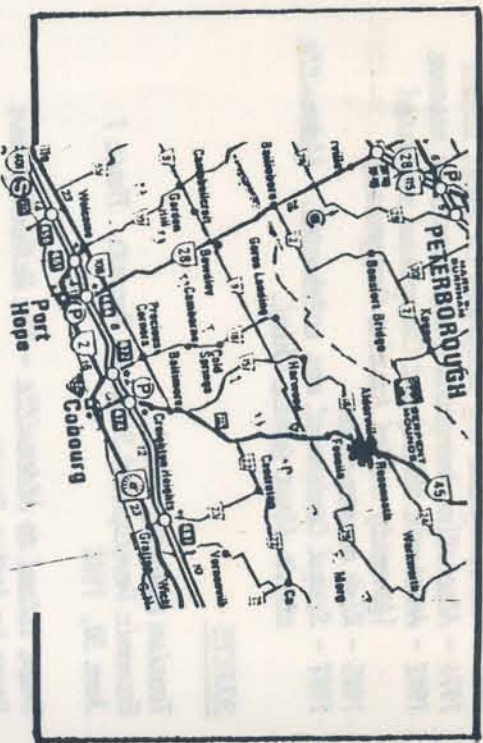


# ALDERVILLE FIRST NATION



ALDERVILLE FIRST NATION was formed in 1837, and is still home to the Mississaugas of the Ojibwa Nation.

## ALDERVILLE FIRST NATION

Alderville was officially formed as an Indian Reservation in May 1837 when a 3,600 acre parcel of land was assigned to the Indians of George Island. It then became home to the Mississaugas of the Ojibwa Nation. Having been originally named Aldersville in honour of Rev. Robert Alder, one of the founding missionaries, through time it became known as Alderville.

## LOCATION

Alderville is located on the south shore of Rice Lake on Highway 45, 33 kms. north of Cobourg. It is surrounded by seasonal recreational operations making it a major tourist attraction of area, therefore having good potential for economic growth.

Although only 35% of the total population actually resides on-reserve, there is a long list of applicants for housing assistance and permission to build houses and businesses on-reserve.

## FIRST NATION ADMINISTRATION

The reserve is guided by a Chief and two Councillors who are elected every two years by ballot vote. Full-time administrative personnel consists of an administrator, a welfare officer, a health representative, an education liaison person, an economic development officer, a membership clerk and a receptionist. In addition to full-time staff, the reserve also employs part-time staff including janitors, caretakers, a backhoe operator and a forestry consultant.

## POPULATION

The present membership totals 700 with 230 members residing on-reserve and the remaining 570 living elsewhere.

The reserve boasts some very talented and highly educated members, including artists, small business owners, entrepreneurs and quality leadership. Approximately 1/3 of the adult resident population work on-reserve. Some as self owned businesses employing others. In addition to this, there are also some very successful members who are currently employed outside the boundaries of the reserve.

## CHARACTERISTICS

The reserve is now in somewhat of a patchwork configuration due to the past ability of individuals to sell land to non-natives. It now covers approximately 3,000 acres which includes woodland, agricultural land, water frontage on Rice Lake (Wing Ridge) and Sugar Island also located on Rice Lake.

Sugar Island is quite famous, it is the site of ancient Indian burial grounds. In 1974, an archeological dig was performed on the island with a number of artifacts being discovered which are presently being analyzed and documented.

## RESOURCES

Alderville is plentiful in resources both natural and human.

The natural resources include wood, water, sand and gravel pits and open land, which are all reasonably accessible by road.

Wood is cut and utilized as fuel but done selectively so as not to disturb nature and allow her the ability to replenish herself.

Much of the open land is leased to area farmers for agricultural purposes such as growing hay, corn, wheat and grain.

Although the waterfront has been lined with cottages, there is good potential above the inclination for development which would have a picturesque view of the lake.

Human resources include numerous University and College graduates trained in various fields, (some having held leadership positions), several tradespeople who manage their own businesses, and a few members who are trained specifically in the development of Native economics.

Although all of these are beneficial to the reserve the most important resource we possess is that of our Elders. Traditionally, the Elders formed the basic foundation of the Native Culture. Due to the transition of the Native way of life, their knowledge has been somewhat suppressed, which is an enormous disadvantage to the present generation. The importance of our heritage, and striving to revive the essential elements of it will help to maintain the balance of life.

## WATER/SANITATION SYSTEM

Each home has its own water and sanitation service consisting mainly of a well and a septic tank. Where wells are inadequate, a holding tank is installed so water can be obtained from other sources.

A refuse bin is placed at a central location on-reserve and replaced weekly. This helps enable the residents to enjoy a healthy and clean environment.

## RECREATION/SPORTS

The community hall is one of the most used facilities on-reserve. It is used for a variety of community events and functions.

The ball diamond is used by all ages. There are tournaments held almost weekly throughout the summer including baseball, 3-pitch and lob ball.

Another facility which has proven to be successful is the outdoor rink. It has been paved for summer activities such as ball hockey and tennis, and flooded in the winter for ice skating and hockey practice for those who play on area teams.

Vimy Ridge, which stretches approximately 1 mile along the Rice Lake shoreline, offers access to many water activities such as swimming, canoeing, boating and fishing.

Some members also engage in trapping, hunting, wild rice gathering and occasional turkey shoots.

## SERVICES/BUSINESSES

Many small businesses and organizations are being operated in Alderville offering a variety of services to members and the surrounding community. These are listed as follows:

- Construction contractors including heavy equipment operators;
- Masons; electricians; artisans;
- carpenters; electricians; handyman shops;
- plumbers; custom window/door designers;
- hand owned hardware; satellite dish distributors;
- custom woodworking shops; real estate consultant;
- restaurant/gas stations; architectural designers;
- hand owned computer/printer parts
- community support groups i.e.:
- alcohol anonymous; craft co-operative; homemakers groups
- youth group; recreation committee

## EDUCATION

Until 1965, Alderville had a one room school house with a resident teacher who taught grades one through eight. When it closed, the children were enrolled in various schools in Cobourg until the opening of the Rosemeath Centennial School in 1967.

High School education is obtained in Cobourg at either C.D.C.I. West or C.D.C.I. East.

After graduation from high school, every member has the option of attending the College or University of their choice.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A major development project is presently underway in the form of a new community centre which will contain the administration offices, a combination gymnasium, recreation facilities and craft workshops. The design for this project also considers the possibility of a second phase which may contain a day-care centre, swimming facilities, a library and a museum.

Future development prospects being considered:

- an apartment complex
- housing subdivisions
- a beef cattle operation
- a senior citizen complex
- expansion to hand owned computer/printer parts
- cottage rental business
- resource management system
- encouragement of Native owned businesses

## ANNUAL EVENTS

- March - Eastern Bingo
- May - Community Yard Sale
- August - Regatta - races in swimming, canoeing and boating with a number of concession booths and dianas
- October - Jamboe - fiddle music and step dancing
- October - Lip Sync Contest - guest speaker and categorized prizes awarded from preschool to adult
- October - Halloween Party - categorized prizes awarded from preschool to adult
- December - Community Christmas Craft Show - huge sale of locally made crafts of every kind: Native crafts artwork, beards, sewing, knitting and homebaking.
- December - Christmas Concert - potluck supper, plays, skits and carol singing. plus Christmas Bingo.

## HISTORICAL EVENTS

- 1837 - Reserve formation consisting of 200 members (40 families), a chapel and a mission house;
- 1839 - Manual Labour School with emphasis on farming for boys and household training for girls.
- 1847 - Erection of Residential School and Church
- 1861 - Manual Labour School closed
- 1870 - Construction of existing church
- 1927 - Monument construction in memory of veterans who served in W.W.1 of the 35 who served, 9 lost their lives.
- 1937 - Centennial
- 1946 - Original schoolhouse burned down
- 1949 - New schoolhouse built
- 1965 - Schoolhouse closed, children bussed to school in Cobourg
- 1967 - Children began attending Rosemeath Centennial School.
- 1974 - Archeological dig performed on Sugar Island
- 1976 - Alcoholics Anonymous group formed on reserve
- 1982 - Wishmade Waterfront Campground purchased (formerly called Austins Campground)
- 1985 - Rink construction
- 1987 - Sexqui Centennial was celebrated. Alderville elects first female Chief.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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