there

### Stone Fences

There are two stone fences on Lakeview:

Denardi Fence: Midpoint of Lakeview – east side

Lanken Fence: North end of Lakeview – east side



Denardi Fence – only the fine posts remain.



Typical water pump (de-commissioned) and horseshoe pit (corner of St. Clements Ave. and Cedarvale)



Lanken Fence – certainly the longest fence in Grand Marais – it encircles the whole property.

# STOP #7



## Location of Tour Stop

This section of the tour begins at Lanky's Hot Dog Stand, at the corner of Grand Beach Road and Madeline Avenue.

## Subject/Themes to be Covered

- Old Commercial Strips
- Lanky's Hot Dog Stand
- Municipal Services
- Harry's Hideout

## Special Instructions

This last stop of the tour takes cyclists south down Grand Beach Road and back to the park at the intersection of the Road and Grand Marais Boulevard.

We have included one final site that is not immediately part of this tour – Harry's Hideout. This site requires a ride south along the old service road, a walk across the highway to the Village Store (maybe for popsicles) and then further south on the service road there and just past Sinclair Street – as they say, you can't miss it.

## Old Commercial Strips

**It's hard to imagine today, but from the 1920s and well into the 1960s, Grand Marais was a major commercial nucleus, with scores of businesses along Grand Beach Road and Parkview Avenue.**

Many of these businesses were of course seasonal – open only from late May to early September – thus only about four months. Many were only open for July and August, when school was out, and kids and their moms descended on the place. A lot of the businesses were small restaurants – with names like Mama and Papa Joe's, The Blueberry Patch, Hilltop Restaurant, Mike's BBQ. You can imagine the fare – hot dogs, burgers and fries. The only place left from that era is Lanky's (below).

But there were little convenience stores too: Fingold's, Lou's (both gone), and Playland (vacant green building, which had a ferris wheel behind).

There were larger places as well – the lumber yard (still there on the highway), and a bigish grocery store called Campers, where Potenza's is now.

An interesting commercial aspect was the presence of little cottage/motels, one of which we have already seen on Parkview. In this vicinity we have McMillan on Grand Beach Road and still active in places like Stormy's Cove and the site at the far north corner of Grand Beach Road.

## Lanky's Hot Dog Stand

**Lanky's Hot Dog Stand—“Home of the Foot Long”—is the last remaining site along Grand Beach Road that recalls the line of commercial establishments that once dominated this strip.**

Lanky's, which was put up in 1950, still expresses that summer-time resort atmosphere, with a frankly unsubstantial building, and with informal, hand-made features, whose gaudy colours are at once jazzy, fun and light-hearted. Why is it called a hot dog? New York City sports cartoonist Tad Dorgan, who caricatured German figures as dachshunds in the early 1900s, generally earns credit for popularizing the term hot dog because he could not spell dachshund. His talking sausage cartoons denigrated the cheap wieners sold at Coney Island, crassly suggesting they contained dog meat. It was such bad publicity that in 1913, the Chamber of Commerce actually banned the use of "hog dog" from signs on Coney Island.



McMillan Motel



Lankys



Playland

## Municipal Services

**Because Grand Marais is a village, and not controlled by the Province like Grand Beach, the community here has had to develop its own public infrastructure – of services and people to undertake certain public functions. We have already noted the police service and Government Pier. The past one to note was a fire hall.**

### Fire Hall

The original fire hall was located just to the south of the current fire hall on Grand Beach Road (now used for apartments). The original fire hall was a small log building and the fire service was dependent on local volunteers.



Former log firehall at Grand Marais.

## Harry's Hideout

**Harry's Hideout was a fixture in the community for about a decade, beginning in 1956 and operating until the late 1960s. It was a major destination and landmark. And it still stands.**

The facility, known primarily as a movie theatre but also as a dancehall, was the brainchild of Harry Blake-Knox. We have already noted Harry via his cabin on Hillbrow. The Hideout offered evening movies in the summer-time twice a day and dances on Saturday night.



Harry's Hideout