

Sand Point First Nation Community Planning Study Newsletter

August, 1999

This newsletter is intended to update all Sand Point First Nation members of the status of work underway by the Shibogama First Nations Council.

Community Planning Study

- ➔ The Community Planning Study has taken a detour as a result of comments made by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.
- ➔ Therefore in an effort to keep the momentum of the project moving forward we have recently developed a Terms of Reference for a Socio-Economic Study that has been requested by DIAND.
- ➔ We have submitted this report to the Department for review but have not yet received any comments.
- ➔ It is the hope that our group can utilise what information that has been gathered thus far from the Community Planning Study.

Housing Committee

- ➔ A housing committee was developed by the First Nation and has held several Housing Committee meetings. There have not however, been any meetings for quite some time due to lack of participation of the committee members.
- ➔ In the meantime, our office has submitted an application for PDF (Project Development Funding) for Section 95 Housing through CMHC to Chief Dan McGuire for his approval. We have not yet received word of approval or otherwise. Once this approval is given the application will be forwarded to CMHC.

Forest Fire Report

- ➔ A Site Inspection was performed by the Shibogama First Nations Council on July 14 & 15. A report has been compiled for Chief & Council as to the extent of damage by the recent forest fire.
- ➔ The following is a brief summary of what the Forest Fire Inspection Report concluded:
 - Highway 11 - The burn was contained to the west side of the Hwy until 100 meters south of the Park entrance road. At this point the fire jumped Hwy 11 and fire damage was noticed on both sides of the hwy up to and including the north boundary of the Sand Point First Nation.
 - Park Grounds - Upon entering the park there are isolated patches of burn along both sides of the entrance road. There is also a ridge directly west of the park entrance that has burnt. From 0.5 to 1.2 kilometres of the entrance road there are no visible signs of burn until between kilometre 1.2 and the CNR crossing at Fairlock Creek. The majority of the burns appear to be on the west side of the train tracks, and a small area on the north side. There is a small area of burn at kilometre 3.2, which appears to be quite bad.
 - There is no evidence of burn at the Gatehouse, Maintenance Garage, Pump House and Comfort Station.
 - The camping grounds and beach areas remain untouched by fire

except for the most northerly sites. Approximately 1/3 of the remote camping sites from the point of the north end toilet facilities are completely burnt.

➤ Conclusion

- The Towering Aspen Nature Trail is burnt.
- The area surrounding the beach area is not burnt but the Thunderbird Lookout Trail is completely burnt.
- In conclusion the Park Area was fortunate enough to only receive minor fire damage. Additional damage may be noted later on in the season once there is less foliage.
- In the opinion of the Inspector, the First Nation would be able to open and used by the public once some general maintenance has taken place.



Photo #17 View down the Towering Aspen Nature Trail

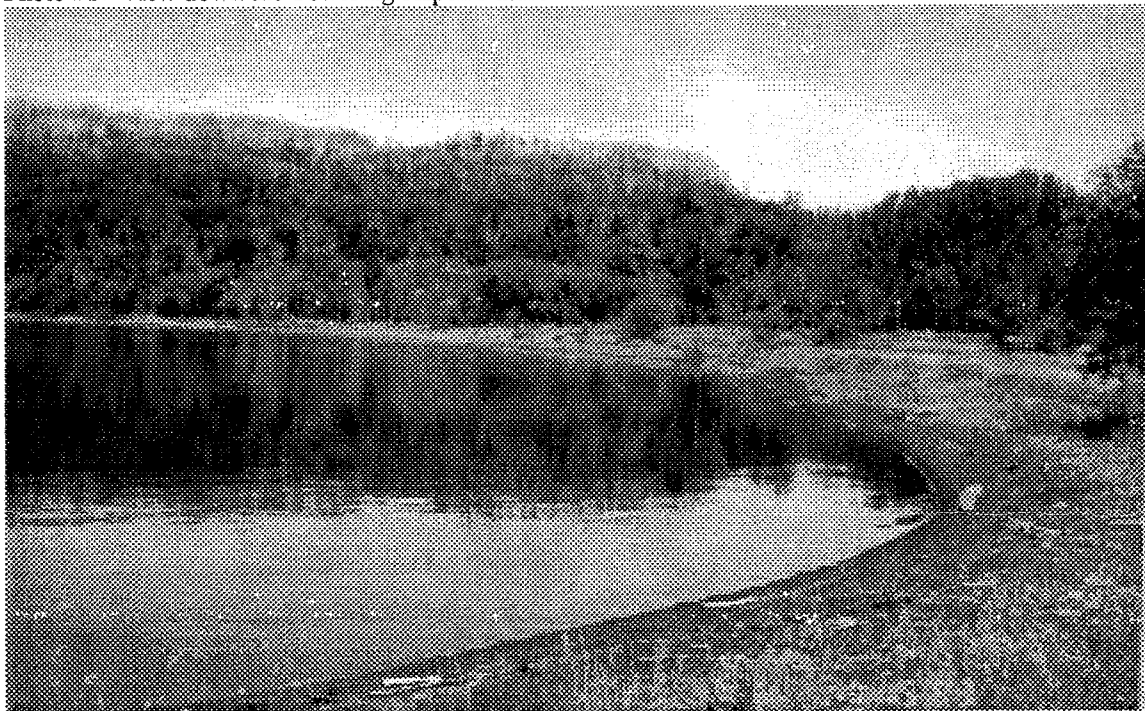


Photo #18 Beach Area



Photo #21 Pedestrian Bridge and start of Thunderbird Lookout Trail near beach area



Photo #22 Burned area of the Thunderbird Lookout Trail