

Issue Paper Commercial Services

Riding Mountain National Park of Canada

Wasagaming Community Plan Review 2007

Background

Parks Canada is responsible for making decisions regarding business licenses in the community. Commercial businesses in Wasagaming play an important role in support of Parks Canada's mandate related to the provision of positive, memorable experiences and quality learning opportunities. Businesses also play an important role in the provision of services, facilities and experiences from a regional tourism perspective.

The current community plan provides sufficient direction for heritage tourism, visitor experience and public education programs and the role that the community plays in these programs.

Issue

The current community plan includes a list of basic and essential services (see p. 2) within the community. However, this list does not provide sufficient direction to make decisions regarding all potential commercial businesses in the community.

Options

- 1. Status quo maintain current list of services.
- Develop a process to guide decisions by Parks Canada for new or changing commercial services when "grey areas" exist. The process could require the Park, with advice from the WTA, First Nations and regional tourism associations, to take into consideration criteria such as;
 - > impact on character of the

community/park

- current visitor market information, needs/expectations
- contribution to meaningful visitor experiences and promoting public education
- services within the broader area, including Onanole and other communities nearby
- criteria in RMNPC's appropriate activity review tool and Parks Canada's recreational activities assessment (currently being developed) as additional guidance
- socio-economic well-being of the communities.

Questions

- Are there other options?
- Are there other participants and/or criteria that should be included in a decision-making process?



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Parcs Canada





Excerpt from the Wasagaming Community Plan, 2000, p. 24

For Visitors & Residents

The following examples of basic and essential services are intended to serve as a guide to what is appropriate in Wasagaming:

- Food and beverages (e.g. restaurants, deliis, bakery, cafes, corner store, small grocery)
- General store selling basic items such as toiletries, non-prescription drugs, newspapers, etc.
- Interpretation, information and education based on Park themes and attractions, trail, river and lake guides
- Retail outlets: outdoor clothing and equipment (retail and sales); photography supplies; books about natural and cultural history; souvenirs (e.g. postcards, art, photographs of the local area); locally made arts and crafts associated with protected heritage areas
- Lodges, beds and breakfasts, approved residential accommodation, inns, hotels
- Lounges, small bars
- Post office or outlet
- Gas bar, laundry
- Bus stop, taxi stand
- Emergency services
- Public washrooms/change rooms
- Hairdresser, barber
- Community centre, drop in facilities, outdoor recreational facilities, play areas for children
- RCMP detachment.