



Existing Conditions Fact Sheet: Socio-Community

Issued: October 2023

The Socio-Community Regional Study Area includes the unorganized regional districts of Cochrane, Kenora and Thunder Bay, as well as several Indigenous Communities. There are two communities and one municipality within the Local Study Area: Marten Falls First Nation, Aroland First Nation and the Municipality of Greenstone.

Languages - Languages spoken within the Marten Falls community include English and Ojibway, 51% of households in Marten Falls First Nation spoke a traditional language in the home on a daily basis.

Languages spoken within the Aroland First Nation community include Algonquin languages, Ojibway-Potawatomi languages, Ojibway, and English.

Housing and Accommodation - In Marten Falls First Nation, there are around 70 houses primarily divided into two subdivisions, with one being older along the Albany River's west shoreline and the other a newer parallel subdivision.

Aroland First Nation had about 60 private dwellings in 2021, a significant decrease from the 105 houses reported in the 2016 Census, possibly due to the pandemic and low census participation.

The Municipality of Greenstone has roughly 1,920 dwellings, with the majority being single detached homes, and around 75% are owned, while the rest are rented. Property values in the municipality are relatively low, with the average for a non-waterfront single-family detached house at \$47,813 and \$51,683 for a semi-detached house in 2021, making housing affordable for most residents

Education - In Marten Falls First Nation, Henry Coaster Memorial School serves students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8, offering a complete Ministry of Education curriculum with Indigenous Language and Culture classes, though students must leave the reserve for secondary education.

Study Areas

Study areas identify the geographic limit where potential effects of the road may occur. The existing conditions are documented for three study areas:

- Project Development Area (PDA): the area of direct disturbance
- Local Study Area (LSA): the area where direct effects of the road are likely to take place
- Regional Study Area (RSA): the area where indirect effects are likely to occur





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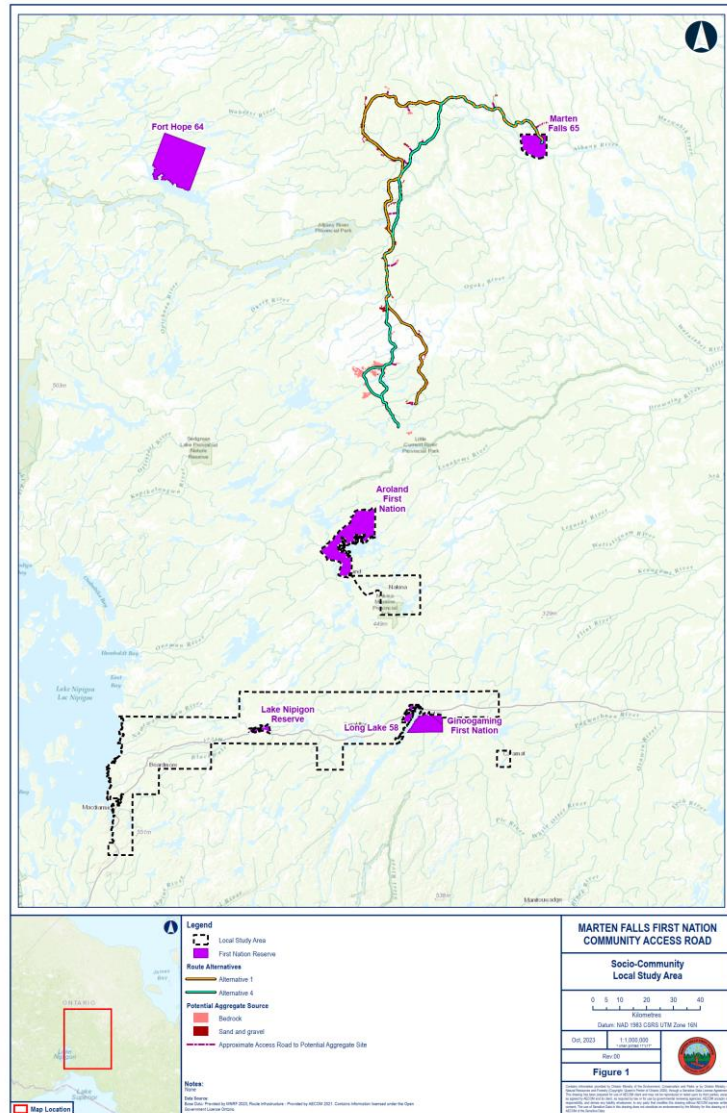
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Aroland First Nation's Johnny Therriault Memorial School caters to Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 students, with approximately 75 students, a computer lab, gym, and Indigenous language courses, while bus transportation is provided for secondary school attendance.

In the Municipality of Greenstone, there are 17 schools, including primary, secondary, Catholic, public, and Indigenous schools, offering education in both English and French, with some Indigenous schools teaching Indigenous languages.

Water – Marten Falls First Nation provides water to the majority of its homes through a piped system and has a water treatment plant, yet it has been under a boil water advisory since 2005, affecting 91 homes and 6 community buildings, necessitating the air transportation of bottled water. In contrast, Aroland First Nation, using groundwater and a water treatment plant, had resolved its boil water advisory as of June 2023. The Municipality of Greenstone owns five separate water treatment facilities, each with its distribution system, serving Beardmore, Caramat, Geraldton, Longlac, and Nakina.

Solid Waste – Marten Falls First Nation relies on a single landfill site located 3.5 km north of the community and does not offer waste collection services, while Aroland First Nation has one waste disposal site situated approximately 1 km northeast of their Band Office.





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Within the Municipality of Greenstone, there are four municipal landfill sites, with three currently active (Nakina, Beardmore, and Longlac), but the Geraldton landfill reached 102% capacity and was closed in December 2021.

Energy – Electricity for Marten Falls is supplied by Ontario Hydro Remote Services, while residential heating relies on wood burning, and commercial properties use oil furnaces, with wood sourced locally. The main energy source for Marten Falls First Nation is diesel, transported to the community via air or winter roads, incurring significant transportation costs.

Aroland First Nation receives electricity from Ontario Hydro, and to address frequent outages caused by external factors, they, in partnership with Hydro One, installed a battery storage system in 2017 for enhanced reliability.

Electricity is provided to the Municipality of Greenstone through Hydro One, with Natural gas is provided for the Municipality of Greenstone by Enbridge Gas.

Communications – In Marten Falls First Nation, TBay Tel offers telephone service, and Starlink provides reliable broadband internet, with high-speed internet introduced in 2022, initially offered for free to community members for a year. Television is accessible through satellite, and printed news comes from Wawatay bi-weekly and the Chronicle Journal daily.

Aroland First Nation relies on Rogers network services, while the Municipality of Greenstone boasts multiple communication providers, including Bell Canada, TBayTel, Astrocom Cablevision Inc., Shaw Direct, Xplornet, TekSavvy, and Rogers Network, with The Times Star as a weekly newspaper and an emergency broadcast system radio channel.

Transportation – Transportation in Marten Falls First Nation primarily relies on air travel, with an airport located 5 km from the community, and in the winter, there is an access road to Nakina that is a five-hour drive. Aroland First Nation is road-accessible throughout the year, connected to Highway 643, and has bus and taxi services. Additionally, a CN and VIA Rail line runs adjacent to Aroland First Nation. The Municipality of Greenstone offers a variety of roadways, including provincial highways and two municipally-owned airports: the R. Elmer Ruddick Airport in Nakina and the Greenstone Regional Airport in Geraldton.

Contact Information

You are welcome to contact the Project Team at any time with questions or comments.

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