

# TOWNSHIP OF MCGARRY VIRGINIATOWN & KEARNS COMMUNITY PROFILE

Updated, July 2007

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Page Number**

Introduction to the Township of McGarry ..... 3

History ..... 3

Geography..... 4

Population ..... 6

Trade Area ..... 7

Business/Industrial Base ..... 8

Work Force ..... 10

Personal Income ..... 11

Housing and Construction ..... 13

Transportation ..... 14

Community Services ..... 15

Support Services ..... 17

Water and Sewerage..... 18

Parks and Recreation ..... 19

Municipal Administration ..... 20

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE TOWNSHIP OF McGarry**

The township of McGarry has a fascinating past and a promising future. Located on vast mineral deposits, many undeveloped to date, horizons shimmer with opportunity.

The town sites, of Virginiatown and Kearns strategically situated on the Quebec/Ontario provincial boundary are a gateway to interprovincial road networks. Nestled in towering timber, featuring the rugged Canadian Shield as a back drop, this area is an outdoor enthusiast's utopia. Anglers can enjoy lakes that jump with varieties of sport fish: northern pike, walleye, whitefish and lake trout, just to name a few. The surrounding wilderness beckons the hikers, climbers and hunters. McGarry Township is images of wild blueberries, fresh water springs, white tailed deer, native Indian folklore and Mt. Cheminis.

This residential town has a population of approximately 675 people. Over half of the population is bilingual. The medical clinic and tourism information center add to the existing services and quality of life Virginiatown offers.

## **HISTORY**

The turn of the century brought a hustle and a bustle of prospectors and developers to the Township of McGarry. The first milling operation was established in 1908. Ore extracted was used to mint Canada's first gold coin. Kerr-Addison Mines Ltd. was in full production by 1938. "The Kerr" had produced in excess of 10.2 million ounces of gold and more than .5 million ounces of silver by the summer of '87. A resource base community, McGarry's economic health is precipitated by trends in the mining sector.

The Kerr-Addison Mine was purchased by Golden Shield Resources (1987) and unfortunately went into receivership in 1989. February of 1990 was an optimistic day for Virginiatowners, as Deak Resources Corporation took control of the project. The milling operation received more than 3.5 million dollars in government loan guarantees to upgrade the operations. Gwen Resources, a mining exploration company, took over Deak Resources in the spring of 1993. This effectively combined the large capacity Kerr Mill with nearby ore rich property, which ensured the ongoing vitality of the operation. In 1996 the Kerr Mine was sold for municipal taxes and demolition on the property leveled the Kerr Mine into history. Gold exploration at nearby mining camps owned by NFX Gold and Armistice Resources is breathing new hope in the famous gold camps in McGarry. Townspeople look forward to renewed opportunities in the mining service sectors.

## GEOGRAPHY

The Township of McGarry is located in the District of Timiskaming, on the north shore of Larder Lake. The eastern boundary of the Township of McGarry overlaps the provincial border between Quebec and Ontario. The northern route of the Trans Canada Highway (#66) is strategically routed through the township.

Proximity to other major urban centers is as follows:

Kirkland Lake, Ontario	40 km (25 mi)
Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec	45 km (28 mi)
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario/Michigan	624 km (387 mi)
Thunder Bay, Ontario	920 km (570 mi)
Montreal, Quebec	683 km (423 mi)
Ottawa, Ontario	614 km (381 mi)
Toronto, Ontario	594 km (368 mi)
Buffalo, New York	725 km (450 mi)
Boston, Massachusetts	1,316 km (816 mi)
New York, New York	1,412 km (875 mi)
Township area	8,853 hectares (21,867 acres)
Latitude	48 degrees 8 minutes North
Longitude	79 degrees 34 minutes West

**Geography:** Continental glaciation has affected all aspects of the geography and topography of McGarry Township. Most lakes such as Larder Lake, are glacial with clay sedimentary deposits. Sand and clay are the predominant soil types. It should be noted that the largest esker in Canada (Munroe Esker) runs through the entire District of Timiskaming, for more than 400 km.

**Geology:** Mineral deposits of gold, zinc and silver are found along the Larder Lake-Cadillac Break, which traverses east/west through the township along highway # 66. Soils, tills and lakes date from the Cenozoic period. More information on local geology can be obtained through the Resident Geologist's office in Kirkland Lake.

**Topography:** The local terrain varies from hilly to flat, mostly wooded, and dotted by numerous lakes and streams. The land formation known as “the height of land” which stands between the Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic Ocean watershed, runs through the Township.

Forests are predominantly coniferous with some mixed broad leaf trees. Black Spruce, White Spruce, Jackpine and Balsam Fir are the main coniferous species. Balsam Poplar, Trembling Aspen and White Birch are the main deciduous species. Alder and Black Ash can occur in low lying, wet areas.

**Climate:** The regional climate is best described as modified continental with short, warm summers and long, cold winters. The area experiences a pattern of somewhat low winter and high summer precipitation. The winter affords a consistent cool arctic airflow, precipitating dry-clear conditions. The summer hosts a succession of warm, humid air masses which alternate with cooler, drier air from the north.

Month	Average Daily Temperatures			Average Monthly Precipitation		
	Maximum °C	Minimum °C	Mean °C	Rain (mm)	Snow (cm)	Precipitation (mm)
January	-10.7	-23.4	-17.1	1.9	64.9	66.8
February	-7.7	-21.7	-14.8	1.2	47.5	48.6
March	-1	-14.3	-7.7	14.5	46.6	61.1
April	7.2	-4.7	1.3	33.8	20.2	54
May	16.3	3.2	9.8	70.7	2.8	73.6
June	21.5	8.5	15	90.4	0.2	90.6
July	24	11.6	17.8	90.5	0	90.5
August	22.3	10.6	16.5	92	0	92
September	15.9	5.8	10.9	99.5	0.5	100
October	8.8	0.4	4.6	70.6	5.8	76.3
November	0.2	-7.5	-3.6	21.8	37.1	58.9
December	-7.5	-18.3	-12.9	2.8	68.7	71.5

Source: Environment Canada (1971 to 2000)

**POPULATION**

<b>McGarry Township</b>			
<b><u>Population and Dwelling Counts</u></b>			
	<b>Total</b>		
<b>Population in 2006</b>	674		
<b>Population 2001</b>	787		
<b>2001 to 2006 Population Change</b>	-14.4		
<b>Total Private Dwellings</b>	429		
<b>Private Dwellings Occupied by Usual Residents</b>	325		
<b>Population Density Per Square Kilometre</b>	7.8		
<b>Land Area (square km)</b>	86.05		
<b><u>Age Characteristics</u></b>			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>Total Population</b>	675	350	325
<b>0 to 4 years</b>	20	10	10
<b>5 to 9 years</b>	25	15	10
<b>10 to 14 years</b>	20	10	10
<b>15 to 19 years</b>	45	25	20
<b>20 to 24 years</b>	20	5	15
<b>25 to 29 years</b>	15	10	5
<b>30 to 34 years</b>	25	10	15
<b>35 to 39 years</b>	25	15	10
<b>40 to 44 years</b>	60	25	35
<b>45 to 49 years</b>	75	40	35
<b>50 to 54 years</b>	65	40	25
<b>55 to 59 years</b>	65	30	35
<b>60 to 64 years</b>	70	40	30
<b>65 to 69 years</b>	50	30	25
<b>70 to 74 years</b>	50	20	30
<b>75 to 79 years</b>	25	15	10
<b>80 to 84 years</b>	15	10	5
<b>85 years and over</b>	5	0	5
<b>Median Age of the Population</b>	50.3	50.9	49.0
<b>% of the population aged 15 and over</b>	89.6	90.0	89.2

Source - Statistics Canada – 2006 Census

## TRADE AREA

The extended trade area includes the District of Timiskaming(Ontario) and the Districts of Rouyn-Noranda and Temiscamingue(Quebec) and has a population of 90,192. The circumference of this area extends approximately 150 km from the Township of McGarry.

District of Timiskaming	33,283
District of Rouyn-Noranda	39,924
District of Temiscamingue	<u>16,985</u>

Total                      90,192

Trade area population by community

<b>Community</b>	<b>Population</b>
Kirkland Lake, Ontario	8,248
Temiskaming Shores, Ontario	10,732
Haileybury, Ontario	4,875
Earlton, Ontario	1,115
Englehart and District, Ontario	1,494
Virginiatown, Ontario	674
Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec	39,924

Source: Statistics Canada: 2006 Census of Population

## BUSINESS INDUSTRIAL BASE

### Mining

Gold exploration at nearby mining camps owned by NFX Gold and Armistice Resources is breathing new hope in the famous gold camps in McGarry. Townspeople look forward to renewed opportunities in the mining service sectors.

### Commercial and Service Sector

Types of businesses:

Armistice Resources Armistice Resources Ltd.	Gold Mining
Armstrong Transportation Services	Personal Transportation Services (Ontario)
Canada Post Corporation	Mail Processing, Postal and Courier Services
Centre de Santé du Témiskaming	Medical Centre
Cheminis Lodge	Hunting, Fishing, Snowmobiling, Skiing, Ice Shack Available, Eco Tourism
Chez Lucie	Prescription Drug Delivery, Video Rental, Convenience Store
Desjardins Credit Union	Banking Agency
École Catholique Saint-Louis	French Catholic School
Godin Enterprises	“Get In Ramp” patent and Excavating Services
Guy’s Service Station	Gas Service Station
Hilltop Inn	Accommodations
Income Tax Service	Income Tax returns & e-mail
Karen’s Hairstyling	Beauty Salon

McGarry Tourist Information Centre & Heritage Home	Regional Tourist Centre & Heritage House
McGarry Public Library	Library, Resource Centre, Faxing, Copies, Computer Services, Internet
Min Com Cambridge Inc.	Real Estate Agent
Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)	Police Services
The Roadside Joint	Restaurant
Royal Canadian Legion	Legion
Township of McGarry	Municipal Services
Turner & Turner Transportation	Transportation of goods- Canada Wide
Virgin Tn Enterprises	Web Design, Business Cards, Flyers, Fix/Create Web Maps
Virginiatown Community Centre	Recreational Facilities
Webster Auto	Tires, Tune-ups, Lube, Exhaust, Undercoating, Car-wash, Wax and more
William Edge	Artist
DNR Contracting	General Contractor

## WORK FORCE

### Township of McGarry- EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Industry	Number Employed	As a Percentage
*Primary	10	5.6
Manufacturing	10	5.6
Construction	-	-
Transportation	40	22.2
Communication	10	5.6
Trade	25	13.8
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	-	-
Business & Government Services	20	11.1
Educational	15	8.3
Health and Social Services	10	5.6
Accommodation, Food & Beverages Services	30	16.6
Other	10	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Primary: Agricultural, fishing and trapping, logging and forestry, mining, quarrying and oil well.

### Township of McGarry-EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION

Occupation	Male	Female
Management	10	10
Business, Finance and Administration	10	15
Natural and Applied Sciences	15	-
Health	-	10
Social Science, Education, Government Services and Religion	-	-
Art, Culture, Recreation & Sport	-	-
Sales and Services	10	45
Trades, Transportation and Equipment Operations	45	10
Primary Industries	10	-
Processing and Manufacturing	10	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>90</b>

Source: FEDNOR Database-Area Files:1996 Census of Population

**PERSONAL INCOME**

**Wages Rates**

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Prevailing Wage</u>		<u>Average</u>
	Minimum \$/hr	Maximum \$/hr	
Retail Trade Manager	8.25	16.00	9.45
Administrative Officer	13.33	15.57	-
Accounting Bookkeeper	10.00	16.50	12.00
Secretary	7.50	19.00	14.00
Office Clerk	7.00	17.00	12.00
Receptionist/Switchboard	6.85	16.00	8.00
Accounting Clerks	7.50	13.62	10.00
Shippers & Receivers	6.85	11.22	-
Storekeeper and Parts Clerk	6.85	14.00	-
Geologist, jr & int.	19.89	26.11	-
System Analyst	30,000 \$/year	44,000 \$/year	-
Programmer	32,000 \$/year	46,000 \$/year	-
Geological Technician	10.00	20.00	15.00
Forestry Technician	16.00	22.00	18.00
Electrical/Electronic Technician	16.00	23.65	-
Electronic Service Technician	9.00	17.00	-
Drafting Technologist/Tech	12.61	17.00	-
Audiologist & Speech	21.03	22.22	-
Registered Nurse	16.50	25.25	21.00
Registered Nurse Assistant	10.00	17.56	-
Nurse Aids and Orderlies	6.85	13.51	13.23
College and Vocational Int.	18.60	40.00	-
Secondary School Teacher	17.11	36.74	-
Elementary School Teacher	16.36	36.74	-
Social Worker	17.00	22.00	-
Community and Social Service	10.00	20.00	-
Early Childhood Educator	9.41	15.72	-
Technical Sales Specialist	18,000 \$/year	48,000 \$/year	-
Cooks	6.85	14.41	7.50
Hairstylist and Barber	6.85	7.00	-

Retail Salesperson	6.85	13.75	7.10
Front Desk Clerk	6.85	8.40	-
Bartender	5.95	-	-
Waiter/Waitress	5.95	6.85	6.85
Babysitter,, nanny, etc.	3.00	6.85	-
Cashiers	6.85	12.80	6.85
Gas Bar Attendant	6.85	7.65	6.85
Kitchen and Food Service Helper	6.85	8.10	7.22
Security Guard	6.85	10.85	-
Light Duty Cleaner	6.85	13.00	-
Janitor, Building Superintendent	6.85	18.00	-
Electrician, Residential	18.00	21.00	20.00
Electrical, Industrial	18.00	29.40	20.00
Plumber	18.00	25.00	-
Sheet Metal Workers	20.40	29.00	-
Welder/Welder-Fitter	16.00	24.00	-
Carpenter and Apprentice	8.00	21.00	-
Bricklayer	15.00	26.96	-
Millwright	15.00	27.22	19.75
Heavyduty Equipment Mechanic	16.50	27.00	18.50
Motor Vehicle Mechanic & Apprentice	8.00	22.00	18.00
Stationary Engineer, 1 <sup>st</sup> class	18.87	20.30	-
Truck Driver	8.00	16.17	-
Heavy Equipment Operator	12.00	19.96	-
Construction Labourer	8.25	21.72	-
Underground Miner*	14.50*	21.50*	18.00*
Logging Machine operator	15.00	24.00	-
Diamond Driller Helper	12.50	14.50	-
Underground Support Worker	14.50	20.48	-
Labourer, Wood Process	13.90	21.00	-
*Bonus may be paid on top of hourly rate			

Source: 1997 Human Resources Development Canada

## HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION

The Township on McGarry offers a varied selection of private dwellings. Mostly thirty to forty year old, two bedroom homes. Although new housing starts in the area are minimal at present, many homeowners are taking advantage of government assistance programs, and renovations are ongoing.

The average property value is approximately \$39,782.00.

Total number of dwellings, including homes, cottages and farm residential units is 412.

<b>By Period of Construction</b>	<b>Number of Houses Built</b>
Pre – 1946	160
1946 – 1960	195
1961 – 1970	20
1971 – 1980	20
1981 – 1990	15
1991 – 2006	2
Total	412

Source: 2006 Census of Population

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### Access by Highway

The Township of McGarry is conveniently located on the northern route of the Trans Canada Highway (#66). It borders on the Quebec/Ontario provincial boundary, 45 km west of Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec; only 175 km east of Timmins; 594 km north of Toronto.

### Access by Bus

Ontario Northland Busses out of Kirkland Lake. Charter bus services are available.

### Access by Air

Although there are no airports or airstrips in the Township of McGarry, there are docking facilities for float planes as well as three airports within 50 km (30 mi) of town.

At Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec, 45 kilometers away, direct flights to Montreal, Toronto and Quebec City are available with Air Canada, Inter-Canadian and Voyageur Airways. Charter Flights are also available from Kirkland Lake Airport.

### Access by Rail

The Ontario Northland Railway Station closest to McGarry is in Swastika near Kirkland Lake. It offers its clients freight and passenger service.

The ONR Rail line runs through the Municipality and there is the potential for a siding.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Health Care Facilities

Medical Center Timiskaming Health Unit	1 Nurse 1 Doctor 1 Nurse Practitioner Public Health, Mental Health, Rehabilitation and Home Care Programs
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### Law Enforcement

Ontario Provincial Police Staff Sergeant	Sgt. Don Goard (Kirkland Lake)
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### Fire Protection

Volunteer Fire Chief	Mr. R. Manseau
Volunteers	24
Stations	1
Vehicles	3

### Education

In Township of McGarry Primary	St. Louis Separate School(French)
In Town of Kirkland Lake Primary	Central Public School (French Immersion) Federal Public School Ecole Assomption/St-Joseph (Separee) Sacred Heart Separate School St-Jerome Separare School
Secondary	Kirkland Lake District Composite School École Secondaire Jean Vanier(Separée)
Post Secondary	Northern College of Applied Arts & Technology
In Town of Temiskaming Shores Post Secondary	New Liskeard College of Agriculture Technology

Northern College School of Mining  
Technology

## SUPPORT SERVICES

### Utilities

Telephone Northern Telephone

Electricity Hydro One

### Communications

**Television** CableVision  
Local channel-MCTV Sudbury  
TV Ontario

**Radio** Kirkland Lake CJKL FM 101.5  
New Liskeard CJTT 1230  
Rouyn-Noranda CHOA, CJMM, CKVM  
Timmins CJQQ, CKGB

**Newspapers** Northern News (Kirkland Lake) – 3 times weekly  
Timiskaming Speaker (New Liskeard) - weekly  
La Frontiere (Rouyn-Noranda) - weekly  
Le Temiscamien (Ville Marie) - weekly

### Financial

Virginiatown Desjardins Credit Union

Kirkland Lake Canada Trust Company  
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce  
Royal Bank of Canada  
Timiskaming Credit Union  
Toronto Dominion Bank

## **WATER AND SEWERAGE**

### Water

The Township of McGarry receives its water supply from a pump house drawing water from an underground source. The system is owned and operated by the Township. The pump house and water tower were built in 1996. It has a maximum capacity of 277 gallons per minute. The holding tank has a capacity of 250,000 gallons. Water treatment consists of chlorination only.

### Water rates

Residential	\$293.40/year
Business/Commercial	Negotiable depending on usage.

### Sewerage

Sewer Rates	\$256.68/year
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The Township is just completing a new sewage lagoon system which is designed to treat sewage for a population of 1000.

<u>Miscellaneous</u>	\$126.72/year
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(If paid before due date, a 10% discount is applied for water and sewerage)

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

The Township of McGarry has above average parks and recreation facilities. Programs are coordinated by the Recreation Committee.

The Virginiatown Community Center houses a multi-use arena with a seating capacity of 300, a gymnasium, a fitness centre, one ice surface, a basketball court and a comfortable meeting room.

The township has one tennis court, three ball fields, one of which has lights for night games, and three children's playgrounds and a marina.

The Township of McGarry also operates the McGarry Public Library, housed at the Community Centre in Virginiatown.

**MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION**

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