

19

DC

THE CHURCHILL RIVER CENTERING ON PAWISTIK:
A REGIONAL STUDY WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON
RECREATIONAL LAND USE AND POTENTIALS

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

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

by
Allen Ernest Borys
April, 1967

CONTENTS

CHAPTER		PAGE
I	REASONS FOR STUDYING THE RECREATION POTENTIAL OF THE CHURCHILL RIVER REGION CENTERING ON PAWISTIK	1
II	DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL FEATURES	11
	The Churchill River	11
	Topography and Geology	15
	Surface Materials and Soils	20
	Vegetation	25
	Climate	31
III	HUMAN RESOURCES	39
	History	39
	General Description of the Settlement	45
	Economic Development	63
	Trapping	63
	Commercial Fishing	70
	Forest Products Industry	76
	Miscellaneous	79
	Changes Since Construction of the Railway..	84
	Recommendations for Stimulating Economic Growth and Raising the Standard of Living..	87
	Integration with Recreational Development..	89
IV	PAWISTIK	92
V	RECREATIONAL LAND USE.....	109
VI	RECREATION POTENTIAL	117
	Physical Attractions and Deterrents	117
	Angling	123
	Hunting	125

CHAPTER	ii PAGE
Family Vacationing.....	127
Canoeing	135
River Cruises	136
VII PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT	141
Accommodation	141
Transportation	155
Guide Services and Training	157
VIII PROPOSALS FOR A PROVINCIAL PARK	161
BIBLIOGRAPHY	166
APPENDIX A	172
APPENDIX B	181

LIST OF FIGURES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

iii

FIGURE	PAGE
1. Flow of Churchill River at Island Falls	13
2. Break-up of Churchill River at Island Falls ...	14
3. Freeze-up of Churchill River at Island Falls ..	15
4. Churchill River	17
5. Bloodstone Falls	17
6. Classification of Productive Forest - Pukatawagan Working Circle	29
7. Temperature - Island Falls	32
8. Precipitation - Island Falls	34
9. Frequency of Rain - Island Falls	34
10. Mean Cloud: Island Falls	35
11. Average Wind Speed in Miles Per Hour - Island Falls	36
12. Percentage Frequency of Winds - Island Falls ..	37
13. Pukatawagan Indian Reserve No. 198	47
14. Pukatawagan: 1966, Northeastern part	48
15. Pukatawagan: 1966, Southwestern part	48
16. Houses on Pukatawagan Indian Reserve	49
17. Pukatawagan Age - Sex Composition 1966	51
18. Average Annual Harvest - Pukatawagan R.T.L., 1963 - 1966	66
19. Value of Furs, Pukatawagan R.T.L.	66
20. Average Value Per Pelt, Pukatawagan R.T.L. 1963 - 1966	70
21. Average Annual Value - Pukatawagan R.T.L., 1963 - 1966	70
22. Value of Sturgeon Fished at Pukatawagan	71

FIGURE	PAGE
23. Fish Exported Through Pawistik	73
24. Licensed Fishermen at Pukatawagan	74
25. Value of Fish Exported Through Pawistik	74
26. Average Income per Fisherman	76
27. Pukatawagan Sawmill Complex	78
28. Portage Around Pukatawagan Falls	99
29. Pukatawagan Falls	99
30. Shoreland Profile	101
31. Pawistik	102
32. Pawistik Tourist Lodge	111
33. Temperature Island Falls, Winnipeg, Kenora	118
34. Precipitation Island Falls, Winnipeg, Kenora	120
35. Mean Cloud Island Falls, Winnipeg, Kenora	120
36. Frequency of Rain Island Falls, Winnipeg, Kenora.	121
37. Freeze-up of Churchill River at Island Falls, Red River at Winnipeg, and Lake Winnipeg at Gimli	121
38. Break-up of Churchill River at Island Falls, Red River at Winnipeg, and Lake Winnipeg at Gimli	122
39. Family Fish Fry at Bloodstone Falls	128
40. Beach in North Channel	132
41. Profile of the Beach in North Channel	133
42. Sand Beach in North Channel	137
43. Pukatawagan Falls	137

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	PAGE
I Changing Work Week in Canada, 1870-1970	2
II Tourist Expenditures in Manitoba, 1948-1966 ..	6
III Record of Crop and Value of All Furs 1965-1966 Inclusive, Pukatawagan R.T.L.	67
IV Summary of Fur Crop, 1963 - 1965, Pukatawagan R.T.L.	68
V Value of Furs, Pukatawagan R.T.L.	69
VI Quantity and Value of Fish Shipped Through Pawistik.....	75
VII Value of Lumber Produced in 1966	77
VIII Earnings, Pukatawagan Indian Reserve, 1965 ...	83
IX Income, Social Security	84
X Income, All Sources	84

LIST OF MAPS

MAPS	PAGE
1. Churchill River Drainage System	12
2. Northern End of Glacial Lake Agassiz	22
3. Northern Mining Forest Section	27
4. Approximate Distribution of the Cree Tribe in 1525	41
5. Approximate Distribution of the Cree Tribe in 1725	41
6. Pawistik	96
7. Tourist Accommodation	115
8. Proposed Routes for a Highway to Lynn Lake ...	129
9. Possible Canoe Routes	138
10. Pawistik - Tourist Development	147
11. Proposed Provincial Park	164
12. Churchill River	back cover pocket

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The writer wishes to express his sincere thanks to the many individuals who assisted in the preparation of this thesis. Foremost among those who contributed freely of their time and experience are Dr. T. R. Weir, Chairman of the Geography Department, and Dr. Z. T. Mieczkowski, under whose supervision the thesis was written. The assistance received in selecting a suitable area of study in recreation, the constructive criticism, the penetrating suggestions, and the constant encouragement, are greatly appreciated.

Field-work for the Study was made possible through a grant from Northern Studies, University of Manitoba. Additional assistance in the form of equipment for use in the field was made available through the Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Province of Manitoba.

The writer wishes to thank Mr. W. Danyluk, Director of Parks Branch, Department of Tourism and Recreation, who outlined problems of recreation development and offered suggestions for research. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development assisted in collecting information that enabled the writer to prepare a detailed study of the local human resources. Of this Department, Mr. Herb Krentz, Resource Development Officer, Winnipeg, and Mr. Oscar Blackburn, Indian Agent, Lynn Lake, proved invaluable.

Lastly the writer wishes to thank the many individuals at The Pas, Pukatawagan, and Lynn Lake, who so willingly assisted in gathering data of pertinent use in the Study and who offered a most welcome Northern hospitality.

PREFACE

Demand for outdoor recreation is growing at a rapid rate due to an increase in population, more leisure time, and a larger part of the income available for this purpose. Other factors, including a more youthful population, greater mobility, improved and new equipment, etc., are adding to the pressures in areas formerly considered unlikely to be of recreational value. As a result of improved transportation, remote regions are gradually being reached and one can assume that the use of more distant areas will expand. For this reason it is necessary to examine the potentials of regions with physical attractions for outdoor recreation and prepare for their planned development.

The purpose of this thesis is to examine the Churchill River centering on Pawistik from three points of view:

1. What is the need for recreational development and how can it be met?
2. How can the area be developed to attract foreign currency and redistribute local money?
3. How can local human resources be used to benefit both the tourist development and the resident?

This research examines present land use to determine the extent to which it is providing outdoor recreation facilities and to determine whether there is an opportunity for further development. With regard to human resources, it studies recent developments on the Pukatawagan Indian Reserve, the economy of the people, and the general characteristics of the residents to determine what specific

contributions they can make. An attempt is made to determine in what ways the community, in return, can benefit from a recreational development.

The latter part of the thesis makes specific recommendations for development of the area. It is apparent that potential is great, that demand is rising, and that the local community has a contribution to make. Proposals include the establishment of a provincial park in the area to reserve land for outdoor recreation. To provide accommodation for tourists, a lodge and a camp-ground are immediately necessary. Additional accommodation can be added as demand requires.

The basic problem that confronted the writer was gathering information. This is an undeveloped area with regard to recreation and most data had to be collected through interviews, as few statistics are available. Although, in a number of cases, data is based on estimates, it represents the most accurate available and can be considered reliable as it is based on interviews with personnel directly associated with the phenomenon. Where possible, information collected through interviews was corroborated with as many other sources as were available.

Two non-recreation developments that may have an effect upon the recommendations made in the thesis include the integrated forest products plant at The Pas, and the exact location of a highway to Lynn Lake. The former will

affect activity at Pawistik. For this reason, and because of present commercial interests in fishing, it is recommended that tourist development take place in an area slightly removed from the siding. The latter, which will likely be the greatest single factor to influence development, other than the railway, is the precise location of a highway across the Churchill River. Should the recommendations made in this thesis be implemented, it will be imperative, at that time, to review most recent developments with regard to provincial plans for highway construction in the area, plans which are being formulated at the time this thesis is being written.

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

Reasons for Studying the Recreation Potential of the Churchill River Centering on Pawistik.

Outdoor recreation has become a significant and integral component of the total pattern of leisure activities in Canada. The economic implications of this development are extensive but the pressing need, for aesthetic reasons, must not be overlooked. These two aspects of recreation cannot be divorced from each other and must be considered concomitantly in any plans for development. The economic potential of tourism has been recognized and greater interest has been engendered privately and publicly. The forces combining to exert pressures for recreational space and facilities are expanding and plans must be made to meet immediate demands, as well as to lay the foundation for long-range development.

An increasing population and greater leisure-time opportunity are causing the demand for outdoor recreation space to grow at an unprecedented rate. Canada's population has been growing at an average rate of over two per cent annually and a sharp decline in this rate of increase is not probable. Population concentration is occurring in a number of pockets centered on the St. Lawrence lowlands, Winnipeg, and Southwest British Columbia, and a rapid increase in the urban component of the population is likely to continue. The growing youthfulness of our population

also indicates an immensely growing demand in the near future for outdoor recreation of particular types, the more active pastime of swimming, skiing, camping, picnicking, and boating.

Technological innovations have brought about an increase in leisure time, greater mobility, and improvements in recreational equipment, all of which have a strong bearing on recreation demand. It would be an error to assume that all of this increase in leisure time will be converted into pressure on the resource base for recreation. However, it is certain that many people will desire to utilize their leisure time in outdoor pursuits of various types.

TABLE I
CHANGING WORK WEEK IN CANADA
1870-1970 ¹

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
1955	41	43
1970	35	49

¹ G. D. Taylor, "Characteristics of the Population of British Columbia", Unpublished paper presented to the Ninth Annual B.C. Natural Resources Conference, 1956.)

Rising income levels mean increased opportunity for the Canadian people to take advantage of recreation potential. An increase in personal income means corresponding increase in expenditure on leisure-time activities. Dominion Bureau of Statistics and other studies indicate that the recreation component could safely be estimated as about three per cent of the total family budget.² However, systematic statistical studies with regard to recreational expenditure are not available in Canada and spending is estimated on casual observations which suggest that Canadians are devoting larger and larger fractions of their expenditures and efforts to outdoor recreation activities.³

These socio-economic forces, the growing number of people and the growing ability of these people to participate in leisure time activities, are influencing the upsurge in demand on our recreation resources. The various aspects of each factor are to some degree interdependent and are the direct result of powerful coincident forces of an expanding economy, mass production, and automation. Working together, these forces are creating the increasingly pleasurable

² Lloyd Brooks, "The Forces Shaping Demand for Recreation Space in Canada", Resources for Tomorrow, Vol.II, 1961, Ottawa, Queen's Printer, p.961).

³ D. W. Slater, Consumer Expenditure in Canada, Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects, May, 1957, p.165.

situation for the bulk of people where leisure time opportunity is enhanced by increased income and a ready mobility.⁴ Lloyd Brooks predicts that the demand for all day parks near urban areas will increase at least 60 per cent from 1955 to 1985. Demand for overnight and vacation areas, beyond a day's travel will grow at an even faster rate, however, the most spectacular increase will be in the more remote recreation lands.⁵ This expected phenomenal growth makes it quite evident that our existing national and provincial park systems must be expanded if they are to meet demands of the future. All outdoor areas have a definite capacity which, if consistently exceeded, will result in a steady deterioration of the natural attractions. In nearly all cases opportunity for outdoor recreation experience is directly related to the availability of land and water areas. Increased demand cannot long be met by the expansion of services within any one park, therefore, there must be an additional reservation of lands which possess adequate recreational potential.

In Manitoba the pressures for outdoor activities have not, for the present, reached a critical position. Nevertheless, socio-economic factors leading to an increased

⁴ Lloyd Brooks, Op.Cit.,(p.958).

⁵ Ibid., p.965.

demand are taking place. One truly significant feature of the growing proportion of free time available to increasing numbers is its likely effect on travel range and the greater opportunity it affords to provide usable recreation space in the broad terrain now lying outside practical weekend or vacation commuting distance from our population centers. This feature points out the need for long-range planning of our land resources and the full recognition of recreational potentials in regions which today would appear to have little relationship to popular demand. In addition to meeting the requirements of Canadians, it is highly probable that a large spill-over from limited recreation resources in the United States will have its impact on this province. Manitoba's brisk climate, outdoor recreation potential, and its very proximity to a rich and mobile nation, make it an ideal outdoor vacation land. Demand on a large scale seems inevitable as every social and economic factor points in that direction.

The combined tourist, recreation, and accommodation industries will continue to be an important sector of the Provincial economy in terms of their contribution to both income and employment. The Report of the Committee on Manitoba's Economic Future predicted that by 1975 the tourist industry will earn \$57 million.⁶ Crampon, in a

⁶ Manitoba, Report of the Committee on Manitoba's Economic Future, Part VIII, Winnipeg, Department of Industry and Commerce, 1963, p.viii-1-1.

later report predicted that this figure is too modest and should be revised to \$65-\$70 million.⁷ The important aspect of these forecasts is that the economic potential of the tourist industry has been recognized and that expenditure in tourist development is an investment that will attract outside currency and redistribute local money. Less than one-quarter of tourist spending accrues directly to tourist operators who cater directly to the needs of visitors. The remainder is spent throughout a number of other service groups which derive a supplementary income from the industry. These groups include gasoline outlets, restaurants, liquor outlets, and manufactured, consumer goods.

TABLE II

TOURIST EXPENDITURES IN MANITOBA 1948-1966⁸

YEAR	NO. OF TOURISTS	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES
1948-49	590,000	\$18,000,000
1955-56	962,000	27,659,000
1960-61	1,258,238	36,304,914
1961-62	1,325,258	37,182,892
1962-63	1,355,273	39,647,844
1963-64	1,458,031	43,057,775
1964-65	1,505,745	45,658,030
1965-66	1,650,052	51,253,204

⁷ L. J. Crampon, Tourist Development in Manitoba, Winnipeg, Department of Industry and Commerce, 1964, p.13.

⁸ Tourist Development Branch, Department of Industry and Commerce.

Of important significance with regard to outside dollars is the multiplier effect that can be applied to the income attracted. The Ontario Tourist Industry has predicted a multiplier effect of 3.5.⁹ By applying this multiplier one can calculate the total impact on the economy by multiplying it with foreign tourist expenditures in the province.

The potential natural resource base in Manitoba can be classed as excellent in terms of basic requirements for outdoor recreation. Variety is provided by the relative physical proximity of the Pre-Cambrian Shield, the Manitoba lowlands, and the lake complex of the Western upland. Fish and wildlife potential is excellent. Angling resources are immense and varied. The Canadian Shield, comprising approximately 146,000 square miles is, and will continue to be, a key recreation area, as it has many ideal recreation resources. The Whiteshell will likely remain the critical area for the next decade or so. The southern portion of the Shield adjacent to the Saskatchewan boundary is a second area of immediate importance. Expansion is proceeding northward from The Pas area to the triangle of land between Sherridon, Flin Flon, and Wekusko Lake, and northward to the Churchill River. The remainder will remain inaccessible except along

⁹ Ontario, Ontario Tourist Industry - Its Potentials and Its Problems, Toronto, 1965, p.11.

the railway and for fly-in camps until the highway network is expanded. Undoubtedly the Canadian Shield offers tremendous angling potential and it is in this area of the province that expansion will take place as pressures increase. As the fishing declines in the Whiteshell-Lac du Bonnet area anglers will be interested in travelling farther north where opportunities for success are greater.

As the second major area of tourist development is likely to occur on the southern portion of the Canadian Shield adjacent to the Saskatchewan border, it is important that this area be studied in detail and long-range plans prepared. The potential must be examined and adequate reserves of suitable land be acquired. Subsequent chapters will focus exclusively on the promising region of the Churchill River from the Saskatchewan border to Southern Indian Lake. The main focus will be upon Pawistik, the site at which the Canadian National Railway crosses the Churchill River, and Pukatawagan, an Indian settlement, five miles up river from the railway.

The location of an Indian community in the general area of potential tourist development gives rise to the need for a detailed study of this human element. Since construction of the railway in 1953, the traditional way of life has been completely uprooted. Fortunately the residents have made rapid and satisfactory adjustments to

meet the changes and have developed a sound economic base to substitute entirely or to supplement their former means of livelihood. Tourist development will provide new opportunities in the form of income derived through increased employment. Benefits accrued will not be only in the direction of the settlement but towards the tourist development as well. Labour for construction, maintenance, household domestics, and guides will be readily available, labour that otherwise would be difficult to acquire in this relatively remote area of Manitoba.

The conclusion that can be drawn from the foregoing is that an examination of the recreation potential of Manitoba is necessary for three main reasons. Two of these, the meeting of present and future demands for outdoor recreation and the attracting of foreign money and redistribution of local dollars, are applicable to any region with possibilities for outdoor recreation development. The third, providing the native settlement with additional economic opportunities is of a local nature. For these reasons the Churchill River centering on Pawistik requires further study. Subsequent chapters examine in detail the recreation facilities existing in the area, recreational land use, and forces shaping demand in the specific area. Recommendations for developing the area are offered. A

comprehensive study is made of the Indians with respect to their resourcefulness and economy to determine the manner in which an exchange of benefits can best take place.