

Kugluktuk



Introduction

Kugluktuk, formerly known as Coppermine, is situated along the banks of the Coppermine River, north, and slightly east of Yellowknife. Kugluktuk, with a population of nearly 1400, is the most westerly community in Nunavut and it is in the Mountain time zone. In the summer, canoeists and rafters take the popular route up the Coppermine River to the scenic "Bloody Falls Territorial Historic Park."

History



Coppermine was probably the site of semi-permanent Inuit fishing and sealing camps from very ancient times. The Hudson's Bay Company sent an exploration voyage led by Samuel Hearne to search for copper. Hearne reached the mouth of the river and

named it the Coppermine on July 14, 1771. In 1865, influenza spread along the coast, wiping out 30% of the population. In the years 1913-16, Diamond Jenness, an ethnologist with the Canadian Arctic Expedition, studied and recorded the traditional lifestyle of Inuit in the Coppermine area. The development of the community was relatively rapid after 1916. The Hudson's Bay company established a post in 1927. The RCMP arrived in 1932. A weather station, radio facilities, nursing station and a school followed over the next few decades. Oil and gas exploration in the 1970's provided training and employment for a large proportion of the population.

Weather

Temperatures in Kugluktuk tend to be the warmest in Nunavut. Although winter temperatures run well into the -40's not including windchill, summer temperatures can reach 30 above. If you arrive in Kugluktuk in the summer or fall, you will see an abundance of flowers, green grass and tall leaf bearing bushes that resemble young trees. Some people even plant small gardens in their back yards during the summer months!

Transportation



First Air operates daily flights to Kugluktuk from Yellowknife. Kenn Borek Air flies from Cambridge Bay to Kugluktuk on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please check with the airlines for schedule changes.

Most people in town get around by snowmobile or ATV. A number of community members own cars or trucks.

There is a taxi service in town available. Call Triple A Taxi at 982-3280 if you want a drive anywhere around town.

School

The elementary school runs programs for students in kindergarten to grade 6 from about the second week in August to around June 9. The high school begins around the same time and runs until mid-June.

Jimmy Hikok (K-6)

867-982-5001

Kugluktuk High School(7-12) 867-982-4406

The community has a pre-school program as well as a community learning centre run through Nunavut Arctic College.

Housing



As with most communities in Nunavut, housing is in short supply. There are government houses that can be rented for \$1200. to \$1400. per month. The rent depends on the size of the house. Each government house includes basic furnishings (tables, beds, chairs, sofa), as well as window coverings, washer, dryer, fridge, and stove. These units do not include small kitchen and entertainment appliances. Heating oil for the furnace is included in the price of rent, but utilities such as telephone, power, water and sewage, and garbage removal are not. These utilities cost a total of approximately \$150. per month. Call the hamlet office at 982-3126 to set up your water and sewage schedule.

Food

As in other northern communities, groceries are much more expensive than in the south. Both the Co-op and Northern stores are well stocked, however many teachers choose to order through the Co-op or Sunspun Foods in Yellowknife and have groceries shipped in by plane. The freight on most perishable goods is subsidized by the government, making this an economical alternative to exclusively shopping locally.

People also place orders to come up once a year - August/September - on the barge, via NTCL (Northern Transportation Company Ltd.) Again orders are placed with various southern companies, and delivered on the barge at the end of the summer. You have to contact the individual companies for their barge order deadlines -usually sometime in June, or the first of July.

Here is a list of some of the companies you can order from:

Northern Store (Hay River, NT)

Phone (867) 874-6545

Fax (867) 874-2544

Independent Cash & Carry (Enterprise, NT)

Phone (867) 984-3002

Fax (867) 984-3005

The Grocery People (Edmonton, AB)

Phone (780) 451-0882

For boat and sailing details, call NTCL at (867) 983-2472.

Services



Banks: There are no banks in Kugluktuk. There is a cash withdrawal machine at the Quick Stop in the Northern Store. Normal banking activities can be done over the phone, Internet, or through mail. The closest banks are in Yellowknife, which includes the Royal Bank, Bank of Montreal, Scotiabank, Toronto Dominion, and CIBC. You can use your debit card at the bank machine in the Northern Store to obtain cash as well as to pay for purchases at both the Northern store and the Co-op. Visa and Mastercard are also accepted.

Communications: For phone service, call Northwestel at 1-800-661-0493. A residential line costs \$35. per month. A long distance calling plan is available for \$25. per month.

CBC radio broadcasts on an FM station, which is interrupted at intervals during the day with local programming.

For cable TV hook up, call the Kugluktuk Co-operative Ltd. at 982-4231. Many residents set up satellite dishes. If you do decide to bring up a satellite dish, be sure to bring up the largest size dish, as this will improve the reception you receive, especially during bad weather.

Internet service is available at the school or the library free of charge. Polarnet offers dial-up Internet services to residents of the Kitikmeot communities. The connection is rather slow, compared to Internet services in southern Canada. Call the local Internet provider at 867-983-2176.

There is a Canada Post outlet that is open from 9am to 12pm and again from 1pm to 5pm Monday through Friday located in the Co-op store. Allow two to three weeks for letter or parcel delivery in Canada. Express Post is available, and significantly reduces delivery time. Of course, it is significantly more expensive. Contact the post office at 982-5905.

Power: The Nunavut Power Corporation supplies the town with electricity. Power service is well subsidized and fees vary depending on your residence, consumption, and household. A typical power bill can cost anywhere from \$50. to \$150. per month.

Medical: The Health Centre is open weekdays from 9am to 5pm, staffed by registered nurses who treat routine health problems. Nurses are also on call for emergencies. Be sure to bring along prescriptions and extra refills as doctors only visit about once a month at the most. Dentists and eye doctors also make regular visits to the health centre but are not located in the community on a permanent basis. Contact the health center at 982-4531.

Serious medical conditions, procedures, or emergencies are flown to Yellowknife and Edmonton.

Police: the RCMP has a detachment in Kugluktuk. To contact the RCMP, call 982-1111.

There are also community by-law officers, employed by the hamlet, who regularly patrol the community.

Churches: Kugluktuk has an Anglican and Pentecostal church.

Recreation

Sports enthusiasts will enjoy public skating and hockey at the arena as well as curling. There are currently no exercise facilities in Kugluktuk, so teachers are strongly encouraged to bring things like weights and treadmills with them if they wish to use equipment of this sort.

There is also a community library, with a large selection of reading materials to

choose from.

Many people participate in outdoor activities such as hiking, hunting, fishing, and snowmobile riding. For hunting and fishing licenses, call the department of sustainable resources at 473-8937.

Alcohol is permitted in Kugluktuk; however, you must obtain a permit prior to bringing it in.

