

GODS LAKE:  
A CASE STUDY  
OF  
RECREATIONAL LAND USE AND POTENTIAL

---

A Thesis  
Presented to  
The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research  
University of Manitoba

---

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Arts

---

by  
Gilbert Peter Unger

March 1969



## ABSTRACT

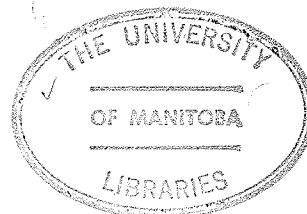
With an increasing demand for outdoor recreation due to population pressure and technological and social changes, the need has arisen for expansion of recreational areas. Suitable areas near urban centres are already congested and the trend is toward extension into virgin areas.

The primary advance is into our northland, via the fly-in tourist establishment which is becoming more popular as air transportation becomes available to a greater sector of our society.

Little is known about the operation of such establishments, their effects on growth of the tourist industry, their viability in the harsher climates of the north, or the effects they have on local populations who may depend on the natural resource base for a livelihood.

This case study of Gods Lake, one of Manitoba's largest and longest established fly-in tourist operations involved direct interviews with a 33 percent sample of sportsmen and a 62 percent sample of employable natives, a field study to assist in determination of potential, interviews with lodge operators and resources management personnel, and information from the files of various government offices.

The study revealed that a selective group of high-income, well-educated, older sportsmen visited the lake primarily to fish and secondarily to hunt. Wilderness atmosphere and isolation were significant factors reinforcing the primary motive. Guests were willing to spend almost a hundred dollars a day to angle for the trophy fish for which Gods Lake is famous. The lake and surrounding waters create one of North America's best trophy producing angling spots for five species of sports fish - Lake Trout, Brook Trout, Northern Pike, Walleye, and Whitefish.



Problems that face lodge operations are a short season, high cost of services, expensive transportation, poor lodge sites, an unreliable guide supply and a depletion of the major angling species, especially Lake Trout. These problems, particularly the last-named, bear heavy consequences for the native Indian community whose earned income is mainly derived from the tourist trade.

Large numbers of Lake Trout and other species are removed by gill nets in commercial fishery operations that leave only a small portion of the industry's benefits to the Indian people. The Indian community, still partially illiterate and unaccustomed to European culture, has only recently become aware of the basic conflict inherent in present exploitation of the fishery resource. To overcome the problem of depletion the lake might be zoned and a government-enforced commercial limit for game fish established to accommodate dual usage and an expansion of the higher-value sport fishery. Thus the Indian community would gain an improved livelihood of a sustained nature.

The problem is accentuated due to split jurisdiction of the area. The Indians are wards of the Federal Government, while the natural resources are under provincial management.

Outdoor recreation must become diversified as there is an increased demand for hunting, canoeing, and other wilderness-oriented recreation. To retain this area for future generations of nature lovers, it is suggested that it be officially recognized as a Wilderness Area.

A recently completed terrestrial airstrip has brought increased tourist traffic to Gods Lake as many guests now arrive in private wheel-equipped aircraft. The trend toward such landing facilities appears to be economically sound as long as lodge owners can maintain control of traffic.

The detailed economic, social, and physical investigation of the Gods Lake situation reveals promising prospects for further development of our Northland.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer wishes to acknowledge the assistance received from many individuals in the preparation and writing of this thesis.

In particular, thanks are due to Dr. H. L. Sawatzky of the Department of Geography who in supervising the preparation and presentation of this study, gave freely of his time and advice.

The writer also is indebted to Mr. D. W. Moodie of the Department of Geography for helpful criticism of the text. He is also particularly indebted to Mr. G. Schnepf and other staff members of the Parks Branch, Department of Tourism and Recreation, who were most helpful and encouraging.

Sincere appreciation is due the Parks Branch, Department of Tourism and Recreation, for financial assistance to undertake field work and the final production of this thesis.

It is, unfortunately, impossible to thank individually all those who helped in the collection of data. Outstanding among these are the staff of the Department of Mines and Natural Resources, namely, the Sport Fisheries Division, the Regional Renewable Resources Office at The Pas, and the field administration offices at Norway House and Gods Narrows, Manitoba. Indian Affairs and Northern Development also contributed valuable information.

Further appreciation is expressed to the lodge operators on Gods Lake for their kind hospitality and valuable advice, and to the Indian people for their cooperation in this project.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT .....	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	v
LIST OF TABLES .....	ix
LIST OF FIGURES .....	x
LIST OF PLATES .....	xii
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	195
APPENDICES .....	201

GODS LAKE: A CASE STUDY OF  
RECREATIONAL LAND USE AND POTENTIAL

CHAPTER

I INTRODUCTION .....	1
A. Recent Recreation Trends .....	1
B. Tourism Trends in Manitoba .....	3
C. Tourism Trends in Northern Manitoba .....	5
D. Objectives of The Study .....	11
E. Method of Study .....	12
II THE NATURAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE BASES .....	17
A. The Natural Resource Base .....	17
B. The human Resource Base .....	27
III OUTDOOR RECREATION HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENT USE .....	43
A. The Tourist Type .....	44

CHAPTER	Page
B. Advertising .....	50
C. Origin of Sportsmen .....	52
D. Transportation To The Region .....	54
E. Length of Stay .....	54
F. Individual Spending .....	57
G. Recreational Preferences .....	59
1. Angling .....	59
2. Hunting .....	70
3. Sightseeing .....	71
4. Other Activities .....	71
H. The Growth of Recreation .....	71
I. Economic Aspect of Recreation .....	74
1. To The Province .....	74
2. To The Local Native Population .....	75
IV INDIVIDUAL LODGE OPERATIONS .....	80
A. Gods River Lodge .....	80
B. Helzer's Gods Lake Lodge .....	88
C. Burton's Elk Island Lodge .....	93
D. Gods Lake Lodge .....	96
E. Summary .....	99
V TRANSPORTATION - A KEY TO DEVELOPMENT .....	101
A. Accessibility .....	101
B. Effects of Road Access .....	102
C. Feasibility .....	103
D. Transportation To The Recreational Area .....	106
1. Tractor Train Transportation .....	106
2. Air Transportation .....	108

CHAPTER	Page
E. Transportation Within The Recreational Area ..	116
VI PROBLEMS FACING RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT .....	122
A. Lodge Structure .....	122
B. Seasonality .....	124
C. Rating Of Services And Accommodation .....	127
1. Sleeping Accommodations .....	127
2. Food .....	129
3. Entertainment, Other Than Angling .....	129
4. Marine Equipment .....	130
5. Outfitters' Supplies .....	131
6. General Service .....	131
7. Guiding .....	132
D. Forest Fire Control .....	136
VII MANAGEMENT OF ANGLING RESOURCES .....	140
A. Problems Of Competition Between Commercial Fishing And Angling .....	140
B. Description Of Commercial Fishing .....	142
C. Past Government Attempts To Solve The Competition Problem .....	145
D. Present Evidence Of And Reasons For Depletion .....	146
1. By Tourists .....	146
2. The Indian Community .....	147
3. Tourist Camp Operators .....	149
4. Conservation Officer Reports .....	150
5. Creel Census of 1967 .....	151
6. Master Angler Awards Records .....	151
7. Other Possible Reasons For Depletion .....	154



CHAPTER	Page
E. Methods of Increasing Yields, And Possible Effects .....	155
1. Halting Commercial Fishing Operations ....	155
2. Controlling The Catch Of Sports Species ..	156
F. Possible Effects On The Local Community .....	157
G. Conclusion .....	162
VIII POTENTIAL FOR RECREATION USAGE .....	166
A. Angling Potential .....	166
1. Effects On The Province .....	169
2. Effects On The Lodges .....	169
3. Effects On The Local Community .....	172
B. Hunting .....	175
C. Historical Landmarks .....	176
D. History and Local Culture .....	181
E. Wilderness Canoeing .....	181
F. Water Sports .....	185
G. Cottage Development .....	185
H. Wilderness Area .....	186
I. Conclusion .....	192
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	195
APPENDICES .....	201
A. Tourist and Indian Questionnaires .....	201
B. Tourist Accommodation Rating .....	207
C. Annual Order Of Minister For Commercial Fishing at Gods Lake .....	211
D. Correspondence From Dissatisfied Angler .....	212
E. Elk Island Townsite .....	213
F. Proposed Provincial Parks System Criteria For Wilderness Areas .....	214

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
I Changing Work Week (1870-1970) .....	1
II Distance Travelled To Manitoba .....	5
III Angling License Sales In Manitoba .....	8
IV Temperature And Precipitation Comparisons For Gods Lake And Winnipeg .....	25
V Economic Importance Of Trapping At Gods Lake .....	37
VI Economic Importance Of Winter Commercial Fishing At Gods Lake .....	37
VII Annual Income Of The Gods Lake Indian Band .....	38
VIII Annual Distribution Of Master Angler Awards For Selected Species Of Manitoba Sports Fish .....	63
IX The Relative Importance Of Selected Species Of Game Fish Of The Gods Lake Area That Ranked Within The Top 100 Cohort Of Fish Registered In The Province Of Manitoba From 1959-1967 .....	66
X Gods Lake Annual Proportion Of Top Five Master Angler Awards For Selected Species .....	67
XI Tourists' Preference Of Angling By Species .....	69
XII Aircraft Operating Costs For A Hypothetical Flight Of 250 Miles With Various Loads .....	112
XIII Cost Of Air Transportation To Gods Lake With Various Types of Aircraft .....	113
XIV Selected Commercial Fisheries Statistics For Gods Lake .....	143
XV Selected Statistics From Annual Winter Commercial Fishery Report .....	145
XVI Trends In Master Angler Awards For Gods Lake .....	154
XVII Canoe Time From Gods Lake (In Days) .....	183

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1 Northern Surface Accessibility .....	7
2 Gods Lake Recreation Region (Core Area) .....	10
3 Air And Water Temperature Comparisons Of Gods Lake And Winnipeg .....	21
4 Break-up And Freeze-up Dates On Gods Lake .....	24
5 Wind Velocity .....	26
6 Age-Sex Structure Of The Population Of Gods Lake, Manitoba .....	39
7 Indicated Tourist Personal Income .....	46
8 Education Groupings .....	46
9 Age Groupings .....	48
10 Annual Vacation .....	48
11 Size Of Party .....	49
12 Return Visits To Gods Lake .....	49
13 Method Of Advertising .....	51
14 Origin Of Tourists .....	53
15 Transportation To Jumping-Off Place .....	55
16 Length Of Stay At Gods Lake .....	56
17 Length Of Stay In Manitoba .....	56
18 Total Spending Per Individual .....	58
19 Tourist Recreational Preference .....	60
20 Species Preferred By Anglers .....	68
21 Increase In Number Of Anglers On Gods Lake .....	73
22 Major Angling Areas By Species .....	81
23 Camps And Outposts Dependent On Gods Lake .....	84

Figure	Page
24 Northern Highways (Proposed And Completed).....	104
25 Tourist Seasonality .....	125
26 Mean Optimum Angling Period .....	126
27 Accommodation Rating By Guests .....	128
28 Guide Problems .....	133
29 Suggested Sheltered Picnic Areas .....	138
30 Rating Of Angling By Tourists .....	148
31 Anglers' Bias To Commercial Fishing .....	148
32 Trends In Lake Trout Take .....	153
33 Trends In Lake Trout And Northern Pike Take ....	153
34 Location Of Lake Trout Angled And Suggested Zoning For Commercial Fishing .....	158
35 Suggested Zoning For Commercial Fishing (By Three Lodge Operators) .....	159
36 Potential Lodge Sites .....	171
37 Present Seasonal Employment .....	174
38 Planned Seasonal Employment .....	174
39 Canoe Routes And Historic Sites .....	177
40 Regional Historic Canoe Routes .....	182
41 Proposed Gods Lake Wilderness Area .....	190

LIST OF PLATES

Plate	Page
1 A contented angler with a medium-sized Northern Pike .....	61
2 Gods Lake is best known for its trophy-sized Lake Trout .....	61
3 Gods Lake from Elk Island Lodge .....	72
4 An autumn scene at Gods Lake .....	72
5 Gods River Lodge .....	85
6 Gods River Lodge goose hunting camp on Hudson Bay .....	85
7 Gods River Lodge accommodations .....	86
8 An aerial view of the Gods Lake Kanuchuan Rapids tourist camp .....	90
9 Kanuchuan Rapids .....	90
10 Tourist cabins at the Gods Lake Kanuchuan Rapids Tourist Camp .....	92
11 Main dining area of the Elk Island camp .....	95
12 Elk Island Lodge accommodations .....	95
13 Gods Lake Lodge - a former Hudson's Bay Post ...	98
14 Interior of dining hall, Gods Lake Lodge .....	98
15 Light aircraft using the Gods River airstrip ...	115
16 Large aircraft (up to DC-3) reduce transportation costs considerably .....	115
17 Ruggedness, comfort, and convenience are combined in the Gods Lake Lodge dining and sitting room .....	123
18 First Hudson's Bay Post established in 1825 in Johnson Bay .....	178
19 Remains of Gods Lake Gold Mine .....	180

Plate	Page
20 Gods Lake Gold Mine as it appeared in the early 1930's .....	180
21 One of the few sand beaches on Gods Lake .....	187
22 A typical shoreline .....	187
23 Shorelunch .....	188
24 Twilight angling at Gods River Lodge .....	188
25 Upper Kanuchuan Rapids, an obstacle to canoeists.	189
26 A colorful sunset at Gods Lake .....	189

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Recent Recreation Trends

Recreation is rapidly becoming a major element of our affluent society. Not only is there more leisure time available to the individual, but the standard of living and the superlative amount of cash and credit available to him has multiplied over the last twenty-five years.<sup>1</sup>

The five-day work week has become almost standard in North America, and two, three and four week vacations for employees are common. The trend towards more leisure time is expected to continue, therefore more time will be available for travelling and vacationing. There is a distinct possibility that a four day or thirty hour work week will be common by 1975. The major vacation areas of Manitoba should benefit from these factors.<sup>2</sup>

TABLE I

CHANGING WORK WEEK 1870-1970

Year	Work Week In Hours	Leisure Time In Hours
1870	68	16
1900	60	24
1930	48	36
1940	47	37
1950	45.5	38.5
1960	41	43
1970	35	49

Source: G. D. Taylor, "An Evaluation of Non-Urban Recreation and Tourism," in B. H. Kristjanson (ed.) Resources For Tomorrow, Ottawa, 1961, p.960.

Automation and technical sophistication have obviated much physically strenuous labour. This has been replaced by employment that is mentally fatiguing, leaving the body sluggish and with a need for physical recreation. Specialization trends within employment generate a desire for a variation of activity and scenery.

Travel and recreation in the past have been for the few elite who were financially able to afford such luxury. With the growth of the middle class and its increased wealth, a greater portion of North America's population is in a position to spend its leisure in travel and in the indulgence of curiosity in terms of invigorating new sights and experiences.<sup>3</sup>

Of major importance in developing recreational resources is the increase in population pressure as many outdoor recreation areas surrounding urban centres are already fully utilized. Other potential areas are being used for purposes that have a more rapid and tangible economic return. As population increases, so will the need for more recreational space. Increased urbanization has further complicated the problem.<sup>4</sup> The majority of urbanites attempt, for some part of the year, to get away from the concrete, the smoke and smog, the hustle and the bustle.

Modern transportation methods have increased the ease and speed of mobility, as well as decreased the cost. Every year miles of hard surfaced road and new flight networks are added to the existing transportation routes.

The proportion of young active people in the total population is now greater than ever.<sup>5</sup> More emphasis is being placed on active outdoor recreation. Mass communication creates an enticing appeal to the public. Radio, television, and sports magazines have aroused the desire to be active, young, and aggressive, to explore in exotic reality that which has been sampled through the channels of mass communication.<sup>6</sup>



We are indeed a leisure-oriented society, a society that demands an increased emphasis on the variety and amount of outdoor recreation and recreational space for the present and future generations.

Canada has a strategic geographical location in relation to the developing recreation need. It shares a three thousand mile boundary with the United States, a nation with the world's highest standard of material well-being, a nation with a population of approximately two hundred million, whose wilderness areas are already crowded and rapidly disappearing. Canada has an opportunity to supply this market, as well as its own expanding needs.

#### B. Tourism Trends in Manitoba

Manitoba is the heart of Canada's Vacation Land. The lakes, streams and forests of the Precambrian Shield in Manitoba have a charm that can hardly be found anywhere else in the world. It should be future policy to preserve the unspoiled natural beauty of this part of the province as much as possible.<sup>7</sup>

Other parts of Manitoba are also attractive and have, in the past, attracted attention, especially of resident Manitobans. The Committee On Manitoba's Economic Future has pointed out that with a projected population increase to 1,125,000, by 1975, there will be a need for increasing the recreational facilities as well as expanding the area for recreation, since the now crowded area encompassed by a one hundred mile radius around Winnipeg is already almost fully utilized.<sup>8</sup>

Recreation, from an economic standpoint, has become one of the leading industries in Manitoba. In 1967 it contributed more than \$100,000,000 to the economy of the province, of which one-half was derived from out-of-province and American tourists. The increase from 1955 to 1967 was 350 percent - 2,500,000 visitors, almost equally divided between American and out-of-province Canadians, visited Manitoba in 1967. The average length of

stay for non-residents was 3.61 days, in which the per capita total expenditure equaled approximately \$40.00.<sup>9</sup>

Applying the law of multiplying returns the total amount spent in Manitoba will triple as value is added from primary to secondary industry, accounting for \$300,000,000 in business annually.<sup>10</sup> Indirectly, tourism and recreation supply employment to thousands as they provide services, equipment, accommodation, food, beverages, and repairs.

Manitoba, relative to the other provinces, is making progress toward expanding the tourist market demand. The Crampon Report of 1964, on Recreation in Manitoba, reveals that,

Between 1962 and 1963 the number of visitor cars from the United States staying three days or longer in Manitoba increased 11.0 percent, a figure that can be compared with the 4.8 percent Canadian total. Only one province, Saskatchewan, has a percentage increase exceeding that of Manitoba. Though increase in travel to Manitoba from other Canadian provinces did not keep pace with the increase in travel from the United States, it still represented a major gain (7.6 percent).<sup>11</sup>

Interest in Manitoba is particularly keen, as revealed by the Canadian Government Travel Bureau's studies of United States travels to Canada. In 1959 only 3.9 percent of American tourists expressed an interest in Manitoba. By 1963 those expressing an interest in Manitoba had risen to 6.4 percent, while interest in the popular vacationing province of Ontario declined from 34.2 percent to 20.6 percent over the same time period.<sup>12</sup>

The major areas of origin of vacationers in Manitoba are Ontario, North Dakota, and Minnesota, which contribute almost equally to aggregate fifty percent. Other areas in order of importance are, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Illinois, California, and Iowa.<sup>13</sup>

Studies have revealed the following concentration of visitors per thousand population:

TABLE II  
DISTANCE TRAVELLED TO MANITOBA

Distance	Visitors per 100 Population
0-500 miles	150.1
501-999 "	10.3
1000-1499 "	6.2
1500 & over "	1.3

Source: Manitoba, Department of Industry and Commerce, L. J. Crampon, Tourist Development in Manitoba, Winnipeg, 1964, p.13.

There is still a large tourist market to be tapped even within the region from which Manitoba is most accessible. This potential is waiting to be developed.

#### C. Tourism Trends In Northern Manitoba

Planning for the future is imperative in the sequential development of recreational potential. As the southern part of Manitoba becomes saturated, the search must move north, to areas which now are basically inaccessible. Already, W. B. Baker has recommended that,

With regard to tourists, the major problem is to divert traffic from the prairie environment to the Shield, the Interlake Region and the forest reserves of the Manitoba Escarpment. In short, to pull it northward to the prime recreation resources of the province.<sup>14</sup>

This diversion can not take place without adequate transportation facilities. The recently constructed road to Grand Rapids well illustrates this point. About 74 percent of cars checked in September and August of 1962, exclusive of project traffic, carried fishermen, but over 99 percent of the cars with anglers had Manitoba license plates.<sup>15</sup> The absence of a

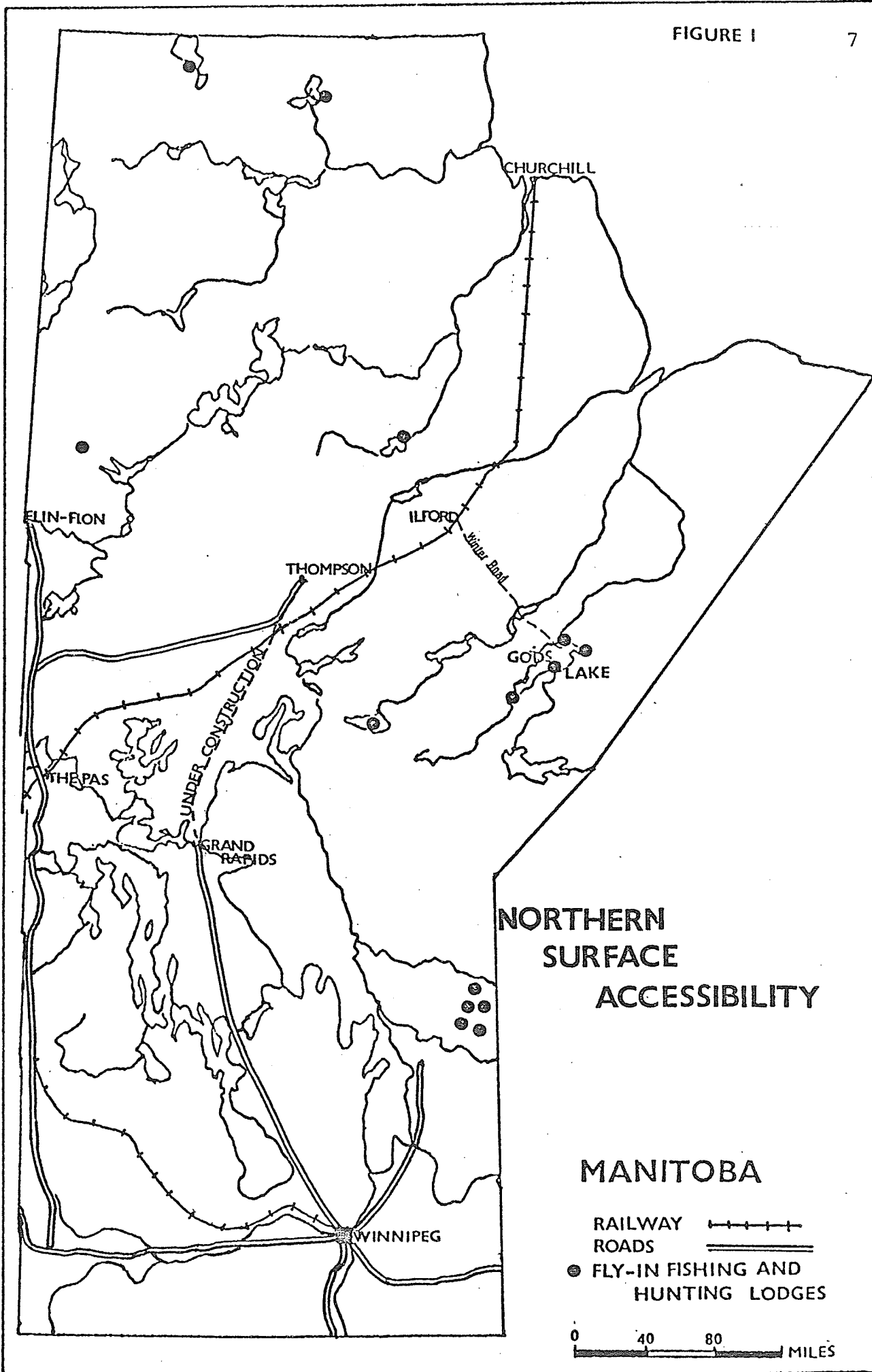
large non-resident sector may well be explained by the lack of publicity this newly constructed route had received to that date. The recently constructed Highway #391 to Thompson via the Grass River Provincial Park, intersecting Highway #10 just south of Cranberry Portage, has been the latest major contribution to the opening of the north (see Figure 1). The road is presently only gravel surfaced and presents strenuous driving conditions as well as accelerated wear on vehicles. Most Tourists visiting these remote areas are ardent fishermen.

Construction of road networks in Manitoba's Northland is expensive. Rock outcrop, and swamp and permafrost particularly, inflate costs. It would therefore be economically unfeasible to construct highways solely for tourism development. W. M. Baker, studying the problem of access to the north has stated,

While recreational values will justify minor diversions in a highway route or the construction of short spur roads, they are not of sufficient importance to substantially influence the major alignment of the network. In effect, recreation planning and development must accept the general framework of highway development, assess its implications and draw from it whatever opportunities it offers. This does not imply that recreational values cannot exert any influence upon future development. It does suggest that vast underdeveloped areas such as the Canadian Shield cannot be opened by highways based solely upon recreation values.<sup>16</sup>

Sport fishing, or angling, has played a major role in the total outdoor recreational development of Manitoba. "For many years the possibility of exceptional fishing in the many lakes and streams has been considered as an important, if not the most important, reason to visit Manitoba. Manitoba is famous for fish."<sup>17</sup> If this statement is true, we should not downrate this psychological advantage, even though Manitoba is not visited for angling purposes only.

In a statement to the Symposium on the Economic Aspect of Sport Fishing held in Ottawa in 1965, a leading conservation economist, M. Clawson, stated that the psychological aspects of angling definitely affect other



sectors of recreation. "I think we can state that fishing often provides the focus or the raison d'être for the outdoor recreation experience as a whole, and thus has unusual importance."<sup>18</sup> The Committee on Manitoba's Economic Future has also recognized the important motivational factor angling represents in total tourism and outdoor recreation growth. "Sport fishing is undoubtedly an important motivational factor in the development of tourism."<sup>19</sup>

Nineteen percent of the United States population and ten percent of the Canadian population over the age of fourteen are anglers.<sup>20</sup> Sport fishing has become increasingly popular in the last seventeen years. This is well illustrated by the following figures:

TABLE III  
ANGLING LICENSE SALES IN MANITOBA

Year	Resident Anglers	Non-Resident Anglers
1955	56,275	10,112
1960	89,087	13,087
1967	91,269	19,156

Source: Manitoba, Records from Department of Renewable Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Since 1955, angling license sales have almost doubled, with the non-resident angler group having gained 89 percent and the resident group having increased 62 percent over the same time span. This may be only the beginning in a trend toward an even greater increase of the angling pressure in Manitoba.

In a survey in 1962, such an increase was postulated.

Sport Fishing has had a phenomenal growth in the last twenty-five years and as the population in Manitoba and to the South continues to grow and as Manitoba's many lakes and streams become more accessible, a continuation of this development may be expected. The prospect of good fishing

is one of the things that brings many tourists to Manitoba. At the present ratio of one fisherman for every ten people an 80 percent increase in sport fishing resources will be required in the next twenty-five years.<sup>21</sup>

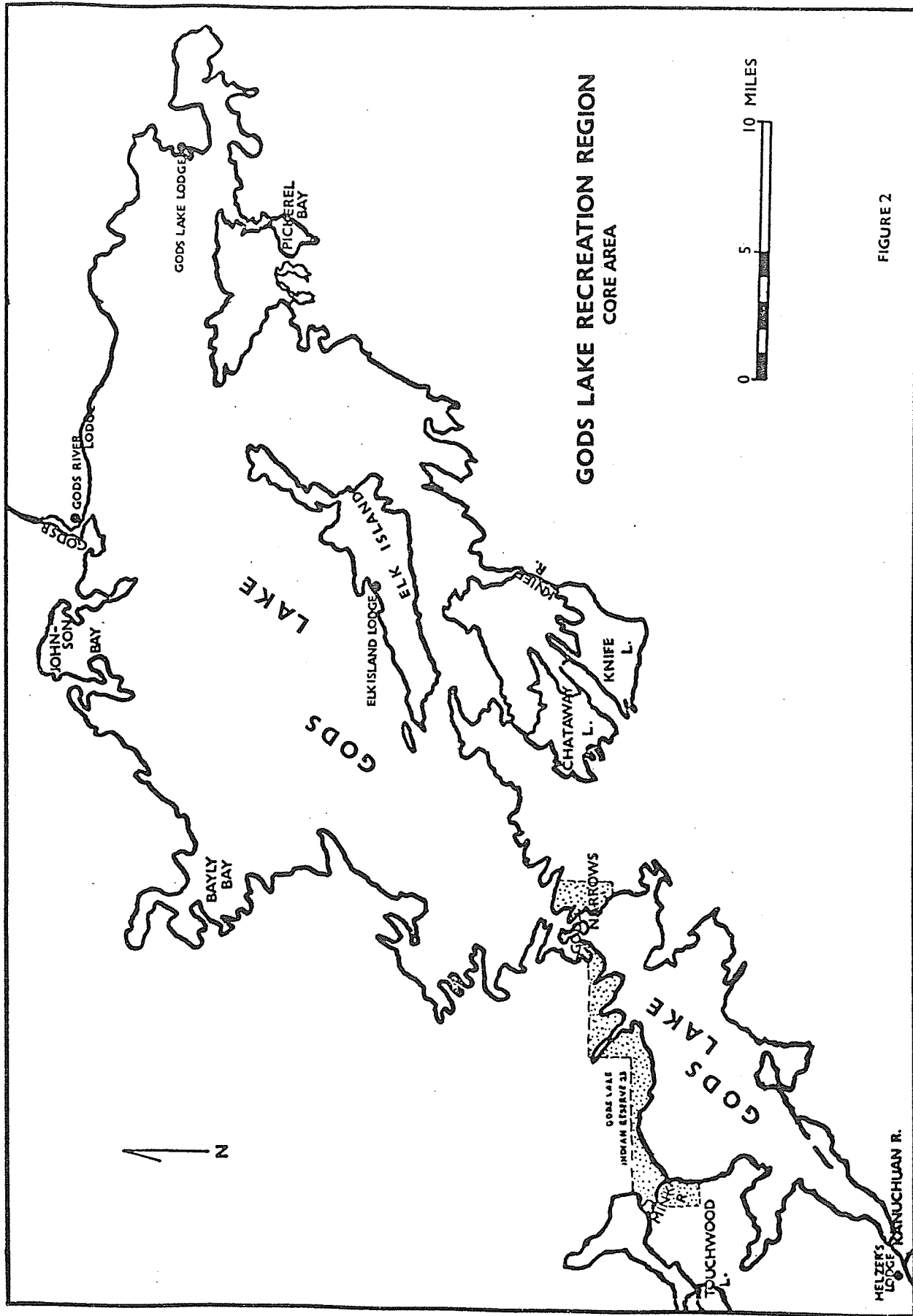
The tremendous increase in angling demand will facilitate expansion into areas that are presently underdeveloped, areas that have potential but to which there is little or no access. Such an area is the Canadian Shield Region. "The angling potential of the Canadian Shield is immense and has been tapped only to a limited extent due to restrictions in access. Over 60 percent of the fresh water surface of Manitoba is located in this region."<sup>22</sup> More specifically, "This area [northeastern Shield Country] now occupies a key position in the promotion of the out-of-province tourist fisherman."<sup>23</sup>

The angling pressure is almost nil in management area #8, which roughly comprises the Canadian Shield north of Poplar River and east of the Hudson Bay Railroad. Only 4.1 percent (or 4,266) of anglers in Manitoba fished in this vast region in 1967.<sup>24</sup> This was the least number of anglers for any of the eight regions. Angling pressure dispersal in terms of angler-days by management area was also least. This pressure was 60,528 + 1237 days, with a mean of 4.9 days per angler.<sup>25</sup>

In Manitoba there are presently fourteen fly-in camps accessible by amphibious and float equipped aircraft only. Three are located in northwestern Manitoba, five in eastern Manitoba, and the remaining six in northeastern Manitoba.<sup>26</sup> The focus of this study will be on the Gods Lake area, which contains four of these camps (see Figure 2, page 10). Gods Lake covers approximately four hundred square miles and is situated 360 miles northeast of Winnipeg in the Canadian Shield.

Much of the angling reputation of the province rests upon the waters of the Canadian Shield and upon Gods Lake in particular. The development of roads to the northwest part of the province has opened the northern sections of Lakes Winnipegosis and Winnipeg to American tourists travelling by automobile. However, the lure of 'the big ones' in the Shield still attracts the wealthy clientele who can afford the cost of plane travel and expensive accommodation in remote areas.<sup>27</sup>

The study area comprises not only Gods Lake, but also the bordering



**GODS LAKE RECREATION REGION  
CORE AREA**

FIGURE 2



settlements of Kanuchuan Rapids, Gods River, East End, Elk Island, and Gods Narrows. Because the outcamps are intricately connected to, and supplied and administered from Gods Lake proper, they will also be considered. A brief treatment of Nejalini Lodge will be presented, but only in connection with its establishment, its supply and its role as a stopover point from Gods Lake.

#### D. Objectives Of The Study

Under the heading of "The Canadian Shield" in a study of the future of Manitoba's outdoor recreational resources, it is recommended that a Master Plan of development be considered in which the Canadian Shield will receive greater recognition.

The Canadian Shield, some 146,000 square miles, occupies a key position in present and future recreation development in Manitoba. Demands placed upon its resources, which have only recently assumed any substantial proportions, are certain to mount steadily in the future.<sup>28</sup>

To devise a plan of this nature, the planning board must be knowledgeable on all aspects of outdoor recreation in all areas of the Province. "A lack of knowledge of the overall pattern of recreation development is a major obstacle ..." <sup>29</sup> Such a Master Plan requires the study of fly-in tourist lodges, which, to date, have received little public attention in Manitoba. No thorough topical or regional geographic study of their development, their problems, their economic and sociological implications, and their effect on the Province or on the local people has been conducted.

A case study can reveal insights and guidelines that may be applied to other similar situations, or to the development of additional operations. In consequence, the objectives of this study are:

- 1) To construct an inventory of the resources utilized and the method in

which they have been, and are, manipulated;

- 2) To investigate the outdoor recreational potential of the area;
- 3) To study the problems of the tourist operations;
- 4) To study the effect of such operations on the local native community;
- 5) To recommend within a regional setting any changes necessary, or to suggest any new activities that may add to the improved welfare of the local community that will benefit tourist operations in the private sector, and will be for the better welfare of the government and the people in Manitoba.

Special attention and priority will be given to the Indian people whose reserve is situated on the shores of the lake and whose livelihood is directly connected with these waters.

#### E. Method of Study

It must be recognized that recreation does not only bear a tangible, measurable economic significance, but also a psychological one, more difficult to assess. An awe-inspiring sunset, the sudden leap of a silvery fish on a placid pool, the thumping heart at the sudden tug on a line, the vast silent emptiness, are all difficult to evaluate. S. B. Smith has emphasized that, "The values the outdoorsman represents, like those of the arts, are too fundamental and too important to be measured in mere economic terms."<sup>30</sup>

The writer's two-year residence at Gods Lake provided the background for an intensive ten-week investigation in the summer of 1968. The geographical area under study is highly familiar to him and has been repeatedly travelled and keenly observed.

The basic research tool used was a three-page tourist questionnaire.<sup>31</sup> The questionnaire was administered on the evening prior to the departure of each guest, who thus had time to assess his experience. The sample consisted

of 275 (33% of total) protocols. Fifty-six percent were done by personal interview. The remaining 44 percent were given the prerogative of completing a questionnaire, sealing it in an envelope and either depositing it in a sealed receptacle or mail box. The two samples were kept separate until a thorough comparison revealed no noticeable dissimilarities.

The samples taken were almost proportional to the ratio of the total number of guests at each of the four lodges. The sample was taken at a period when more than 95 percent of the annual number of tourists visited Gods Lake.

Another questionnaire was administered to the employable native population. An attempt was made to collect these data through the local schools. The return was poor, only sixteen percent, but later another survey was conducted using three high school pupils just home from residential school. Every sixth interview was checked personally, often with the help of an interpreter. A 62 percent sample was obtained in this fashion. Many of the results must be used with discretion since both cultural and language barriers were encountered in obtaining them. Questions on income were answered very generally, a tendency that may reflect unfamiliarity with currency, as all economic transactions are conducted on a credit basis. Furthermore a major portion of the adult population consulted is illiterate.

In addition to the above sources, numerous and repeated interviews with all lodge operators, many guides, the Indian Agent, Conservation Officers, teachers and ministers, were conducted. The files of Indian Affairs, the Regional Conservation Office at The Pas, and the provincial headquarters of Renewable Resources and the Recreation and Parks Branches in their Winnipeg offices were also consulted. The Indian people were considered. The Chief and Councillors provided much information and many helpful insights.

It is believed that with an exposure to the problem as varied as this, an objective, unbiased view can be developed and presented.

## REFERENCES

1. John Porter, Canadian Social Structure, Toronto, 1967, p. 103.
  2. Manitoba, "The Accommodation Industry In Manitoba," Background paper for Committee On Manitoba's Economic Future (mimeo), Winnipeg, 1962, p. 42.
  3. Sebastian De Grazia, Of Time, Work, and Leisure, New York, 1964, p. 424.
  4. Porter, op. cit., p. 54.
  5. Ibid., p. 50.
  6. J. Farina, "The Social and Cultural Aspects of Recreation," Background paper for Resources For Tomorrow Conference of 1961, Ottawa, 1961, II, p. 962.
  7. Manitoba, "Water Resources," Background paper for Committee On Manitoba's Economic Future (mimeo), Winnipeg, 1962, p. 81.
  8. W. B. Baker, "A Study of Manitoba's Outdoor Recreational Resources," Background paper for Committee on Manitoba's Economic Future (mimeo), Winnipeg 1962, p. 30.
  9. Pers. comm., Manitoba, Department of Tourism and Recreation, Winnipeg.
- Note: Where detailed references to Government primary sources are not specified this has been at the request of the government organization concerned.
10. Ontario, Ontario Tourist Industry--Its Potentials and Its Problems, Toronto, 1965, p. 11.
  11. Ibid., p. 14.
  12. Ibid., p. 20.
  13. Baker, op. cit., p. 42.
  14. Ibid., p. 122.
  15. Ibid., p. 50.
  16. Ibid., p. 115
  17. Crampon, op. cit., p. 16

18. Marion Clawson, "Economic Aspects of Sport Fishing," Symposium On The Economic Aspects of Sport Fishing In Canadian Fisheries Report, IV, (May, 1965), p. 17.
19. Ibid., p. 19.
20. Baker, op. cit., p. 122.
21. Manitoba, "Fresh Water Fishing Industry In Manitoba," Background paper for Committee On Manitoba's Economic Future (mimeo), Winnipeg 1962, p. 24.
22. Baker, op. cit., p. 126.
23. Ibid., p. 126.
24. R. R. Andrews, Preliminary Analysis of 1967 Angling License Questionnaire (mimeo), Winnipeg, 1968, pp. 11, 12.
25. Ibid. pp. 11, 12.
26. Manitoba, Manitoba Vacation Handbook, 1968, Winnipeg, 1968, pp. 92, 93.
27. Baker, op. cit., p. 126.
28. Ibid., p. 35.
29. Ibid., p. 27.
30. S. B. Smith, "Distribution and Economics of the British Columbia Sport Fisheries," B.C. Game Commission Management Publication, IV, p. i.
31. Please refer to APPENDIX A for sample questionnaire.

## CHAPTER II

### THE NATURAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE BASES

For a more complete understanding of the Gods Lake area and its contribution to Manitoba's outdoor recreation potential as well as to the welfare of the regional inhabitants, it is essential to make an appraisal of the natural and human resource bases.

#### A. The Natural Resource Base

The Precambrian Shield geology of the Gods Lake area has as its basic foundation granitic rocks which are extensively faulted, folded and sheared. One large area of volcanic intrusive rock covers most of Elk and Jowsey Islands as well as an area to the east on the mainland circumscribing Knife and Chataway Lakes. These intrusions contain gold and other metals in a band of tuff interposed between massive greenstone and an augite diorite sill.<sup>1</sup> The immediate area surrounding Gods Lake contains proven bodies of lithium-, beryl-, tin-, and molybdenum-bearing ores. Lithium bearing pegmatite has recently been discovered in the area and much attention has been, and is presently being given to exploration of base metal deposits. Gold was mined in the past. Just to the south of the volcanic intrusion lies a narrow band of meta-sediments bordered on the south by a major fault which runs east to the Ontario border.<sup>2</sup>

The Pleistocene epoch has modified the landscape. Surface materials were displaced, drainage deranged and numerous basins gouged out of the less resistant rock. Ultimately, the depressions were filled by meltwater from the wasting Patricia Ice Sheet and the area partially blanketed with a thin

mantle of ground moraine, leaving a lake-studded, bare rock-ridge landscape interspersed with debris-filled hollows.<sup>3</sup>

Other glacial depositional features are common, especially in the northwest section where small eskers, kames, and drumlins occur. An outstanding interlobate moraine extends north-south just east of Gods Lake. An interesting feature is an area of about three square miles of unstratified white clay located between Gods Lake and Chataway Lake. The only substantial gravel deposits, apparently originating from meltwater streams bedded in ice, are situated on the south end of islands referred to as Fox Islands.<sup>4</sup>

The topography is relatively flat, with local relief in the order of only fifty feet. An exception to this is a granitic outcrop, rising 150 feet, at Gods Narrows. The northwest area surrounding Bayly Bay, and the area surrounding the southeastern portion of the lake, are extremely swampy and flat, although swamp surrounds the greater part of the lake.<sup>5</sup>

Areas of well-drained soil are few. Fragmentary patches of poor podzolic grey forest soil occur intermittently in better drained areas.

Drainage patterns are poorly developed. Numerous small lakes surround the major body of water, that of Gods Lake, which is the centre of this study.

Gods Lake is large and irregularly shaped, covering 404.48 square miles.<sup>6</sup> It is oriented in a S.W.-N.E. direction, having a length of 60 miles and an extreme width of 25 miles. It lies at  $54^{\circ}45'$  N. Lat. and  $94^{\circ}00'$  W. Long. at a mean elevation of 595 feet a.s.l.<sup>7</sup> Elk Island, covering approximately 20 square miles, is the major island, although it is only one of hundreds dotting the lake. Two incomplete island chains are oriented parallel to the length of the lake and extend in a broken line for twenty-five miles. The lake can be divided into a northern and a southern section due to a constriction near the centre of the lake. This narrow river-like



neck of water connecting the two portions is referred to as Gods Narrows (see Figure 2, Page 10).

Main streams draining into Gods Lake are the Kanuchuan, Knife, and Mink Rivers, all of which fall rapidly in their lower reaches, causing unnavigable white water.

Gods Lake serves as a settling basin before the water is drained northward through the Gods River, a stream that is rock channeled, clear and swift in its upper reaches as it threads its way to join the Hayes River system, which empties into Hudson Bay. Numerous lesser, as well as intermittent, streams fed by spring meltwater and springs from the bordering bogs contribute their burden to the lake. These streams in their wandering courses connect many of the smaller lakes and sloughs in the surrounding area. These secondary lakes are: Chataway, Knife, Touchwood, Beaverhill, Knee, Webber and Seller Lakes.

The northern portion of Gods Lake is a granitic rock basin with an extreme depth of 220 feet, having large areas that are over 150 feet deep. Numerous underwater rock ridges divide this northern section into deep troughs. Only the extreme western arm of Bayly Bay and the eastern section, or Little Gods Lake, are relatively shallow, having an average depth of 25 feet.<sup>8</sup>

The portion south of Gods Narrows has markedly contrasting characteristics. It has a relatively uniform depth of 20-25 feet, with a maximum depth of 80 feet. The bottom is sandy. Relatively few islands protrude on this section of the lake.<sup>9</sup>

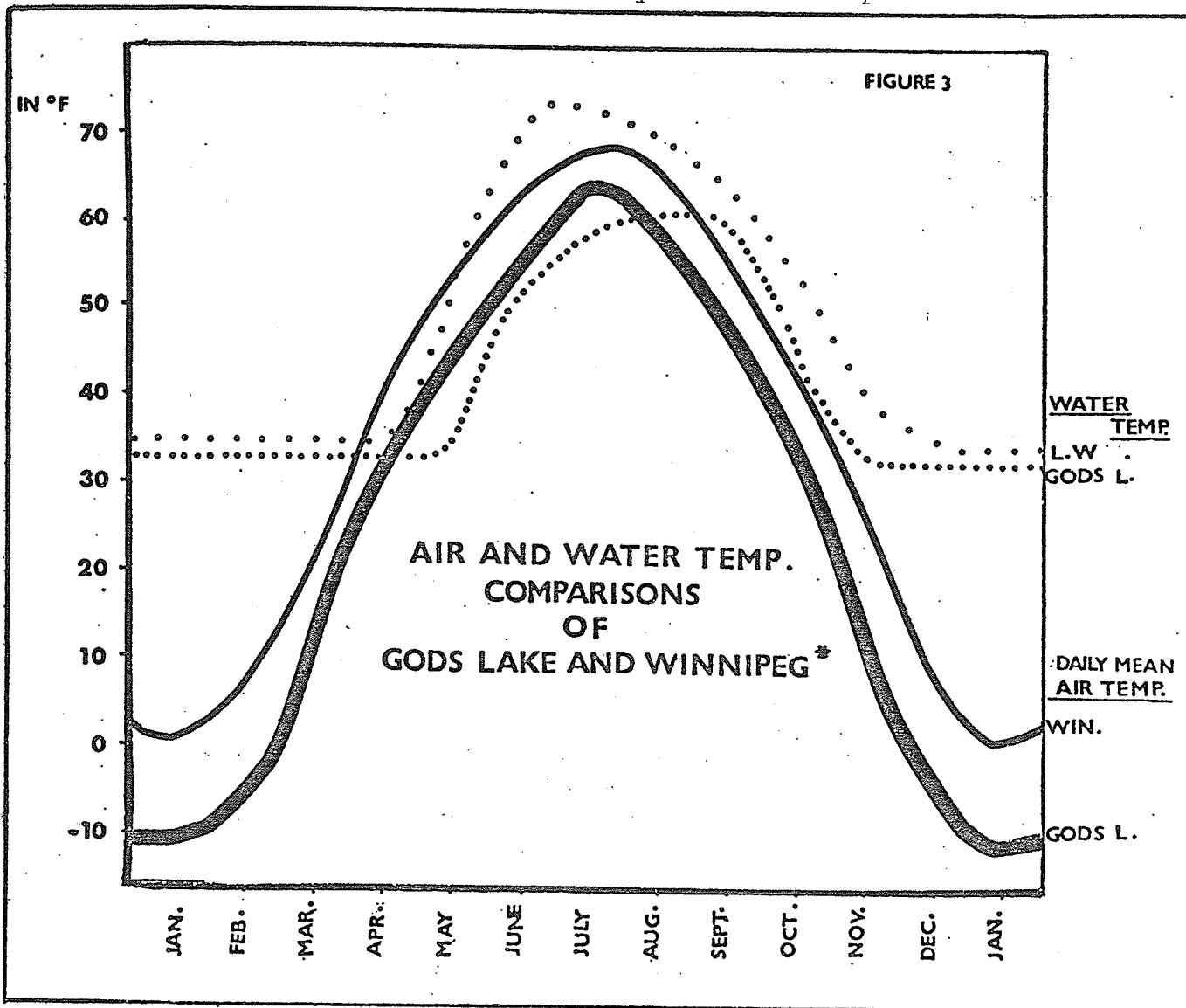
Due to the irregularity of the lake margins there are hundreds of miles of shoreline. Most of the shoreline is granitic outcrop which rises abruptly from the water, forming small cliffs or steep slopes of rock denuded

of vegetation due to wave and ice action. Other shoreline margins form a slow progression from shallow weed-obstructed bays to poorly defined bog. A third type of shoreline, though much more rare than those previously mentioned, is a sorted boulder strewn foreshore. This is especially typical of the north and northeastern shoreline, and may be ascribed to ice action under the influence of the prevailing wind during break-up. Level sand beaches are few and it is only an occasional section of narrow sand beach that does not have a poorly drained backshore. The southeastern shores of the southern part of Gods Lake possess the only attractive beach.

The mean fluctuation of the lake level is 3.6 feet per annum, although an extreme of 7.9 feet has been registered.<sup>10</sup> Irregular annual fluctuations are the rule. A seasonal cycle can be anticipated, with the lowest level reached in late April and early May, when smaller streams are frozen or have depleted their source. This occurs just prior to spring break-up. The lake level subsequently rises to its maximum height in late August and early September with drainage from summer precipitation. Rapid rises of over an inch in a twenty-four hour period are common in early spring. The discharge into Gods River is fairly uniform, with a slight drop in the winter months. The fluctuating water levels on the lake can expose or submerge the numerous reefs on the lake almost overnight.

The water temperature regime of the lake is influential in determining what type of water-oriented recreation is feasible. The highest registered temperature taken at the surface has been 61°F. (see Figure 3, page 21). This compares with a 75°F. water temperature maximum at Victoria Beach on Southern Lake Winnipeg. The mean summer surface water temperature of Gods Lake is only in the high fifties, compared to a mean of 72°F. for Victoria Beach on Lake Winnipeg over the same time period. Since large

areas of Gods Lake are more than one hundred feet in depth, a marked vertical temperature gradient exists. Temperatures well below the surface of the water therefore, may range from 35°F. to 45°F. This stratification reduces surface temperatures considerably. It is therefore only in the shallows of sand bottomed bays in the southeastern portion of Gods Lake, where temperatures are considerably higher, that even a short period of beach-oriented recreational activity could be attempted.<sup>11</sup>



Source: "P. Strilaeff, District Engineer, to G. Unger, Winnipeg, November 12, 1968," Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

\*Water temperatures are recorded from near-surface readings taken at Gods Lake and Victoria Beach, Lake Winnipeg, from 1961 to 1968. Air temperatures are monthly means derived from daily mean temperatures recorded overland at Winnipeg and Gods Lake.

The flora, in this fringe zone on the northern margins of the coniferous region, are often stunted due to a poorly developed podzolic grey forest soil, poor soil depth, poor drainage, and a short growing season.

Over 75 percent of the Gods Lake forest division, which covers an area of 99,364 acres surrounding the lake, is listed as having some form of woody growth. Less than 20 percent of this total is potential, the remaining fifteen percent being usable only as fuel or pulp wood. The timber that has value often occurs in inaccessible areas and in fragmented stands. The species in approximate order of quantity area: Black Spruce (*Picea Glauca*), White Spruce (*Picea Mariana*), Balsam Fir (*Abies Balsamea*), Tamarack (*Larix Laricina*), White Birch (*Betula Papyrifera*), Aspen Poplar (*Populus Tremuloides*), and Jack Pine (*Pinus Banksiana*).<sup>12</sup>

Black Spruce, which is most numerous, occupies the margins of swampy areas and Tamarack the poorest drained soils, while Birch is most luxuriant on better drained sandy soil. Jack Pine occurs on rock and sand ridges where there may be a lack of ground moisture.

The best stands of timber are located on the northeastern shores of Elk Island, on an area west of Knife River, and on an area bordering Touchwood Lake. The southern portion of the lake has the better timber stands.<sup>13</sup>

Although much of the tree cover is of slight commercial value, it beautifies the lake shore, adding value to the lake as a tourist attraction. The unforested area has numerous bare rocky ridges and low swampy depressions. There is very little grass. Deep mosses and lichens form the ground cover in wooded sections.

Climatically, the area is characterized by a Dfc (Koeppen System)

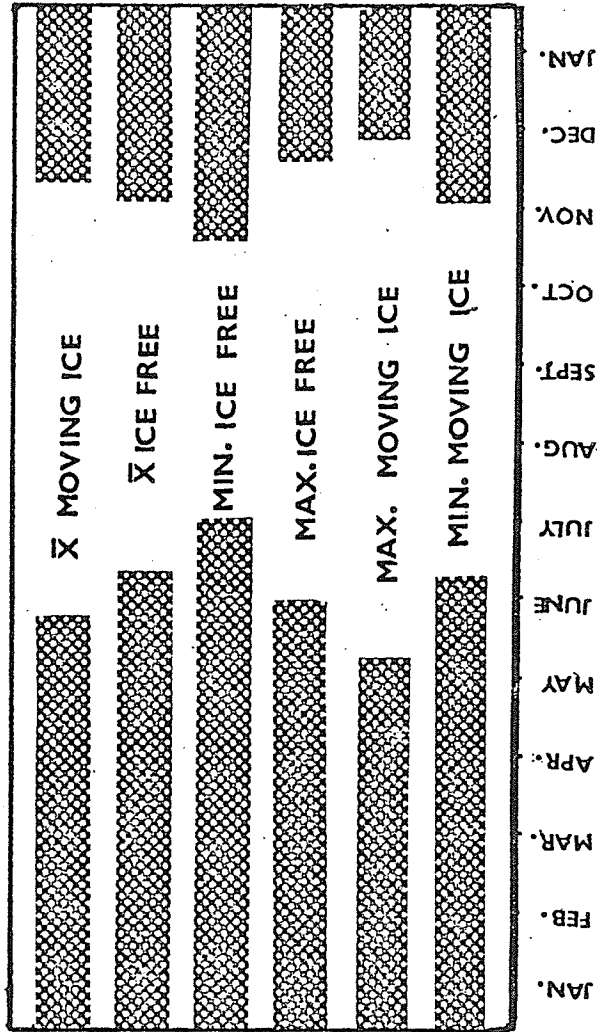
regime, having short, cool summers of only a maximum of three months with a daily mean temperature exceeding 50°F. The winters are intensely cold and long.<sup>14</sup> Frost penetrates deeply into the ground and much of the soil and bog has a layer of frost almost the year round. The growing season is short, with only 130 days with maximum temperatures above 42°F. The brief frost-free period of 90 days and scarcely 1800 degree days above 42°F. limit the growth of vegetation.<sup>15</sup>

From Figure 3 and TABLE IV, we note that winter cold is especially intense, and that summers are short and cool at Gods Lake. Precipitation, though on the order of seventeen inches, is highly effective due to the cool conditions.

Break-up and freeze-up of water bodies play a prominent role in the north, where physical isolation at these times may be complete for periods of up to a month or more (note Figure 4, page 24). The mean period of break-up, defined as that length of time between initial breaking of the ice surface, and the complete absence of ice from the water, is seventeen days on Gods Lake. Freeze-up, the length of time from the first ice formed to a permanent ice cover, takes fourteen days. Factors other than seasonal change also influence the rate of break-up. A heavy snow cover allows little ice to form, due to the insulating effect of snow. Rapid shift of wind and high wind velocity will accelerate break-up once the ice on the lake margins has thawed. Movements and currents within water bodies also facilitate rapid break-up. Deep, large bodies of water tend to retard break-up.

FIGURE 4

BREAK-UP AND FREEZE-UP DATES ON GODS LAKE



Source: Canada, Department of Transport, Break-Up and Freeze-Up Dates in Canada, Ottawa, 1964, p.167.

TABLE IV  
 TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION COMPARISONS  
 FOR GODS LAKE AND WINNIPEG

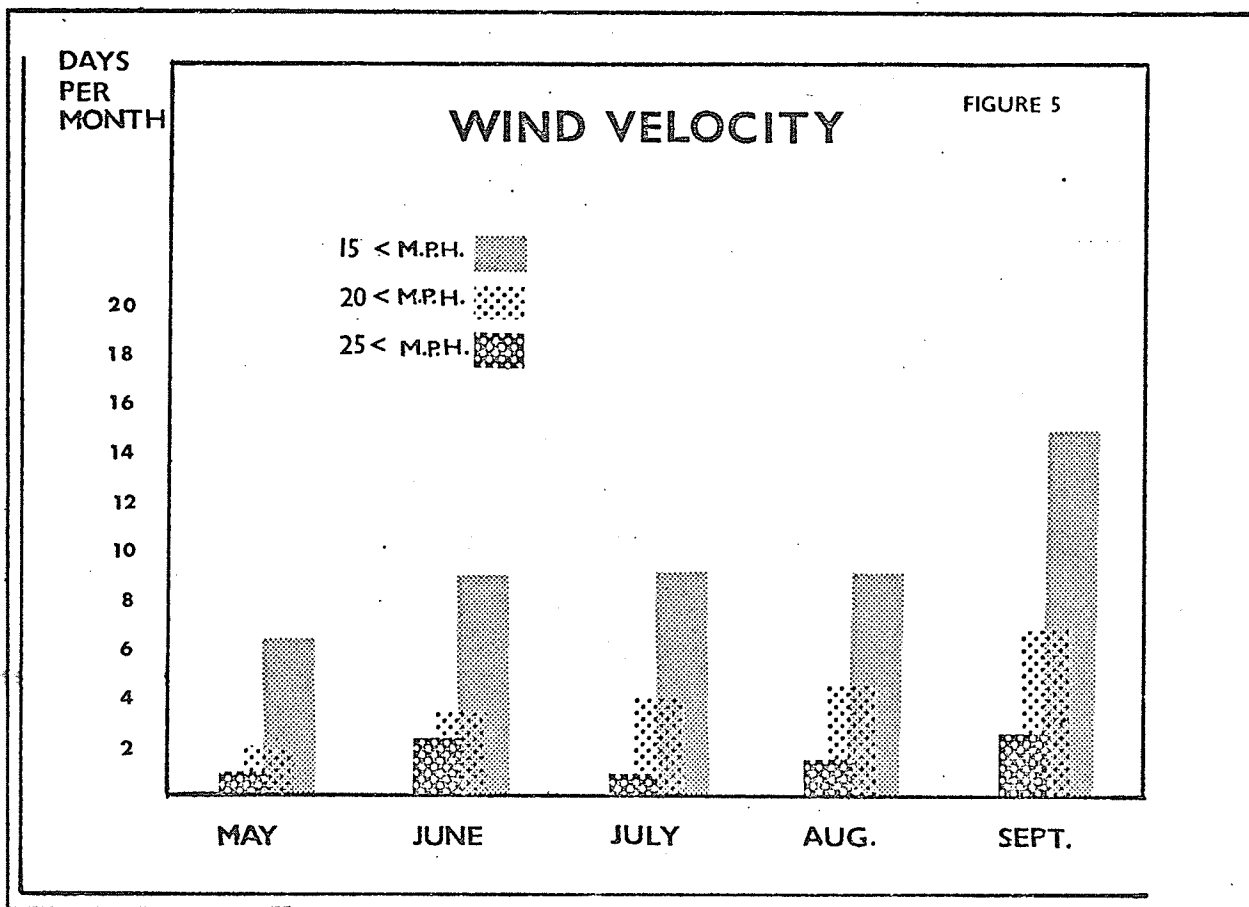
Temperature Monthly Mean In °F.											
<u>Gods Lake</u>											
<u>J</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>D</u>
-11.8	-6.7	5.2	25.0	42.8	53.0	64.2	59.3	48.4	34.0	12.0	-3.0
<u>Winnipeg</u>											
0.1	4.1	17.7	38.0	52.4	61.7	68.3	66.0	55.1	43.2	23.3	8.7
Precipitation Monthly Mean In Inches											
<u>Gods Lake</u>											
<u>J</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>D</u>
.63	.57	.58	.80	1.57	2.64	3.13	2.58	2.24	1.07	.94	.61
<u>Winnipeg</u>											
1.03	.82	1.08	1.17	1.97	3.19	2.71	2.76	2.16	1.44	1.14	.88
				<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>SNOW</u>						
. . . Gods Lake				17.44 in.	46.6 in.						
. . . Winnipeg				20.35 "	51.3 "						

Source: Canada, Department of Transport, Meteorological Branch, Temperature and Precipitation Tables for The Prairie Provinces, Toronto, 1967, pp. 44, 55, 50.

The Gods Lake area is benefitted year round with open water where current prevents freezing at Gods Narrows and where the major streams enter or leave the lake. Therefore the isolation period is considerably shortened, as ski- and float-equipped aircraft can operate within almost the same seasons as

in the southern part of Manitoba.

Knowledge of wind duration, velocity, and direction is essential in an area that is largely dependent on water-based transportation. With fetches of twenty-five miles or more, a moderate breeze can prevent travel in small open boats and canoes on the open lake. The prevailing wind is northwesterly, causing discomfort and making transportation a problem on the southeastern and eastern sectors, or on any exposed portion of the lake. On stormy days, Bayly and Johnson Bays, which are oriented to the prevailing wind, are hazardous for small boats. A fifteen-mile-per-hour wind is the approximate limit for safe crossing (see Figure 5).



Source: Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, "Fire Hazard Records For Gods Lake," The Pas, Manitoba.



It may be noted from Figure 5 that the month of September, and, to a lesser extent, the month of June, have the greatest number of days with wind speeds that interfere with transportation. The high winds, especially in September, also increase fire hazards. These months also have more overcast days and longer periods of precipitation. Local fog presents a minor problem.

The fauna of the area consist of moose (*Alces americanus*), woodland caribou (*Rangifer caribou*), black bear (*Euarctos americanus*), timber wolf (*Canis lycaon*), and smaller fur-bearing animals, chiefly beaver (*Castor canadensis*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*), fox (*Vulpes fulva*), marten (*Martes americana*), otter (*Lutra canadensis*), weasel (*Mustela noveboracensis*), and lynx (*Lynx rufus*). Wild fowl comprise upland game birds, geese, and ducks. The fish of economic value found in the lakes and streams are: Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*), Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), and Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*). Insect pests that may cause discomfort are the common mosquito and the black fly.

#### B. The Human Resource Base

Although knowledge of the natural resource base is fundamental in planning a recreational program, preeminence must be allotted to the human relationship to it.

The Gods Lake area has, since pre-history, supported a population of hunters, gatherers and fishers. Presently it harbors some 975 Cree Indians and a handful of civil administrators and educators.<sup>16</sup> The Indians are still substantially dependent on the natural resources for a livelihood. It is therefore essential that any manipulation of the available resources should not disturb their economy negatively. Rather, contemplated changes should consider their welfare and attempt to improve their well-being.

Effective planning must embrace not only a quantitative or purely economic approach, but should also consider the basic human elements of culture and feeling. Cultural concepts, behaviour and attitudes play an important role within this study. Only an unbiased view will reveal humanistic, as well as economic, solutions to the problems confronting this community.

The Reverend Father Leon Levasseur, an authority on the Swampy Cree culture, who has spent most of his life with these Indians in north-eastern Manitoba, has explained the underlying attitudes of Indian behaviour patterns in terms of sharing and feeling.<sup>17</sup> The concept of sharing was a logical response to the Indians' early environment. Horizons were wide, game plentiful, time endless. No strict division or organization was necessary. Nature might bring calamities because it was unpredictable, so preparation for the unexpected was accomplished by sharing in time of plenty. Reciprocal treatment was expected in time of need.

Leadership was based on the ability to provide, and obeisance was given to the provider. All property was public; in fact the term "property" did not exist. Dwellings, food and other property were shared, and therefore borrowing simply meant that one's need was greater than one's neighbour's.

This value system was contrary to the European's system of competition and private property. Friction, therefore, occurred when the two systems were juxtaposed. The European and the present-day Canadian consider the lack of acquisitiveness as due to laziness and a lack of foresight. The Indian, on the other hand, sees us as misers and idolators. To him, non-living objects are made to serve man. He is a basic utilitarian.

The essential commodities of life are his natural resource. Money

that he receives is still considered as an extra, and often is spent foolishly on trinkets or other non-essentials. This trait has been thoroughly abused by the white trader.

Trespassing is almost unknown to the Indian. Not returning things borrowed, when the borrower is in greater need than the lender, is accepted behaviour. There is no connotation of shame or sense of being underprivileged in the acceptance.

The Indian, to exist in his natural environment, must live in harmony with nature by feeling his way. Only through understanding and respect can he make use of Nature. Feeling has therefore become more important to the Indian than logic. He lives for the present. Planning and organization have little room in his life. Money or other resources must be utilized immediately. Therefore education, or other investments with deferred returns, such as community planning, are not seen as beneficial. Why should a job be completed now if it can be done tomorrow? Conditions may change so that the work is unnecessary.

Connected with this feeling is the attitude of "Kiyam", translated, "I don't care", or "It makes no difference". The Indian is implying that his environment is stronger than he is. "Maybe" is another expression eloquent of attitude. The closest he comes to a positive affirmation is, "That's for sure, maybe".

By considering the Indians' basic cultural attitudes we can learn to be understanding and develop a common basis of respect and trust. Since we have the education and experience to handle cultural adaptations we should be able to assist and direct his assimilation.<sup>18</sup>

Welfare programs are accepted by the Indian as if he fully deserves this type of treatment. He is not ashamed of his lack of wealth or his need, and expects to be continually supplied by the Great White Chief.

In his acceptance he is willing to recognize his superior, and provide the correct verbal affirmatives with little thought for the future. Little initiative is developed while the white provider is supplying his physical needs.

Keeping the cultural characteristics of the Indian in mind, a short historical account of the development of the area will be considered, in which these traits are amply illustrated. This will also reveal the major factors of development, many of which are still visible in the inhabitants as well as in the physical landscape. By studying and scrutinizing the processes of the past, we may gain insight for future planning. Historical landmarks and routes may also add to the recreational value of the area.

According to an early explorer, "The Swampies have a very distinct character. They are gentle, averse to bloodshed, easy to influence and less superstitious than their neighbours and brother Algonquins."<sup>19</sup> They believed in the existence of a Great Spirit, supreme in all the universe, in a second deity, who created man and the things he needed for his subsistence and in many good and evil spirits of limited power.<sup>20</sup>

The Indians' early encampments were small, usually consisting of a few family units occupying half a dozen teepees of birch bark and animal hide construction, facing inward toward a common fire pit. The easily erectable and movable dwellings suited the Indians' meager existence and only seasonal sedentariness. Camp sites were revisited year after year, however.<sup>21</sup>

Little written evidence exists of the first appearance of Europeans on the scene, but it must have been shortly after York Factory was established in 1682, by the Hudson's Bay Company. The first trading centered upon York Factory, where annual flotillas of Indian canoes arrived to trade

at the Bay. Later Gods River was an alternate fur trading route for the main Hayes--Oxford--Norway House route.

In 1825, the first Hudson's Bay Company fur trading post was established in Johnson Bay on a site still recognizable, marked by a few log buildings and a burial ground.<sup>22</sup> This post was erected midway between two routes that tapped the Gods Lake fur trade: one via the Gods River, and the other via a portage connecting the lake with the Hayes River route. This portage is commonly referred to as the Bayly Portage, but old-timers call it Mossy Portage.<sup>23</sup>

In the late nineteenth century the post was moved twenty-five miles east to a site on Little Gods Lake. This was to facilitate penetration of the fur trade eastward towards Red Sucker Lake. The move was also made because the use of the Hayes system declined rapidly after the mid-nineteenth century. Easier access had been gained into the heart of the continent via the railroad to St. Paul. Connection to this transportation network by Red River carts and steam boats on the Red River slowly forced the Hudson's Bay Company to use Winnipeg as a main depot. A new route was opened to Gods Lake, using the Mink River and entering the lake through Wesachuan Bay.<sup>24</sup>

A few years later the post was moved two miles west. The Little Gods site is still recognizable by a cemetery known locally as The Graveyard. A small outpost was established en route to East End at the mouth of the Mink River.<sup>25</sup>

Not only did the Hudson's Bay Company leave landmarks of historical value, but its effects are indelibly imprinted on the local population.

The new economic system of fur trading and trapping created a great dependency upon the Hudson's Bay posts. Tools and skills of the pre-fur trade era were replaced by equipment suited to the new industry, developing

a dependency on the post for staple goods such as knives, traps, and guns. Later food, clothing and even shelter were supplied by the white man.

The scattered settlement pattern became more centralized, especially in summer when Indians would occupy the site surrounding the post. When the post was relocated, the Indian community moved with it. With a relatively more sedentary community, the attempt by the church to enlighten the savages was more successful.

"The fur trade, and the manufacture of trade goods, made scarcely a ripple in the white man's world, but turned the Indian's world upside down."<sup>26</sup> Liquor and disease, as well as unscrupulous advantages taken in trading with the economically innocent natives, illustrate the darker aspects of the traders' influence. D. Leechman, a trader in the area, noted, "The Indians nearest the fort are cowardly, timorous, idle, and stupid, and absolutely vicious. Brandy was the downfall of many of them, those who visited the fort but once a year being the least under its influence."<sup>27</sup>

Grub-staking, or receiving supplies and food on credit before going to the trapline; and later, upon return, repaying the debt with the catch of furs, perpetuated an ever increasing dependency between the trapper and the trader. Grub-staking is still practiced, often at a loss to the trapper because he is obliged to sell his furs to a monopolistic trader.

In 1909, the above problems of the Gods Lake community were recognized by the Federal Government. Out of this came Treaty #5 forming the Gods Lake Indian Band and creating for them a reserve on a tract of land that bordered the shoreline from Gods Narrows to Mink River.<sup>28</sup> An attempt was made to relocate the fragmented band at Gods Narrows. Some

Indians from the Wesachuan outpost, and others from East End, converged on the reserve. With the erection of the Methodist mission in the first decade of the twentieth century, followed in 1920 by a similar establishment by the Roman Catholics, consolidation increased. An influx of York Factory Indians in the 1920's, due to declining fur trade northward, greatly increased the population of Gods Lake.<sup>29</sup>

In 1922, the Hudson's Bay post changed location again. This time it was moved to Gods Narrows to service the growing population. The East End post remains almost intact, now housing a tourist operation.<sup>30</sup>

No medical or educational facilities, except those the Church offered, were available to the native residents even at this late date. Many of the Indians were still seasonally nomadic, with only a few living on the reserve permanently. It was only at Treaty Time, an annual government-sponsored affair, that the majority of Indians could be found concentrated at Gods Narrows.

With the coming of the gold mining era (1929-1945), the Indians' mode of life underwent a complete readaptation. Gold was discovered on Elk and Jowsey Islands in 1929. Within a year of the first find, prospectors combed the area, staking most of the shoreline south and east of Elk Island. Initially, canoe brigades from Norway House supplied the mine, but mill and smelter were not transported until 1935, when a winter road was opened over the frozen bog to connect Elk Island with the 130-mile-distant, newly-constructed Churchill Railway line. Three shafts were sunk to tap the gold-bearing ore. Almost overnight the population of Gods Lake doubled, as 300 men, many with families, set up living quarters in a company town on Elk Island. The town supplied most urban amenities, including hot and cold running water and electricity. A hydro-electric plant with a capacity to produce 6,000 horsepower, was installed after diverting

and damming a portion of the Kanuchuan River. High voltage transmission lines were constructed through thirty miles of bush and swamp to transmit this power from the extreme southern end of the lake to Elk Island.<sup>31</sup>

Just as quickly as it had been opened, the mine shut down. Six million dollars worth of gold was extracted up to 1945, but the fixed price, a scarcity of high-yielding ore, as well as a labour shortage due to the Second World War, forced closure.<sup>32</sup>

The townsite had attracted the Indian population, who at first were scavengers, but later cut firewood, worked underground in the mine, or worked as canoe freighters. They occupied crude shacks and tents, forming a minor slum around the planned townsite. Due to the attractions of the mine, trapping became secondary. Dependence on the white entrepreneur was the Indians' grief. The Indian had partially accepted white social and economic values and had neglected the skills and crafts that had sustained him before the coming of the white man.

After closure, the mining town became a virtual ghost town. The site, for the first years, was maintained by a caretaker. However, as it became evident that the mine would not be reopened, most of the houses were occupied by natives, who, not accustomed to residing in dwellings, soon destroyed many of them, often for firewood. The Gods Narrows Hudson's Bay post, which had been relocated at Elk Island late in the life of the mining venture, was moved back to its former site.

An independent trader, Tom Ruminski, having worked first for the Hudson's Bay Company at East End, opened the first successful tourist operation on Gods Lake. At his personal invitation some 150 Indians moved to the developing tourist camp at the source of Gods River, where they were assisted in building dwellings and were promised employment. A one-room, and later a three-room school were built by Ruminski, for



the education of the villagers.

Meanwhile, the Federal Government recognized the plight of the Indians and reorganized the educational system at Gods Narrows. Not until the late 1940's was education available to the Indian people. Only within the last decade has regular attendance at school been achieved and this only through the threat of losing family allowances for truancy. Illiteracy is still prevalent, especially among the middle-aged and older people.

Health services, in the form of a nursing station with a resident nurse, were added to social services only after 1950.

A recent attempt to centralize services for the Indian people has culminated in a plan for a concentrated townsite and the construction of ten new houses yearly over a five year period. This plan is taking shape with some resistance from the Indians, who prefer their present shoreline sites. New dwellings are government subsidized and can be obtained by the Indians at a nominal price. Electricity became available to Indian subscribers in 1968.<sup>33</sup>

The Department of Indian Affairs, fully aware of the dependence on welfare that the people have developed, has taken measures in the last few years to forestall a further addiction to it. Education is stressed, with plans to consolidate the eight scattered one-room schools on the Indian Reserve. Adult education, technical training, upgrading courses, and home economics courses are already offered and encouraged. Planning for a more profitable management of natural resources, a logging and milling operation has been organized by Indian Affairs to provide the lumber for the construction of fifty Indian dwellings. The new buildings are constructed by the Indians, with some help from white supervisors.

Commercial fishing, since the mid-1940's, has been a source of

income to the community (see TABLE VI, page 37). Furs still contribute heavily to the economy of Gods Lake, although a decrease has been noted over the past years (see TABLE V, page 37). The reason for the decrease is a lagging interest in trapping. Not all traplines are utilized and many are not harvested to capacity.<sup>34</sup> Tourism has, for twenty years, yielded a substantial income to the Indians (see TABLE VII, page 38). The last few years have seen a rapid growth in this industry. Four lodges now cater to an exclusive clientele of sportsmen.

Welfare, both occasional and permanent, is still the pivotal factor supporting the marginal economic system of the community (see TABLE VII, page 38).

The pressing need for resource development and education is plainly visible, but magnifying the current economic and social problems is a phenomenal increase in population over the last two decades. The birth rate for the past ten years has been fifty or more per thousand.<sup>35</sup> (note population distribution on Age-Sex Pyramid, Figure 6, page 39). With the present population of 975, there is a potential labour force of just over one hundred to support 159 households, averaging 6.2 members per household.<sup>36</sup> To further complicate the problem the community is isolated and can be reached only by air. This isolated condition has slowed assimilation and has prolonged the high degree of illiteracy among the older members of the community. Outside employment for the older citizens, as well as for the younger ones, is almost impossible due to the difficulties of adaptation.

Assimilation is perhaps, ultimately, inevitable, but present problems can not be shrugged off. It took Europeans millenia to develop their culture. Can we expect a native community to adapt to it in a few decades?

The need is present, and resources, as will be shown, are available. It is therefore the planner's duty to link the two.

TABLE V  
ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF TRAPPING AT GODS LAKE

Season	Total Amount	Amount per Individual	Number of Trappers
1956-1957	\$28,031.00	\$314.95	89
1957-1958	13,398.00	133.98	100
1958-1959	50,619.00	414.87	142
1959-1960	58,912.00	414.00	142
1960-1961	42,629.00	278.80	153
1961-1962	25,161.00	186.00	135
1962-1963	--- no --- data ---		
1963-1964	39,180.00	321.00	122
1964-1965	41,579.00	334.51	124
1965-1966	39,690.00	351.24	113
1966-1967	34,048.00	272.39	125

Source: Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, "Annual Fur Reports," The Pas, Manitoba.

TABLE VI  
ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF WINTER COMMERCIAL FISHING  
AT GODS LAKE

Season	Total Amount	Amount per Individual	Number of Fishermen
1964	\$12,180.00	\$280.00	42
1965	17,447.00	283.00	63
1966	26,000.00	419.70	61
1967	28,600.00	517.20	56
1968	21,281.00*	322.50	66

Source: Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, "Annual Commercial Fisheries Report," Winnipeg, Manitoba.

\*Please see footnote 37

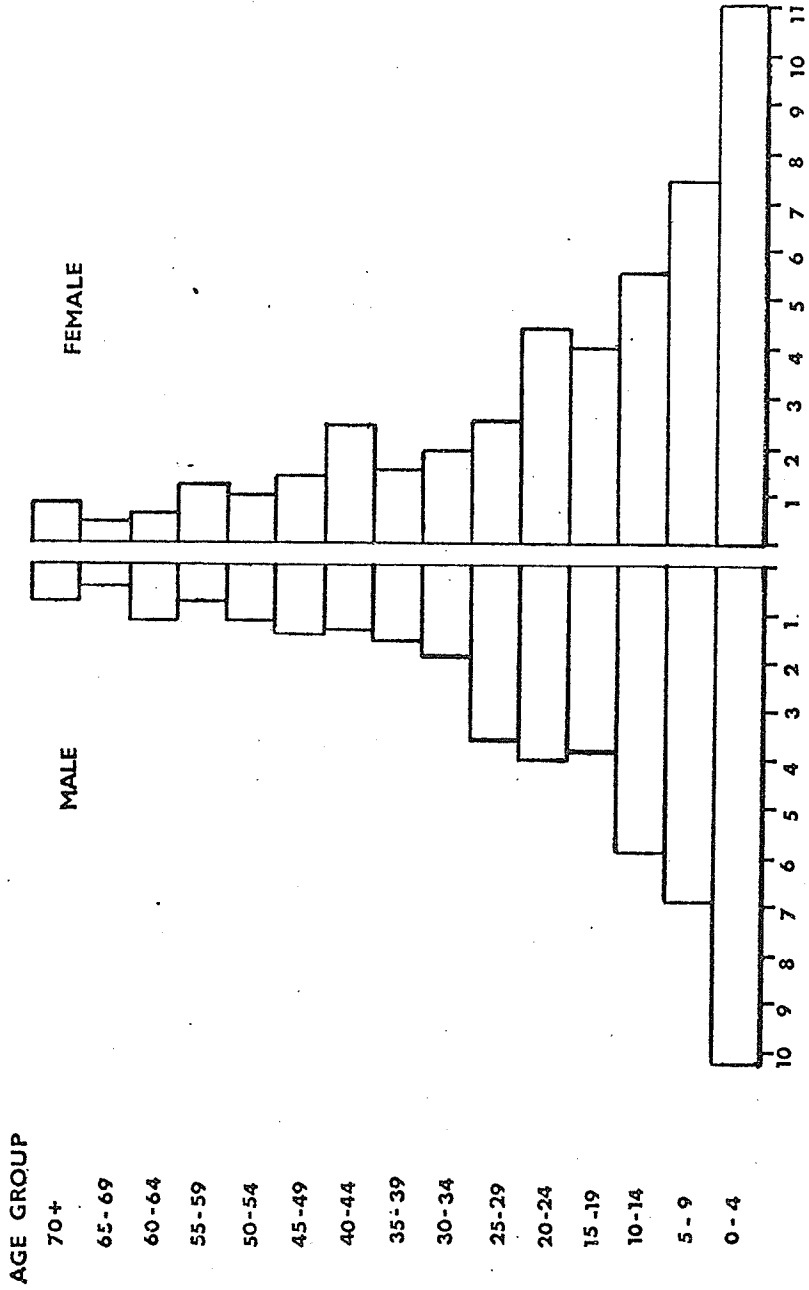
TABLE VII  
ANNUAL INCOME OF THE GODS LAKE INDIAN BAND

Commercial Fishing	\$ 25,293.00
Trapping	38,439.00
Tourist Industry	97,213.00
Maintenance of Schools, Firewood, Forest Fire Fighting, etc.	18,700.00
Indian Affairs Employment (labour, logging, and house construction)	40,000.00
Welfare (Permanent and Casual)	<u>104,000.00</u>
TOTAL Gross Income	<u>\$ 323,645.00</u>
Income per household (159 households at 6.2 per household)	\$ 2,035.00
Income per Individual	\$ 332.00
<u>NET Income</u> (Subtracting welfare and subsidized industry)	
Gross Total	\$ 323,645.00
Welfare and Subsidy Programs	<u>144,000.00</u>
Net Income	<u>\$ 179,645.00</u>
Net Income per Household	\$ 1,130.00
Net Income per Individual	\$ 184.00

Source: Constructed from a variety of sources. See footnote 38.

FIGURE 6

AGE-SEX STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION OF GODS LAKE MANITOBA



POPULATION IN TENS

Source: Canada, Department of Indian Affairs, "1968 Census of The Gods Lake Band," Ottawa, 1968, p.1-3.

## REFERENCES

1. Mafic--a group of minerals characterized by magnesium and iron, usually dark in color.
2. Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Geology and Mineral Resources of Manitoba, Winnipeg 1962, p. 53.
3. Ibid., p. 2.
4. Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Geology of The Gods Narrows Area, Winnipeg 1961, p. 2.
5. Ibid., p. 2.
6. Pers. comm., Manitoba, Renewable Resources Division, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.
7. Ibid.
8. Manitoba, Renewable Resources Division, Fisheries Branch, Synoptic Report on Several Fisheries Branch Surveys in Northern Manitoba, Winnipeg 1963, p. 1.
9. Ibid.
10. Correspondence, Canada, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.
11. Ibid.
12. Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Forest Resources Inventory of Inaccessible Forest Zone--Report #9, Winnipeg, 1960, pp. 5-32.
13. Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Geology of Gods Lake Area, Winnipeg, 1951, p. 1.
14. Canada, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, Atlas of Canada, Ottawa, 1957, Plate 30.
15. Ibid., Plates 23, 24.
16. Canada, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Island Lake Agency, April 1968 Population Statistics of Gods Lake Indian Band (mimeo), Ottawa, 1968.
17. Leon Levasseur, Cultural Encounter (mimeo.) Toronto, 1965, p. 1.

18. Ibid., p. 2.
19. J. B. Tyrell, "David Thompson's Narrative and Exploration in Western America," in Champlain Society Series, XII, Toronto, 1958, p. 26.
20. F. H. Schofield, Story of Manitoba, Winnipeg, 1913, p. 26.
21. Pers. comm., Canada, National Museum of Man, Ottawa,  
G. Boileau, Anthropometry of the Cree, and Saulteaux Indians In  
Northeastern Manitoba, Ottawa, 1925, pp. 6, 7.
22. Correspondence, Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Winnipeg, September 15,  
1968.
23. Ibid.
24. A. C. Glueck, "The Fading Glory," The Beaver, (Winter, 1957), p. 51.
25. Pers. comm., Tom Ruminski, Gods River, June, 1968.
26. Kenneth Kidd, "Trading Into Hudsons Bay," The Beaver, (Winter, 1957),  
p. 13.
27. Douglas Leechman, "The Trapper," The Beaver, (Winter, 1957), p. 27.
28. Canada, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development,  
Treaty #5, Ottawa, 1967, p. 20.
29. Glueck, op. cit., p. 50.
30. S. J. C. Cumming, District Manager, "H.B.C. Posts, Keewatin District  
No. 13--God's Lake Post," The Beaver, (Fall Issue, 1929), p. 268.
31. W. F. Baker, Geology of Gods Lake Gold Mines, Ltd., Ottawa, 1935,  
pp. 155, 156.
32. Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Geology and  
Mineral Resources of Manitoba, Winnipeg, 1962, p. 53.
33. Correspondence, Canada, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern  
Development, Island Lake, Manitoba, 1967.
34. Pers. comm., Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources,  
Renewable Resources Division, Field Administration, Gods Narrows, Manitoba

May, 1968.

35. Canada, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Island Lake Agency, April 1968 Population Statistics of Gods Lake Indian Band (mimeo.), Ottawa, 1968.

36. Canada, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Population Census (Updated to 1968), Ottawa, 1961.

37. The method of arriving at these figures is as follows:

The commercial Fisheries Annual Report from Field Administration at Gods Narrows states the total wages as \$33,000.00, but proceeds to explain that this is not accurate because all employees have been accredited full time, therefore this sum is inflated. The figure on TABLE VI is therefore the mean of 1) a questionnaire completed by the Indian people in 1968 (see APPENDIX A), giving a total of \$21,384.00; 2) a Manitoba Fisheries Report of 1967, giving a total of \$9,460.00; and 3) the annual Fisheries Report of 1968, stating \$33,000.00.

38. Population statistics were updated from the 1961 Census of The Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Welfare statistics were obtained from the Island Lake Indian Agency, Island Lake, Manitoba, and are for 1968.

Commercial Fisheries figures are from a three-year average, 1966, 1967, 1968, Manitoba Fisheries Branch Statistics, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Trapping statistics were obtained from three-year average trapper income, 1965, 1966, 1967, Records from Renewable Resources Office, The Pas, Manitoba.

Maintenance, etc., figures and Indian Affairs Employment earnings are only a calculated estimate, due to no available statistics (8 men were employed full time, 22 part time).

The derivation of income from tourism statistics will be discussed later, in CHAPTER III.





## CHAPTER III

### OUTDOOR RECREATION

#### HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENT USE

"Gods Lake---so rightly named--is truly what can be called a sportsman's paradise. It is seen and enjoyed by only the few fortunate people who have love for adventure; those who want to see the unusual and far off...those who want to enjoy hunting and scenery away from the crowded places."<sup>1</sup> This statement may appear enticing and exaggerated, but Gods Lake Recreation Area is indeed the playground for a class of elite sportsmen.

"This is a place where the fish...the AVERAGE fish...might be a trophy fish in waters reached by highways. It is a land of wild beauty...unspoiled by man...God's country. A land of fantastic beauty...of streams and lakes...of forests where much of the wild game has never seen a human being."<sup>2</sup>

Gods Lake is renowned all over America for its trophy angling, combined with peaceful relaxation in an area that retains the aura of the historic fur trade days.

The Committee on Manitoba's Economic Future emphatically illustrates that Gods Lake, above all other Manitoba angling waters, has created for itself and the province a reputation that has become legendary.<sup>3</sup> Avid sportsmen from every state of the Union, except Hawaii, have practiced their angling skills here.<sup>4</sup> Other tourists have come to hunt, canoe, and experience the invigorating outdoors.

Hearsay may often be misleading, especially when it concerns angling results. To add objectivity to the claims, an evaluation of the past and present recreational facilities and activities will be made. The type and degree of usage of the recreational resource may reveal possibilities for future expansion. The data utilized are of primary nature, consisting of a statistical sample of 33 percent of 852 tourists who visited the area in the summer of 1968.

There are four licensed lodges, with accommodation for over 200 guests: 1) Gods River Lodge, 2) Gods Lake Lodge, 3) Burton's Elk Island Lodge, and 4) Helzer's Gods Lake Lodge (see Figure 2, page 10).<sup>5</sup> Three of these lodges have hunting and fishing outcamps, some far removed from Gods Lake, but supplied and operated from the Gods Lake base. The outcamps, however, at present play only a minor role in the overall tourist operation.

#### A. The Tourist Type

Understanding the characteristics of the present tourist market will help to give some insight into meeting the requirements of this sector of the public. Advertising, accommodation, and recreational type may all be geared to supply the market demand. Other similar opportunities may be tapped, that have been disregarded up to this time.

The tourists who frequent the Gods Lake recreation area have socio-economic characteristics that depict the upper middle and upper classes. The concentration of these strata of society presents a unique situation within the field of recreation. For this reason many of the generally accepted principles and theories of recreational use may not be applicable.

The sportsmen consist mainly of highly educated professional people, many in influential economic and political positions (see Figure 8, 46).

Almost twenty percent have post graduate degrees. These are professionals, usually medical doctors, lawyers, and educators. More than sixty percent have college degrees, an indication of above-average training and wealth. Of the total sample only five percent had less than a high school education.

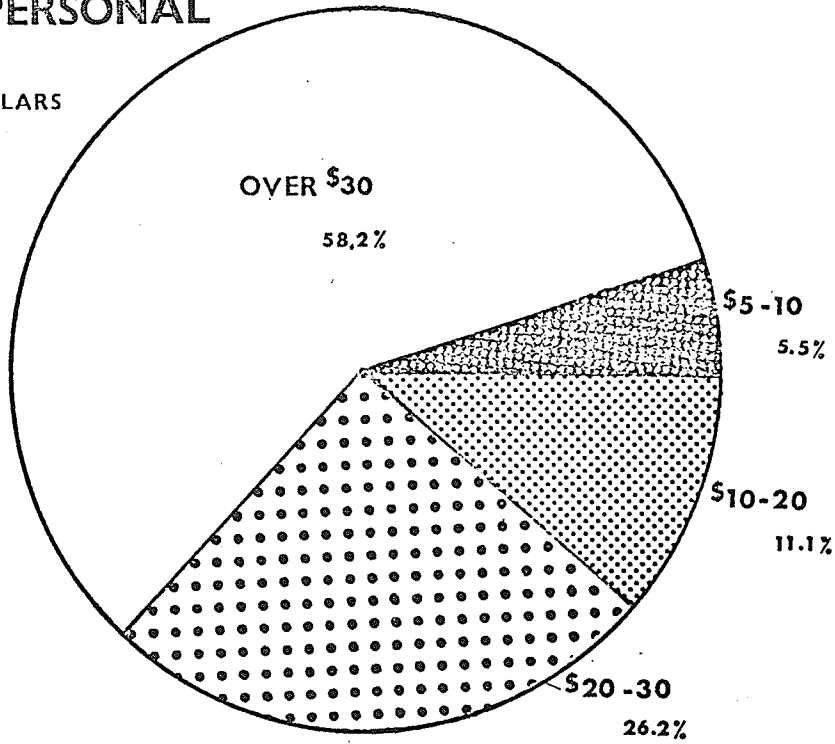
The personal income of these tourists (see Figure 7, page 46) is a corollary of the high degree of education. Almost sixty percent of the sample indicated an annual income of more than \$30,000. Another twenty-six percent had annual incomes ranging from \$20-30,000. Thus, eighty-four percent had annual incomes of more than \$20,000. Only 5.5 percent had annual earnings between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Through personal interviews it was learned that a substantial portion of the group consisted of managerial personnel in commerce and manufacturing. It is not surprising, then, that Gods Lake commands an aloof position in the general field of recreation, nor that this segment of population is willing to spend up to a hundred dollars a day to enjoy the sporting activity of its choice.

The age grouping of tourists (see Figure 9, page 48) is indicative of the high socio-economic status of the group. The largest portion of tourists, 32 percent, fall within the 51-60 year cohort. Almost 65 percent are between 41 and 60 years of age, and over 80 percent are between the ages of 31 and 70. Relatively few tourists are under the age of thirty, and there is an almost complete lack of children. Four percent are more than 70 years of age. To live an active sportsman's life at this age seems rather unusual. Although age characteristics are heavily skewed toward the older segment it is interesting to note that only eleven percent are retired. This may demonstrate that self employment and seniority retard early retirement. Seniority and self employment also suggest longer vacations and the choice of vacationing time and frequency. Professionals with seniority may have considerable flexibility in arrang-

# INDICATED TOURIST PERSONAL INCOME

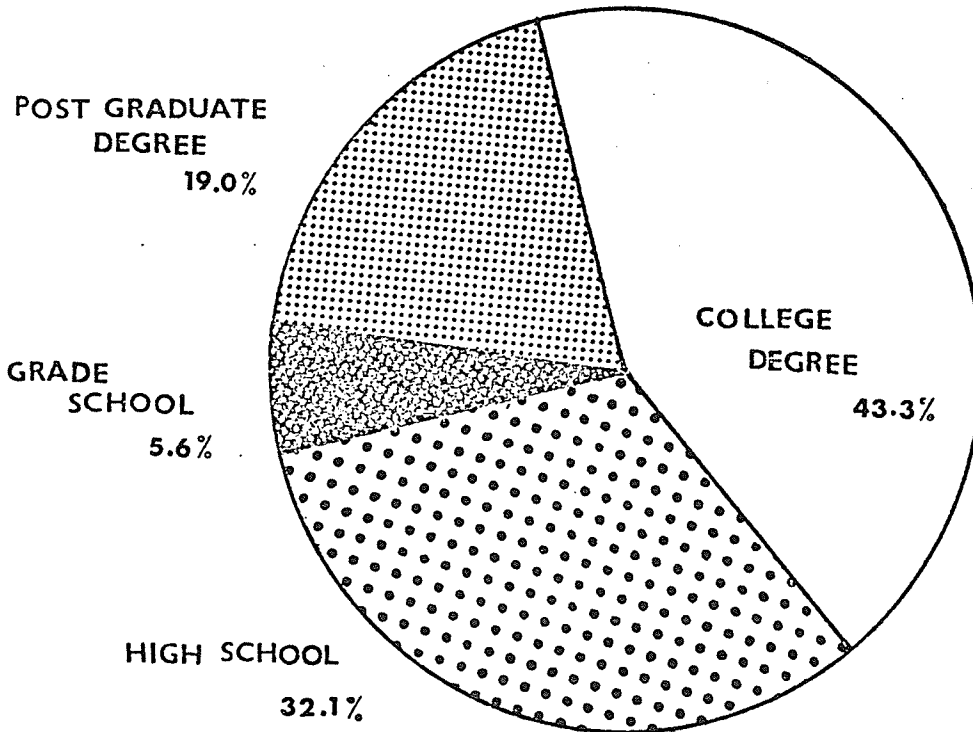
IN '000 OF DOLLARS

FIGURE 7



# EDUCATION GROUPINGS

FIGURE 8



ing vacation time. Four weeks of vacation annually are common, although three-week vacations are not infrequent (see Figure 10, page 48). Thirty-eight percent spent five or more weeks on vacation, and eight percent, more than seven weeks. The mean length of annual vacation also indicates a high-ranking socio-economic group.

Ninety-three percent of sportsmen at Gods Lake are men. Hunting and angling attract mostly males. Guest books at Gods Lake, however, reveal that there is a trend toward feminine participation. Seven percent of the 1968 tourist group was female, usually middle-aged wives with few family obligations who accompanied their husbands. The former masculine-oriented services and accommodations may not be satisfactory to the steadily increasing proportion of women.

It is customary for tourists to book reservations in parties, comprised of business associates, professional associates, filial or other social groups. They are referred to as "General Clark's Group", "President Eisenhower's Group", or "Doctor Peterson's Group",<sup>6</sup> and generally contain one or more persons who have previously visited the area. On two occasions in 1968, parties of forty or more professional associates spent their vacation at Gods Lake, mixing pleasure with business. Most tourists arrive in parties of eight, four, and, less commonly, in parties of two, while few spend their vacation alone (see Figure 11, page 49). Parties usually share boats, fish in the same general area, eat their shore lunches together, and spend their evenings in company.

Fifty-eight percent of the 1968 visitors were in the area for the first time (see Figure 12, page 49). This figure appears rather inflated but it must be remembered that a twenty-five percent increase of tourists was realized since 1967. Guest registers reveal that the proportion of first visits has been increasing annually. Not only is this due to an

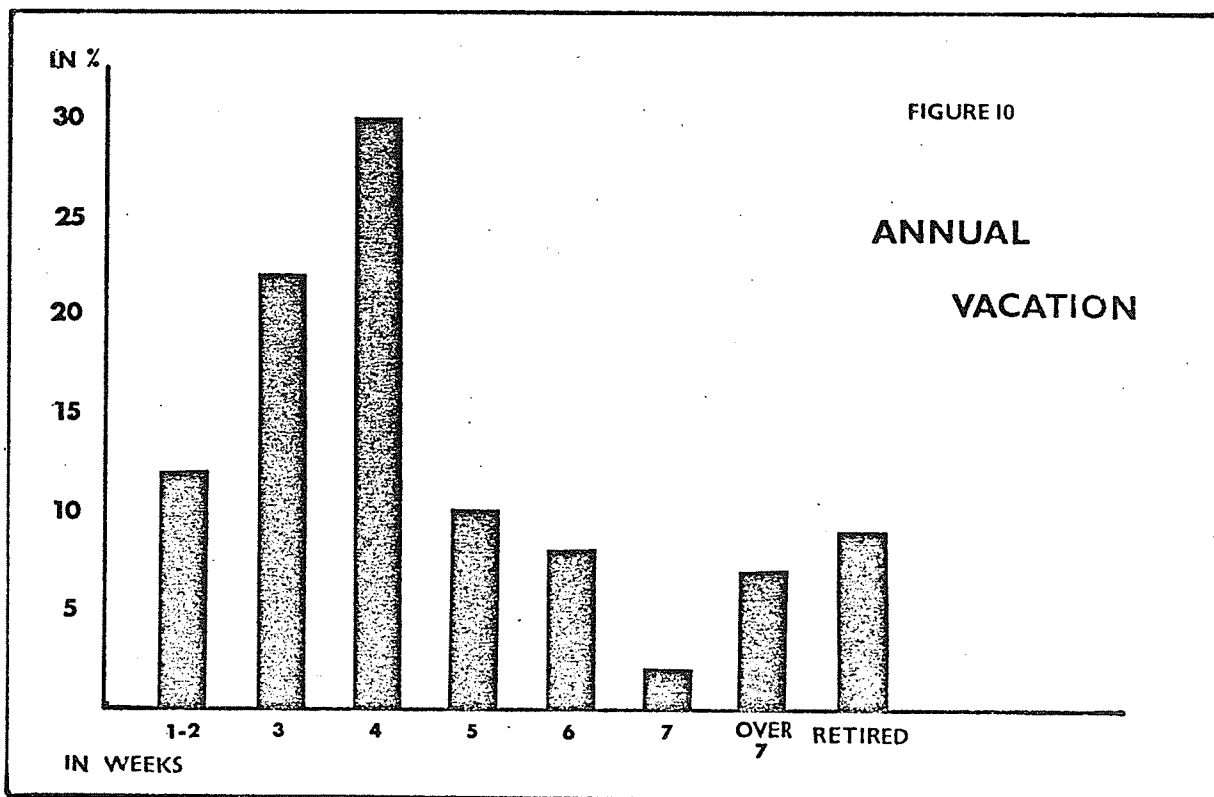
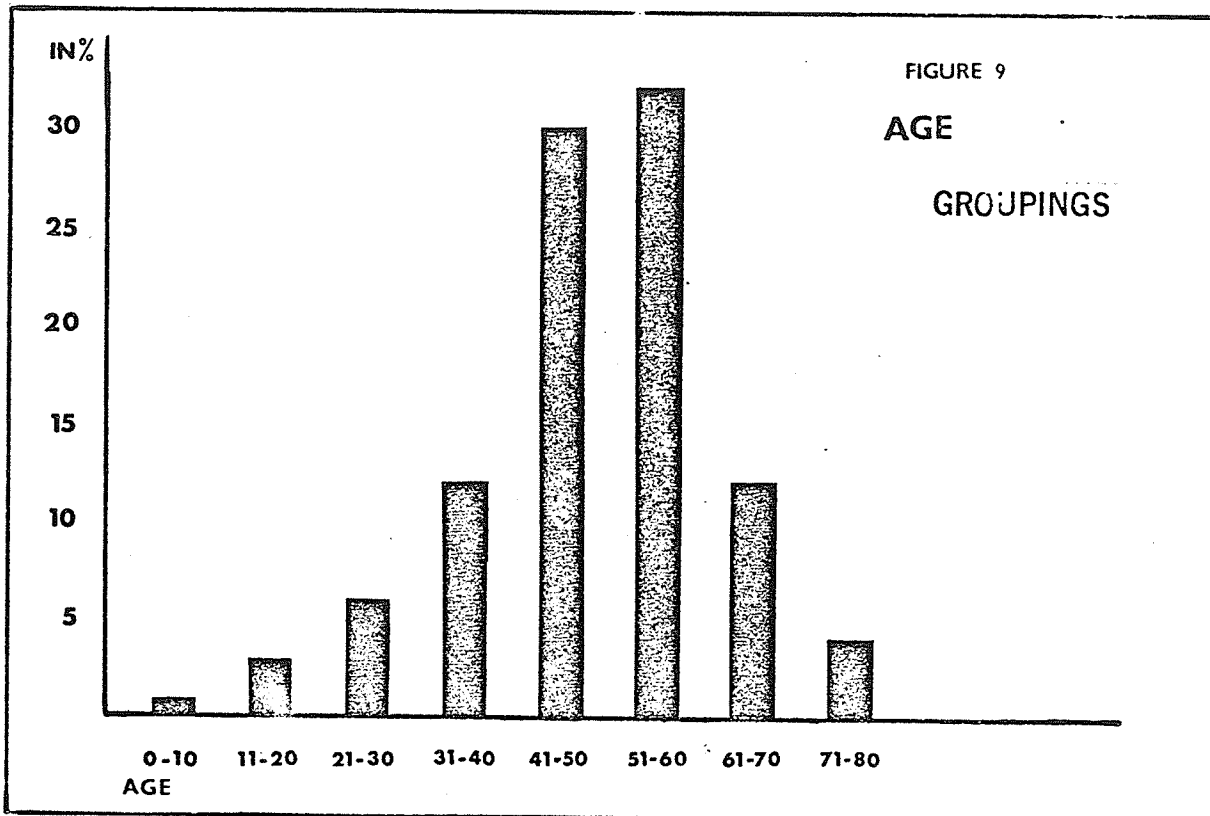


FIGURE 11

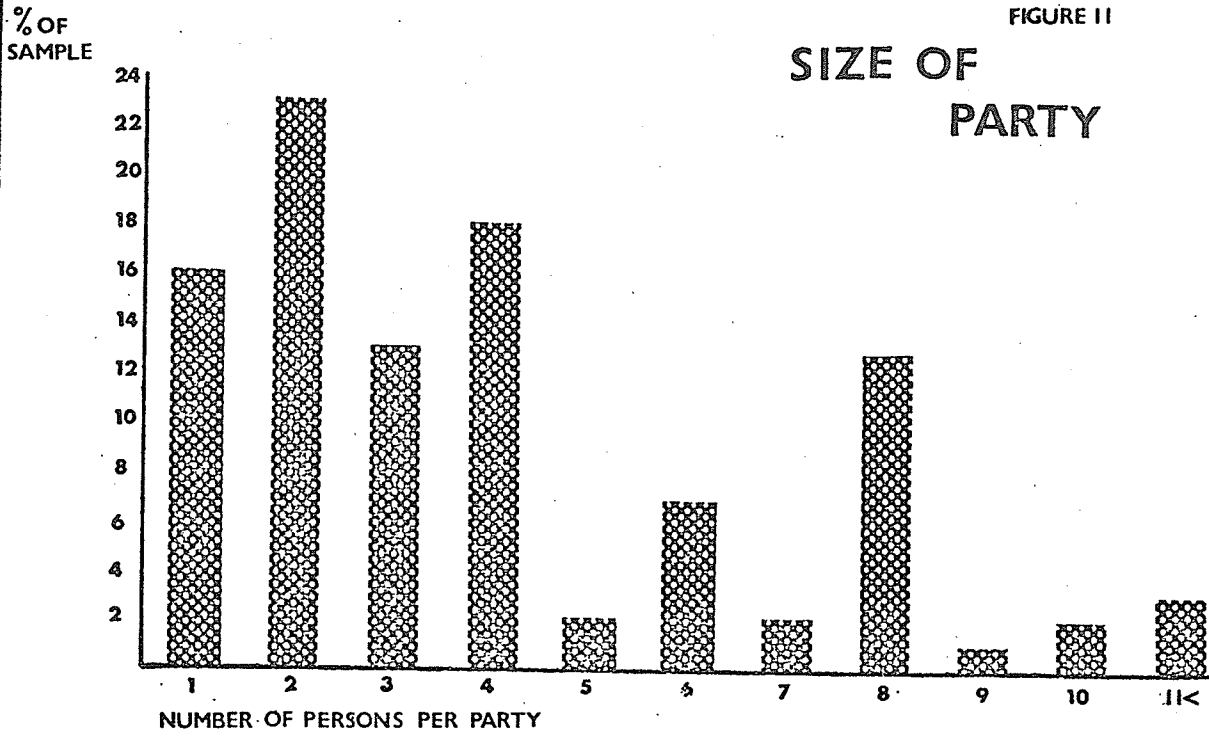
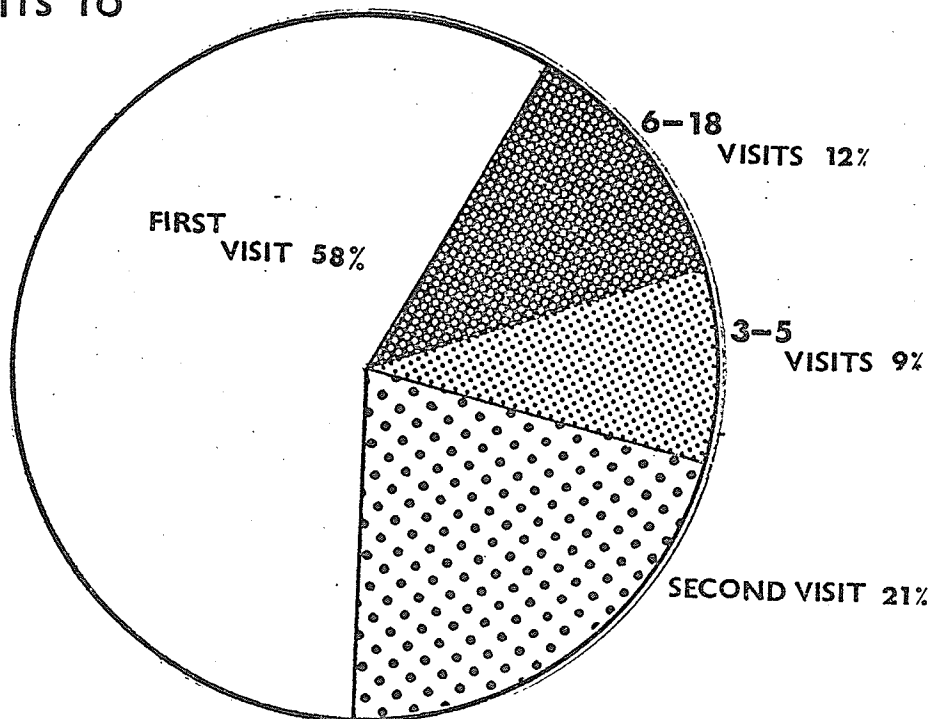


FIGURE 12

RETURN VISITS TO  
GODS LAKE  
IN % OF TOTAL



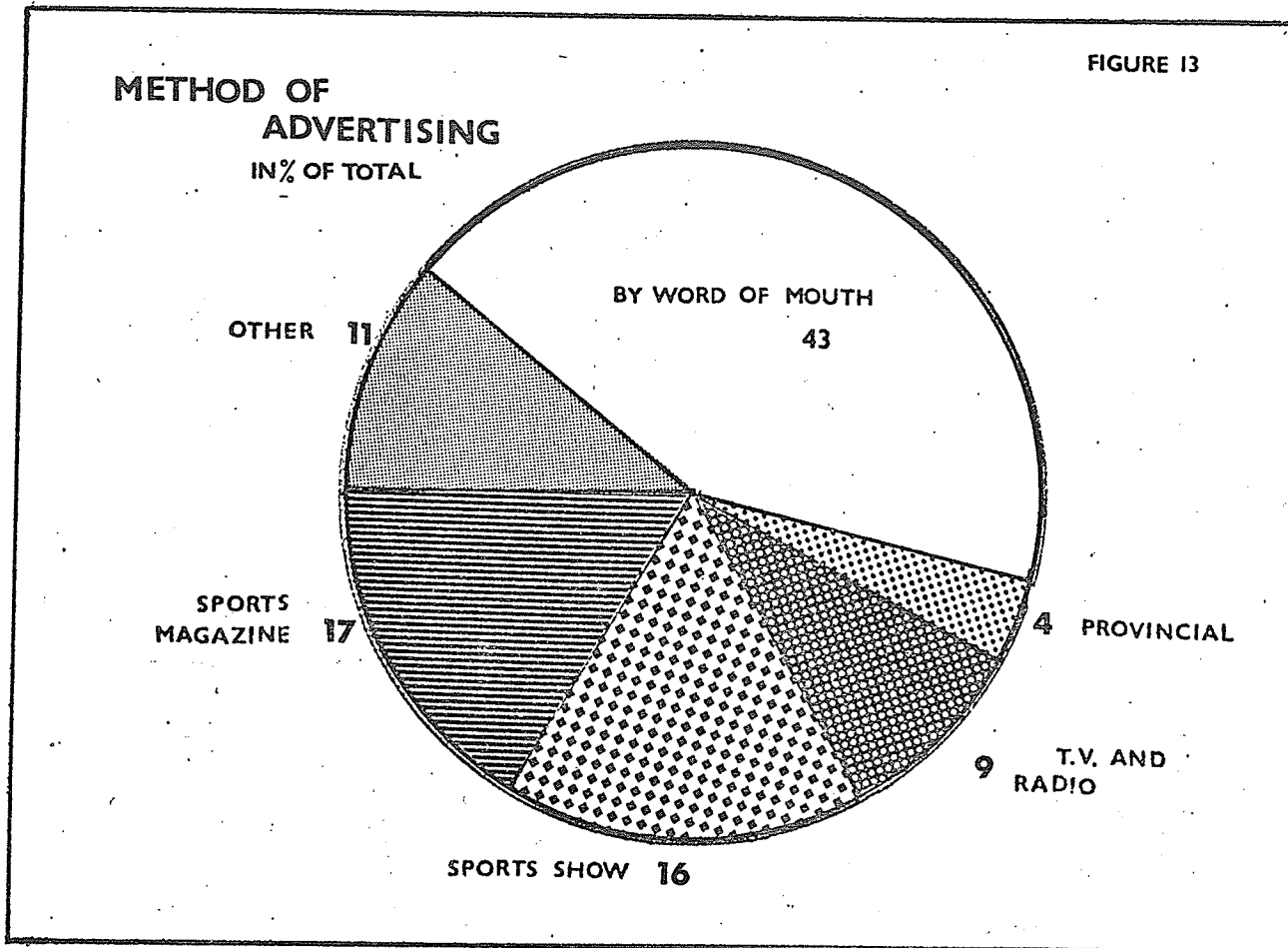
increase in volume, but to other factors that will be discussed later. The area's good reputation caused twenty-one percent to return for a second visit. It may be surprising that twelve percent of the sample developed a definite affinity and revisited Gods Lake for six or more years. Some parties had registered eighteen consecutive visits.

#### B. Advertising

These returning tourists serve as the best personal publicity for tourist lodges (see Figure 13, page 51). A satisfied customer of high social status quickly attracts others within his circle, as well as those who might want to mingle with such persons. Forty-one percent of the sample first heard of Gods Lake from someone who had been there. Seventeen percent learned of the area through sports and angling magazines, many of which have carried lengthy, brilliantly illustrated main features on Gods Lake's outstanding angling opportunities. Private and public sports shows held annually in Kansas City, Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, and more recently, in Miami, have also been instrumental in attracting attention, but even more so in obtaining direct bookings.<sup>7</sup> These shows, held early in the year, display trophy catches and angling records of previous years. Color, 16 m.m., professionally produced movies, personal contact with the host, and the recommendation of former guests all serve to entice the browsing sportsman to book a visit.

Recently, television and radio have been used to direct public attention to Gods Lake. Nine percent of those interviewed were attracted by radio, television, or motion pictures shot on the scene by sports broadcasters hired for this purpose. One of the best films is entitled, "Big Country, Big Fish", and is obtainable through various tourist





organizations for private viewing.

Provincial advertising contributed only four percent to the total publicity impact. Brochures and the tourist information office were infrequently responsible for the initial contact, although they may have played a role in directing and informing at a later stage of vacation planning in Manitoba. Angling has benefitted through provincial advertising of the Master Anglers Award Program, which publishes the statistics of trophy fish caught in specific bodies of water within the province. In numerous instances, interviews with sportsmen at Gods Lake revealed that the Master Anglers Award Program was the deciding factor for the initial visit as well as subsequent ones.

Other methods of advertising mentioned were newspapers and airline offices.

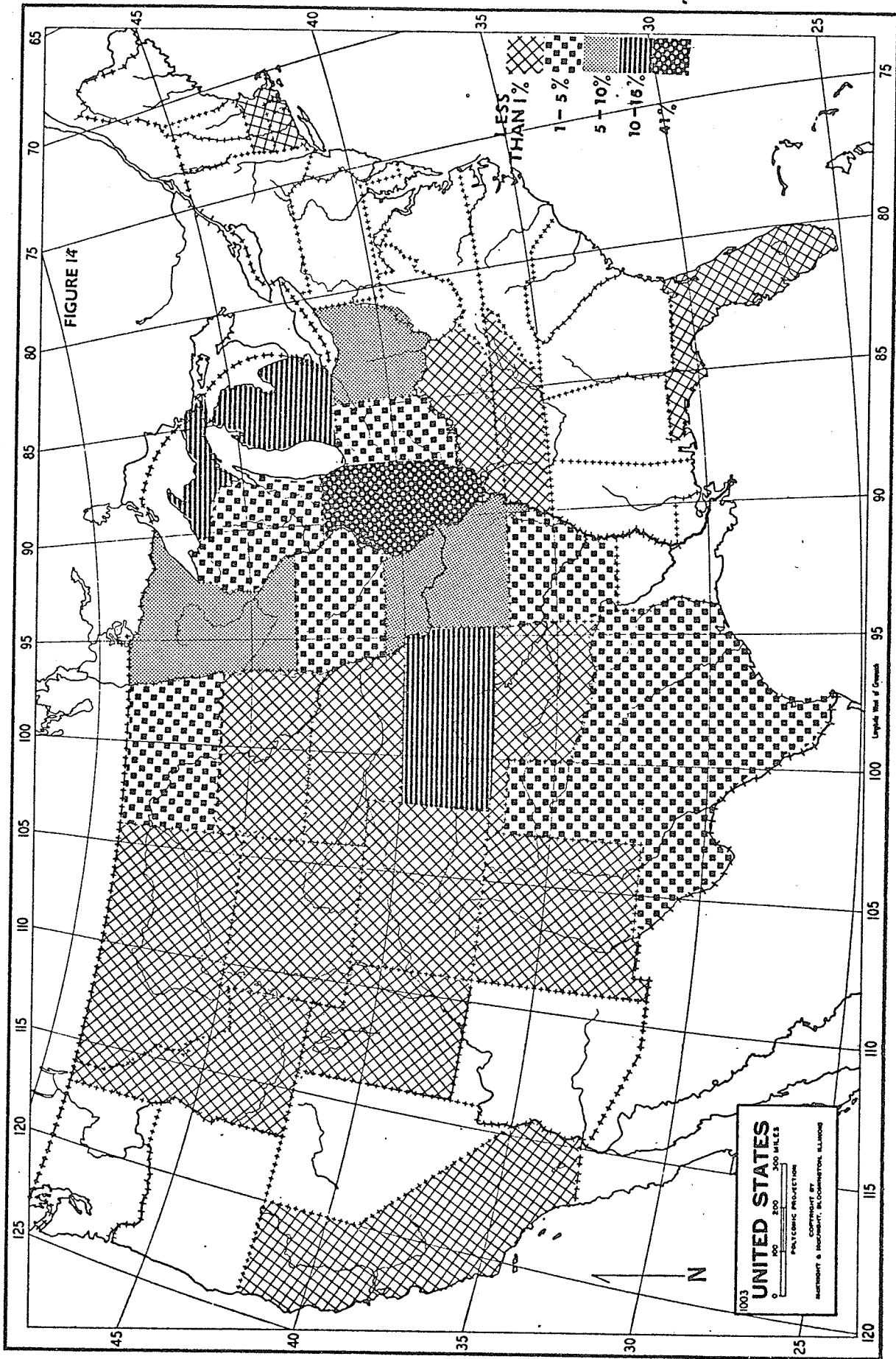
The total expenditure for advertising in 1968 was approximately \$30,000.00, a major portion of which was spent at sports shows.

### C. Origin of Sportsmen

Sportsmen visiting Gods Lake in 1968 hailed from twenty-seven states and two provinces. Most states may in fact have been represented, since the sample contained only thirty-three percent of the aggregate (see Figure 14, page 53). Only 1.5 percent of the sample was Canadian: one from Ontario, and three from Manitoba. The market was concentrated in large urban centres of the mid-western United States. Illinois contributed forty-one percent, with Chicago and Milwaukee best represented. Between ten percent and fifteen percent came from Michigan and Kansas, while Minnesota, Missouri, and Ohio ranked third. From one to five percent came from each of North Dakota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Iowa, Texas, Indiana, and Arkansas. Fourteen other states each added less than one percent. A general pattern emerges with Illinois as the focal point. The majority of guests came from states bordering the Great Lakes. This may indicate that the population is concentrated in urban areas surrounding the Great Lakes, and that advertising has been concentrated in this region. Interviews indicate that the Great Lakes, once a prime angling source for Lake Trout, have declined so as to force sportsmen to seek virgin, well stocked lakes.<sup>8</sup> The dispersion may also be a result of continued publicity obtained through sports shows since Kansas City, Chicago, Milwaukee and Detroit have a long history of such activities. Miami is only a recent addition to the sports show tour. If publicity has been the major factor in attracting guests, there is a great potential, not only for Gods Lake,

# ORIGIN OF TOURISTS

FIGURE 14



but for future development of similar areas. The theory that the five hundred mile radius is the outside limit for tourist attraction is not applicable in this instance (refer to page 5).

#### D. Transportation To The Region

Gods Lake is accessible only by air in summer months. The closest road connection is more than two hundred miles distant. The last leg of the journey is therefore possible only by air. Most guests arrive at Kenora, Ontario, or Winnipeg via commercial airlines and then transfer to smaller float-equipped bush planes. A small percentage of tourists fly directly from Chicago to Gods Lake in commercial amphibious and float-equipped aircraft. Fourteen percent of the sportsmen fly private planes, having hopped from their home airfields to Gods Lake via Winnipeg, Kenora, Thompson, or Red Lake. This figure has increased greatly in the last year since the opening of a 3,000-foot runway at Gods River which can accommodate wheeled aircraft up to the size of a DC-3. Figure 15 indicates that 82 percent of Gods Lake tourists arrive in Canada by air, 68 percent by commercial airlines. This reinforces the impression that the tourists are of a high socio-economic ranking, and implies that the destination is the prime goal, that time is valuable and can not be wasted enroute.

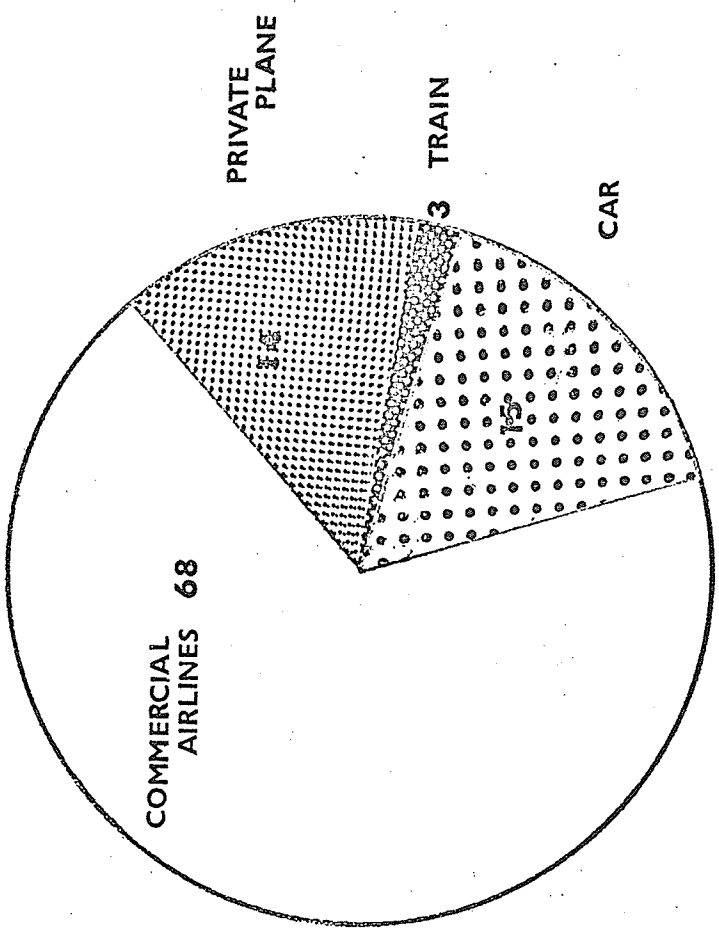
#### E. Length of Stay (see Figures 16 and 17, page 56)

The average individual length of stay within the province of Manitoba is 8.1 days. Of these, 7.04 days are spent at Gods Lake and 1.06 days in other parts of the province. The seven-day vacation at Gods Lake may often be shortened to six, or six and one-half days, due to departure and arrival delays. The majority of anglers choose to stay seven days at the lake.

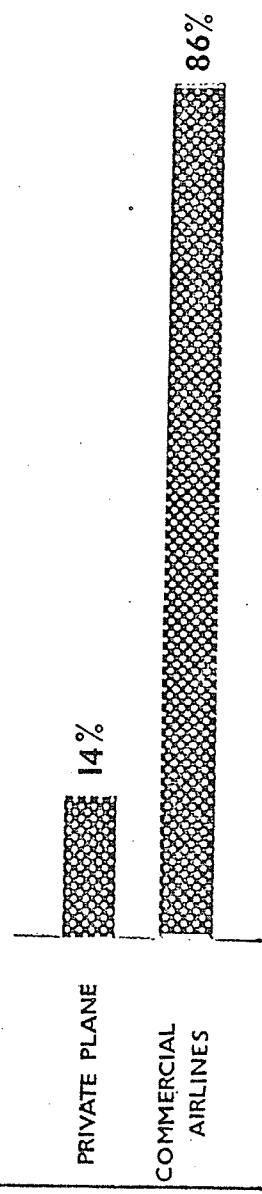
FIGURE 15

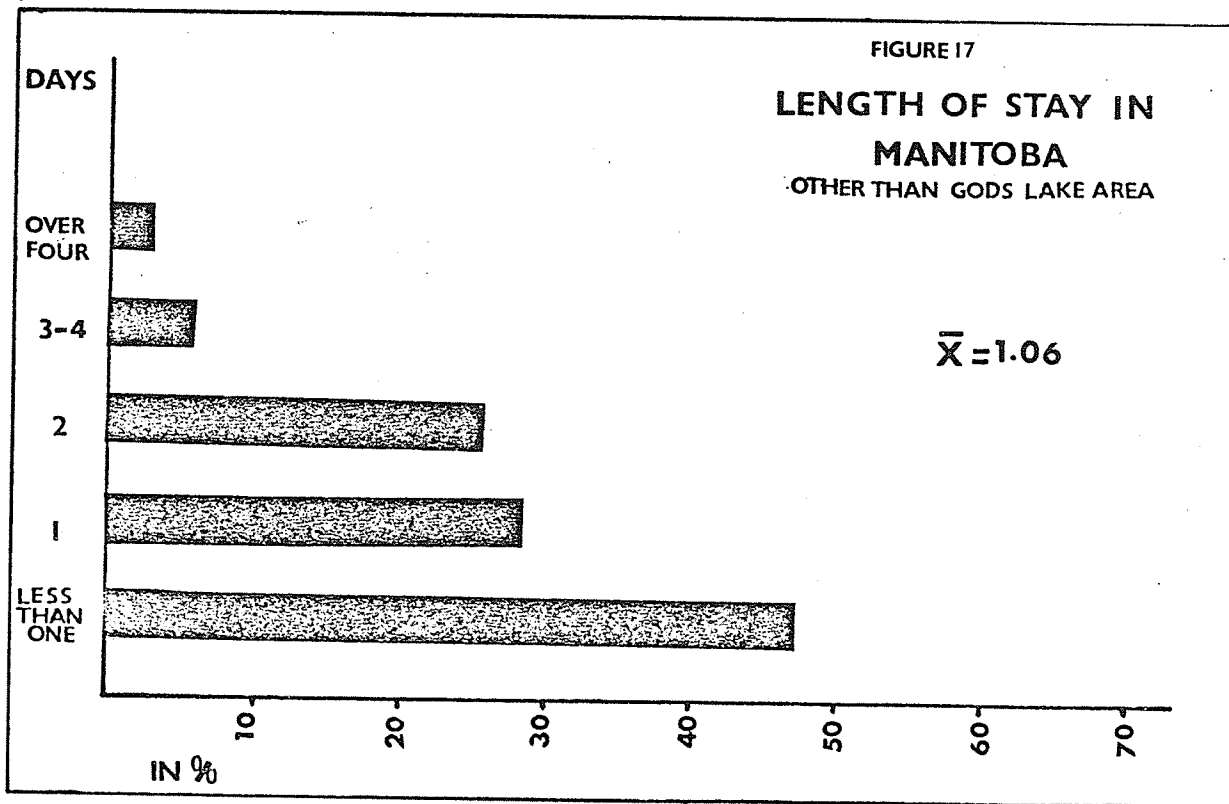
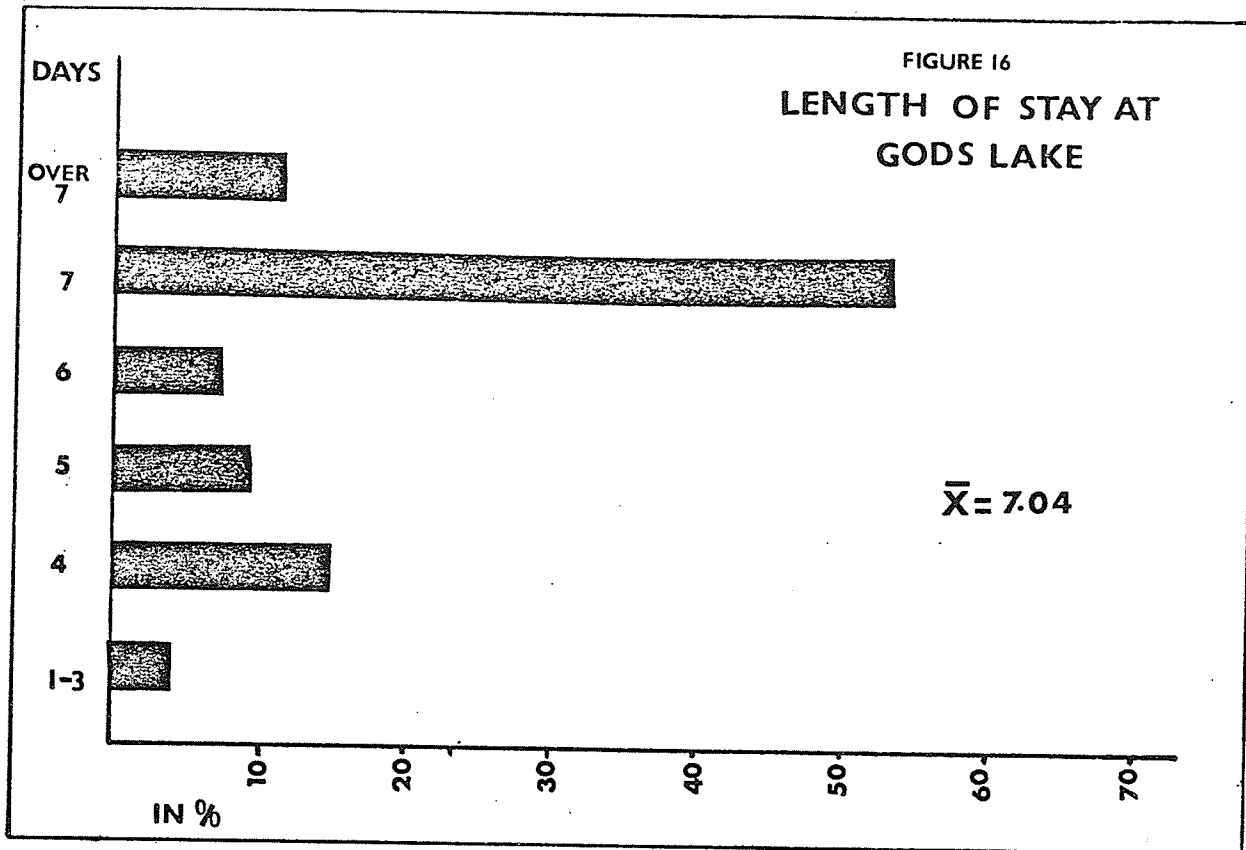
### TRANSPORTATION TO JUMPING-OFF PLACE

IN% OF TOTAL



### TRANSPORTATION FROM JUMPING-OFF PLACE TO GODS LAKE





Twelve percent remained two full weeks. There is a small number who make a semi-annual trip; in spring to fish, and again in fall, to hunt. A trend towards shorter, four-day stays is evidenced in guest books. This may be due to an increase of private transportation which makes the individual more independent of scheduled commercial flights.

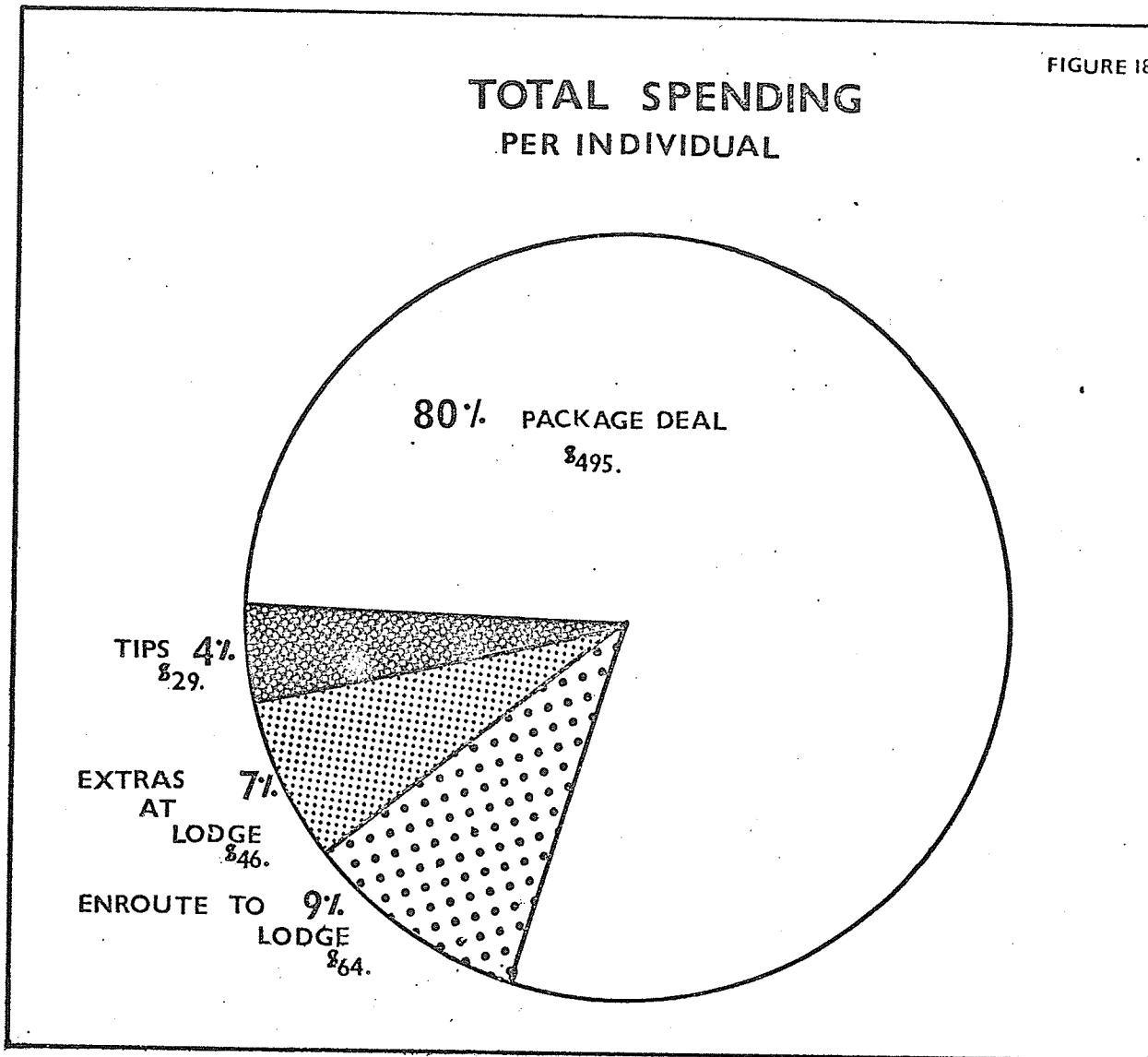
Approximately fifty percent of the sportsmen spend less than a day in Manitoba enroute to Gods Lake. Synchronization of flights from the recreation area to Winnipeg and Kenora with commercial flights connecting major United States cities is attempted.

#### F. Individual Spending

Individual outlays per sportsman-visitor to Gods Lake are high relative to those of the average tourist visiting Manitoba. It is estimated that the average tourist visiting Manitoba remains 3.6 days within the province, spending approximately \$11.00 per day.<sup>9</sup> The mean daily expenditure of a sportsman visiting Gods Lake on the other hand, is \$91.00 while his length of stay is twice that of the average tourist. Therefore, one Gods Lake sportsman contributes as much revenue as eighteen average tourists. When currency exchange is considered, as all prices are in U.S. terms or the Canadian equivalent, the ratio becomes an imposing 19:1. Total per capita expenditure, per visit, of Gods Lake tourists was \$634.00 (see Figure 18, page 58). Four hundred and ninety-five dollars, or eighty percent of the total, was spent on package plans, and in most cases included transportation costs from Winnipeg or Kenora, lodging, food, guides, and boating equipment.

Nine percent, or \$64.00, was spent enroute to the lodge. This sum may include air fare for the few tourists who did not avail themselves of a package plan, and may have been incurred during the one day spent in

FIGURE 18



Manitoba, which is often a one-night stop-over.

Seven percent, or \$46.00 per individual, was spent at the lodge for extras which included refreshments, recreational equipment such as fishing tackle and film, and sundries.

Tips of \$29.00 per tourist constituted four percent of the individual's total expenditures. This figure, since it could be heavily biased, if given by the tourist, was derived from: 1) the tourist protocol, 2) an Indian questionnaire, and 3) personal estimates by lodge owners, and since a range of only \$4.00 was observed among these three sources, the mean figure was used. Considering the socio-economic status of the



respondents, \$29.00 per individual guest is not surprising. The writer is aware of single tips in excess of \$100.00. Often valuable goods are given as farewell presents. These have included expensive rifles, 16 m.m. movie projectors, transistor radios and record players. Some tourists buy food or clothing for the guide and his family. One tourist party annually supplies all the refreshments for a Saturday dance for the village. Another guest has, year after year, supplied one new white shirt to every guide at the tourist camp he visits.<sup>10</sup> Native waitresses and house maids are also heavily tipped.

G. Recreational Preferences (see Figure 19, page 60)

1. Angling

In the reply to the question, "Type of sport: Number in order of preference and add any you may be interested in that is not listed", it was substantiated that for ninety-two percent of the sample angling was the preferred recreational activity at Gods Lake. The remaining eight percent listed angling as a second choice. The decrease in the number of responses was rapid after first choice, dropping sharply after second choice, and only thirty-nine percent of the sample listed a third choice. Therefore, it can be assumed, since the succeeding choices did not command attention, the preferred recreational type is angling, and that the majority are angling enthusiasts.

Why has this type of outdoor recreation received such specialized attention? It is obvious that there is good fishing in less remote, more accessible portions of the province. The exclusive angling potentials available at Gods Lake are primarily based on the trophy-sized fish for which the lake has long been famous (see Plates 1 and 2, page 61).

Secondly, the lake and surrounding streams contain not one trophy species





Plate 1: A contented angler with a medium-sized Northern Pike. Hundreds of larger pike are caught on tackle in the area annually.



Plate 2: Best known for its trophy-sized Lake Trout, Gods Lake is allotted approximately half of all Manitoba's Master Anglers awards.

but five. These are: Lake Trout, Brook Trout, Pickerel (Walleyed Pike), Northern Pike, and Whitefish.

The trophy potential has been well publicized, especially in sporting magazines specializing in wilderness recreation. The early lodge guest books illustrate the numerous great trophy fish hooked in the waters of this area.<sup>11</sup>

In 1958 the Manitoba Department of Mines and Natural Resources originated a program of Master Anglers Awards. This program registered the weight and size of game fish caught on rod and line that met pre-set trophy proportions. As an incentive to increase angling in the province, it awarded recognition in the form of attractive medals and a personal letter of recommendation from the Minister of the Department. The program was an asset to promotion, but also served as a valuable avenue for future study of the resource. Trophy claims were substantiated by a witness and an official commissioner of oaths. Records of the Master Anglers Award program of the last ten years are a reliable source useful in verifying the relative importance the Gods Lake area has attained.

In 1967 the area was allotted 168 Master Anglers Awards. The Winnipeg River won eighty-eight awards, and the third competitor was the Churchill River, yielding forty-five awards. In 1968 Gods Lake area earned 198 Master Anglers Awards. These were shared by only 852 anglers. The Winnipeg River was again second with seventy-seven awards, while Williams Lake yielded seventy-six. Of the eleven best trophy-producing bodies of water, the Gods Lake area captured 198 trophies while the remaining ten top sources aggregated only 446.<sup>12</sup>

This outstanding record is even more manifest when only the available species in Gods Lake are considered (see TABLE VIII, page 63). Note especially, Lake Trout, which usually account for fifty percent or more of

ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF MASTER ANGLER AWARDS  
FOR SELECTED SPECIES OF MANITOBA SPORTS FISH

1960				
<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Gods Lake</u>	<u>Other Than Gods Lake</u>	
			<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>
Lake Trout	35	24	8	1
Northern Pike	72	11	10	5
Walleye	70	11	14	8
Brook Trout	38	34	3	1
1961				
Lake Trout	47	34	4	3
Northern Pike	192	18	25	10
Walleye	47	3	15	7
Brook Trout	51	50	1	
1962				
Lake Trout	52	38	6	6
Northern Pike	199	25	27	19
Walleye	40	0	10	3
Brook Trout	80	79	1	
1963				
Lake Trout	57	20	13	5
Northern Pike	228	32	34	26
Walleye	89	0	48	9
Brook Trout	50	40		3
Whitefish	15	10	2	0
1964				
Lake Trout	54	35	12	2
Northern Pike	229	46	55	14
Walleye	43	0	9	8
Brook Trout	59	57	2	
Whitefish	27	17	2	2

...Continued...TABLE VIII

1965				
Lake Trout	51	18	9	5
Northern Pike	372	57	71	39
Walleye	62	8	7	6
Brook Trout	79	73	2	2
Whitefish	32	13	5	5
1966				
Lake Trout	67	29	22	5
Northern Pike	302	51	31	23
Walleye	83	1	18	12
Brook Trout	65	60	4	1
Whitefish	34	18	2	2
1967				
Lake Trout	65	14	23	5
Northern Pike	338	77	40	19
Walleye	117	6	35	14
Brook Trout	56	51	3	0
Whitefish	52	24	6	4
1968				
Lake Trout	63	23	19	8
Northern Pike	448	77	52	41
Walleye	98	3	18	16
Brook Trout	81	76	1	
Whitefish	38	19	5	

Source: Compiled from Master Angler Award Files, Fisheries Branch, Renewable Resources, Province of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

the annual awards, although there has been a noticeable decrease in the last years. The area has annually yielded over ninety percent of the trophy Brook Trout taken in Manitoba. Whitefish are a primary award winner, while Northern Pike are also a major winner. Only Walleye awards are more numerous elsewhere.

A closer scrutiny of Master Anglers Awards reveals a disproportionate number of large trophy fish, fish that have made for the lake's renown (see TABLE IX, page 66). Of the top twenty-five Lake Trout taken, twenty-three came from Gods Lake, with only seventeenth and twenty-first places occupied by another contender. Only nine of the top fifty Lake Trout were captured in other bodies of water.

Brook Trout also have a superior record, with only four of the top fifty awards, occupying eleventh, nineteenth, thirtieth, and forty-ninth positions being taken in other areas. Ninety-three of the 100 largest were caught in the Gods Lake area.

Walleye are plentiful, although trophy sized fish are few. Only the second and the thirty-fourth fish of the top one hundred were caught in the region.

Northern Pike captured thirteen of the top 100 spots, obtaining notable second, sixth, and ninth places.

Whitefish, as a sports fish, have entered competition only recently, and the Gods Lake area has captured fifty of the one hundred top places.

If this outstanding record of performance is not sufficient to convince even the skeptic, he may be persuaded by the annual rating of Master Anglers Awards, considering only the five largest trophy fish, in the following species: Brook Trout, Lake Trout, Whitefish, and Northern Pike (see TABLE X, page 67).

THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF SELECTED SPECIES OF GAME FISH  
OF THE GODS LAKE AREA THAT RANKED WITHIN THE TOP 100 COHORT OF FISH  
REGISTERED IN THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA FROM 1959-1967

	Lake Trout	Brook Trout	Whitefish	Northern Pike	Walleye		Lake Trout	Brook Trout	Whitefish	Northern Pike	Walleye		Lake Trout	Brook Trout	Whitefish	Northern Pike	Walleye
1	*	*				36	*	*	*			71		*	*	*	
2	*	*		*	*	37		*		*		72	*	*	*		
3	*	*	*			38	*	*				73	*	*			
4	*	*	*			39	*	*				74		*	*		
5	*	*	*			40	*	*				75	*	*	*		
6	*	*	*	*		41	*	*				76	*	*	*		
7	*	*	*			42		*	*			77	*	*			
8	*	*	*			43	*	*	*			78	*	*	*		
9	*	*	*	*		44	*	*	*	*		79	*		*		
10	*	*	*			45	*	*				80	*	*	*		
11	*					46		*	*			81	*	*	*		
12	*					47	*	*		*		82	*	*			
13	*	*				48	*	*				83	*	*			
14	*	*				49	*					84		*	*		
15	*	*	*	*		50		*	*			85		*	*		
16	*	*				51	*	*	*			86		*	*		
17		*		*		52	*	*	*			87		*	*		
18	*	*				53	*	*	*			88	*	*	*		
19	*		*			54		*				89		*			
20	*	*				55		*				90		*	*		
21		*				56			*			91		*	*	*	
22	*	*				57	*	*	*			92	*	*	*		
23	*	*	*			58	*	*	*			93	*	*			
24	*	*	*			59	*	*		*		94		*			
25	*	*				60	*	*	*			95		*	*		
26	*	*				61	*	*				96		*			
27		*				62		*	*			97		*			
28	*	*	*			63		*				98		*	*		
29	*	*	*			64		*				99		*	*		
30	*					65	*	*	*			100		*			
31	*	*	*	*		66		*	*								
32	*	*	*			67	*	*	*			Totals	68	93	50	13	2
33	*	*				68	*	*		*		Runner					
34	*	*		*		69	*	*				Up	21	3	5	18	18
35	*	*				70		*									

Weights of Gods Lake Fish

Lake Trout:	Brook Trout:	Whitefish:
From: 53 lbs. 4 oz.	From: 8 lbs. 7 oz.	From: 8 lbs. 4 oz.
To: 29 lbs. 10 oz.	To: 5 lbs. 9 oz.	To: 4 lbs. 6 oz.



...Continued...TABLE IX

Northern Pike:  
 From: 38 lbs. 12 oz.  
 To: 26 lbs. 4 oz.

Walleye:  
 From: 14 lbs. 8 oz.  
 To: 10 lbs. 0 oz.

Source: Compiled from Master Angler Award Files, Fisheries Branch,  
 Renewable Resources, Province of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

TABLE X

GODS LAKE ANNUAL PROPORTION OF TOP FIVE  
 MASTER ANGLER AWARDS FOR SELECTED SPECIES

--numbers represent standing					
Year	Lake Trout	Northern Pike	Walleye	Brook Trout	Whitefish
1960	1,2,3,4,5	1	0	1,2,3,4	no data
1961	1,2,3,4,5	2	0	1,2,3,4,5	no data
1962	1,2,3,4,	1	0	1,2,3,4,5	no data
1963	1,2,3,	4	0	1,2,3,4,5	1,4,5
1964	1,2,3,4,5	1,2	0	1,2,3,4,5	1,5
1965	1,2,4	0	1	2,3,5	0
1966	1,2,3,4,	0	0	1,2,3,4,5	2,4,5
1967	1,4	3	1	1,2,3,4,5	2,4
Total Given Awards...	491	2380	649	559	198
Total Gods Lake Awards.	235	394	22	520	101
Percentage of all awards given in Manitoba...	.. 47.8%	16.6%	3.4%	93.0%	51.0%

Source: Compiled from Master Angler Award Files, Fisheries Branch,  
 Renewable Resources, Province of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The foregoing statistics substantiate the slogan: "Where the average fish is a trophy at most other places". The chances of obtaining an award are much greater here than at any other spot in Manitoba, and chances of obtaining a large fish, although not of trophy size, are great, as these are numerous.

For planning future development and management, knowledge of the specific angling demand is requisite. As seen in Figure 20, Lake Trout are the preferred sports fish indicated by over fifty percent of the anglers. Walleye are second, with Brook Trout and Northern Pike accounting for close third and fourth preferences, and Whitefish the least preferred.

By weighting the choices relative to their importance in each

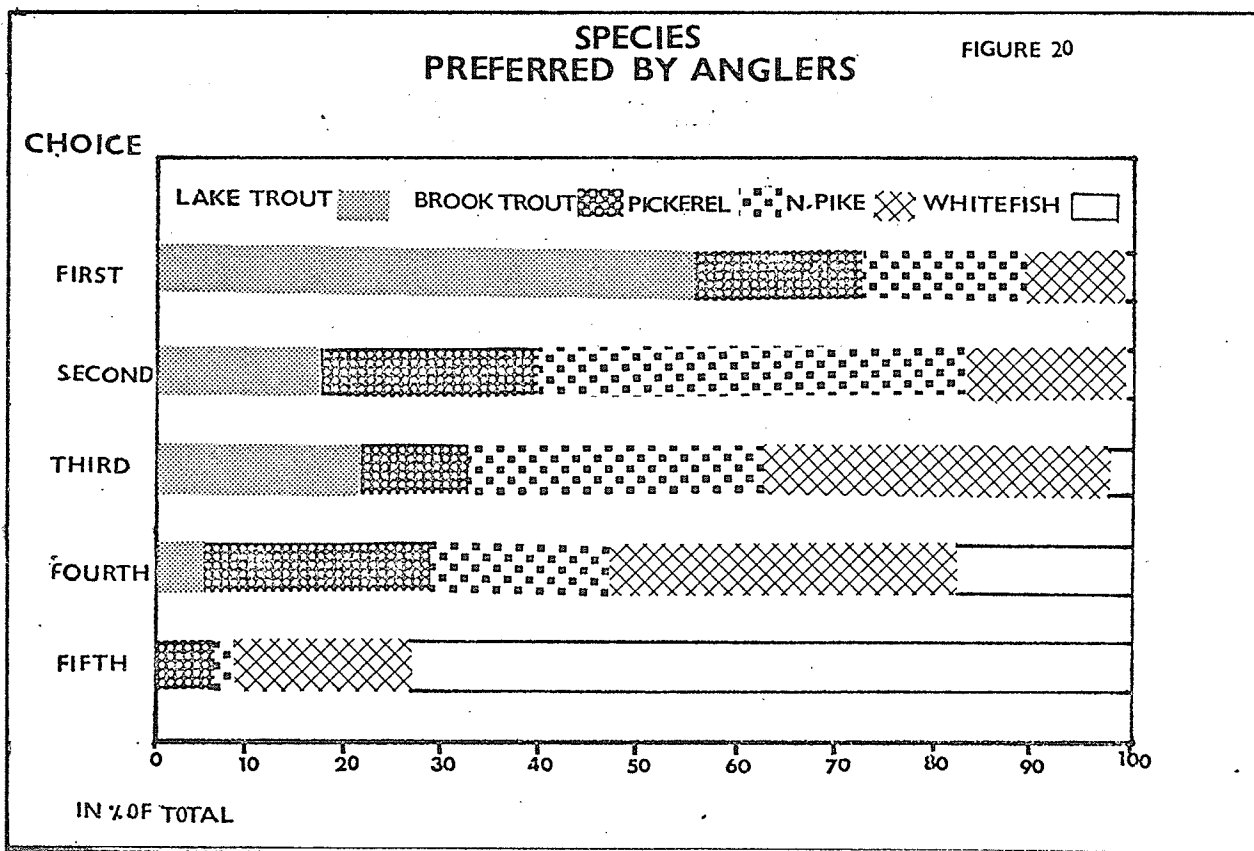


TABLE XI

## TOURISTS' PREFERENCE OF ANGLING BY SPECIES

	Lake Trout	Brook Trout	Walleye	Northern Pike	Whitefish	Total Responses
First Choice:						
Responses...	141	42	29	41	2	255
Weighted Responses... (X5)	705	210	145	205	10	
Second Choice:						
Responses...	42	56	112	42	1	253
Weighted Responses... (X4)	168	224	448	168	4	
Third Choice:						
Responses...	46	25	65	74	7	217
Weighted Responses... (X3)	138	75	195	222	21	
Fourth Choice:						
Responses...	6	26	21	40	21	114
Weighted Responses... (X2)	12	52	42	80	42	
Fifth Choice:						
Responses...	0	4	1	12	48	65
Weighted Responses... (X1)	0	4	1	12	48	
Total Weighted Responses...	1023	565	831	687	125	

\*Twenty protocols gave equal preference for all species.

category, the following order was obtained: (also see TABLE XI, page 69).

(All first preferences of angling species were assigned 5 points, second choices, 4 points, third choices, 3 points, fourth choices, 2 points and fifth choices, 1 point.)

Lake Trout . . . . .	1023 points
Pickereel . . . . .	831 points
Northern Pike . . . . .	687 points
Brook Trout . . . . .	565 points
Whitefish . . . . .	125 points

Further, it must be assumed that not all anglers fish for all species, as the number of responses from the first to the fifth choice fell from 255 to 253, 217, 114, and down to 65, respectively. Most fishermen angled for three species. Less than one half preferred angling for four species, while about one quarter angled for all species.

## 2. Hunting

Hunting is preferred as a secondary sport by most sportsmen (see Figure 19, page 60). Only six percent of Gods Lake visitors came primarily to hunt. In 1968 some fifty-two sportsmen visited the area to hunt and to angle.<sup>13</sup> The outlying subsidiary camps accommodated the sportsmen who hunted specifically for geese in the marshes of Hudson Bay and Red Cross Lake. Full limits, of about fifty percent Canada Goose, and fifty percent Snow Goose, were obtained in all cases.<sup>14</sup> These hunters usually obtain their bag limit in three days. The rest of the week is spent in late Lake Trout fishing, or in Brook Trout angling north of 55°N. Lat. at the site of hunting lodges.

Although moose were fairly plentiful in 1968, and a Black Bear season was in effect for the first time in years, hunting of this type

was not attempted.

### 3. Sightseeing

The third choice of recreation was sightseeing. Although Gods Lake scenery is beautiful, it is not exceptional, and is similar to that of more accessible areas of eastern Manitoba. What may add more to an angling or hunting trip are the wide open spaces, the feeling of isolation on an expansive island-studded lake, where one may see no other humans excepting those of his party...or, the thrill of adventure, as one battles the waves or rounds the corner of a placid bay, so peaceful that one wonders whether human eyes have perceived the scene before. A visit to the mining ghost town, or the dipping of a canoe paddle as early fur trade routes are rediscovered, also add to the sensual experience and are seldom forgotten, continuing to quicken the spirit when reminiscing about the actual experience (see Plates 3 and 4, page 72).

### 4. Other Activities

The remaining five recreational activities, although to a lesser extent, also contribute to the aggregate recreational experience. These categories are significant for closer scrutiny, and will be discussed later when potential is considered.

## H. The Growth of Recreation

In 1968, 852 guests visited the Gods Lake recreation area. This was more than a twenty-five percent increase over the previous year.<sup>15</sup>

(see Figure 21, page 73). The rapid increase was partially due to:

1) a new airstrip at Gods River, 2) a change of ownership at Kanuchuan Lodge, with a revamping to make it appealing, 3) increased advertising



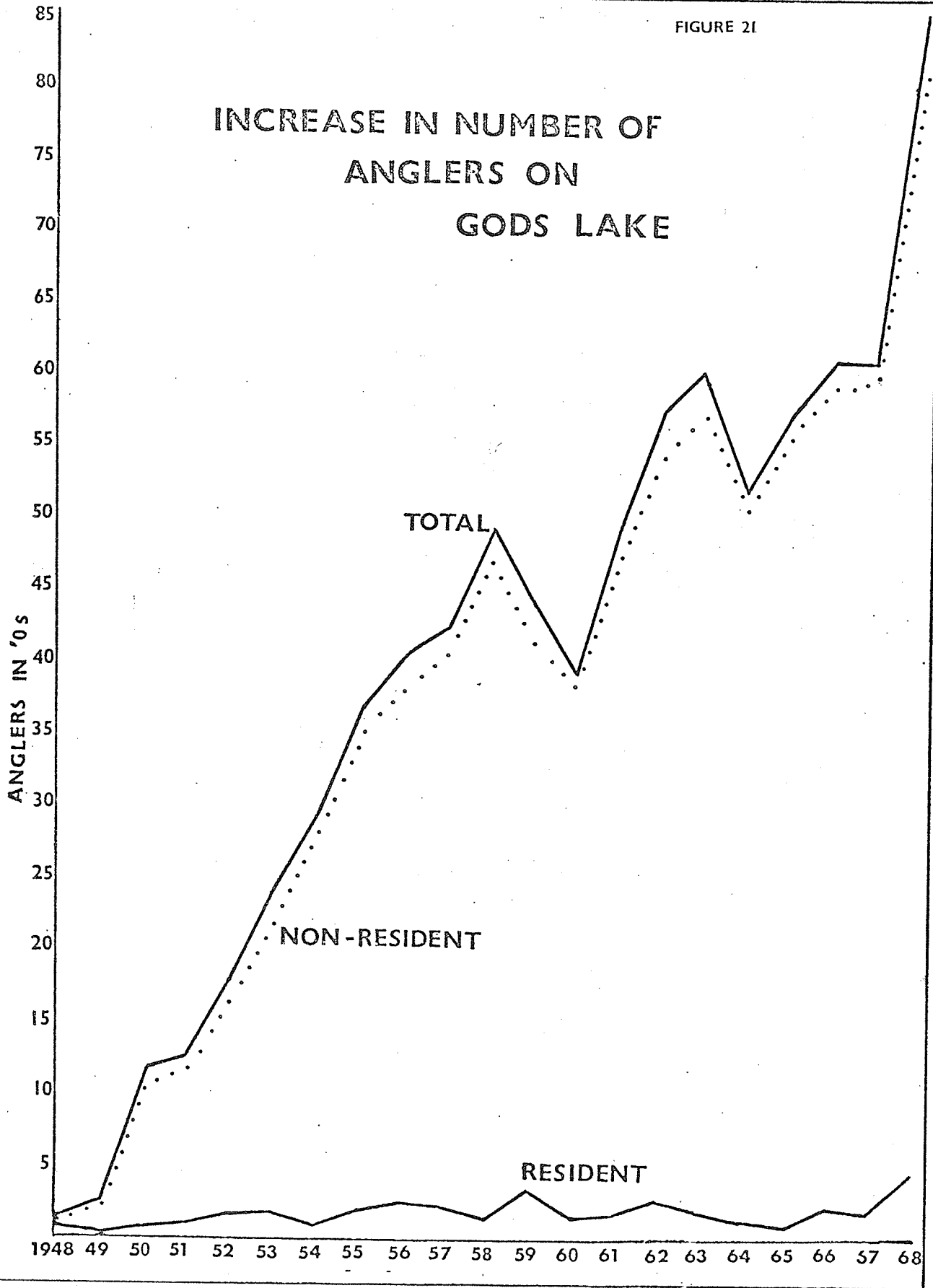
Plate 3: The reef- and island-studded lake stretches to the distant horizon where water and sky merge, creating the impression of grandeur and vastness. (Photo taken from the front porch of Elk Island Lodge, courtesy H. L. Sawatzky.)



Plate 4: The mixed stands of deciduous and evergreen trees are especially colorful in autumn.

FIGURE 21

# INCREASE IN NUMBER OF ANGLERS ON GODS LAKE



of the major lodges, as well as 4) a growing demand.

A gradual increase may be noted until 1958. The sharp dip in 1960 may be due to the introduction of the single barbless hook at Gods Lake.<sup>16</sup> This requirement was not popular with high-paying fishermen, the more so because commercial gill nets were sieving the lake. Another slump from 1964 to 1965 was the result of the rapidly declining business of the Elk Island establishment, which was later sold and, under new ownership, has regained some of its trade. Note from the graph that the number of resident Canadian guests has been insignificant over the years. No conclusive reason has been found to explain this finding. The proportion of anglers in the American sporting fraternity is higher than in its Canadian counterpart, but there is more than this behind the disparity. It may be hypothesized that many Canadian sportsmen have permanent summer cottages in areas where there is still good hunting and fishing, and therefore the outlay of funds to fish a few hundred miles north is too great to make the trip appealing.

### I. The Economic Aspect of Recreation

#### 1. To The Province

852 guests, spending a mean of .....	\$	634.00
equals .....		520,168.00
Since all funds are in American currency, and Canadian currency is devalued to a 92.5 to 100.0 ratio, the gross income equals .....		559,180.00
Income from Non-resident angling licenses, at \$6.50 a license, equals .....		5,338.00
Grand Gross Income equals .....	<u>\$</u>	<u>564,518.00</u>



This is approximately equivalent to the economic impact of 16,188 average tourists visiting Manitoba.<sup>17</sup>

Not only is there a redistribution of local money, but most of this amount is injected into the Canadian economy from an external source, and therefore represents the acquisition of new wealth. Applying the economic multiplier of 3, this sum may contribute 1.7 million dollars to our economy.

## 2. To The Local Native Population

Available statistics for income to native people from tourism are over-generalized and fragmentary. The writer has discovered that data are inconsistent and usually cover only guiding. Thus neglect tips, which are substantial, and omit other indirect earnings of the native people which may equal or exceed direct guiding salaries. It is necessary to explain in some detail how the resulting figures were obtained.

As a basis for arriving at the number of guests in the area, the official angling license vendors' report was consulted.<sup>18</sup> Approximately twenty angling licenses were sold to local people--teachers and government administrators. This figure would be more than balanced by a substantial number of guests who visit the area twice a year and also by an estimated sixteen guests who were not registered at the lodges, but flew into the area in private planes and camped. These latter usually come supplied with licenses. The number of guests using guides, therefore, would equal at least the number of licenses sold in the area.

It may be argued that the outpost camps, especially Nejalini Lodge, would obtain licenses through Gods River Lodge. This may be true, although 35 anglers fished only 3.5 days each at this camp.<sup>19</sup> All guides and employees came from Gods Lake.

All the above discrepancies are minor, and 852 is a modest substantiated figure, correct within one or two percent.

Guides are paid a flat rate of fifteen dollars a day. Slightly lower wages were paid by the two smallest camps which entertained approximately thirty percent of the area's guests. One operator, who had the largest portion of the area's guests, paid overtime to guides who worked after 6 P.M. An estimated forty percent worked overtime. Therefore, \$15.00 is a conservative figure for the average daily guide salary.

Eighty percent of the angling occurs on the lake and requires only one guide for every two guests. Individual tourists use one guide per boat. The remaining twenty percent of angling occurs in fast water, and requires an additional bowman for every one or two-man tourist party.<sup>20</sup>

Although the mean length of stay per tourist was slightly more than seven days, it is estimated that the mean number of days per individual spent in angling is six days. This is due to arrival and departure schedules becoming skewed because of changing flying conditions.

Therefore:

852 anglers	
staying six days each, equals .....	5112 angling days
(20% of 5112) + (½ of 80%(5112)) equals .....	3167 guide days <sup>21</sup>
3067 guide days @ \$15.00 a day, equals .....	\$ 46,005.00
Tips, at \$29.00 per tourist, equals .....	\$ 24,708.00

The financial records of the two largest tourist operations on the lake revealed that wages paid to kitchen help, cabin maid service, filleters, firewood suppliers, yard maintenance crew and storekeepers, equals more than an annual .....

	\$ 20,000.00
--	--------------

This does not include major building projects in which native labour, directed by white foremen, is used almost exclusively. Gods River Lodge and Gods Lake Lodge have undertaken extensive building programs over the past five years. More than \$3,500.00 annually, for the past five years, was spent on drains for the airstrip at Gods River. Warehouses, store, dining hall, and the enlargement of lodge facilities have created job opportunities that are difficult to separate from other economic enterprises, but a very modest estimate per annum would be .....

	\$ 5,000.00
--	-------------

Another minor source of income for the natives is the manufacturing of souvenirs. This industry is poorly developed, contributing between \$1,000 and \$2,000 annually, estimated at .....

	1,500.00
--	----------

Therefore, the direct Grand Gross Income from tourism, for the Indian people at Gods Lake, equals .....

	\$ 97,213.00
--	--------------

The Gods Lake recreational region is rapidly becoming a major attraction for a selective group of sportsmen that are attracted to the area to fish and hunt in a wilderness setting. This form of recreation has significantly contributed to the economy of Manitoba and has supplied the major source of livelihood for the local residents of the region. With judicious management the natural resources may serve to increase benefits to both the Indians and the province.

## REFERENCES

1. Burton's Elk Island Lodge, "1968 Tourist Brochure," Winnipeg, Manitoba.
2. Ibid.
3. W. B. Baker, "A Study of Manitoba's Outdoor Recreational Resources," Background paper for Committee on Manitoba's Economic Future (mimeo.), Winnipeg, 1962, p. 126.
4. Statistics taken from guest books for tourist camps on Gods Lake.
5. Pers. comm., Manitoba, Department of Tourism and Recreation, Winnipeg.
6. The first two names are of guests who have visited the area. Pers. comm., G. Coulson, Gods Lake, June, 1968.
7. Pers. comm., T. Ruminski, H. Helzer, G. Coulson, Gods Lake, Manitoba, June 1968.
8. A. Brisner, L. L. Smith, Jr., H. C. Frick, F. E. J. Fry, An Economic Evaluation of Sea Lamprey Control and Lake Trout Restoration in Lake Superior, Ann Arbor, 1968, pp. 1-12.
9. Pers. comm., Manitoba, Department of Tourism and Recreation, Winnipeg.
10. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
11. Statistics were taken from guest books from Elk Island Lodge and Kanuchuan Rapids Lodge--from 1950 to 1962, Gods Lake, Manitoba.
12. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
13. Pers. comm., T. Ruminski, Winnipeg, 1968.
14. Ibid.
15. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

16. The single barbless hook was first introduced for all of Gods Lake. In 1961 the regulation for the lake was discontinued and retained only for streams entering or leaving the lake.
17. See CHAPTER I.
18. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
19. Ibid.
20. Pers. comm., T. Ruminski and G. Coulson, Gods Lake, Manitoba, June, 1968.
21. Twenty percent of tourists use two guides per boat, or one guide per tourist. The remaining eighty percent of tourists use only one guide per boat, or half a guide per tourist.

## CHAPTER IV

### INDIVIDUAL LODGE OPERATIONS

The study of the processes involved in the creation and maintenance of these operations may yield valuable insights for future development of similar establishments and also for improvement of present facilities.

#### A. Gods River Lodge

Gods River Lodge, owned and operated by Tom and Joe Ruminski, was the first successful tourist operation on Gods Lake. From small beginnings in 1948 it has expanded into an establishment with licensed accommodation for 76 guests.

The mining era (1929-1945) bequeathed to the area a deteriorated economic and social system. Tom Ruminski, who served as a Hudson's Bay Clerk from 1940, and later owned a trading post, was convinced that Gods Lake had an almost inexhaustible angling potential. The mining population had recognized and publicized the fabulous size and quantity of Lake Trout and other fish species. The operation had also introduced air transportation service--speedy, but expensive. Structures related to the mining operation were left vacant, creating an incentive to utilize them for some economic return.

The Ruminskis also saw a potential in the white waters of the Gods River which produces Brook Trout of beautiful color and trophy size. Land was leased on a hummocky, clay-based tract, paralleling Gods River

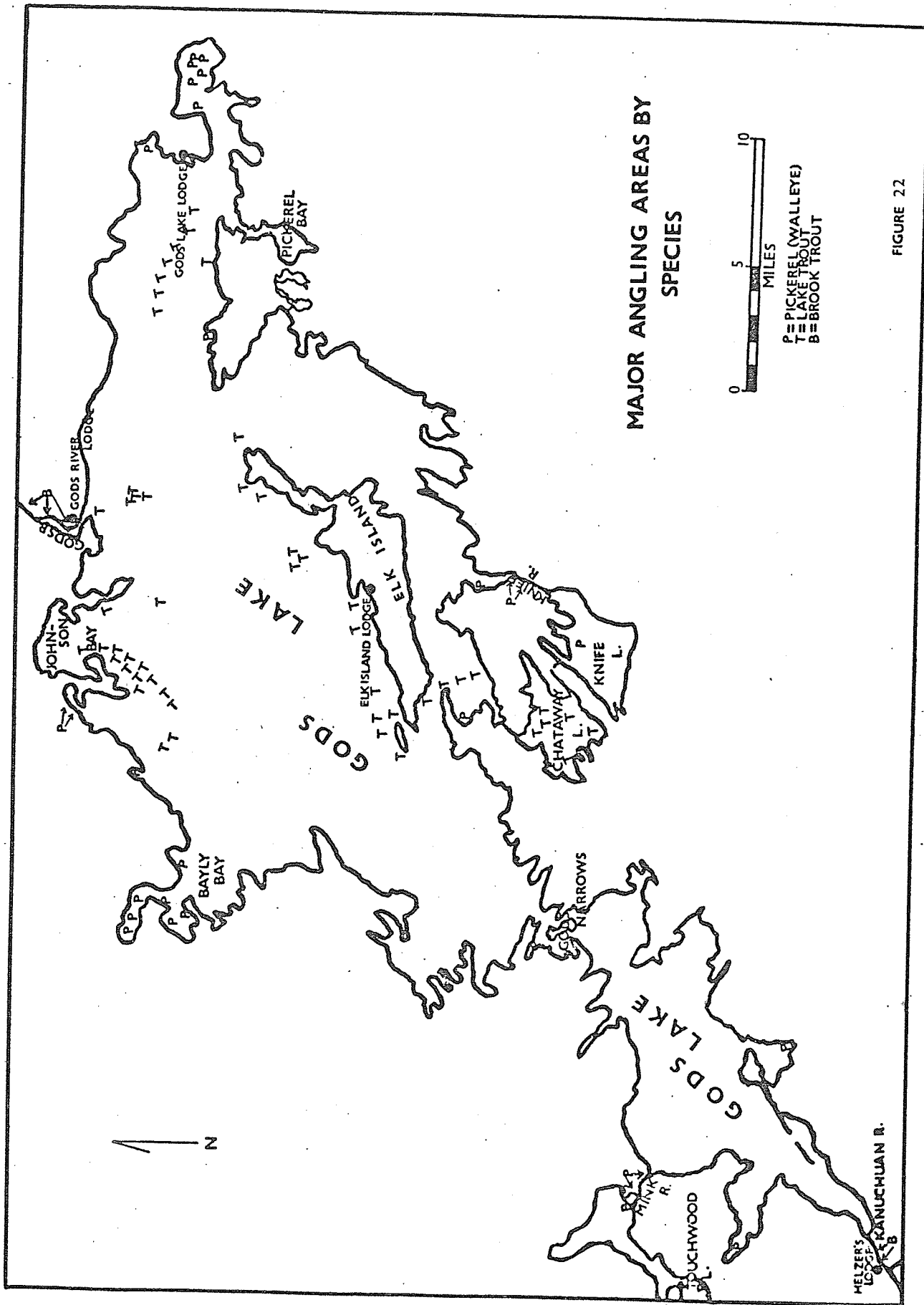


FIGURE 22

from its mouth to a sharp elbow down river. The peat was drained and much of the bog was scraped away to form a firm level base for construction. The lodge was erected in a grove of birch and spruce on the banks of the river where it turns sharply northward in a boiling fury (see Plate 5, page 85). The river is more than one hundred yards across at this point, widening as it tumbles over the boulders that form its bed. A large, flat, exposed rock stairway protrudes half-way across the rapids, forming an ideal 300-degree casting area. This shoreline angling is a great asset to evening entertainment for anglers who enjoy fly- and jig-fishing. Brook Trout from the Gods Lake area are widely known, and have graced the table of a President of the United States.

A basic factor in lodge location was the proximity to the Johnson Bay reefs that harbor many Lake Trout. Fishing spots (see Figure 22, page 81) since angling is the preferred activity on the lake, are a primary factor for lodge location. Poor weather, time spent in commuting, and expense, all present good reason why lodges should locate nearest the focus of their business.

Another essential factor for lodge location is a well-sheltered float-plane base, since air transportation is the only connection with the outside. The Gods River affords a base, more than 3,000 feet in length, almost free of reefs, and sheltered from the prevailing north and northwesterly winds. It is also protected from the intense wave action of the open lake to the south. The fast-flowing river provides open water to permit a long flying season, and is wide enough to permit some maneuverability in cross winds.

At Ruminski's invitation a group of 150 Cree Indians, mostly from the mining townsite, moved to Gods River in 1948, where they were guaranteed employment and assisted in house construction. In 1958 the lodge



operator provided a school building for the village children, and later financed and constructed a large, full-basement, three room school with attached teacherage.

In 1960 an outcamp was erected forty miles downstream, an overnight stopping place for those who fished down river. Another shelter was erected for similar purposes at the junction of the Red Sucker and Gods Rivers. (See Figure 23, page 84 for all outcamp locations.)

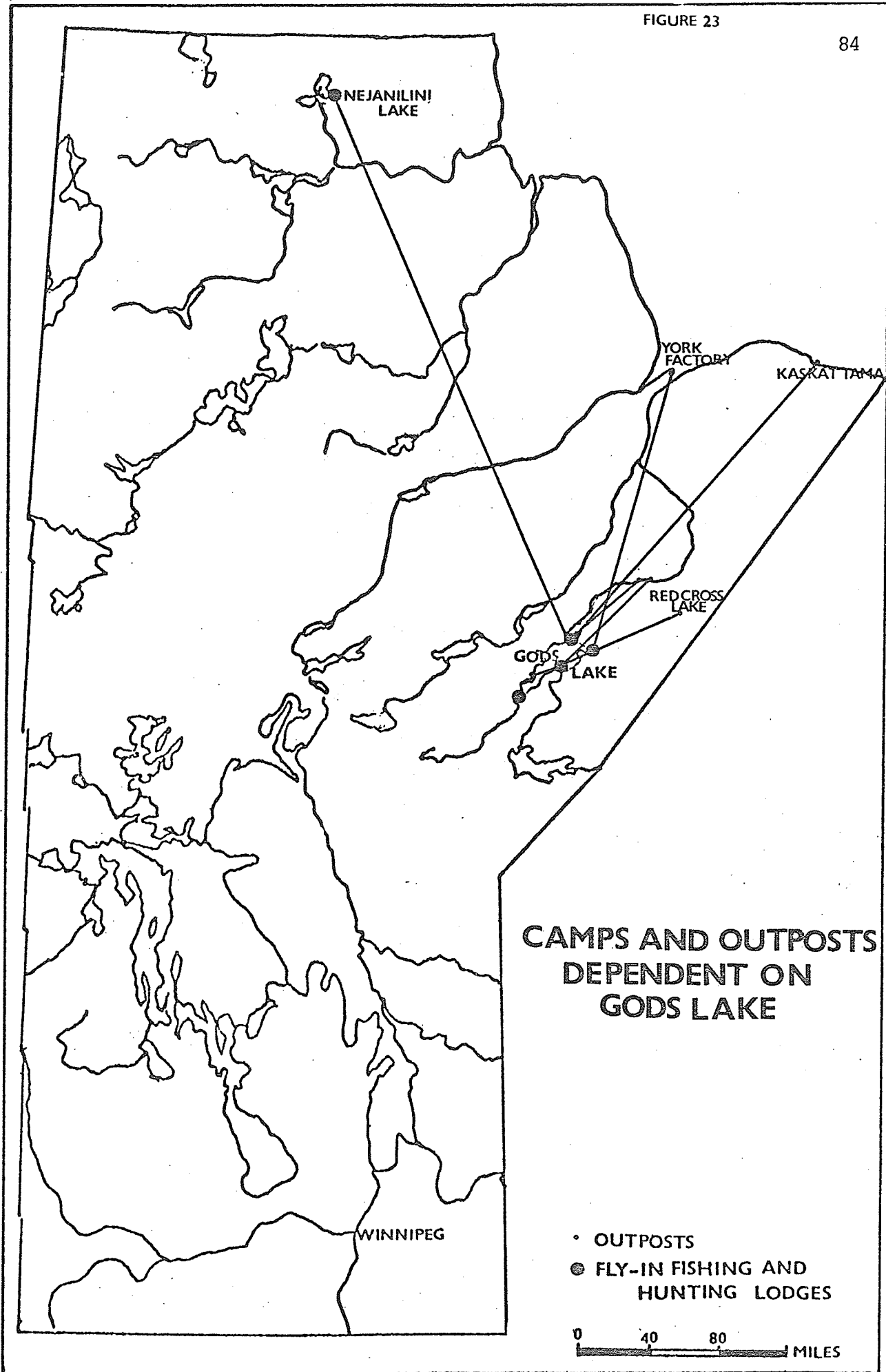
Some demand for goose hunting prompted the construction of an outcamp on Hudson Bay at the mouth of the Kaskattama River (see Plate 6, page 85). This camp has been utilized sporadically, although approximately forty sportsmen used the facilities in 1968.

In 1967 a new camp, owned in partnership with J. Phelps and J. Farrell, was constructed by the Ruminskis, 650 miles north of Winnipeg on Nejanilini Lake. Climatic and construction problems retarded development and only thirty-five anglers fished there in 1967. All but four of these anglers also vacationed at Gods Lake.<sup>1</sup>

Air transportation direct from Winnipeg is via Riverton--Ilford Airlines, which is partially owned by the Ruminskis. Since the introduction of the airstrip, other airlines are chartered for the peak season. In 1968 twenty-four wheeled private aircraft brought tourists to the Gods River Lodge.<sup>2</sup>

Accommodations are spacious and modern. The main lodge consists of a large dining and lounge area with picture windows facing the white water, and with sleeping quarters for eight guests and service staff.

Four modern aluminum-sheathed cabins face the river, each having four bedrooms with two beds each, and a large central living room featuring a natural rock fireplace. Private showers, bathrooms, hot and cold running water, and electricity are supplied. Four natural log cabins can accommodate



**CAMPS AND OUTPOSTS  
DEPENDENT ON  
GODS LAKE**

- OUTPOSTS
- FLY-IN FISHING AND HUNTING LODGES

0 40 80 MILES



Plate 5: Gods River Lodge is situated at the source of Gods River where the foaming white waters of the river combine to create an attractive site and ideal Brook Trout angling.



Plate 6: Gods River Lodge goose hunting camp on Hudson Bay. A new outcamp is presently under construction as the lumber in the foreground indicates. Demand for goose hunting is rapidly increasing.

eight guests each, while six other buildings furnish sleeping quarters for sixteen more guests (see Plate 7).



Plate 7: Cabins, some of log construction and others of frame construction line the bank just below the first rapids. (Gods River Lodge)

Cabins have inner spring mattresses, showers, bathrooms, and hot and cold running water. The official government tourist rating awarded these accommodations is Four Star (see APPENDIX B for accommodation rating criteria).

Fish and game processing is available. A large freezer holds game which, packed in insulated containers, will remain frozen as it accompanies the guest home.

Communications with the "outside" are made by radio telephone, although interference is extreme in poor weather.

Especially sturdy boats and freighter canoes powered with ten-horsepower motors are employed in the water-oriented recreation.

Groceries, tackle, souvenirs and airplane fuel are available at the store.

Rates: All-expense weekly rate, per person, with two or more to a party, including transportation from Winnipeg<sup>3</sup> (In American Funds)--

7 days .....	\$ 555.00
5 days .....	490.00
3 days .....	375.00

Add \$25.00 per day for one-man party.

Add \$20.00 per day for river fishing.

For parties arriving by private aircraft:

Per person, for first day .....	\$ 100.00
For the remaining six days ....	425.00

Goose Hunting:

Sunday to Sunday, per person ..	\$ 700.00
---------------------------------	-----------

Safari downstream to York Factory and return by air, per person:

For party of 1 .....	\$ 1,855.00
For party of 2 .....	1,330.00
For party of 4 .....	1,155.00

There is as yet little demand for this item, perhaps because of the cost.

The buildings of this tourist operation are well situated, although the scattered pattern of fish sheds and warehouses does not add eye-appeal to the complex. Climatic and surface conditions may have forced the operator to adopt such a pattern. Some buildings are in need of paint. Generally, the grounds are well kept.

B. Helzer's Gods Lake Lodge

The Kanuchuan Rapids Lodge, situated at the extreme southern tip of Gods Lake three miles up the Kanuchuan Rapids, is owned and operated by Herb Helzer (see Plate 8, page 90). This camp has changed hands four times in the history of its operation. It is licensed to accommodate forty-four guests.

The site is still owned by the company that constructed the hydro project to supply power to the mine on Elk Island. The buildings for the construction workmen, later superintended by a caretaker, have been sold to the present owner.

In 1948 H. Ellgring, the caretaker, obtained a tourist license for twelve guests. Due to poor publicity and transportation problems there were no paying guests the first year.<sup>4</sup>

Although not originally selected with an eye to a tourist operation, the site had some advantages. Vacant buildings, although not of the best construction, were available, as was ample hydro electric power from the generator. The site was clear and on well-drained level ground. Cabins were already supplied with electric heat, running water and sewage disposal. Excellent Brook Trout angling was available in the Kanuchuan River, as well as farther upstream in the Island Lake River.

Isolation from navigable waters has been the greatest hindrance to the development of the camp, as water communication with the rest of Gods Lake, where the best angling exists, is obstructed by a three mile stretch of rapids. To bypass this obstacle an earth and corduroy track with two bridges, now in a poor state of maintenance, was constructed parallel to the rapids. This was only a partial success, as maintenance is difficult without heavy road machinery and surfacing material. In rainy weather traversing this trail is still time-consuming, laborious, and hard on

vehicles. Guests who are impatient to fish are disgusted at the rough snail's-pace ride. The need arose for a small waiting hut at the Gods Lake end of the trail, to protect waiting guests from the mosquitoes infesting the low lying area (see Plate 9, page 90).

The site was littered with debris and old construction equipment. Cabins were in poor shape when Ellgring began his operations. On the other hand, a well-sheltered bay some 500 yards from the lodge offered natural float-plane facilities.

The surrounding shallow bays at the Gods Lake end of the rapids are excellent Northern Pike waters. A boat trip of about nine miles, to Wesachuan Bay, provides good Walleye angling. However, since Lake Trout fishing is the prime objective of most tourists, the south end Gods Lake location presented further problems due to a poor Lake Trout population in the silty shallow waters of Gods Lake south of Gods Narrows.

A twenty- to thirty-mile journey in small open boats over a large unprotected body of water to northern Gods Lake is impractical and dangerous. An unexpected storm can quickly whip the uniformly bottomed shallow waters of the southern portion of Gods Lake, which has few islands to break the force of the wind, into a hazardously choppy condition.

In 1952 ownership was transferred to J. D. Smith, although the site's lease was retained by the power company. Barney Lamm of Ball Lake Lodge, Ontario, began using the lodge as an outcamp, and soon thereafter purchased it outright. The lack of good Lake Trout angling led Lamm to open an outcamp at the old Elk Island mining site where Trout are plentiful. Pete Burton was the chief guide and director of both the Elk Island Camp, and an outcamp opened later on Gods River. In 1966 the Elk Island Camp property was sold to Burton. Two years later Lamm sold the Kanuchuan Rapids property to H. Helzer, the present owner.<sup>5</sup> The Elk Island Lodge

Plate 8: An aerial view of the partially collapsed dam and sluice-way with the tourist camp in the background. The bay up-stream from the dam provides a sheltered spot for pontoon-equipped and amphibious aircraft.

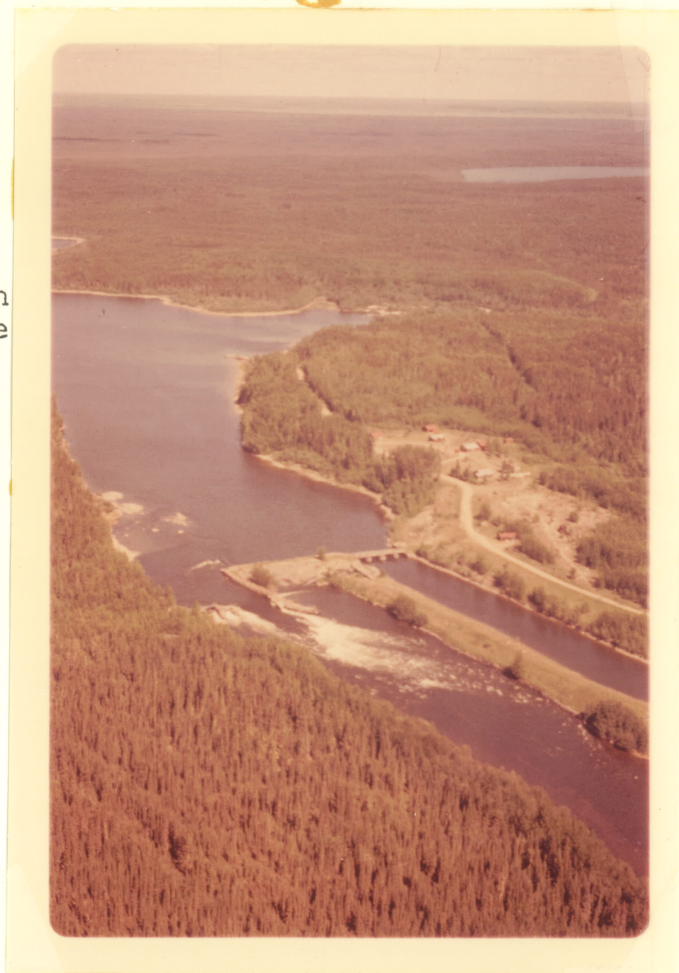


Plate 9: The Gods Lake Kanuchuan Rapids tourist camp is situated at the extreme southern tip of Gods Lake, three miles above the unnavigable Kanuchuan Rapids. Sportsmen and guides have just traversed the three-mile dirt and corduroy road to the foot of the rapids to reach Gods Lake, the major angling area.



will be discussed later.

Since Helzer has owned the lodge several improvements have been made. The cabins have been refurbished and junk has been partially cleared from the immediate grounds. The bridges have been repaired and the trail has been improved, although transportation is difficult and time-consuming, especially in rainy weather. One of the best improvement schemes has been the arrangement of ferry service to good fishing spots within a thirty-mile radius. Taylor Airways, a subsidiary of Ontario Central Airways, has a charter plane stationed at Gods Narrows. This service, at \$30.00 per person per trip, provides a greater range of fishing spots, notably Bolten and Chataway Lakes, and the Island Lake River.<sup>6</sup>

The Three-Star-rated accommodations consist of four frame and four log buildings (see Plate 10, page 92). Electricity from the still operational generator supplies power for heat, light, and cooking. Hot and cold running water, showers, private inside toilets, and inner spring mattresses are standard for each unit. The cabins consist of bedrooms and a sitting room. A large dining hall and kitchen supply top quality meals.

Radio telephone, and a light aircraft, are available for emergency use.

Fifteen, sixteen-foot boats, and six, twenty-foot canoes powered by eighteen and twenty-horsepower outboard motors, supply transportation by water.

Recently, the main power dam partially collapsed, and it is not known how long power will be available.

A basic problem exists, one which may be corrected within the near future. This camp is supplied from Kenora, due to connections with the former owner who has his main base there. The passenger rates from Kenora and Winnipeg, although these cities are almost equidistant from Gods Lake,



Plate 10: One of the cabins at the Kanuchuan Rapids Gods Lake tourist lodge. The cabins date from the early 1930's when Kanuchuan Rapids was harnessed to supply hydro power for the Gods Lake Gold Mine. The cabins are located on the Kanuchuan River. Grounds are well kept and attractive.

are quite dissimilar. Return fare to Gods Narrows from Kenora is \$250.00, whereas a similar trip from Winnipeg is only \$105.00. Winnipeg has an advantageous geographical position, and much superior airline connections from the prime market.

1968 Rates, In American Currency:<sup>7</sup>

3-day trip, per person .....	\$385.00
4-day trip, per person .....	430.00
7-day trip, per person .....	565.00

Add \$50.00 to the above rates for pick-ups at International Falls and Winnipeg.

Garbage dumps should be further removed from the frequented road.

This camp has improved greatly under new ownership during the past year.

### C. Burton's Elk Island Lodge

This lodge is owned and operated by Peter Burton, who came to Gods Lake as a miner in 1932, and remained and settled down when the mine closed. He was chief guide, and later co-owner, of Barney Lamm's Elk Island Lodge, obtaining full ownership in 1966. The lodge provides Three-Star accommodation and is registered to serve thirty-four guests.<sup>8</sup>

Lodge buildings are former gold mining structures and were bought from the mining company. The land was leased from the province after gold mining claims expired.

The lodge is perched on a sharply rising granitic outcrop. Second-growth pine and black spruce have almost healed the scars left by the mining activity in the immediate area. A short distance from the actual accommodation site, the remains of the mining town are still visible. Two head frames loom on the horizon. Heaps of mining equipment are strewn between vacant shacks and mine tailing. The shafts have been sealed.

The lofty site of the lodge has the advantage of breezes from the open lake, retarding insect pests. The view offered over the bay is appealing (see Plate 3, page 72). Transportation up the short steep approach from the float-plane base presents a minor problem.

Elk Island is the central point on Gods Lake, although the island position may mean isolation from the main community when water is very rough.

The approach for air transportation is poor and a major drawback to regular service. A north or northwest prevailing wind presents a difficult task for the pilot as he is faced with heavy seas in stormy

weather, which are made worse by a rock-strewn bay. Islands and reefs dictate a southwest--northeasterly approach, often complicated by heavy crosswinds. Even navigation by boat within the bay can be hazardous unless one is thoroughly familiar with the area.

Lake Trout angling has, in the past, been excellent around Elk and Jowsey Islands, and at the entrance to Chataway Lake. At high water Chataway Lake, which teems with small Lake Trout, can be entered by canoe. Knife River and Bayly Bay are heavily fished for Walleye. Distant Brook Trout fishing spots on the Gods River are serviced by the outcamp. In pleasant weather boat crossings over the large lobe of the lake are possible, but air charter service via Riverton--Ilford Airways allows angling in the Gods River even on stormy days. An outcamp at Red Cross Lake is used only for hunting purposes. Recently, a rebuilt Hudson's Bay store was opened as a light housekeeping outcamp, where sportsmen may buy food, prepare their meals, and do their housekeeping.

The main lodge on Elk Island is comprised of a kitchen-dining area overlooking the bay, and eight log cabins of 1930 construction. Four cabins accommodate five guests each, while the other four sleep four people. (see Plate 11 and 12, page 95). Running hot and cold water, showers, inside toilets, and good quality bedding are supplied in the cabins. The buildings are well kept, although age is noticeable from the sagging structures.

Radio telephone is available and electricity is supplied by diesel units, since the power line from Kanuchuan Rapids has ceased to function.

Boating equipment--five boats and thirteen canoes equipped with a variety of motors ranging in size from five- to twenty- horsepower--is in fairly good shape, although motor trouble has resulted in some annoyance.



Plate 11: The main dining area of the Elk Island Camp. Although sagging and rugged in appearance, such buildings contribute to the wilderness psychology of the setting.



Plate 12: Cabins of the Elk Island Lodge date back to the 1929-1945 gold mining era. Second growth tree cover has hidden many of the scars of the previous occupation.

Burton's Elk Island Lodge is the only lodge on the lake that does not offer a package plan. A flat rate of \$40.00 a day provides a guest with guide, food and bed, boat and motor. Transportation must be arranged by the tourist at \$250.00 return fare from Kenora, \$105.00 return fare from Winnipeg, or by direct flight from Chicago.<sup>9</sup>

This camp is in the process of changing owners. Problems of transportation, poor buildings, and an alleged depletion of the Lake Trout are major incentives for the owner to sell.

#### D. Gods Lake Lodge

Gods Lake Lodge is owned by a partnership of G. Coulson, F. Stepanek, and P. Lazarenko. It is operated by G. Coulson of Cicero, Illinois. The operation is licensed for sixty-three guests and provides Four-Star accommodation.<sup>10</sup> The camp, a former Hudson's Bay post later used as a commercial fish camp, is located on land leased by P. Lazarenko.<sup>11</sup> Many of the buildings date back to the Hudson's Bay fur trade era, when the post was known as "Gods Lake House", and have been well preserved (see Plate 13, page 98). Operations commenced in 1957, and have expanded rapidly to a position where in 1968 it accommodates the most guests (298) on Gods Lake.<sup>12</sup>

The site is a low sandy peninsula at the east end of the lake. Poplar and birch surround the compact post, contrasting vividly with the dark brown, red roofed cottages strung out along the gently sloping white beach. The lodge is in an ideal situation to provide excellent Walleye fishing in Little Gods Lake and Pickerel Lake, just east of the establishment. These sheltered spots allow angling even on stormy days. Lake Trout, although not especially numerous, lurk in the deep pools along a string of islands just west of the camp. Northern Pike is ubiquitous,

while Brook Trout fishing is done in select spots on the Gods River, about fifteen miles due west from East End.

The gently sloping bottom and fluctuating water level hamper the use of the float-plane base fronting the lodge. Planes must be anchored out and passengers and cargo lightered ashore. The base is exposed to the prevailing winds, making landings and take-offs occasionally hazardous.

Nine log cabins, two of which can be used as light housekeeping units, supply accommodation. Although old, they are in good condition.

Improvements made through the years have attempted to recapture the spirit of the north by utilizing local timber, peeled and varnished to create a natural finish. Units are equipped with electricity, showers, indoor toilets, hot and cold running water, inner spring mattresses and oil heating. Some cabins have rug floor coverings.

The dining room is tastefully arranged and decorated. The natural look again is emphasized by exposed square timber rafters, varnished log walls, and some peeled pole ceilings. A massive rock fireplace provides a cozy atmosphere. Trophy fish, animal skins and driftwood decorate the mantel and walls (see Plate 14, page 98).

Evening entertainment, supplied by a local Indian musical group, is provided in the lounge, which also has a bar and a library. Trap shooting is planned, and should be available soon for evening entertainment.

Radio telephone is available.

The grounds are well kept. All fish filleting and cleaning is performed on an island away from the camp, to avoid obnoxious odours and the nuisance of insects.

Nineteen aluminum boats and fifteen canoes, usually equipped with twenty-horsepower motors, supply local transportation. A large covered boat is used to locate stalled fishing boats or to make rapid connection



Plate 13: Gods Lake Lodge was a former Hudson's Bay post. The historical and natural element has been skillfully incorporated in the additions to the old post. The two buildings to the right, one a recent addition, form a combined dining hall and lounge.



Plate 14: A natural finish is emphasized in interior design and decoration, creating an appealing atmosphere.



with other settlements. Fluctuating water levels present docking problems. This problem is partially overcome by using skid racks, which can be moved as the water level changes.

Historic York Factory is a base for goose hunting. Float-equipped planes fly parties of two to six sportsmen to hunt in the marshes of Hudson Bay, approachable by air only, and at high tide.

Package deals are offered at \$495.00, American currency, for seven days of fishing on the lake. Northland Airlines, as well as some Chicago- and Detroit-based airlines, service the area. A number of private float-equipped aircraft visit the camp annually.<sup>13</sup>

Guides are supplied from Gods River and Gods Narrows. Since there is no housing for them and their families, they must live in tents near the tourist operation. Amenities for the guiding staff are few.

#### E. Summary

Investment in lodges and facilities is considerable, with an estimated value of \$1,150,000.<sup>14</sup> Accommodations and services suited to gratify the selective sportsmen have evolved through long experience. This experience is invaluable to further fly-in lodge developments in the north, most of which would be faced with similar physical conditions and would cater to a similar sportsman type.

## REFERENCES

1. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
2. Pers. comm., T. Ruminski, Winnipeg, November, 1968.
3. Gods River Lodge, "1968 Tourist Brochure," Winnipeg, Manitoba.
4. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Tourism and Recreation, Winnipeg.
5. Ibid.
6. Pers. comm., H. Helzer, Gods Lake, Manitoba, June, 1968.
7. Helzer's Gods Lake Lodge, "1968 Tourist Brochure," Gods Lake, Manitoba.
8. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Tourism and Recreation, Winnipeg.
9. Burton's Elk Island Lodge, "1968 Tourist Brochure," Winnipeg, Manitoba.
10. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Tourism and Recreation, Winnipeg.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. Pers. comm., G. Coulson, Gods Lake, Manitoba, June, 1968.
14. Pers. comm., Manitoba, Department of Tourism and Recreation, Winnipeg.

## CHAPTER V

### TRANSPORTATION--A KEY TO DEVELOPMENT

Accessibility is essential to the development of any region. Transporta facilities must be considered in evaluating the recreational potential of a region.

There are two basic approaches to surface transportation. One, which was applied extensively on the Canadian prairies, is that of building trunk routes as prerequisites of economic development. The second approach provides transportation facilities only after need is manifest and economic feasibility is plainly evident. Although the second approach may be overly cautious and retard initial development, it may, nevertheless, be a more economically sound policy in northeastern Manitoba. The economic base of the community must be scrutinized to determine compatible transportation facilities.

#### A. Accessibility

At present the Gods Lake community is isolated, connected by no land route except a winter trail passable only to specially adapted equipment. This 120-mile trail connects Gods Lake with Ilford, a small town on the Canadian National Railway's Hudson Bay Line (see Figure 1, page 7). The nearest all-weather gravel road is more than 200 miles to the west. Passengers and high-value commodities gain access only by air.

## B. Effects of Road Access

All-weather surface transportation connections with Gods Lake have been suggested, and general routes and costs have been projected. It is important, therefore, to reevaluate these schemes, not only in the light of potential traffic volume, but with reference to the tourist industry in the near future. With a road the recreational potential would be drastically altered, primarily because the nature and basis of the area's tourist-drawing power would change.

As illustrated, Gods Lake caters to a select high-income class of individuals who spend more than nineteen times as much money in Manitoba as does an equivalent number of "average" tourists visiting the Province. The present establishments, oriented to an exclusive clientele, would have to change their emphasis to a much lower-paying market demanding a different class of facilities. The present market would shift to more secluded and exclusive areas, especially as applies to angling, and, to a lesser degree, accommodation. With increase in sporting pressure the wilderness area proportionately depreciates in value. Angling pressure would certainly increase and the numbers of trophy fish taken could be expected to decline rapidly. Gods Lake would then lose its allure and fall within the category of the common recreational areas of the Canadian Shield. These areas, supplying similar recreational activities, and being closer to the centres of population, would be utilized to a greater degree, leaving Gods Lake as only another lake, a myth of the past. Frontier philosophy, which still influences economic planning, is prevalent also in recreational planning. Grab an area, subdivide it, plunk down summer cottages on tiny city-sized lots, supply amenities, run a major transportation route through it, and all that has been gained is a stereotypic, noisy, unattractive suburb, where one hears neighbours through insubstantial

walls, wildlife disappears, vegetation is emaciated, fish are poisoned, and the serene, refreshingly adventurous, isolated haven for mental and physical invigoration is obliterated.

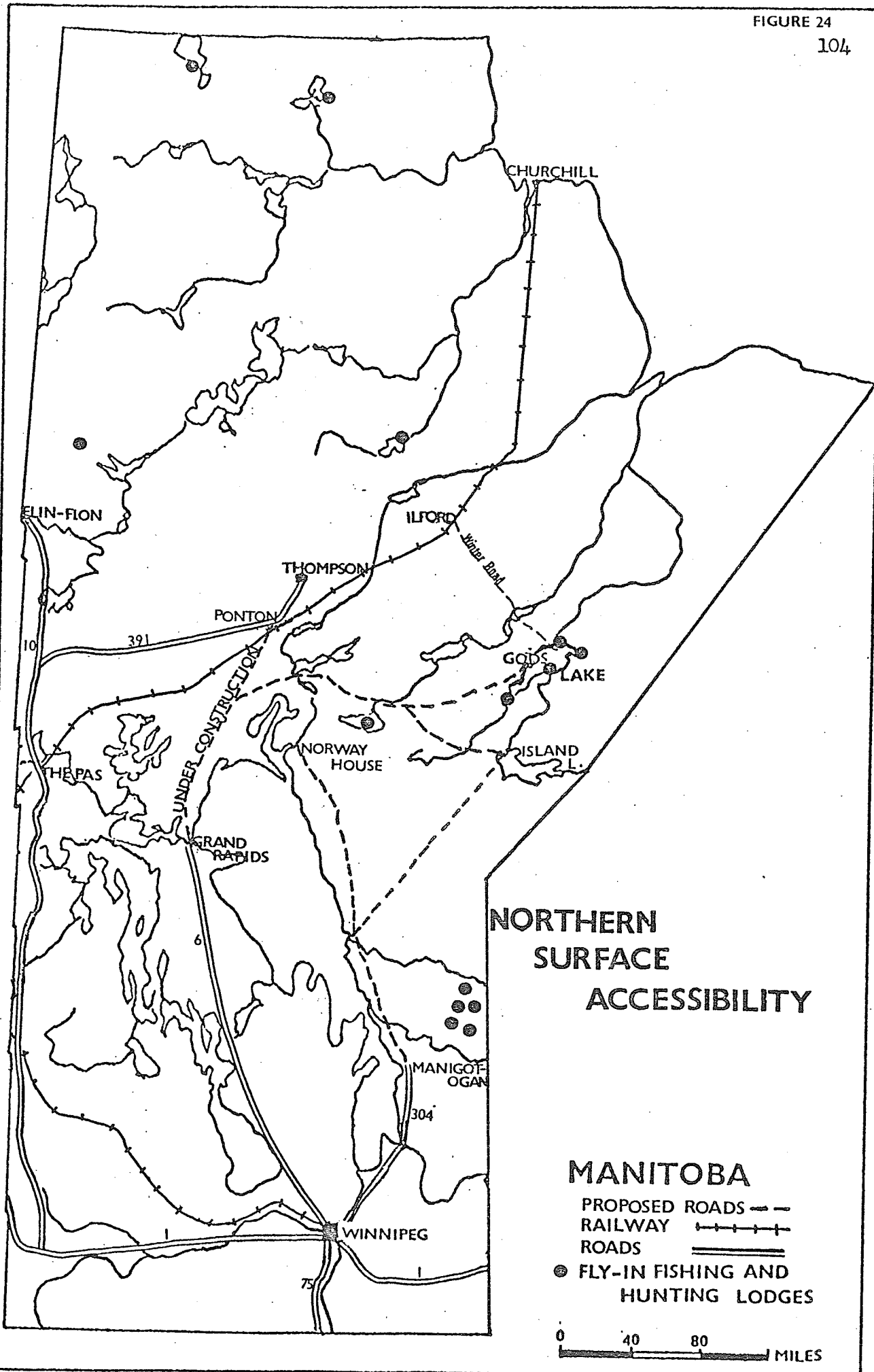
"But there are regions further north, virgin regions yet untouched," it is argued. This is the philosophy of exploitation. It is one that can not be supported. Planners, therefore, must readdress themselves to the problem and the fundamental need for recreation.

A unanimous feeling expressed by the tourist population frequenting Gods Lake is that it is one of the last of such exclusive spots, and that road connections would destroy the area's present potential. The present class of clientele would shift to other spots, where seclusion and excellent angling might still be available.<sup>1</sup> The need to utilize our northland for more intensive recreation may yet present itself, and planning for this possibility will be discussed later in this study.

### C. Feasibility of Road Access

At present road construction into the area is not economically feasible and the problem just cited is not expected to arise within the near future.

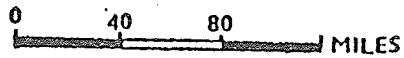
Of the road building projects suggested, one of the first was a feeder line from Ponton, on Provincial Highway #391, to Gods Lake, a distance of 225 miles<sup>2</sup> (see Figure 24, page 104). With the completion of the Ponton-Grand Rapids road this Gods Lake extension would be considerably shortened by intercepting the #6 Highway some twenty miles south of Ponton. Private interests have subsequently proposed an extension from Provincial Road #304 at Manigotogan to Norway House along the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg and an extension from Manigotogan north-eastwards to Island Lake, with connections northward to the proposed



### NORTHERN SURFACE ACCESSIBILITY

#### MANITOBA

- PROPOSED ROADS — —
- RAILWAY —+—+—+
- ROADS ————
- FLY-IN FISHING AND HUNTING LODGES



Ponton--Gods Lake road.<sup>3</sup>

These proposals have been neither sanctioned nor supported by the Provincial Department of Highways, although some research was conducted by the Committee on Manitoba's Economic Future on the Gods Lake--Ponton access.<sup>4</sup> A Royal Commission on Northern Transportation is presently inquiring into long range transportation needs in the Province. The Committee on Manitoba's Economic Future, investigating the Gods Lake--Ponton route, stated, "It is recommended that it should be intensively studied as to the size and timing of the potential development effect before a decision is made to undertake it."<sup>5</sup>

Some of the drawbacks recognized are:

- 1) Sparse population in a few small isolated clusters involving only a few thousand of Manitoba's population.
- 2) Economic gain from tourism would not justify such a project.

It has been suggested that the proposed highway program would serve to develop the tourist industry in the north. It seems highly unlikely, however, that the gravel surfaces planned would prove to be attractive to many tourists, particularly over the distances involved. This suggests that any stimulus the roads might provide for tourism would be largely deferred until some uncertain future time when they might be paved. According to one provincial travel authority, highway justification cannot rest on tourism alone, but must be drawn from a broad base of ...activity.

- 3) The present economic base of the community could not support the burden of the road building project. "...Gods Lake road would not, according to our geological advice, tap promising new mineral areas...".<sup>7</sup> Rock outcrop is basically volcanic and sedimentary, usually of a diffuse gold-bearing nature that could not be economically mined at present gold prices even if the area were accessible by road. There are some potential lithium deposits but current mining prospects do not warrant road construction. Also, "There is no apparent reason for adding new transportation facilities to reach remote timber stands in the Gods Lake Region until market require-

ments so dictate."<sup>8</sup>

4) The rugged terrain, severe climate, and numerous water crossings, present difficult building problems, high initial costs per mile and high maintenance costs. An estimate of \$66,000 a mile for construction, and \$700.00 a mile annually for maintenance, would burden the province with a cost of \$40,000,000.<sup>9</sup>

Such a financial expenditure would be warranted only if the economic base could support it. Unexpected substantial mineral finds might justify a road, but until such a discovery is made, a road will not be constructed unless the Provincial Government can assume great fiscal risks.

5) Another drawback to road construction is the improvement in the air transport system which is beginning to compete with other transportation methods in the north. This aspect will be more fully discussed later.

Therefore, the Highways Branch has recently stated, "Our Department does not contemplate undertaking any highway construction in the area within the future, nor have any long range plans been developed for new roads in the northeast portion of the Province."<sup>10</sup>

#### D. Transportation To The Recreational Area

The Gods Lake area is presently undergoing a metamorphosis in the field of air transportation. The cost of living is considerably inflated due to high transportation costs. Tourist operations are especially dependent on air transport to ferry in not only guests but much of the food, mail, and other commodities.

##### 1. Tractor Train Transportation

Heavy goods and bulky materials are hauled to the area by a very



circuitous route. Three tourist operations are serviced from Winnipeg by the Canadian National Railway's Hudson Bay Route via Ilford, Manitoba. The fourth is partially supplied from Kenora, via the same route. An average cost of rail transport to Ilford from Winnipeg is approximately \$1.70 per cwt. Rates for perishables are considerably higher, while bulk goods shipped in open cars have slightly lower rates.<sup>11</sup> The remaining 120 miles from Ilford to Gods Lake are traversed by winter tractor trains comprised of heavy diesel tractors equipped with snow tracks, each hauling a number of large open bobsleds and a heated caboose for the operating crew. Usually two or more trains travel together for safety, and for doubling up for trail breaking, or in heavy snow. The trains, or "cat swings," as they are known, follow an established track used year after year. The winter road, opened in the early 1930's to develop mineral resources at Gods Lake follows a land route as much as possible, avoiding travel over ice except where absolutely necessary.

Charges from Ilford to Gods Lake are \$3.75 per cwt., for general freight. Large tanks or other bulky articles are transported at rates of \$4.12 to \$6.50 a cwt.<sup>12</sup> Therefore by the time 1,000 board feet of lumber has been transported to Gods Lake from Winnipeg, the price may have more than doubled in consequence of a transportation cost of \$100.00. A 45-gallon barrel of fuel, for example, costs about \$22.50 to transport, adding 50¢ a gallon to the Winnipeg price.

Disadvantages other than exorbitant costs pervade this transportation network. The overland operation is only seasonal, sometimes lasting only two months when early snows create conditions conducive to poor, thin ice and partially frozen bog. An early, rapid thaw frequently strands trains before they reach their destination, with the result that freight is undeliverable. The operation is hazardous and insurance rates are high.

Perishables can not be shipped because of delays and uncertain hauling conditions. Since there is urgency to movement once the ice is firm, reloading at the break-of-bulk point and at the delivery point must be rushed, and it is not unusual for part of a shipment to be missing at the destination.

Tourist operators must predict their needs on a yearly basis, as miscalculations may cause severe inconvenience. They must also store goods for a year, bearing the added expense of storage space, spoilage, and tied-up capital. Another disadvantage for the seasonal tourist operation is that camp operators may not be able to be present in winter to accept shipment or check for damages.

## 2. Air Transportation

Travellers and less bulky or perishable commodities are usually transported to the area by amphibious or ski-equipped aircraft. This method of transport is expensive. Only a few years ago the Winnipeg--Gods Lake rate was approximately equal to the cost of flying from Winnipeg to New York. The present scheduled thrice-weekly air service from Winnipeg to Gods Lake provides return transportation for \$105.00.<sup>13</sup> Chartered aircraft are usually more economical due to capacity loads. Twin-engined Beechcraft on floats can be chartered for 80¢ a mile, or \$600 for a round trip, from Winnipeg to Gods Lake. Considering a full load, price per charter is 15¢ a pound for freight, and \$75.00 per passenger for a return flight.<sup>14</sup>

The use of small, often single-engined aircraft, encumbered by heavy unretractable pontoons which reduce air speed and greatly lessen the payload, high fuel costs, poor economy of scale, little assurance of a capacity load even one way, and a great seasonal fluctuation of traf-

fic, all assist to increase operating expenses, which, in the end, are absorbed by the customer. These small aircraft usually fly at low altitudes since they are navigated by ground observation, and are therefore often grounded due to poor visibility and weather disturbances, causing numerous delays in service. Flights, frequently in cramped quarters at slow speeds and low altitudes are uncomfortable to those who are accustomed to the amenities provided in large commercial aircraft. A major complaint by sportsmen visiting Gods Lake relates to transportation to the area.<sup>15</sup> General discomfort, air sickness, and delays due to poor weather conditions were most often cited. Even a few hours of delay in the tourists' schedules may be disrupting, and to be host to an anxiously waiting executive, whose vacation hours are numbered, is, to say the least, difficult. Since many of the aircraft used are not equipped with landing gear to fly directly to airports to transfer passengers to connecting flights, further delays are caused by the tedious and time-consuming shuttle between float base and airport.

Another problem is the need for about twice the normally occupied number of accommodation units in case weather conditions worsen while the incoming aircraft, bringing more guests, is unable to return to Winnipeg with the guests already scheduled to leave. Such weather conditions, which may persist for a few days, not only inconvenience the host but build up a backlog of passengers at the Winnipeg terminus, who have arrived in Winnipeg on commercial flights as scheduled.

Break-up and freeze-up periods disrupt air service, adding another disadvantage to the annual float-ski combination. Ski-equipped planes must wait for suitable ice conditions in the fall while float-equipped aircraft are grounded. In spring the ice may rot long before it disappears. Under these conditions neither ski- nor float-equipped aircraft can

operate. Turbid water bodies that freeze over later and thaw earlier in spring may considerably shorten this isolation period.

The high costs of air transportation and unreliable winter tractor train operations have prompted one of the tourist operators to construct a private runway capable of accommodating large aircraft. This base will serve freight and passenger hauls and private air traffic, the latter a feature desired by many tourists.

When the subject of a landing strip was first broached, the reaction of pilots and government officials was one of intense skepticism. The present 4,000-foot airstrip bears testimony to the perseverance of the operator.<sup>16</sup> The strip, oriented in an east-west direction, is located on a nearly level clay deposit. The overburden of peat moss had to be stripped off. Miles of drainage ditches were dug by hand, supplying employment for natives in the slack season. Tractors, a scraper, and a blade maintainer were freighted to the site by tractor train. As the strip was leveled and drained the clay base stabilized and its surface hardened. Winter landings were soon attempted on packed snow. These were successful and chartered DC-3 aircraft landings, attempted later, presented no problem. In the summer of 1968 the first DC-3 landed on the clay surface, proving that summer landings by larger aircraft were feasible. The strip is being sodded and lengthened to 5,000 feet to accommodate aircraft of the size of a DC-4.<sup>17</sup>

The strip quickly demonstrated its powers to attract private aircraft. Twenty-four small twin-motor aircraft of various types, all with American registry, utilized the runway even before publicity was given to this aspect of the tourist operation, since the runway was not yet completed.<sup>18</sup> A number of the light aircraft were turbo-prop executive planes, owned by large corporations (see Plate 15, page 115).

The runway is classified as an unlicensed private airstrip of 4,000 feet, not for all-weather use. All flights must be prearranged.<sup>19</sup> Although the strip is not classified for all-weather flights it offers an adequate landing surface even after heavy precipitation.

The airstrip, although not completed, is in need of other servicing facilities besides aviation fuel. Interviews with the American pilots revealed the adequacy of the strip, but suggested the following facilities and services be made available:<sup>20</sup>

- 1) Readily available jet fuel (which will be supplied by 1969).
- 2) A radio homing directional finder to be installed at the airstrip for assisting the navigation of approaching aircraft. These devices are inexpensive and easily installed. They send a radio signal of desired frequency to a possible radius of fifty miles, intercepting a plane's flight and guiding it instrumentally to the airfield. This guiding system is useful during poor weather when instrument-equipped planes fly by compass bearing.
- 3) More specific radio weather forecasts for the flight and destination areas.
- 4) Improved radio telephone communications. All lodges in the area are frequently bothered with very poor signals. Radio communications may be disrupted for several days.
- 5) Hangars, with a mechanic on duty.

Weekly rates for tourists arriving in their private aircraft differ by only \$30.00 from rates paid by those who arrive by charter flight.<sup>21</sup>

The advantages of the terrestrial strip are great. Economies of scale rapidly increase with the size of the plan (see TABLE XII, page 112). A DC-3 on wheels, with 40 percent load, can compete favourably with the

next smaller plane over an equal distance. Float planes are limited in size due to extra weight of landing gear. When large numbers of passengers or quantities of freight are carried, the cost per load unit rapidly reduces (see TABLE XIII, page 113).

TABLE XII

AIRCRAFT OPERATING COSTS FOR A HYPOTHETICAL FLIGHT OF  
250 MILES WITH VARIOUS LOADS

Load (tons)	Costs by Various Aircraft					Cost of Cheapest Aircraft	
	Cessna 180	Beaver	DC-3	Canso	DC-4	per ton	per ton-mile
.25	<u>115.00</u>	130.50	182.50	262.50	362.50	\$460.00	\$184
.50	230.00	<u>130.50</u>	182.50	262.50	362.50	261.00	105
.75		<u>130.50</u>	182.50	262.50	362.50	176.67	71
1.00		261.00	<u>182.50</u>	262.50	362.50	182.50	73
1.50			<u>182.50</u>	262.50	362.50	121.60	49
2.00			<u>182.50</u>	262.50	362.50	91.25	37
2.50			<u>182.50</u>	262.50	362.50	73.00	29
3.00			365.00	<u>262.50</u>	362.50	87.50	35
3.50				525.00	<u>362.50</u>	103.30	41
4.00					<u>362.50</u>	90.60	36
5.00					<u>362.50</u>	72.50	29
6.00					<u>362.50</u>	60.60	24
7.00					<u>362.50</u>	51.80	21
8.00					<u>362.50</u>	45.30	18

Source: M. J. Roberts, "Northern Air Transportation," Background paper for Committee On Manitoba's Economic Future (mimeo.), Winnipeg, 1962, p. 22.

TABLE XIII  
 COST OF AIR TRANSPORTATION TO GODS LAKE  
 WITH VARIOUS TYPES OF AIRCRAFT

Type of Plane	Charter Cost per mile	Cost per pound	Cost per passenger
Beechcraft (floats)	\$ .80	15.0¢	\$ 75.00
Beechcraft (wheels)	.60	11.2	56.00
DC-3 (wheels)	1.25	8.5	36.00
DC-4 (wheels)	2.00	4.6	31.25

Source: Constructed from a variety of sources. See Reference 22.

From TABLE XIII above, it can be seen that, over time, the \$70,000 spent in building the airstrip should become a highly profitable investment.<sup>23</sup> In fact, considering only the rate per pound, a chartered DC-4 with backhaul competes favourably with the surface freight rate of 5.4¢ a pound from Winnipeg. The aircraft deliveries are more flexible as to time, less investment in stock is necessary, and storage costs and losses are reduced. Fragile and perishable articles arrive at the lodge in better condition and as needed. When less than a full load of passengers is to be transported, freight may be included to fill the charter. Backhauls may present a problem which will be discussed later in connection with commercial fishing.

Larger wheeled aircraft carrying passengers have the advantage of rapid high-altitude flight, which offers comfort and relaxation. Fewer delays, due to better navigational systems, after-dark landings in Winnipeg and better connections direct to the airport to meet commercial airlines, are other advantages provided by these machines.

The greatest advantage of the landing strip may prove to be its

incentive to tourism by private aircraft. Of the 275 tourists who were asked, "If a centrally located airstrip were available at Gods Lake, would you be interested in flying your own plane to Gods Lake?", a surprising forty-eight percent replied positively.<sup>24</sup> This would be a high ratio in almost any group, and attests to the economic status of the Gods Lake sportsman. The aircraft represented were mostly corporation-owned executive planes and personal planes of professional managers, doctors, or lawyers. Most of the tourists questioned were not aware of the Gods River airstrip. It appears highly likely that this facility will result in more repeated visits in company with additional friends.<sup>25</sup> Should this airstrip receive wide publicity, there seems to be little immediate limit to its drawing potential.

The Gods River airstrip has also served as a depot for mail distribution when freeze-up and break-up interrupt delivery of mail to outlying areas. DC-3's deposit mail at Gods River, which is quickly distributed by small planes once ice conditions are favourable for light aircraft (see Plate 16, page 115).

The airstrip offers an emergency landing strip for large commercial aircraft on flights to Churchill, Thompson and Gillam.

A minor problem may accompany airstrip development, although benefits derived from such a strip far exceed any negative aspects. Shorter, less scheduled stays may be envisaged, as aircraft owners are not dependent on scheduled commercial or chartered flights. Irregular accommodation, uneconomical to the operation may result unless private ownership of the airstrip is maintained to control incoming traffic.

In the light of the foregoing discussion it is not surprising that serious thought has been given to the construction of other similar terrestrial airstrips. Two other landing strips are under construction: one





Plate 15: The greatest asset of the above mentioned airstrip may be its ability to attract tourists who arrive in company or personal aircraft.



Plate 16: The recently constructed terrestrial airstrip at Gods River can accommodate large aircraft (up to DC-3) reducing the transportation costs considerably.

at Gods Narrows, and the other at Island Lake. These additional facilities, when completed, will provide a safety factor for wheel-equipped aircraft, reducing the hazard of forced landings on the long stretches of flight where no landing facilities are available.

Two additional lodges on Gods Lake are considering the feasibility of airstrips. The Elk Island Camp has great potential for such a strip. The mine tailing heap on Elk Island is oriented in a N.E.-S.W. direction. It has sufficient width and a length of well over 3,000 feet. The crushed rock surface needs only slight levelling to accommodate aircraft. Drainage would create no problem since the area is raised well above the local terrain. The strip is adjacent to the camp, only a few hundred yards from the cabins, with good surface transport connections. It has been estimated that an outlay of a few thousand dollars would cover the initial development cost. This tailing heap once served as a landing strip when a plane was forced down in the 1930's.<sup>26</sup>

With the Gods River Lodge strip nearing completion, the Gods Narrows strip well advanced, potential for a strip at Elk Island, and a possible strip at East End, four runways within a radius of twenty miles would supply landing facilities for wheel-equipped aircraft. The directional alignment of these strips offers alternatives to aircraft when adverse wind velocity and direction might cause serious problems on any one landing field.

#### E. Transportation Within the Recreational Area

Summer transportation is limited to boat and aircraft. Almost all transportation for recreational purposes is by boat. Since angling is the most favoured sport, and ideal fishing spots for various species are

in widely scattered locations, travelling by light open boats can become tedious (see Figure 22, page 81). Typical routes and distances travelled are:

- 1) Gods River, an ideal Brook Trout stream, to Little Gods Lake, a heavily angled Walleye spot, separated by a distance of sixteen miles. Lodges are located at either end of the route and anglers are ferried back and forth daily by outboard motor boats. Travelling time may exceed four hours with the use of ten-horsepower motors, commonly used by one camp, and somewhat less by twenty-horsepower-equipped boats used by the other.
- 2) The Elk Island operation fishes Lake Trout locally, but also makes extended trips to Bayly Bay and Knife River for Walleye, to Johnson Bay for Lake Trout, and to Gods River for Brook Trout. The one-way distance to these fishing spots ranges from ten to eighteen miles.
- 3) Kanuchuan Lodge, faced with an operation that was poorly located in respect to Lake Trout, since the twin camps of Barney Lamm's Elk Island Lodge and his Kanuchuan operation were sold separately, has been forced to use an aerial ferrying service, at the tourists' expense, to distant spots on Gods Lake and to surrounding productive lakes. Walleye fishing in Wesachuan Bay is reached after a lengthy boat trip.

With these conditions it is not surprising that a frequent complaint of tourists refers to commuting to distant fishing spots. Although most boats are equipped with deck chairs, many tourists feel that travel is uncomfortable.<sup>27</sup> The majority visit the area in June or early July when the weather is windy and cold and showers frequent. One must also consider the age of many of the guests, the majority of whom are between forty and sixty years old, with a substantial number over the age of sixty. Weather conditions are changeable. A rapid shift of wind direction or

velocity, resulting in heavy waves, may either catch a fishing party unaware as they are angling at a distance from their home camp, or may result in a rapid search for shelter at the sign of a storm which may not materialize, thus wasting much expensive angling time.

The first sportsmen of the season must often contend with massive moving ice. Since shorelines thaw more rapidly than the central part of the lake, communication between fishing spots is possible, although perilous because a shift of wind direction may cause ice movement and isolate a group for days if extreme precaution is not taken.

Another problem connected with ice movement is that lodges may be completely isolated by shifting ice after tourists have arrived by float plane. This obstacle may block all transportation for days on end.

Terrestrial airstrips would alleviate most of the above mentioned problems. Two methods of supplying local air service might be:

- 1) Each lodge operator to operate a private aircraft from his home base.
- 2) More economical to the lodge operations, and to the native people of the community who use air transport to reach distant traplines, would be the establishment of a centrally located charter, not connected with the lodges. Both wheel- and float-equipped light aircraft could then service the total area. Boats and guides could be stationed at each fishing spot, which, being in close proximity to the lodges, would present little difficulty. Such air shuttle service would also allow angling in nearby smaller lakes such as Touchwood, Bolton, Knife, and Chataway. Thus tourists could be given the choice of either air or boat transportation. The flights could be arranged, in most cases, to have a two-way load, especially between Gods River, Elk Island, and East End, and, to a lesser extent, Kanuchuan Rapids. This local charter base also could be utilized to fly hunting parties to the Hudson Bay outcamps.

The degree of accessibility to Gods Lake is a crucial factor for the development of its recreational potential. Some isolation may be necessary to maintain present usage as well as to promote future recreation. Present metamorphosis of the air transportation network may result in more economical, efficient service, as well as tapping an additional extensive tourist market.

## REFERENCES

1. Pers. comm., Gods Lake Tourists, Gods Lake, Manitoba, 1968.
2. M. J. Roberts, "Northern Highway Transportation--An evaluation of Current Project Proposals," Background paper for Committee On Manitoba's Economic Future (mimeo.), Winnipeg, 1962, pp. 1-36.
3. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Highways, Planning Division, Winnipeg.
4. Roberts, op. cit., pp. 1,2.
5. Ibid., p. 6.
6. Ibid., p. 33.
7. Ibid., p. 3.
8. Ibid., p. 3.
9. Ibid., p. 12.
10. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Highways, Planning Division, Winnipeg.
11. Pers. comm., Canadian National Railways, Rates, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
12. Pers. comm., Sigfusson Transportation Company, Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba.
13. Pers. comm., Northland Airlines Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba.
14. Ibid.
15. Pers. comm., Gods Lake Tourists, Gods Lake, Manitoba, 1968.
16. Pers. comm., T. Ruminski, Gods River, Manitoba, June, 1968.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Highways, Planning Division, Winnipeg.

20. Pers. comm., Gods Lake Tourists, Gods Lake, Manitoba, 1968.
21. Gods River Lodge, "1968 Tourist Brochure," Winnipeg, Manitoba.
22. Rates were derived from:
  - 1) Pers. comm., Northland Airlines Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba.
  - 2) Pers. comm., T. Ruminski, Gods River, Manitoba, June, 1968.
  - 3) Pers. comm., Trans Air, Winnipeg, Manitoba, January, 1969.
  - 4) Ibid.
23. Pers. comm., T. Ruminski, Gods River, Manitoba, June, 1968.
24. Pers. comm., Gods Lake Tourists, Gods Lake, Manitoba, 1968.
25. No mention of an existing airstrip was made at any time, to protect other lodges on the lake.
26. Pers. comm., P. Burton, Gods Lake, Manitoba, June, 1968.
27. Pers. comm., Gods Lake Tourists, Gods Lake, Manitoba, 1968.

## CHAPTER VI

### PROBLEMS FACING RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Problems in recreational development result from conflict among physical environment, local cultural patterns, government administration, and tourist demands. Each of these variables must be considered when seeking solutions to these problems.

The average sportsman frequenting the area is American, urban, well-to-do or wealthy, professional or proprietorial, and middle-aged. His motives for choosing Gods Lake as his playground are seclusion and exclusiveness in recreational opportunity. The character of accommodation and service performance is related to this demand and therefore is not comparable to other general tourist operations in more accessible regions of the province.

#### A. Lodge Structure

The buildings of three of the tourist establishments on the lake have been remodelled from aging structures. The sites they occupy are at a disadvantage relative to the major angling areas. Structures may be ancient and cramped for space, but may possess certain aesthetic advantages. Their exterior ruggedness of log or vertical rough plank is reminiscent of frontier life during the fur trading and mining eras, adding historic sentiment and wilderness glamour to their value. Rustic design must be incorporated when new additions are made or interiors are



refurbished, as unity of design is essential for an appealing atmosphere. Concealed lighting, driftwood and rock oddities, mounted trophy fish and game, and a natural wood finish create the desired atmosphere (see Plate 17).

The rugged atmosphere must be complemented by highly efficient service and fully modern, comfortable accommodations. To meet this demand all modern conveniences should be incorporated in refitting buildings.

Construction of new tourist establishments presents some basic problems. Scarcity of gravel may involve hauls up to twelve miles. Timber suitable for logs is scarce and logs are difficult to transport. Much labour is involved in the erection of log cabins. Also it is difficult to make them insect-proof. To import lumber is costly and therefore the relative benefits of various construction materials must be carefully considered.



Plate 17: An atmosphere of ruggedness must be combined with comfort and convenience. The Gods Lake Lodge dining and sitting room meet both of these requirements.

Frost heaving is extreme, although there is little permafrost in the region.

Fireplaces or other heating systems are a necessity to rid dwellings of dampness and to supply warmth for cool nights.

Because camps are isolated they must be self-contained communities supplying a full range of amenities. Individual water works, electric plants, heating and communication systems must be supplied by each camp, creating considerable overhead expense.

### B. Seasonality

Seasonality greatly increases the investment necessary relative to the volume of user traffic (see Figure 25, page 125). The greatest number of tourists visit Gods Lake between the second week in June and the first week in July. A secondary surge occurs for two weeks in September. The mid-summer lag is marked, forcing some lodges to close. Thus ninety percent of business is transacted in approximately six weeks. In 1968 more than 200 accommodation units were needed to serve 852 guests. Thus, annual occupancy ratios are extremely low, necessitating exorbitant accommodation rates to create economically viable operations.

Seasonality, although it has always created problems, has become more intense in later years. There has been an increasing tendency to concentrate upon a short period, even when the number of guests increased annually. This development is uneconomical for the operator, the airlines, and the limited local labour supply. The chief reason for this trend is an alleged deterioration of the sport fishing potential. It is therefore considered necessary for sportsmen to concentrate their angling efforts during the prime period (see Figure 26, page 126).

FIGURE 25

# TOURIST SEASONALITY

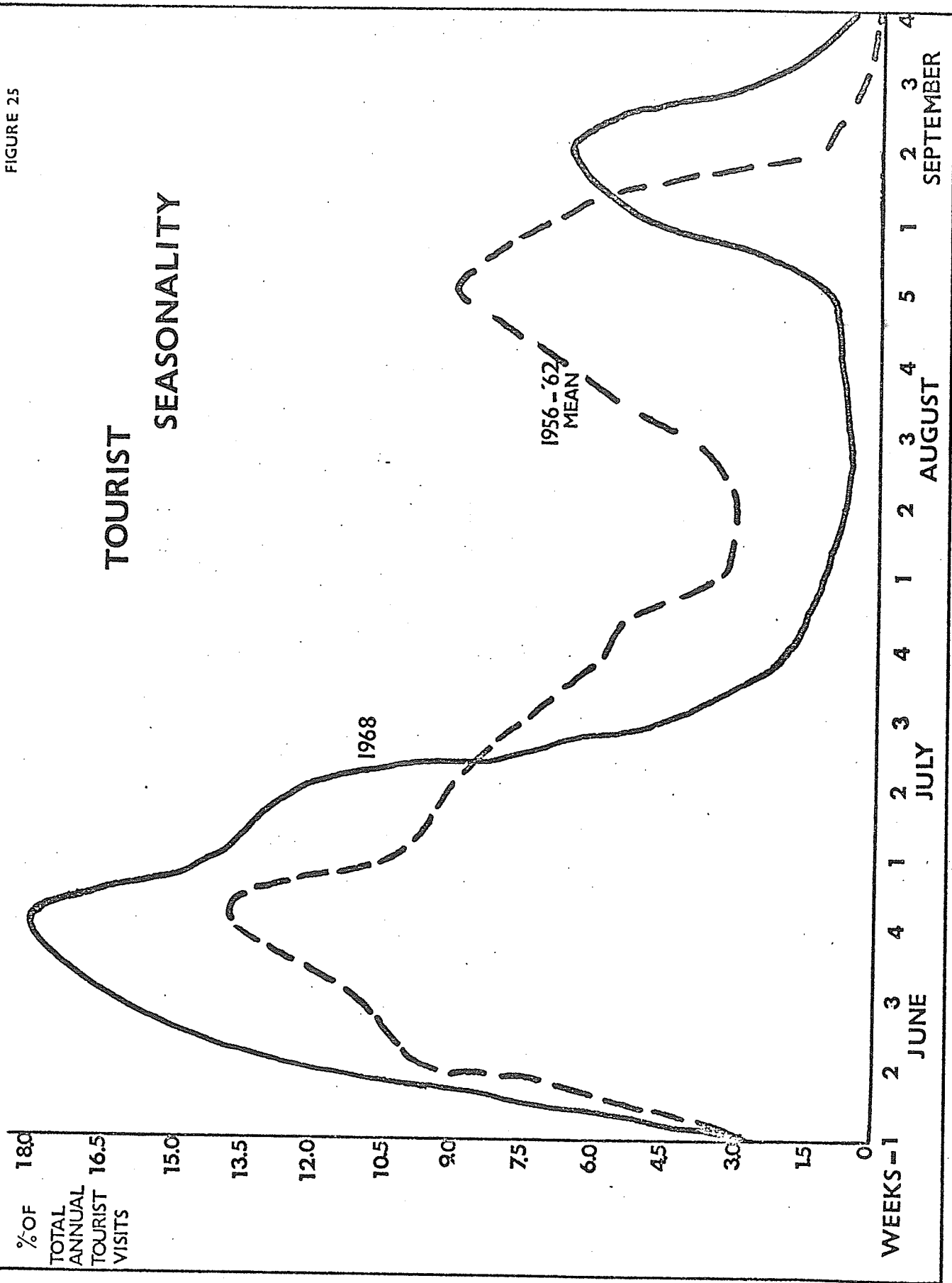
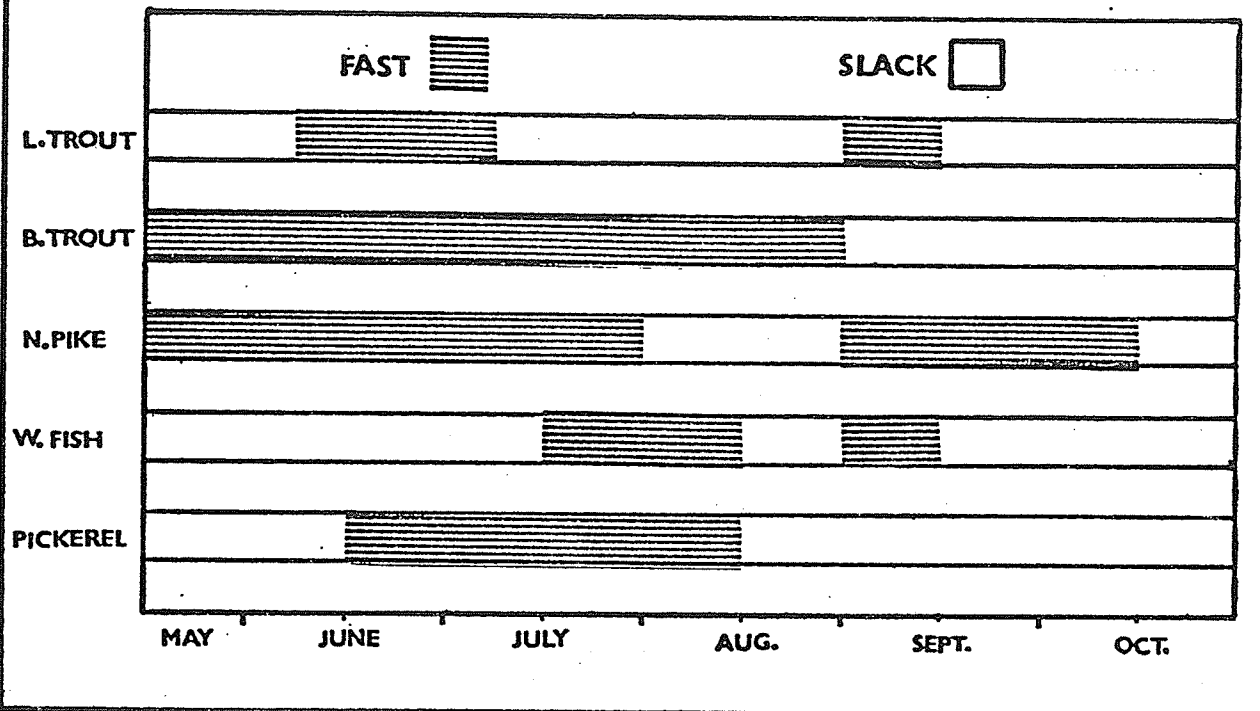


FIGURE 26

## MEAN OPTIMUM ANGLING PERIOD



The choicest bookings are just after spring break-up when all species of fish, except Whitefish, offer ideal angling. Most lodges, during this peak season, must turn away guests, or attempt to defer them. The optimum angling period is unpredictable as it fluctuates with spring break-up. Bookings, most of which are made much before break-up, are therefore a speculative venture, since vacation periods, once determined, tend to be inflexible. Break-up often occurs in late May, but has been known to occur well into late June. The process may take from a few days to more than a month (see Figure 4, page 24).

The great emphasis on trophy-sized Lake Trout, which have given Gods Lake its reputation, may be responsible for such a concentration upon the spring season. Much more publicity might be given to other trophy species of sporting fish. Whitefish are an almost ignored species even though Gods Lake annually accounts for approximately half of the

province's Master Angler awards for that species. Recently it has received Master Anglers' rating, but has been given little publicity.

### C. Rating of Services and Accommodation

Hospitality is the key to an enjoyable visit. The host must meet the expectations of his guests. He must call his guests by name, give expert advice, be able to relate local history and color, and applaud the guests' trophy catches. In short, he must present the combined image of an accomplished sportsman and an individualistic backwoods man, and be an efficient manager.

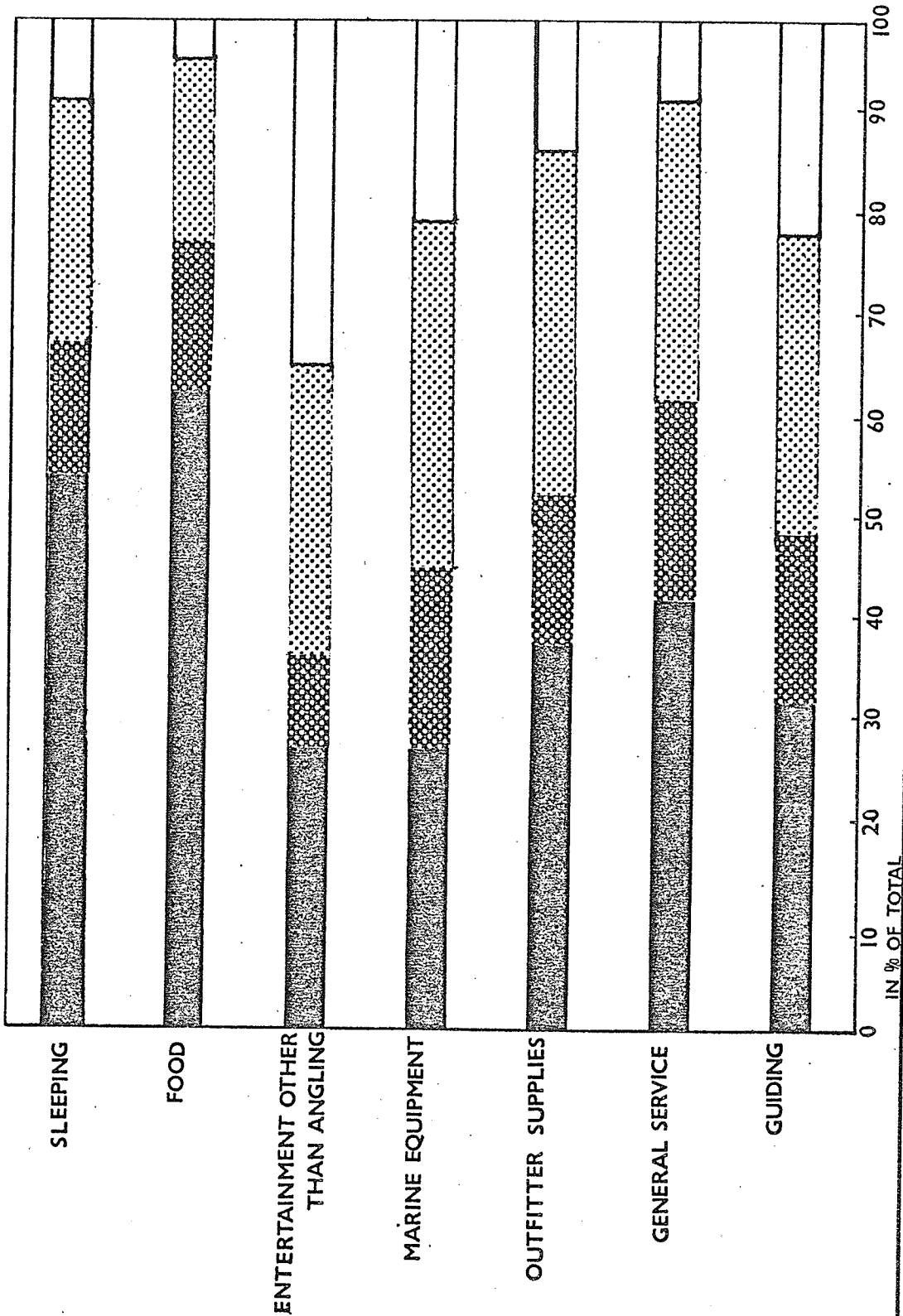
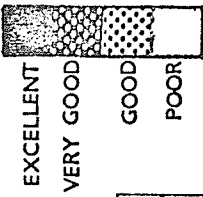
Accommodation and service ratings given to lodges by their guests revealed adequate services, and accommodations of high quality (see Figure 27, page 128). The question which elicited their information was not designed to reveal negative aspects, but rather to measure the degree to which present accommodations fulfill the need of the tourists. Should any service be of a standard that would necessitate improvement, such alterations would redound to the financial advantage of the lodge owner as well as benefiting the guest. It must be cautioned that the ratings are general and subjective, not for the lack of concrete individual camp ratings, but for the protection of each operator.<sup>1</sup> A final open-ended question on the sampling instrument revealed reasons for the ratings.

#### 1. Sleeping Accommodations

These facilities received an excellent rating relative to other items. Specific problems mentioned were a lack of bedside reading lamps and bedside tables, poor temperature control in bedrooms, and little privacy due to twin occupancy. No criticism of beds or bedding was offered.

# ACCOMMODATION RATING BY GUESTS

FIGURE 27



## 2. Food

This item received superior rating. Camps supply fresh produce of highest quality and considerable variety. Although fare is plain, it is well prepared, and nutritious. Usually there is a choice of a hot noon lunch at the lodge, or a shore lunch, contents of which may be specified by the guest. To the packed shore lunch is added freshly caught fish prepared in savoury fashion by the guide. Since individual tastes vary greatly, the expense of supplying and stocking food items is great. Very few complaints about food were registered. Notable ones were small portions of shore lunch and lack in variety of food. These remarks may, in part at least, reflect the idiosyncrasies of the respondent sample.

## 3. Entertainment, Other Than Angling

Since most days, even when it is raining, are spent in angling, the time for other entertainment is limited to evenings, to days when wind velocities do not allow angling on the exposed lake, or to hours of waiting for transportation back to civilization. Spring days have as many as twenty hours of daylight, and some lodges are well situated for evening offshore fishing. One lodge is close to an ideal fishing spot and supplies after-supper boat and guide services.

The ratings reveal a diversity of opinion. The weather conditions during a guest's stay, for example, may skew his rating. It was felt by many, however, that a day's exposure on the lake, from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 or 6:00 P.M. provided enough exercise. Evenings should be spent in leisure, relaxing, recounting the day's adventures, or becoming acquainted over a drink and a game of cards, and then retiring early. This sentiment prevailed with all but one tourist operator. This operator, even though evening angling was possible at his camp, sensed a need for other entertainment.

Many guests revealed their dissatisfaction at the lack of alternatives in off-time diversion. Poor angling conditions or extended waiting periods without alternative activity create tense situations between hosts and irritated, bored guests who are paying almost a hundred dollars a day. Adverse publicity and few repeat visits by such guests are the result.

Outdoor entertainment has presented a problem in the past, but fogging to exterminate insect pests now makes it possible to spend evenings outdoors in relative comfort. Due to rugged surface features outdoor recreation must be confined to small areas. Major expenditures for a small tourist group concentrated in a short season are not economical. Construction of a golf course has been suggested by some visitors, but present traffic volume and the considerable distances separating the several camps, as well as difficulties of terrain would tend to preclude such an undertaking. Putting greens and driving ranges could possibly be developed, though, using the airstrips for such activities.

Since most of the anglers listed hunting as a second choice, trap and skeet shooting might prove popular. Other activities could include tennis and horseshoe.

For indoor activities a modest up-to-date library and a recreation room would be a valuable asset.

Tourists' interests in local Indian culture should be gratified by the natives, who, with some organization, could supply entertainment in full native regalia. Such an attempt by one of the operators has been highly successful.

#### 4. Marine Equipment

This item generally received a poor rating, with definite trends



relating to specific lodges. Most complaints focussed on the time consumed commuting to distant angling spots with small or trouble-prone outboard motors. Other minor complaints were lack of life-preserving equipment aboard the boats and at dock sides, backless boat seats, small fragile boats not safe for the conditions and lack of basic repair parts and equipment.

When a tourist's only link with his home camp is by an outboard-powered boat, marine equipment must meet high mechanical standards. All motors should be checked nightly for top performance by qualified mechanics. It is suggested that a joint effort by camps could render this service.

On an extensive boating excursion, boats should travel in pairs or carry a small auxiliary motor. This small motor could be utilized for trolling, since high-power motors have a tendency to ignition fouling at low speeds and are difficult to adjust to troll effectively.

Life-preserving equipment must meet stringent requirements, as icy waters may drastically shorten the survival time of boating accident victims.

## 5. Outfitters' Supplies

The stocking of outfitters' supplies is expensive because of the great variety of stock required. Even when a wide range of lures and equipment is available the connoisseur angler may not be able to replace a lost article. Heavy camping equipment has not been in demand, possibly because camping has received little promotion. Some improvements could be made by stocking good quality rods, reels and dip nets.

## 6. General Service

This item received a commendable rating. A few complaints centred

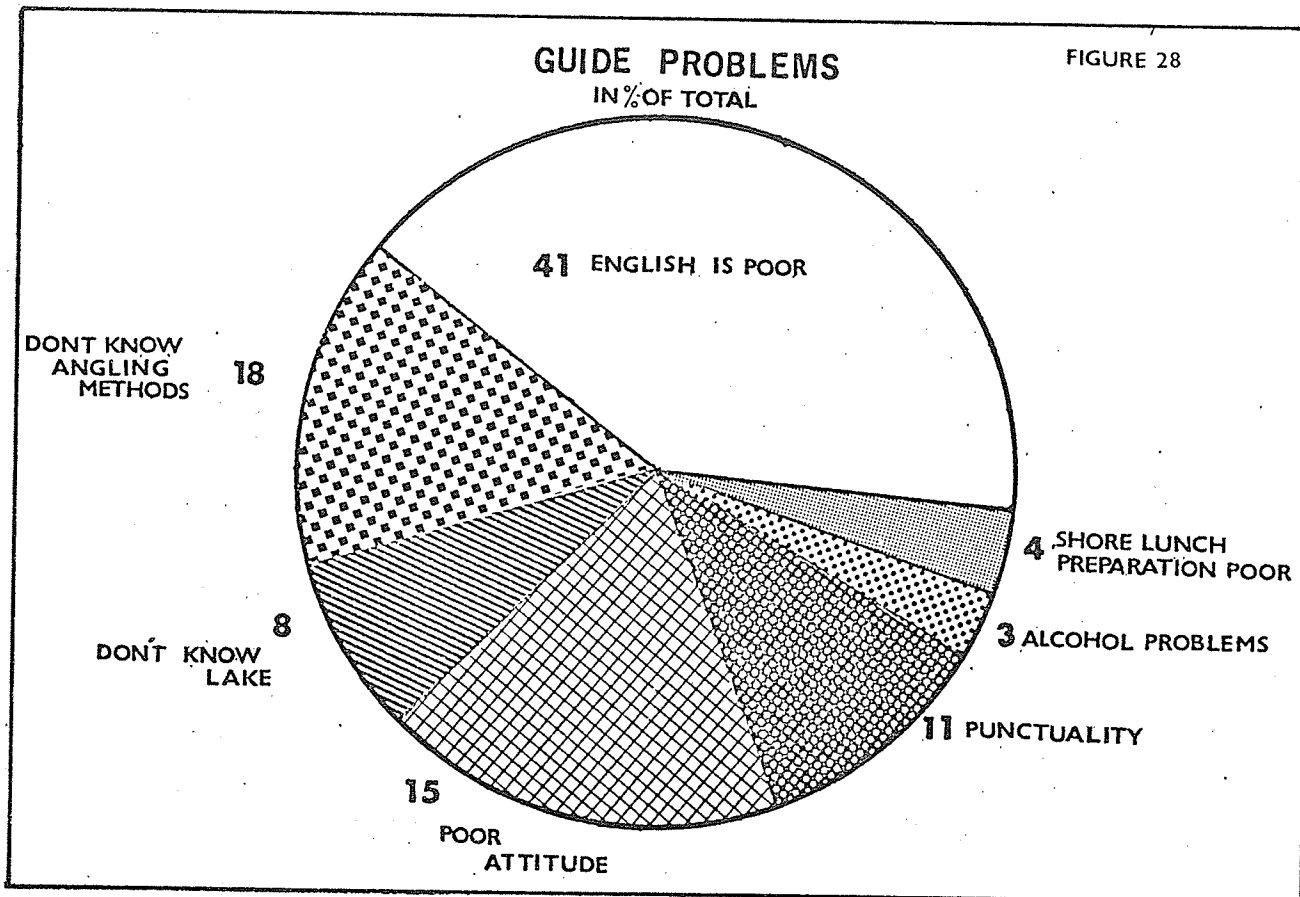
on the lack of medical services. Should an accident occur, especially at a time when the area is inaccessible by aircraft, serious problems might result. First aid kits are available at lodges for minor injuries. Also, in all likelihood, a medical doctor would be among the guests at one or more of the lodges during the busy season. Moreover, there is a government-operated clinic at Gods Narrows.

## 7. Guiding

Guiding is a necessity on Gods Lake due to the large size of the island-studded lake, the numerous bays and the irregular shoreline. The fluctuating water level complicates navigation among the jagged reefs scattered over most of the lake. Even experienced guides who have always lived in the vicinity of the lake do not possess complete knowledge of the submerged reefs and changing water conditions. An intensive sounding and charting would assist in safe lake travel.

Guides must also prepare shore lunches, advise in the use of lures and tackle, direct tourists to the best fishing spots, net hooked fish, manage the outboard motor and equipment, and entertain guests with knowledge of angling and local color. Some guides are required to clean and fillet the catch, preparing it for shipment to the angler's home. The guide has a responsible position, not only to supply good fishing, but also to assure the safety and comfort of his guest.

Only thirty-three percent of the sample rated guiding services as excellent. The others listed 177 complaints. Forty-one percent of complaints specifically stated the problem as a communication barrier, usually a lack of spoken English on the part of the guide (see Figure 28, page 133). Some means of communication is necessary for tourists' safety as well as for advice and entertainment. Most of the guides lack formal education.



Many of them comprehend English and a number also speak the language, but stoicism, shyness or cultural attitudes may result in only an occasional grunt of "yes" or "maybe" to specifically directed questions. Some tourists, at obtaining a first "yes" from guides, feel gratified, only to learn that the affirmative is given to most queries, even if action may not confirm such statements. Entertaining conversation is lacking.

There has been an attempt to educate illiterate adults, but cultural barriers impede the effort. Adult education should be geared not so much to life "outside" as to specific local situations and problems. Since most of the men are engaged in guiding ability to communicate in English should be emphasized.

Eighteen percent of the sample complained that guides are unfamiliar with angling techniques such as type of bait to use, fish environment, removing fish from hooks, netting fish, and trolling. This is the result of hiring inexperienced guides at peak seasons. Few Indians understand angling methods because they capture fish in nets. Angling is not a pastime for them and therefore they remain ignorant of these methods until they are acquired from the sportsmen they guide.

Twenty-six percent of the negative comments in respect to guiding related to poor general attitude and lack of punctuality. Good sportsman--guide relationships are an important element for recreational enjoyment. Poor attitude and haughtiness may perhaps stem from concealed feelings of insecurity. The guide may be unsure of his job. Also, he may not understand the attitude of urban outsiders. Basic insecurity may thus lead to taciturnity which sportsmen may interpret as poor or rebellious attitude.

To rectify this situation guides must be granted more security and occupational status. Increased confidence might be attained by thorough training programs, a system of apprenticeship for new guides, and licensing and advancement (and overt recognition) based on experience, education, and efficiency. Regulating and training programs should be administered by an outside authority that will also consider the welfare of the Indian. Enthusiasm and friendly competitiveness among guides should be encouraged by the lodge operators. Annual prizes could be awarded for the largest fish caught, the highest commendations registered by guests, and for special services rendered outside the expected scope of guiding.

An improved attitude would not only assure a better class of service to sportsmen, but lend an element of status and prestige to the guiding vocation as well. Present attitudes will have to be overcome if the sporting potential of the area is to be of maximum benefit to the native people.

Lack of punctuality is very prevalent among Indian people. Tourists complain about lengthy waits for guides to appear in the mornings. For efficient operation, lodge management can not condone such practices. Operators must organize and thoroughly supervise their guiding program.

Eight percent of the sample claimed that guides were not familiar with the lake. This included such items as not being able to locate fishing spots or forecast weather and subsequent water conditions, colliding with underwater obstacles and getting temporarily lost on the lake. Some of these problems further reveal inexperience among guides.

Four percent were dissatisfied with the preparation of shore lunches and location of sites for such preparations.

Problems resulting from guides' misuse of alcohol accounted for three percent of the total complaints. Although this is only a small percentage, it carries with it heavy consequences. It is commonly known that guides brew their own alcoholic beverages, but usually while under their influence they will not report for guide duties. Lodge owners must closely screen guides every morning and caution guests not to make alcoholic beverages available to them. Lodges that adhere to such strict practices have few problems. Unpleasant instances of guide misdemeanor can be disastrous to camp reputations.

The present policy of guide education and guide licensing is in need of a major overhaul. Licenses and badges are distributed to lodge owners by the local Conservation Officer. Owners select and recommend guides. The badge is no measure or assurance of any standard of efficiency. The best men are chosen first, while previous problem guides may be rehired when the need arises. Many men who are on permanent welfare guide because they enjoy the work.

Guiding short courses have been offered on occasion, but attendance

has been poor. More than fifty percent of the guides have no formal training, while the remaining fifty percent have only a few days, or a week at the most.<sup>2</sup> It is therefore not surprising that guide problems exist. Possibly a guide training program, with costs shared by Indian Affairs, the provincial Renewable Resources Branch, and the lodge owners, would be a solution to this problem. A specified amount of training or experience should be required for licenses.

#### D. Forest Fire Control

Forest fires yearly ravage parts of the surrounding landscape and on a number of occasions fires have threatened to annihilate lodges and settlements. Lumbering potential is poor and the fires are usually in inaccessible areas where fire fighting is difficult, making control measures expensive. Although fires have been attributed to carelessness on the part of the local population and to lightning, sportsmen are also responsible for some of them. Fires may spread from camping spots where shore lunches have been prepared.<sup>3</sup> An increase in tourism will undoubtedly lead to greater fire hazards and higher insurance rates, if adequate precautions are not taken.

It is suggested that frequented shore lunch spots be equipped with crude open fireplaces built away from tree or moss cover. A small rustic structure with a roof and open sides could provide shelter near remote fishing spots. A major complaint, that of garbage and litter strewn near present shore lunch spots, would also be alleviated because close policing of grounds at these sites could be maintained. Shelters should be constructed near the shoreline where breezes retard insect pests. Flat, sandy areas should be utilized, where boats can be beached easily, and disembarkation is safe. Each structure should be individual in design so as not to

present an image of commercialization (see Figure 29, page 138).

Patrols to enforce game and angling statutes are made regularly although the size of the area prevents frequent checks. Tourists have generally committed few offenses. Lodge operators greatly assist in conservation and control.

For utmost protection, it is suggested that all operators carry personal liability insurance for their guests', as well as for their own protection.

The Gods Lake area generally supplies services and accommodations that meet the standards of the majority of the sportsmen. Some problems, as pointed out, exist. Recognizing these problems is the first step toward a solution.

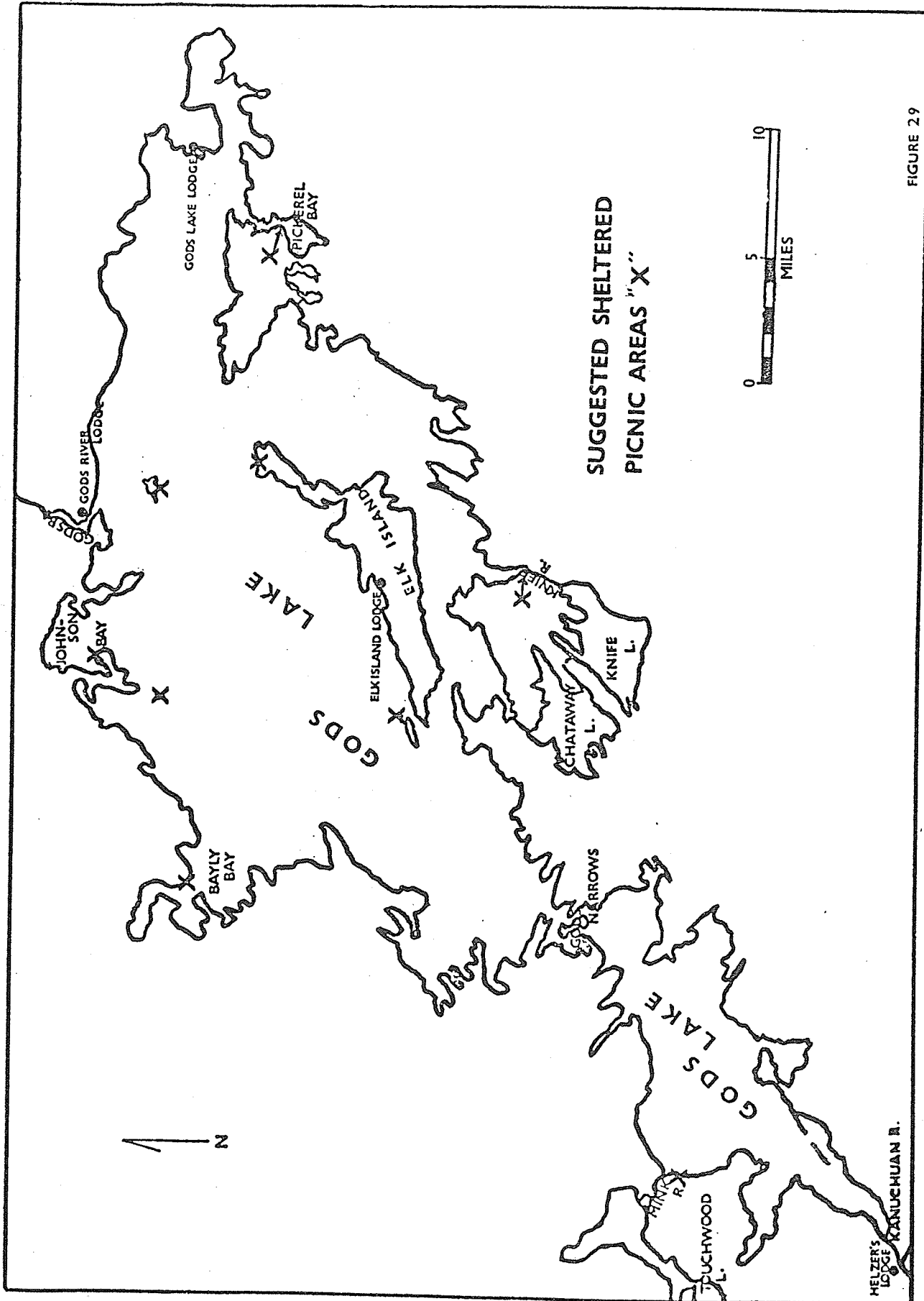


FIGURE 29



## REFERENCES

1. Individual ratings are available upon request from the respective lodge owners.
2. Indian Survey conducted by the writer in the Summer of 1968.
3. Pers. comm., Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources Division, Field Administration, Gods Narrows, Manitoba, June, 1968.

## CHAPTER VII

### MANAGEMENT OF ANGLING RESOURCES

#### A. Problems of Competition Between Commercial Fishing and Angling

From foregoing discussion the following can be concluded:

- 1) The Gods Lake area is Manitoba's choicest angling area, and one of North America's best.
- 2) The Gods Lake "Recreational Area" is primarily utilized for angling, with other usage being ancillary, and
- 3) There is a growing trend toward such usage.
- 4) The local community obtains the bulk of its income, other than social welfare, from the sport fishery.
- 5) The province gains more than half a million dollars annually from the recreational utilization of the Gods Lake area.

Therefore, any decrease in angling productivity will represent a negative influence to all involved. Such a decrease may well influence Manitoba's total angling usage. It is imperative that management of the natural resources maintain sustained usage, not for the sole purpose of the promotion of tourism, but for continued sustenance of the local community. It would be unethical to omit the Indian population from resource planning. The attitude, that the Indian should retain rights only on his Reserve, and that all surrounding Crown land is for exploitation by others, is unhumanistic, since economic dependency rests on the region as a whole. Such an attitude is also, in any event, becoming unacceptable

to the Manitoba community at large. Trapping, guiding, and commercial fishing all occur outside the borders of the Reserve.

A rapidly increasing population, paralleled with a rising dependency on social welfare, necessitates a scheme for resource management to sustain the needs of the native population.

In a reorganization of present natural resources utilization the greatest increment in returns may be realized from recreational usage. With intensive reorganization, even commercial fishing might provide augmented gains to the local community without imposing additional pressure on the fisheries resource.

Although both commercial fishing and angling contribute to the economy of the local community, they are in direct competition for the same resource. The question arises, does commercial fishing adversely affect angling potential by depleting sports species? If so, will the economically less productive commercial activity reduce the scope of the economically more productive angling activity?

An attempt will be made to answer this question, not from a biological point of view, but from evidence that is presently available. An intensive biological investigation would in all likelihood complement this evidence. Opinions, attitudes, and experience are basic to resource usage. Exact statistics and biological evidence are tools that attempt to approximate such attitudes, experiences, and opinions. Perception, or man's interpretation of the "real," is fundamental to recreation planning. When a tourist, through experience, develops an attitude that a lake is depleted of his favourite fish species, that tourist will pay but slight attention to biological reports contradicting his experience. Each resource user will have aspirations relative to former experiences which form his ideal. Therefore, measurement of depletion is not only a measure

of pounds of fish taken per sportsman, but a measure of the satisfaction (or lack of it) from the total recreational experience.

#### B. Description Of Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing (see TABLE XIV, page 143) began shortly after the closure of the mine in 1942. With the exception of a few seasons, operations have been conducted in winter, using gill nets. The Government-established limit based on sustained yield has fluctuated between 400,000 and 800,000 pounds annually. For the past six years the combined limit has been 500,000 pounds of Whitefish, Lake Trout, and Walleye (Pickerel).<sup>1</sup> Coarse species, consisting mostly of Northern Pike, were fished without limit, although low prices and high transportation costs resulted in very little pressure being exerted on this species. The bulk of the catch has always been Whitefish (see TABLE XIV, page 143). Since its origin, the fishery has annually provided employment to an average of 60 native fishermen, who were hired for a period ranging from four weeks to four months. Five to six weeks is the mean length of their employment. Their salaries, until 1963, ranged from six to eight dollars a day, and now range from twelve to fourteen dollars.<sup>2</sup> It is not pleasant to work seven days a week, from dawn to dark on an exposed lake, handling wet and frozen nets in extremes of winter weather.

From two to four white operators employ approximately ten "outside" white foremen who drive the bombardiers (snow vehicles), care for equipment, and supervise workmen. Each operator is usually paid a basic wage, plus a bonus for total production of his crew. This commission may vary according to species caught, depending on their value. Thus a substantial portion of total wages at the primary production level remains with these few foremen.

TABLE XIV

## SELECTED COMMERCIAL FISHERIES STATISTICS FOR GODS LAKE

Year	% of Total Catch				Total Prod'n	Limit in '000 lbs.	Value as Marketed \$
	Whitefish	Pickereel	Trout	Pike			
1942-43	83.6		16.4		796	150	16976.
1943-44	86.6	.3	13.1		3932	250	38725.
1944-45	86.9	.5	12.6		6019	400	54983.
1945-46	86.3	.7	13.0		8760	600	143648.
1946-47	86.9	1.2	11.9		7541	600	102691.
1947-48	82.1	3.9	10.8	3.2	7228	600	139570.
1948-49	74.1	14.5	11.2	.2	6802	600	144138.
1949-50	79.1	10.3	8.3	2.3	5005	600	120404.
1950-51	90.4	4.6	5.0		6375	600	142113.
1951-52	89.6	1.2	7.8	1.4	6336	600	130530.
1952-53	90.2	1.9	7.9		6085	600	112782.
1953-54	91.4	.2	8.4		6203	600	124658.
1954-55	92.4	.4	6.6	.6	7226	600	140117.
1955-56	87.2	3.3	7.4	2.1	7222	800	163322.
1956-57	87.1	3.6	6.6	2.7	8900	800	161538.
1957-58	86.5	8.1	5.4		8648	600	172033.
1958-59	69.9	7.9	4.3	17.9	5363	600	93342.
1959-60	81.8	7.5	5.8	4.9	5097	400	124136.
1960-61	90.0	1.2	3.5	4.9	4982	400	108888.
1961-62	85.4	8.1	3.3	3.2	5933	400	163266.
1962-63	94.2	1.3	2.9	1.6	7866	500	228966.
1963-64	96.4	.1	2.2	1.3	5379	500	143366.
1964-65	97.3	.1	1.8	.8	4791	500	116943.
1965-66	95.3	.1	3.6	1.0	5454	500	141942.
1966-67	88.8	1.0	5.7	4.5	4711	500	134382.
1967-68	90.3	2.0	7.7	7.3	5003	500	unavailable

Source: Derived from Files, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.

Income to natives, which may include that of one or two white workmen staying at one of the lodges throughout the year, varies according to the length of the fishing season, which in turn depends on how quickly the limit can be obtained. Considering full working days, wages have ranged from an estimated \$9,120.00 to \$33,000.00, annually<sup>3</sup> (see TABLE XV, page 145). To obtain representative figures, the mean wage of the last three years was averaged with the salary of the native fishermen as stated on the 1968 Indian survey. Thus, an average of \$25,293.00 was obtained.<sup>4</sup>

Most of the fish is sold frozen, although higher-priced Lake Trout and some Whitefish are sold fresh when prices are favourable. Fresh fish is either flown to Winnipeg by backhaul when freight is brought to the tourist lodges, or flown to a filleting plant at Island Lake. Frozen fish leaves the area by tractor swing, or by air freight (DC-3).

Prices paid for fish on the lake vary according to species and market conditions. Conservation Officers' reports from 1957 to 1967 reveal that the average price of Lake Trout was twice that of Whitefish.<sup>5</sup> Pickerel prices usually fluctuate between these two. Concentrated commercial attention on Lake Trout and Pickerel can therefore be anticipated.

Coarse fish left on the ice comprises approximately fifty percent of the total catch.<sup>6</sup> Due to expensive transportation these fish are not processed for sale, although their removal may assist in maintaining an ecological balance within the lake.

A small group, averaging twelve independent native fishermen, runs its own operation and sells to the large operators. These marginal operations have usually resulted in losses<sup>7</sup> (see TABLE XV, page 145). In 1967 and 1968, twenty-two Indians formed an association which, with financial help from Indian Affairs, has attempted an independent operation. This program has shown little success to date.

TABLE XV  
 SELECTED STATISTICS  
 FROM ANNUAL WINTER COMMERCIAL FISHERY REPORT

Year	Native Fishermen Employed	Income to Employed Fishermen	Native Self-Employed Fishermen	Income to Self-Employed Fishermen	Outside Fishermen
1959	64	\$ -	12	\$ -	11
1960	53	9,120.	15	-	12
1961	49	-	13	3,600.	9
1962	68	-	12	-	10
1964	59	19,855.	9	-	11
1965	63	17,447.	3	318.	11
1966	64	25,925.	3	426.	10
1967	59	28,600	22	loss	11
1968	36	33,000.	21	loss	12

Source: Derived from Field Officers' Annual Reports, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources Division, Gods Narrows, Manitoba.

### C. Past Government Attempts To Solve The Competition Problem

Trout, the species most valued by anglers because of its trophy renown, is also commercially fished. This is recognized as a basic conflict of interest by the Provincial Fisheries Branch and steps have been taken to conserve Lake Trout for anglers. Further investigations to determine the extent of competition, and to rectify the alleged problem, appear stalemated, possibly due to a lack of funds. It is hoped that this presentation of the problem and its involved dimensions will stimulate further action.

To increase trophy Lake Trout population, and to decrease the number

taken by the commercial fisheries, the following methods have been attempted:<sup>8</sup>

- 1) Reducing the commercial limit.
- 2) Enforcing the limit (see TABLE XIV, page 143). (Excess catches have been frequent.)
- 3) Using gill nets of specific yardage and mesh. The 5½ inch mesh used is larger than that used on most other lakes. This may spare small fish but also tends to catch the largest, most desirable anglers' trophies.
- 4) Changing from a summer and a winter season, to a winter season only. Offence to sportsmen by actual confrontation was thus reduced.
- 5) Shifting the winter season to begin on January first. This reduced Trout catch because by January Trout have more or less completed their migration from spawning grounds to their winter depth. Previously, fall-caught Lake Trout were often soft and filled with spawn.
- 6) Enforcing the use of a single barbless hook for angling in 1959. This attempt was highly unpopular among tourists who felt that such a curb was not justifiable when commercial fishermen were sieving the lake with gill nets. This clause was withdrawn in 1960.

These measures have certainly assisted in maintaining a sustained yield, although the effectiveness of some of the methods is questionable and will be discussed later.

#### D. Present Evidence Of And Reasons For Depletion

##### 1. By Tourists (see Figure 30, page 148)

The much-preferred Trout catch has not fulfilled the expectations of the anglers, and received an extremely poor rating. Further evidence is available from guest books and the sample surveyed in 1968.<sup>9</sup> Percentage



of return visits is rapidly decreasing, necessitating a much greater expenditure for advertising to entice first-time customers.<sup>10</sup> Whereas in 1960 more than seventy percent were repeat visits, this has fallen to forty-two percent, while parties that have made frequent visits are now declining invitations and searching for more productive lakes.<sup>11</sup>

Tourists answering to "Have you any prejudice against angling in waters that are commercially fished?",<sup>12</sup> revealed that ninety-one percent of the anglers had such a prejudice (see Figure 31, page 148). The following reasons, most of which can be interpreted as, "The trophy fish we came to capture have been removed by the commercial fishermen," were given:

- 1) 35 percent accused gill netting of destroying trophy fish.
- 2) 19 percent claimed commercial fishing had already ruined the lake.
- 3) 12 percent claimed a substantial decrease had been noted this year.
- 4) 12 percent, not aware that commercial fishing was practiced, claimed they would not return to a lake commercially fished.
- 5) 10 percent felt that commercial fishing should be outlawed from good lakes.

Although there may be a built-in bias to the question, it is also a fact that the subjective element is a major one governing sportsmen's decisions. Negative prejudices, once rooted, are almost always tenaciously held. Thus 88 percent had hostile feelings toward commercial fisheries. Only twelve percent believed that, under wise management, co-existence was possible.

## 2. The Indian Community

The natives have been perturbed about a decrease in sport fishing potential. In the summer of 1968, as on previous occasions, a council

FIGURE 30

# RATING OF ANGLING BY TOURISTS

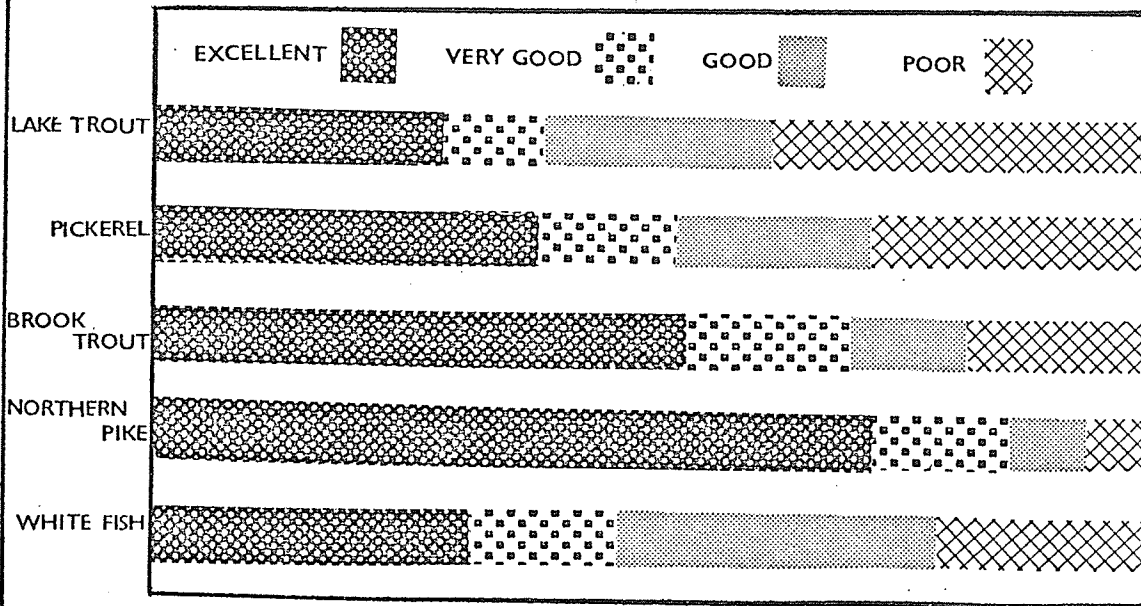
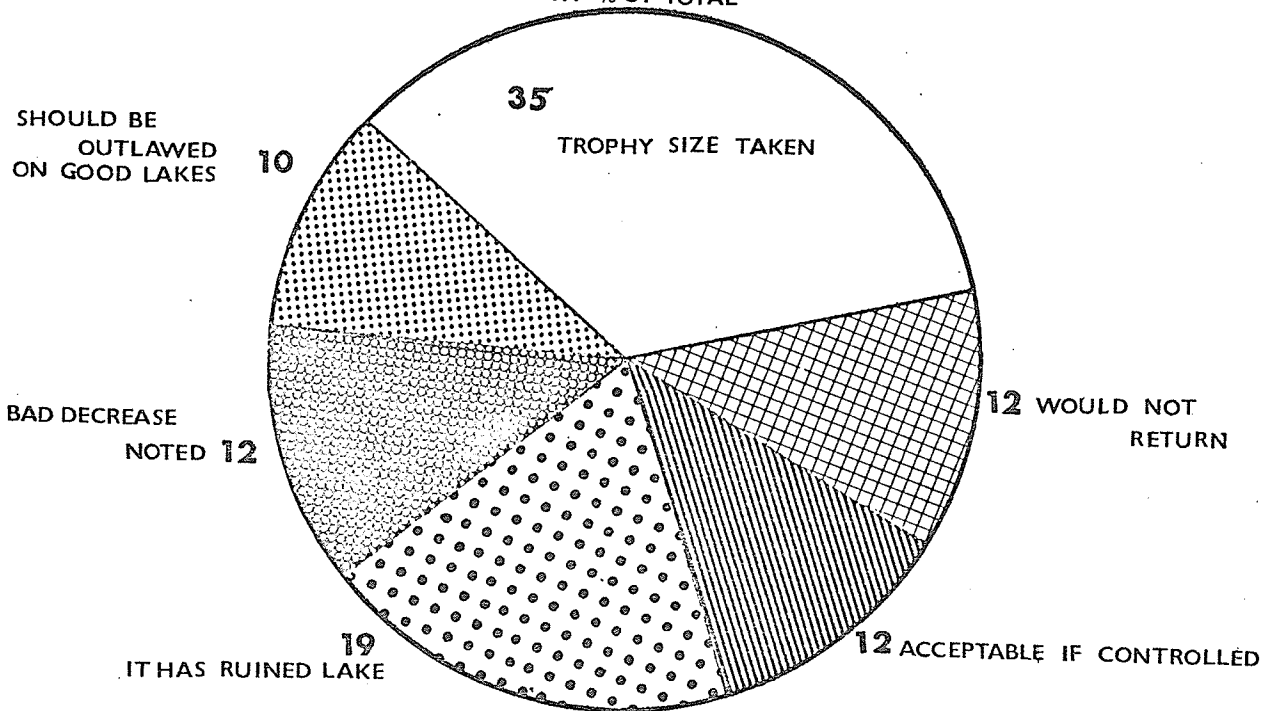


FIGURE 31

# ANGLERS' BIAS TO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN % OF TOTAL



meeting was called at which the problem was discussed. On numerous occasions in the summer of 1968 Chief A. Ogemow confided his concern to the writer. He suggested a continued dual usage, but with stricter control to reduce angling species taken by the commercial fisheries.<sup>13</sup> On the Indian questionnaire; "Do you think Gods Lake is being overfished?", was answered, "Yes" by 54.2 percent of the sample. Sixteen percent answered "No", and 29.8 percent gave no opinion. To "Do you feel commercial fishing is damaging the tourist trade?", only 18.5 percent answered "Yes", 37 percent answered "No", while 44.5 percent gave no opinion. These answers may appear contradictory, but reasons given in most cases explained the choice. Eighty-one percent claimed that commercial fishing offered jobs in winter. The majority supported the present program because it spread economic returns.

### 3. Tourist Camp Operators

Tourist operators may be biased in their opinions, as they unanimously agree that commercial fishing is damaging their industry. An operator who has resided in the area for thirty years claims that Lake Trout has rapidly declined in the last ten years. Where, in the early 1950's, a trophy Trout was almost guaranteed to every guest, now a guest is fortunate if he obtains a twenty pound specimen, as the number of trophies taken has declined to less than 25 percent of what it was when the camp was first opened. All other operators corroborate this depletion.<sup>14</sup>

For more objective evidence from a similar source, the past actions of the tourist operators may be scrutinized.

1) B. Lamm, who operated two thriving tourist camps, sold both camps after a sharp decline in tourism. The 354 guests in 1963 dwindled to 187 in 1965, when he sold his Elk Island operation. After a further drop to 121

in 1967, which was partially due to the sale of the first lodge, he sold his second operation at Kanuchuan Rapids.<sup>15</sup>

2) The new owner of the Elk Island operation recently sold his camp after a marked decline in demand; 1966--127, 1967--121, 1968--87.

3) Gods River Lodge, the oldest operation in the area, has had a gradual increase in business, although the scarcity of Lake Trout has forced the opening of a new camp at Lake Nejanilini.<sup>16</sup> This operator has also fished the lake commercially, obtaining between twenty-five and fifty percent of the limit. Commercial fishing is open to outsiders who have little or no interest in dual usage of the lake. Backhaul by chartered aircraft assists in making commercial fishing profitable. The Gods River operator has publicly announced his intentions to halt all commercial fishing operations, in which he is heavily invested, if commercial fishing would then be terminated.<sup>17</sup> Such a gesture clearly demonstrates the conviction that sporting species are being depleted by the commercial operators.

4) Another tourist operator has rapidly expanded through an expensive advertising program.

#### 4. Conservation Officer Reports

Some excerpts from the local Conservation Officers' annual reports reveal:

...1959..."...Camp operators claim the cream of the crop is slowly disappearing and are finding it harder to please their old guests of 8 and 10 years ago."<sup>18</sup>

...1964..."Biggest trout retained by net fishermen ...was 27 lbs. Bigger ones than this were returned to the water."<sup>19</sup>

...1966..."The largest trout taken out by net this winter....was 49 lbs."<sup>20</sup>

...1968..."Every indication is that the Gods Lake Sports Fishery is of

primary importance and any proposed change in the commercial fisheries should be reviewed with the effect it would have on the tourist trade. Moreover, serious considerations should be given to the improvements of this lake as a tourist lake."<sup>21</sup>

...1968..."It would be safe to say that a high percentage of anglers did not catch a Lake Trout last year."<sup>22</sup>

#### 5. Creel Census of 1967

Only 2.3 percent of the creel consisted of Lake Trout, and only 43.9 percent of the anglers had taken Lake Trout. Two Hundred and twenty-one anglers caught 262 Lake Trout and retained 223 of these fish, or a mean of one fish per angler. Lake Trout caught per angling hour was .05 fish.<sup>23</sup>

A census undertaken by the writer in the summer of 1968 revealed that 249 Lake Trout--an average of 1.8 each--were obtained by a sample of 137 anglers. Average weight was 9.1 pounds (estimate by guests), with most fish weighing between eight and fourteen pounds.<sup>24</sup>

The above evidence represents a trend and is a good indication of Trout depletion.

#### 6. Master Angler Awards Records

These records, and commercial fisheries records, reveal that the absolute number of awards and the awards per individual have decreased (see Figure 32, page 153) as the proportion of Trout in the total catch has increased. In 1960 every seventeenth person obtained a Master Angler award for Lake Trout. This has been reduced to every forty-fifth person in 1967, as a parallel commercial operation increased its percentage of Lake Trout caught to 7.7 percent, from a low of two percent in 1965. The

sudden increase of Trout catch in commercial limits has caused concern to the native people and tourist operators. Surely, poor angling performance excludes the idea of a general rise in Lake Trout population. It was assumed by those concerned that commercial fisheries were intensifying pressure on the higher priced Lake Trout. Another feasible reason was that, since the limit on Whitefish was difficult to obtain, especially in 1968, commercial operations became more selective of fishing grounds, and thereby increased Lake Trout catches.

Absolute number of awards and percentage of provincial performance of Lake Trout are shown in TABLE XVI, page 154.

In contrast, Northern Pike, which has little commercial value, and which is not marketed in some years, is receiving an increasing number of awards (see TABLE XVI, page 154), and (Figure 33, page 153). Only every 37th angler won an award for Northern Pike in 1960, but by 1967 every eighth angler received such recognition. In 1967, 73.5 percent of the creel was Northern Pike, compared to 2.3 percent Lake Trout. Pike caught per angler hour was 1.59 compared to .05 for Trout. Yet Pike is a less desired species.<sup>25</sup>

On the basis of the evidence presented it must be concluded that angling for Lake Trout is presently much less successful than it has been.

The facts substantiate that commercial fishing is the major contender for Lake Trout. In 1968, 7.7 percent, or 38,400 pounds of Lake Trout were taken from Gods Lake.<sup>26</sup> This figure is derived from commercial operators' records who are well aware of the sensitive situation. There is no means of checking the validity of these figures, but they are not likely to represent an over-estimate.<sup>27</sup>

The stated intention to avoid Trout in the areas commercially fished, may be questioned. Eye witnesses have stated that known Trout holes were

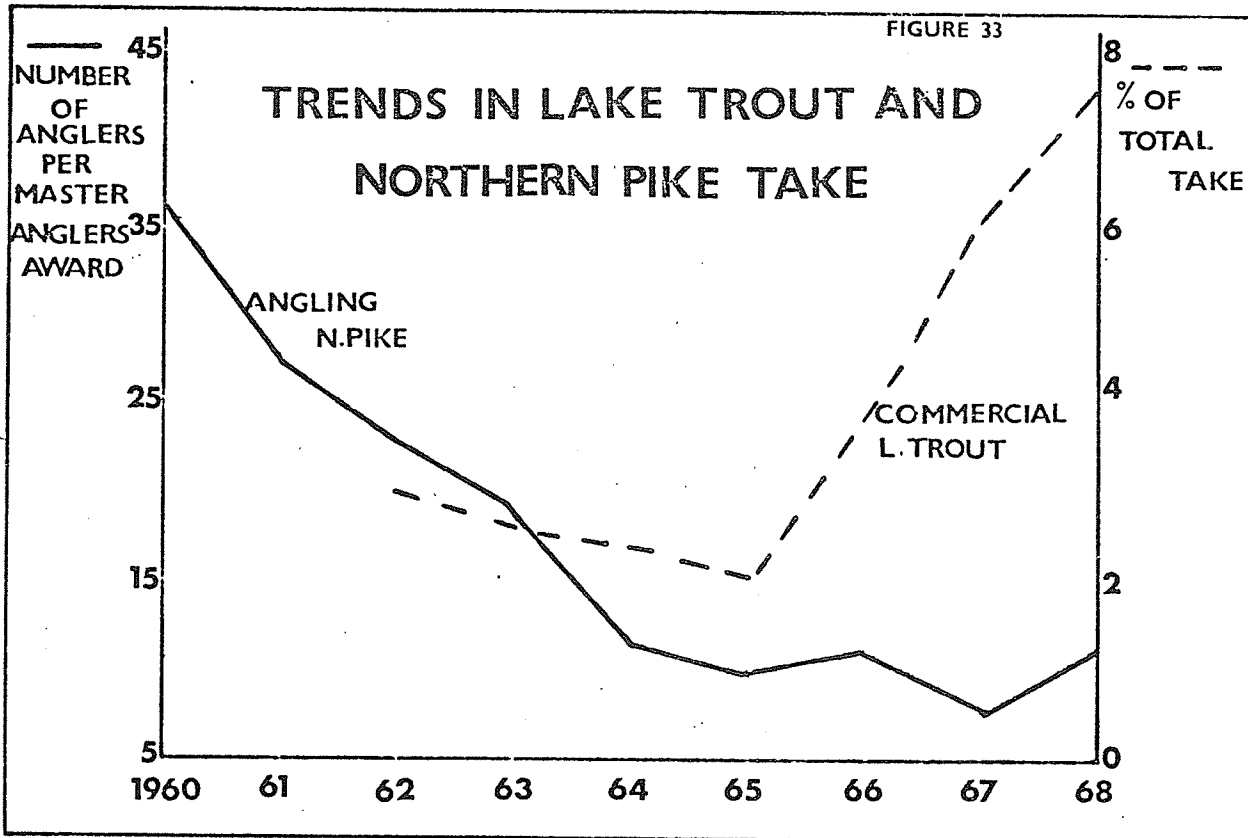
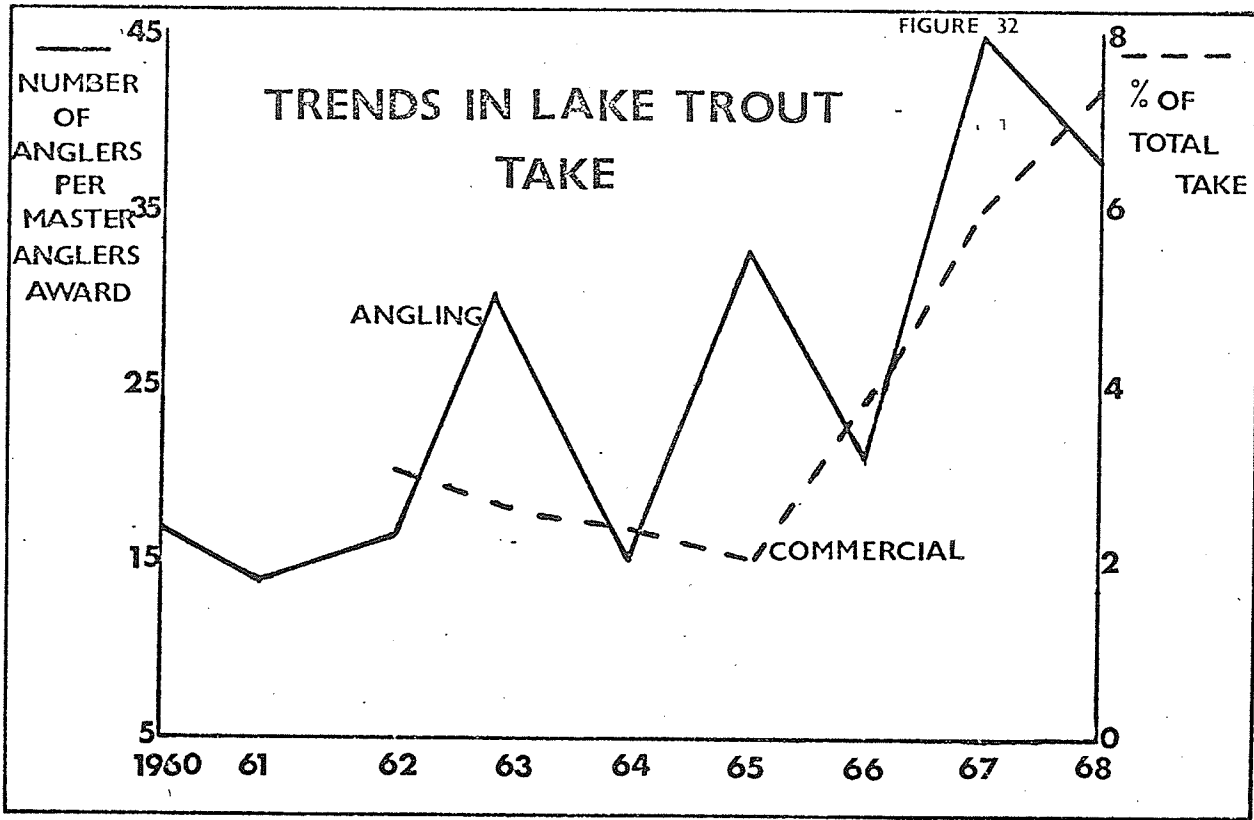


TABLE XVI

## TRENDS IN MASTER ANGLER AWARDS FOR GODS LAKE

Year	No. of Awards		Percentage of Province	Persons per Master Angler Award	
	L. Trout	N. Pike	L. Trout	L. Trout	N. Pike
1960	24	11	70 %	17	37
1961	34	18	76 %	14	27
1962	38	25	73 %	17	22
1963	20	32	36 %	31	19
1964	35	46	65 %	15	11
1965	18	57	35 %	32	10
1966	29	51	44 %	21	11
1967	14	51	22 %	45	8
1968	23	76	37%	38	11

Source: Derived from Files, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.

intensively fished in 1968.<sup>28</sup> The locations given by an inspection generally correspond to favourite Trout holes. The report states, "Fishing operations are being carried out on the normal grounds:--East End, Johnson's and Bayly Bay, N.W. Jowsey Island and around the N.E. corner of Elk Island."<sup>29</sup> It is an accepted fact that the general area northwest of Jowsey Island and the Johnson's Bay Reefs are two of the choicest angling areas on Gods Lake. See Figure 34, page 158, for sample location of 249 Trout taken in the summer of 1968.

#### 7. Other Possible Reasons For Depletion

a) Anglers, it has been suggested, are very selective, and this



may be true when fish are abundant. The 1967 creel census revealed that of 262 Lake Trout taken, 223 were retained.<sup>30</sup> This does not suggest high selectivity. Accepting the average of the two surveys, one which registered fish retained and the other fish caught, the average angler retained 1.4 Lake Trout, averaging 9.1 pounds. Assuming that the samples were representative, 10,854 pounds of fish were caught by anglers compared to the stated commercial catch of 38,400 pounds.

b) Only favourite holes and reefs may have been depleted by sustained angling. Experimental angling at sites with similar habitat should be attempted. A bathymetric chart would assist in such exploration.

c) Other reasons, such as macro or micro change of environment, or hook resistance, may result in poor angling.

#### E. Methods Of Increasing Yields, And Possible Effects

##### 1. Halting Commercial Fishing Operations

This method has been attempted in some depleted lakes since 1943.<sup>31</sup> Athapapuskow Lake near The Pas, at a latitude similar to Gods Lake, has greatly increased its trophy proportions by this means since 1960. The trend of Master Angler awards for Lake Trout from 1960 to 1968 inclusive, has been: 9, 4, 6, 13, 12, 9, 22, 23, 19.<sup>32</sup>

The native people would forfeit approximately \$25,000 annually from a complete cessation of commercial fishing, although an increase in tourism would quickly replace this sum. Tourism potential will be discussed in CHAPTER VIII.

Assurance that no commercial fishing was practised on the lake would greatly increase the lake's desirability to anglers.

## 2. Controlling The Catch Of Sports Species.

### a) Reducing the daily and possession creel limits

Such steps would hardly be acceptable to anglers while Trout is still being caught in gill nets. Most anglers presently do not obtain creel limits. Such control might be met with opposition similar to that against the single barbless hook enforced in 1959.

### b) Removing Lake Trout from the commercial limit.<sup>33</sup>

This argument rests on the premise that commercial operators can avoid Lake Trout areas. Any Trout caught would be confiscated by the Conservation Officer. This arrangement would necessitate close supervision and policing, costs of which would, however, be modest for the short winter season.

### c) Reducing commercial Trout limit to One Percent.

A commercial quota limiting Trout catch to 10 percent of the total commercial catch has been in effect, although such a high limit has proven to be of little value in protecting Lake Trout. A one percent limit has been suggested by one of the commercial operators, who stated that such a selective fishery would be feasible.<sup>34</sup> This would greatly reduce the commercial Trout catch, while at the same time it would need no supervision as to area restriction. A close check on poundage would be necessary, however.

### d) Zoning areas for commercial fishing and reducing limit of Lake Trout to One Percent.

Zoning has been suggested by Conservation Officers and the native people of Gods Lake.<sup>35</sup> Since Lake Trout are customarily netted in deep rock-floored areas, and Whitefish in shallow sediment-floored areas, major Trout holes could be zoned by placing small spruce trees around zoned areas.<sup>36</sup> Thus, Whitefish could be cropped, leaving Lake Trout for the sport

fishery (see Figures 34 and 35, pages 158, 159).

#### F. Possible Effects On The Local Community

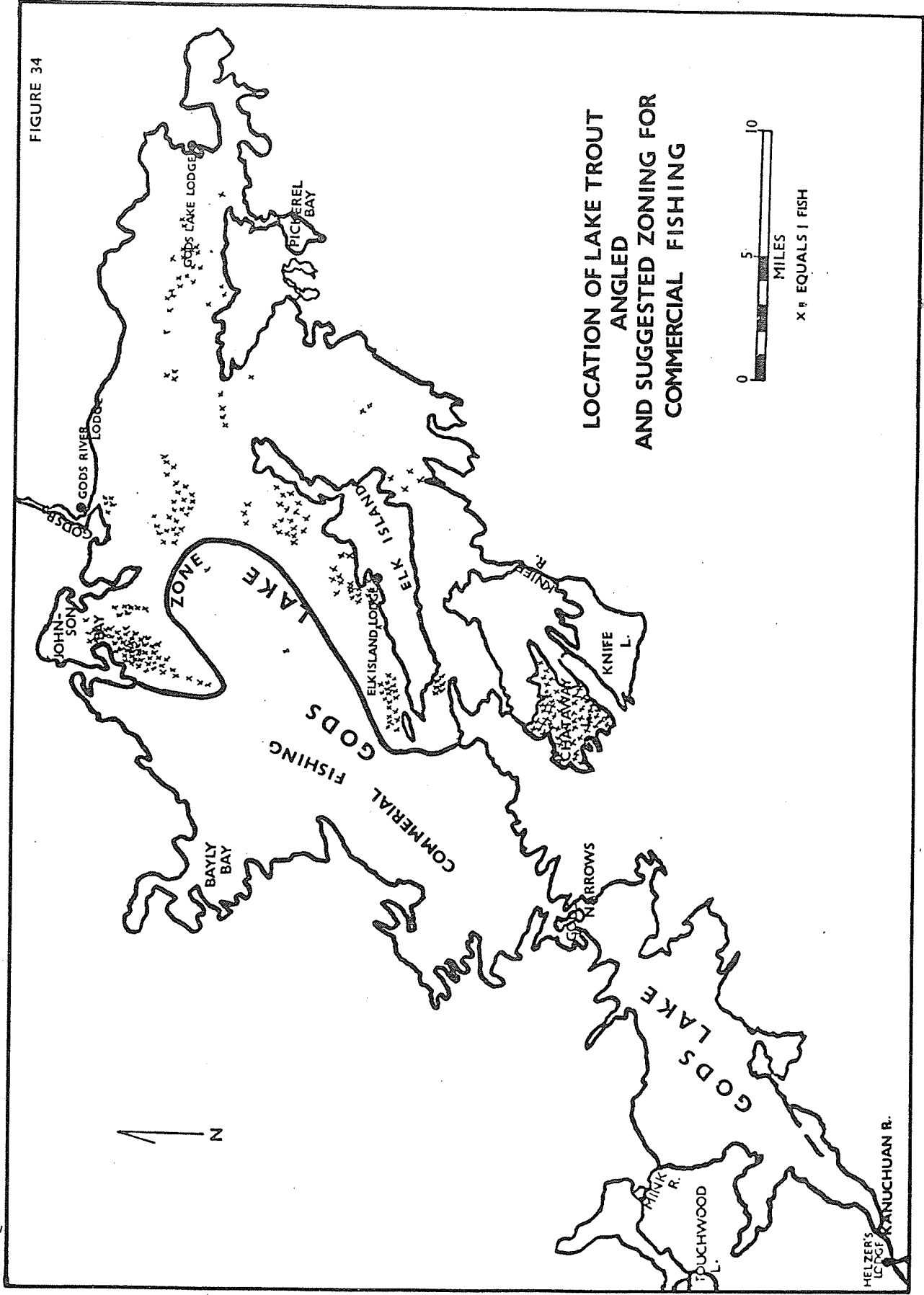
It is suggested that the commercial fishery could gradually be transferred to the Indian community, with close supervision by Indian Affairs. Supervision should embrace more than fishing apparatus and transportation. A few of the leaders should be given thorough training in organization and bookkeeping. Some experienced supervisors would be needed initially. Two seasons have demonstrated that present operations are expensive and inefficient, but experiments should not be discontinued.<sup>37</sup> Other Indian communities in Northern Manitoba have proven that the fisheries resource can be harvested by native people, and that the portion of primary value retained by them can be increased greatly.<sup>38</sup> The McIvor report, by a Royal Commission investigating fresh water fish marketing policy, may influence the Gods Lake fishery by eliminating the present inefficient marketing practices.<sup>39</sup> Transportation of fresh fish to the market would probably continue via DC-3 backhaul.

A two- or three-week delay in the opening of the commercial fishing season, to middle or late January, would encourage Indians to utilize the fur resources of the region more efficiently. Presently, the winter trapping season is considerably shortened by a January first opening date for the commercial fishing season. Trappers usually come home for Christmas and do not return to their traplines again. A mid-January opening would lengthen the trapping season by at least three weeks.<sup>40</sup>

A 1962 Conservation Officer's report states,

Trapping is still the main industry of the Gods Lake people in winter although there is also a large winter commercial fishery. Schools, welfare, and religion are drawing the trapper away from his old way of life. Lines a great distance from the settlement are not utilized because the trapper does not want to spend too much

FIGURE 34



LOCATION OF LAKE TROUT  
ANGLED  
AND SUGGESTED ZONING FOR  
COMMERCIAL FISHING

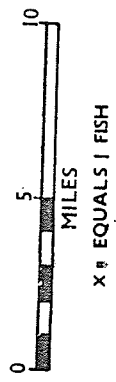
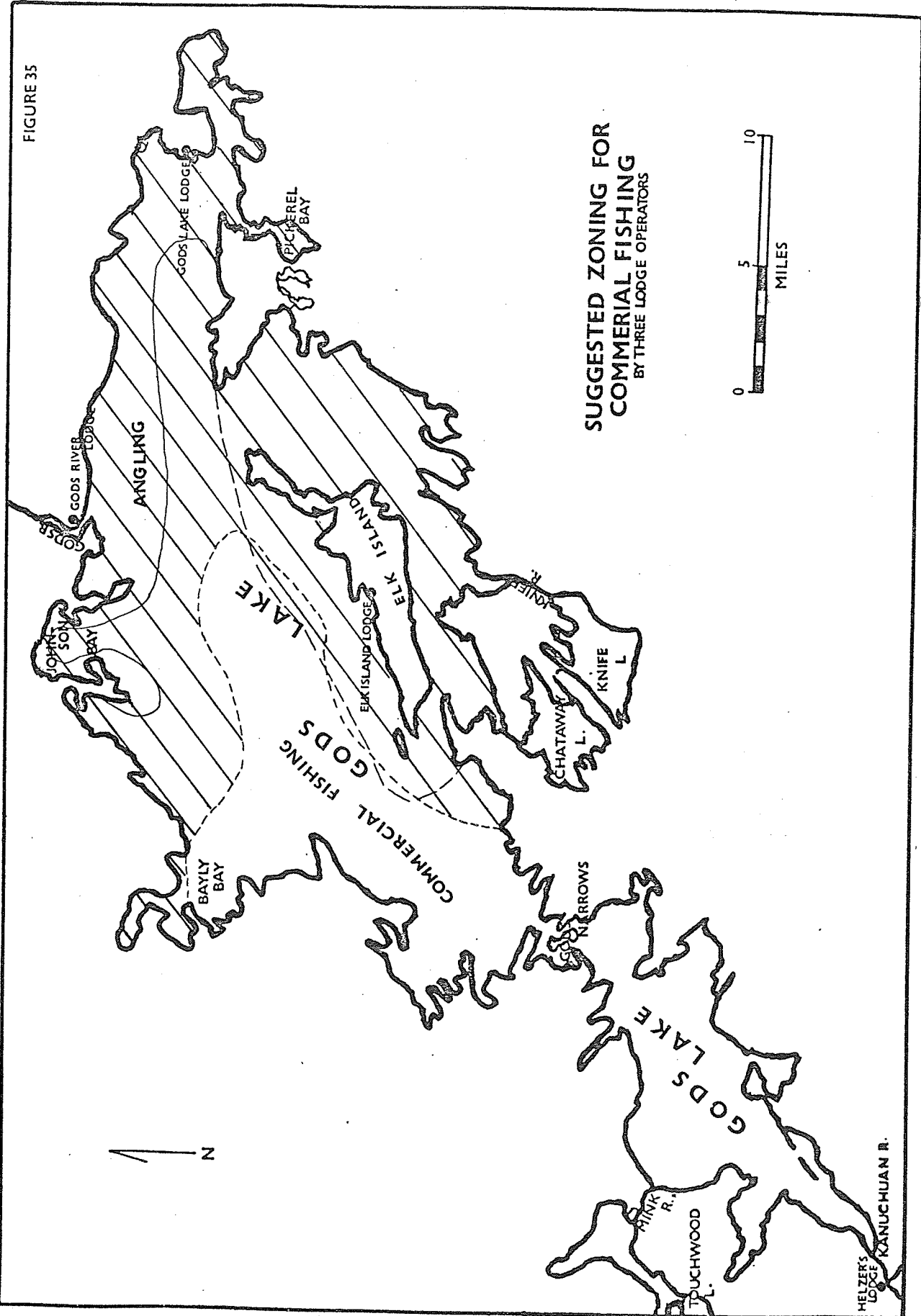


FIGURE 35



time away from his family and the social life of the settlement. This is becoming a big problem in the Gods Lake Section.<sup>41</sup>

The 1967-68 trapping year utilized only 85 percent of the traplines. Trapper effort was only 70 percent on used traplines, resulting in a 60 percent harvest.<sup>42</sup>

Since the commercial fisheries season would be extended due to reduced competition, fishermen would be able to work most of the winter. For transportation, motorized snow toboggans could be utilized, as they are already beginning to replace dogs. Indians are familiar with outboard motors, and thus would be able to maintain these vehicles. Poor ice would also support this light equipment in early spring when use of the heavier bombardiers becomes hazardous.

For the past few years there has been a guide shortage at peak tourist season. This is not due to lack of manpower, but rather to inadequacy of organization. Approximately twelve men, who are also licensed guides, do carpentry work for Indian Affairs during this period. Such building programs should be scheduled for the slack tourist season of mid-summer.

By reorganizing the seasonal occupations, more of the year could be utilized productively. Most trappers fish commercially as well as guide. Thus families obtain income from all three sources.

In the writer's opinion the program for co-existence of commercial and sports fisheries should receive priority. Such sustained usage would benefit the local community and make possible the elimination of most of the present \$100,000 annual welfare cost. The implementation of an independent native commercial fishing program may present organizational problems, but these would be minor compared to present and future problems under current methods of management. If we do not educate the native and delegate responsibility to him in his home environment, how can he assim-

ilate in a white society? Delaying solutions will only magnify the problem.

Should multiple usage prove unsuccessful, commercial operations should have to cease to make room for the more economically productive sports fishery.

We may forecast increased angling pressure in most areas as the North American population increases, hence commercial fishing may have to give way gradually to the higher product values generated by sport fishermen. This does not necessarily rule out co-existence; in fact, growth of population may be expected to generate also increased commercial demand for both marine and freshwater species, thus raising production values.<sup>43</sup>

Other sport species have had less pressure from angling and commercial fishing, but prudent conservation must afford protection for potential sports stock, not only in Gods Lake, but in streams and small lakes that serve as breeding grounds as well as angling areas. Walleye (Pickerel) angling has deteriorated especially in Wesachuan Bay, apparently due to intense commercial fishing for this species in Touchwood Lake, which is believed to be the breeding area for this species. Such short-sightedness is detrimental to the sports fishery of Gods Lake. Small surrounding lakes such as Touchwood, Chataway, and Knife must be considered as angling waters when planning for recreational angling.

Brook Trout angling has regained much of its early reputation, since conservation methods have been practised. A single barbless hook, a closed season during spawning, a reduced daily and possession limit, and a restocking program, have proven very successful. To maintain the hybrid breed, spawn from Gods River is flown to a southern hatchery. Fingerlings are returned the following year. Restocking programs are expensive, but Lake Trout might benefit from such attention.<sup>44</sup>

G. Conclusion

The future welfare of the Gods Lake community and the status of the area as one of North America's superlative fresh water angling sites depends chiefly on judicious resource management.



## REFERENCES

1. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.  
Also see APPENDIX C.
2. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources Division, Field Administration, The Pas, Manitoba.
3. Ibid.
4. See CHAPTER III, page 43.
5. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources Division, Field Administration, The Pas, Manitoba.
6. Pers. comm., Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources Division, Field Administration, Gods Narrows, Manitoba.
7. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources Division, Field Administration, The Pas, Manitoba.
8. Ibid., and Pers. comm., Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources Division, Field Administration, The Pas, Manitoba.
9. Guest Books, Gods River Lodge, Gods Lake Lodge, Elk Island Lodge, Gods Lake, Manitoba.
10. Pers. comm., G. Coulson, Gods Lake, Manitoba, June, 1968.
11. Pers. comm., P. Burton, T. Ruminski, and G. Coulson, Gods Lake, Manitoba, June, 1968.  
See APPENDIX D.
12. No mention was made of commercial fishing operations when interviews were conducted since this might influence guests negatively. Some guides who wanted to remain anonymous stated that they were ordered, with a threat of discharge, not to mention commercial fishing to guests.

13. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.
14. Pers. comm., Tom Ruminski, Gods River, Manitoba, June, 1968.
15. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.
16. Pers. comm., T. Ruminski, Gods River, Manitoba, June, 1968.
17. Ibid.
18. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources Division, The Pas, Manitoba.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.
23. K. B. Campbell, "Study of Gods Lake Sport Fishery," Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch (mimeo.), Winnipeg, December, 1968.
24. This information was obtained from the third page of the questionnaire used in this study (see APPENDIX A). Of the 275 tourists sampled, 46 percent responded to the question. The rest of the sample did not attempt to complete this section because the lake was unfamiliar to them.
25. Campbell, op. cit.
26. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.
27. Pers. comm., Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources Division, The Pas, Manitoba.
28. Pers. comm., P. Burton, Gods Lake, Manitoba, June, 1968.
29. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.

30. Campbell, op. cit.
31. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.
32. Ibid.
33. Pers. comm., Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources Division, The Pas, Manitoba.
34. Pers. comm., T. Ruminski, Gods River, Manitoba, June, 1968.
35. Pers. comm., Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources Division, Field Administration, Gods Narrows, Manitoba, June, 1968, and  
Pers. comm., Chief Alex Ogemow, Gods Narrows, Manitoba, July, 1968.
36. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.
37. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources Division, Field Administration, Gods Narrows, Manitoba.
38. The other area mentioned is South Indian Lake, Manitoba.
39. G. H. McIvor, Canada, Royal Commission of Inquiry Into Fresh-water Fish Marketing, Ottawa, October 17, 1966.
40. Pers. comm., Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources, Field Administration, Gods Narrows, Manitoba, June, 1968.
41. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources, The Pas, Manitoba.
42. Pers. comm., Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources, Field Administration, Gods Narrows, Manitoba, June, 1968.
43. "H. C. Frick to G. Unger, Ottawa, October 6, 1968," Federal Department of Fisheries, Ottawa, Canada.
44. Pers. comm., T. Ruminski, Gods River, June, 1968.

## CHAPTER VIII

### POTENTIAL FOR RECREATION USAGE

This analysis of Gods Lake area's recreation potential rests upon the following premises:

- 1) That the area remain geographically isolated.
- 2) That expansion will be based on the potential of present established types of recreation which have demonstrated their viability. Any other activity introduced should therefore be complementary to the primary activity.
- 3) Market potential for such expansion has been illustrated by rapid increases in tourism in recent years.
- 4) That such future development as is expected to be most beneficial to the local community, the lodge operators who have invested heavily in their operations, and the economic growth of the province will be considered.

#### A. Angling Potential

Trophy angling and hunting are the primary activities sought by sportsmen now. Other activities such as amateur botanical and zoological appreciation, canoeing and hiking contribute to an invigorating total recreational experience.

What is the trophy angling potential of the area? The dependent variable of this potential is commercial fishing. It is only with the drastic reduction or elimination of favoured sport species from the commercial catch that angling can increase.

Provincial fishery authorities recently have seriously questioned the philosophy of dual usage and consideration is being given to reserving certain waters for sustained trophy angling, eliminating commercial operations completely from some isolated northern lakes.<sup>1</sup> The high cost of bulk transportation as well as competition from angling, have often proven dual utilization unprofitable.

To retain trophy status a lake must bear angling pressure established by a preset annual quota of angler hours per unit area. This upper limit is obtained by a pretested equation which considers the ecology of individual lakes. Major criteria that must be considered are fish nutrients, area and depth of lake, and climatic conditions.<sup>2</sup> A program of this sort has been tested on Lake Nejanilini with some success, using an annual pressure of .5 angler hours per acre. Although the "trophy water" project is in planning stage, it appears promising.<sup>3</sup>

By utilizing a similar upper limit of permissible angler hours per acre, assuming that ecological criteria are similar for the several bodies of water, angling potential may be calculated. This general assumption should be confirmed by a biological investigation, although the writer is assured that the suggested upper limit is approximately correct.<sup>4</sup> Since Gods Lake has a much greater average depth than Nejanilini, the angling potential might be slightly higher. The exact potential is not required for this study, since angling pressures are not likely to accelerate very rapidly. The only assurance necessary for present planning is that angling can increase substantially.

Applying the .5-hour-per-acre annual limit to Gods Lake, which is 258,867 acres in extent, a sustained angling pressure of 129,433 angler hours per annum could be accommodated.<sup>5</sup> Considering an average of 42 hours of angling per angler trip (six days at 7 hours a day), the angling pressure

in the summer of 1968 was 35,784 hours, of which eighty percent occurred on the lake proper and the remaining in surrounding bodies of water. Gods Lake is thus currently subject to an angling pressure of approximately 28,600 hours per annum.<sup>6</sup> If no commercial fishery operations were present it should be possible to sustain the trophy yield even with a 400 percent increase in angling pressure. It may be of interest to note that in 1968 such a 4:1 ratio existed between the Lake Trout commercial catch and angler catch--38,400 pounds versus 10,854 pounds, demonstrating that an optimum angling pressure, as allowed by "trophy water" standards, might have harvested a comparable poundage of Lake Trout.

These same Lake Trout, if taken by sportsmen, would have yielded approximately 2.5 million dollars, in contrast to an approximate total fishery market value of \$130,000! The Indian community could have realized a \$300,000 increase from tourism, compared to an approximate \$25,000 present income from the commercial fishery. If economic factors were the only criteria for management, it is obvious that commercial fishing should be curtailed and perhaps eventually discontinued.

As stated, an exact upper limit is not necessary for present planning. It is sufficient to know that angling pressure may be substantially increased. Relative economic importance should be an indicator for future development.

Until further biological research is undertaken, it is suggested that commercial fishing be permitted to continue, but only as long as these catches contain less than one percent of Lake Trout without increasing pressures on other sporting species. This should allow for at least a gradual doubling of angler pressure. Present indications are that such an arrangement would maintain trophy-sized fish.

Such a program would have the following benefits and effects for

those involved:

#### 1. Effects On The Province

A doubling of tourism in the area would increase the annual income from this source to \$1,300,000 while permitting a Whitefish take of approximately \$100,000 value.<sup>7</sup> Further scientific research and stricter enforcement of commercial fisheries restrictions on the lake would require some added expenditure, however.

#### 2. Effects On The Lodges

The investment in accommodations could be more profitably utilized. Greater emphasis on advertising and possible reduced rates for mid-summer, would still yield greater overall profits to owners. The extension of the tourist season by two or three weeks, which can be expected with an increase in trophy catches, would greatly increase profits. A further aspect to lengthening the angling season would be to promote the taking of Whitefish and Northern Pike, species which are numerous and whose prime angling periods extend through most of the summer. Another possibility that has received little attention is winter ice fishing. In 1959, sixteen non-residents ice-fished with good results, as all major species may be so taken.<sup>8</sup> Three lodges are seasonal operations and feel that winter volume does not warrant such operations. A well-publicized concentrated December season, when vacationing time is available and prior to the commencement of the commercial fishery, might lead to a profitable operation. Indications from angler license sales in other areas of the province are that ice fishing, especially by non-residents, has seen phenomenal growth.<sup>9</sup> Comfortable, heated fishing tents over prepared holes should be supplied.

Present lodge establishments would receive priority for expansion.

Given assurance that the recommended management policy with respect to the lake would be binding, most lodges would respond quickly with building programs. With a doubling of angling utilization an additional lodge might be feasible. Gradual expansion should be encouraged in order to build up a satisfied sporting clientele, since a rapid commercialized effort might alienate present repeat business.

Criteria for site selection should include the following:

- a) Proximity to good fishing spots. Order of demand for variety of fish species should receive special attention.
- b) An area accessible by float plane with a deep foreshore to facilitate boat and aircraft docking, and a sheltered, obstacle-free take-off course at all water levels, at least 5,000 feet in length.
- c) A fairly level, well-drained site accessible by water transportation from Gods Lake.
- d) Appealing scenic surroundings.
- e) Protected angling areas for use in stormy weather, or for twilight fishing.
- f) New sites should be selected as far as possible from present operations to maintain the wilderness atmosphere.

Three suitable sites have been selected for such development. Their advantages and disadvantages will be indicated (see Figure 36, page 171):

Knife River: A site on the left bank opposite the rapids is well drained, partially soil-covered, and fairly level. The foaming rapids and dense stands of black spruce and poplar lend scenic grandeur to the spot. The area contains a wealth of game, notably black bear and upland game birds. Deep-water docking is possible both below and above the short section of rapids. This facilitates accessibility to Gods Lake, to Knife Lake, and,



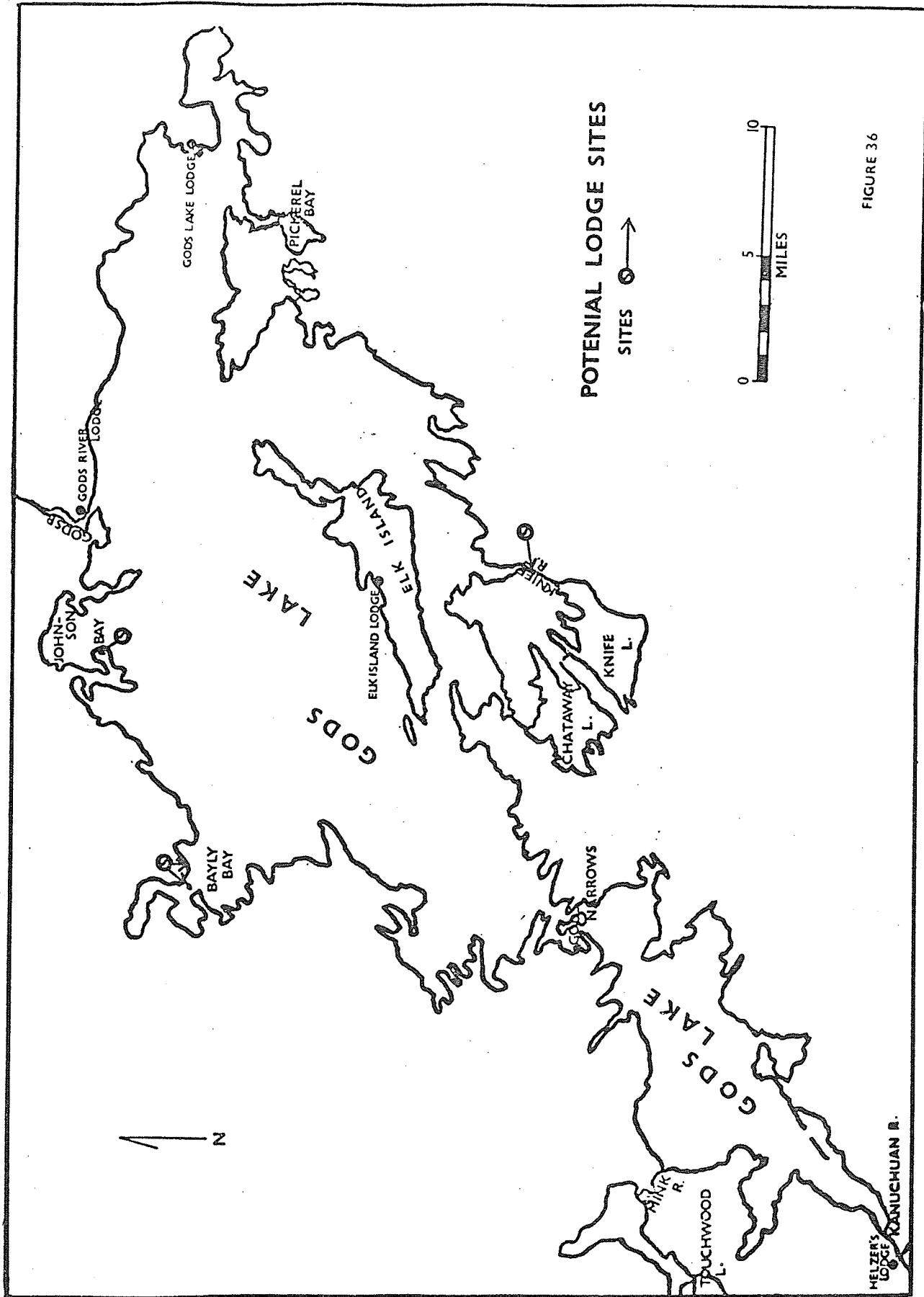


FIGURE 36

with a short 500-foot portage, to Chataway Lake. The site provides ideal sheltered angling for all species except Brook Trout. A 1.5-mile sheltered bay can accommodate water-based aircraft. The only drawback of any real consequence is its proximity to the Elk Island Lodge, fourteen miles away by water and six by air.

Johnson Bay: This site offers opportunities almost identical to those at Knife River and, moreover, is only seven miles from prime Brook Trout angling in Gods River. An added attraction is a gently sloping 500-foot white sand beach with an attractive well-drained backshore. This spot is somewhat exposed to the open lake, but the bay to the west would shelter aircraft from prevailing winds. As at Knife River, this site would be in competition with another established lodge.

Bayly Bay: Due to its remoteness, this location would have the advantages of isolation and of proximity to less angled waters. The area has some of the best Walleye fishing, and is close to excellent Lake Trout grounds. The extended bay affords shelter and docking facilities for aircraft and boats. One disadvantage is a generally swampy backshore even where foreshores are sandy and well drained. However, there are a number of good potential lodge sites, while Bayly Bay is central to the major angling areas, which would facilitate air shuttle services.

### 3. Effects On The Local Community

Doubling the angling pressure could well eliminate the present welfare program, replacing it with \$100,000 from wages derived from tourism. There is, however, an aspect to the accomplishment of this end, which rests in the area of jurisdictional motivation. Whereas suggested changes in resource utilization would almost certainly be based on provincial intervention, direct benefits, as from reductions in welfare payments to members

of the Gods Lake native community, would accrue almost wholly to the Federal Government in diminished demands upon the Department of Indian Affairs.

Many of the Indians now on permanent welfare engage in guiding during the summer. Such employment is not strenuous and harmonizes with traditional Indian culture. The number of guides available is limited at present, but a suitable reorganization of other activities could at once free thirty percent more manpower during the peak angling season. With suitable training the existing guide pool could be doubled. An extension of the tourist season would make the guiding occupation more attractive as well. At present rates guides would, on the average, earn \$1,072 in eight weeks, and \$1,340 in ten, including tips.

Seasonal labour reorganization to create year-round employment opportunities is the basis for the recommended retention of the commercial fisheries. The potential of the area is such as to require carefully calculated utilization of the full resource spectrum if economic viability is to be attained (see Figures 37 and 38, page 174). Should a time arrive when the tourist season can be extended and the supply of guides is ample, and income from such sources far exceeds that from commercial fishing, then the latter activity might eventually be discontinued in favor of an even greater emphasis on angling.

Since guiding seasons are short and incomes during this period are out of proportion compared to the rest of the year, a banking system should be made available to Indians. Seasonal surplus could be banked, then withdrawn through the year in monthly sums replacing the present system of welfare payments. This would inhibit squandering in time of plenty. With suitable encouragement, including possibly the payment of an attractive rate of interest on balances on account, it should be possible to realize

FIGURE 37

### PRESENT SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT

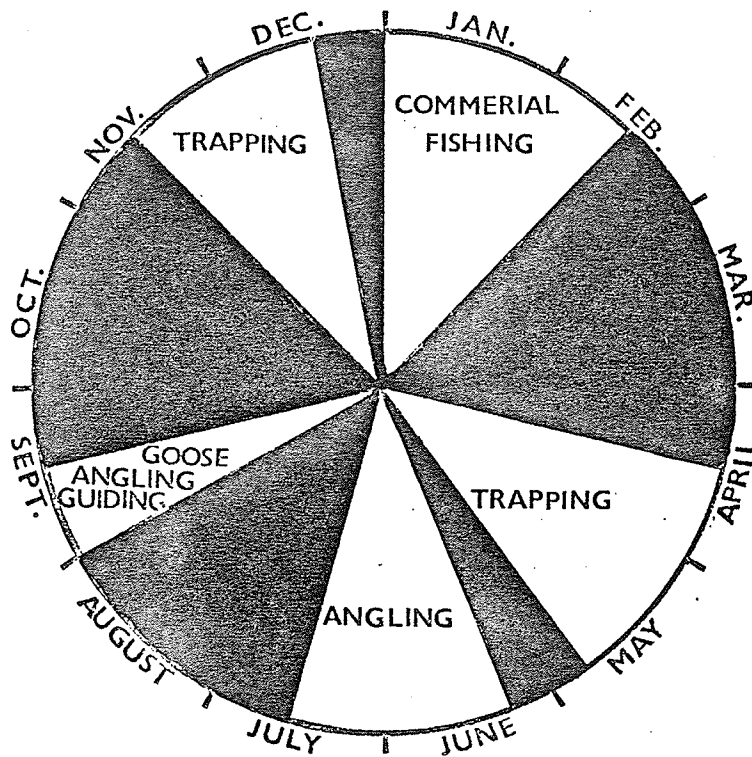
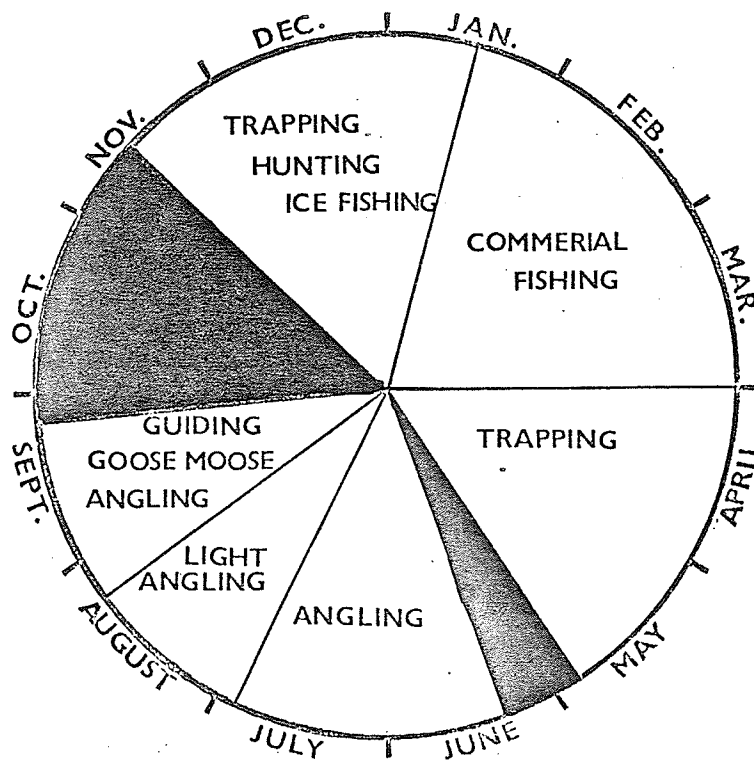


FIGURE 38

### PLANNED SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT



a satisfactory level of participation in such a scheme. Eventually the idea could be transformed into a Credit Union or equivalent organization.

With thorough training programs, guides will become more efficient, thus increasing gratuities. To encourage guiding school participation, formal guide education and satisfactory performance should be recognized by rating and salary increments. Training, licensing, testing, and advancement should be handled by an impartial agency. With such a system there is no reason why first-class professional guides should not receive more than \$15.00 a day.

Due to lack of organization and promotion native handicraft production does not meet the demand, forcing some tourist operators to import articles from other Reserves. Three lodge owners stated that they could not satisfy the demand for native handicraft articles.<sup>10</sup> Raw materials are readily available and the people should be encouraged to exercise their skills in manufacturing beaded and embroidered mukluks, shirts, gauntlets, and other articles in demand. Quality workmanship must be inspired and a central clearing house for grading and pricing should be established. There is a growing interest in native costumes as practical and individualistic outdoor dress as well as for souvenirs.

#### B. Hunting

This activity received second preference listing by sportsmen. A rapid increase in interest in goose hunting has materialized since its recent introduction. One operator was forced to use tents to accommodate overflow guests. He quickly constructed a larger, more comfortable building. The natural beach ridge at Hudson Bay provides a landing surface for all classes of wheeled private aircraft. There is good sporting potential in the goose hunt. It lengthens the tourist season and increases

earning opportunities of the Indian people. A combination of fall angling-hunting attracts sportsmen even though autumn fishing is less productive.

Moose and bear, although limited in number, can be taken, especially in areas well away from the settlements. Most hunters want moose only for the head and rack, leaving the meat for the Indian guide.

The present early moose season (September 6 to November 30) corresponds well with the waterfowl season.<sup>11</sup> This early season could be combined with goose hunting and late fall fishing.

The late winter moose season in December could be promoted together with ice fishing. Winter conditions provide for better tracking and transportation on firm ice. More carcasses could thus be saved for human consumption. The big game hunting potential is limited, however, and should be carefully conserved to sustain productivity.

C. Historical Landmarks (see Figure 39, page 177)

The Gods Lake area has a vivid history of the fur trade and more recently of gold mining. Due to the community's isolation, even the native culture is well preserved.

The following historic sites are recognizable and should be preserved:

- 1) The first Hudson's Bay Post erected at Johnson Bay in 1825, initially known as Fort Good Hope (see Plate 18, page 178). Some large low log buildings occupy the site. These have been repaired, as indicated by the asphalt roofing. Approximately 125 yards northwest of these buildings, almost hidden by vegetation, is an Indian and Hudson's Bay Post burial ground with at least twenty graves. Some are marked with wooden crosses and most appear to have been recently mounded.

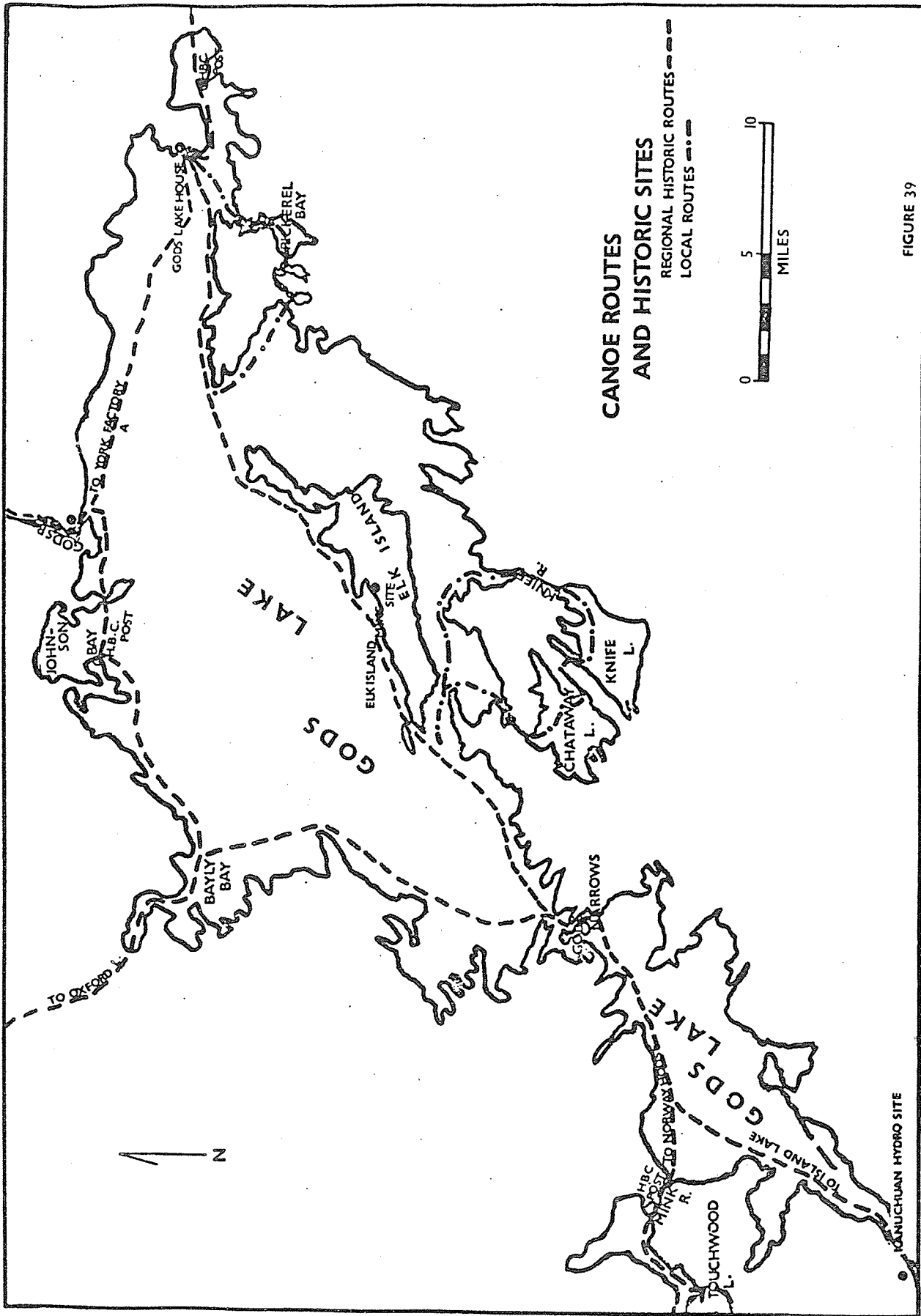


FIGURE 39



Plate 18: Buildings on the site of the first Hudson's Bay Post established in 1825 in Johnson Bay. These buildings are presently used as commercial fishing headquarters in the winter. A cemetery is located to the rear of the buildings.

- 2) Gods Lake House, at East End, historically the second Hudson's Bay Company Post on the lake, dates from the latter part of the nineteenth century. The buildings are used for a seasonal tourist operation. Care has been taken to retain their original form. Some additions have been made, which blend with the earlier structures. A small tower, half a dozen squat log cabins that served as store houses, and a larger central building that was used as trading headquarters, are well preserved. Another cemetery, known as The Graveyard, is situated approximately four miles to the southeast.
- 3) Wesachuan Bay was the site of another Hudson's Bay Post, but all that remains is a grassy cleared area on the right bank of the Mink River where it enters Gods Lake. A burial ground with no markers can be located. This



site has been under investigation by the National Museum of Man.<sup>12</sup>

4) Archeological sites comprise sixteen early Indian campsites that have been located, two of which have been excavated by archeologists and anthropologists. These sites are producing valuable information about Manitoba's prehistoric native culture. The specific locations can not be publicized until investigations have been completed.<sup>13</sup>

5) The Elk Island Mine Site (see Plate 19 and 20, page 180 and APPENDIX E), although abandoned in 1945, forms a historical link in the heritage of the area. Many of the dwellings have been destroyed through neglect and vandalism. Even now buildings are being demolished for timbers, doors, and other reusable articles. Part of the townsite has been occupied by a tourist operation; the rest lies in unsightly heaps of heavy machinery and partially dismantled head frames. Tourists scrounge through the disorder, searching for gold ore or other souvenirs. Present tourist volume does not allow reconstruction, but preservation should be undertaken. It is unsafe to poke around in the old buildings and clamber through the remains. The writer had the experience of stumbling over a full case of old dynamite. Steps should be taken to prevent further destruction of site and buildings.

6) The Kanuchuan Rapids power site was developed in the early 1930's. Although abandoned when the mine closed, the turbine has continued to function with little interruption. The major dam, of rubble with a wooden cribbing, has been breached, although the powerhouse is still intact and the generator is humming. The exposed bed of a stream diverted to increase the head at the power site is of interest to tourists.

7) York Factory, although a considerable distance from the focal point of the region, harbors a hunting outcamp serviced from Gods Lake. The entire complex is being studied for restoration as a national historical

Plate 19: Partial view of the remains of the Gods Lake Gold Mine which ceased its operation in 1945, after a short and unprofitable existence.



Plate 20: The Gods Lake Gold Mine as it appeared in the early 1930's. More than 300 miners occupied the company townsite. Note the residential section in the background. (Courtesy, Man. Provincial Archives).

monument. Restoration will doubtless attract more tourists to Hudson Bay.

#### D. History and Local Culture

There is a great demand by tourists for knowledge of the historical and cultural background of the area. It would be advisable for lodges to prepare a booklet on local history, historical sites, and the folklore of the native people. Camp operators are often too busy to give individual attention to queries about these matters, or they may be uninformed. An example of available information is,

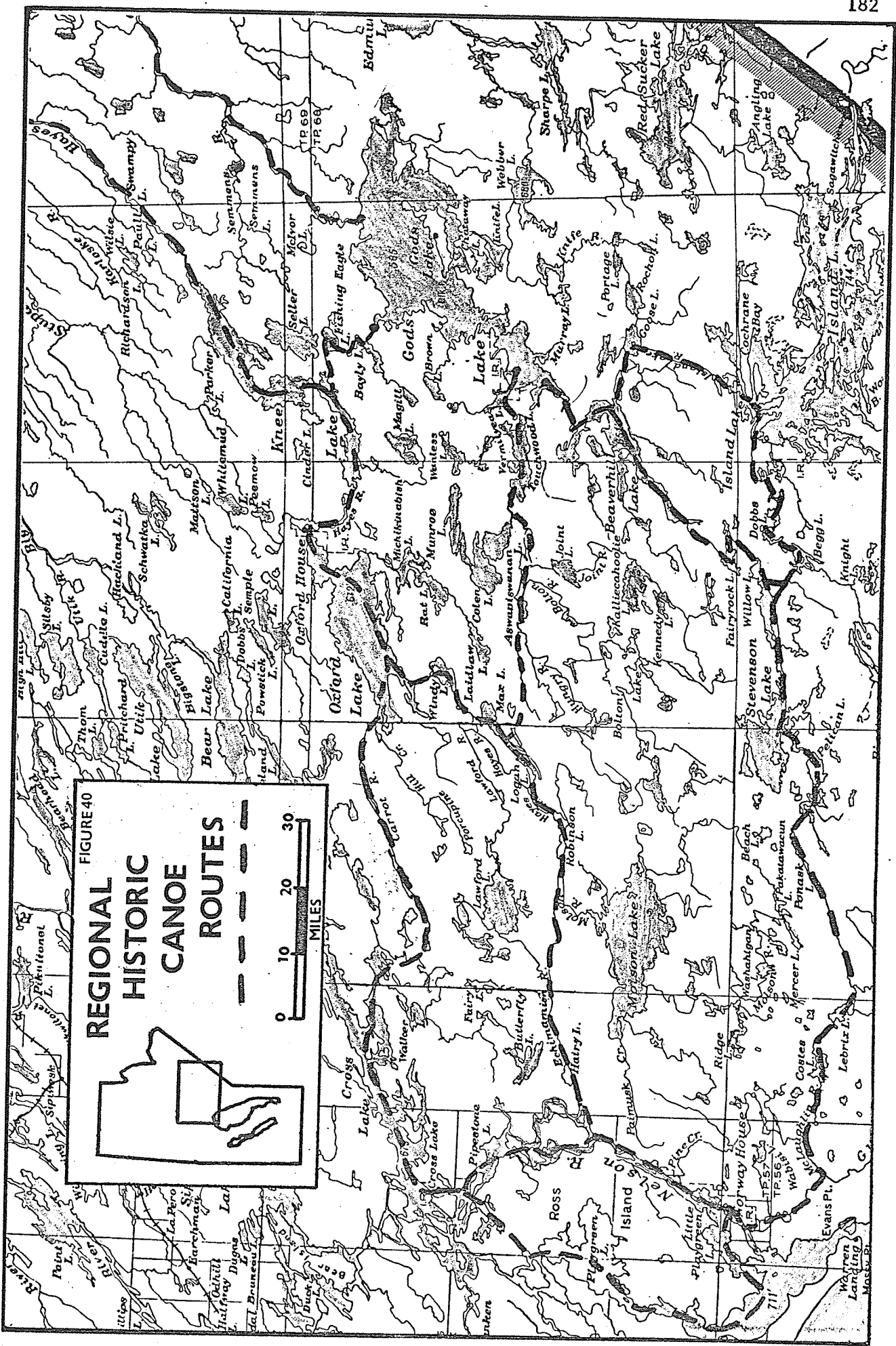
The Indian name for God's Lake is Manitou Sagahin, meaning 'Lake of the God' or 'Great spirit'. The Indians have many interesting legends in connection with the lake and surrounding country, which are very beautiful. Many high wooded hills with thickly treed valleys surround the lake, which itself is dotted with hundreds of islands. The great spirits of the beaver and otter are popularly supposed by the Indians to inhabit two very prominent hills in the neighbourhood of the lake.<sup>14</sup>

Another colorful element is the Weechigo, or evil spirt, that local Indians still claim to see occasionally.

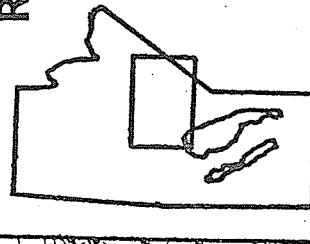
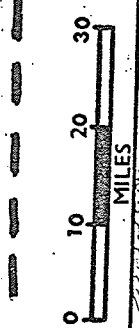
#### E. Wilderness Canoeing

Wilderness canoeing is rapidly gaining popularity in the southern portion of the Canadian Shield, but the northeastern Shield country has received less attention. The Gods Lake recreational area has potentials of becoming a focal point for wilderness trips, as four major historical Hudson Bay's fur trade canoeways lead into the lake (see Figure 40, page 182). Such development would be complementary to the present wilderness usage of the region.

Water routes were utilized by the fur traders until quite recently. Nowadays they are traversed only by the occasional party of sportsmen.



**FIGURE 40**  
**REGIONAL**  
**HISTORIC**  
**CANOE**  
**ROUTES**



Many campsites and portages are still recognizable. The excitement of wilderness travel enhances a sense of history about the country. Cemeteries contain headstones of Selkirk Settlers, and mystic Indian rock paintings occur along the routes.<sup>15</sup>

Four regional routes are (see Figure 39, page 177):

- 1) York Factory--Hayes River--Gods River--Gods Lake
- 2) Norway House--Oxford Lake--Knee Lake--Bayly Bay--Gods Lake
- 3) Norway House--Echimamish River--Touchwood Lake--Wesachuan Bay--Gods Lake
- 4) Norway House--Stevenson Lake--Beaverhill Lake--Kanuchuan River--Gods Lake, or the similar route with a detour to Island Lake via the Island Lake River.

TABLE XVII

CANOE TIME FROM GODS LAKE  
(IN DAYS)

	In Motor Driven Canoes	3 Paddlers In 17 Ft. Canoes	2 Paddlers In 14 Ft. Canoes
To Norway House	6	10	20
To York Factory	8	20	40
To Island Lake	1 or 2	3	6
To Oxford Lake	2	3	6

Source: Pers. comm., Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources Division, Field Administration, Norway House, Manitoba.

Equipment and supplies are available through Hudson's Bay Company's U-Paddle service. Canoeists must realize that resupply points are few and far apart.

Difficulties are surprisingly few considering the vast expanse of the country. Those that do exist are part of the challenge of wilderness canoe trips and can be overcome by persons in good physical condition. To mention those that do exist:

A long and rugged portage between Ponask and Pelican Lakes on the Island Lake Route.

Low water in dry years on the Echimamish River, about 30 miles.<sup>16</sup>

Because of the large size of many lakes it is possible for a party to become wind bound for many days.

On many of the smaller rivers the portages have fallen into disuse and are sometimes difficult to find. This situation does not exist on the main routes, however.<sup>17</sup>

The foregoing comments are only of a general nature as regards wilderness canoeing potential. Detailed diaries and charts of all but the Island Lake Route are available upon request.<sup>18</sup>

Ideal one-day or overnight canoe trips can be made locally at Gods Lake (see Figure 39, page 177). At times of high water a round trip through Knife River, Knife Lake, Chataway Lake, and back into Gods Lake, would present few difficulties. Another short trip from Gods Lake Lodge, through Pickerel Bay and into Gods Lake via a short portage is a fine one-day excursion. Many similar routes are available for exploration. For the more daring, Gods River offers challenging stretches of white water. Expert Indian guides should be mandatory for such trips.

Tourist camps could serve as bases for canoeists who fly to the area. Guides, canoes and supplies could be made available at each camp. Other services might be: flying service to return canoeists from long down-river excursions; a canoe replacement service at either end of unnavigable rapids to facilitate light portages; and cache service of gasoline and other supplies at strategic points.

Regular summer schedules by the "Selkirk," Lake Winnipeg's new excursion boat, should assist in promoting wilderness trips from Norway House at the northern tip of Lake Winnipeg.

#### F. Water Sports

Swimming, water skiing, and other similar water-oriented activities present little or no prospect for development, now or in the future:

- 1) Water temperatures, as well as air temperatures, are below minimal comfort level for most of the summer. The great depth and large volume of water, as well as climatic conditions, retard warming. Only a few sand-floored shallow bays are warm enough for swimming on occasional days of the year.
- 2) The insect problem would discourage beach activities.
- 3) Suitable beaches are rare. Most sand beaches are narrow and have swampy backshores unsuited to development. Shorelines consist of swampy weed-infested bays graduating to muskegs, rock outcrop with abruptly sloping foreshores, or are obstructed and boulder-strewn.
- 4) There is at present no demand for such activities by the tourist group.
- 5) Even if a demand existed, such activities would be incidental to present major usage--wilderness angling and hunting.

Shoreline classification for such recreational activities is of little value, except where shorelines present varied landscape of aesthetic beauty.

#### G. Cottage Development

No lease is registered for private cottage development, as there is little or no demand for such projects due to the isolation and short summer season. Even at very low concentration it would create problems of administration and conservation far out of proportion to the prospective gain. Such development would greatly impair the wilderness atmosphere and alter the entire recreational emphasis of the lake to a usage that it probably

cannot accommodate successfully.

#### H. Wilderness Area

Potentials of scenery, historical landmarks, canoeing, hiking, and camping can not be treated individually as all these aspects combine to create the total recreational experience (see Plates 21 - 26, pages 187, 188, 189). They contribute in various proportions to the basic angling and hunting experiences. In total they create a wilderness atmosphere which could be impaired or destroyed by a sudden great increase in sporting traffic and activity. However, a doubling of present numbers would still retain an average of four square miles of water surface on Gods Lake alone for every party of two at the peak of the tourist season.

If at some time in the future an all-weather road is constructed to Gods Lake, further steps will have to be taken to preserve the lake and surrounding region in their wilderness state. The Provincial Parks Branch has recently proposed the creation of a wilderness category of park lands to preserve Manitoba's recreational lands.<sup>19</sup> Criteria for designation of such usage is given in APPENDIX F. It is felt that immediate action should be taken to appropriate the Gods Lake area as a Recreational Reserve designated to become a Provincial Wilderness Area (see Figure 41, page 190).

Due to the region's isolation, wilderness preserve status need not be declared at once. Should road access become available, immediate action would be necessary.

Reasons for designating the Gods Lake region as a Wilderness Area, are:

- 1) Present usage has demonstrated adaptability to such a designation. Gods Lake is the last major trophy lake relatively close to concentrated population centres that still essentially retains its wilderness character. The





Plate 21: One of the few substantial sand beaches on Gods Lake is situated on Fox Island on the southern portion of Gods Lake. The island is three miles long and less than a hundred feet wide in most places. Frigid water temperatures and insect pests prevent exposed beach-oriented activities.



Plate 22: A typical shoreline-reefs, small bays, crystal clear water and stands of black spruce. (North shore of Elk Island)



Plate 23: A sizzling shore lunch of fresh fillets.



Plate 24: The wilderness atmosphere, enhanced by the roaring rapids at dusk, contributes to the enjoyment of twilight angling. (Below Gods River Lodge)



Plate 25: The Kanuchuan Rapids, although they form a formidable obstacle to canoeists, contribute a wild beauty to the river.



Plate 26: Colorful sunsets are common at this northern latitude. They contribute to the total recreational experience and are seldom forgotten.

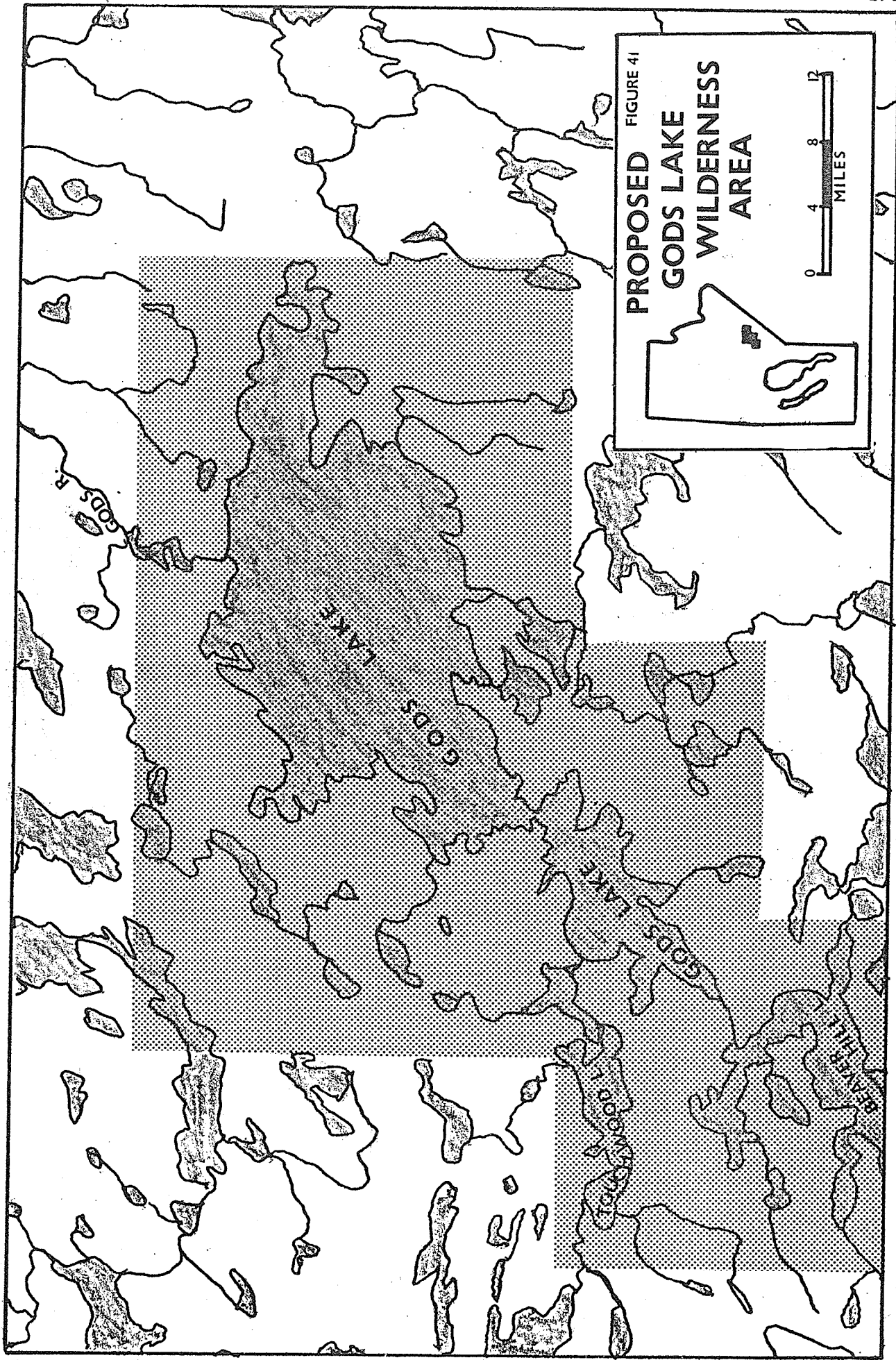


FIGURE 41

PROPOSED  
GODS LAKE  
WILDERNESS  
AREA

sometimes-stated official opinion "there are equally good lakes further north", is short-sighted and ignores the fact that this lake has a potentially self-sustaining community based upon it. Bluntly stated, if appropriate action can be implemented here, why leapfrog further into the wilderness? The more remote lakes will eventually become attractive anyway, as Nejanilini is already proving.

- 2) The area has been demonstrated to possess few mineral and timber resources that bear exploitation. Even commercial fishing has reached or exceeded maximum sustainable levels of production.
- 3) Physical characteristics of climate, topography and drainage are such as would discourage intensive tourist development.
- 4) The area supports a native community whose habits and work preferences are in harmony with wilderness management. The purity of the local Indian culture, due to its isolation, complements the wilderness potential. If educated and directed they should be able to supply the necessary services.
- 5) Numerous historic waterways and landmarks relating to the fur trade are heritage areas representative of Manitoba's northern development. These enhance the psychological impact of the wilderness.
- 6) The area provides the entire spectrum of Canadian Shield topography, vegetation and drainage.
- 7) The region is richly endowed with a variety of trophy fish unequalled in any other part of the province. Wildlife is abundant.
- 8) Scenic grandeur of the area is equal, or superior, to other Shield areas. The largeness of the body of water and the unobstructed horizon create a feeling of vastness that smaller lakes can not provide. Peaceful, smaller, enclosed spots amongst islands and in constricted waterways add variety. Sunsets at this northern latitude are inspiring.
- 9) Four major stretches of rapids and white water present challenges for

adventure, as well as beauties of sight and sound.

10) The area contains a variety of relief. A few heights tower over 150 feet above the lake at fault zones, breaking the otherwise flat to rolling terrain.

11) Three epochs are represented in the surface geology--Precambrian, volcanic extrusions, and an area of limestone. Good examples of faulting, folding, and warping exist. The limestones are highly fossiliferous.

12) Need for solitude and wilderness experience will increase.

### I. Conclusion

The preservation of recreational resources while they are yet essentially in their virgin equilibrium, is essential. Too much of our heritage has already been devastated beyond recognition.

"The soul of man, given time, can put some revealing marks upon his face. The soul of a people invariably makes an indelible imprint upon their lands."<sup>20</sup>

1. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.
2. R. Ryder, "A Method For Estimating Potential Fish Production For Northern Temperate Lakes," Journal of American Fisheries Society, III, 1965, p. 94.
3. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.
4. Pers. comm., Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.
5. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.
6. Pers. comm., T. Ruminski, G. Coulson, P. Burton, H. Helzer, Gods Lake, Manitoba, June, 1968.
7. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.
8. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources Division, The Pas, Manitoba.
9. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.
10. Pers. comm., T. Ruminski, G. Coulson, P. Burton, Gods Lake, Manitoba, June, 1968.
11. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Wildlife Branch, Winnipeg.
12. Correspondence, Canada, National Museum of Man, Ottawa, September, 1968.
13. Ibid.
14. S. J. C. Cumming, District Manager, "H.B.C. Posts, Keewatin District No. 13--God's Lake Post," The Beaver, (Fall Issue, 1929), p. 268.

15. Correspondence, Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources Division, Field Administration, Norway House, Manitoba, September, 1968.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. For further information write: F. B. Hubachek, Jr., 3220 Prudential Plaza, Chicago, Illinois, 60601.
19. Manitoba, "Proposed Provincial Parks System Criteria," (mimeo.), Department of Tourism and Recreation, Parks Branch, Winnipeg.
20. David Browser, Wilderness America's Heritage, San Francisco, 1961, p. 108.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### A. BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

- Brisner, A., Smith, L.L., Jr., Frick, H.C., Fry, F.E.J. An Economic Evaluation of Sea Lamprey Control and Lake Trout Restoration in Lake Superior. Ann Arbor: Ann Arbor University Press, 1968.
- Brockman, F. Recreational Use of Wild Lands. New York: McGraw--Hill Book Company, 1959.
- Brooks, L. Demand For Recreation Space In Canada. Toronto: Rhinehart and Winston, 1963.
- Browser, D. Wilderness: America's Living Heritage. San Francisco: Vail--Ballou Press, 1961.
- Clawson, M. "Economic Aspects of Sport Fishing," Symposium On Economic Aspects Of Sport Fishing In Canadian Fisheries Report, IV, (May, 1965).
- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Federal Lands, Their Use And Management," Resources For The Future, 1957.
- Cumming, S.J.C. "H.B.C. Posts, Keewatin District No. 13--God's Lake Post," The Beaver, (Fall Issue, 1929).
- De Grazia, S. Of Time, Work, And Leisure. New York: Anchor Books, 1964.
- Ferrier, Ben. Gods River Country. Scarborough, Ont.: Prentice Hall, 1956.
- Glueck, A.C. "The Fading Glory," The Beaver, (Winter, 1957).
- Godsell, P.H. Arctic Trader. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1932.
- \_\_\_\_\_. The Vanishing Frontier. London: Robert Hale, Ltd. 1939.
- Hjelte, G. and Shivers, J.S. Public Administration of Park And Recreational Services. New York: Macmillan Co., 1963.
- Isard, W. Methods Of Regional Analysis. Cambridge: The M.I.T. Press, 1960.
- Kidd, K. "Trading Into Hudsons Bay," The Beaver, (Winter, 1957).
- Kirkland, W. "North Of 53 ," The Beaver, (September, 1937).
- Leechman, D. "The Trapper," The Beaver, (Winter, 1957).
- Migdalski, E. Angler's Guide To The Fresh Water Sport Fishes. New York: Ronald Press, 1962.

- Morton, W.M. Indian Migration In Manitoba And The West. Winnipeg: Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba, 1967.
- Porter, J. Canadian Social Structure. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, Ltd., 1967.
- Rich, E.E. The Fur Trade And The Northwest To 1857. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, Ltd., 1967.
- Rustad, O. and Olmstead, J. "By Gods River To The Bay," The Beaver, (June, 1947).
- Ryder, R. "A Method For Estimating Potential Fish Production For Northern Temperate Lakes," Journal of American Fisheries Society, III, 1965.
- Schofield, F.H. Story of Manitoba. Winnipeg: S. J. Clark Publishing Co., 1913.
- Taylor, G.D. "An Approach To The Inventory Of Recreational Lands," Canadian Geographer, IX, (June, 1965).
- Tyrell, J.B. "David Thompson's Narrative And Exploration In Western America," Champlain Society Series, XII, 1958.
- Ulmer, M.J. Economics: Theory And Practise. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1965.

#### B. GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

- Andrews, R.R. Preliminary Analysis of 1967 Angling License Questionnaire (mimeo.). Winnipeg: Department of Mines and Natural Resources, 1968.
- Baker, W.F. Geology of Gods Lake Gold Mines, Ltd. Ottawa, 1935.
- Boileau, G. Anthropometry of The Cree, And Saulteaux Indians In Northeastern Manitoba. Ottawa, 1925.
- Crampon, L.J. Tourist Development In Manitoba. Winnipeg Tourist Development Branch, Department of Industry and Commerce, 1964.
- Canada. Atlas of Canada. Ottawa: Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, 1957.
- Climatic Summaries For Selected Meteorological Stations In Canada. Toronto: Meteorological Division, Department of Transport, Vol. III, 1965.
- Break-up And Freeze-up Dates In Canada. Toronto: Meteorological Branch, Department of Transport, #4116, 1964.
- Temperature and Precipitation Tables For Ontario. Toronto: Meteorological Branch, Department of Transport, Vol. IV, #551-582, 1967.

- Canada. Temperature and Precipitation Tables For Prairie Provinces. Toronto: Vol. IV, #551-582, 1967.
- Climatic Summaries For Selected Meteorological Stations In Canada. Toronto: Meteorological Branch, Department of Transport, 1959.
- Indians Of The Prairie Provinces. Ottawa: Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, 1967.
- The Dilemma For Our Indian People. Ottawa: Reprint From "Seven Articles On Indian Affairs," Department Of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, 1966.
- Treaty #5. Ottawa: Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, 1967.
- April 1968 Population Statistics Of The Gods Lake Indian Band (mimeo.). Ottawa: Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, 1968.
- Population Census For 1961. Ottawa: Dominion Bureau of Statistics, 1961.
- Population Census For 1966. Ottawa: Dominion Bureau of Statistics, 1966.
- Dewdney, S. Stone Age Paintings. Winnipeg, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, 1965.
- Farina, J. "The Social And Cultural Aspects Of Recreation," Background Paper For Resources For Tomorrow Conference, Ottawa: Vol. II, 1961.
- Hinks, D. The Fishes of Manitoba. Winnipeg: Department of Mines and Natural Resources, 1943.
- Knetsch, J.L. A Design For Assessing Outdoor Recreation Demands In Canda. Washington, D.C., 1967.
- Manitoba. A Bulletin For Commercial Fishermen. Winnipeg: Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Vol. VI.
- A Regulation Governing Transient Accommodation Facilities. Winnipeg: Department of Industry and Commerce.
- Forest Resources Inventory of Inaccessible Forest Zone. Winnipeg: Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Report #9, 1960.
- Geology And Mineral Resources Of Manitoba. Winnipeg: Department of Mines and Natural Resources, 1962.
- Geology of Gods Lake Area. Winnipeg: Department of Mines and Natural Resources, 1951.

Manitoba. Geology of The Gods Lake Narrows Area. Winnipeg: Department of Mines and Natural Resources, 1961.

Manitoba Vacation Handbook, 1968. Winnipeg: Department of Tourism and Recreation, 1968.

Proposed Provincial Parks System Criteria (mimeo.). Winnipeg: Department of Tourism and Recreation, 1969.

Synoptic Report On Several Fisheries Branch Surveys In Northern Manitoba. Winnipeg: Department of Mines and Natural Resources, 1963.

McIvor, G.H. Canada Royal Commission Of Inquiry Into Fresh-Water Fish Marketing. Ottawa, 1966.

Morton, A.S. The Basins Of The Nelson And Churchill Rivers. Ottawa: Canada, Department of Mines and Geological Surveys, Memoirs #30, 1939.

Ontario, Ontario Tourist Industry--Its Potentials and Problems. Toronto, 1965.

Smith, S.B. "Distribution And Economics Of The British Columbia Sport Fisheries," B.C. Game Commission Management Publication, Vol. IV.

United States. Participation In Outdoor Recreation: Factors Affecting Demand Among American Adults. Washington, D.C.: Recreational Resources Review Commission, Department of Agriculture, Report #20, 1962.

Private Outdoor Recreation Facilities. Washington, D.C.: Recreational Resources Review Commission, Department of Agriculture, Report #11, 1962.

Public Expenditures For Outdoor Recreation. Washington, D.C.: Recreational Resources Review Commission, Department of Agriculture, Report #25, 1962.

Wilderness And Recreation--A Report On Resources, Values and Problems. Washington, D.C.: Recreational Resources Review Commission, Department of Agriculture, Report #3, 1962.

Wallace, R.C. Mining and Mineral Prospects In Northern Manitoba. Winnipeg: Published by the authority of the Government of Manitoba, 1919.

## MANUSCRIPTS

- Anderson, L. Comparison Of Recreational Use And Potential Wabanum And Lesser Slave Lake. M.A. Thesis, University of Alberta, 1966.
- Baker, W.B. A Study Of Manitoba's Outdoor Recreational Resource. Background For Committee On Manitoba's Economic Future (mimeo.), Winnipeg, 1962.
- Borys, A.E. The Churchill River Centering On Pawistik: A Regional Study With Particular Emphasis On Recreational Land Use and Potentials. M.A. Thesis, University of Manitoba, 1967.
- Bowman, J. The Recreational Function and Related Problems Of The Winnipeg Beach--Sandy Hook Section Of The Lake Winnipeg Shoreline. M.A. Thesis, University of Manitoba, 1966.
- Campbell, K.B. Study Of Gods Lake Sport Fishery. Winnipeg: Department of Mines and Natural Resources (mimeo.), 1968.
- Crow, B.W. Leisure Time, Parks And Tourism In Canada, 1968. Montreal: Unpublished Paper, 1968.
- Hubachek, F.B., Jr. Diary Of 1964 Advanced Canoe Trip To Hudson Bay, Box 129, Winnetka, Illinois.
- Hubachek, F.B., Jr. Diary And Charts, 1966 Gods Lake Canoe Trip, Box 129, Winnetka, Illinois.
- Levasseur, Leon Cultural Encounter (mimeo.). Toronto, 1965
- Manitoba. Fresh Water Fishing Industry In Manitoba. Background Paper For Committee On Manitoba's Economic Future (mimeo.), Winnipeg, 1962.
- The Accommodation Industry In Manitoba. Background Paper For Committee On Manitoba's Economic Future (mimeo.), Winnipeg, 1962.
- Water Resources. Background Paper For Committee On Manitoba's Economic Future (mimeo.), Winnipeg, 1962.
- Files Of: Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Renewable Resources Division, Field Administration, Gods Narrows, Manitoba.  
Renewable Resources Division, Regional Office, The Pas, Manitoba.  
Manitoba.
- Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.
  - Forestry Branch, Winnipeg.
  - Lands Branch, Winnipeg.
  - Wildlife Branch, Winnipeg.
- Minerals and Services Division, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- Mines Branch, Winnipeg.
  - Surveys Branch, Winnipeg.
- Department of Tourism and Recreation, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- Parks Branch, Winnipeg.
  - Tourist Branch, Winnipeg.
- Provincial Library--Provincial Archives, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

- Canada. Files Of: Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Gods Narrows, Island Lake Regional Office, and Winnipeg Provincial Office.
- Hudson's Bay Company. Files Of: Hudson's Bay Archives, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- Parker, W.S. Outdoor Recreation And The Public Interest: A Study In Land Use Conflicts. M.A. Thesis, University of British Columbia, 1964.
- Peiluck, R.V. The Classification System Designated For The Recreation Sector Of Canada Land Inventory. M.A. Thesis, University of Manitoba, 1967.
- Roberts, M.J. Northern Highway Transportation--An Evaluation Of Current Project Proposals. Background Paper For Committee On Manitoba's Economic Future (mimeo.), Winnipeg, 1962.
- Smith, S.S. Economics Benefits And Market Areas For Outdoor Recreation: Some Theoretical Aspects. M.A. Thesis, Duke University, North Carolina, 1966.
- Taylor, G.D. The Economics Of Outdoor Recreation. A Paper Presented To The Conservation Council Of Ontario, Toronto, 1967.



III. Number of people in your party \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first visit to God's Lake \_\_\_\_\_, if NO how many years have you visited God's Lake \_\_\_\_\_

IV. Method of Transport (car, train, plane, private aircraft)

(a) From your home to Winnipeg or other jumping off place \_\_\_\_\_

(b) From Winnipeg to God's Lake - Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Your Private  
Plane \_\_\_\_\_  
On Wheels \_\_\_\_\_ or Floats \_\_\_\_\_

(c) If a centrally located air strip was available at God's Lake would you be interested in flying your own plane to God's Lake \_\_\_\_\_

What other facilities would you suggest if you bring your own plane:-

V. Type of Sport: Number in order of preference and add any you may be interested in that is not listed.

Fishing \_\_\_\_\_ Hunting \_\_\_\_\_ Sightseeing \_\_\_\_\_ Outdoor Games \_\_\_\_\_

Camping \_\_\_\_\_ Canoeing \_\_\_\_\_ Water Sports \_\_\_\_\_ Hiking \_\_\_\_\_

VI. What type of fishing did you come out for? Number according to preference and add any not listed:

Lake Trout \_\_\_\_\_ Speckled Trout \_\_\_\_\_ Pickerel (Walleye) \_\_\_\_\_

Northern Pike \_\_\_\_\_ White Fish \_\_\_\_\_

VII. Awards - Have you won any award for trophy fish taken in the God's Lake area? \_\_\_\_\_

List: -

<u>Awards</u>	<u>No. of Awards</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Manitoba Master Anglers	_____	_____	_____
Field & Stream Awards	_____	_____	_____
Others	_____	_____	_____

VIII. How do you rate God's Lake Area for angling:- (Please Use - E - Excellent, V.G.-Very Good, G. - Good, F. - Fair)

Lake Trout \_\_\_\_\_ Speckled Trout \_\_\_\_\_ Walleye \_\_\_\_\_

Northern Pike \_\_\_\_\_ Whitefish \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_



IX. Rating of Facilities: (Please rate as above - E. - Excellent, etc.)

- (a) Sleeping accommodations \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Food \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Entertainment when not engaged in  
angling \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) Marine equipment \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) Outfitter supplies \_\_\_\_\_
- (f) General Service \_\_\_\_\_
- (g) Guiding \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to see any improvement in guiding service? Comment:

- X. Have you any prejudice against angling in waters that are commercially fished? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- XI. Please list any problems you encountered and give any recommendations or improvements you would like to see implemented. (Use back if necessary.)
- XII. Base map was included for number, size, and location of Lake Trout caught.

(FOR PRIVACY SAKE COULD YOU PLEASE SEAL THIS RECOMMENDATION IN AN ENVELOPE THAT IS SUPPLIED AND DROP IT IN THE BOX PROVIDED.)

GOD'S LAKE AREA RECREATION SURVEY

(To be answered by all persons 16 years of age and over. If you are married the head of the family will answer only one questionnaire for your wife, yourself and all children 15 years of age or younger.)

-----  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex M \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_

Education (Grade) \_\_\_\_\_ Treaty: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

How many people are employed in your family. (Do not mention those 16 years old or over) \_\_\_\_\_

Work - Type and Income (per year) (May 31, 1967 to May 1, 1968)

<u>Type of Work</u>	<u>Weeks Employed</u>	<u>Income</u>
Trapping .....	_____	_____
Commercial Fishing .....	_____	_____
Guiding .....	_____	_____
Logging .....	_____	_____
Government Employee .....	_____	_____
Working for the Tourist Lodge - other than guiding .....	_____	_____
Working for commercial fisheries other than fishing .....	_____	_____
Working away from home .....	_____	_____
Rations and welfare .....	_____	_____
Social Securities (Family Allowance, Old Age Pension, etc.) .....	_____	_____
TOTAL .....	=====	=====

Mobility

- a) How long have you lived here? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Reason for moving here \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c) How long did you stay at the last place? \_\_\_\_\_
- d) When do you plan to next move? \_\_\_\_\_
- e) How many times have you moved from one place to another on God's Lake  
in the past 5 years? Count any moves where you stayed more than  
4 weeks. \_\_\_\_\_
- f) How many times a year do you visit other places on God's Lake  
(Less than 4 weeks) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) How many times have you been away from God's Lake in the past five  
years \_\_\_\_\_

Which members of the family went:	Place visited	Reason
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Occupation Opinions

- a) How many miles do you travel to your trap line? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Do you feel that commercial fishing is damaging the tourist trade \_\_\_\_\_  
Please Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c) Do you enjoy guiding? \_\_\_\_\_ Are there any problems you encounter when you guide? \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d) Do you often receive tips from the anglers? \_\_\_\_\_ How many dollars worth counting all gifts? \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Can you carry on a conversation with the guests you are guiding? \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Do you have any suggestions for improvement of the tourist trade on God's Lake? Please state them: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- g) Do you think God's Lake is being over-fished? \_\_\_\_\_ If you answered YES please give reasons why you think so: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- h) Do you buy for cash or credit at the store? \_\_\_\_\_
- i) How many guiding schools have you attended? \_\_\_\_\_ How many weeks? \_\_\_\_\_  
Have these benefited you? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

j) Are you interested in upgrading courses or adult education courses?

\_\_\_\_\_

k) Do you think that God's Lake area will stand any big game hunting other than by local people? \_\_\_\_\_ Reasons: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU.

APPENDIX B

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION RATING<sup>1</sup>

Requirements for Five-Star Accommodation: Transient accommodation facilities may be classified as "Five-Star Approved Accommodation" where the tourist accommodation facilities therein provided fulfill the following requirements:

- a. Superior architectural features and construction;
- b. Furnishings of superior quality;
- c. A telephone in each rental unit in urban areas;
- d. A radio or television set in each rental unit;
- e. Such other modern conveniences and equipment as are accepted as deluxe accommodation;
- f. A concrete or stone foundation with floor joists at least eight inches above the ground or approved concrete slab construction;
- g. Chimneys of approved insulated galvanized steel type, or brick or concrete lined with flue tile;
- h. Adequate electric lights including floor lamp, writing light and shaving outlet all of which must comply with electrical codes in force in the municipality;
- i. Entire floor surface either
  - (i) wall to wall carpeting, or
  - (ii) hardwood flooring or superior tiling covered with a rug of appropriate size in bedroom and living room;
- j. Walls finished with surfaces suitably decorated and which can be readily kept clean; and sound proof walls and ceiling between rental units;
- k. Ceilings in all rooms with a clear height of not less than eight feet;

---

<sup>1</sup> Manitoba, A Regulation Governing Transient Accommodation Facilities, Winnipeg: Department of Industry and Commerce, Tourist Development Branch.

- l. A central lounge which shall provide adequate facilities for the comfort and relaxation of registered guests;
- m. A floor space of not less than 100 square feet in each bedroom and each living room and where one room serves as both bedroom and living room, a floor area of not less than 150 square feet;
- n. In each rental unit, full plumbing in good condition with a complete bath or shower, adequately tiled, toilet and wash basin; cold and thermostatically controlled hot water, bath mats, mirror, mirror light, one cake of soap for each occupant, face cloths and hand and bath towels of high quality with a minimum of one for each occupant;
- o. First-class beds, springs, mattresses, in good condition, and bed lamps in each bedroom;
- p. Good pillows, pure wool high quality blankets, bed sheets large enough to tuck under properly and bedspreads or comforters in good condition;
- q. A floor mat, luggage rack, dresser and mirror or vanity in each bedroom;
- r. A built-in clothes closet with a floor area of not less than four square feet, or an approved type of rack such as chrome, wrought iron, and full closing drapes, or curtains and window blinds in each bedroom;
- s. Where there is a living room, it is suitably and comfortably furnished to high standards;
- t. Where there is no separate living room, the bedroom has a writing desk or table and two upholstered armchairs or equivalent thereof;
- u. Where kitchen facilities are provided, they are in a separate room with refrigerator and cubed ice available;
- v. Kitchenettes have suitable cupboard space, sink, electric or gas range, good quality dishes, pans, kitchen utensils, cutlery, washable covered garbage receptacle, towels, dish cloths, and soap or detergent;
- w. Units with kitchenettes have adequate table seating capacity for guests;
- x. The establishment has:
  - (i) an approved heating system of suitable size to heat all units at a temperature of not less than 70 degrees F. at all times of the year that it is operating;
  - (ii) suitably landscaped grounds;
  - (iii) paved, properly maintained driveways;
  - (iv) buildings kept in a good state of repair and appearance;
  - (v) sufficient parking space to permit convenient parking of all guests' cars; and

(vi) a self-contained office.

- y. Where open garages are provided, they are used for storage of guests' automobiles only.

Requirements for Four-Star Accommodation: Transient accommodation facilities may be classified as "Four-Star Approved Accommodation" where the tourist accommodation facilities therein provided meet the requirements set out for a Five-Star Rating except in respect of the following:

- a. It need have only standard architecture and construction;
- b. The driveways need not be paved, but be properly maintained;
- c. It need not have telephones in all units;
- d. It need not have a central lounge.

Requirements for Three-Star Accommodation: Transient accommodation facilities may be classified as "Three-Star Approved Accommodation" where the tourist accommodation facilities therein provided fulfill the requirements set out for a Four-Star rating except in respect of the following:

- a. The kitchen may be combined with living room, but separate from sleeping quarters;
- b. The floors need only be painted, stained, or varnished;
- c. It need not have water or sewer facilities in each unit if the transient accommodation facilities have central water closet toilet facilities.

Requirements for a Two-Star Accommodation: Transient accommodation facilities may be classified as "Two-Star Approved Accommodation" where the tourist accommodation facilities therein provided fulfill the requirements set out for a Three-Star accommodation, except in respect of the following:

- a. It need not have central water-closet toilet facilities, but have an adequate number of privy seats in accordance with Health Regulations and suitable washing conveniences in the cabins;
- b. The interior walls need not be finished;
- c. They need not have kitchen separate from the bedroom;

- d. The floor mat and either dresser or closet may be omitted from the bedroom; mat or rug may be omitted from the living room; a wash basin may be substituted for the sink in the kitchen.

Requirements for One-Star Accommodation: Transient accommodation facilities may be classified as "One-Star Approved Accommodation" where the tourist accommodation facilities therein provided fulfill requirements set out for a Two-Star Rating, except in respect of the following:

- a. Clothes closets and clothes hanging facilities or wardrobe may be omitted;
- b. The units need not be provided with electric lights;
- c. Linen, blankets, and pillows need only be available on request.



APPENDIX C

ANNUAL ORDER OF MINISTER  
FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING AT GODS LAKE

MANITOBA FISHERY REGULATIONS

ORDER OF THE MINISTER

Pursuant to authority of Section 14 (Other Waters) and Section 15 (Limitation of Catch) of the Manitoba Fishery Regulations as ordered by the Governor in Council and approved by P.C. 1954-1201, and amended by P.C. 1961-654 and P.C. 1964-780, and any other authority vested in me, I, Donald W. Craik, Minister of Mines and Natural Resources of the Province of Manitoba, do authorize and declare as follows:

- (1) Fishing for commercial purposes is permitted in GODS LAKE situated in 54° 45' North Latitude and 94° 00' West Longitude during the season hereinafter fixed, provided that the fishing season may be closed immediately the limit of production of 500,000 pounds of Pickerel, Trout and Whitefish is taken.

WINTER SEASON commencing on January 1st, 1969, and terminating on April 15th, 1969, both days inclusive.

- (2) A commercial fishing licence shall authorize the use of not more than one thousand and five hundred (1,500) yards of gill net.
- (3) The size of mesh of gill nets used shall not be less than five and one-quarter ( $5\frac{1}{4}$ ) inches extension measure when in use; said mesh to be measured in accordance with the Manitoba Fishery Regulations.
- (4) The fee for a commercial fishing licence authorizing commercial fishing in GODS LAKE shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and such licences shall be limited to not more than 100 to include up to ten (10) outside fishermen.

Dated at Winnipeg, in Manitoba, this 9th day of May, 1968.

"Donald W. Craik"  
MINISTER OF MINES AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

#C-68/6.

Source: Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch, Winnipeg.

APPENDIX D  
CORRESPONDENCE FROM  
DISSATISFIED ANGLERS

RALPH B. KRAFT  
10911 S. HOYNE AVE.  
CHICAGO 43, ILLINOIS

AKS  
MAY 30/68

May 11, 1968.

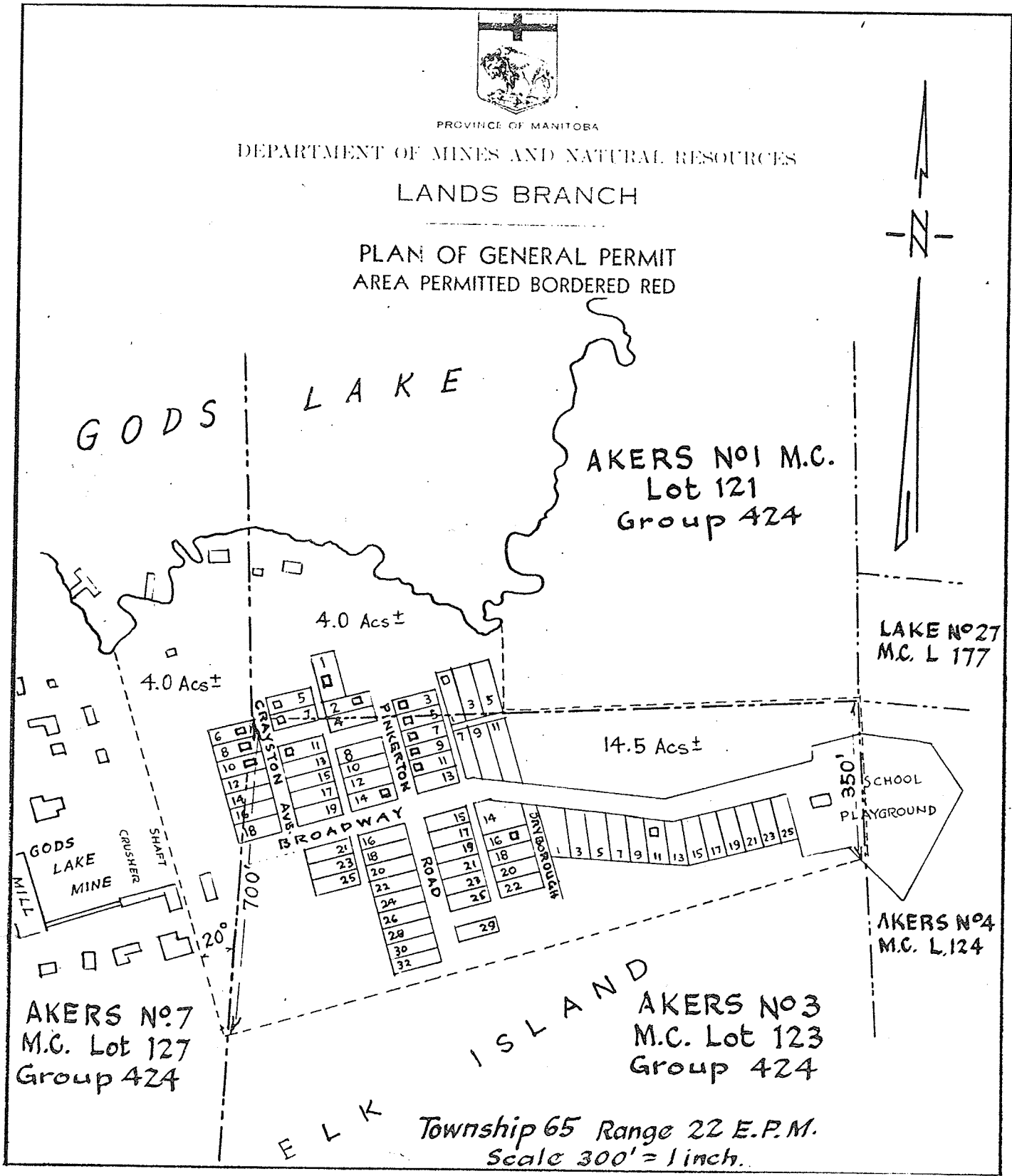
Dear Pete and Folks:

I certainly would like to see all of you again, and may get up again sometime.

I always enjoyed being there and I can look back with happy memory to the wonderful fishing we enjoyed. The last two trips though Pete, looked as though either we or the commercial fisherman had about cleaned the lake out. There didn't seem to be any trout in the "old holes". In speaking of the summer fishing with the "Bombers". I've been going to Great Bear Lake for the past few years.

I certainly would like to get back down Gods River for the Brookies. Give my best to Aggie and the Boys.  
Cordially

MAP OF ELK ISLAND TOWNSITE



Source: Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Lands Branch, Winnipeg.

APPENDIX F

PROVINCIAL PARKS SYSTEM CRITERIA

CRITERIA FOR NATURAL AREAS

Significance -

a) Provincial significance is ascribed to areas which possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural heritage of our Province, such as --

- i) Outstanding geological formations or features significantly illustrating geologic processes;
- ii) Significant fossil evidence of the development of life on earth;
- iii) An ecological community significantly illustrating characteristics of a physiographic province or a biome;
- iv) A biota of relative stability maintaining itself under prevailing natural conditions, such as a climatic climax community;
- v) An ecological community significantly illustrating the process of succession and restoration to natural condition following disruptive change;
- vi) A habitat supporting a vanishing, rare or restricted species;
- vii) A relict flora or fauna persisting from an earlier period;
- viii) A seasonal haven for concentration of native animals, or a vantage point for observing concentrated population, such as a constricted migration route;

ix) A site containing significant evidence illustrating important scientific discoveries;

x) Examples of the scenic grandeur of our provincial heritage.

b) To possess provincial significance, the area must reflect integrity, e.g., it must present a true, accurate, essentially unspoiled natural example.

c. Provincial Wilderness Areas --

- 1) Provincial wilderness areas may represent a designated segment within an existing Provincial Park, or may be an existing entity in their own right.
- 2) They will embrace a particular environment which provides all the values generally recognized as being peculiar to land in a wilderness condition or to the user by imparting a wilderness state of mind.
- 3) These areas will not be less than 5,000 acres in extent, contain any road, rail or air access suitable for general motorized traffic, and not be subject to multiple-use management principles.
- 4) They should exist as a single unit with legal boundaries or policy boundaries (if in an existing provincial park) reasonably free of indentation.
- 5) Each will contain its succession of major ecological stages uninterrupted by on-site human influence, except that --
  - i) effects of domestic livestock may be acceptable if major or obvious evidence is not present;
  - ii) effects of selective logging (if past physical evidence has or will disappear in a relatively short period of time) will be acceptable;

- iii) ecological effects of fire suppression are acceptable in all areas.
- 6) Public entry to these areas will be by foot, horseback, or hand-propelled vessel and they will be open to short-term overnight use.
- 7) Development will be limited to the provision of peripheral public access facilities and limited interior overnight facilities as may be required for the protection of the area.

Feasibility -

The test of feasibility involves weighing all of the values and public needs served by the proposal.

CRITERIA FOR RECREATIONAL RESERVES

Suitability -

- 1) Formal reservation placed with the Lands Branch, Department of Mines and Natural Resources on Crown land which contains or is propounded to contain or meet the criteria outlined for any of the park lands described within this classification; however, due to the present demand situation does not warrant formal designation or developement.
- 2) Formal reservation placed with other agencies such as Manitoba Hydro, Forestry Branch, etc., in which cases the land is committed primarily for other uses and falls within the particular agency's responsibility.
- 3) Reservations for park land will be reviewed yearly for withdrawal, change or formal designation.