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# Matheson Island

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## Community Status

The community of Matheson Island is situated on the island of the same name near the Narrows on Lake Winnipeg. Nearby communities include Princess Harbour, Pine Dock and the Bloodvein Indian Reserve. While Pine Dock is on the same side of the lake as Matheson Island, the other communities are about 16 km across the lake.

An internal road runs the length of the island from the ferry landing. The ferry connects to PR #234, in the part of the community known as Islandview, and an all-weather road with PTH #8 just north of Riverton. Winnipeg lies 224 km to the south of the island.

Matheson Island was recognized as a community in 1969 and is represented by a mayor and council under *The Northern Affairs Act*.

## Community Contacts

### By mail

Matheson Island Community Council    Matheson  
Island Post Office  
Matheson Island, MB, R0C 2A0

### By phone

Call (204) 276-2150  
Fax (204) 276-2196  
Email: [Mathesoncouncil@lincsat.com](mailto:Mathesoncouncil@lincsat.com)  
Web site: [www.mathesonisland.ca](http://www.mathesonisland.ca)

### Office hours and staff

Office hours are: Mon - Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm

The community employs a Community Administrative Officer a volunteer fire chief, and a public works employee.

## Community Statistics

### Population

1985	150
1991	128
1996	111
2001	99
2006	117

Information from Statistics Canada after 1985.

### Households

There are 69 housing units in the community.

### By-laws

- Employee Benefits (by minister's regulation)
- Financial Reserves
- Fire Department
- Speed Control
- Development and Zoning

### Boundary

Director of Surveys Plan 19224. See map.

### Property Assessment and Taxes

Values of Assessment	
Business	\$20,500
Real Property	2,799,640
Grants-in-lieu	352,760
Exempt	250,100
Total	3,423,000

Rate of Taxation (mills)	
General Municipal	5.20
School levies	
Foundation	12.33
Frontier School Division (#48)	17.20
Business Tax	3.75%

Information from 2010 assessment roll and tax bylaw of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.

## Emergency Services

### Fire

Fire fighting capability is based on a pumper truck and equipment from the community fire hall. Additional portable forestry-style equipment is available for grass and brush fires.

### Police

Police response is from the Arborg detachment, RCMP, phone (204) 376-5251.

### Medical

Medical response is based on ambulance service from Riverton (204) 642-4040. Hospitals are located in Arborg and Gimli. This community may qualify for the Northern Patient Transportation Program.

### Community-based Services

#### Airstrip

Wamair, a local contractor, operates an unattended limited maintenance 3,500' x 100' gravel strip adjacent to the community. Office is in Pine Dock, phone (204) 276-2410.

#### Ferry Services

Manitoba Transportation and Government Services, Marine Services operate the ferry *MV Edgar Wood* on a Mon. to Fri. circuit including Islandview (Matheson Island), Princess Harbour and Bloodvein Reserve. Office is in Winnipeg, phone (204) 945-3424.

The cable ferry *C. F. Ingemar Carlson II* operates between Islandview and Matheson Island on a daily basis, with connection to PR 234. Schedule: Mon- Sat 7am – 11pm, Sunday 8am – 10pm.

#### Hydro

Provided by Manitoba Hydro as land- line electric power. Residential rates are:

Basic charge	\$ 6.85 /month
First 900 kWh	6.25 cents/KWH
Balance	6.30 cents/KWH

Hydro phone 1-888-MBHYDRO (1-888-624-9376).

#### Telephone

Matheson Island is served out of the MTS Pine Dock Exchange. MTS Allstream Inc., provides individual-line service and digital switching with toll-free calling to Arborg, Hecla, Poplarfield, Riverton and Vidor. Call MTS toll-free at (204) 225-5687.

#### Water

There are 37 drilled private wells and some water intakes from Lake Winnipeg.

#### Waste Disposal

A solid-waste disposal site is located on the island near the community.

Sewage is collected by pumpout truck and treated by a lagoon located in the community.

#### Schools

Frontier School Division operates the Matheson Island School. There are two teachers and three support staff. Phone (204) 276-2118.

#### Recreation Facilities

- Baseball field
- Community hall and office, 2,750 sq. ft
- Gymnasium, 1,500 sq. ft
- Indoor skating rink, 3,200 sq. ft

### Government Services

Communities Economic Development Fund, Head Office located in Thompson, phone (204) 778-4138.

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Interlake Region, District Office located at Riverton, phone (204) 378-2945.

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Interlake Region, Natural Resources office located in Gimli, phone (204) 642-6071.

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Interlake Region, Public Health, located in Selkirk, (204) 785-5033.

Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Regional Services, Interlake Regional Office located at Gimli, phone (204) 642-6010.

Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation – Marine Division – Winnipeg – (204) 945-3424

Manitoba Agriculture Food & Rural Initiatives; North Interlake Go Team – Arborg Go Centre, business and community development support (204) 376-3300.

Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs, Community Planning Services, Regional Office located in Selkirk, phone (204) 785-5130.

Manitoba Justice, Circuit Court sits at Arborg or Bloodvein Reserve and is coordinated from the Selkirk Regional Court Office, phone (204) 785-5120.

Manitoba Labour, Employment Standards, Employment Standards officer located in Winnipeg, phone (204) 945-3352.

Manitoba Labour, Office of the Fire Commissioner, Assistant Fire Commissioner located in Winnipeg, phone 1-800-282-8069.

### Commercial Services

#### Transportation

Both the firms of Gardwine North and Riverton Transfer serve the community out of respective freight terminals in Winnipeg and Riverton.

#### Businesses

- Island Delight restaurant and convenience store phone (204) 276-2166 (Seasonal)
- Matheson Island Co-op – phone (204) 276-2136

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- Matheson Island Development Corp (204) 276-2150
- Matheson Island Fish Plant – phone (204) 276-2201
- Berns Bakery ( Seasonal) 276-2195

### **Economic Overview**

Present economic activity centres around commercial fishing, followed by trapping, some saw-logging and local services.

Commercial fisherman deliver their catch to the Islandview fish station.

Trapping is done in the Bullhead RTL zone. Snake Island Contractors are the owners and operators of the sawmill, and most of the lumber has been used locally for building purposes. They employ local residents in the operation.

A Community Development Corporation was formed to encourage economic development and growth..

Matheson Island Council works with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation to operate the cable ferry and construct and maintain the winter road during the ferry off season.

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