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**Rae Band Tourism Strategy - Inventory Of  
Tourist Related Resources**  
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RAE BAND TOURISM STUDY

PHASE ONE

INVENTORY OF TOURISM RELATED RESOURCES

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\* \* \* \* \*

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- District Geologist

- Maps Office

- Community Affairs

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- Regional Office (Fort Smith)

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NWT Native Womens' Association

Tourism Industry Association of the Northwest Territories

## INTRODUCTION

QAIVVIK LIMITED was commissioned to undertake the Rae Band Tourism Study by the Rae Band **Economic** Development Committee. Funding for the study was provided by the Economic Development Branch of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

The study was designed to be completed in two phases, as follows:

Phase I: Inventory of Tourism Related Resources

Phase II: Tourism Strategy and Proposed Developments

Information collected for Phase I is presented as follows:

- A) A written report (attached) has been "prepared. The Inventory of Tourism Related Resources details community, natural and historical resources, camp/picnic sites and transportation routes for each community in the study area. The data is also summarized, by resource, for the entire study area. Community Concerns and Factors Limiting the Development of a Tourism Industry in the Study Area are discussed separately.

A series of individual resource maps has also been developed for inclusion in the written report. These maps illustrate various resources described in the Inventory and are attached as Appendices to the report.

- B) A large map has been prepared to provide graphic location, utilizing a color-coded format, of all resources detailed in the written report. This large map will be used for community presentations and discussions of resources listed in the report.

Mike Freeland conducted the household and individual interviews in Snare Lake and Rae-Edzo. He also prepared information for final **presentation** and jointly **co-ordinated** the study with Penny Aumond.

**Penny** Aumond conducted the household and individual interviews and meetings in **Lac La Martre** and Rae Lakes. She also prepared information for final presentation and jointly **co-ordinated** the study with Mike **Freeland**.

Winnie Kaptein was responsible for preparation of resource maps for inclusion in the written report and also preparation of the large overview map of the **total** study area. She also researched various segments of the resource data and conducted a number of interviews with information agencies in **Yellowknife**.

Bob Stephen compiled a great deal of the initial resource data in Yellowknife, including conducting numerous interviews relating to completion of the data base.



## METHODOLOGY

The methodology employed in the completion of Phase I involved the exploration of two main **sources of information**, as follows:

- 1) Existing published materials relating the NWT tourism industry and other information relating specifically to the study area
- 2) Interviews/visits with individuals and groups knowledgeable about the study area

A complete listing of published materials reviewed during completion of this phase of the study is presented in the Bibliography, Appendix I. It **should** be noted that very little recently published information specific to the study area exists; however, the area is included in a few studies and reports relating to the Yellowknife region.

Because of the scarcity of published materials describing the various resources of the study area, it was necessary to conduct interviews with employees and officials of several government departments and other agencies. A complete listing of the government departments/agencies contacted during the course of Phase I can be found in the section entitled Acknowledgements.

Certainly the most accurate, relevant and valuable information was collected during the visits to the study communities. Following Band/Community Council meetings in Lac La Martre, Rae Lakes and a meeting with the Chief in Snare Lake, during which the Terms of Reference of the study were discussed, local research assistants were hired. Four research assistants were hired in Rae to conduct interviews both on their own and also to provide translation services for the consultants. There were two research assistants hired in each of the other study communities.

Due to the accessibility to Rae-Edzo from Yellowknife by road, a number of visits to that **community** were made during a four-week period, while visits to the **communities** of Lac La **Martre**, Rae Lakes and Snare Lake were concentrated in a 3-5 day time period each.

Accompanied by the research assistants, the consultants visited as many households as possible in each community. The object of the visits was **to collect** information on the various resources in the study area and to elicit community concerns and ideas relating to tourism potential and development in the region in general and in the respondent's community, in particular. Another aspect of the household interviews was the opportunity for the consultants and research assistants to clarify the object of the study and to provide information and answer questions about tourism.

Response in all of the **communities** was very good and indicated not only the local peoples' extensive knowledge of the natural history of the study area, but also their interest in the concept of tourism and its potential. These interviews greatly supplemented and sometimes corrected previously gathered information and completed the **information base** from which the Inventory of Tourism Related Resources and discussion of Community Concerns relating to tourism, which follow, were developed.

## INVENTORY OF TOURISM RELATED RESOURCES

### INTRODUCTION

The Inventory of Tourism Related Resources has been compiled from data collected during community visits, interviews with government personnel and officials of other agencies and research into published materials.

The data is presented firstly in summary for the total study area and then by community, utilizing the following format:

#### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- 1) Community Profile
- 2) **Accomodation/Campsites**
- 3) Food Services
- 4) Developed Attractions/Events
- 5) Other Services
- 6) Cultural Resources

#### NATURAL RESOURCES

- 1) Geophysical Features
- 2) Wildlife
- 3) **Flora**
- 4) Fish Resources

#### HI STORICAL RESOURCES

#### CAMP/PICNIC SITES

#### TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

- 1) Air
- 2) Road
- 3) Water
- 4) Trails

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

1) Community Profile

All four study communities are characterized by the adherence of a majority of residents to a lifestyle based on the traditional Dene activities of trapping and subsistence hunting and fishing. The community of Rae-Edzo, primarily because of its size and proximity to Yellowknife, offers wage employment to a larger percentage of its residents than do any of the other communities. To the other extreme, Snare Lake exemplifies the traditional Dene way of life to a greater extent than do Rae Lakes, Lac La Martre or **Rae-Edzo**.

2) Accommodation/Campsites

There is no conventional public accommodation available in any of the communities. Transients visiting the communities, usually government personnel, are accommodated in the schools, with the exception of Lac La Martre, where a building designed as a hotel is used. Only the Chief Jimmy **Bruneau School in Edzo** charges transients for overnight accommodation.

Full kitchen and bathroom facilities are available to transients staying at the school **in Edzo**, although public use **is** not encouraged. Facilities available in the other communities varies.

Only Edzo has a designated campground located within the **community**.

3) Food Services

Only Rae offers public food services, in two restaurants. There are stores available for purchasing of food in all communities except Edzo and Snare Lake.

4) Developed Attractions/Events

There are no attractions or events specifically developed to draw tourists or outside visitors to any of the communities.

Rae-Edzo and Rae Lakes have annual winter community carnivals and Rae-Edzo also holds a summer celebration that is attended by the other communities in the area.

There are no handicraft **centres** presently operating in any of the communities.

5) Other Services

All communities are visited regularly by a Roman Catholic priest, except for Rae-Edzo, which has a resident pastor.

Only Snare Lake lacks some form of medical service, although the degree of sophistication of medical services ranges from a lay **dispenser** in Rae Lakes to a cottage hospital in Edzo.

Only **Rae-Edzo** has a resident RCMP detachment.

-

2) Wildlife

In addition to a wide variety of fur-bearing mammals, the study area also has an abundance of birds in spring and summer, including eagles and falcons. Major herds of both Woodland and Barren Ground caribou also winter in **the area.**

The entire study area is extensively trapped by residents of all communities.

3) Flora

Flora throughout the area is consistent with the geophysical environment. There are no unique botanical occurrences noted anywhere in the study area.

4) Fish Resources

Most of the numerous lakes and many of the rivers and creeks in the area contain a wide variety of fish, the most common species being lake trout, whitefish, pike, **cisco, burbot** and sucker. **Grayling** (bluefish) and pickerel (walleye) are plentiful in some lakes and creeks. These are noted in the community summaries.

6) Cultural Resources

All communities display a wealth of cultural resources, due to the fact that many people still live a basically traditional Dene lifestyle and have thus maintained many skills unique to the Dogrib culture.

In addition to practical skills, the older people are an invaluable source of information about historical events, many of which are unrecorded. They are also knowledgeable about "the old ways", stories, legends and songs.

NATURAL RESOURCES, (See Appendix IV for map)

1) Geophysical Features

The major geophysical features of the study area are:

- 1) The Canadian Shield
- 2) The Great Slave Plain
- 3) the zone of transition between the Shield and the Plain
- 4) The Cartridge Plateau
- 5) The Horn Plateau

all of which are described in the following community summaries.

There are a number of caves, escarpments, beaches and mine-sites located throughout the area.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES (See Appendix V for map)

There is a tremendous abundance of historical resources found throughout the study area, both within the communities, and in the outlying areas. These are detailed in the community summaries and range **from** old settlements and burial grounds to abandoned mines and buildings of historical interest.

CAMP/PICNIC SITES

The only campgrounds and picnic sites, designated as such by the Government of the NWT, are located on Highway #3 near Rae-Edzo. There is a community maintained campground at Russell Lake near Rae and a **GNWT** campground in Edzo.

There are no other formal campgrounds or picnic sites within the study area.

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES (See Appendix VI for map)

1) Air

Only Lac La Martre and Rae Lakes presently receive regular scheduled air service, which originates in **Yellowknife**. Chartered air service is available to all communities from **Yellowknife** and Rae. Snare Lake, which is accessible **by** air only, has no all-weather strip. Gravel surfaced, all-weather airstrips are maintained in Rae Lakes and Lac La Martre only. All communities are accessible by float plane **in summer** and **planes** equipped with skis/wheels in winter.



2) Road

Highway #3 provides access from Rae-Edzo to Yellowknife and to southern Canada, year-round. Denisen's Ice Road offers winter road access to Lac La Martre (via a turnoff at James Lake) and Rae Lakes from Rae. There is no road access to Snare Lake.

3) Water

Water routes provide good summer access to most communities and to remote parts of the study area. There are good canoe routes throughout the region. Water routes are detailed in the community summaries.

4) Trails

Trapline trails, used by snowmobiles and dog-teams, provide winter access to many remote parts of the study area and alternate routes to most of the communities. Trails are detailed in the community summaries.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

1) Community Profile

- Although Rae and Edzo are separated by 15 miles of highway 3, the community of **Rae-Edzo** functions as a Hamlet, with administrative offices located in Rae.
- The community of Rae was established in 1911 and was named after **Hudson's** Bay Company explorer Dr. John Rae. Edzo was established **by the** Government of the Northwest Territories in 1965.
- **The** present combined population of Rae and Edzo is approximately 1,367; the majority of residents are Dene of Dogrib descent.
- In addition to the Hamlet structure, there is an elected Chief and Band Council.

2) Accommodation/Campsites

- There is no **public** accommodation available in **either** Rae or Edzo. The **school** in Edzo presently houses transient government personnel and other visitors with business in **Rae-Edzo**. The **Chief Jimmy Bruneau** School is also an excellent site for conferences/workshops and seminars.
- Sleeping accommodation at the school is in one of the dormitories. Kitchen and bathroom facilities are available.
- There is a Territorial Government campsite in **Edzo, with room** for 10 camping parties. A kitchen shelter, drinking water and flush toilets are also on site.

3) Food Services

- There are two restaurants in Rae, but there are none in Edzo.
- There are three stores available for purchasing **of** food in Rae; again, there are no similar services available in Edzo.

4) Developed Attractions/Events

The Rae Handicraft Centre, although not operational at the present time, proved to be a major attraction to the community for several years.

"Happy Daze", a festival **held** over the long weekend in August, features feasts, hand games, "drum dancing, Dene games and many other **events**.

The Winter Carnival, held in **March** two weeks before Yellowknife's Caribou Carnival, features a dog derby which offers the second largest prizes in the NWT. A variety of other events also take place.

Mosquito Hill Lookout offers a **panoramic** view of the Rae-Edzo area. There are also hiking trails and cross-country ski trails in the area.

"**Dene Games**", an annual event which rotates in location each year to a different community, features a revival "of traditional Dene games.

The "**Rae-Edzo Challenge Cup**" is the prize offered at the annual cross-country ski races, which attracts skiers from other NWT communities as well as **local** contenders.

"Operation Heritage" produces traditional tools, clothing, **crafts** implements.

**Nishi Khon Centre**, built by the Rae Band Economic Development Corporation - see Other Services, below, for description.

5) Other Services

Roman Catholic Church with resident pastor .

Northern Evangelical Mission

**Baha'i** pioneer missionary

Elementary school to Grade **9** in Edzo

2 gas stations in Rae

Cottage Hospital in Edzo

RCMP station in Rae

**Nishi** Khon Centre houses administrative offices for the Band, Hamlet Council, various Government departments, a restaurant, store, **post** office and various other **community** services.

Local radio station (**Becho** Kho Radio Society)

6) Cultural Resources

- Rae Handicraft Centre (See Developed Attractions (4) above).  
Most of the local women are skilled in various traditional handicrafts and many are **also** skilled in hide preparation.  
"Operation Heritage" (also see 4, above)
- Happy Daze and Dene Games (**also** see 4, above)
- Many of the older people retain a wealth of information about traditional Dene life, legends, stories, skills, etc.
- Drum dancing and tea dancing are traditional social activities still popular **inRae-Edzo**. Feasting often precedes dancing.
- Many of the residents have maintained bush skills and most still spend a fair amount of time on the land.
- A number of residents **still** maintain and use dog-teams, although the snowmobile has become the popular mode of travel.

NATURAL RESOURCES

1) Geophysical Features

- The transition zone between the Canadian Shield and border region of post-Precambrian strata and the Great Slave Lowlands lies west of **Marian** Lake/Frank Channel and extends northwest to the Great Bear Plain.
  - The transition zone has many shallow lakes, large bog areas, extensive spruce and jack pine forests, large sedge meadows and willow sedge parklands.
  - The Great Slave Plain is a lowlands area, poorly drained with many bogs.
  - Horn Plateau, elevation 2474'' -features a saucer shaped surface and gently rolling rises. It is 1700' above the Great Slave Plain. The Horn Plateau is a designated IBP site (International **Biological Programme**). The IBP-CT (Conservation of Terrestrial Biological Communities) in Canada is concerned with the evaluation and recommendation of natural areas, and to some extent, semi-natural landscape units as reserves for the purpose of scientific study.
- Mile 142, south of Mosquito Creek, (Highway #3), crosses a **paleozoic** escarpment. Viewed from Frank Channel bridge, it is marked by a massive cap of brown dolomite. **Within** the rock, "chert and **silicified** fossils can be found. There is a beach at the base of the escarpment, which is the remainder of glacial **Lake McConnell**. This glacial lake once covered the **area** which is now under Great Slave Lake and the Great Slave Plain.
- Great Slave Lake is the 5th largest lake in North America, with a surface area of 16,430 square miles. The **North Arm** has a mean depth of 135'.

- A natural **key-hole** type arch can be found in the rock three miles west of Mosquito Creek, on the north side of the road.
- Canadian Shield's characteristic mineral composition consists of **granite gneiss** and greiss, separated by extensive **flat** and poorly drained pockets of mineral soil.
- Some of the oldest rocks in the area are found in the area north and east of Frank Channel.
- An abandoned uranium mine, RayRock Mine, is located on the Denisen Ice Road between **Marian** Lake and Hislop Lake.
- Northland Mine, an abandoned gold mine, is located **10 miles** away from RayRock mine.
- Areas around **Hislop** and Rabbit Lakes are presently being staked for uranium, while Mazonod **Lake** is being staked for copper.
- **Whitebeach** Point has approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of white sand beach and there **are** other beaches further along the shore toward Old Fort Island.
- There is a whirlpool at Rabesca Lake.
- There is a sinkhole at **Russel** Lake and there are sinkholes and a cave across from the old airport (approximately Mile 108)
- Caves are reported on the west side of **Marian** Lake, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up a hill close to the fire tower.

## 2) Wildlife

- Bald eagles are found throughout the Canadian **Shield** near lakes with rocky outcrops.
- Swans, Canada and Snow Geese have been spotted along the flyway, northwest to southeast in spring and fall. The flyway is observed at the eastern extremity of the Great Slave Plain, between the Horn Plateau and Lac La **Martre**, at the mouth of Mosquito Creek at Great Slave Lake.

The migrating birds rest and feed in many of the smaller lakes which dot the Great Slave Plain.

- Ducks and loons are common to the entire area.

**Sandhill** cranes are reported to be found in the Great **Slave** Lowlands near Great Slave Lake.

Wood Bison are found in the Mackenzie Wood Bison Sanctuary, to which they were introduced in 1963. The 1980 population is estimated to be in the area of 700 animals.

There are also concentrations of wood bison at **Falaise** and **Dieppe** Lakes. The main herd is located there, while smaller concentrations of males are located at **Calais** and Caen Lakes.

The Bathurst Caribou Herd winters in the large area extending south toward **Russel** Lake and east toward the **Yellowknife** River, north to the Snare River and- north-west by the **Wecho** River, bounded by Snare and **Basler** Lakes to the north.

Woodland Caribou are found in the following areas:

- Horn River system in the west and Horn Plateau to the southwest. The Horn Plateau supports large herds early in winter, but by mid-winter the caribou have moved south off the Plateau.
  - Great Slave Plain area by **Whitebeach** Point
- Moose are common in the area. Surveys in 1979 provided the following data:
    - Shield forest (**Wecho** River headwaters) - 125 km. were surveyed and only 2 moose were seen - ratio = **.0160 moose/sq.km.**
    - Glacial Lake McConnell (**Stagg** River) - 125 sq. km. were **surveye**d and again only 2 moose were seen.
    - Similar ratio reported for Marian River area.

- The ratios can **safely** be doubled due to survey techniques, but comparative figures still indicate a very low moose population. Despite these statistics, local residents report successful hunting of the animal throughout the area.
- Wolves are common wherever Woodland caribou, moose and Barren Ground caribou are found.

Fur-bearing animals trapped are: beaver, black bear, lynx, marten, muskrat, fox, wolverine, squirrels, mink and otter.

Horn River, Lac Levis and **Racoon** Lakes region trapped for fox, lynx, otter, squirrel, weasel, muskrat and beaver.

Eastern limit of travel is the **Yellowknife** River to Armi Lake. Species trapped in this area-are marten, mink, etc.

There are seasonal camps on **Russel** Lake. Species trapped near **Russel** Lake are marten, **mink and** lynx.

**Marian** Lake and James Lake are trapped by **Rae-Edzo** residents.

There are a number of seasonal camps located on these two lakes; a few of these camps are semi-permanent.

Dog-team route southwest from Rae to the area northwest of Birch Lake is trapped for marten, mink, fox **and** lynx.

Trapping routes extend between Snare and **Indin** Lakes to the northeast and Rae-Edzo, Rae Lakes and Lac La Martre to the southwest. Routes following the **Emile** and Snare Rivers are used by residents of **all** the communities.

Traditional and recently **travelled** routes used by **Rae-Edzo** hunters and trappers follows **Russel** Lake and Snare River-Snare Lakes.



3) Flora

- " - The area east of Rae, encompassing the Great **Slave** Plain, is primarily boggy and forested.
- The **area** west and north of Rae, encompassing glacial Lake McConnell, is characterized by smaller trees and rocky outcrops.
- The transition zone between the Canadian Shield and Great Slave Lowlands west of **Marian** Lake has many shallow lakes, large bog areas, extensive spruce and jack pine forests, large sedge meadows and willow sedge parklands.
- There have been no reports of unique botanical occurrences in the area.

4) Fish Resources

- Lakes reserved for domestic and sport fishing and their predominant fish populations are as follows:
  - **Marian** and James Lakes reserved for domestic fishing only
  - North Arm of Great Slave Lake: lake trout, whitefish, pickerel at Wait Island and northern pike in the islands offshore towards Yellowknife
  - Willow Lake: trout, whitefish, northern pike, walleye, cisco, sucker and burbot.
  - Sarah Lake: trout, whitefish, **cisco**, burbot, northern pike and sucker.
- Hislop, Shoti, Marian, James and **Stemen** Lakes are fished domestically by **Rae-Edzo** residents. The main species caught include lake trout and lake whitefish.
- **Stemen** Lake contains trout, whitefish, walleye, northern pike and sucker.

**Germaine** and **Wheeler** Lakes contain lake trout, whitefish, **cisco**, **burbot** sucker and pike.

Stagg Lake contains lake trout, whitefish, pike and pickerel.

Twenty-five species are found in Great Slave Lake, including lake trout, lake whitefish, **inconnu**, northern pike, walleye, cisco, **sucker** and **burbot**.

- Whitefish migrate between the North Arm of Great Slave Lake and Marian Lake via Frank Channel.

Mosquito Creek is a spring migration route for whitefish, northern pike, pickerel and Arctic **grayling**. It is the site of spawning grounds for sucker, walleye, **grayling** and northern pike.

Dory Creek and others feeding **Marian** Lake on the west shore serve as spawning grounds for pickerel after spring breakup.

Stagg River is a migration route and spawning area for northern **pike** and walleye.

Walleye spawn along the western shore of **Russel** Lake, which is reserved for domestic fishing:

Commercial fishing boundary at **Whitebeach** Point extends four miles across in a northeast direction to the North shore of Great Slave Lake.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

- Old Fort Rae, located at Rae Point on the North Arm of Great Slave Lake, was established as a trading post in 1852 by the Hudson's Bay Company. Stewart and **Bannerman** also traded for furs at this site 1887 - 1889, followed by **Hislop** and **Nagle**, 1895-1902. Old Fort Rae became the main point of trade for Dene of the area until a trading post was established at the present site of Rae in 1911. Today, old cemeteries can be **seen** opposite Old Fort Rae and also at Old Fort Island. Old Fort Rae retains a spiritual significance for **Rae-Edzo** residents. There is a place of offering, a pocket in a large rock, which is marked by a cross. **Rae Point has the only piece of argillaceous limestone on the north side of the lake.**
- The present **community** of Rae was established as a trading post in 1911. It was selected as a site because it had ready access to water crossing and was also near to caribou hunting grounds. A food supply house was maintained at the trading post.
- Other fur traders located at Fort Rae were/are: Northern Traders Ltd. 1912-1938, Lamson and Hubbard Co. 1918-1924, Pinsky and **Necrasoff** 1923-33, **Houssein**, Mike and Darwish, James 1925-1944, **Buffum**, George 1944-1947, Baker, Peter 1957-1962, Steinwand, Arnold 1962-present, Etseradoi **Co-op** Association 1966-present.
- Northern **Fur** Traders Ltd. established a trading post on **Marian Lake** (62059', 116023') from 1928-1932.
- The **Oblate** Missionaries "established a mission in Old Fort Rae in 1859 under **Henri Grollier, OMI**. A mission house was built in 1921, and a Church was constructed in 1925. Both buildings are still standing today and are the oldest buildings in Rae.
- Fort Rae was named for HBC Arctic explorer, Dr. John Rae. It was dubbed the "Venice of the North", because of all the islands and boardwalks joining them.

- The remains of old buildings, possibly a trading post, and remains of probably more recent camps, can be seen on Old Fort Island.
- **Old Trout Rock** is the location of an old Dene campground and **cemetery**. "New" Trout Rock, located closer to Yellowknife, is the location of the remains of a community of 10-15 'cabins, many of which are still in good shape. The cabins are used periodically by trappers and fishermen. Some of the cabins have hand-built chimneys.
- Old **handbuilt** chimneys and ruins of old cabins can also be found between Old Fort Rae and **Blackduck's Camp**.
- Cemeteries and old Indian cabins are found on the southwest shore of James Lake. The portage between James Lake and Marian Lake has a site with a rock used for offerings/gifts.
- Cemeteries are also located **on the Wecho River system at Mosler Lake and Wheeler Lake**.
- There is a report of an old fort established on Marten Lake in 1789.
- The keyhole arch in rock near Mosquito Creek has spiritual significance; a place of offering.
- There are burial grounds on Marian Lake, Maze<sub>no</sub>d Lake, **Hislop, Tayonton, Shoti and Labrish Lakes**,
- There is an old campground on the east side of **Hislop Lake**. This campground is still commonly used by Rae-Edzo residents.
- An old Dogrib village and burial ground is located on the north end of Marian Lake. The area is still used as a stopping point for trips up the **Camsell River**.
- There were old communities at Presque Isle and Wait e Island. Ghosts have been reported on Wait e Island.
- There are cabins at Jonas Point.
- Cabins at **Hislop Lake** are reported to have hand-built fireplaces.
- Old cabin built without nails, with caribou skin hinges, reported on **Wageradi Lake**.

There are reports of old cabins on the north end of **Russel** Lake toward Snare

A traditional route to Lac La **Martre** was via Duport (Dory) Creek, on the west side of **Marian** Lake

Petitot, OMI, travelled the **Camsell** River into Lac La Martre in 1864 on a mission

**J.M.** Bell travelled the **Camsell** River in 1900 for a geological and geographical survey.

During 1903-04, **Preble** travelled from Fort Rae to Great Bear Lake **by** way of Lac Ste. Croix, on a biological reconnaissance.

From March 5 - May 4, 1894, Frank Russell accompanied Dene on a muskox hunt, northwestward of Fort Rae to the area of Contwoyto Lake.

Akaitcho guided Franklin to the coast and then returned home.

He was reported **to** be Franklin's chief confidant.

Jim Darwish's trading post in Rae is still standing and is of historical interest.

Treaty was signed with the Rae Band in 1921. The Government of Canada is under legal obligation to make treaty payments annually, however, residents have refused the payments for the last few years in protest against the slow settlement of land claims. Treaty Days have traditionally been a time of feasting, dancing, games, etc. and this tradition is still maintained, although it is now called Happy Daze. There are historical reports of Treaty Day celebrations in Rae in the 1940's, detailing the arrival of Dene in canvas covered canoes and descriptions of the festivities.

There are a number of old legends associated with the landscape; eg. "Devil's Chair" legend associated with west end of **Marian** Lake, legend of **the** Giant Beaver, legend of underwater monster at Backwater Lake and legends of horned fish. in Faber Lake.

- Traditional community hunts for caribou were carried out by the men and older boys of the area until the early 1970's. Inclusion in the hunt marked a boy's passage into manhood. The last hunt included over 50 canoes and was a major community event, with the hunting party being blessed by the priest before departure. The hunting grounds were located over 150 miles away and the route included **50** portages. The caribou were **hunted in the** traditional manner, which was actually quite a spiritual experience.
- There was once an all-weather road to RayRock uranium mine, but all the bridges have been wiped out. Only the **headframe** is left at the **site of** Northland mine (30 miles from Rae).
- The craft shop at Rae was one of the first craft shops to be established in the NWT.

CAMP/PICNIC SITES

- Mosquito Creek (Mile 143, KM 229), is the site of a popular but undesignated campground and picnic site. The scenic creek tumbles along **for nearly** 8 km. of continuous rapids on the way to Great Slave Lake. The picnic/camping area is located beside the highway, about halfway **along the creek**. The mouth of the creek **is** the site of a pickerel run in the spring. Mountain avens, the floral emblem of the NWT, are well-represented here.  
North Arm Picnic Site (Mile 145, KM 233), is a designated picnic site maintained by the Government of the NWT. (Maintenance contracts are usually let to Rae-Edzo residents. ) The site has white sandy beaches and a boat launch. There are six sites, designed for day-use only, and a kitchen shelter.
- There is an undesignated campsite on the road to **Russel** Lake that is maintained by the community. The area was cleared by the community to accommodate Lac La **Martre**, Snare Lakes and Rae Lakes people who come to Rae for Happy Daze. The campground has a boat launch, but there are no picnic tables, prepared campsites or services other than garbage receptacles.
- There is another undesignated campground at Stagg River. There are no facilities.
- There is a designated campground in the community of Edzo. There are 10 sites, with a kitchen shelter, drinking water and toilet facilities.
- There are numerous campsite and picnic sites along the water routes out of the community. The area has virtually limitless camping and **picnic** site potential.

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

1) Air

- Air DogRib, based out of Rae, offers chartered Cessna 185 and Beaver service. The company is also **licenced** to operate scheduled flights into Lac La Martre, Rae Lakes and Snare Lakes and this service may commence in 1981, depending on demand.
- There is no permanent, all-weather airstrip. An ice strip is maintained in the winter and there is float plane access in summer.

2) Road

- Both Rae and Edzo are located on NWT Highway #3, a gravel surfaced, all-weather road maintained by the Government of the NWT.
- Frame and Perkins provides bus service to Yellowknife three times a week.
- Taxi service is available from Yellowknife.
- There is winter road access to Lac La Martre and Rae Lakes via Denisen's Ice Road from Rae. The Ice Road is also used as a skidoo route to the other communities.

3) Water

- There is access to Rae from Great Slave Lake via Frank Channel to Marian Lake. The route is very picturesque and is an excellent motor boat and canoe route.
- Stagg River, which has its source at Stagg Lake and flows into Great Slave Lake under Highway #3, is a good canoeing river in spring and early summer.



- **Russel** Lake, near Rae, is located on the edge of the Canadian Shield. It is silty, which makes it less attractive and more hazardous for boating.
- Mosquito Creek offers exciting white-water canoeing, with rapids of about Grade 3, for a few weeks in early spring as soon as the ice is out of the **Creek**. The Creek originates in a small lake above the highway and runs under the road to Great Slave Lake. The Creek follows the base of the dolomite escarpment and is **also** in the zone of transition between the Canadian Shield and the Great Slave Lowlands. The Creek is rock-strewn and can only be run when the water level is at its peak.
- **Wecho** and **Bouso** Rivers are suitable for canoe travel, however, numerous rapids make portages-necessary.
- There is a 3-5 day canoe route to Lac La Martre, which is well-marked. The **traditional route** is via Dory (**Duport**) Creek, on the west side of Marian Lake. Marian River is now used.
- The Horn River is a 300-mile canoe trip, reported to have few portages.  
Residents make extensive use of many of the rivers and lakes in the area during the summer months. Canoe/boating routes are really too numerous to list in detail, but the potential is probably limited only by the water level and type of craft one would be using.

#### 4) Trails

- **Skidoo** and trapline trails provide winter access to remote areas of the region. These trails are far too numerous to list in detail, but they include routes to almost all parts of the area and also routes to the other study area communities.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

1) Community Profile

- The outpost community of Snare Lake was established by members of the Rae Band in order to preserve traditional Dene lifestyles and values. The first houses were built in 1963 and the people have been living off the land for several years.
- The number of families has varied from year to year.
- There are presently 8 families living in Snare Lake, which represents a decline from the original group of 19 families.
- The present population of the community is between 50-60 people.
- This is the most isolated community in the study area.
- Accessible by aircraft only.

2) Accommodation/Campsites

- There is no public accommodation. The school is presently used to house transient government personnel and other visitors to the community. Facilities are minimal.
- There are no established campgrounds.

3) Food Services

- There are no restaurants or public meals
- There are minimal cooking facilities in the school for transient
- There is no store available for purchasing of food

-

4) Developed Attractions/Events

The community of Snare itself is very unique, as it represents **more** than any other community the traditional Dene lifestyle. Residents are living primarily off the land with a minimum of services.

5) Other Services

- Log elementary school

6) Cultural Resources

As a "model" traditional **Dene community**, Snare has a wealth of cultural resources. The women are skilled in the manufacture of a variety of handicrafts, many of which utilize indigenous materials: Both men and women are skilled in tool and implement making, and some of the men are skilled in drum making.

As a result of the reliance of the community on a traditional way of life, residents have retained many bush skills.

Traditional methods of food preparation and hide preparation are utilized.

Older residents are knowledgeable about "the old ways" and retain a wealth of legends, stories and songs.

- Every family maintains and uses dogs for travel, although 'snowmobiles are used as well.

The houses in Snare Lake are **handbuilt** of locally harvested logs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

1) Geophysical Features

- Snare Lake is located in the Canadian Shield
- Characteristic minerals of the **Shield** are granite gneiss and **greiss**, separated by extensive flat and poorly drained pockets of mineral soil.
- The watershed of the Snare River system drains into Great Slave Lake.
- There **was** a mine on the north end of **Baton** Lake, but it was abandoned in 1948.
- Indian Lake mine was reactivated in 1980 after extensive staking.
- The Snare River Hydro Dam was completed in 1948. A further generator was installed at Snare Falls, 10 miles downstream, in 1965 and another at Snare Forks (**Strutt** Lake) was completed in 1976. The Snare Power Project supplies electricity to Yellowknife, Rae-Edzo, Detah and **Yellowknife's** two gold mines.

2) Wildlife

- Bald eagles are found throughout the Canadian Shield, on rocky outcrops near lakes.
- The Bathurst Caribou winter in the large area extending south towards **Russell** Lake and east towards the Yellowknife River; also, north by the Snare River and northwest by the **Wecho** River and north at Snare and **Basler** Lakes.

- Moose are common in the area.
- Wolves are common where moose and caribou are located.
- Fur-bearing animals in the region are beaver, black bear, lynx, marten, muskrat, fox, wolverine, squirrel, mink and otter.
- trapping routes extend between Snare and Indian Lakes and Rae Lakes, Lac La Martre and Rae-Edzo to the southwest.
- trapping routes follow the Snare and Emile Rivers

3) Flora

- The area around Snare Lake is of the open forest ecosystem
- There is more lichen covered ground and rock outcrops than in the other areas
- There is richer vegetation around lakes

4) Fish Resources

- Snare River system has northern pike, pickerel and grayling.
- Fish species found in Strutt Lake are whitefish, northern pike, pickerel, lake trout, sucker, burbot and cisco.  
Pike size maximum 8.45 kg. (8.59 lb.) on Strutt Lake with the average being 5 kg. (11 lb.)
- Pickerel is common but not very large
- **Grayling** maximum recorded size is .57 kg. (1.25 lb)
- Average **grayling** size is .369 kg. (.8 lb)

## SNARE LAKE

- an average catch of 20 **grayling** per rod hour has been recorded on **Strutt** Lake, however, most are of small size.
- Federal Fisheries studies have concluded that despite the abundance of fish in the area, sport fishing or commercial fishing would not be **recommended**.

## HISTORICAL RESOURCES

- Fort Enterprise (Fort Starvation) was established by Sir **John** Franklin in 1820 between Snare and Winter Lakes, reportedly on the advice of Franklin's chief advisor, **Akaitcho**. Of the twenty men who originally manned the **fort**, 2 were shot, 1 disappeared and 8 died of exposure and starvation. There is little left of the original fort, but excavations have taken place there. A wooden cross onsite bears the names of many who have travelled through the region.
- **Rawalpindi** Lake, north of the community, was the destination of a **well-travelled** water route to the Barren Grounds. The area was also the site of meetings between groups of Dogrib and **Chipweyan** Indians. A portage linking **Il'less** and **Granville** Lakes " was the site of a meeting between the two chiefs, **Akaitcho** and **Edzo**. Peace was made between the two groups and a dance and feast were held for a number of days to celebrate the occasion. One result of the intensive dancing was the formation of a circular, hard-packed track - hence the trees that have grown up since have formed a circle. There is also a rock on the portage where **Edzo's** brother is reported to have hidden while the two Chiefs were negotiating peace.

- There are remains of an old cabin with a **handbuilt** chimney and an underground storage area across the Lake from the present community.
- Frank **Russel** accompanied Dene hunters from Fort Rae up the Snare Lake system and Coppermine River to participate in a **muskox** hunt on the Barrens in 1894.

CAMP/PICNIC SITES

- There are no designated or maintained campgrounds or picnic sites in the area.
- There are a number of sites which are used by local people.

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

1) Air

- There are no scheduled flights into Snare Lake on a regular basis. Most travel into the community is by chartered aircraft. Air DogRib, based out of Rae, is licenced to operate scheduled flights into the community and this service may commence in 1981, depending on demand.
- There is no all-weather strip at the community. Aircraft land on the Lake summer and winter.
- There is no air access to the community during breakup and freezeup.

2) Road

- There is no road access to Snare Lake at any time of year.

3) Water

- The Snare River, a traditional water route, is good for boating and canoeing.
- The Snare River provides water access to **the Barren** Grounds.
- It takes about 3-4 days with a canoe and 10 hp kicker to travel from Snare Lake to Rae. .

4) Trails

- There are numerous snowmobile and trapping trails in the area. These trails provide access to nearly all remote parts of the region and also to the other communities.



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

1) Community Profile

Lac La Martre is a Dene community of approximately 231 people the economy is mainly based on the traditional activities of hunting, trapping and fishing; of which hunting and fishing are largely subsistence oriented. There is a small degree of wage employment associated with the Settlement Office, Co-op and school .

The community is governed by an elected **Settlement** Council and also by an elected Chief and Band Council.

A striking characteristic of the community is the predominance of hand-built log houses, most of which have been constructed by the residents, using locally gathered materials.

2) Accommodation/Campsites

Although the hotel has been closed for some time, the building is opened, upon request to the Settlement Office, for transients who wish to stay there. No fee is charged for the accommodation and transients may use the kitchen facilities. However, no services are ordinarily provided.

The Government of the NWT's Department of Public Works maintains a transient centre, which can accommodate up to six people and which has kitchen and bathroom facilities, complete with an operational pressure system. However, the transient centre is generally available only to DPW employees.

There are no established campgrounds within the community.

3) Food Services

- There are no public meal facilities, although **there** is a **small** coffee shop in the hotel which has not operated for some time. Visitors staying at the hotel can use the kitchen facilities there, and there is a **Co-op** Store in the community which sells groceries.

4) Developed Attractions/Events

- There are limited cross-country ski/hiking trails leading out from the community. A ski cabin **has also** been constructed about 4 miles away from the settlement.
- Residents report occasional "visits from outsiders passing through the community on their way to fish Lac La **Martre** or a nearby lake, or stopping over on a canoe trip.

5) Other Services

- Roman Catholic Church, which is visited regularly by a priest from Rae-Edzo.
- Locally built log school
- Locally built Settlement Council/Band Council offices with large meeting room facility.
- Nursing station which is visited regularly **by** a nurse and dental therapist from Rae-Edzo.
- Community **Ha11** with capacity for 200 people

6) Cultural Resources

- Most of the local women are skilled in the manufacture of a variety of handicrafts, many of which utilize materials indigenous to the area. Both men and women are skilled in tool and implement making; in addition some of the men are skilled in drum making.
- There was a handicraft centre in operation a few years ago. It was locally administered and bought handicrafts from the local women. In addition, the centre was important as a supplier **for** supplies for handicrafts. The centre has been closed for some time.
- As a result of the reliance of many residents on a traditional hunting/trapping economy, many related skills have been maintained: Women of the community are skilled in the preparation of hides, dry and pounded meat, etc.
- Bush skills have also been retained and most residents still spend a fair amount of time on the land. The older people possess a wealth of knowledge about "the old ways", as well as many stories, legends and songs. There are no readily available collections of this valuable knowledge.
- Drum and tea dancing and feasting are traditional social activities still popular in Lac La Martre
- A number of residents still maintain and use dog-teams, although the snowmobile has become the more popular mode of travel. It is reported that one or two trappers still use dogs to the exclusion of snowmobiles.

NATURAL RESOURCES

1) Geophysical Features

- The Great Slave Plain slopes gently to the southwest of Lac La Martre. The plain is poorly drained and characterized by marshes, bogs and shallow, often intermittent **lakes**.
- The Canadian Shield is to the northeast of Lac La Martre. Characteristic minerals include granite gneiss and **greiss** - separated by extensive flat and poorly drained pockets of mineral soil.
- Lac La Martre is in the transition zone between the Great Slave Plain and the Canadian Shield.
- There are good beaches along the northeast shore of Lac La Martre.
- The Horn Plateau, southwest of Lac La Martre, is a major elevation in the area, 2474'. The surface of the Plateau is saucer-shaped and has gently rolling rises. The Plateau is 1700' above the Great Slave Plain.
- The Lac La Martre Falls on the Lac La Martre River are reported to be quite spectacular. The Falls drop into a section of very rough rapids, which continue for about one-half mile down the river, which empties into Lac La Martre. It is reported that there is a cave underneath the Falls.

2) Wildlife

- Bald eagles are commonly found in rocky outcrops of the Canadian Shield, near lakes.
- Peregrine falcons have been spotted near Lac La Martre.

- Swans, geese and ducks follow a flyway at the eastern extremity of the Great Slave Plain, between the Horn plateau and Lac La Martre. Great numbers of these migrating birds can be observed in the spring and fall in this area.
- The birds rest and feed in many of the smaller lakes which dot the Great Slave Plain region.
- Ducks and **loons** are common to the area.
  
- Woodland caribou winter west of Lac La Martre, from the northern area of Bartlett Lake extending north to the north end of Lac La **Martre**.
- **Woodland** caribou are also found along the Horn River system to the west and the Horn Plateau to the southwest. The Horn Plateau supports large herds in the early winter, but by mid-winter, the caribou move south off the Plateau.
  
- An important winter range of the Bathurst Caribou Herd is northwest of Lac **La Martre** to the south of Lac Grandin
  
- Moose are common in the area and relatively abundant in the area between Lac La Martre and Faber Lake
  
- Wolves are common wherever moose, woodland caribou and barren-ground caribou are located
  
- Beaver, black bear, lynx, marten, muskrat, fox, wolverine, squirrels, mink and otter are the predominant fur-bearing animals found in this area
- The Horn Plateau is trapped principally for marten and lynx, while the Horn River, Lac Levis and Racoon Lakes are trapped for fox, lynx, otter, squirrel, weasel, muskrat and beaver.

- There is good beaver trapping along the Horn River.  
The Cartridge Plateau is trapped for fox, wolverine, lynx, mink **and** marten.
- Beaver and rats are trapped at Grandin River, while the area north of Lac **Tache** and **Lac** Grandin is used to trap lynx, wolverine, fox, **mink and** marten,
- Lac La **Martre** trappers follow routes from **Lac** La Martre to the Horn River and on down to the Horn Plateau. This route follows **Weyburn** and Windflower Lakes.
- There are also trapping routes extending between Snare and Indin Lakes to the northeast and **Rae-Edzo** and Rae Lakes and **Lac La Martre** to the **southwest**.
- Trapping routes also follow the **Emile** and Snare Rivers.

### 3) Flora

The area north and west of Lac La **Martre** is bog and forest. The area northeast of Lac La **Martre** is mossy forest with denser, larger trees.

As a result of its location in the transition zone between The Canadian Shield and the Great Slave Plain, the area around Lac La **Martre** is characterized by large boggy areas, with extensive spruce and jack pine forests, large sedge meadows and willow/sedge parklands.

- There have been no unique botanical occurrences reported in the area.

4) Fish Resources

- Lac La **Martre** was fished commercially in the early 1970's for whitefish and trout. The lake also contains abundant numbers of **cisco**, northern pike, **burbot** and **grayling**.
- The Lac La **Martre** River is a spawning ground for Arctic **grayling**.
- **Grayling** are also caught below the Lac La **Martre** Falls on the Lac La **Martre** River.
- Arctic **grayling** also spawn in Riviere Grandin. Also found are whitefish, lake trout, northern pike, **cisco** and sucker.
- The Horn River is a **grayling** spawning ground. Northern pike, pickerel and suckers are also found.
- Lac La **Martre** is fished domestically by local residents.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

- **The** old settlement of Lac La **Martre** is located on the northwest shore of the Lake.
- There is another settlement at the mouth of **Riviere Grandin**, with a **cemetery**. It is reported that the people who were living there became ill and died, so their children moved away to Lac La **Martre** (present site) and Rae. A forest fire in the area **levelled** all of the cabins.
- It is reported that about five houses were built east of the mouth of the **Riviere Grandin**. They were eventually torn down due to the fact that they were rotting.
- The old settlement at **Riviere Grandin** is now the site for a base camp for trappers.
- The old **settlement** of Lac La **Martre** now serves as a base camp for hunting and trapping activities-to the west of the Lake. There are old burial grounds on the northwest end of **Cassino Lake** and at the present site of Lac La **Martre**.
- Leroux apparently built a fort on Lac La **Martre** which was intermittently occupied during the late 1700's.
- Petitot, an **Oblate** missionary, travelled the **Camsell River** system and visited Lac La **Martre** in 1864  
A trading post was established in 1924(approximately) by John **McLellan** at Mud Lake (63001', 117012'). The trading post was operating until 1943.  
The remains of the commercial fishing plant that operated on Lac La **Martre** in the early 1970's can be found on the east shore of the Lake. The plant was **closed** when regulations regarding the marketing of fresh water fish changed.



CAMP/PICNIC SITES

- There are no designated campgrounds or picnic sites in or around the community or in the area.  
There are unlimited camping/picnic sites on the shore of Lac La **Martre** itself, and local residents spend a good deal of time traveling the **lake in** summer.

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

1) Air

- Ptarmigan Airways, based out of Yellowknife, provides **twice-weekly** scheduled flights and charter services
- Air DogRib, based out of Rae, is also **licenced** to operate scheduled flights into Rae Lakes, Lac La Martre and Snare Lakes and this service may commence in 1981, depending on demand. Air DogRib also provides chartered aircraft flights.
- Both an all-weather gravel airstrip and an ice strip are maintained. Float plane access is also available in summer.

2) Road

- A turnoff at James Lake, along Denisen's Ice Road, provides winter road access to Lac La Martre from Rae. No other roads to the community exist.
- The road is also used as a **skidoo** route to Rae.

3) Water

- There is a 3-5 day canoe/boat route to Rae, which is well-marked. The route follows the **Marian** River. Traditionally, the route was via Dory (**Duport**) Creek, on the west side of Marian Lake.
- The Horn River is shallow but passable by canoe. The Horn River to Mink Lake route has been canoed and a trip report is available from the Government of the NWT. The area of north of the Horn River on the Great Slave Plain is flat, wet, and composed mostly of marshes and bogs.
- The Riviere Grandin is passable by boats and canoes and provides access to Lac Grandin from Lac La Martre (a 25-30 mile route).
- The Lac La Martre River has "several well-marked portages, which makes it possible to travel up the river to the Falls.
- Residents make extensive use-of many of the rivers and lakes in the area during the summer months. Canoe/boating routes are really far too numerous to list in detail, but it is certainly possible to find a route compatible with one's experience and craft in the area.

4) Trails

- There are a number of trails out of the community which are used by snowmobiles and dogteams. These trails provide access to outlying areas and also alternate routes to the other study area communities.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

1). Community Profile

- Rae Lakes is a Dene community. of approximately 180 people  
The economy is based on the traditional activities of hunting, trapping and fishing; of which hunting and **fishing** are largely subsistence oriented.  
The community is governed by an elected Chief and Band Council
- A striking characteristic of the community is the predominance of hand-built log houses, most of which have been constructed by the residents, using local materials.

2) Accomodation/Campsites

There is no public accommodation available in Rae Lakes. The school presently offers transient accommodation to the government personnel and other visitors to the community. Sleeping accommodation in the school is in the kitchen or one of the classrooms. There are kitchen facilities and bathrooms with showers available. While there is no fee charged for visitor use of the school's facilities, people staying at the school must accommodate themselves to the school's schedule and may have to share facilities with other transients.

There are no established campgrounds and no designated camping areas in or near the community.

3) Food Services

- There are no public meal services available.
- A government-run grocery and general store is available for purchase of food.
- Visitors staying in the school can use kitchen facilities there to prepare **their own meals.**

4) Developed Attractions/Events

- The Rae Lakes **Winter** Carnival takes place at the end of March. Dog team races, tea dancing, drumming, hand games and a number of other events are held, with complete community participation. Many events are held in private homes, as the community hall, an interesting octagonal log-structure, is presently used for housing.
- Residents report that outsiders occasionally pass through the community in the summer to fish in one of the nearby lakes or while on a canoe trip through the area.

5) Other Services

- Roman Catholic Church, **which** is visited about once a month by a priest based in Rae.
- Evangelist Mission with resident missionary
- Locally built log school and log gymnasium presently under construction

6) Cultural Resources

- Most of the local women are skilled in the manufacture of a variety of handicrafts, many of which utilize materials indigenous to the area. Both men and women are skilled in tool and implement making; in addition, some of the men are skilled in drum making.
- As a result of the reliance of most residents on a hunting/trapping economy, many traditional related skills have been retained. Women of the community are skilled in the preparation of hides, dry and pounded meat, etc.
- Bush skills have also been retained and most residents still spend a fair amount of time on the land.
- The older people possess a wealth of knowledge about "the old ways", -as well as stories, legends and songs. There is no readily available collection of this valuable knowledge.
- Drum and tea dancing and feasting are traditional social activities still popular in Rae Lakes.
- A number of residents still maintain and use dog-teams, although the snowmobile has become the more popular mode of travel. It is reported that only one trapper still uses dogs to the exclusion of snowmobile.

NATURAL RESOURCES

1) Geophysical Features

- area around the community is characterized by typical **Pre-Cambrian** (Canadian) Shield formations
- predominant minerals are granite, **granodiorite** and **greiss**, separated by extensive flat and poorly drained pockets of mineral soil
- **Cartidge** Plateau, an extension of the Great Bear Plain, is located west of Hottah Lake. A unique feature of this Plateau is an area of **Arctic Meadow**. The Plateau rises roughly 1300' above the Great Slave Plain.
- Good beaches are found on the southwest shore of Faber Lake
- **Uranium** was mined on Hottah and Beaverlodge Lakes (see Historical Resources, **below**, for further information)
- Mines presently in operation include **Tara** Mine (silver) on Rainy Lake and North Arm Mine east of Rainy Lake

2) Wildlife

- Beaver, black bear, lynx, marten, muskrat, fox, wolverine, squirrels, mink and marten are the common fur-bearing animals found in the area
- area north of Lac **Tache** and Lac Grandin trapped for lynx, wolverine, fox, mink and marten
- forest fires circa 1970 burned areas west and northwest of Rae Lakes, thus slowing trapping activity in this vicinity
- almost all residents trap to some extent, most **traplines** are now visited by snowmobile

## RAE LAKES

- Local residents presently operate traplines in the following areas:
  - north to Hottah Lake  
south to Lac Grandin .
  - east to the Barren Lands (Rawalpindi Lake)  
west to Lac Tache and to the Cartridge Plateau
  - trapping route following Snare River to Russell and Snare Lakes is mainly used by Rae-Edzo residents but sometimes also by Rae Lakes people.
  
- Bald eagles are found in rocky outcrops near lakes throughout the Canadian Shield
- Peregrine falcons are found- in areas with cliffs, such as the Cartridge Plateau. The falcon population in the area is steady and not declining.
- During spring and fall, large numbers of swans, geese and ducks of many species pass through the area west of the Camseil River system to Cartridge Plateau, to feed and rest.
- The area northwest to and including Lac Grandin falls under migration routes and staging areas used by whistling swans, snow geese, white-fronted geese, Canada Geese and many species of ducks in the spring and fall.
- Ducks and loons are common to this area
  
- Bathurst Caribou herd winters in the following areas:
  - Hardisty Lake in the NW, Faber Lake to the SW, Ingray Lake in the SE and Grant Lake in the NE.
  - West and SW of Hottah Lake and east of the Camseil River at Stairs Bay

- Moose are common to some parts of the area
- The Cartridge Plateau was surveyed for moose in 1979. Only 2 moose were seen in 127.5 sq. km. area surveyed for a ratio of .0157 moose/sq.km. Due to survey techniques, the ratio can safely be doubled, but the ratio is still very low compared to other areas i.e. Alaska
- Wolf are common wherever moose and/or caribou are located

3) Flora

- The area west of the Camsell -River system is mossy forest, which consists of larger trees and denser forests.
- The area east of the Camsell River system is open forest, with more lichen covered ground and rocky outcrops, as is generally characteristic of Pre-Cambrian Shield areas.
- There have been no reports of unique flora in the area

4) Fish Resources

- Several lakes in the Rae Lakes area have been commercially fished, including Faber, Beaverlodge, Hottah, Grandin and Hardisty Lakes. No lakes have been commercially fished in recent years.
- Lac Tache is reserved for sport and domestic fishing. It contains lake trout, whitefish, northern pike, burbot and sucker.
- Faber Lake is a domestic fishery for Rae Lakes residents. Species found in this lake include whitefish and trout.



## RAE LAKES

- Sarah Lake is reserved for sport and domestic fishing. Species found in this lake include lake trout, whitefish, **cisco**, burbot, northern pike and sucker.
- Arctic, **grayling** spawn in Riviere Grandin and also in Rae Lake after spring breakup.
- Other species in Rae Lakes include trout, whitefish, northern pike and **burbot**.
- Arctic **grayling** are also found in the **Camsell** River between Faber and Rae Lakes. Other species in the **Camsell** include trout, whitefish and northern pike.
- Streams flowing into **Hottah** Lakes may also possibly serve as spawning grounds for Arctic **grayling**.
- Hardisty Lake contains lake-trout, whitefish and northern pike
- Lac Grandin contains lake trout, whitefish, northern pike, **burbot** and sucker.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The **Camseil** River system carried many expeditions of historical import and was a well-used route, both for trading and for travel by Dene of the area. Fur trade routes were established up the **Camseil** system in 1852.

The **Camseil** River was travelled in 1864 by Petitot, OMI missionary. During 1903-04, **Preble** travelled from Fort Rae to Great Bear Lake, by way of Lac Sainte Croix, on a biological reconnaissance.

**J.M. Bell** travelled the **Camseil** system in 1900 on a geographical and geological survey.

There are several old burial grounds in the area, some of which are located on Lac Sequin, **Cassino Lake**, **Faber Lake** and the south end of Tonggot Lake. These areas are of spiritual significance to Rae Lakes residents.

An old uranium mine on Beaverlodge Lake is the site of two crashed planes. One is a Bristol that went through the ice and washed ashore near the mine; the other is an olden wooden frame plane. The mine itself is located up on a ridge.

There is also an old uranium mine on the south end of Hottah Lake. There is an old fish camp on Hottah Lake with 2 or 3 old buildings still standing, though in considerable disrepair:

There is a "forbidden point" on **Rabesca Lake**, which is reportedly avoided by Dene of the area.

A hidden valley, located just south of the community, is also reported to be a forbidden or haunted area.

Many of the older people are able to recall a wide variety of legends, stories and historical events. Unfortunately, little if any of these have been recorded.

- The community's men and boys undertook a community hunt for caribou in the fall until recent years. The route included many portages and terminated in the Barrens, near Rawalpindi Lake. One of the portages, between Mesa and Granville Lakes, was reported to be the site of a meeting between Akaitcho and Edzo. It was here that the two Chiefs made peace - this area had previously been the site of many battles. A rock on the portage is supposed to be one behind which Edzo's brother hid while the two Chiefs were parlaying. Unsure of the outcome, he stayed behind the rock until it was obvious that peace had been made!

The annual caribou hunt had spiritual significance for the participants. It also marked the passage from boyhood to manhood to be included in the hunt for the first time.

There are reports of old, handhewn cabins on Faber Lake. These buildings were made without the use of nails or modern implements and had handbuilt, clay fireplaces. The ruins of these buildings can apparently still be seen.

CAMP/PICNIC SITES

- There are no designated campgrounds or picnic sites in the area maintained for use by tourists or visitors to the area.
- There are several traditional camping spots used by local people.

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

1) Air

- Ptarmigan Airways, based out of Yellowknife, provide twice-weekly scheduled flights and charter services
- Air Dogrib, based out of Rae, is also licenced to operate scheduled flights into Rae Lakes, Lac La Martre and Snare Lakes and this service may commence in 1981, depending on demand. Air Dogrib also provides chartered aircraft flights.
- Both an all-weather gravel airstrip and an ice strip are maintained. Float plane access is also available.

2) Road

- Denisen's Ice Road, from Rae to Port Radium, passes by Rae Lakes and is a popular winter travel route. No other roads to the community exist.
- The road is also used as a skidoo route to Rae.

3) Water

- There is an extensive portage/river route from Rae Lakes to Rawalpindi Lake in the Barren Lands. The route is a traditional one used in past years for the fall caribou hunt.

- There is a good boat route from Hottah Lake through Grouard Lake to Tara Mine.
- The route between Ortona Lake and Lac Grandin along the Riviere Grandin is reported to be suitable for canoeing.
- Wopmay River is also suitable for canoeing; however, it does have numerous portages and rapids.
- The **Camsell River**, as discussed above in Historical Resources, is also a traditional water transportation route.

4) Trails

- **Skidoo** and trapline trails provide **winter** access to remote areas of the region. These trails are far too numerous to list in detail, but they include routes to almost all parts of the area and also routes to other communities; for example, Lac La Martre and Fort Franklin.

## FACTORS LIMITING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TOURISM INDUSTRY IN THE STUDY AREA

### INTRODUCTION

This section attempts to identify existing factors which are considered to be potentially limiting to the development of a tourism industry in the study area.

Some of the problems listed are perceived - that is, they relate to the lack of confidence or fears that some people have expressed in regard to tourism development. The majority of comments which follow, however, describe factors of a more tangible nature.

This section is largely based upon observations made by the consultants in the field and upon initial assessment of existing resources. Phase II will attempt to deal with each of the factors listed here, but it should be noted that this section does not deal with community concerns about tourism, although it does complement that portion of the study. Community concerns are discussed in the preceding section.

## LIMITING FACTORS

There is very little information about the area available to **tourists**. There are no information centres within the area.

The signage on the highway is very inadequate and provides little incentive or information to travelers. There is presently nothing other than curiosity to motivate a tourist to make the turn-off into Rae or Edzo. As for the other communities, few Yellowknifers or visitors to the NWT would ever come across any information relating to the area.

Although there is a wealth of resources in the area, as described in this study, there are presently no services, such as outfitters, in place to allow a visitor to experience any of these.

Even very basic service facilities are not available in any of the communities. For example, there is no conventional public accommodation available-anywhere in the area and public food services are available only in Rae.

Road and air traffic from the south of Canada usually has **Yellowknife** as a destination and stops along the way are usually not planned in advance. The close proximity of **Rae-Edzo** to Yellowknife acts as a disincentive to travelers who may be tempted to make a snap decision to visit the community.

Traffic studies and reports about travel trends to the NWT in general, and the study area in particular, are **virtually non-existent** which complicates market planning for development.

## LIMITING FACTORS

As many of the existing services are in a monopoly situation, there is little incentive to provide a high-quality service which would require higher overhead. Prospering privately **owned** businesses appear to be regarded with distrust by some of the residents.

While middle-aged and older people are highly skilled in living on the land, it **appears** that an increasing number of the **younger** people, particularly in **Rae-Edzo**, are spending less time in the bush and more time in the community.

At this time, each community appears to work fairly independently of the others in regard to local economic development, although all belong to the same Band and assistance is available from Economic Development Corporation" personnel. There is some evidence **of** a lack of confidence, in the smaller communities, to undertake developments on **their** own and even some concern that "outsiders" may move in to exploit resources in the area.

Because of historical precedents, people in **all** communities are used to Government subsidies (either Federal or Territorial) to fund a variety of projects and many expect that the tourism industry would develop in the same way. Many government-funded projects undertaken in the past have not required long-term planning or provided good managerial training to local staff, with the result that there is a lack of expertise in the smaller communities in some of these areas.

Many residents are concerned about liquor problems increasing as a result of tourism development. Community direction would be required when developing tourism attractions in order to ensure **that** the introduction of visitors did not disrupt community life.



## LIMITING FACTORS

Although there are many skilled craftswomen in every community, there are no handicraft **centres** presently in operation. Many visitors to the area are disappointed with the poor **availability** of crafts and many would be discouraged from visiting native communities which did not have crafts for sale.

Most residents have limited understanding **or awareness** of the tourism industry or how it works. There has not been a great deal of consideration given to what the area can offer to tourists and how communities could develop and benefit from tourism. .

Very few bona fide tourists have visited any of the communities other than Rae-Edzo and even in that community the contact has been limited. Most visitors to communities are there on business.

Although a number of residents have worked as guides for various sport fishing camps on Great Slave and Great Bear Lakes, few people are trained in the various service aspects of tourism. The concept of "hosting" is foreign to most.

Unemployment is very high in all communities and many people still spend much of their time involved with trapping, fishing and hunting. Year-round wage employment does not fit in with the lifestyle or experience of many of the community residents.

Many people seem reluctant to consider becoming involved in "private" tourism development and some would discourage this type of development. This may be due to the fact that there are few examples of successful, native-operated, privately run businesses.

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

### INTRODUCTION

In the course of community meetings, household visits and personal interviews conducted during Phase I, a wide variety of concerns regarding tourism and potential tourism development in the study area were expressed to the consultants.

These concerns will be analyzed in depth in Phase II of the study, as we incorporate them into a proposed tourism strategy and present suggestions for specific developments within the study area.

However, we have listed the concern: most often expressed to us in each community in this section.

RAE-EDZO

Some residents would like to see the establishment of an "accommodation facility in Rae.

" There is widespread concern about alcohol being brought into the community as a **result** of tourism development.

It is commonly felt that local control of tourism development in the area is essential. However, some seem negative toward existing private enterprises and were not supportive of private businessmen becoming involved in tourism development activities. Many people feel that the Band or Hamlet would be the appropriate groups to undertake tourism development in the area.

Some (primarily older people) expressed concern that developments of any sort may conflict with **traplines** or traditional fishing areas.

Many residents are anxious for their community to become more involved with tourism, but are unsure exactly what form **this** involvement should take or how it should" proceed.

Unemployment is of concern to many people. Part-time or seasonal jobs that relate to the traditional lifestyle practiced by many in the community (i.e. time in the bush, lake and river travel, trapping, hunting, etc.) were felt to be highly desirable and compatible with residents' skills and experience.

SNARE LAKE

A need was expressed for the establishment of a transient centre. There was interest indicated for a tourism awareness program, including films, to provide a broader understanding of the tourism industry.

Most residents feel that their community should exercise control over tourism related activities in their area (i.e. visitors to Fort Enterprise should be guided by someone from Snare Lake, **canoeists** traveling through the area should register with the **RCMP**, etc.

Women of the **community are** highly skilled in the manufacture of traditional as well as modern clothing utilizing indigenous materials and decorative embroidery and beadwork skills, but **there** is no outlet in Snare Lake or Rae-Edzo for articles of this type to be sold.

Many residents expressed a desire for seasonal (summer) employment.

LAC LA MARTRE

There is some feeling that any potential fishing lodge should be located on the Lake rather than operate out of the existing hotel (which is not operating at present). However, other residents felt that the hotel should **re-open** and operate not only as a transient centre/coffee shop, but also as a lodge for visiting sport fishermen.

The major concern and one on which there was complete consensus, was that alcohol not be allowed in the community. Some felt that guests **might** be allowed to bring their own liquor to a lodge located on the Lake, as long as they kept it to themselves and did not offer it to the guides. It is primarily the concern about alcohol **that prompted** residents to suggest lodge development outside the community.

There was general **consensus** that the hotel should reopen, but the extent to which it should operate was found to be a matter of opinion. Some residents felt the coffee shop only should reopen, for **local** residents, while others wanted to see the building back in full operation.

There was widespread agreement that the handicraft **centre** should reopen. At present, there is no outlet for ladies to purchase handicraft supplies in the community and there is no place to sell handicrafts.

RAE LAKES

General concern was expressed **about** the lack of jobs in Rae Lakes. People were supportive of tourism development as long as it was controlled by the local Band Council and provided employment for residents.

It was often reported that a fishing lodge, established outside the community, would be a good tourism development. There was strong feeling that the Band should initiate this development. There was strong concern about the use of alcohol as a result of tourism. People feel very strongly that visitors must respect the prohibition imposed by the Band Council.

There **was** great interest expressed in the establishment of a handicraft centre in Rae Lakes. There is currently no local outlet for the sale of handicrafts.

It **was** commonly stated that any development in the area should be the responsibility of the local Band Council and should proceed only when the Band Council was ready to initiate such ventures on its own.

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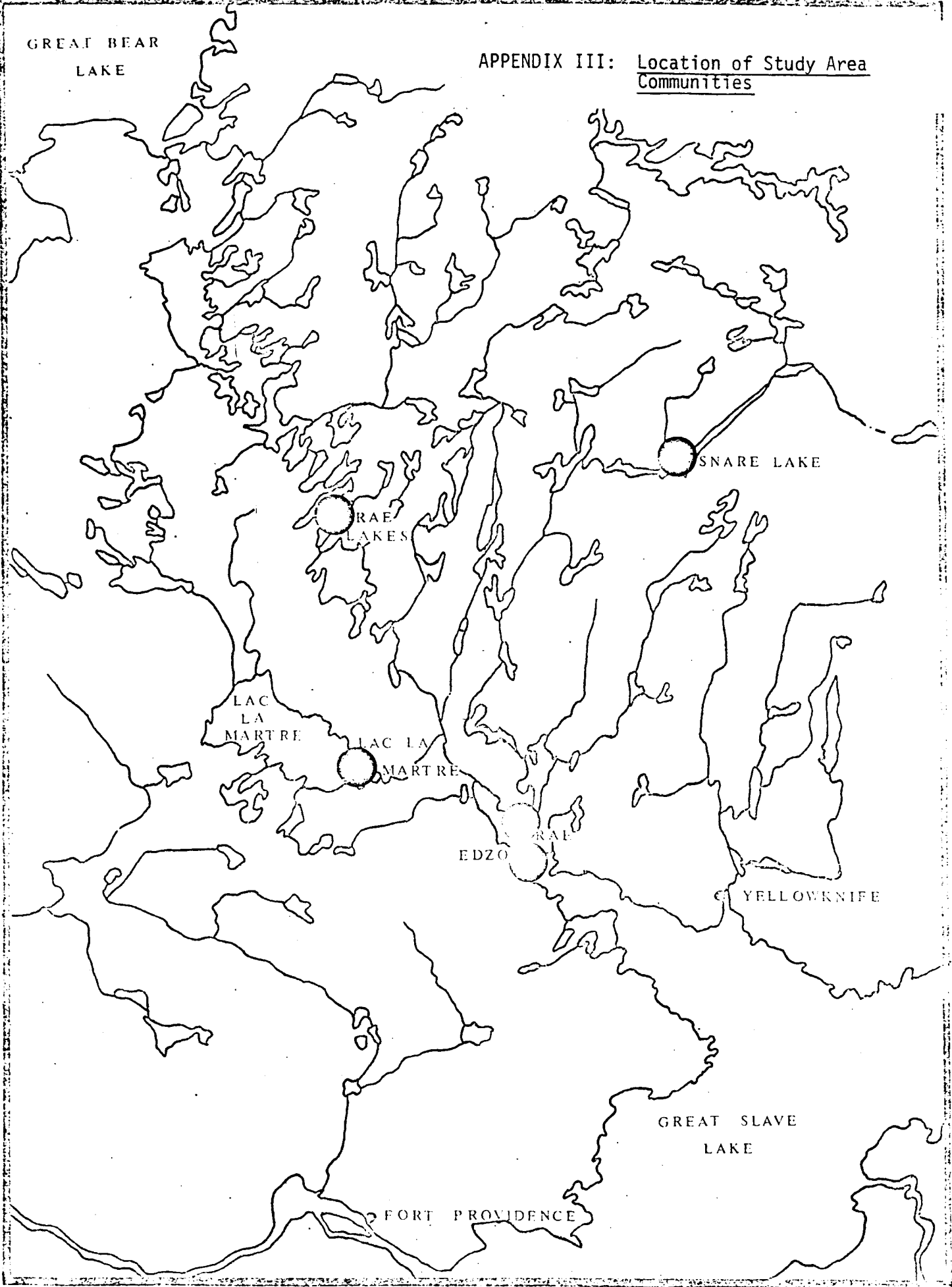


**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**APPENDIX II: Location of Study Area**

GREAT BEAR  
LAKE

APPENDIX III: Location of Study Area  
Communities



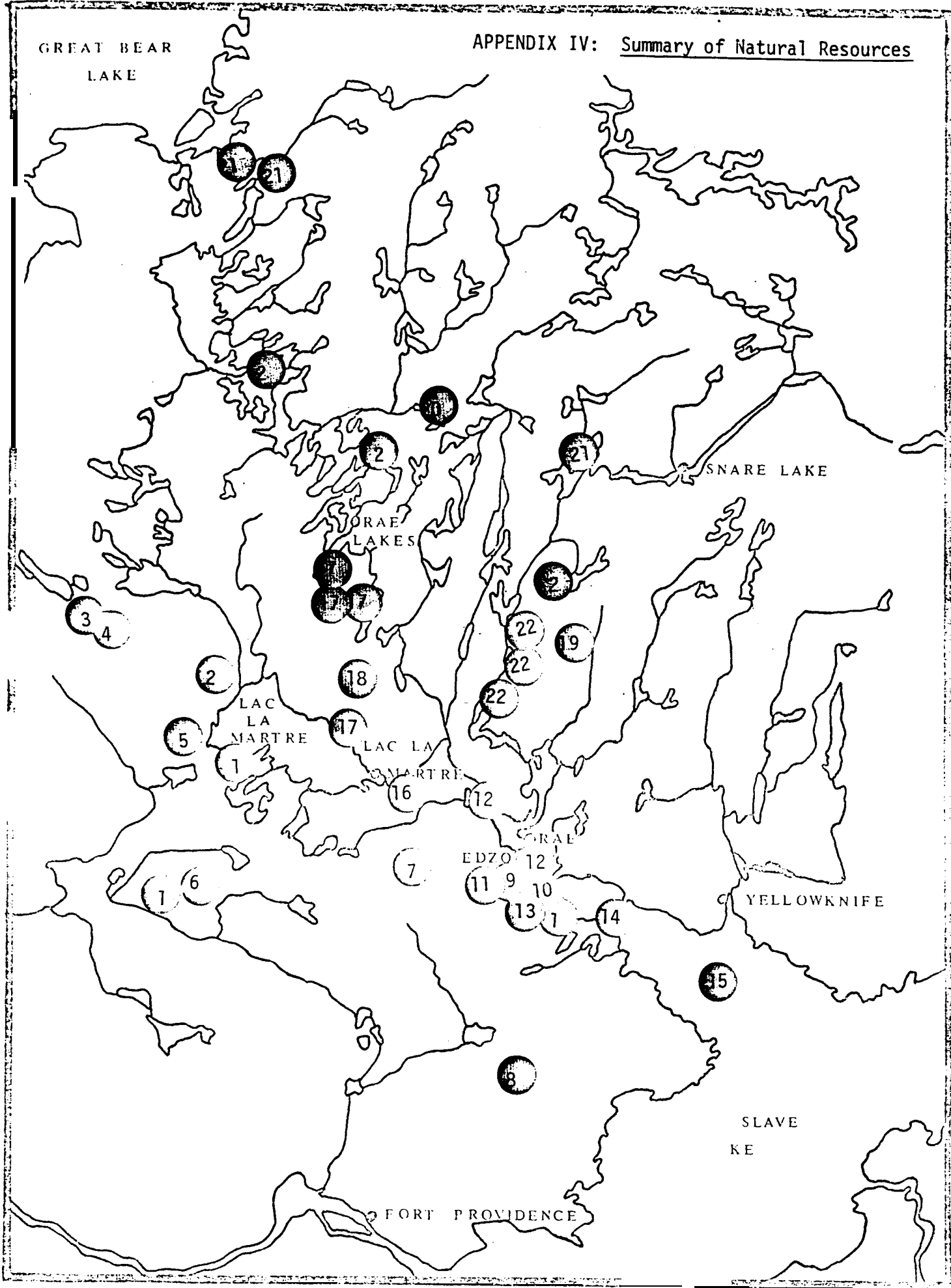


KEY TO APPENDIX IV: Summary of Natural Resources

	<u>Geophysical Feature</u>	<u>Wildlife</u>
1.		Woodland Caribou
2.		Bathurst Caribou
3.	Cartridge Plateau	
4.		Peregrine Falcons
5.		Migration Flyway for Swans, Geese, Ducks.
6.	Horn Plateau	
7.	Great Slave Plain	
8.		Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary
9.	<b>Paleozoic Escarpment</b>	
10.	Glacial Lake McConnell	
11.	Key-hole rock arch	
12.	Cave	
13.		<b>Sandhill Cranes</b>
14.	<b>Whitebeach Point</b>	
15.	Great Slave Lake	
16.	Falls	
17.	Beaches	
18.	Transition zone - Canadian Shield/Great Slave Plain	
19.	Canadian Shield	
20.	Whirlpool	
21.	Active Mines (3)	
22.	Hydro Dam (3)	

GREAT BEAR  
LAKE

APPENDIX IV: Summary of Natural Resources



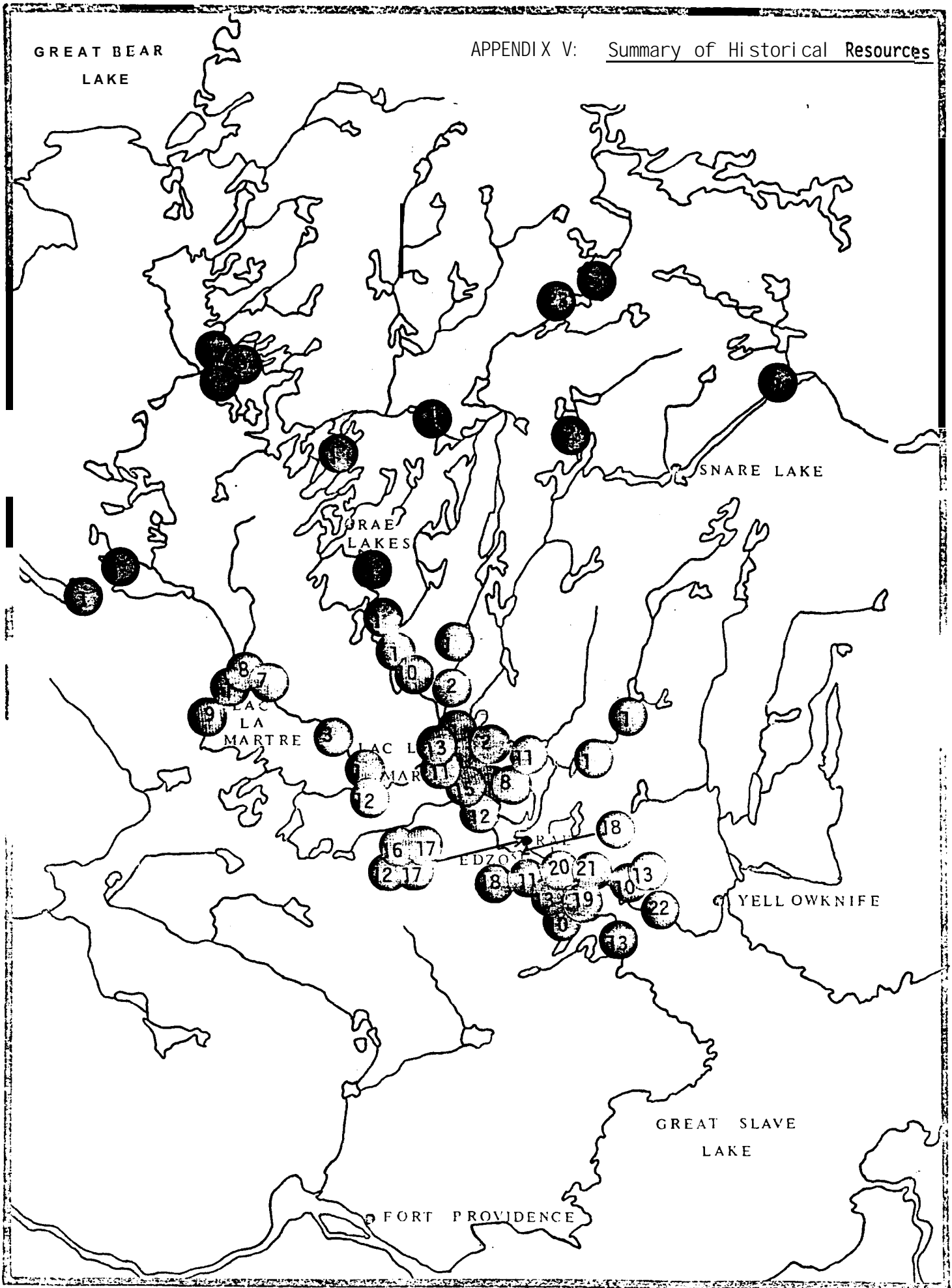
KEY TO APPENDIX V: Summary of Historical Resources

1. Burial Ground
2. Old Mine Site
3. Old Fish Camp
4. Forbidden Point
5. Evidence of early settlement and battles
6. Fort Enterprise
7. Site of old houses
8. Old settlement
9. Old settlement of Lac La **Martre**
10. Old camp
11. Cabins
12. Old Trading Post
13. **Old cemetery**
15. Religious point of interest
16. Old church
17. Old cabin
18. Archaeological site
19. Old community
20. Old Fort Rae
21. **Blackduck** Camp
22. New Trout Rock
23. Meeting place of Akaitcho and Edzo'

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GREAT BEAR  
LAKE

APPENDIX V: Summary of Historical Resources



KEY TO APPENDIX VI: Transportation Routes

1. Horn River
2. Original route to Lac La **Martre** via Dory Creek
3. Route from Rae to Lac La **Martre** via **Marian** Lake
4. **Riviere** Grandin
5. **Camsell** River
6. **WopMay** River
7. **Fall** Hunt - Rae Lakes to **Rawalpindi** Lake
8. Snare River
9. **Bousso** River
10. **Wecho** River
11. **Stagg** River
12. Mosquito Creek
13. Winter Road to Lac La Martre
14. Denisen's Ice Road
15. Highway #3
16. All-weather airstrip

GREAT BEAR  
LAKE

APPENDIX X VI: Transportation Routes

