

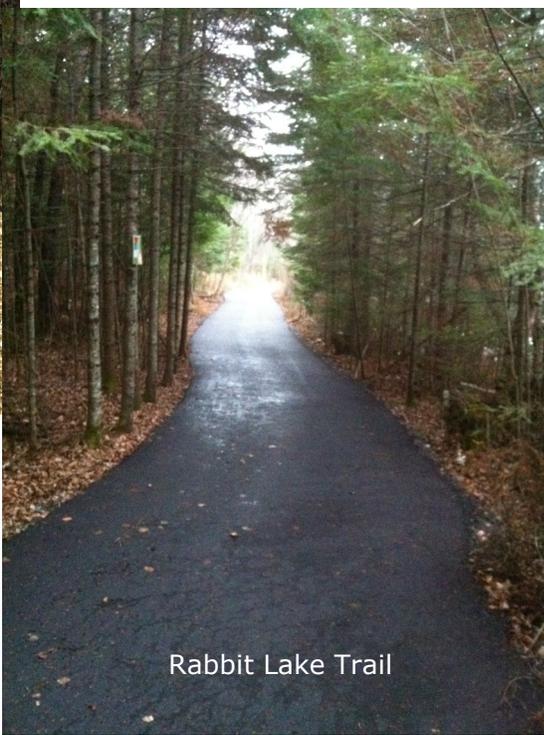
# Kenora Recreational Urban Trails Self-Guided Tours

To be used in conjunction with the Trail Guide.  
Located at the Discovery Centre, LOW Museum,  
City Hall or the City of Kenora Website—[www.kenora.ca](http://www.kenora.ca)

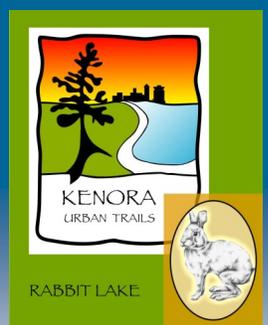
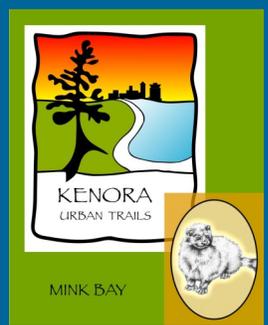
## Mink Bay Trail Rat Portage Urban Trail Rabbit Lake Trail



Laurensen's Creek Trail, part of  
Rat Portage Urban Trail



Rabbit Lake Trail



CONTACT INFO:  
PARKS DEPARTMENT  
807-467-2044  
[www.kenora.ca](http://www.kenora.ca)

Mink Bay

Recreational  
Trail

Tour Guide

## MINK BAY URBAN RECREATIONAL TRAIL HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

### Mink Bay Trail



This trail system winds through the wetlands and wilderness areas of Mink and Portage Bay and into the green spaces and businesses of downtown Keewatin.

DISTANCE: 4.3 km

TERRAIN: Easy to Moderate

SEASONS: All Seasons

USES: Hiking, Biking, Skiing

WEBSITE: [www.kenora.ca](http://www.kenora.ca)

Trail Gateway – Entrance: This trail starts at the Trail Head Sign on Hwy. 17 W. across from the Beach Rd. west entrance. Portions of this property were turned over to the Town of Keewatin from the Lake of the Woods Milling Company and Boise Cascade Canada Ltd. over several years: 1968, 1984 and 1906.

Keewatin (Dump) Nuisance Grounds: As you enter the trail, to the left is the old Keewatin town dump. This site contains many collectibles including old glass bottles. The first section of the Mink Bay Trail is through a boreal forest with different species of hardwood and softwood trees and many bird species.

Trees found along this trail:

White Birch – has the distinctive, white peeling bark. First Nation tribes used the bark to make vessels and construct canoes. Ruffed grouse eat the nutritious buds in the fall and winter.



Poplar – also called the trembling aspen, because a slight breeze makes them tremble – this is the favourite food of the beaver and early settlers extracted a quinine-type drug from the inner bark.



Black Ash – is one of the last trees to leaf out in the spring. It grows well in wet areas and swampy woodlands. Ash lumber looks like oak and is quite attractive.



White Spruce – is important for lumber production. Early First Nation's peoples used the pliable roots to lace birch bark onto their canoes.



Black Spruce – is the evergreen most seen in mossy bogs and swamps. This tree is able to reproduce itself when live lower branches become covered with moss or forest debris, they develop roots and these branches eventually become new trees. It is an important tree in the pulpwood production as the long wood fibres make strong, paper products. The outer twigs can be brewed into a drinkable tea.



White Pine – This tree can reach up to heights of 90 feet and over three feet in diameter. Branches of the older trees become irregular in size and shape due to the prevailing winds. The bundles of five needles, about three inches long, give the tree its soft appearance. The wood is very valuable for lumber, moldings, trim and cabinet work.



Tamarack – the only coniferous tree to lose its needles every fall. It grows on wet sites and the wood is very rot resistant. It makes excellent firewood.



Jack Pine – This scruffy-looking tree has dark, flaky bark and disorganized branching. It is commercially used for lumber and railway ties. It is commonly found on rocky sites.



Balsam Fir – the favourite evergreen for Christmas Trees. The needles stay on well and the tree has a nice aroma. It is not a long-living tree and is identified by the resin blisters on its gray bark.



### Pedestrian Walk Bridge:



There is a fork on the main trail leading west to a feeder trail called Mink Bay Rapids Trails which leads to a Pedestrian Walk Bridge opened in 2011 that allows for beautiful views of the Mink Bay Creek. Log booms used to float down this creek to the Sawmill which was situated at the mouth of the bay.

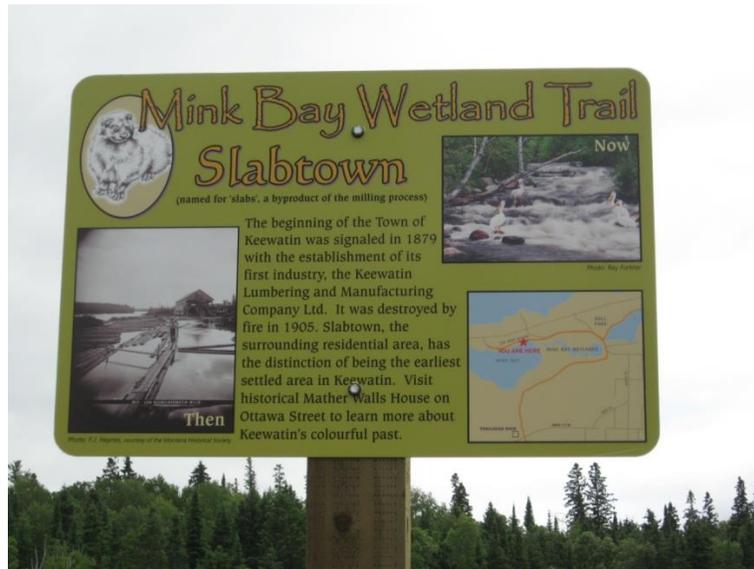
### Slabtown:



Before crossing the bridge there is another feeder trail leading west called Slabtown Way. When you reach the shoreline, to the north you will see a small waterfall where pelicans, geese and ducks gather in the spring. You will find sawdust piles along this path which is residue left over from a Sawmill in this area (please be careful, it is like quicksand). For many years it would smolder and burst into flames, threatening the surrounding area. Foxes build fox holes in the sawdust pile and can be seen regularly.

A sawmill was built in Mink Bay in 1879 at the west end of Keewatin, to manufacture ties for the railway. The sawmill burned in 1905 but there are still many existing indications of the Mill. Labourers for this mill first settled north of the tracks in company houses built for the married personnel. Slabs (which were used for fire wood) were a byproduct of the sawmilling process, and the name Slabtown became attached to that area. The town section of Slabtown consisted of a narrow strip of land sandwiched between the tracks and the Winnipeg River. In some places this area was only wide enough for one lot length. The name Slabtown stuck until sometime in the 60's when it was renamed West Bay, and is still called that today. The Slabtown Way feeder trail will lead you back to the main Trail.

Keewatin Lumbering and Manufacturing Company Ltd.:



If you cross the bridge heading north, the Mink Bay Trail will then follow west along the West Bay Road and leads to the earliest settled section of Keewatin. Mr. John Mather, a developer and promoter, recognized the wonderful economic development potential that the convergence of water power, a railroad and vast forests of pristine timber in this area offered. Although the Town of Keewatin was officially incorporated in 1908, unofficially the town began in 1879 when Mr. Mather started Keewatin's first industry, "The Keewatin Lumbering and Manufacturing Company Limited". A Planer Mill was then added in 1881.

The "Slabtown" era is known to be the first era in the development of Keewatin as a town.



When you walk this area and the water is low you can see the foundation of the mill. The natural beauty and serenity of this wetland makes it possible for residents and visitors to enjoy nature up close and natural.

Page #6

Wetland Area: You can continue your walk east along West Bay Road until you reach the Mink Bay Wetland area. The Mink Bay Wetland is used as a nesting and staging site for many species of birds, ducks and raptors. Lesser Yellow Legs and the Redhead Duck have been spotted in this Wetland, along with other species not native to this area, perhaps blown off their migratory routes. Ospreys, eagles and pelicans are common, as well as furbearing mammals such as mink, otter and muskrat.



Pelicans

There is a granite bench where you can sit and view the Mink Bay Creek and listen to the sound of the current in the water. Wetlands are areas where the land is wet either permanently or seasonally. Wetlands occur along the edges of lakes, rivers and streams and in areas where water pools for at least part of the year. Wetlands are transition areas or ecotones that are biologically diverse. Wetlands represent one of the most important life support systems in the natural environment.



Portage Bay Recreation Area:



The wetland also continues further east, at Happy Jack's, to the the Portage Bay Recreational Area on Portage Bay, Lake of the Woods. The Happy Jack's area is so called because an Englishman used to have a house on top of the rocks and would help the children with their homework – his name was Jack Whitmore and he always greeted you with a smile, thus Happy Jacks. This is also the area where the Coffey Dam was built in the 1880's and later a control gate, which is still located here today. The Portage Bay area is home to two ball fields, tennis courts and a skateboard area for recreational entertainment.



You then cross the arched bridge and find yourself at the Keewatin Memorial Arena and Keewatin Curling Club. The Curling Club is privately run and established in 1907. The Keewatin Memorial Arena was established in 1947.

Page #8

#### Beatty Park:



The route then continues east past Beatty Park. Beatty Park is named after Dr. W. J. Beatty, who became Keewatin's first doctor in 1897. He built and operated the Keewatin Hospital until the mid 1930's. He donated this property and requested it to be used as a park for the pleasure and benefits of its citizens and visitors.

Then you travel south and pass through a few community streets in the downtown area to Keewatin Beach.

#### Keewatin Beach:



Keewatin Beach was donated to the Town of Keewatin by the Five Roses Flour Mill. It has been enjoyed by many since then. In 1967, the Keewatin Kinsmen did a major upgrade to the Park for Canada's Centennial, and changed its name to Kin-Kee-Cen Park. (Kin - Kinsmen, Kee - Keewatin, Cen - Central) Then in 2003, under the direction of the City of Kenora, a new washroom and playground were added and the name was reverted back to Keewatin Beach.

Page #9

As you walk along Keewatin Beach Road, you will notice some of the oldest cottages in Keewatin. The yellow wooden one east of the Keewatin Beach is the oldest, original camp left on the Beach Road.

You will then travel further west along Keewatin Beach Road and across the Highway back to the Trail Head Sign on Highway 17 West. The Mink Bay Trail is a quiet, beautiful walk through all seasons.



# Rabbit Lake Recreational Trail Tour Guide

# RABBIT LAKE RECREATIONAL TRAIL

## HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

### Rabbit Lake Trail



The Rabbit Lake Trail system is partially inclusive, accessible and paved. This trail starts at the Gateway Sign on Nairn Avenue (this portion is called Rotary Way Trail) and joins onto the main Rabbit Lake Trail at a spectacular viewing site overlooking Rabbit Lake. Your journey continues along the shore of Rabbit Lake to Garrow Park and Beach. To complete your journey the trail then follows Birchwood Crescent onto Valley Drive which leads you back to Nairn Avenue. There are several other feeder trails which have not been designated as of yet.

DISTANCE – 5 km

TERRAIN – Easy to Moderate (Feeder Trails – Moderate to High)

SEASONS – All seasons

USES - Hiking, Cycling, Skiing, Snow shoeing, & Wheelchair & Stroller Accessible

WEBSITE – [www.kenora.ca](http://www.kenora.ca)

## Rotary Way Trail:



The Rotary Way portion of the Rabbit Lake Trail was completed in 2009 with major partnerships consisting of the City of Kenora, Kenora Urban Trails Committee, Kenora Rotary Club, Kenora Association for Community Living, the Retired Teachers of Ontario and a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The paved section of the Rabbit Lake Trail, completed in 2012, and the Rotary Way constitute Kenora's first accessible nature trail. As such it has brought much joy to many people, including the residents of the nearby Pinecrest Home for the Aged, who would otherwise not have the opportunity to commune with nature.



There is a lovely view of Rabbit Lake from the viewpoint/seating area at the intersection of the two trails. At this lookout there is a wonderful granite accessible picnic table to enjoy the view for all.

The remainder of the trail along the lakeshore is accessible but the other feeder trails to residential areas are somewhat more rugged with the typical rocks and roots and some steeper slopes normal to woodland trails in this area.

Rabbit Lake:



Rabbit Lake received its name due to the shape of the lake, it is said to resemble the shape of a sitting rabbit when viewed from the air.

Bear Creek, which flows out of the west end of Rabbit Lake, was so named because so many bears travelled to the old nuisance grounds from 1898 – 1912.

In the early days, Houghton's Cabins were situated on the south shore of Rabbit Lake and guests used to swim at Houghton's Beach. A number of other tourist camps, including Johnson's Cabins, Ascough Cabins, Pines Camps and Edgewater Cabins were also located on the shores of Rabbit Lake. All of these have since become residential properties.

Then in the 1950's and 60's, Rabbit Lake was the place to be during the hot summer months. It was wall to wall traffic along the east side of the lake during the summer months and the old beach area was used by all. The agricultural fair and the amusement rides were held every year where the ball fields are now located. The Drive-In Theatre (located where Shauna Crescent is today) was a huge attraction. During the 1960's snowmobile races and stock races were also held out on the ice every year.

Rabbit Lake and its forested surroundings offer excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing. Keep your eyes peeled during the ice-free months and you may see beavers, bears, bald eagles, loons and a wide variety of other birds and animals. The forested area on the south side of Rabbit Lake has long been a near-wilderness playground for local residents and their visitors. Its long term future as public parkland was ensured when Jaffray Melick purchased about 40 acres of woodland on the south shore of Rabbit Lake from Mac Morrison in 1996.



Over the years Rabbit Lake has been the site of swimming lessons, snowmobile races, sky-diving demonstrations, fishing tournaments, car racing on the ice, regattas and dragon boat racing. Canoes, sailboats, and pedal-boats are a common sight on the lake.

To preserve the relative tranquility of Rabbit Lake, outboard motors of more than 6 horsepower have been banned since the 1960's.

History of Jaffray Melick: The former town of Jaffray and Melick's territory is now the eastern and northern section of the City of Kenora. The township of Jaffray was founded in 1894 and the township of Melick in 1902. The 2 townships were amalgamated in 1908 as Jaffray and Melick. Three years after incorporation as a town (1988), the name was shortened to Jaffray Melick. The township of Jaffray was named after a prominent businessman and Senator Robert Jaffray (1832-1914). The township of Melick was named after a parish in Ireland. In the year 2000, the three towns of Kenora, Keewatin & Jaffray Melick amalgamated into the City of Kenora.

The first settlers arrived in this area in the late 1880s and early 1890s and established farms. A commercial fishery at one time was carried out on nearby Black Sturgeon Lake. Jaffray Melick had other resources of economic importance; notably, the timber stands and the area's recreational potential.

## Kenora Rowing Club:



Miner & News Photo

Rowing has been an important sport in the Kenora area since 1890 when the Rat Portage Rowing Club was formed. The first regatta was held a year later. The club's name changed to the Kenora Rowing Club after Rat Portage changed its name to Kenora in 1905. The original club was located on Main Street where the Bank of Nova Scotia now stands. The club later moved to Norman Park. It moved to Rabbit Lake from Norman Park which is situated on Lake of the Woods in the mid 1990's and then operated from a trailer at the east end of Rabbit Lake until this new facility was built on the south shore in 1999.

Rabbit Lake is an excellent venue for rowing due to its near ideal size, spectator-friendly shoreline and relative freedom from wave action. The lake accommodates a 2 km-7 lane course and has been the site of regional and international competitions. In 2017, it will host the rowing portion of the Canada Summer Games, with over 300 athletes!



Kenora Rowing Club

## Garrow Park:



Garrow Park was named after Jaffray Melick's long-serving Reeve, Joe Garrow who was instrumental in pushing forward the development of this park. The park was established in the 1970's on land donated to Jaffray and Melick. Garrow Park includes a swimming beach, docks, picnic benches, washrooms and tennis courts.

Red Cross swimming lessons were moved to Garrow Park from their former location at the beach on the eastern shore of Rabbit Lake.

The newest sport to be introduced at Garrow Park in 2012 is Pickle Ball, which is an "old man's" version of tennis. Smaller courts, lighter rackets but just as much fun.

## Tom Nabb Soccer Complex:

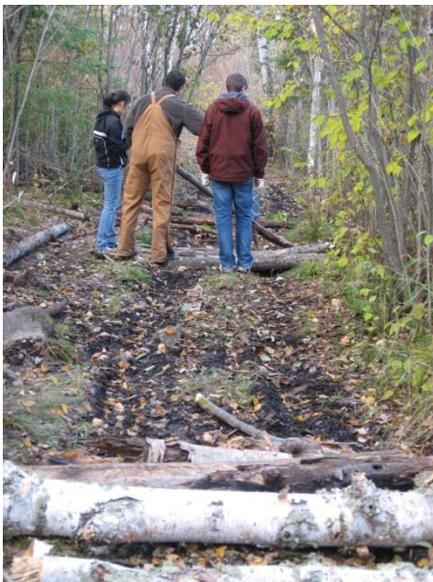


This land was donated in the early 1990's to construct a soccer facility. The Lake of the Woods Soccer Association (a Volunteer Group), with government funding developed the fields and a built a structure. In 2005, the soccer complex was named after Tom Nabb, the first volunteer grounds keeper.

St. Thomas Aquinas High School:



There are “Friends of” for each trail and this one is no exception. The Outdoor Education students have been instrumental in the development of this trail. A partnership was formed with the school and the City of Kenora to clear and construct the sub-base of this trail, so that it could be paved. The students came through in flying colours and completed the first phase of the trail development. They now hold many activities on the trail and use it as an outdoor classroom, including snowshoeing, dog sledding, skiing and trail navigation. If you would like to be a “Friend of” in regards to any of our trails, please let a Trail Committee Member know or phone the City’s Parks Department.



Rat Portage

Recreational  
Urban Trail

Tour Guide

## RAT PORTAGE URBAN RECREATIONAL TRAIL HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

### Rat Portage Urban Trail



This trail meanders along flat and gently rolling, paved city streets with sidewalks of wood, interlocking brick or concrete, with a portion of it a natural recreational walk along a creek.

The Trail Gateway Sign and entrance is at McLeod Park (Lakeview Drive), then along the Greenbelt to the Harbourfront, past Float Planes and Museum, along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, past the Blue Heron and Lakeside Inn, along Seventh St. S. to Fourth Avenue South, along Old Chalet Lane to Anicinabe Park. Then along Miihana Way to Highway 17 West (west) to River Street and then west to the natural trail along Laurenson's Creek, heading back to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and the downtown area.

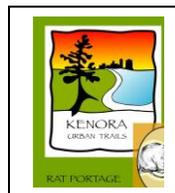
DISTANCE: 6 – 8 km

TERRAIN – Easy to Moderate

SEASONS – All seasons

USES – Hiking/Walking

WEB – [www.kenora.ca](http://www.kenora.ca)



### McLeod Park



McLeod Park was first owned by two Americans – Powers & Linn.

In 1889 the Canadian Milling and Reduction Company of Rat Portage purchased the land. The plant was completed in the fall of 1891 and renamed Dominion Gold Mining & Reduction Works. This plant had the capacity to treat 190 tonnes of gold and silver ores per day in 24 hours. Average value was \$80.00 per tonne. For an example, Sultana Mine brought in 75 tonnes per day. The plant closed in 1892 and was foreclosed in 1893 and then was destroyed by fire in 1906 and was valued of \$40-50,000.

John Short purchased the property and built Shorts Tie Mill (they made ties for the railway). This burnt down in 1914. In 1921 John Short sold to the Keewatin Lumber Company.

In 1925, the property sold to the Kenora Paper Mills and then in 1944 to Ontario-Minnesota Pulp & Paper Mill. In 1959 some parts of the property were expropriated by the Ministry of Highways. In 1989 Boise Cascade transferred the park to the Town of Kenora.

The Park itself was named in honour of Dan McLeod – one time owner of the Rat Portage Lumber Company and later General Manager of Backus-Brooks Pulp & Paper Co. in Kenora.

### Husky the Muskie



In 1967, the Chamber of Commerce took on a Centennial Project – to build a big fish in McLeod Park. Jules Horvath and Bob Selway from Deluxe Signs designed and built the fish. The Muskie is 40 feet tall, weighs in at 2.5 tonnes, has a 12” Steel I-beam, 3500 bolts, 700 lbs. of resin, 36 sheets of plywood and 50 feet of fiberglass. It took 1,000 man hours to build. Bill Brabrooke had the winning slogan – “Husky the Muskie says prevent water pollution”. In 1995, \$20,000 worth of repairs to the fish were completed by Ross Kehl of Puma-flex Systems. This fish symbolizes our attachment to Lake of the Woods, promotes that we are stewards of the lake and that we nurture our pristine environment and that we love our lake.

## Greenbelt/Harbourfront



The Harbourfront greenbelt was a shoreline restoration project which cleaned up our shoreline and extended it to include this trail system. The Harbourfront area has seen two extensive projects to enhance the beauty of the shoreline area and to make it more inviting to our guests and residents alike. Former Mayor Kelvin Winkler who was Mayor of the Town of Kenora for 19 years, was instrumental in acquiring the 3.2 million dollars for the first rejuvenation project on the Harbourfront. It opened on July 1, 1987. The second major renovation project of the harbourfront took place in 2011, under former Mayor Len Compton. This area has transformed into a vibrant and active destination for all to enjoy.

## Lake of the Woods



Lake of the Woods has 65,000 miles of shoreline and 14,522 islands. Kenora is the main access point to this wonderful lake of ours. And just to the north of Kenora is the Winnipeg River. The Anishinaabe peoples believe the lake represents a drum and the communities surround the drum. They believe the entrance to the Winnipeg River is a Spiritual doorway and consider the river a very sacred place. The lake and river have always been a source of life and livelihood for the First Nations people. Their reverence for the lake and river is also felt by all nationalities that live on or near the lake and river and we all have become its stewards.

## Whitecap Tent & Thistle Pavilion



The Thistle Pavilion was part of the first restoration of the waterfront. It is used as a Tourist Information Centre in the summer months. The Whitecap Tent was part of a revitalization project in 2011. It stands 50 feet tall, length of 250 feet, width of 128 feet and has a capacity of 3,426 (non-alcoholic standing room event). The cost of the tent was 1.6 Million dollars. Events like July 1<sup>st</sup>, Sports Shows, Harbourfest and concerts are held in this tent. It is available for rent for weddings, socials or other special events. The Whitecap suits the overall brand of the City of Kenora. It symbolizes the big waves which can be found on the Lake of the Woods and is a source of activity and continuing progression into the future.

## Float Planes



The first float planes showed up on the lake in the 1920's and were called Air Boats. For the first 30 or 40 years the planes were used on supply runs, and for trapping, hunting and some fishing. In the 1970's Barney Lamb started the lucrative business of fly-in fishing resorts from this site. Walsten Air took over and the out-post camps were up-dated with all the modern amenities. River Air now flies from this site and has added flight tours of the Lake of the Woods. It is a site to behold to see all 14, 522 islands from the seat of a float plane.

## Lake of the Woods Museum



This award-winning Museum is one of the smallest and finest in Canada. The Museum was established in 1964 in the old Land Titles Building next to the current Museum. In 1986, the Museum moved to its current location. The Museum seeks to promote understanding of and respect for the cultures and heritage of the Lake of the Woods area. In 2014, the Museum celebrated 50 Years of Collecting. The Museum holds in excess of 25,000 articles, including First Nations, fur trade, natural history specimens, minerals, textiles, industrial and business items, with rotating exhibits in the main hall. The newest addition is an audio-visual tour on an I-Pad. It describes each exhibit and what you are looking at. It includes video clips, archival photos and stories by community members. This Museum is a one-of-a-kind, architecturally outstanding and a fascinating place to visit.

## Blue Heron (Old Fish Market)



Carl Lindstrom immigrated to Canada in 1912 and worked at the Kenora Fish Market on this location. At that time it was owned by a Gustafson, but Carl bought it outright in 1931. He shipped fish (pickerel, jackfish, whitefish, trout and sturgeon (caviar) to Toronto, Montreal, Fort Erie, Buffalo, Chicago, Boston & New York. Carl bought the fish from the commercial fishermen and from the bush pilots who brought in fish from the northern lakes. Each day 8 to 10 fishing boats stopped to unload hundreds and hundreds of boxes of fish. Pickerel was considered a delicacy and people always asked only for Lake of the Woods pickerel. Carl was forced out of the wholesale business in 1971 due to new Government regulations. The Johansen's purchased the building in 1975 and turned the Fish Market into the Blue Heron with a gift shop and ice cream parlour. The closeness to downtown and being on the lake made it a perfect location. Jim Johansen broke all the rules of retail and jam packed the Blue Heron with all kinds of antiques, trinkets, Xmas decorations and unique items. He ran the store for over 26 years, and it continues to be a "unique to Kenora" retail outlet.

## Lakeside Inn & Conference Centre



This hotel was constructed in 1968 by the Druxerman Family (Alvin, Bruce & Peter) and at that time was called the Holiday Inn. It has 95 rooms and a swimming pool. The architects were Krauss and Associates. They had the grand opening on Nov. 20, 1969. It was and is the tallest building in Kenora. In the 70's the current ball room was a disco with a dance floor which lit up and was called "Northern Lights". In 1995, Al Tucker took over as General Manager and it became the Inn of the Woods. A marina was attached with 145 docking slips. It is now called Best Western Lakeside Inn & Conference Centre, boasts 94 hotel rooms, 26 business suites and heated pool and sauna. Their slogan - "The only thing we overlook, is the lake".

## Kenora Recreation Centre



The Kenora Recreation Centre was built in 1967, Canada's Centennial Year. Many improvements over the years have resulted in a world class complex. The Recreation Centre boasts an arena, a 200 metre walking track, 3 pools (Leisure, Lane & Youth), a fitness centre, a sports injury clinic and a Senior's Centre. Outside you will find two ball fields, tennis courts, a beach volleyball court, a basketball court and a skate park. You will find a boat ramp and docking with two outdoor washroom facilities. During the summer months daily overnight parking is offered for a fee. The Rat Portage Urban Recreational Trail follows along the creek behind the Recreation Centre. The Recreation Centre is found directly across the street from the Lakeside Inn and across from a grocery store (which can be also accessed by boat) and both are within walking distance of downtown.

## Anicinabe Park



The Department of Indian Affairs purchased 14 acres of land in 1929 from Hattie Cameron, so that the First Nations people could camp and have an area where they could stay to visit their children who were attending C. J. (Cecelia Jeffrey) Residential School. This is that site. It was then purchased by the Town of Kenora in 1959 from the Dept. of Indian Affairs and in 1994 a portion of this was leased to the Kenora Golf & Country Club.

In 1974, there was an armed occupation of Anicinabe Park. The first armed occupation of any land in Canada. A First Nation's conference at the park turned into the armed take over with 64 armed men and over 150 men, women and children. It was done to bring focus to the plight of the First Nation's people who were suffering due to loss of culture from the residential schooling. The issues included racism, lack of employment opportunities, slum living conditions, alcoholism, drug addiction, broken homes and the right to govern themselves. A resolution was signed at Town Island with all 9 demands being met. The First Nation's people formed an agreement with the Mayor at that time, Jim Davidson. There was a peaceful resolution during a very volatile time with an undeclared war between the First Nation's people and the Canadian Government. Anicinabe Park was used as a symbolic gesture and symbol of First Nation Discontent. It ended peacefully with hope for a better future for the First Nation's Peoples. The occupation led to the NeeChee Friendship Centre being built, street patrol to help look after First Nation's people and less punishment and more treatment for alcohol and drug abuse.

Speed forward to 1991, another major re-development of the park at a cost of \$400,000. The project included the up-grading of the camping area, one entrance, the construction of the reception/office building, gazebo built at beach area and a new boat ramp and parking area was created. In 2012, a beautiful new campsite washroom was added.

Anicinabe Park is located in Green's Bay and loosely translated in Ojibway means "the people", therefore Anicinabe Park is the People's Park. This park has always been a gathering place beginning with the First Nations people. To get to this park you travel down Miikana Way, which translated means "road to water". Anicinabe Park has consistently been a stopping place, a gathering place and the tradition continues today with the Park being a public area and camp ground. The park now boasts 34 tent sites and 49 R.V. sites, with awesome views of Lake of the Woods. The City maintains ownership of the park and hires a Contractor to operate and maintain the park. Scott Green of Green Adventures is the current Contractor until 2018.

## Laurenson's Creek



In 1890, the Western Lumber Company was located on Laurenson's Creek and was operated on steam power. Log booms were brought in by company steam boats from all over the lake. The Western Lumber Company consisted of a sawmill, box factory and sash & door company. In 1906, five sawmills combined to form the Rat Portage Lumber Company.

Laurenson's Creek is named after Robert Laurenson from Shetland, Scotland who opened his own trade/goods store in Rat Portage in 1877. He had a good working relationship with the First Nation's people of Rat Portage and worked for the Hudson's Bay Company. He started out as a labourer in 1864 for the Hudson's Bay Company, was also Post Master for Rat Portage from 1874 - 1877 and became Manager of HBC in 1874 for the North West Angle.