



NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

# Draft Community Profile

MUNICIPALITY OF WAWA, ONTARIO



**APM-REP-06144-0031**

**OCTOBER 2013**

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# DRAFT Community Profile Wawa, ON



DPR A Canada, 2012.

**OCTOBER 2013**

PREPARED FOR *Nuclear Waste  
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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

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AANDC	Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
CCFN	Chapleau Cree First Nation
CLFN	Constance Lake First Nation
CPI	Consumer Price Index
FONOM	Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities
NOMA	Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association
NSFC	Northeast Superior Forest Community
NWMO	Nuclear Waste Management Organization
OPP	Ontario Provincial Police
PMFN	Pic Mobert First Nation

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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This community profile has been prepared as part of the Municipality of Wawa's ('Wawa's) participation in the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) *Learn More* program. This program is offered to communities interested in exploring and potentially hosting the Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Project: the deep geological repository and Centre of Expertise which is required as part of Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

This document brings together information about the community, its history, its aspirations and current conditions. The information contained in this report is not an assessment of any kind; instead, it is intended to paint a picture of the community as it stands today. Such a picture can be a helpful starting point for community discussions about how future projects might be implemented in the community, and the extent to which a project might contribute to the well-being of the community over the long term, including the APM Project. The APM Project will only be implemented in a community that has reflected upon whether the project will contribute to community well-being and, after a series of detailed studies have been completed to confirm the safety and appropriateness of a site, has expressed an informed willingness to host the project. Over time, communities in the surrounding area will also need to become involved in the learning process.

This profile is organized to describe the characteristics of the community through five different perspectives or 'lenses':

- Human: Skills, knowledge and essential services supporting the well-being of the community;
- Economic: Monetary or financial resources supporting the well-being of the community;
- Infrastructure: Basic physical infrastructure supporting the well-being of the community;
- Social: Social and community activities in which people participate and the resources drawn upon to support well-being; and,
- Natural Environment: Nature and the natural environment important to well-being.

The characteristics of the community are referred to as "assets" throughout the report. This is intended to highlight their importance and pave the way for a broad and holistic discussion of how the community may be affected by the Adaptive Phased Management project, or other large project which the community may consider. This discussion of the characteristics of the community which support community life may also help the community identify other important aspects which should also be considered.

The information and data used to compile this profile was derived from a combination of sources, including:

- Publicly available documents and statistics;
- Data and information provided by the community;
- Insights derived from discussion with the Community Advisory Committee and through interviews with community leaders; and,
- Consultant visits and observations.

Although this profile contains references to other communities within the region (area), these references are intended only as a means to round out the community profile and provide some context for discussion.

This profile also includes Statistics Canada census data (collected at 5-year intervals, e.g., 1996, 2001, 2006, and most recently in 2011 [census and National Household Survey (NHS)<sup>1</sup>]). Where 2011 data is not available, it is noted that the 2006 data are now seven years old. In some cases data are limited by the level of detail available (e.g., data may be rounded<sup>2</sup> or suppressed by Statistics Canada due to small sample sizes), or the type of data collected in a given year. In some cases, supplementary information is available from other sources, including the engagement activities conducted for the Phase 1 Community Well-being Assessment.

The Global Non-Response Rate for the 2011 NHS “...combines complete non-response (household) and partial non-response (question) into a single rate. The value of the GNR is presented to users. A smaller GNR indicates a lower risk of non-response bias and as a result, lower risk of inaccuracy. The threshold used for estimates' suppression is a GNR of 50% or more.” 2011 NHS data for the Township of Nipigon has been suppressed by Statistics Canada for this reason. The 2011 NHS GNR for various geographies considered in the profile are:

- Municipality of Wawa GNR 36.8%<sup>3</sup>
- Algoma District GNR 32.3%<sup>4</sup>
- Ontario GNR 27.1%
- Canada – GNR 26.1%

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<sup>1</sup> Complementing the data collected by the census, the National Household Survey (NHS) is designed to provide information about people in Canada by their demographic, social and economic characteristics as well as provide information about the housing units in which they live. It is a voluntary survey (unlike the mandatory census). It should be noted that data captured in the 2011 NHS may be categorized differently than preceding census years (e.g. 1996, 2001, and 2006). The impact of this is particularly noticeable for data concerning mobility, education, industry, and occupation.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada applies a confidentiality procedure of random rounding to all Census data to avoid the possibility of associating statistical data with any identifiable individual. With this method all data, including totals and margins are randomly rounded either up or down to a multiple of “5” or in some cases “10”. As a result, the sum of a set of data may not add to the total, and percentages, which are calculated on rounded figures, do not necessarily add to 100%. The impact of this procedure is particularly noticeable on small counts. In effect, small numbers may lose their precision, and percentages calculated based on these numbers may not represent the proportion of the population indicated. In such cases, the percentages in a table may add to over and in some instances less than 100%, and the reader is advised to apply a cautionary note when interpreting the findings.

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada. 2013. Wawa, MU, Ontario (Code 3557076) (table). National Household Survey (NHS) Profile. 2011 National Household Survey. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 99-004-XWE. Ottawa. Released September 11, 2013. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

<sup>4</sup> Statistics Canada. 2013. Algoma, DIS, Ontario (Code 3557) (table). National Household Survey (NHS) Profile. 2011 National Household Survey. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 99-004-XWE. Ottawa. Released September 11, 2013. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

The NWMO *Learn More* program encourages collaboration and shared learning involving the NWMO and the community throughout all stages of reflection and decision-making. NWMO efforts to learn about and understand the community, its aspirations and current conditions will continue throughout the duration of Wawa's involvement in the *Learn More* program.



## 2.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE

This section of the profile includes detailed overviews of all five (5) Asset Categories as they relate to the community of Wawa. The Asset Categories are:

- Human
- Economic
- Infrastructure
- Social
- Natural Environment

### 2.1 OVERVIEW

The Municipality of Wawa, formerly Township of Michipicoten<sup>5</sup>, is an established urban community located in Northeastern Ontario. It is accessible by multiple transportation networks, including the Trans-Canada Highway and has linkages with surrounding communities<sup>6</sup>. It is also the main urban centre of Michipicoten Township which includes three Settlement Areas: Wawa, Michipicoten River Village and Michipicoten Harbour<sup>7</sup>.

This section of the profile provides an overview of Wawa. The key components described here are:

- Location;
- Land Size and Uses; and,
- Vision and Strategic Plan.

#### 2.1.1 LOCATION

The Municipality is located approximately 226 kilometres north of Sault Ste. Marie at the intersection of the TransCanada Highway and Highway 101 (see Figure 1 and Figure 2). It is situated in Northern Ontario on the shores of Lake Superior and Wawa Lake. The Municipality's Settlement Areas are of varying distances from the Lake Superior shoreline. The Wawa Settlement Area is the only settlement area to be situated on the Wawa Lake shoreline, approximately 7 kilometres northeast of Lake Superior while the Michipicoten River Village, the Michipicoten Harbour, and the Long Beach – Sandy Beach Settlement Areas are situated along the Lake Superior shoreline<sup>8</sup>.

Figure 1: Location of Wawa



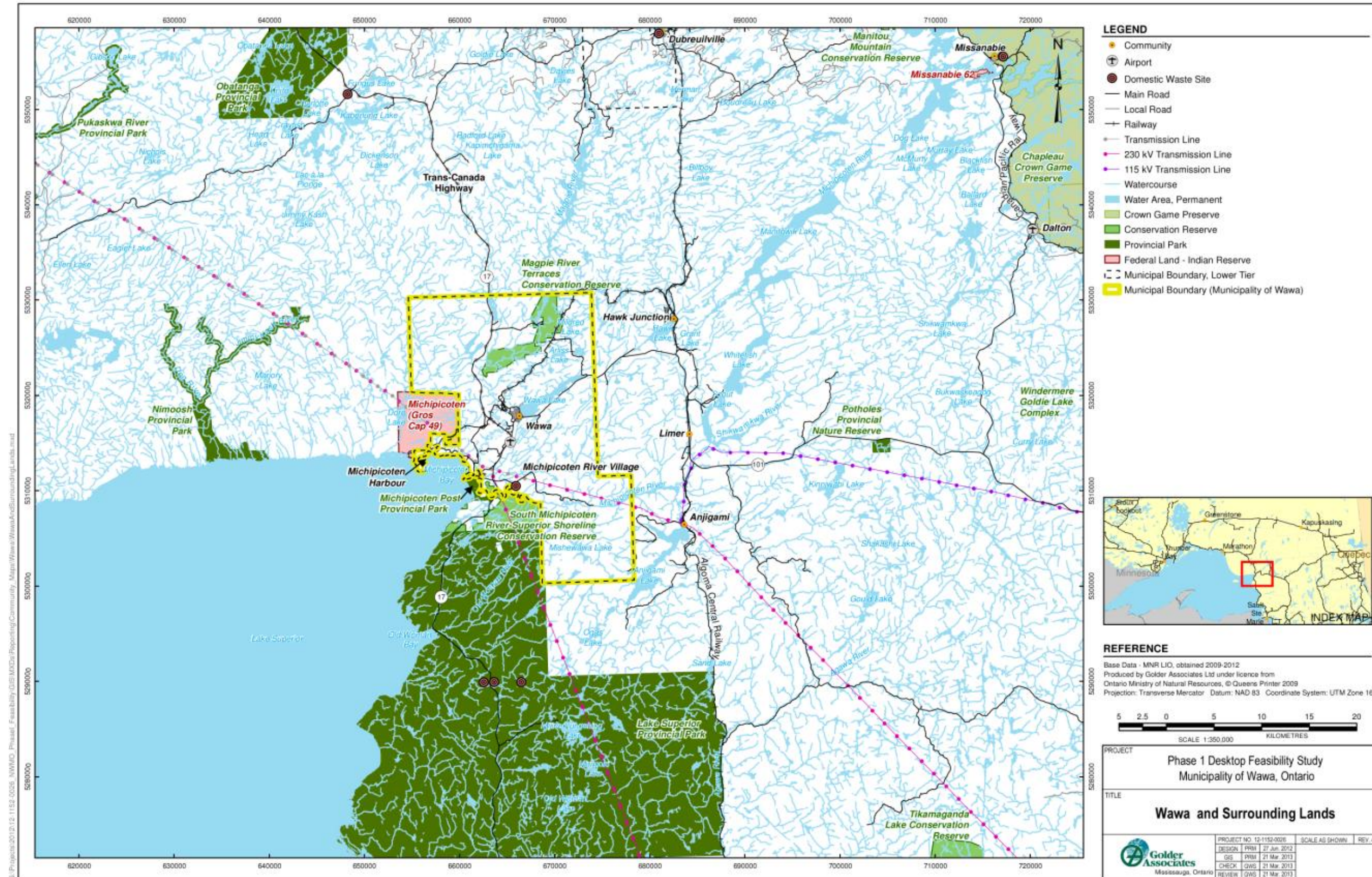
<sup>5</sup> Ontario Civilian Police Commission. August 2010. *Application for consent to abolish the Wawa Police Service*. Website. <http://www.ocpc.ca/files/OBY92010JT100313211464011O537M.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010. *Wawa Community Profile, 2010-2011*.

<sup>7</sup> Geofirma Engineering Ltd. October 2011. *Initial Screening for Siting a Deep Geological Repository for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel*. Prepared for NWMO.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

Figure 2: Wawa and Surrounding Lands



Source: Golder Associates Ltd. 2013. *Wawa and Surrounding Lands*.

### 2.1.2 LAND SIZE AND USES

The Municipality occupies a total land mass of 583 km<sup>29</sup> and includes a diverse urban structure<sup>10</sup>. Land uses in the Municipality vary by Settlement Area and include the following designations: Residential, Commercial, Employment, Institutional, Airport, Hazard Lands, Open Space, and Rural Area<sup>11</sup>.

### 2.1.3 VISION AND STRATEGIC PLAN

The Wawa Community Adjustment Committee has emphasized the importance of preparing a Strategic Plan; a plan is currently in the process of being prepared<sup>12</sup>. There are currently multiple vision statements: the *Municipality of Wawa Official Plan* (2010), *Wawa 2015: Building Our Future* (2010) and *New Beginnings: The Municipality of Wawa Sustainability Plan, Final Draft* (2010)<sup>13</sup>. The vision statements differ in scope, with the Official Plan vision containing a comprehensive statement of how to develop and prosper going forward, while the *Wawa 2015* and *New Beginnings* vision statements are specific and action-oriented in nature. However, each vision has a role in guiding the future development of the Municipality.

The 2010 *Municipality of Wawa Official Plan* is a comprehensive document divided into five sections: Vision, Land Use Designations, General Environment Policies, General Development Policies, and Plan Implementation and Administration. While the visioning statement acknowledges the Municipality's resiliency over the years, it also discusses the following:

*The goals and policies within this Plan promote and value diversity, partnership, entrepreneurial spirit, and working collectively to achieve and enjoy success as a community. Through the Plan, there will be potential and opportunity for sustainable economic and social growth and development in natural resources, recreation and tourism, industry, culture, skilled trades, alternative energy, education and information technology.*<sup>14</sup>

The Plan is focused on three principles of sustainability:

- Environment;
- Economy; and,
- Socio-cultural fabric.

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<sup>9</sup> This was provided by a municipal official at the Nuclear Waste Community Advisory Committee meeting held on May 30, 2012. However, the stated land mass of 583 square kilometers is in conflict with the reported land mass of 420 square kilometers by Statistics Canada.

<sup>10</sup> Meridian Planning Consultants Inc. 2010. *Official Plan for the Municipality of Wawa*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa. March 2013. "Municipality of Wawa Strategic Planning Process". Michipicoten Magpie 9(1): 9.

<sup>13</sup> Municipality of Wawa. January 2010. *New Beginnings: The Municipality of Wawa Sustainability Plan 2010-2015, Final Draft*.

<sup>14</sup> Meridian Planning Consultants Inc. 2010. *Official Plan for the Municipality of Wawa*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

The *Wawa 2015: Building Our Future* (2010) outlines the Wawa Community Adjustment Committee's recommendations (pertaining to sectors) for consideration by the community and Municipal Council regarding Wawa's Strategic Plan. Each sector recommendation is followed by a strategy plan and objectives to achieve the strategy. These recommendations are based on the following sectors<sup>15</sup>:

- Government services and non-government organizations;
- Environment;
- Municipal government;
- Tourism and recreation;
- Education and training;
- Mining;
- Forestry;
- Agriculture;
- Transportation;
- Retail and Services;
- Health;
- Social services; and,
- Information technology.

Below is the vision statement from *New Beginnings: The Municipality of Wawa Sustainability Plan, Final Draft*:

*To provide the best possible municipal services through an environment which focuses on an attainable quality of life for the Residents of the Municipality of Wawa.*<sup>16</sup>

This vision has been woven into other community documents which identify a focus on environmental, economic and social sustainability by providing specific goals addressing the following:

- The natural environment;
- Growth and settlement;
- Rural lands; and,
- Economic development.

## 2.2 HUMAN ASSETS

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Human Assets within a community include the skills and knowledge inherent in a community. They also include the ability of a community to provide its residents with access to other skills, knowledge and essential services that are fundamental to maintaining community well-being, quality of life or a desired standard of living.

This section of the profile outlines human assets for Wawa. The key human asset characteristics are:

- Population Size and Demographics;
- Skills and Labour;
- Education;
- Educational Attainment; and,
- Health and Safety Facilities and Services.

<sup>15</sup> Wawa Community Adjustment Committee. July 2010. *Wawa 2015 'Building Our Future' Wawa Community Adjustment Committee Report and Recommendations*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

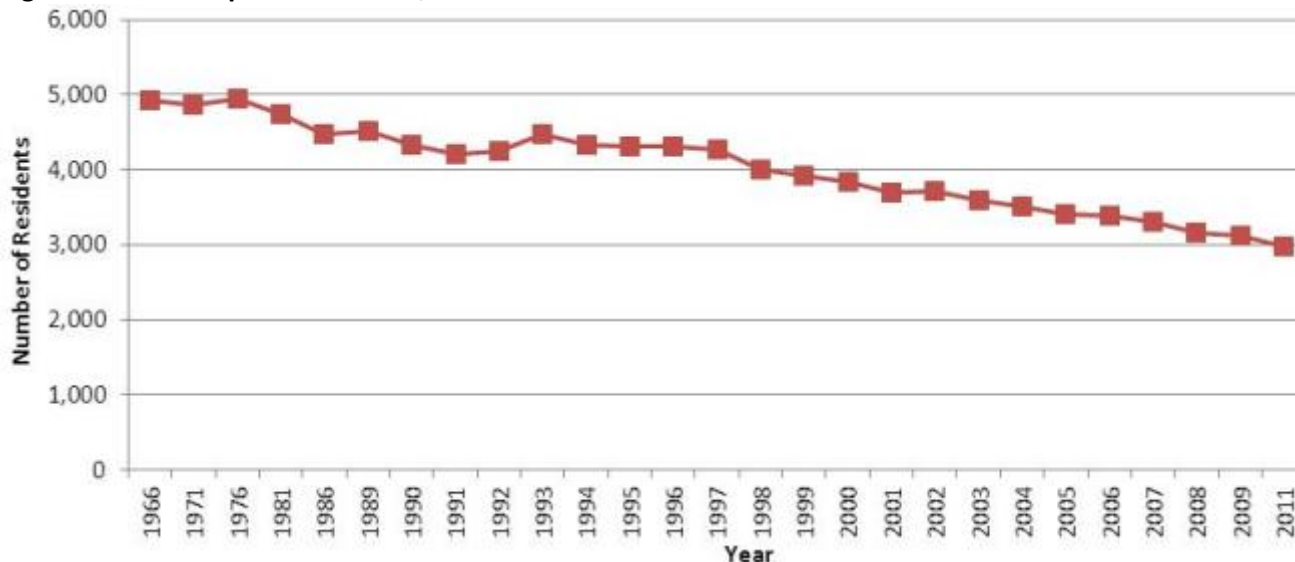
<sup>16</sup> Municipality of Wawa. January 2010. *New Beginnings: The Municipality of Wawa Sustainability Plan 2010-2015, Final Draft*.

2.2.1 HUMAN ASSET INDICATORS

2.2.1.1 POPULATION SIZE AND DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the Economic Development Corporation of Wawa and based on Statistics Canada data, the Municipality’s population has been steadily declining, beginning in 1981. Since 1986, the population has declined by 33%<sup>17</sup>. In 2011, the Municipality’s current population was reported to be approximately 2,975 residents<sup>18</sup>. The Municipality’s population had been continually declining until 2006 (see Figure 3 and Table 1 below).

Figure 3: Wawa Population Trends, 1966 – 2011



Source: Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012a. *Wawa Community Profile, 2012*; Insight gained from a member of the Superior East Community Futures Development Corporation; Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profiles*.

Table 1: Wawa Population Dynamics, 1996 – 2011

Time Period	Wawa Population (Change from Previous Census)
1996	4,145 (-0.2%)
2001	3,668 (-11.5%)
2006	3,204 (-12.6)
2011	2,975 (-7.1%)

Source: Statistics Canada. (1997, 2002, 2007, 2012). *Michipicoten, Township Community Profiles*.

According to Statistics Canada’s Census figures, the total population of Wawa has declined by 39.7% since 1976 and 28.3% since 1996 (see Table 1). The largest period of decline occurred between the 2001 and 2006 Census periods where the total population was reported to have declined by 12.6% compared to 7.1% in the following Census period. The magnitude of population decline has increased across the Census periods to 2006, then

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

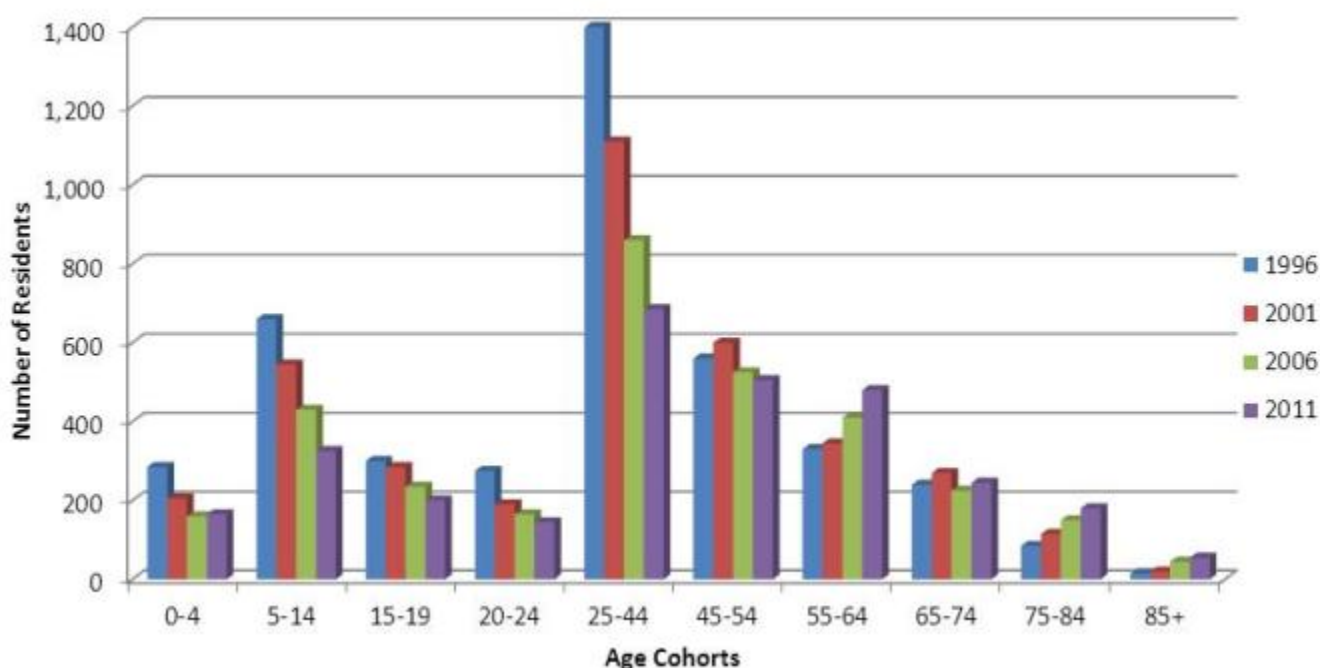
<sup>18</sup> Statistics Canada. 2012. *Wawa, Municipality Community Profile*. Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>.

reduced in 2011. The population decline began in the 1980s due to changes in the local economy with the decline in the mining and forestry sectors.

**Demographic Trends**

Figure 4 below provides the Municipality’s total population by age group for the period 1996 to 2011. The figure illustrates that within this timeframe, the largest percentage of the population falls within the 25 to 44 age cohort (37.9% in 1996; 30.1% in 2001; 26.8% in 2006; 22.9% in 2011); however, this group has experienced a decrease in numbers over time, while the 55-64 (13.5% in 1996 to 16.9% in 2011) and 65-74 (7.8% in 1996 to 16.1% in 2011) age groups have shown an increasing trend in their numbers. While the percentage of individuals in the 0-4 age groups has declined slowly, the percentage of residents over the age of 75 years more than doubled from 6.8% in 1996 to 16.0% in 2011.

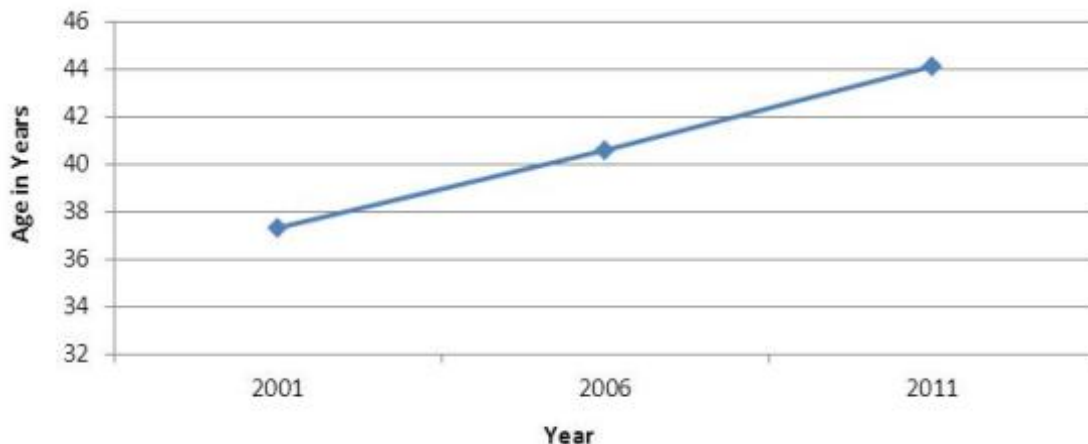
**Figure 4: Wawa Age Trends, 1996 – 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2008, 2012. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profiles*.

As evidenced by Figure 4 above, an increasing proportion of the Municipality’s total population is over 45 years of age indicating an aging trend. This aging trend is supported by an increasing median age as well. Figure 5 illustrates that between the 2006 and 2011 Census periods, the median age of the Municipality increased by 3.5 years, to 44.1 years in 2011 as compared to 40.6 years in 2006.

**Figure 5: Wawa Median Age Trends, 2001 – 2011**

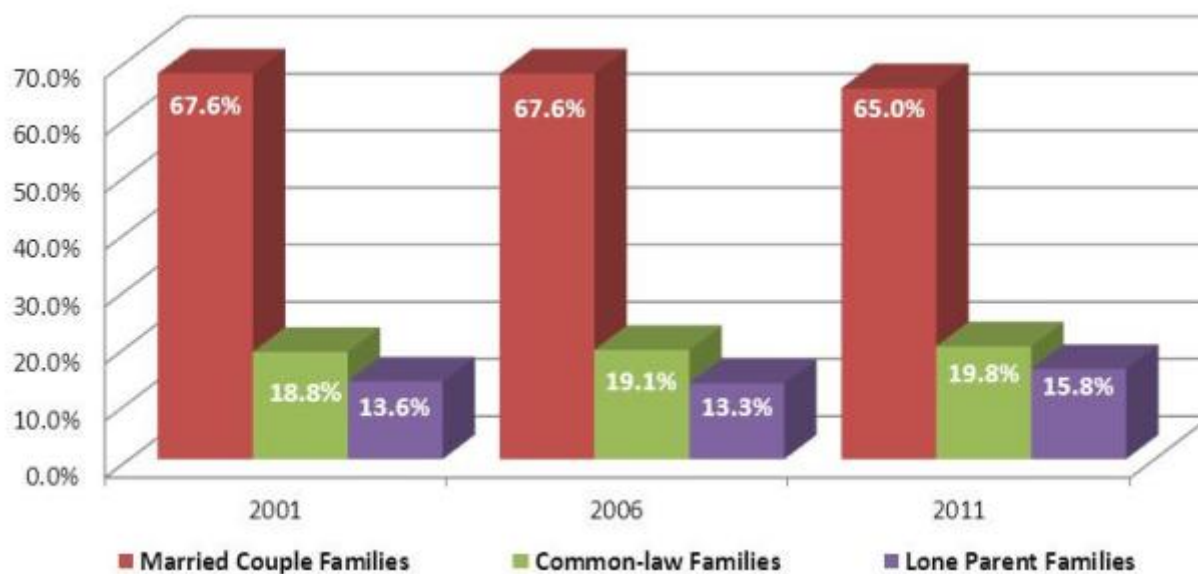


Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007, 2012. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profiles*.

**Household Characteristics**

Figure 6 below illustrates family characteristics for the Municipality’s total population in 2001, 2006 and 2011. For these years, the majority (67.6%, 67.6 and 65.0%, respectively) of the Municipality’s households were categorized as married couple families<sup>19</sup>. Common-law families were second to married couple families for the same period. Between 2001 and 2006, the number of married couple families remained constant, while common-law families increased slightly and lone parent households decreased slightly. In 2011, the number of married couple families decreased, while the number of common-law and lone-parent families both increased marginally.

**Figure 6: Wawa Family Characteristics, 2001 – 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007, 2012. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profiles*.

<sup>19</sup> Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profiles*.

Table 2 below identifies the Municipality's average family size by family composition. Between 2001 and 2006 there was a slight decrease in the average family size of all families except common-law families (which remained the same size) and male lone parent families (which increased slightly in size). This could indicate trends of aging and out-migration as family members increasingly leave the Municipality in search of better employment opportunities.

**Table 2: Wawa Household Characteristics, 2001 – 2011**

Household Characteristics	2001	2006	2011 <sup>20</sup>
	Average Persons Per Family Grouping – Number (No.)		
All Census Families	N/A <sup>21</sup>	2.9	2.8
Married Couple Families	3.0	2.9	N/A
Common-Law Families	2.9	2.9	N/A
Lone Parent Families	2.7	2.4	N/A
Female Lone Parent Families	2.7	2.5	N/A
Male Lone Parent Families	2.3	2.5	N/A

Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007, 2012. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profiles*.

### **Mobility Status**

Mobility status refers to the movement of individuals over a period of time. The Municipality is comprised of a relatively stable population, with the majority of residents being categorized as non-movers. However, it was noted that an increasing number of residents have moved away from the municipality between 2001 and 2006, indicating a trend of elevated out-migration.

Table 3 below illustrates mobility status for Wawa residents for the 2001 and 2006 Census periods. In 2001, a majority of residents (82.1%) were categorized as non-movers (i.e., residents who have not moved from the Municipality over the past one to five years). Over a one year period, more than 82.1% of residents were non-movers, compared to 56.1% of residents over a five year period. In 2006, 84.5% of residents were non-movers over a one year period, compared to 63.1% over a five year period.

<sup>20</sup> Due to data limitations, average persons per family grouping cannot be included for the 2011 Census of Population.

<sup>21</sup> The average persons per family grouping for all census families is unavailable for the 2001 Census of Population.



**Table 3: Wawa One and Five Year Mobility Status, 2001 – 2006**

Population Type	Mobility Status – Place of Residence	Total	
<b>Total Population (2001)</b>	<b>Mobility Status of 1 Year – Number (No.)</b>	3,610	
	Lived at the same address 1 year ago	2,965	82.1%
	Lived within the same province or territory 1 year ago, but changed addresses within the same province or territory	640	17.7%
	Lived in a different province, territory or country 1 year ago	0	0.0%
	<b>Mobility Status of 5 Years – Number (No.)</b>	3,450	
	Lived at the same address 5 years ago	1,935	56.1%
	Lived within the same province or territory 5 years ago, but changed addresses within the same province or territory	1,405	40.7%
	Lived in a different province , territory or country 5 years ago	110	3.2%
<b>Total Population (2006)</b>	<b>Mobility Status of 1 Year – Number (No.)</b>	3,155	
	Lived at the same address 1 year ago	2,665	84.5%
	Lived within the same province or territory 1 year ago, but changed addresses within the same province or territory	455	14.4%
	Lived in a different province, territory or country 1 year ago	30	1.0%
	<b>Mobility Status of 5 Years – Number (No.)</b>	3,025	
	Lived at the same address 5 years ago	1,910	63.1%
	Lived within the same province or territory 5 years ago, but changed addresses within the same province or territory	1,055	34.9%
	Lived in a different province , territory or country 5 years ago	60	2.0%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profiles*.

Table 4 below illustrates the mobility status for Wawa residents for the 2011 National Household Survey census period. In 2011, the majority of residents (94.6%) were categorized as non-movers (i.e., residents who have not moved from the Municipality over the past one year period), compared to 70.7% over a five year period.

**Table 4: Wawa One and Five Year Mobility Status, 2011<sup>22</sup>**

CENSUS YEAR	WAWA MOBILITY STATUS – PLACE OF RESIDENCE	TOTAL	
Total Population (2011)	<b>Mobility Status of 1 Year – Number (No.)</b>	2,955	
		<b>Number (No.) / Percent %</b>	
	Non-movers	2,795	94.6%
	Movers	165	5.6%
	Non-migrant	105	3.6%
	Migrants	60	2.0%
	Internal migrants	60	2.0%
	Intra-provincial migrants	60	2.0%
	Inter-provincial migrants	0	-
	External migrants	0	-
	<b>Mobility Status of 5 Years – Number (No.)</b>	2,970	
		<b>Number (No.) / Percent %</b>	
	Non-movers	2,100	70.7%
	Movers	695	23.4%
	Non-migrant	425	14.3%
	Migrants	265	8.9%
	Internal migrants	265	8.9%
Intra-provincial migrants	225	7.6%	
Inter-provincial migrants	40	1.3%	
External migrants	0	-	

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. Wawa, MU, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.

Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

### 2.2.1.2 SKILLS AND LABOUR

In 2006, the labour force consisted of 1,675 individuals aged 15 years and older. More than 80% of Municipality residents were of working age (aged 15 years and older). In 2006, the Municipality had an unemployment rate<sup>23</sup> of 6.6%<sup>24</sup> and a high underemployment rate of 39.9%<sup>25</sup>. Both unemployment and underemployment present economic difficulties to the individual and community.

<sup>22</sup> Please note, survey data captured in the 2011 NHS may be categorized differently than preceding census years 1996, 2001, and 2006. The impact of this is particularly noticeable when reading data concerning mobility, education, industry, and occupation.

<sup>23</sup> According to Statistics Canada, unemployment rate refers to the number of persons unemployed in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to the Census Day (i.e., the date the Census was conducted), expressed as a percentage of the total population 15 years or older excluding institutional residents. Statistics Canada. 2007. *2006 Census Dictionary – 2006 Census Year*. Website: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/dict/pdf/92-566-eng.pdf>.

<sup>24</sup> Statistics Canada. 2007. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profile*. Website: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/index.cfm?Lang=E>.

<sup>25</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010. *Wawa Community Profile 2010-2011*.

**Table 5: Wawa Labour Force Activity, 2006**

Labour Force Activity	2006	
	Number (No.)	Percentage (%)
<b>Total population 15 years and older</b>	2,600	-
In the labour force	1,675	64.4%
Employed	1,565	93.4 %
Unemployed	110	6.6%
Not in the labour force	920	35.4%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. Michipicoten, *Township Community Profile*.

In 2011, Wawa's labour force comprised approximately 66.6% of the total population: an increase of 2.2 percentage points from the 2006 census year. Of those in the labour force, 92.0% were employed, while 8.0% were unemployed (Table 6).

**Table 6: Wawa Labour Force Activity, 2011**

Labour Force Activity	2011	
	Number (No.)	Percentage (%)
<b>Total population 15 years and older</b>	2,460	-
In the labour force	1,625	66.6%
Employed	1,495	92.0%
Unemployed	130	8.0%
Not in the labour force	835	33.9%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. Wawa, MU, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.

### **Labour Force by Occupation**

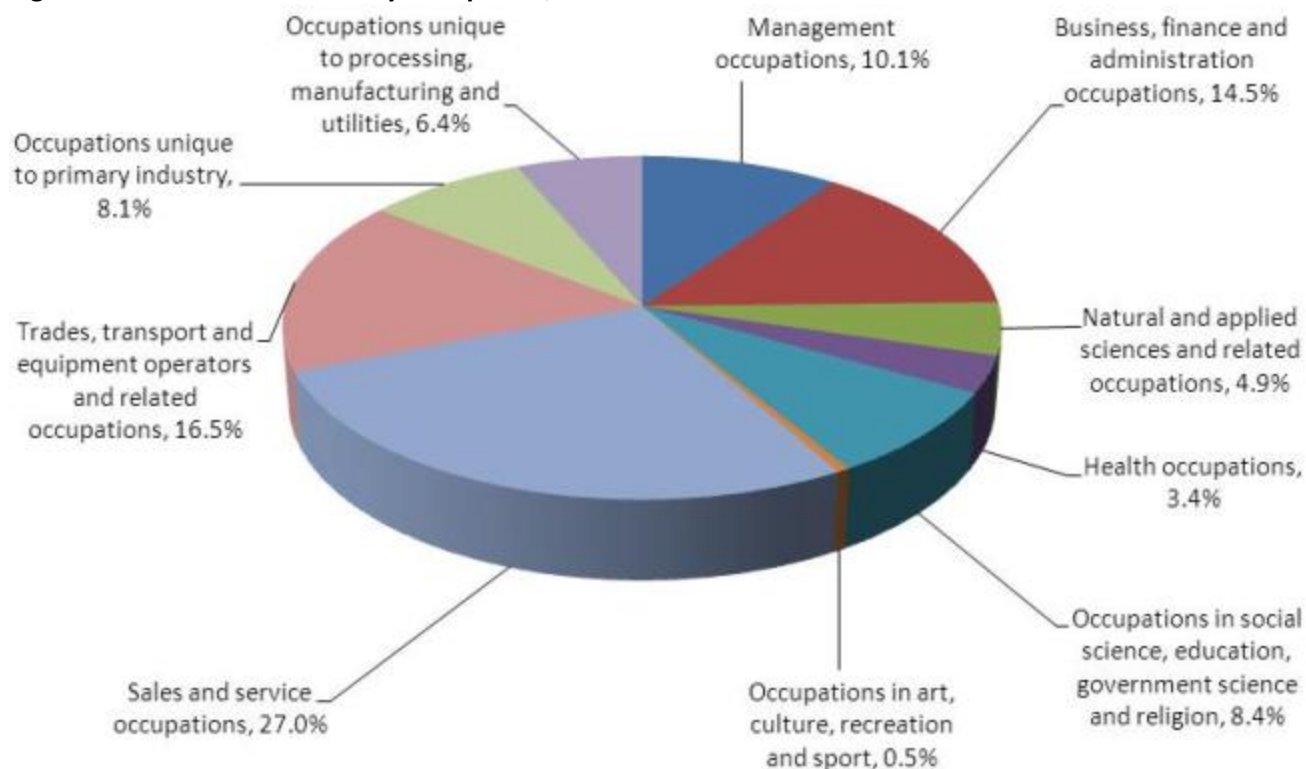
Figure 7, Figure 8 and Figure 9 below provide an overview of the Municipality's total population aged 15 years and older in the labour force by occupation for 2001, 2006, and 2011. Throughout these census periods, the *sales and services occupations* category has consistently been the largest.

### **Labour Force by Occupation, 2001<sup>26</sup>**

Figure 7 below indicates that residents worked primarily in the *sales and service occupations* (27.0%) in 2001. When disaggregated by gender, males worked primarily in *trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations* (29.7%), while women worked primarily *sales and service occupations* (41.0%) in 2001.

<sup>26</sup> The 2001 Census of Population labour force by occupation categories are based on the National Occupational Classification for Statistics 2001 (NOC-S 2001). The 2001 Census of Population labour force by occupation categorizations is based on a series of 540 unit groups, 140 minor groups and 10 broad occupational categories are based on National Occupational Classification for Statistics (NOC-S). The 2001 and 2006 Census of Population categorize labour force by occupation based on the "kind of job a person holds and the description of his or her duties". Statistics Canada. 2007. *2006 Census Dictionary: Census Year 2006*. Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/dict/pdf/92-566-eng.pdf>.

Figure 7: Wawa Labour Force by Occupation, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada. 2002. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profile*.

### **Labour Force by Occupation, 2006<sup>27</sup>**

In 2006, Municipality residents were able to access local employment opportunities in multiple industries<sup>28</sup> (see Figure 8). The largest number of residents reported working in the *sales and service* occupations (24.6%) followed by *trades* occupations (19.8%).

While underemployment is an issue, employers in emerging sectors identify it as an opportunity to provide training opportunities and recruitment for industries that are better suited to an employee's qualifications<sup>29</sup>.

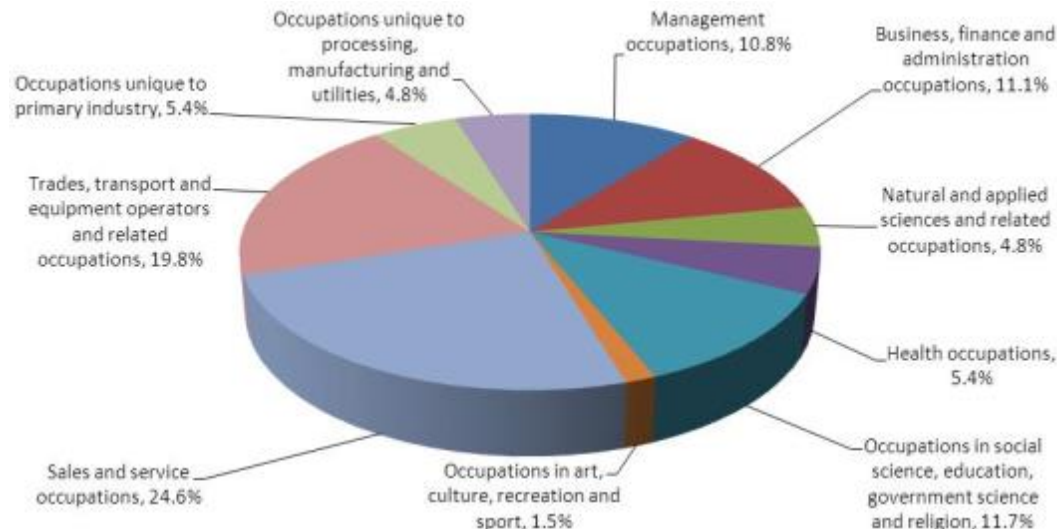
When disaggregated by gender, males worked primarily in *trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations* (34.8%) and *sales and services occupations* (18.5%), while women worked primarily in *sales and service occupations* (32.9%) and *business, finance and administration occupations* (19.5%) in 2006.

<sup>27</sup> The 2006 Census of Population labour force by occupation categories are based on the National Occupational Classification for Statistics 2006 (NOC-S 2006). This classification uses the same categories found in the 2001 Census of Population and National Occupational Classification for Statistics 2001 (NOC-S 2001). The 2006 Census of Population labour force by occupation categorizations is based on a series of 540 unit groups, 140 minor groups and 10 broad occupational categories. *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> Labour force by Occupation for the 2001 and 2006 Census of Population are categorized using industry categories based on National Occupational Classification for Statistics (NOC-S). The 2001 and 2006 Census of Population categorize labour force by occupation based on the "kind of job a person holds and the description of his or her duties". Statistics Canada. 2007. *2006 Census Dictionary: Census Year 2006*. Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/dict/pdf/92-566-eng.pdf>.

<sup>29</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010. *Wawa Community Profile 2010-2011*.

**Figure 8: Wawa Labour Force by Occupation, 2006**

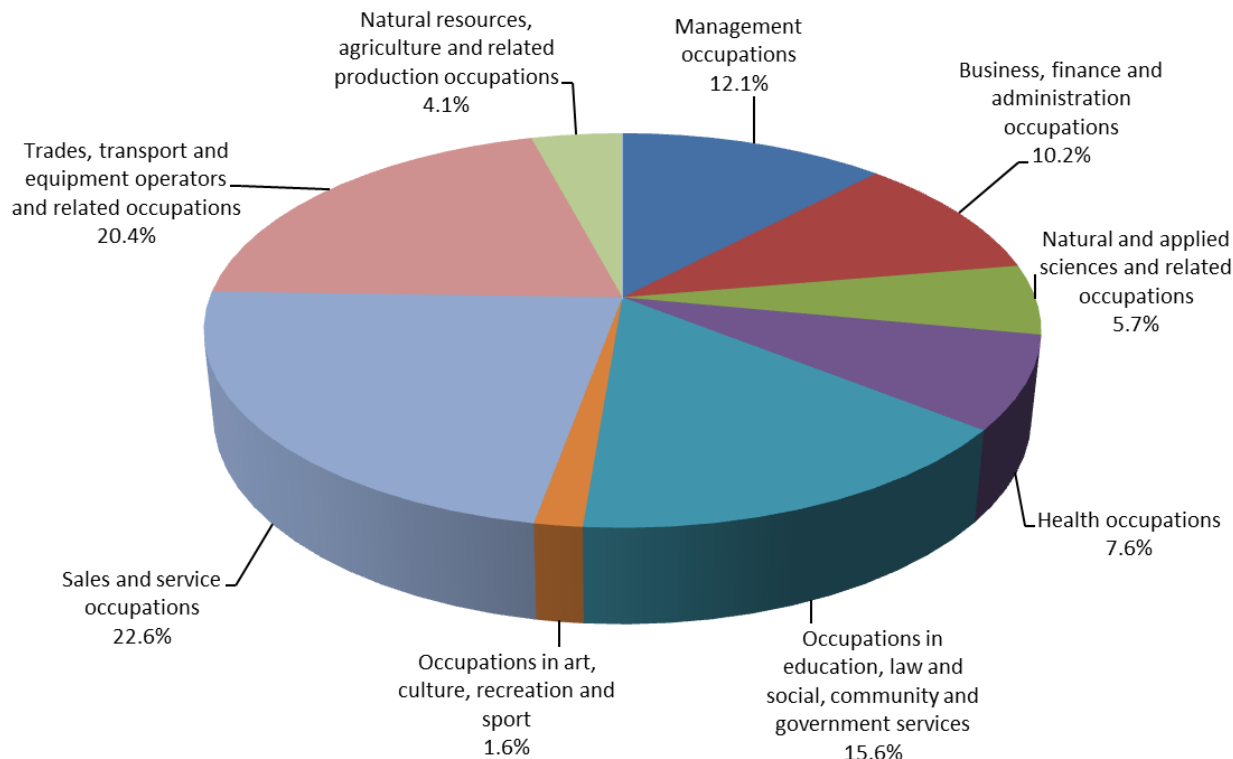


Source: Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010a. *Wawa Community Profile 2010-2011*.

**Labour Force by Occupation, 2011**

In 2011, Wawa’s largest percentage of labour force worked in the *sales and service occupations* (22.6%) followed by *trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations* (20.4%) (Figure 9). During the three census periods presented (2001, 2006, and 2011), these two labour force categories have been dominant in Wawa.

**Figure 9: Wawa Labour Force by Occupation, 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. Wawa, MU, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.

**Labour Force by Industry**

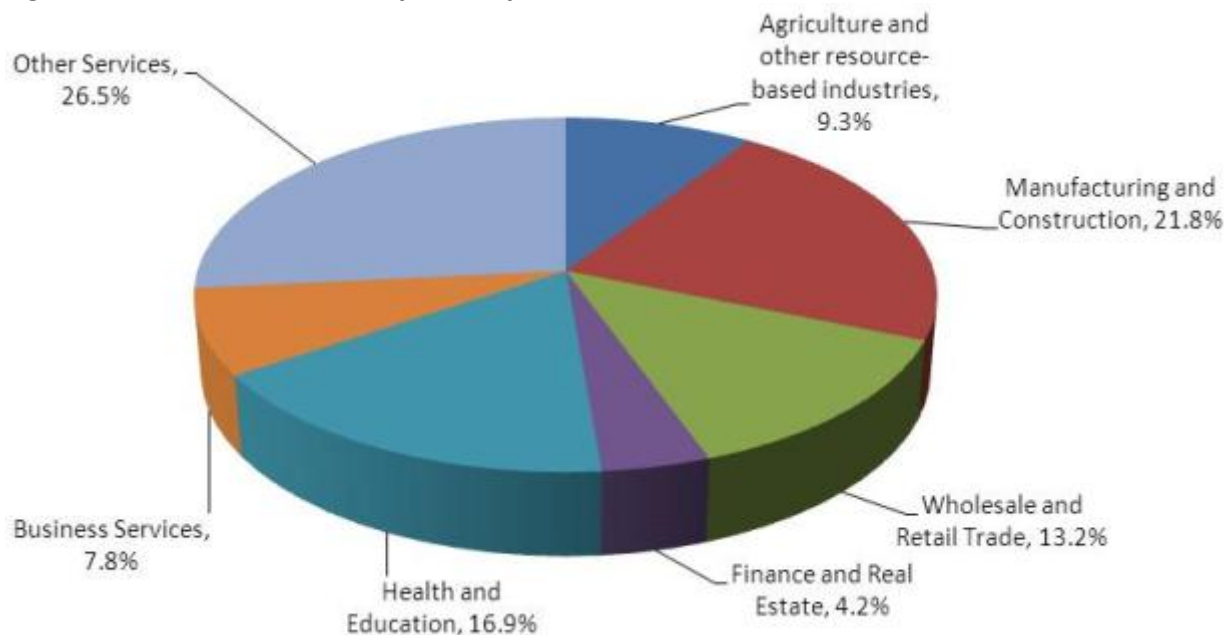
Figure 10, Figure 11, and Figure 12 below provide an overview of the Municipality’s total population aged 15 years and older in the labour force by industry for 2001, 2006, and 2011.

**Labour Force by Industry, 2001<sup>30</sup>**

In 2001, Municipality residents worked primarily in *other services* (e.g., Repair and maintenance, personal and laundry services, private households, and religious/civic/professional organizations) (26.5%), *manufacturing and construction* (21.8%), and *health and education* (16.9%) industries (see Figure 10). When disaggregated by gender, men worked primarily in *manufacturing and construction* (38.8%) and *other services* (20.1%), while women worked mainly in *other services* (34.0%) and *health and education* (29.3%) in 2001.

<sup>30</sup> The 2001 and 2006 Census of Population utilize labour force by industry categorizes based on the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). This classification is used to enable comparability between NAFTA trading partners. According to Statistics Canada, labour force by industry categories are defined as “the general nature of the business carried out in the establishment where a person worked”. Statistics Canada. (2007). *2006 Census Dictionary: Census Year 2006*. Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/dict/pdf/92-566-eng.pdf>.

Figure 10: Wawa Labour Force by Industry, 2001



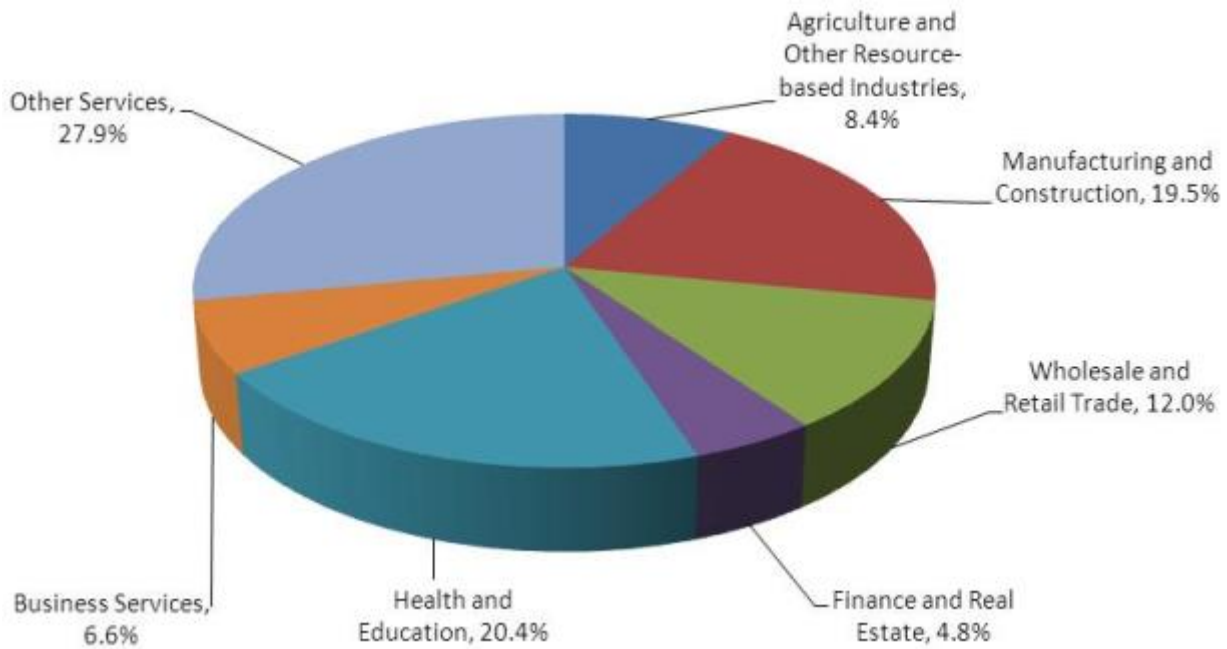
Source: Statistics Canada. 2002. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profile*.

**Labour Force by Industry, 2006**

Figure 11 below indicates those industries in the Municipality with the greatest labour force activity. In 2006, the three industries<sup>31</sup> with the largest labour force activity were *other services*, *health and education* and *manufacturing and construction* (27.9%, 20.4% and 19.5%, respectively). When disaggregated by gender, men worked mainly in *other services* (24.5%) and *manufacturing and construction* (22.3%), while women worked mainly in *other services* (32.3%) and *health care and social services* (23.5%) in 2006.

<sup>31</sup> Labour force by industry is categorized based on the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). This classification is used to enable comparability between NAFTA trading partners of Canada, the United States of America and Mexico. According to Statistics Canada, labour force by industry categories are defined as “the general nature of the business carried out in the establishment where a person worked”. *Ibid*

**Figure 11: Wawa Labour Force by Industry, 2006**



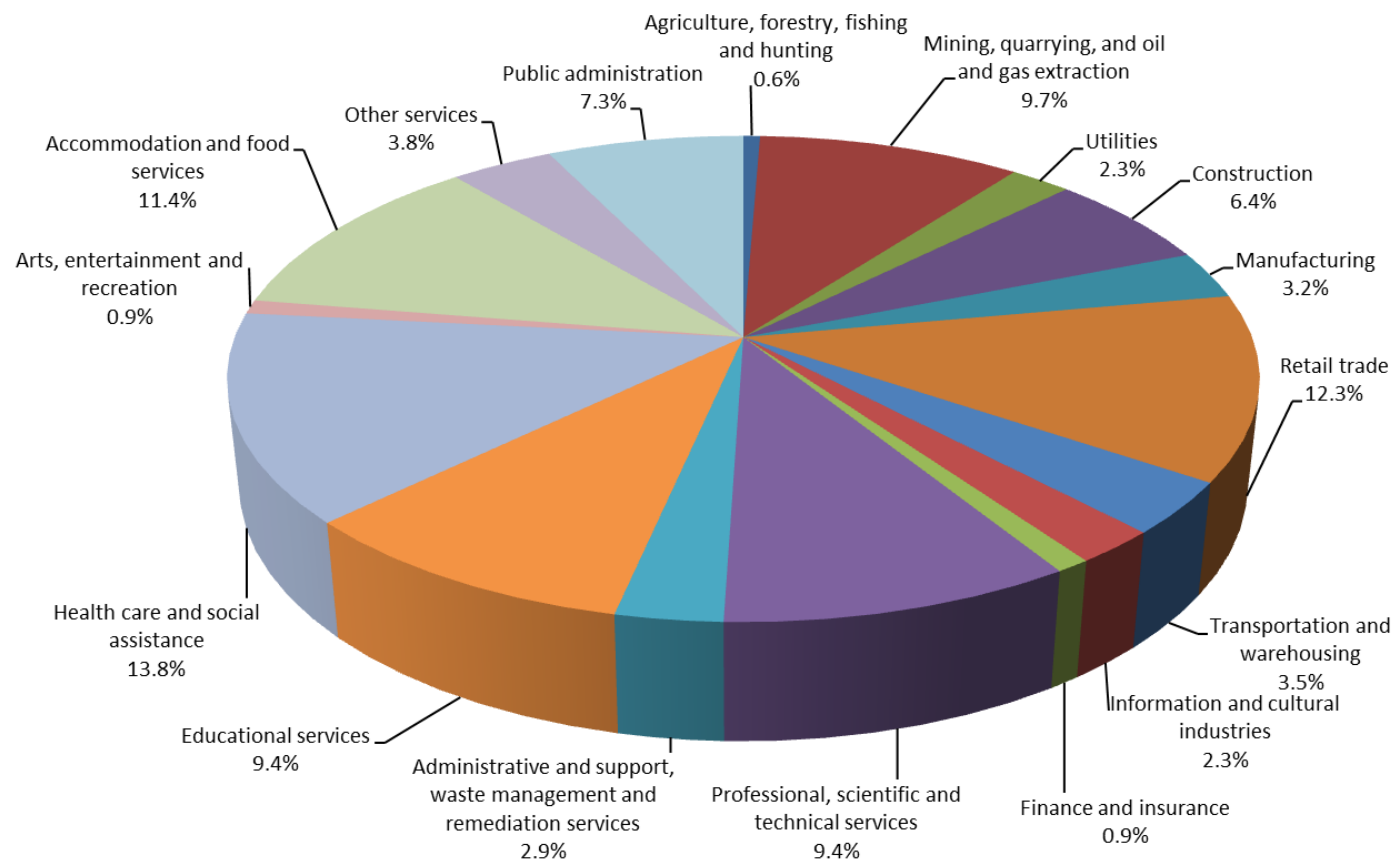
Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profile*.

**Labour Force by Industry, 2011**

Figure 12 shows Wawa’s labour force activity by industry in 2011. The National Household Survey indicated that the largest percentage of residents in the labour force work in the *health care and social assistance* industry (13.8%) and *retail trade* (12.3%) industries.



Figure 12: Wawa Labour Force by Industry, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. Wawa, MU, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile

### 2.2.1.3 EDUCATION

The Municipality is currently serviced by six schools providing students with education from junior kindergarten up to grade 12 (see Table 7 below). Confederation College also has a Wawa Campus (see Figure 14) providing a range of programs and degree opportunities<sup>32</sup>. Wawa is also in close proximity to additional post-

Figure 13: École publique de l'Escalade



Source: DPRA Canada, 2012.

<sup>32</sup> Confederation College has many campuses in Northern Ontario, including the Northshore Campus in Marathon. The Northshore Campus offers a number of programs, including training-specific programs such as the 6 week intensive Hard Rock Miner course and intensive 5 week Underground Diamond Driller Helper course. In 2010, three Michipicoten First Nation residents graduated the Hard Rock Miner course and were employed by Wesdome Gold Mines Limited, a major private sector employer for the Municipality. Michipicoten First Nation. 2010. *Band Business, Michipicoten First Nation Newsletter, March/April 2010.*

secondary educational opportunities provided by Lakehead University, Confederation College, Algoma University, Sault College and Northern College<sup>33</sup>. In addition, Contact North and the Algoma Literacy Coalition provide continuing education and adult learning programming options<sup>34</sup>.

**Figure 14: Confederation College Wawa Campus**



Table 7 below provides a list of the schools servicing the Municipality, as well as enrollment. Four elementary schools (Sir James Dunn Elementary School, St. Joseph French Immersion Catholic School, École publique de l'Escalade and École Élémentaire St. Joseph<sup>35</sup>) provide students with education up to grade 8. Two secondary schools (Michipicoten High School and École Secondaire St. Joseph) provide students with education up to grade 12.

**Table 7: Wawa School Facilities and Enrollment**

School	Student Enrollment						
	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
École Élémentaire St. Joseph (JK-8)	180	148	148	150	132	174	134
St. Joseph's School (JK-8)	129	116	92	86	68	61	54
Sir James Dunn (JK-8)_	226	200	171	163	160	158	154 <sup>36</sup>
École Publique de l'Escalade (JK-8)	Not Built	22	20	12	13	15	11
École Carrefour Supérieur Nord <sup>37</sup> (9-12) (closed)	66	62	56	48	4	N/A	N/A

<sup>33</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d. *Wawa: Passionate People, Perfect Place!*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa and the Economic Development Corporation of Wawa.

<sup>34</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012a. *Wawa Community Profile, 2012*.

<sup>35</sup> The École St. Joseph elementary school is co-located with École St. Joseph secondary school. The schools operate out of the same building; however, provide differing programming. Conseil Scolaire Catholique du Nouvel-Ontario. (n.d.). *Nos Ecoles*. Website. [http://www.nouvelon.ca/nos\\_ecoles/index.php](http://www.nouvelon.ca/nos_ecoles/index.php).

<sup>36</sup> Enrollment projections provided for Sir James Dunn Public School and Michipicoten High School indicate school enrollments have been in decline since 2004. Based on enrollment projections received to date, the Algoma District School Board anticipates school enrollment to further decline up to 2020.

<sup>37</sup> Current information indicates that École Carrefour Supérieur Nord, which provided programming for grades 9-12, has closed.

School	Student Enrollment						
	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
École Secondaire St. Joseph (9-12)	Not Built	19	31	42	45	N/A	60
Michipicoten High School (9-12)	293	282	240	216	206	N/A	151

Source: Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010a. *Wawa Community Profile 2010-2011*; Insight provided by a member of the Superior East Community Futures Development Corporation, Algoma District School Board and Conseil Scolaire Publique de Grand Nord d'Ontario; Information provided by discussions in the Community, May, 2012.

Table 7 illustrates annual fluctuations and a general trend of declining school enrolments at all schools in the Municipality. Since 2002, enrolments have declined significantly for Sir James Dunn Elementary School and Michipicoten High School<sup>38</sup>. In addition, enrolment projections predict further enrolment decline up to the year 2020 for both Sir James Dunn Elementary School and Michipicoten High School.

Sir James Dunn Public School (see Figure 15) is the only public elementary school in the Municipality and services students in the surrounding communities of Hawk Junction, and Michipicoten First Nation. The school's gymnasium and classrooms are used by community groups for programming after hours<sup>39</sup>. In 2003, Sir James Dunn Public School was operating at approximately 39% of its capacity. In the period after 2003, enrolment has continued to decline, consistent with a declining population. St. Joseph French Immersion Catholic School provides an alternative programming option compared to other elementary schools servicing the Municipality<sup>40</sup>. Additionally, the four school boards operating in the Municipality are a source of local employment (see Section 2.3.1.5.).

**Figure 15: Sir James Dunn Public School**



#### 2.2.1.4 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Figure 16 below indicates educational characteristics of residents between 1996 and 2011<sup>41</sup>. Many residents receive a post-secondary education, but cannot find employment which best utilizes their skills<sup>42</sup>. The proportion of residents with university/college education increased between 1996 and 2006, but decreased in 2011 by 7.1 percentage points. Those with a high school and trade certificates fluctuated during this time period, decreasing from 2001 to 2006 and increasing between 2006 and 2011.

<sup>38</sup> Insight provided to DPRA through conversations with a member of the Algoma District School Board.

<sup>39</sup> Algoma District School Board. 2003. *Sir James Dunn Public School*. Website.

<http://www.adsb.on.ca/uploads/info/listings/SirJamesDunnPublicSchool.pdf>.

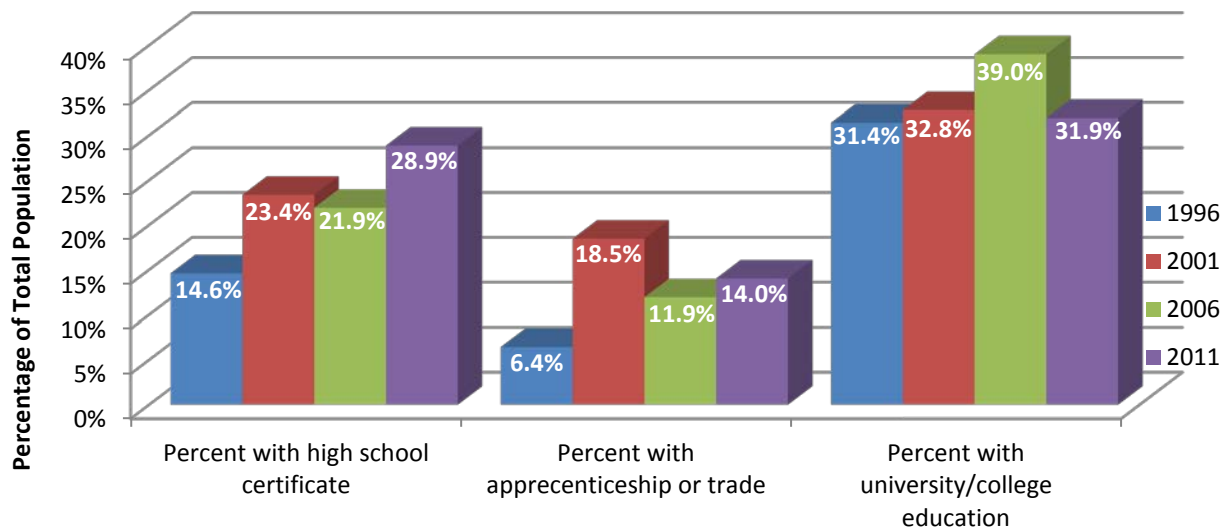
<sup>40</sup> Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board. 2012. *St. Joseph French Immersion Catholic School*. Website.

<http://www.hscdsb.on.ca/index.aspx?l=0,2,4,41,42,170>.

<sup>41</sup> Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Wawa, Municipality Community Profiles*.

<sup>42</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010. *Wawa Community Profile 2010-2011*.

Figure 16: Wawa Education Characteristics, 1996 – 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. Wawa, MU, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile

Figure 16 above and Table 8 below illustrate that Municipality residents were more likely to have a university or college education compared to apprenticeship or trades education. When aggregated by gender, females were more likely than males to obtain a university or college education, while males were more likely to obtain apprenticeship or trades training in 2001 and 2006.

Table 8: Wawa Educational Attainment, 2006

Education	Total		Male		Female	
Number (No.) and Percentage (%)						
No certificate, diploma or degree	700	26.9%	325	24.6%	370	29.0%
High school certificate or diploma	570	21.9%	240	18.2%	330	25.9%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	310	11.9%	265	20.1%	45	3.5%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	585	22.5%	290	22.0%	300	23.5%
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	45	1.7%	20	1.5%	25	2.0%
University certificate, diploma or degree	390	15.0%	185	14.1%	200	15.7%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profile*.

In 2011, the National Household Survey statistics indicated that 25.2% of Wawa’s total population 15 years and over did not have a certificate, diploma or degree. The percentage of residents whose highest level of education was a high school certificate or equivalent was 28.9%, while the percentage of residents whose highest level of education was a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree was 45.9% (Table 9).

**Table 9: Wawa Educational Attainment, 2011**

EDUCATION	TOTAL		MALE		FEMALE	
Number (No.) / Percent %						
<b>Total population 15 years and over</b>	<b>2,460</b>		<b>1,265</b>		<b>1,190</b>	
No certificate, diploma or degree	620	25.2%	365	28.9%	250	21.0%
High school certificate or equivalent	710	28.9%	260	20.6%	455	38.2%
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	1,130	45.9%	645	51.0%	485	40.8%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	345	14.0%	290	22.9%	50	4.2%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	425	17.3%	260	20.6%	165	13.9%
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	65	2.6%	10	0.8%	55	4.6%
University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	295	12.0%	85	6.7%	215	18.1%
Bachelor's degree	160	6.5%	45	3.6%	115	9.7%
University certificate, diploma, or degree above bachelor level	135	5.5%	40	3.2%	105	8.8%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. Wawa, MU, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.

### 2.2.1.5 HEALTH AND SAFETY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The Municipality has a number of health and safety facilities and services for its residents. Wawa is also a sub-regional centre for health and social services<sup>43</sup> providing health services to residents in surrounding communities. The Lady Dunn Health Centre (see Figure 17) is a regional hospital and major public sector employer in the Municipality. The Centre is a new, state of the art, multi-service facility providing a number of health services for Wawa residents and residents of the hospital's catchment area<sup>44</sup>. The Centre services a catchment area of 5,700 residents including the communities of Dubreuilville, Hawk Junction, Michipicoten First Nation, Wawa, Missanabie Cree First Nation and White River<sup>45</sup>.

**Figure 17: Lady Dunn Health Centre**



Source: DPRA Canada, 2012.

<sup>43</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010. *Wawa Community Profile 2010-2011*.

<sup>44</sup> Lady Dunn Health Centre. 2012. *Lady Dunn Health Centre – About Us*. Website: <http://www.ldhc.com/about.php?pg=2>.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*

The Centre currently has 4 full-time Physicians, 2 Nurse Practitioners and Registered Nurses<sup>46</sup>. It operates a 24-hour emergency department and has 12 active beds as well as a long-term care unit with 16 beds. The emergency department is staffed by a Registered Nurse and an on-call Physician. Collectively, the Centre's staff provides a number of services including<sup>47</sup>:

- Surgical Program;
- Diagnostic Services;
- Therapeutic Services;
- Obstetrics;
- Telehealth;
- Nurse Practitioner Program;
- North Algoma Counselling Service;
- Diabetes Education; and,
- Outreach nursing clinics in Dubreuilville and Missanabie.

There is also a dental clinic, private physiotherapist, and a chiropractor that serve area residents.

Specialist services require residents to travel elsewhere including to the City of Sault Ste. Marie<sup>48</sup>. There are also a number of services provided by visiting specialists. These services include ear, nose and throat, internal medicine, respiratory, orthopedics and psychiatric<sup>49</sup>. In addition to the above services, the Centre includes other on-site services, operating as separate entities: the Wawa Medical Centre and Family Health Team, North East Community Care Access Centre and the Algoma Emergency Medical Services. The Wawa Family Health Team currently includes a staff of 1 Nurse Practitioner, Registered Nurses and a Social Worker<sup>50</sup>. There are also 1 dentist and 2 hygienists available to residents<sup>51</sup>.

Additional health and safety services include programs jointly operated by the Lady Dunn Health Centre and Wawa Family Health Team<sup>52</sup>, children's services, victim services, not-for-profit housing services, Canadian Red Cross Meals on Wheels program, Ontario Provincial Police regional office (20 staff), volunteer Fire Department

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<sup>46</sup> Insight provided to DPRA by members of the Nuclear Waste Community Advisory Committee.

<sup>47</sup> Lady Dunn Health Centre. 2012. *Lady Dunn Health Centre – About Us*. Website. <http://www.ldhc.com/about.php?pg=2>.

<sup>48</sup> Specialist services available in Sault Ste. Marie include a Community Drug /Alcohol Assessment Program operated by Algoma Public Health among others. Algoma Public Health. 2012. *Mental Health/Addictions*. Website. <http://www.algomapublichealth.com/Default.aspx?l=,1,31,108>.

<sup>49</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010. *Health Services*. Website. [http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=121:health-services&cat](http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=121:health-services&cat).

<sup>50</sup> Lady Dunn Health Centre. 2012. *Wawa Family Health Team*. Website. [http://www.ldhc.com/community\\_programs.php?pg=47](http://www.ldhc.com/community_programs.php?pg=47).

<sup>51</sup> Insight gained from members of the Nuclear Waste Community Advisory Committee on May 30, 2012; and confirmed by Committee members at the June 27, 2012 meeting.

<sup>52</sup> In 2012, the Wawa Family Health Team launched a cardiac rehabilitation program as a joint initiative between the Lady Dunn Health Centre and Wawa Family Health Team. In addition, the Wawa Family Health Team provides a range of services to Municipality and area residents. Wawa Family Health Team. May 2012. *Wawa Family Health Team Newsletter 2(1)*. Website. <http://www.wawafamilyhealthteam.com/uploads/files/wawaFHT-newsletter-May2012.pdf>; Wawa Family Health Team. 2012. *Programs and Services*. Website. <http://www.wawafamilyhealthteam.com/programs-services/>.

and ground ambulance service<sup>53, 54, 55</sup>. The Canadian Red Cross Meals on Wheels program has been operational in the Municipality for 12 years<sup>56</sup>. The Meals on Wheels program provides daily, well-balanced nutritious meals for community members who cannot prepare their own meals<sup>57</sup>. Hot meals are prepared at the Lady Dunn Health Centre and distributed to program members throughout the Municipality<sup>58</sup>.

The Volunteer Fire Department consists of 24 individuals who are on-call and provide services to all areas within the Municipality<sup>59</sup> including Michipicoten First Nation and Hawk Junction<sup>60</sup>. The Fire Department is also part of the Algoma District Mutual Aid Program that provides help to other communities in the area experiencing emergencies: the communities it services include Chapleau, Spanish, and Hornepayne.<sup>61</sup> Wawa's Ambulance Service is administered by the Algoma District Service Administration Board<sup>62</sup>.

### ***Protective Services***

The Municipality of Wawa has a number of protective services including<sup>63</sup>:

- Emergency Phone Number: 911;
- Ontario Provincial Police Services<sup>64</sup> (with 20 members);
- Land Ambulance/Emergency Services; and,
- Volunteer Fire Department (with 24 members).

<sup>53</sup> Wawa Tourist Information Centre. 2011. *Wawa Wow! Tourism Business Directory*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>54</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010b. *Health Services*. Website.

[http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=121:health-services&cat](http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=121:health-services&cat).

<sup>55</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d. *Wawa: Passionate People, Perfect Place!*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa and the Economic Development Corporation of Wawa.

<sup>56</sup> Trovarello, Darlene. July 2012. "Meals on Wheels, Is It Right For You...Or Yours?". *Wawa-News.com*. Website.

[http://www.wawa-news1.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=16033:meals-on-wheels-is-it-right-for-you-or-yours&catid=41:news&Itemid=72](http://www.wawa-news1.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16033:meals-on-wheels-is-it-right-for-you-or-yours&catid=41:news&Itemid=72).

<sup>57</sup> Canadian Red Cross. 2012. *Meals on Wheels*. Website. <http://www.redcross.ca/article.asp?id=4566&tid=073>.

<sup>58</sup> Trovarello, Darlene. July 2012. "Meals on Wheels, Is It Right For You...Or Yours?". *Wawa-News.com*. Website.

[http://www.wawa-news1.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=16033:meals-on-wheels-is-it-right-for-you-or-yours&catid=41:news&Itemid=72](http://www.wawa-news1.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16033:meals-on-wheels-is-it-right-for-you-or-yours&catid=41:news&Itemid=72).

<sup>59</sup> Municipality of Wawa. n.d. *Fire and Rescue*. Website. <http://www.wawa.cc/township/township.aspx?ID=160>.

<sup>60</sup> Information obtained by DPRA from NWCAC Member, June 2013.

<sup>61</sup> Municipality of Wawa. 2013. *Volunteer Fire Department*. Website: <http://www.wawa.cc/living-in-wawa/emergency-services/volunteer-fire-department/>

<sup>62</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010f. *Emergency Services*. Website.

[http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=53&Itemid=93](http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=53&Itemid=93).

<sup>63</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010b. *Health Services*. Website.

[http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=121:health-services&cat](http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=121:health-services&cat).

<sup>64</sup> The Municipality of Wawa is serviced by the Superior East Ontario Provincial Police Detachment. The Detachment has headquarters in Wawa; however, it provides service to the communities of Chapleau, Hornepayne, Wawa and White River. Ontario Provincial Police. 2012. *Ontario Provincial Police Regions and Detachment Names*. Website. <http://www.opp.ca/ecms/files/250280565.2.pdf>.

### **2.2.2 SUMMARY OF HUMAN ASSETS**

Over the past 26 years, the Municipality's total population has declined by 33% due to out-migration and changes in the local economy. For the same period, the median age of residents has increased, indicating an aging trend. As an aging community, residents will require additional and increased frequency of health care services over time. While the Lady Dunn Health Centre is well-equipped, additional resources may be required to sustain the necessary level of services required to service the Municipality and the surrounding area population in the future.

Wawa has also experienced declining school enrolments. In recent years, school enrolment levels have declined across the schools servicing the Municipality. In addition, enrolment projections predict further declines up to the year 2020. Although the experience is not isolated, Michipicoten High School has seen enrolment levels decline by 34% between September 2008 and September 2012.

Despite trends of aging and population decline, community members confirm that Wawa is a resilient community and capable of adapting to new and changing situations. Many residents want to live in Wawa and have remained in the community by choice. A large proportion of the Municipality's residents are long-time residents who have witnessed the various "boom and bust" cycles associated with the natural resource-based development activities. In recent years, the closure of major employers in the mining and forestry sectors, as well as small business closures, has negatively impacted the local economy. A challenge to growth will be to reverse trends of aging and out-migration through the retention of youth and skilled workers.

#### **2.2.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES**

Wawa is a community strongly tied to the natural resources economy. As a result, community members are used to "boom and bust" cycles associated with business cycles and natural resource-based development activities. A number of priorities and key issues have been identified:

- Education and training for community members is needed to take advantage of new employment opportunities, including those in the natural-resource based economy such as mining and forestry;
- A declining population has left an oversupply of education facilities that are currently underutilized;
- Census data indicates that Wawa's population has been in a prolonged period of decline due to a combination of factors (such as economic fluctuations, business closures and availability of employment opportunities outside Wawa); and,
- Wawa is an aging community with an increasing median age.

In 2006, Wawa's labour force participation rate declined compared to 2001 and 1996 levels, and increased slightly in 2011.



### **2.2.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS**

Municipal leaders and residents have expressed a desire for Wawa to grow, returning to approximately 5,000 residents. As a community of 5,000 residents in the 1970s, Wawa was able to provide residents with a diverse urban community that included a range of services, facilities and programs. Residents expressed a desire to return to the community's former days of prosperity through an ongoing strategic planning exercise that began in the fall of 2012. The process includes community consultation with residents to identify a collective vision as well as goals and objectives. Once complete, the Wawa Community Strategic Plan will identify ways to foster population and economic growth to support a growing community. As it progresses, the strategic planning process will provide insight into the community's collective vision, goals and objectives for growth. There is also a desire to diversify the local economy and reduce the community's dependence on natural resource-based activities such as mining.

### **2.2.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY**

Wawa is a resilient community with a relatively skilled labour force. Between 1996 and 2006, a greater number of residents received some type of formal education – including apprenticeship and trades training – to take advantage of natural resource-based employment opportunities in Wawa and the surrounding area. However, despite educational attainment levels, Wawa has a high level of underemployment, indicating that residents are not able to best utilize their skills in available employment opportunities.

## **2.3 ECONOMIC ASSETS**

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The Economic Assets within a community include the monetary or financial related resources that people use to achieve their livelihood objectives. They include cash or equivalents to individuals and/or the community, and availability of financial and economic resources that allow residents to manage their finances and wealth.

This section of the profile outlines the economic assets for Wawa. The key economic assets described for this community are:

- Employment;
- Labour Force Characteristics;
- Business Activity;
- Income;
- Tourism;
- Economic Development Services; and,
- Governance and Municipal Finances.

### 2.3.1 ECONOMIC ASSET INDICATORS

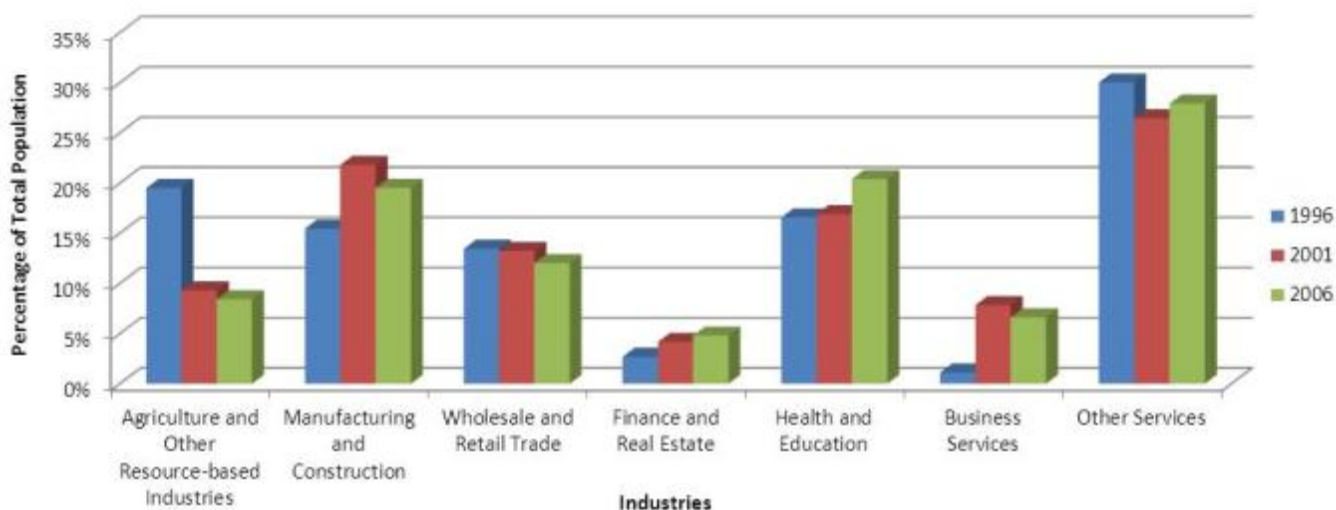
#### 2.3.1.1 EMPLOYMENT

In 2010, there were more than 290 businesses operating in the Municipality, providing residents with a number of employment opportunities. These businesses operated in industries ranging from manufacturing and transportation to sales and consulting. A majority of these businesses provided services related to the public and social services sector<sup>65</sup>.

In the period since 1997, the Municipality’s economy continued to diversify in reaction to the loss of mining and forestry-related employment opportunities. However, as mining exploration activities increase, this sector is re-emerging as a major employer of skilled laborers, according to the Economic Development Corporation of Wawa<sup>66</sup>.

Wawa continues to have a sizable out-migration since the younger, mobile and typically well-educated residents leave the Municipality in pursuit of employment opportunities. In 2006 there was a reduction in the percentage of employment in “Agriculture and resource-based” industries, “Manufacturing and construction”, “Wholesale and retail trade”, and “Business services” compared to 2001. In the same period, employment increased slightly in the “Finance and real estate”, “Health and education”, and “Other service” sectors (see Figure 18).

Figure 18: Wawa Employment Trends by Industry, 1996 – 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007. Michipicoten, Township Community Profiles.

<sup>65</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010a. *Wawa Community Profile 2010-2011*.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*

### **2.3.1.2 LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS**

Table 10 below indicates a trend of decreasing participation rates, decreasing employment rates and decreasing unemployment rates between 1996 and 2006.

#### **Labour Force Participation Rate**

Participation in the labour force has fluctuated between 1996 and 2006, with the community's participation rate increasing slightly between 1996 and 2001, then declining by more than 5.0 percentage points between 2001 and 2006. According to the 2001 Census of Population, Wawa residents had a total participation rate of 70.8% with males having a rate of 75.3% and females a rate of 66.2%. In 2006, the total participation rate decreased to 64.4% with males having a rate of 69.3% and females a rate of 59.4% (see Table 10). In 2011, Wawa residents had a total participation rate of 66.1%; when disaggregated by gender, males had a participation rate of 70.1% and females had a rate of 61.8%.

#### **Labour Force Employment Rate**

Similar to labour force participation and unemployment, employment rates have fluctuated in Wawa between 1996 and 2006, with the rate increasing between 1996 and 2001, then declining between 2001 and 2006. According to the 2001 Census of Population data, Wawa residents had a total employment rate of 64.3% with males having a rate of 69.5% and females a rate of 59.0%. In 2006, the total employment rate decreased to 60.2% with males having a rate of 65.5% and females a rate of 54.7% (see Table 10). In 2011, the National Household Survey indicated a slight increase in the employment rate (60.8%) in comparison to 2006 employment rate (60.2%).

#### **Labour Force Unemployment Rate**

Unemployment rates have fluctuated between 1996 and 2006 with the unemployment rate increasing between 1996 to 2001, then declining between 2001 and 2006. In 2001, Wawa residents had a total unemployment rate of 9.0% with males having a rate of 7.7% and females a rate of 10.9%. In 2006, the total unemployment rate decreased to 6.6% with males having a rate of 6.0% and females a rate of 7.2% (see Table 10). Between 2006 and 2011, the unemployment rate increased from 6.6% to 8.0% in the Municipality.

**Table 10: Wawa Labour Force Characteristics, 1996 – 2011**

Population Type	Gender	Municipality of Wawa		
		Participation Rate <sup>67</sup>	Employment Rate <sup>68</sup>	Unemployment Rate
1996	Total	Percent (%)		
		69.7%	63.6%	8.8%
	Male	77.4%	72.4%	6.4%
	Female	62.4%	55.1%	11.7%
2001	Total	Percent (%)		
		70.8%	64.3%	9.0%
	Male	75.3%	69.5%	7.7%
	Female	66.2%	59.0%	10.9%
2006	Total	Percent (%)		
		64.4%	60.2%	6.6%
	Male	69.3%	65.5%	6.0%
	Female	59.4%	54.7%	7.2%
2011	Total	Percent (%)		
		66.1%	60.8%	8.0%
	Male	70.1%	61.8%	11.2%
	Female	61.8%	59.2%	3.4%

Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. Wawa, MU, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.

### 2.3.1.5 BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Table 11 and Table 12 below highlight the major public and private sector employers for the Municipality. Since a number of residents travel outside of the Municipality for employment, a number of employers are situated outside of the Municipality's boundaries. Public sector businesses are a major source of employment for Municipality residents, with employment opportunities including positions in the school boards, municipal government office, provincial government offices and the regional hospital (see Table 12). In addition to the predominance of mining companies among the private sector employers, Wawa also has a strong retail and tourism sector providing a number of local employment opportunities. In 2006, one quarter (25%) of Wawa's labour force was employed in the Sales and Services sector<sup>69</sup>.

<sup>67</sup> According to Statistics Canada, participation rate is those persons in the labour force in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day, expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over, excluding institutional residents. Statistics Canada. (2007). *2006 Census Dictionary – 2006 Census Year*. Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/dict/pdf/92-566-eng.pdf>.

<sup>68</sup> According to Statistics Canada, employment rate refers to the number of persons employed in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day, expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 15 years and older, excluding institutional residents. *Ibid*.

<sup>69</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010a. *Wawa Community Profile 2010-2011*.

**Table 11: Wawa Largest Private Sector Employers, 2012<sup>70</sup>**

Company Name	Industry Sector	Employees
<b>Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd.</b>	Mining	225
<b>Richmont Mines</b>	Mining	185
<b>J. Provost Contracting</b>	Construction/ Maintenance	47 + 50 seasonal
<b>Tim Horton's</b>	Food Services	40
<b>Naturally Superior Adventures</b>	Accommodation/ Tourism	Seasonal
<b>Wawa Motor Inn</b>	Accommodation	37
<b>Canadian Tire</b>	Retail	26
<b>John's Valumart</b>	Retail	25
<b>Davidson Fuels Ltd.</b>	Fuel/Oil Supplies	13 (+ 5 part time)
<b>Great Northern Motel</b>	Accommodation	9 <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Level Plains Enterprises Inc.</b>	Agriculture	16 (10 full time, 6 part time)
<b>Trans Canada Chrysler Ltd.</b>	Automotive/Sales	15
<b>Northern Lights Ford Sales</b>	Automotive/Sales	15
<b>Mission Motors</b>	Automotive/Sales	14

Source: Conversations with Nuclear Waste Community Advisory Committee members; Conversation with a member of the Great Northern Motel; Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012b. *Telephone Survey of Major Employers*.

**Table 12: Wawa's Major Public Sector Employers, 2012<sup>71</sup>**

Company Name	Industry Sector	Employees
Lady Dunn Health Centre	Health	102
District School Boards	Education	100
Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa	Government	29 + 38 part-time
Ministry of Natural Resources	Government	30+ <sup>72</sup>
<b>Lake Superior Provincial Park/MNR</b>	Government	43 (3 permanent; 40 seasonal)
Superior Children's Centre	Children Services	32
Michipicoten First Nation	Aboriginal Government	25
Ontario Provincial Police	Protective Services	30

Source: Conversations with Nuclear Waste Community Advisory Committee members; Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012b. *Telephone Survey of Major Employers*.

<sup>70</sup> The current number of employees presented in Table 6 above have been confirmed by members of the Nuclear Waste Community Advisory Committee.

<sup>[1]</sup> Insight gained by DPRA through a conversation with a member of the Great Northern Motel in September 2012.

<sup>71</sup> The current number of employees presented in Table 7 above have been confirmed by members of the Nuclear Waste Community Advisory Committee.

<sup>72</sup> In 2012, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources indicated they employ 27 full-time and 6 contract employees. Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012b. *Telephone Survey of Major Employers*.

Entrepreneurship is active in Wawa, as described in *Wawa 2015 "Building Our Future"*<sup>73</sup>. This includes support for downtown improvements and new businesses. For example, the new Level Plains Enterprises Incorporated<sup>74</sup> commercial blueberry farm initiative (see Figure 19) is one of the most recent businesses to be established. The idea for creating a commercial blueberry farm has been in existence for some time; however, the creation of the farm is an example of a local entrepreneur going beyond the talking stage and commencing land clearing. Examples of other businesses established in recent years include the opening of a U-Brew (Home Town Wines) store in Downtown Wawa<sup>75</sup> and local tourist operators<sup>76</sup>.

**Figure 19: Level Plains Enterprises Incorporated**



Source: DPRA Canada, 2012.

Level Plains Enterprises Incorporated was established as the first of six regional blueberry plantations in the Northeast Superior Forest area to supply fresh wild blueberries. Once operational, the six regional plantations are forecasted to become a new economic driver in the broader area's economy<sup>77</sup>.

Level Plains owners purchased 605 acres of land adjacent to the Municipality's industrial park to grow wild blueberries<sup>78</sup>. At the time of purchase, a significant proportion of the land had been clear-cut by the previous owner between 2003 and 2004<sup>79</sup>. The farm includes a commitment to researching efficient techniques for growing and processing "wild low bush blueberries"<sup>80</sup>. Financial assistance was provided through Federal government grants, including the Natural Resources Canada Forest Communities Program and the Federal government's Community Adjustment Fund, to purchase machinery to prepare the land for planting<sup>81,82</sup>. In 2011, Level Plains blueberry farm picked its first crop<sup>83</sup>.

**Figure 20: Level Plains Enterprises Incorporated Blueberry Farm**



Source: DPRA Canada, 2012.

<sup>73</sup> Wawa Community Adjustment Committee. July 2010. *Wawa 2015 "Building Our Future" Wawa Community Adjustment Committee Report and Recommendations*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>74</sup> Level Plains Enterprises Inc. n.d. *Level Plains Enterprises Inc. Facebook Page*. Website.

<http://www.facebook.com/NorthernOntarioBlueberries>.

<sup>75</sup> Insight gained by DPRA through a conversation with a member of the U-Brew store.

<sup>76</sup> Insight gained by DPRA through conversations with community members throughout June and July 2012.

<sup>77</sup> Canadian Model Forest Network. 2011. *Developing Sustainable Forests and Communities*.

<sup>78</sup> Mills, Shirley. (2009). "At the berry beginning". *The Sault Star*. Website.

<http://www.saultstar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1642479&archive=true>.

<sup>79</sup> Ross, Ian. June 2010. "Wawa entrepreneur establishes blueberry plantation". *Northern Ontario Business* 30(8).

<sup>80</sup> Blackmore, Tracy. August 2009. "Local Business Receives Funding". *The Algoma News*. Website.

<http://www.thealgomanews.ca/News/Local/Local+Business+Receives+Funding.str?4821>.

<sup>81</sup> Canadian Model Forest Network. 2011. *Developing Sustainable Forests and Communities*.

<sup>82</sup> Natural Resources Canada. Fall 2009. *Forest Communities Program Newsletter, Issue 4: 1*. Website. [http://www.cif-ifc.org/uploads/Website\\_Assets/FCP\\_Eng\\_Jan2010.pdf](http://www.cif-ifc.org/uploads/Website_Assets/FCP_Eng_Jan2010.pdf).

During the summer harvesting period, Level Plains provides both full-time and seasonal employment opportunities. During the 2011 harvest season, 10 seasonal workers were employed<sup>84</sup>; 6 seasonal workers were employed in 2012<sup>85</sup>. In 2009, the facility employed seven full-time staff<sup>86</sup> and was projected to employ an additional 25 to 30 seasonal employees during the July to August 2013 harvest period<sup>87</sup>. There are multiple value-added possibilities resulting from the farm and it is stated that transportation costs will dictate what is economically feasible to achieve<sup>88</sup>.

As discussed further below, Wawa is increasingly active in other areas, including forestry and mining. The Municipality and its residents have a long history of resource development activities including many “boom and bust” cycles associated with mining and forestry<sup>89</sup>.

### **Mining**

The Wawa area has and continues to experience a range of mining activities of various types involving large operators. Gold mines have been operational in Wawa and the surrounding area for some time. Gold was first discovered on the shores of Lake Wawa in 1897 and led to “a miniature Klondike”. By 1906, more than 300 claims were submitted and five mines were in operation. However, an industry downturn left the Municipality as a ghost town between 1907 and 1920. In the period after 1920, a number of significant mining operations including four long-lasting mines (Jubilee, Minto, Darwin and Parkhill) and Algoma Ore Division were established in the area surrounding Wawa<sup>90</sup>.

**Figure 21: Abandoned Mine near Downtown Wawa**



Source: DPRA Canada, 2012.

Algoma Ore Division was established in 1939, given the concentration of iron ore found in the area surrounding Wawa. The Algoma Ore Division consisted of a sintering plant which processed siderite ore<sup>91</sup>. Over the years, Algoma Ore Division became a major source of local employment for Municipality residents<sup>92</sup>. However, the

<sup>83</sup> Information provided through discussions with community members.

<sup>84</sup> Ross, Ian. June 2010. “Wawa entrepreneur establishes blueberry plantation”. Northern Ontario Business 30(8).

<sup>85</sup> Insight provided through a conversation with a member of Level Plains Enterprises Incorporated on July 23, 2012.

<sup>86</sup> Blackmore, Tracy. August 2009. “Local Business Receives Funding”. *The Algoma News*. Website.

<http://www.thealgomanews.ca/News/Local/Local+Business+Receives+Funding.str?4821>.

<sup>87</sup> Mills, Shirley. 2009. “At the berry beginning”. The Sault Star. Website.

<http://www.saultstar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1642479&archive=true>.

<sup>88</sup> Wawa Community Adjustment Committee. July 2010. *Wawa 2015 ‘Building Our Future’ Wawa Community Adjustment Committee Report and Recommendations*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>89</sup> Insight gained by DPRA through conversations with community members and local officials throughout June, July and August 2012.

<sup>90</sup> Rowe, Johanna. n.d.. *Signs of History: An Explorer’s Guide to the Rich Heritage of the Wawa Area*.

<sup>91</sup> Rowe, Johanna. January 2012. “Long abandoned industry often leaves something sweet in its wake”. *J. Rowe Heritage Consulting*. Website. <http://www.wawahistory.com/2/category/michipicoten%20river%20village/1.html>.

<sup>92</sup> Insight gained by DPRA through conversations with community members throughout June and July, 2012.

sintering plant's sulphur dioxide fumes left a lasting impact on the surrounding natural environment<sup>93, 94</sup> - creating an area of approximately 10,000 hectares devoid of trees<sup>95</sup>. However, ironically the area is a major natural blueberry production site. In addition, the June 1998 closure of Algoma Ore Division significantly impacted the local economy. Wawa was also negatively affected by changing market conditions and subsequent closure of many mining operations (see Figure 21 above) throughout the late 1990s and early 2000s<sup>96</sup>.

Since 1987, Wesdome Gold Mines Limited has operated the Eagle River Mine and Mill facility 50 kilometres west of Wawa<sup>97</sup>. There are also two additional mining properties owned and operated by Wesdome Gold Mines Limited north of Wawa. Other companies including Lakeland Resources, Richmond Mines Limited and Argonaut Gold Incorporated<sup>98</sup> have been undertaking exploration activities for some time<sup>99</sup>. In recent years, there appears to be renewed activity in the mining sector as companies continue exploration activities<sup>100</sup>.

### **Forestry**

The area surrounding Wawa continues to experience forestry activities of various types and scales. Forestry operations have functioned in the area surrounding Wawa for some time<sup>101</sup> and were once a major industry for the Municipality. Prior to 2007, Domtar Forest Products and Weyerhaeuser and Dubreuil Forest Products were major employers in the area operating sawmills and co-generation facilities in the Magpie and White River Forest<sup>102</sup>. The Domtar facility was a major source of local employment<sup>103</sup>. However, following changes in economic and market conditions, the facility (operating sawmill and strand board plant) closed in July 2007, resulting in significant job losses. Forestry further declined with the 2007 closure of the Weyerhaeuser Company's standard-board mill<sup>104</sup> and 2008 closure of the Dubreuil Forest Products Mill in Dubreuilville<sup>105, 106</sup>.

<sup>93</sup> Rowe, Johanna. January 2012. "Long abandoned industry often leaves something sweet in its wake". *J. Rowe Heritage Consulting*. Website. <http://www.wawahistory.com/2/category/michipicoten%20river%20village/1.html>.

<sup>94</sup> Government of Canada. n.d.. "64. The Wawa Badlands". *TransCanada Ecotours*. Website. [http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/ecotours/pr\\_ssm/pop\\_ups/064.htm](http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/ecotours/pr_ssm/pop_ups/064.htm).

<sup>95</sup> The area had been referred to as the "fume kill" or "Wawa Treeless Area" by local officials. Rainforest Alliance. (June 2005). *Forest Management Public Summary for Algoma Forest*. Website. <http://www.clergue.com/Forest%20Management%20Public%20Summary.pdf>.

<sup>96</sup> Wawa Community Adjustment Committee. July 2010. *Wawa 2015 "Building Our Future" Wawa Community Adjustment Plan and Recommendations*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>97</sup> Wesdome Gold Mines Limited. 2012. *About Us*. Website. <http://www.wesdome.com/index.php?s=about&p=1>.

<sup>98</sup> In October 2012, Argonaut Gold Incorporated acquired Prodigy Gold Incorporated, the company formerly advancing the Magino Gold Project. As a result, Argonaut Gold is now the company advancing the proposed re-opening of the Magino Mine Project located near Dubreuilville, Ontario. McCrae, Michael. 2012. "Argonaut Gold makes friendly \$341-million deal to acquire Prodigy Gold". *Mining.com*. Website. <http://www.mining.com/argonaut-gold-makes-friendly-341-million-deal-to-acquire-prodigy-gold-93626/>.

<sup>99</sup> Richmond Mines Limited. 2012. *Operations – Island Gold*. Website. [http://www.richmont-mines.com/op\\_operations\\_islandgold](http://www.richmont-mines.com/op_operations_islandgold).

<sup>100</sup> Wray, Chris. May 2012. *The Municipality of Wawa Budget 2012*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>101</sup> Insight gained by DPRA through a conversation with a member of the Dubreuil Forest Products facility in Dubreuilville.

<sup>102</sup> Northwatch. 2009. *White River*. Website. <http://www.web.net/nwatch/fmp/units/whiteriver.htm#docs.com>.

<sup>103</sup> Stillwater Canada Incorporated. June 2012. *Marathon Platinum Group Metals – Copper Project.. Environmental Impact Statement – Main Report and Supporting Information Documents No. 22 and 23*.

<sup>104</sup> Wawa Community Adjustment Committee. July 2010. *Wawa 2015: "Building Our Future" Wawa Community Adjustment Report and Recommendations*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.



The White River Mill and future co-generation facility may signal the beginning of forestry activity. The facility was purchased in 2009 by White River Forest Products – a four-way partnership between the Town of White River Economic Development Department, Pic Mobert First Nation, a private investor and Butler-Consultants<sup>107, 108</sup>.

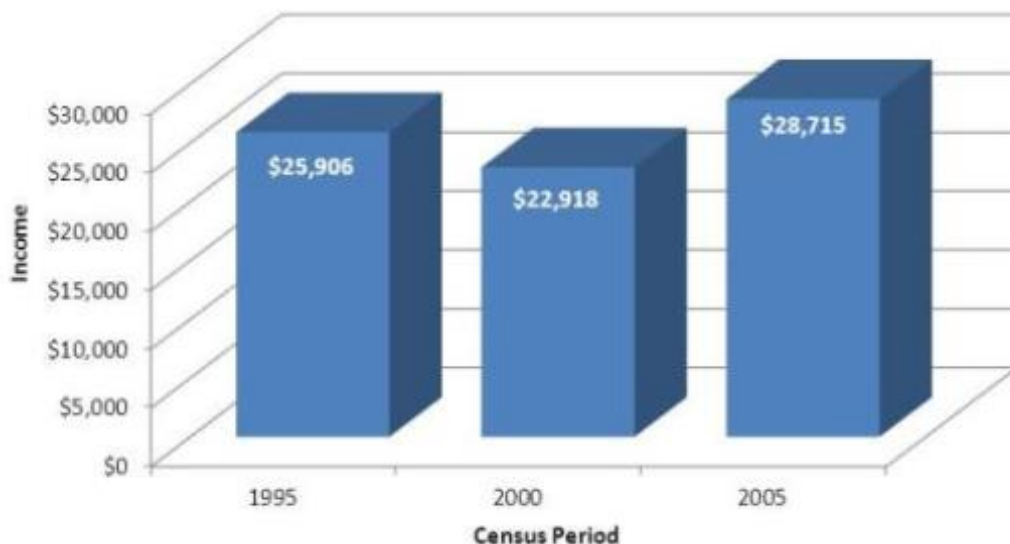
A wood pellet plant is also scheduled to begin operations in Wawa in 2014. Rentech has the rights to purchase the strand board processing mill from Weyerhaeuser and convert the facility to produce approximately 360,000 metric tons of pellets per year. It is estimated the facility will consume approximately 710,000 metric tons of certified sustainable managed Crown fibre annually and could employ 40 full-time employees.<sup>109</sup>

### 2.3.1.6 INCOME

In 2005, Municipality residents had a median income of approximately \$28,715 for those aged 15 years and older<sup>110</sup>. Figure 22 below indicates fluctuations in median income between 1995 and 2005.

Between 1995 and 2000, the median income of Municipality residents decreased from \$25,906 in 1995 to \$22,918 in 2000. Median incomes then increased to \$28,715 in 2005. When aggregated by gender, males on average earned higher median incomes than females for the same period. In 2005, males on average earned nearly double – or approximately \$17,069 more – than females, who earned approximately \$18,428<sup>111</sup>.

**Figure 22: Wawa Median Incomes, 1995 – 2005**



<sup>105</sup> The Dubreuilville Mill is currently in maintenance mode and may partially re-open.

<sup>106</sup> Insight gained by DPRAs through conversations with community members throughout June, July and August, 2012.

<sup>107</sup> Kinnunen, Cynthia. July 2010. "Innovating to Revitalize Forestry Communities". Butler Consultants. Website: <http://www.butler-consultants.ca/innovating.html>.

<sup>108</sup> White River Public Library. 2011. *White River Forest Products*. Website: [http://www.whiteriverlibrary.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=125&Itemid=130](http://www.whiteriverlibrary.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=125&Itemid=130).

<sup>109</sup> Rentech Inc. 2013. *Wood Pellets*. Website: <http://www.rentechinc.com/wood-pellets.php>

<sup>110</sup> Statistics Canada. 2007. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profile*. Website: <http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/index.cfm?Lang=E>.

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*

Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profiles*.

### **Social Assistance**

According to the 2006 Census of Population, approximately 13.2% of Municipality households were low-income households<sup>112</sup>. Municipality residents receive social assistance through the Algoma District Services Administration Board<sup>113</sup>. The Board administers social assistance payments under the Ontario Works program. Under the Ontario Works program, Municipality and area residents may receive social assistance for the following<sup>114</sup>:

- An inability to find work;
- An inability to find work and Employment Insurance exhausted;
- A pending first pay;
- Waiting on Employment Insurance;
- Being a sole support parent;
- Being temporarily unemployable;
- Being long-term unemployable;
- Attending an educational institution;
- Having a child requiring temporary care;
- Being transient;
- Awaiting on Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) or other insurance benefit; and,
- Being over 60 years of age.

Between January 2008 and September 2012, the number of Municipality residents receiving social assistance through the Ontario Works program fluctuated (see Figure 23), rising and falling multiple times. However, the number of Municipality residents receiving social assistance was highest in mid-2009 and late 2010.

### **Figure 23: Wawa Ontario Works Caseload Trends, January 2008 – September 2012**

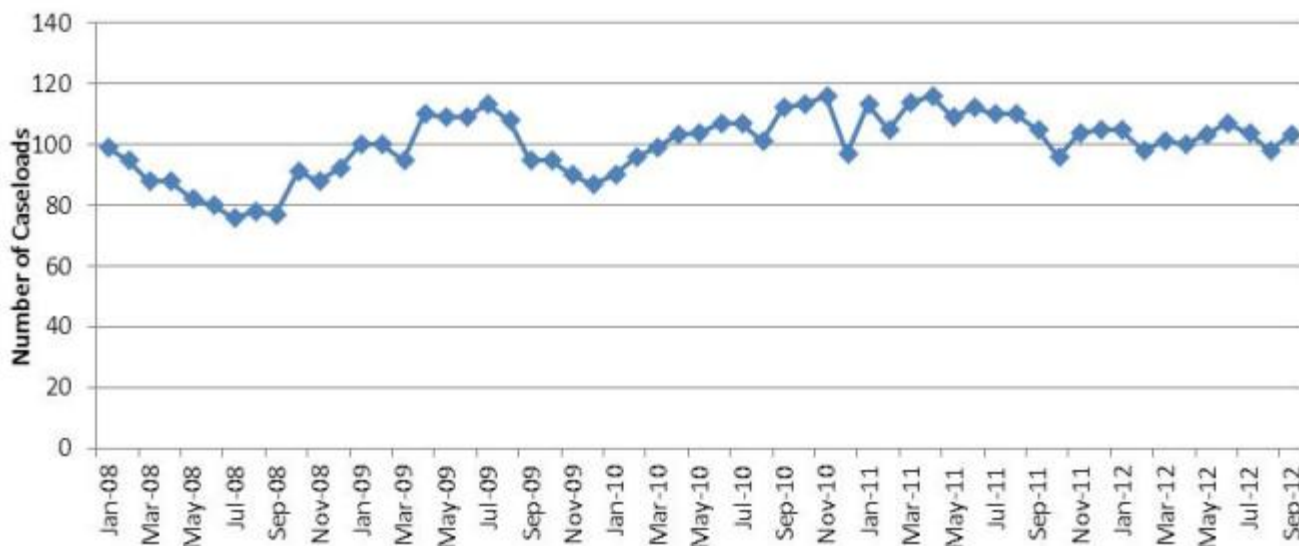
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<sup>112</sup> Statistics Canada. 2007. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profile*. Website.

<sup>113</sup> Insight gained by DPRA through conversations with members of the Algoma District Services Administration Board on October 12, 2012.

<sup>114</sup> Algoma District Services Administration Board. 2012. *Statistical Summaries*. Website.

[http://www.adsab.on.ca/ADSAB Board Site Statistics.aspx](http://www.adsab.on.ca/ADSAB_Board_Site_Statistics.aspx).



Source: Algoma District Services Administration Board. 2012. *Statistical Summaries*. Website. [http://www.adsab.on.ca/ADSAB\\_Board\\_Site\\_Statistics.aspx](http://www.adsab.on.ca/ADSAB_Board_Site_Statistics.aspx).

2.3.1.7. TOURISM

Figure 24: Wawa's Natural Surroundings



Tourism is a component of the local economy, but to a lesser extent than mining, forestry and the sales and service industry. The natural surroundings (see Figure 24 and Figure 25) and availability of outdoor activities attract visitors from the surrounding area and beyond.

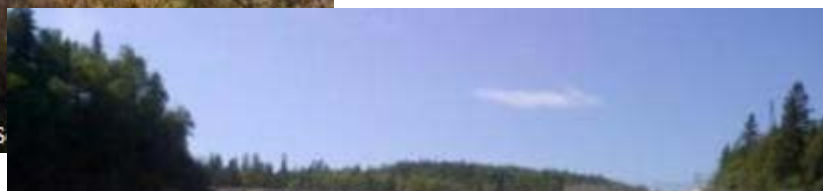


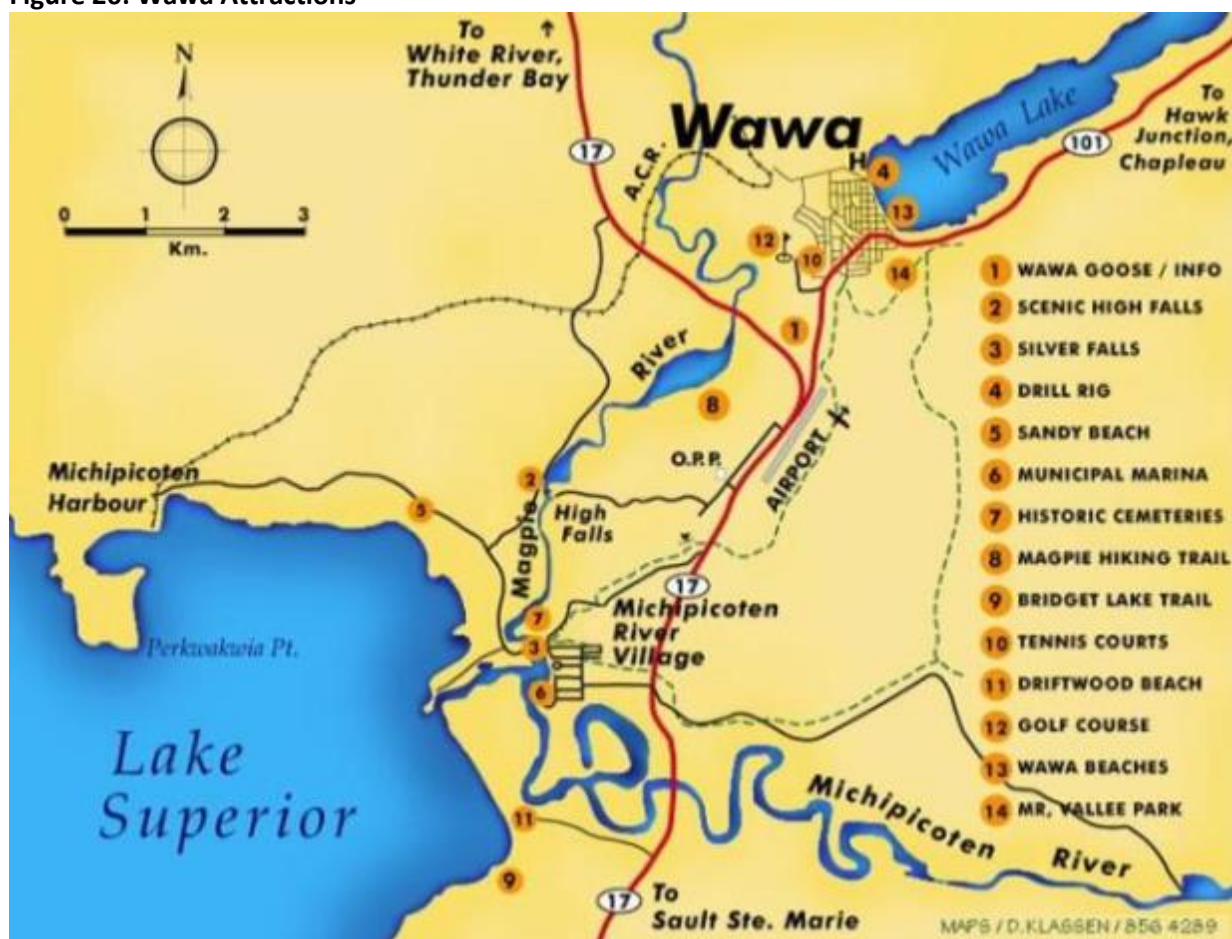
Figure 25: Magpie Falls



In 2010, tourism was identified as one of the major business sectors for the Municipality<sup>115</sup>. There are a number of tourism-related businesses located within the Municipality offering a variety of nature-based programming and activity options<sup>116</sup>. Residents and visitors have access to a network of snowmobile, walking and hiking trails.

Tourist services in and around Wawa include one hotel, several motels and bed and breakfasts, multiple campgrounds and various businesses catering to wilderness tours, eco-tourism such as the Soul of Superior Tours and Naturally Superior Adventures, fishing and hunting and fly-in operators. The Wawa Community Adjustment Committee concluded that the pursuit of new tourism opportunities is a priority for the Municipality and opportunities should be pursued as a component of the community's economic diversification and long-term growth<sup>117</sup>. Annual festivals are held as one of many ways to increase the community's visibility and provide incentives for visitors. To encourage tourism, the Municipality has a webpage dedicated to tourism and "things to do"<sup>118</sup> (see Figure 26).

Figure 26: Wawa Attractions



Source: Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010. *Maps*. Website. [http://www.edcwawa.ca/images/stories/maps/wawa\\_area\\_map\\_big.jpg](http://www.edcwawa.ca/images/stories/maps/wawa_area_map_big.jpg).

<sup>115</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010. *Wawa Community Profile 2010-2011*.

<sup>116</sup> Wawa Tourist Information Centre. 2011. *Wawa Wow! Tourism Business Directory*. Prepared for the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>117</sup> Wawa Community Adjustment Committee. July 2010. *Wawa 2015 "Building Our Future" Wawa Community Adjustment Committee Report and Recommendations*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>118</sup> Municipality of Wawa. n.d.. *Things to Do*. Website. <http://www.wawa.cc/tourism/tourism.aspx?ID=365>.

**Figure 27: Wawa Goose**

The Wawa Goose remains a key tourist attraction. The Goose (see Figure 27) is a giant four ton statue located at the entrance to the Wawa Settlement Area<sup>119</sup>. It has been a gateway feature for the community since 1960 and is described as one of the most photographed icons between St. John's, Newfoundland and Victoria, British Columbia<sup>120</sup>. The community is currently engaged in fund raising to retrofit or repair the Goose. The Goose and the various tourist attractions in the Municipality continue to support the Wawa tourism sector.

**Figure 28: Old Woman's Bay**

Other tourist attractions include Old Woman's Bay (see Figure 28, including the white line depicting the woman's face) as well as eco-tourism and nature-based tourism which provide a range of tourism opportunities within and beyond the Municipality. Residents and visitors alike can access a number of year-round tourism opportunities including hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing and snowmobile trails which are present throughout the Municipality and in the area surrounding Wawa<sup>121</sup>. According to the Economic Development Corporation of Wawa, the Municipality is surrounded by some of the best hiking and backpacking opportunities in the Lake Superior area. A number of local hiking trails are present in the Municipality, including the Voyageur Trail<sup>122</sup> as well as others present within Lake Superior Provincial Park<sup>123</sup>. There are also cycling, fishing, hunting, canoeing and kayaking opportunities given the Municipality's location on Lake Superior<sup>124,125</sup>. Other tourism opportunities include the Agawa Canyon Tour Train and guided tours offered by tourist operators including Naturally Superior Adventures<sup>126</sup> and Soul of Superior Tours<sup>127</sup>.

<sup>119</sup> Municipality of Wawa. n.d.. *Our History*. Website. <http://www.wawa.cc/township/township.aspx?ID=29>.

<sup>120</sup> Wawa Goose. 2010. *History – Wawa Goose*. Website. <http://wawagoose.com/history/>.

<sup>121</sup> Municipality of Wawa. n.d.. *Hiking and Walking Trails*. Website. <http://www.wawa.cc/tourism/tourism.aspx?ID=55>.

<sup>122</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012a. *Wawa Community Profile, 2012*.

<sup>123</sup> Algoma Kinniwabi Travel Association. n.d.. *Backpacking/Hiking*. Website.

<http://www.algomacountry.com/34/backpacking-hiking>.

<sup>124</sup> Algoma Kinniwabi Travel Association. n.d.. *Attractions*. Website. <http://www.algomacountry.com/36/attractions>.

<sup>125</sup> Soul of Superior Tours. 2012. *Wawa Activities & Options*. Website. <http://soulofsuperior.com/wawa-activities-and-options/>.

<sup>126</sup> Naturally Superior Adventures. 2012. *Naturally Superior Adventures*. Website. <http://www.naturallysuperior.com/>.

<sup>127</sup> Soul of Superior Tours. 2012. *Soul of Superior Tours*. Website. <http://soulofsuperior.com/>.

### 2.3.1.8 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**Figure 29: Economic Development Corporation of Wawa**



Economic development services are provided by two organizations – the Economic Development Corporation of Wawa and Superior East Community Futures Development Corporation<sup>128</sup>. Some economic development initiatives are assisted by the Wawa Business Improvement Area (Wawa BIA)<sup>129</sup>. The Economic Development Corporation of Wawa provides support and services for new development opportunities in support of municipal goals and priorities. In 2012, the Economic Development Corporation of Wawa was provided with an annual

budget of \$162,727 by Mayor and Council. Of this budget, approximately \$150,000 was allotted for operating expenses<sup>130</sup>.

Economic development is supported by the creation of new commercial uses in the community's downtown and shoreline areas. New development opportunities are encouraged to support existing infrastructure networks and maintain compatibility with existing land uses<sup>131</sup>. Other services include<sup>132</sup>:

- Providing up-to-date labour market and statistical information;
- Promotion of available industrial and commercial land and buildings;
- Supporting business start-ups and funding applications;
- Assistance to entrepreneurs and developers to obtain necessary approvals;
- Promotion of government financing and subsidy programs;
- Distribution of community information;
- Updating local business contact lists;
- Effectively market the Wawa area to all potential investors;
- Facilitating and pursuing all development and investment opportunities;
- Liaising with local business and industries to assist the Wawa Business Improvement Area;
- Preparing economic reports, studies and strategic economic planning; and,
- Participating with all levels of government, surrounding municipalities and Michipicoten First Nation to achieve economic objectives for the Superior East area.

<sup>128</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010a. *Wawa Community Profile 2010-2011*.

<sup>129</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012a. *Wawa Community Profile, 2012*.

<sup>130</sup> Wray, Chris. May 2012. *The Municipality of Wawa Budget 2012*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>131</sup> Meridian Planning Consultants Inc. 2010. *Official Plan of the Municipality of Wawa*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>132</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012a. *Wawa Community Profile, 2012*.

Superior East Community Futures Development Corporation operates within the Wawa area and services the communities of Dubreuilville, Chapleau, Wawa, White River and surrounding First Nation communities<sup>133</sup>. It provides economic development, business loans and counseling supports to the area communities. Other services include<sup>134</sup>:

- Strategic community planning and socio-economic development;
- Support for community-based projects;
- Business information and planning; and,
- Access to capital for small and medium-sized businesses and social enterprises.

The Wawa Business Improvement Area has been in existence since 1982 to assist local business persons and property owners to collectively finance, organize and pursue physical improvements<sup>135</sup>. In recent years, however, the Association's membership and financial resources have declined due to adverse local economic conditions<sup>136</sup>. In addition, the Association is primarily focused on business retention and economic development in Downtown Wawa, defined as those properties located on Broadway Avenue and Mission Road, extending as far as the Wawa Motor Inn<sup>137</sup>.

### **2.3.1.9 GOVERNANCE AND MUNICIPAL FINANCES**

The Municipality of Wawa is governed by a Mayor and four elected Councilors<sup>138</sup>. An election in October 2010 saw a newly elected Mayor and three newly elected Councilors. Councilor Ron Rody was re-elected as Councilor<sup>139</sup>. As in many Northern Ontario communities, the Municipality's annual budget is reliant on municipal taxation and revenues. In 2012, the Municipality of Wawa had an approved annual budget of approximately \$11,000,000<sup>140</sup>.

#### **An Overview of the Municipality of Wawa Finances**

Until the mid 1990s, Wawa's economic growth was shaped by the discovery and extraction of hematite ore (iron).<sup>141</sup> By the late 1990s, due to challenges in the global market, the Algoma Ore Division ceased extraction of the ore and shut down the sinter plant. Another blow to the Municipality's economy came with the closure of the sawmills and strand board mills in 2008, which further eroded the local economy. Wawa's economy is currently based on tourism, medical services, and some resurgent mining activities. To date, the Municipality desires to re-position itself to take advantage of new and innovative business opportunities and promote

<sup>133</sup> Superior East Community Futures Development Corporation. (n.d.). *About Us*. Website. <http://www.superioreast.on.ca/frame1.asp>.

<sup>134</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>135</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012a. *Wawa Community Profile, 2012*.

<sup>136</sup> Insight gained by DPRA through conversations with community members and local officials throughout June, July and August, 2012.

<sup>137</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012a. *Wawa Community Profile, 2012*.

<sup>138</sup> Municipality of Wawa. n.d.. *Mayor and Council*. Website: <http://www.wawa.cc/township/township.aspx?ID=149>.

<sup>139</sup> Municipality of Wawa. n.d.. *Election 2010*. Website. <http://www.wawa.cc/contentadmin/UserFiles/File/Elections/EL09.pdf>.

<sup>140</sup> Wray, Chris. May 2012. *The Municipality of Wawa Budget 2012*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>141</sup> Local Authority Services (LAS). n.d.. *Audit Program, Wawa Municipal Administration Facility*. Website. [www.las.on.ca/wcm/Documents/LAS/Audit/Wawa.pdf](http://www.las.on.ca/wcm/Documents/LAS/Audit/Wawa.pdf).

successful growth and development. To attain this goal, the Municipality must remain financially stable and leverage its economic growth potential.

This overview of Wawa's financial statement for the period 2000 to 2011 reports on the Municipality's revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities which will provide insight into Wawa's financial performance. The Municipality of Wawa provides general government services including police and fire protection, public works, recreation facilities, and waste management, waste disposal and recreational facilities for use by its residents. These services provide revenue receipts and incur cost to the Municipality.

The analysis below of the Municipality's assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses is intended to serve as a simple narrative of Wawa's fiscal activities. The overview spans a period of 11 years.



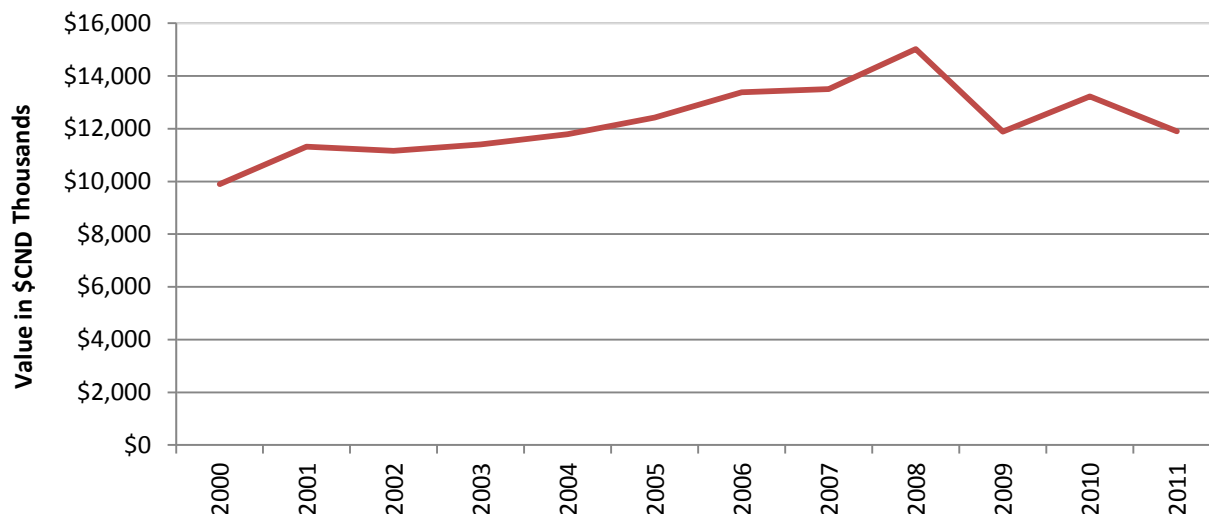
**Financial Summary/Highlights, 2000 – 2011**

- In 2000, local taxes accounted for approximately 42% of the Municipality’s total revenues,<sup>142</sup>
- By 2011, taxes declined to 31% of total revenue receipts<sup>143</sup>;
- In 2001, municipal taxes related to hydro dams and related infrastructure were replaced with a system of gross receipts tax payable to the Province and a grant to the Municipality frozen at year 2000 rates;
- Between 2000 and 2011 Federal and Provincial grants were a consistent source of revenue for Wawa;
- In 2002, Provincial contributions accounted for 57% of the Municipality’s total revenue;
- The Municipality’s expenses peaked in 2008 at \$15,605,927, representing a 36% increase in expenses from 2000<sup>144</sup>;
- Major expense items for the Municipality included spending on salaries, wages and employee benefits and materials as well as policing and mental health services;
- An examination of the Municipality’s total assets and liabilities indicates that Wawa’s financial performance continued to decline between 2000 and 2011; and,
- Between 2005 and 2006, the difference in the value of the Municipality’s assets and liabilities increased by \$3,574,600.

**Revenue Generation**

The Municipality depends on local taxes, Federal and Provincial grants (conditional and unconditional) and user fees/service charges as a means to generate revenue to undertake future works and meet its current obligations. Figure 30 below illustrates the trend in total revenue funds between 2000 and 2011. Total revenue receipts increased steadily and peaked in 2008 at \$15, 023,881. Revenues declined in 2009 and again in 2011.

**Figure 30: Trend in Revenue Funds, 2000 – 2011**



Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Municipal Finance Policy Branch. 2012. *Financial Information Return (FIR) by Municipality, 2000 – 2011*. Website. <http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm#5851>.

<sup>142</sup> Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2012. *Financial Information Return (FIR) 2000-2011*. Website. <http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm#5851>.

<sup>143</sup> The decline in taxes is due to the closure Weyerhaeuser and area mining facilities between 2008 and 2010.

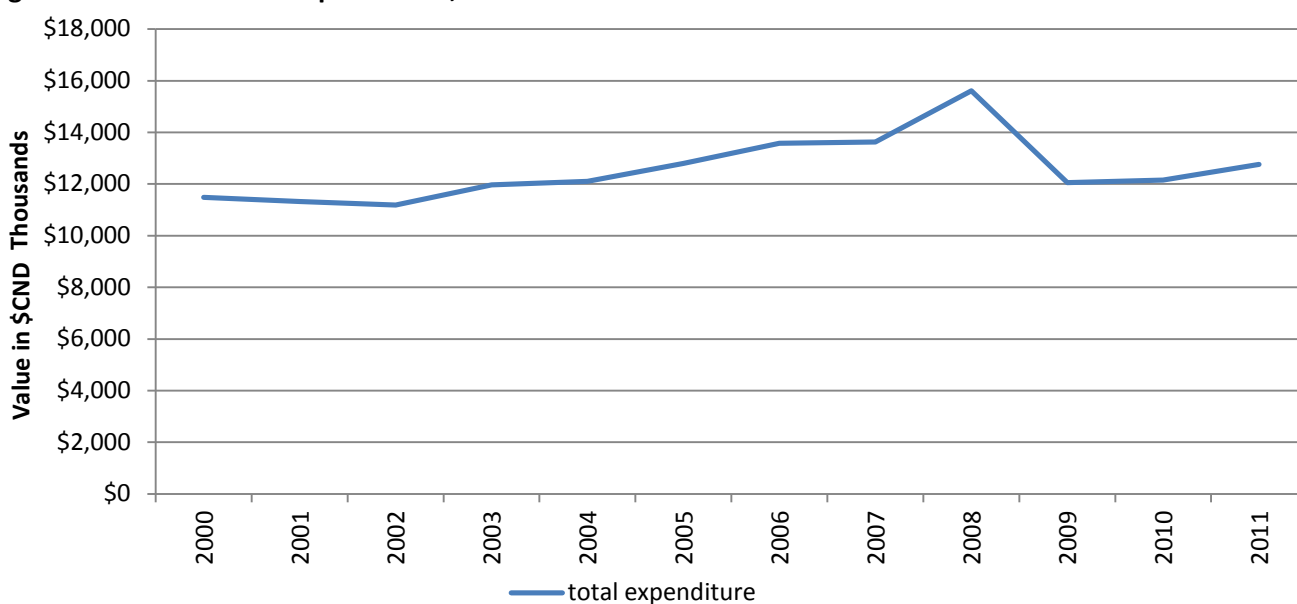
<sup>144</sup> This increase was due to the construction of the new water treatment plant.

Though property taxes are an important source of revenue for the Municipality, there are currently a number of properties throughout the Municipality plagued by serious taxation issues. In 2012, local officials continued to work with property owners to resolve these issues through possible tax sales and vestments of certain properties<sup>145</sup>.

### Expenditure

Operating expenditures are incurred in the performance of an ongoing program, or for expenses on goods that are consumable, or on projects of a constantly recurring nature. For example, fire and police protection, park maintenance, and garbage collection costs are typically recorded as operating expenditures<sup>146</sup>. Figure 31 below shows the gradual increase in municipal expenses from 2000 and peaking in 2008. The reduction in the Municipality's operating expenses between 2009 and 2011 indicate the efforts made to curtail spending.

**Figure 31: Trend in Total Expenditures, 2000 – 2011**



Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Municipal Finance Policy Branch. 2012. *Financial Information Return (FIR) by Municipality, 2000 – 2011*. Website: <http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm#5851>.

### Inflation

Inflation is the increase in prices or a decrease in the value of money. The *rate of inflation*<sup>147</sup> in Canada is calculated based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI demonstrates the change in prices of a standard package of goods and services that are purchased by consumers.

<sup>145</sup>The Municipality of Wawa. May 2012. *The Municipality of Wawa Budget 2012*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>146</sup> Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2012. *Fiscal Context, Financial Administration*. Website: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page8393.aspx>.

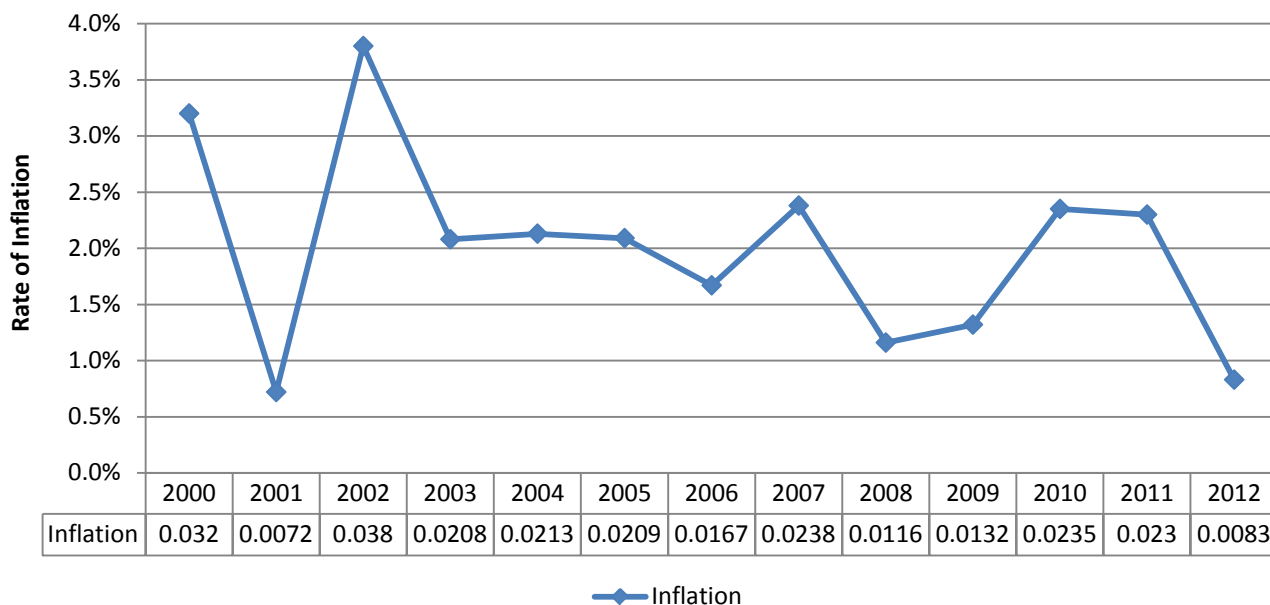
<sup>147</sup> *Inflation* means a reduction in the value of money; in other words, a rise in general price levels. If the amount of money in a country - the money supply - grows faster than production in that country, the average price will rise as a result of the increased demand for goods and services. Inflation can also be caused by higher costs being charged on to the end-user. These might be raw material costs or production costs which have risen, but could also be higher tax rates. These price rises cause the value of money to fall. Global Rates. 2013a. *Inflation Canada – consumer price index (CPI)*. Website: <http://www.global-rates.com/economic-indicators/inflation/inflation-information.aspx>.

Governments typically try to control and maintain low annual inflation rates between 2.0 – 3.0%. This is beneficial to the economy as it encourages consumer spending and investment. High inflation rates on the other hand have a negative effect on economic growth as consumers spend less, interest rates increase and investments can decline<sup>148</sup>.

Inflation rates also have a direct impact on the value of municipal spending. In the case of the Municipality of Wawa, high inflation rates would likely have serious and immediate consequences due to the Municipality’s narrow revenue base, in relation to its expenditures. Because inflation can result in an increase in the value of expenditure, this can in turn affect taxes and revenue receipts. Similarly, the rate of inflation can affect the amount of goods and services that the Municipality can purchase in any one year. Thus, if revenues have not increased proportionally to inflation, fewer resources may be available to Wawa.

Figure 32 below shows the historic inflation rates for Canada between 2000 and 2012. After peaking in 2002, the inflation rate declined substantially. The 2012 inflation rate was 0.83%, a drop from the 2011 rate of 2.30%. In January 2013, Canada’s inflation rate was recorded to be 0.50%<sup>149</sup>.

**Figure 32: Canada's Annual Inflation Rate, 2000 – 2012**



Source: Worldwide Inflation Data. 2013. *Historic Inflation Canada – CPI Inflation*. Website. <http://www.inflation.eu/inflation-rates/canada/historic-inflation/cpi-inflation-canada.aspx>.

<sup>148</sup> Global Rates. 2013b. *Inflation, detailed information about inflation*. Website. <http://www.global-rates.com/economic-indicators/inflation/inflation-information.aspx>.

<sup>149</sup> Trading Economics. 2012. *Canada Inflation Rate*. Website. <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/canada/inflation-cpi>.

Using the base year of 2000, Table 13 below illustrates the value of the Municipality's expenditure at the constant year 2000 prices. The constant dollar analysis would account for inflation and its effect on spending and revenue receipts. The values shown in Table 13 were derived using the Bank of Canada's inflation calculator<sup>150</sup>.

By using 2000 as the base year, the real value of the goods and services purchased by the Municipality can be assessed. Table 13 below indicates that the value of money today is not the same as the value in 2000. The Bank of Canada Inflation Calculator shows that by 2011, inflation accounted for about a quarter of the value of the dollar compared to 2000. This indicates that the Municipality needed more money in 2011 (due to inflation) to provide the same services as it did in 2000.

**Table 13: Value of Wawa's Expenditures Expressed in Constant Year 2000 Prices**

Year	Total Expenditure (\$)	Expenditure Expressed in Constant Year 2000 Dollars (\$)	Difference (\$)	Inflation Factors
2000	\$11,485,452	\$11,485,452	\$0	1.0
2001	\$11,323,680	\$11,007,834	\$315,846	1.03
2002	\$11,185,590	\$10,718,575	\$467,015	1.04
2003	\$11,969,664	\$10,956,667	\$1,012,997	1.09
2004	\$12,104,537	\$11,005,188	\$1,099,349	1.10
2005	\$12,798,511	\$11,393,944	\$1,404,567	1.12
2006	\$13,576,081	\$11,828,789	\$1,747,292	1.15
2007	\$13,631,354	\$11,639,840	\$1,991,514	1.17
2008	\$15,605,927	\$13,088,393	\$2,517,534	1.19
2009	\$12,056,869	\$9,969,696	\$2,087,173	1.21
2010	\$12,148,805	\$9,889,295	\$2,259,510	1.23
2011	\$12,758,951	\$10,166,107	\$2,592,844	1.26

Source: Bank of Canada. 2013. *Inflation Calculator*. Website. <http://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/related/inflation-calculator/>; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Municipal Finance Policy Branch. 2012. *Financial Information Return (FIR) by Municipality, 2000 – 2011*. Website. <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm#5851>.

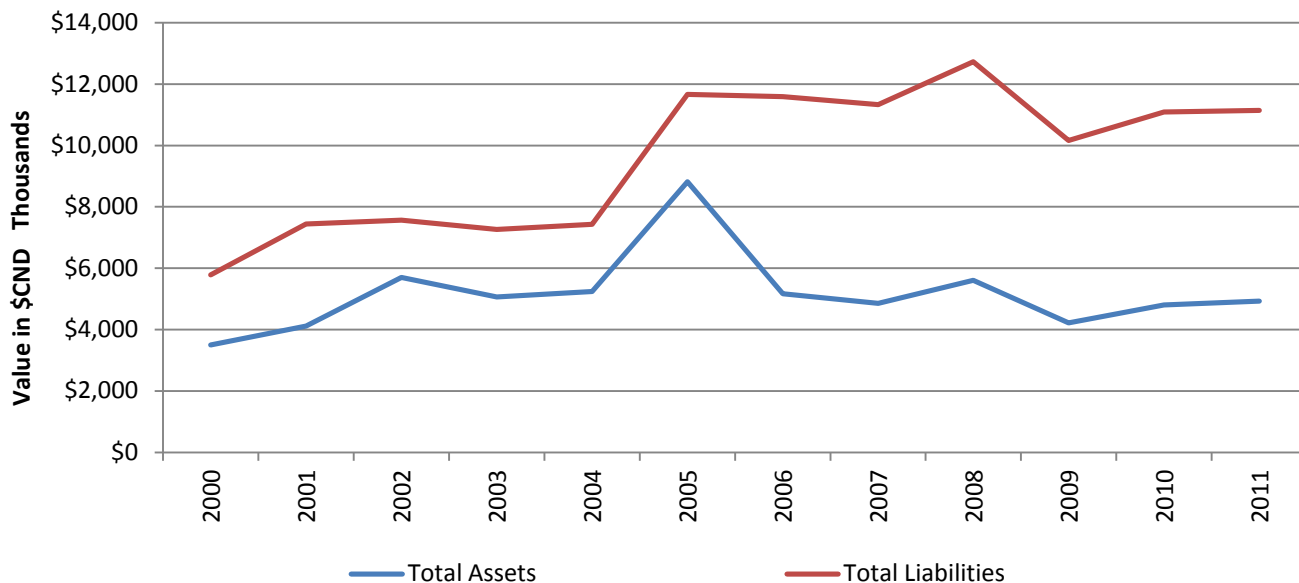
An examination of the total expenditures in 2011 of \$12.8 million represents the nominal dollar value for that year. However, in terms of real or equivalent year 2000 dollars, it is valued at \$10.2 million. Despite spending \$12.8 million in 2011, in real terms (dollars), that expenditures fall below what the Municipality spent in 2000 (i.e., \$10.2 million real dollars in 2011 versus \$11.5 million in 2000). With less real dollars spent on goods and services, a corresponding decrease in services may result.

<sup>150</sup> Bank of Canada. 2013. *Inflation Calculator*. Website. <http://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/related/inflation-calculator/>.

**Total Assets and Liabilities**

The statement of financial position provides information about the Municipality’s consolidated financial position in terms of its assets and liabilities. These figures can then be used as indicators to determine whether a Municipality’s financial position has improved or deteriorated<sup>151</sup>. The value of the Municipality’s total assets varied between 2000 and 2011, but peaked in 2005 and declined later to levels commensurate with earlier years.

**Figure 33: Trends in Assets and Liabilities, 2000 – 2011**



Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Municipal Finance Policy Branch. 2012. *Financial Information Return (FIR) by Municipality, 2000 – 2011*. Website. <http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm#5851>.

Financial liabilities are debts which arise from past transactions or events and which Wawa Council is obligated to settle by means of transfers or use of its assets. An examination of Figure 33 above shows that overall, assets and liabilities were closely aligned until 2006, when liabilities increased dramatically and have remained significantly higher than assets. The overview of the financial performance of the Municipality shows that there are some challenges to its financial positions as liabilities remained in excess of its assets for the entire period under review.

**Property Assessment**

Property assessment values are determined by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. Table 14 and Figure 34 below provide property assessment values from 2002 to 2010.

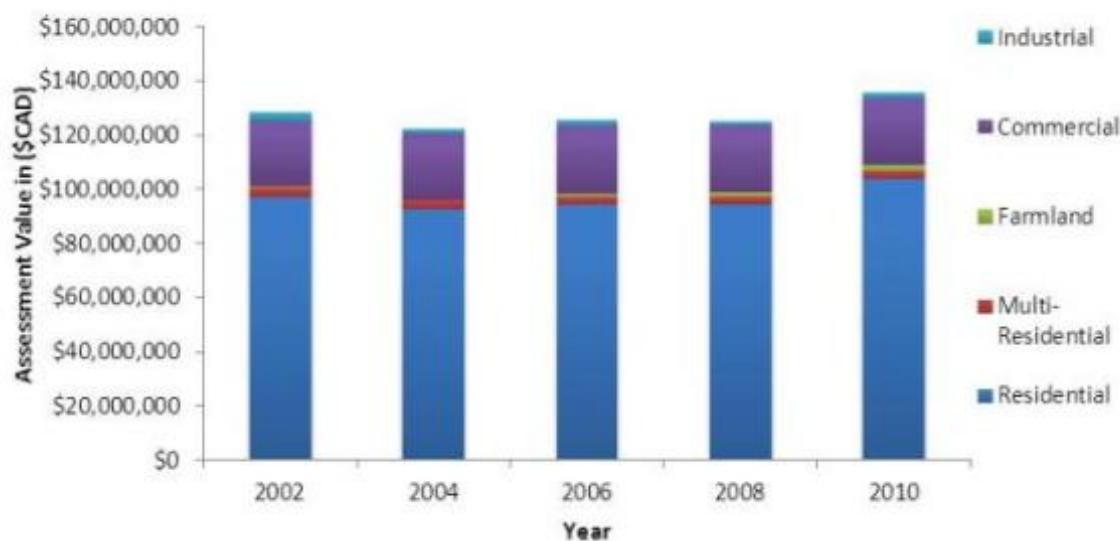
<sup>151</sup> Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2012. *Fiscal Context, Financial Administration*. Website. <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page8393.aspx>.

**Table 14: Wawa Property Assessment Values, 2002 – 2010<sup>152</sup>**

Property Type <sup>153</sup>	Year				
	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010
Residential	\$96,918,245	\$92,921,605	\$94,362,745	\$94,545,590	\$104,027,495
Multi-Residential	\$3,701,980	\$3,096,230	\$2,790,125	\$2,739,575	\$2,704,065
Farmland	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Commercial	\$23,935,460	\$24,440,835	\$24,726,290	\$24,890,985	\$24,835,630
Industrial	\$3,078,805	\$2,056,770	\$2,301,515	\$1,729,025	\$2,217,400
Pipeline	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Property Classes	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$128,367,190</b>	<b>\$122,537,610</b>	<b>\$125,509,675</b>	<b>\$125,234,175</b>	<b>\$135,770,090</b>

Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2012. *Multi-Year Financial Review Information, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010*. Website. <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm#5776>.

**Figure 34: Wawa Property Assessment Values, 2002 – 2010**



Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2012. *Multi-Year Financial Review Information, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010*. Website. <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm#5776>.

<sup>152</sup> Due to data limitations, property assessment values for farmland, pipeline and other property classes are not available. Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2012. *Multi-Year Financial Review Information, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010*. Website. <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm>.

<sup>153</sup> Property assessment categories are assigned according to the use of the property. There are seven major property classes and six specialty property classes recognized by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. However, additional sub-classes have been added by municipalities and the Province of Ontario to reduce taxes paid for properties constructed after March 2007. Major property classes include Residential; Multi-Residential; Commercial; Industrial; Pipeline; Farm and Managed Forests. Specialty property classes include New Multi-Residential; Office Building; Shopping Centre; Parking Lots; Vacant Land Property; Large Industrial; and Professional Sports Facilities. Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. 2013. *Property Classification*. Website. [http://www.mpac.on.ca/property\\_owners/how/assessment\\_guide2.asp#15](http://www.mpac.on.ca/property_owners/how/assessment_guide2.asp#15); 2013. *Glossary – Property Classification*. Website. [http://www.mpac.on.ca/property\\_owners/how/glossary\\_terms.asp#O](http://www.mpac.on.ca/property_owners/how/glossary_terms.asp#O).

Based on the property assessment values illustrated above in Table 14 and Figure 34, it is apparent that residential uses account for the greatest proportion of the Municipality's tax assessment base, with the industrial assessment declining in general. This pattern indicates a reliance on taxes from residential and commercial property types relative to other property types.

Table 14 and Figure 34 above also indicate that the Municipality has maintained a relatively stable assessment base. The total property assessment base value increased by 5.8% between 2002 and 2010 to just over \$7,000,000 in 2010. In 2010, the Municipality recorded an increase in its residential and industrial assessment values. This translates to an increase in tax revenues with no direct changes to the tax rate<sup>154</sup>.

### 2.3.2 SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC ASSETS

The Municipality of Wawa has been negatively impacted by the closure of mining and forestry operations as a result of the global economic downturn and ensuing recession. The local natural resource-based economy and recent economic downturns has led to business closures, out-migration and the loss of skilled workers. Between 1998 and 2007, a number of large employers including Algoma Ore Division, Weyerhaeuser Company, Domtar Forest Products and Dubreuil Forest Products closed leading to large job losses. This in turn impacted the local Wawa economy.

In 2006, Wawa experienced a high level of underemployment (39.94%), as skilled workers were unable to find employment opportunities making best utilization of their skills<sup>155</sup>. Between 1996 and 2006, levels of unemployment, labour force participation and employment have fluctuated. Between 1996 and 2001, unemployment levels, labour force participation and employment rose and then declined between 2001 and 2006. This also led to a greater number of Wawa residents requiring social assistance for the same period. Business closures and out-migration also contributed to a declining financial position for the Municipality between 2000 and 2008. During this period, the Municipality incurred a number of expenditures and experienced significant revenue fluctuations.

Despite out-migration and business closures, there is economic development occurring with the opening of Level Plains Enterprises Incorporated, the U-Brew (Home Town Wines) store in Downtown Wawa and new tourist operators. New employment opportunities in mining as a result of ongoing mining exploration developments may provide stability. Through the pursuit of new economic development opportunities and entrepreneurial spirit, the Municipality will be better equipped for a diversified local economy and the retention of skilled workers.

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<sup>154</sup> Wray, Chris. May 2012. *Municipality of Wawa Budget Report*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>155</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010a. *Wawa Community Profile, 2010 – 2011*.

### 2.3.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES

A number of priorities and key issues can be identified for the 'Economic Assets' category, including:

- Historically, Wawa has experienced a series of “boom and bust” cycles associated with the local economy and Northern Ontario’s natural resources;
- The closure of major employers in the 1990s and 2000s has impacted the local economy;
- Wawa’s labour force has been declining over the past 15 years as out-migration and population decline result in educated, mobile residents leaving the Municipality in pursuit of employment opportunities;
- It is not uncommon for Wawa residents to reside in the Municipality and commute elsewhere;
- Unemployment rates increased between 1996 and 2001, significantly declined between 2001 and 2006, and rose in 2011. This may indicate a degree of stability returning as mineral development activities in the area surrounding Wawa continues to provide new employment opportunities for local residents;
- In 2006, Wawa had a high rate of underemployment;
- Economic development opportunities exist within the community, although financial constraints and economic conditions of the surrounding area restrict new opportunities;
- Entrepreneurship is active in the community with new businesses opening in recent years, including a new retail store in Downtown Wawa and a commercial blueberry farm;
- Mining remains the community’s largest employment sector with two of the major private sector employers being Wesdome Gold Mines Limited and Richmond Mines;
- Growth of the tourism industry, particularly through growth in nature-based and eco-tourism opportunities, is a priority for community members; and,
- A desire exists to re-position Wawa as a tourist destination rather than a tourist stop.

### 2.3.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

Wawa is a resilient community with municipal leadership and residents committed to the community’s future. As a natural resource-based economy, there is a desire to diversify the local economy by encouraging new businesses and industry to make use of the community’s existing assets (e.g., existing infrastructure networks and available land). *Wawa 2015: Building Our Future* and the community’s Official Plan highlight the importance of economic development. Municipal leadership and community members have expressed a desire to build on the community’s established tourism industry by encouraging more nature-based and eco-tourism opportunities. The ongoing strategic planning exercise will provide further insights into the economic values, goals and objectives of Wawa residents.

### 2.3.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Available data indicates that Wawa is a community seeking growth and new economic development opportunities. The Economic Development Corporation of Wawa is actively pursuing new opportunities and is participating in ventures to encourage new investment. Wawa is also a community with active entrepreneurs who may have a role in increasing new economic opportunities in the future.



There are also opportunities to grow and expand Wawa's tourism industry. Given the community's location along the TransCanada Highway and Lake Superior, there are opportunities to expand existing operations and encourage new programming opportunities. In addition, the availability of Provincial Parks, canoeing and hiking trails in the area surrounding Wawa can further encourage new tourism opportunities. Growth of the tourism industry could be supported by the availability of local accommodations within the community.

## 2.4 INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

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The infrastructure within a community includes the basic physical assets needed to support livelihoods and the tools or equipment that people use to function more productively. Infrastructure is a public good and improved access to it increases community well-being, human health and quality of life.

This section of the profile highlights infrastructure assets of Wawa. These are:

- Land Use;
- Housing;
- Municipal Infrastructure and Services; and,
- Transportation.

### 2.4.1 INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET INDICATORS

#### 2.4.1.1 LAND USE

The Municipality of Wawa has an *Official Plan* (2010), a Zoning By-law (1985), as well as a proposed Comprehensive Zoning By-law (April 2012)<sup>156</sup>. Collectively, these describe a diverse urban structure and variations of land uses by Settlement Area. Michipicoten Harbour Settlement Area is currently not subject to land use provisions but to special policy provisions contained in the *Municipality of Wawa Official Plan* (2010).

Wawa and Michipicoten River Village Settlement Areas are subject to land use provisions identified in the *Municipality of Wawa Official Plan*. The Wawa Settlement Area has a large urban structure consisting of the following land use designations: Wawa Residential, Employment, Institutional, Airport; Downtown, Hazard Lands, Open Space and Urban Highway Commercial. Figure 35 below illustrates a concentration of land uses in Downtown Wawa to encourage a mixed-use urban structure through intensification, infill and new development. The *Official Plan* intends for the Wawa Settlement Area to have a diverse urban structure and land use designations which encourage residential development in the existing urban area. In addition, the Wawa Settlement Area is to be maintained and promoted as a primary growth and employment centre for the surrounding area<sup>157</sup>.

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<sup>156</sup> Meridian Planning Consultants Inc. April, 2012. *New Comprehensive Zoning By-law 2012-xx*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa. Website .

<http://www.wawa.cc/contentadmin/UserFiles/File/OP/ZBLMay2012.pdf>

<sup>157</sup> Meridian Planning Consultants Inc. 2010. *Official Plan of the Municipality of Wawa*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

Figure 36 illustrates a similar urban structure for Michipicoten River Village Settlement Area, which has a diverse urban structure meant to encourage infilling, redevelopment and rounding out of the settlement area<sup>158</sup>. The Settlement Area consists of the following land use designations: Village Residential, General Industrial and Hazard Lands. In addition, a number of municipal parks are situated along the Lake Superior shoreline and serve Municipality-wide residents.

There are also available zoned and serviced commercial and industrial lands capable of accommodating growth within the Municipality<sup>159</sup>. According to local officials and the Economic Development Corporation of Wawa, there are currently a number of serviced lots available in the Michipicoten Industrial Park and Downtown Wawa<sup>160</sup>. In 2011, available lots in the Michipicoten Industrial Park ranged in size from approximately 0.4 to 2.9 hectares (1 to 7 acres)<sup>161</sup>.

In addition to the *Official Plan*, land uses are influenced by land ownership patterns. Figure 37 below shows the land ownership patterns for Wawa and the surrounding area. This figure outlines private, Federal and Crown lands.

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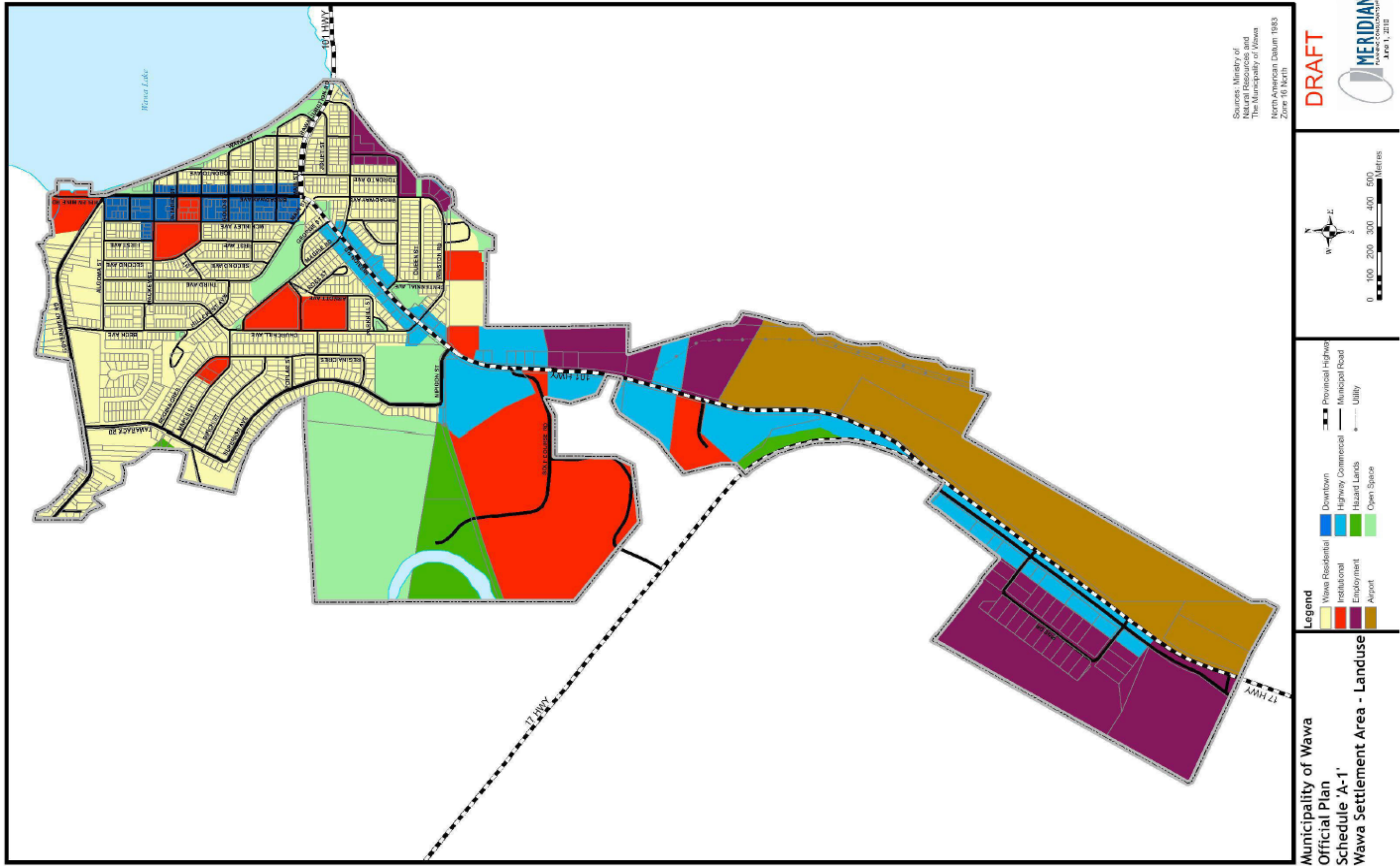
<sup>158</sup> Meridian Planning Consultants Inc. 2010. *Official Plan of the Municipality of Wawa*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>159</sup> Insight gained by DPRA through conversations with municipal officials.

<sup>160</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012c. *Available Land*. Website. <http://edcwawa.ca/available-land/>.

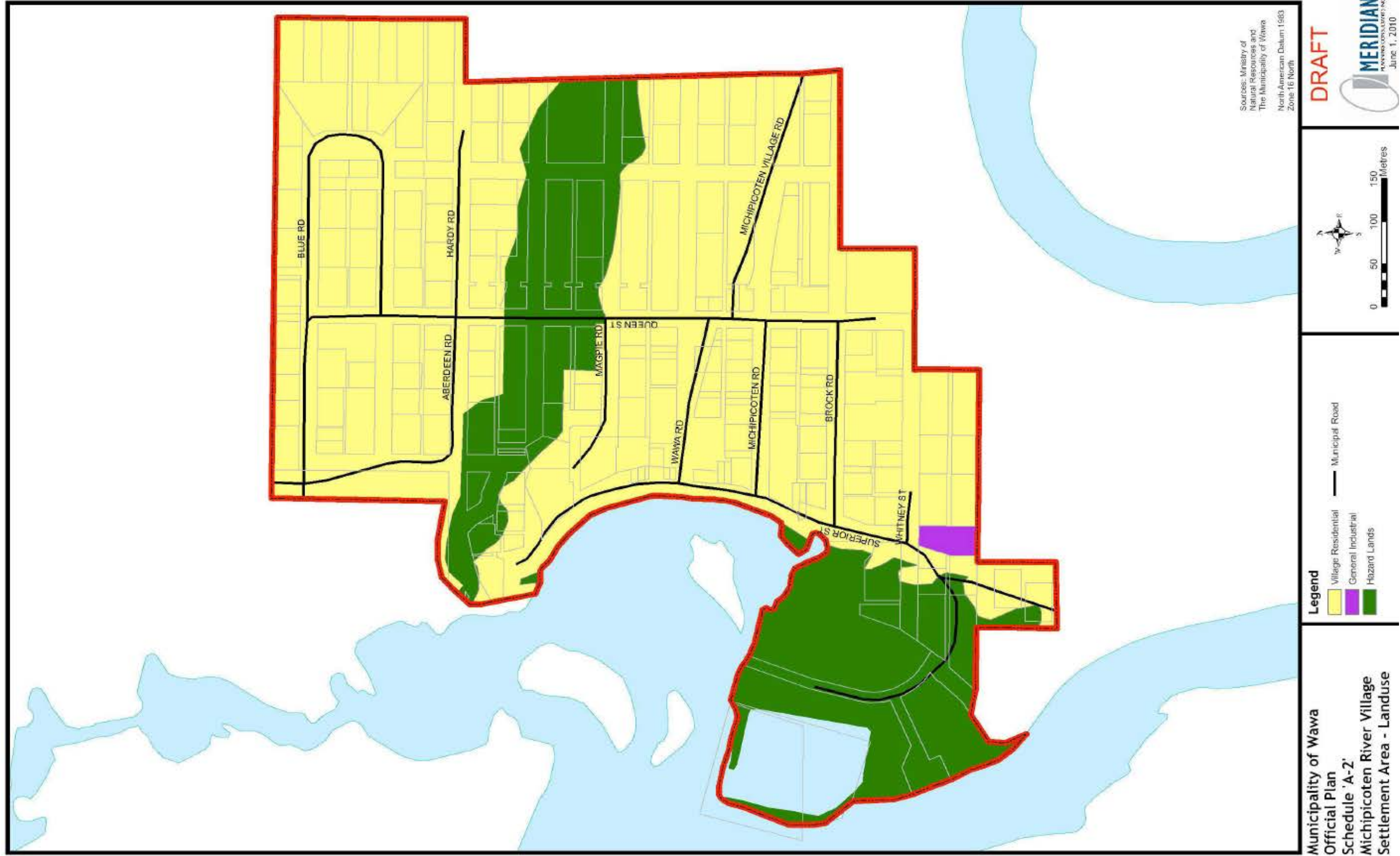
<sup>161</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010a. *Wawa Community Profile, 2010 – 2011*.

Figure 35: Wawa Settlement Area Land Use



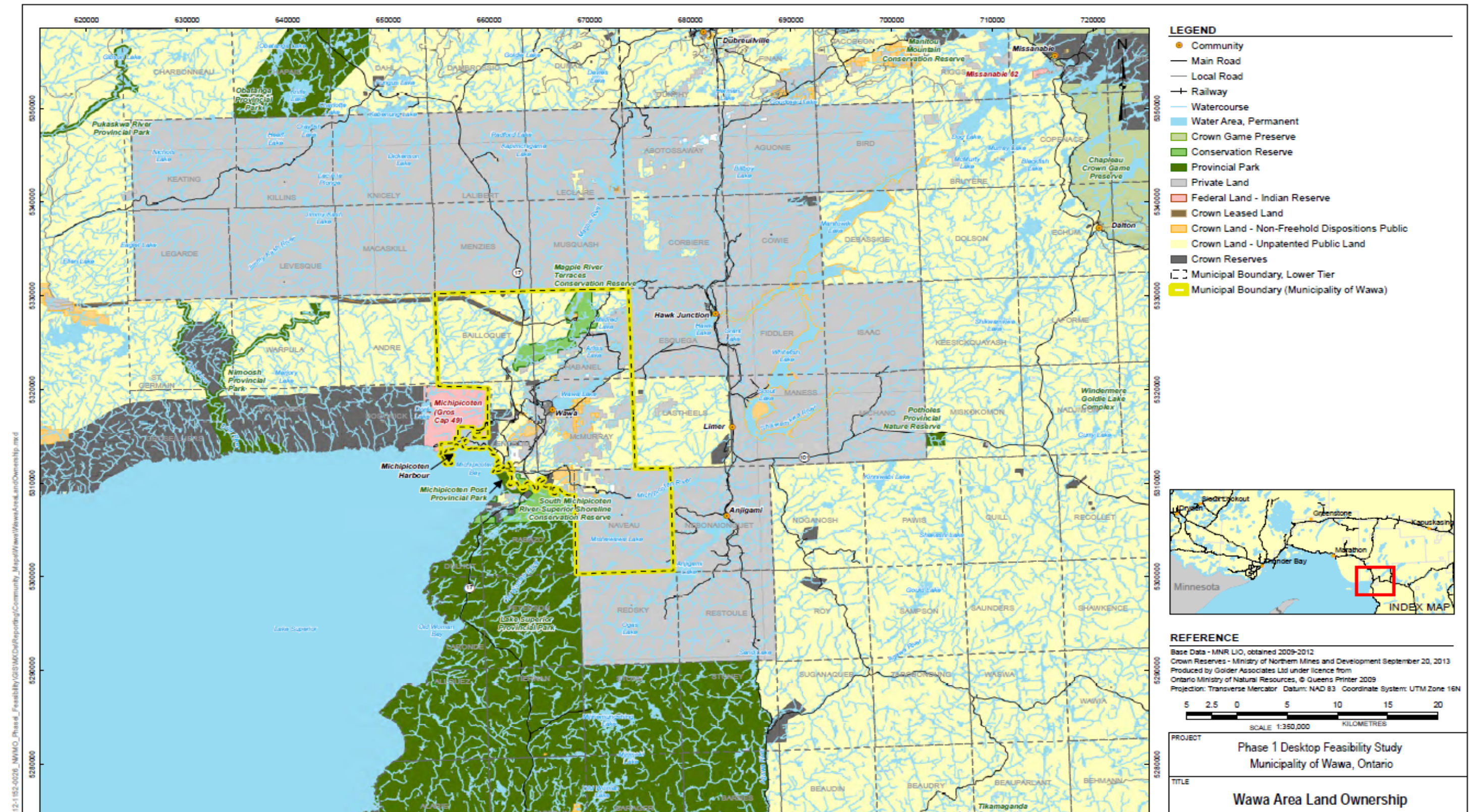
Source: Meridian Planning Consultants Inc. 2010. *Municipality of Wawa Official Plan Schedule A-1*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

Figure 36: Michipicoten River Village Settlement Area Land Use



Source: Meridian Planning Consultants Inc. 2010. *Municipality of Wawa Official Plan Schedule A-2*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

Figure 37: Wawa Area Land Ownership



Source: Golder Associates Ltd. 2013. Wawa Area Land Ownership

2.4.1.2 HOUSING

The Municipality has a diversity of occupied private dwellings (see Figure 38). In 2011, there were reportedly 1,517 private dwellings, an increase of 4.4% from 2006<sup>162</sup>. According to Statistics Canada, 64 new private dwellings were constructed between 2006 and 2011; however, local officials indicated very few dwellings have been constructed over the past 12 years<sup>163</sup>.

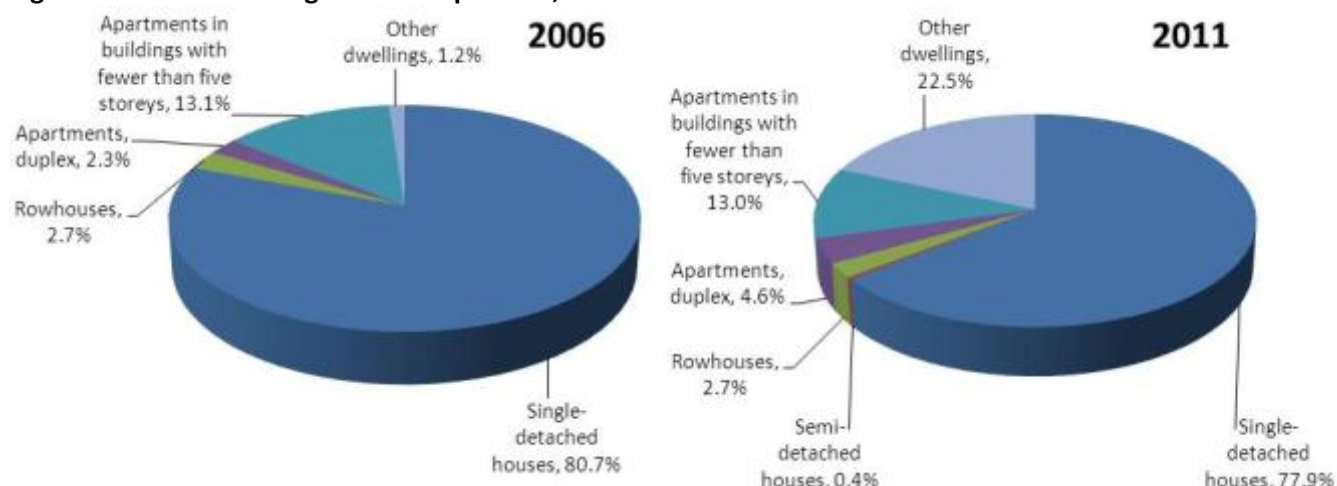
Figure 38: Residential Street in Wawa



Source: DPRA Canada, 2012.

The majority of dwellings in the Municipality were constructed before 1986; only about 10% of Wawa’s housing stock was constructed between 1986 and 2006<sup>164</sup>. Wawa residents have a wide range of housing options including single-family detached, semi-detached, duplex, row houses and apartment buildings. Figure 39 below illustrates that single detached homes were the largest component of Wawa’s housing stock in 2006 and 2011, comprising approximately 80% of Wawa’s housing stock in both years<sup>165</sup>. Second to single-detached, Wawa has a number of apartment building of varying heights.

Figure 39: Wawa Housing Stock Composition, 2006 – 2011<sup>166</sup>



Source: Statistics Canada. 2007, 2012. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profiles*.

Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

<sup>162</sup> Statistics Canada. 2012. *Wawa, Municipality Community Profile*. Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>.

<sup>163</sup> Insight gained by DPRA from NWCAC members at the May 30, 2012 meeting.

<sup>164</sup> Statistics Canada. 2007. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profile*. Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/index.cfm?Lang=E>.

<sup>165</sup> Statistics Canada. 2007, 2012. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profiles*.

<sup>166</sup> According to Statistics Canada, the “Other Dwellings” category used in the 2011 Census of Population is a compilation of three categories – “Movable dwelling”, “Other dwelling” and “Other single-attached homes” for the purpose of comparison with 2006 Census of Population categories. Statistics Canada. 2012. *Wawa, Municipality Community Profile*. Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3557076&Geo2=CD&Code2=3557&Data=Count&SearchText=wawa&SearchType=Begin&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=&TABID=1>.

Figure 39 above illustrates a variety of housing options are available for Municipality residents. According to the 2006 Census of Population, more than 76% of dwellings were owned, while the remaining 24% of dwellings were rented. In 2010, there were six apartment buildings consisting of three or more storeys including a 21-unit senior's apartment building. Alternative housing options include semi-detached, duplex and row house housing options. In 2006, Municipality residents reportedly paid an average monthly rent of \$600, while monthly mortgage payments were reportedly \$571<sup>167</sup>.

In 2012, there were more than 50 social housing units<sup>168</sup> managed by differing agencies including the Michipicoten Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Makawa Native Non-Profit Housing Inc. and the Algoma District Administration Services Board<sup>169</sup>. Michipicoten Non-Profit Housing Corporation manages 40 row house properties, providing a range of one to four bedroom units with certain units provided as rent-geared-to-income. In addition, Makawa Native Non-Profit Housing Inc. manages 10 single-detached dwelling, rent geared to income units<sup>170</sup>. Collectively, the agencies manage a number of properties providing a range of housing options and, in certain cases, financial assistance. Social housing units include row house and apartment building units<sup>171</sup>.

### **Property Sales and Rentals**

#### ***Property Sales***

According to the Sault Ste. Marie Real Estate Board, property sales in Wawa and the surrounding area have remained consistent in recent years. In January 2012, the Sault Ste. Marie Real Estate Board indicated the real estate market has remained stable over the past twenty years in the Board's service area, which includes the communities of Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa and all other Algoma District communities<sup>172</sup>.

Table 15 below shows the number of owned dwellings has decreased between 1996 and 2006; however, the percentage of owned versus rented dwellings has increased from 69.2% in 1996 to 76.8% in 2006 (see Table 15).

**Table 15: Wawa Dwelling Characteristics, 1996 – 2006**

Number of dwellings by tenure	1996		2001		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Number of owned dwellings	1,100	69.2%	1,080	72.7%	995	76.8%
Number of rented dwellings	485	30.5%	405	27.3%	300	23.2%
Total	1,590		1,485		1,295	

Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profiles*.

<sup>167</sup> Statistics Canada. 2007. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profile*.

<sup>168</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012a. *Wawa Community Profile, 2012*.

<sup>169</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010a. *Wawa Community Profile 2010-2011*.

<sup>170</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012a. *Wawa Community Profile, 2012*.

<sup>171</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010a. *Wawa Community Profile 2010-2011*.

<sup>172</sup> Sault Ste. Marie Real Estate Board. January 2012. *Sault and Area Real Estate Market*. Website. <http://www.saultstemarierealestate.ca/index.php/news/sault-and-area-real-estate-market/>.

There are also a number of vacant zoned and serviced lands (see Figure 40) capable of accommodating future population growth. In recent years, a new 18 dwelling subdivision received approval from the Municipality, indicating the capacity to accommodate population growth. Michipicoten River Village Settlement Area has been identified as being able to accommodate growth; however, growth may be constrained by the Settlement Area’s septic system<sup>173</sup>.

Figure 40: Available Development Lots

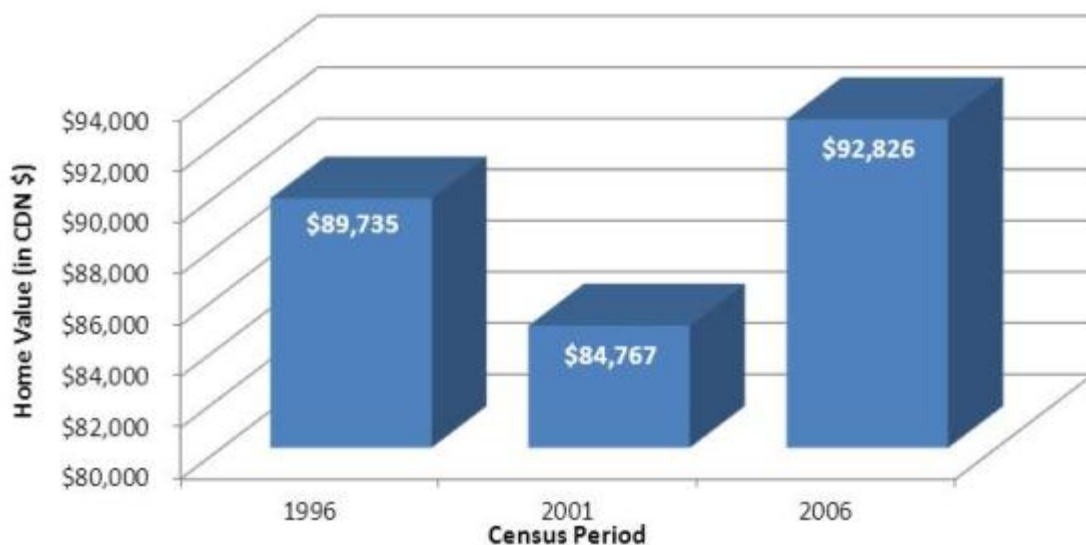


Source: DPRA Canada, 2012.

**Housing Values**

Figure 41 below illustrates that the average home value in the Municipality has fluctuated between 1996 and 2006. Between 1996 and 2001, property values decreased from \$89,735 in 1996 to \$84,767, and then increased to \$92,826 in 2006. Despite these fluctuations, Wawa is promoted as an affordable community with residential property taxes being among the lowest in the province<sup>174</sup>.

Figure 41: Wawa Average Home Values, 1996 – 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2006. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profiles*.

<sup>173</sup> Insight gained by DPRA through conversations with municipal officials.

<sup>174</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010c. *Quick Facts – Wawa*. Website. [http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=50&Itemid=126](http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=50&Itemid=126).



### 2.4.1.3 MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

The Municipality is serviced by a number of infrastructure networks, including electricity, water, sanitary sewer, waste management and communications. Electricity in the Municipality is supplied by Algoma Power Limited, which has installed Smart Meters for residential consumers<sup>175</sup>. In recent years, a new water treatment plant facility (see Figure 42) was installed with a designed capacity of more than 5,000 residents<sup>176</sup>. In 2009, there were approximately 3,200 people, excluding industrial uses, connected to the municipal water network<sup>177</sup>. Municipal water is metered in the Michipicoten Village Settlement Area. Billing for water consumption throughout the Municipality occurs semi-annually.

**Figure 42: Wawa Water Treatment Plant**



Source: DPRA Canada, 2012.

The Municipality is also responsible for sanitary sewers; Algoma Public Health is responsible for monitoring and approving private septic systems<sup>178</sup>. Waste management consists of weekly garbage collection by a contractor (J. Provost Contracting), a municipal landfill site and a tin can recycling and crushing depot<sup>179</sup>. The Municipality began operation of the landfill site in 2010 after having taken over operations from the previous contractor. The tin can recycling and crushing depot (see Figure 43) is located at the Michipicoten Memorial Community Centre.

**Figure 43: Tin Can Recycling and Crushing Depot**



Source: DPRA Canada, 2012.

The Municipality's Infrastructure Services Department is also responsible for the provision and maintenance of roads, sidewalks, boulevards, cemeteries, airport, streetlights, waste management, and snow removal<sup>180</sup>. Parks and recreation planning are undertaken by the Community Services and Tourism Department.<sup>181</sup> Municipal

<sup>175</sup> Nuclear Waste Community Advisory Committee members indicated Smart Meters have been installed but are not currently operational at the May 30, 2012 meeting.

<sup>176</sup> Wray, Chris. May 2012. *The Municipality of Wawa Budget 2012*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>177</sup> Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa. January 2010. *Wawa Townsite and Water Supply System Summary Report 2009*.

<sup>178</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010a. *Wawa Community Profile 2010-2011*.

<sup>179</sup> Municipality of Wawa. n.d.g. *Waste Management*. Website. <http://www.wawa.cc/township/township.aspx?ID=156>.

<sup>180</sup> Municipality of Wawa. n.d.h. *Infrastructure Services*. Website. <http://www.wawa.cc/township/township.aspx?ID=157>.

<sup>181</sup> Information obtained by DPRA from NWCAC Member, June 2013.

infrastructure networks have historically influenced the location of land uses to ensure environmental preservation and cost efficiency.

#### 2.4.1.4 TRANSPORTATION

Wawa is well situated along a number of transportation networks including road, marine, rail and air. There is direct access to the TransCanada Highway network, since Wawa is situated at the intersection of the TransCanada Highway (Highway 17) and Highway 101. Since 1960 and the opening of the TransCanada Highway corridor, Wawa residents have been able to access goods and services available in the surrounding area<sup>182</sup>. In addition, Municipality residents are provided public transit by Wawa Transit. According to the 2012 Budget Report, Wawa Transit carried more than 2,000 riders in 2011<sup>183</sup>.

**Figure 44: Michipicoten Harbour**



Source: DPRA Canada, 2012.

Direct marine access is provided by Michipicoten Harbour (see Figure 44) and the Harry McCluskie Memorial Marina<sup>184</sup>. Michipicoten Harbour has the potential for commercial uses and includes a large wharf<sup>185</sup>. It is a privately-owned facility by Superior Aggregates<sup>186</sup>.

Harry McCluskie Memorial Marina is publically available and includes docking facilities for approximately 97 pleasure crafts. There are 97 slips, 40 of which

have water and electrical connections<sup>187</sup> that can accommodate pleasure crafts up to 80 feet in length<sup>188</sup>.

<sup>182</sup> Rowe, Johanna. n.d.. *Signs of History: An Explorer's Guide to the Rich Heritage of the Wawa Area*.

<sup>183</sup> Wray, Chris. May 2012. *The Municipality of Wawa Budget 2012*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>184</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d.. *Wawa: Passionate People, Perfect Place!*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa and the Economic Development Corporation of Wawa.

<sup>185</sup> Site visits revealed the large wharf is privately owned by Superior Aggregates.

<sup>186</sup> The harbour's infrastructure was significantly damaged during the record rainfall on October 25, 2012 which resulted in a state of emergency being declared and a large loss of infrastructure throughout the Municipality. The harbour's infrastructure is being repaired in the Spring of 2013. Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa. March 2013. "Wawa's Declared Disaster – Flood of October 25<sup>th</sup>". *Michipicoten Magpie Newsletter*, 9(1): 5. Website.

<http://clinfo.ca/wawa/files/2013/03/March-2013-Newsletter.pdf>.

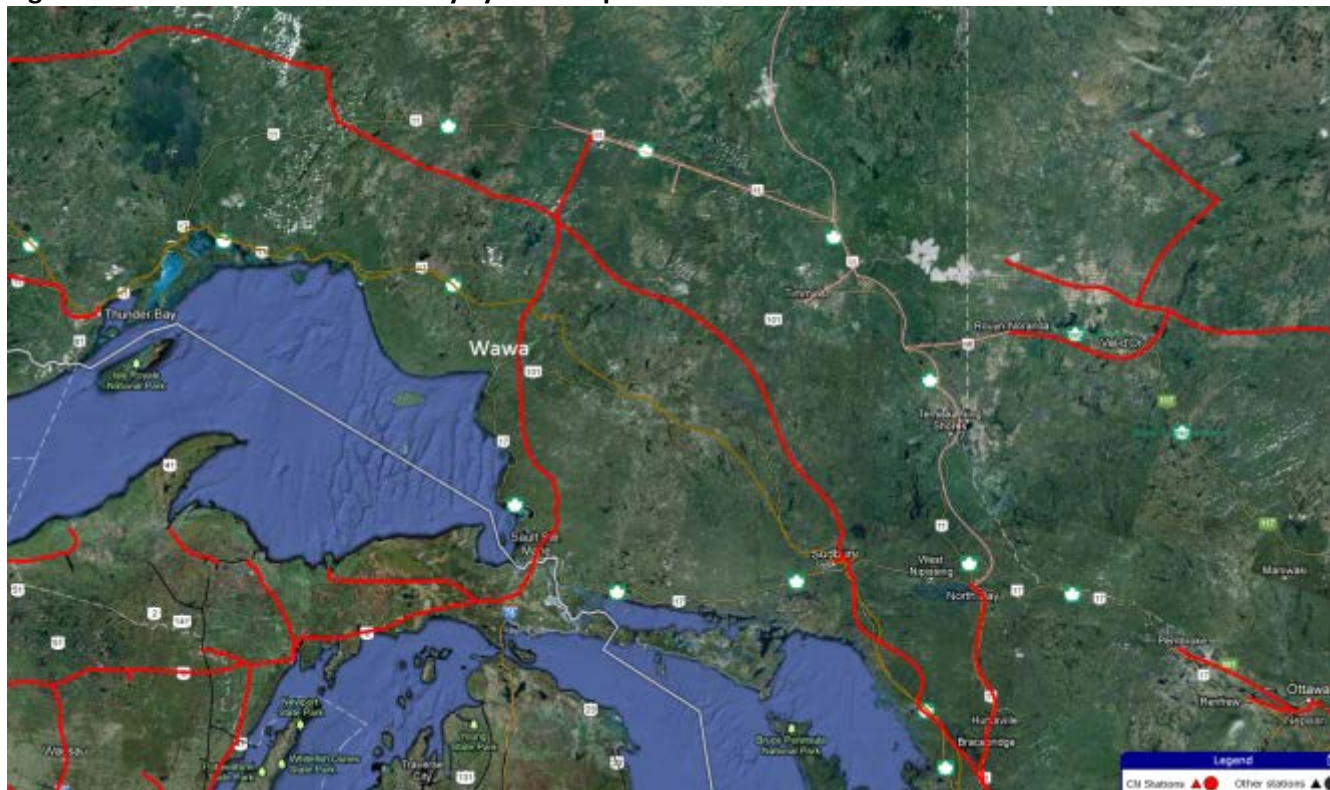
<sup>187</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010d. *Recreation*. Website.

[http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?view=article&catid=30%3Athe-community&id=122%3Arecreation&format=pdf&option=com\\_content&Itemid=183](http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?view=article&catid=30%3Athe-community&id=122%3Arecreation&format=pdf&option=com_content&Itemid=183).

<sup>188</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010e. *Market Access and Transportation*. Website.

[http://edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=129:market-access-and-transportation&catid=40:site-selection&Itemid=189](http://edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=129:market-access-and-transportation&catid=40:site-selection&Itemid=189).

Figure 45: Canadian National Railway System Map



Source: Canadian National Railway. 2012. *System Map*. Website. [http://cnebusiness.geomapguide.ca/?s\\_icid=-feature-right-stations-terminals-map](http://cnebusiness.geomapguide.ca/?s_icid=-feature-right-stations-terminals-map).

Freight and passenger service are provided by CN Railway (see Figure 45 above) and the Algoma Central Railway (a subsidiary of CN), respectively. For Wawa residents, the closest access point for passenger rail service operated by Algoma Central Railway is Hawk Junction located approximately 25 kilometres away from Downtown Wawa.

The Wawa Municipal Airport (see Figure 46) **Figure 46: Wawa Municipal Airport**

has a 4,429 foot paved runway<sup>189</sup> which provides access to air transportation and is used for commercial and private aircraft, including helicopters related to the resource and tourism industries<sup>190</sup>. The airport and fuel sales are also used to support forest firefighting activities in the area surrounding Wawa<sup>191</sup>. International and domestic air travel requires area residents to travel to either the Thunder Bay International



Source: DPRA Canada, 2012.

<sup>189</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010e. *Market Access and Transportation*. Website: [http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=129&Itemid=189](http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=129&Itemid=189).

<sup>190</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>191</sup> Wray, Chris. May 2012. *The Municipality of Wawa Budget 2012*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

Airport or Sault Ste. Marie Airport<sup>192</sup>.

## 2.4.2 SUMMARY OF INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

The Municipality of Wawa is an established urban community comprised of several Settlement Areas: Wawa Settlement Area, Michipicoten River Village Settlement Area, Michipicoten Harbour Settlement Area and Long Beach – Sandy Beach Settlement Area. The Municipality is also well serviced by existing infrastructure networks, including road, water and air transportation as well as a recently constructed water treatment facility. The water treatment facility has been designed to accommodate a much larger population base than currently exists in the Municipality. This, combined with available and serviced land, enables the Municipality to accommodate population growth when favourable conditions return. The *Municipality of Wawa Official Plan* includes policy frameworks to encourage new development within existing urban areas, including Downtown Wawa which is anticipated to become a diverse urban centre for area residents.

There are currently a number of vacant, serviced lots available throughout the Municipality. In addition, a new 18 dwelling subdivision recently received approval from Municipality officials. This new subdivision combined with available land in Michipicoten River Village Settlement Area will enable future growth to be accommodated. However, existing residents are challenged to support the financial resources necessary to maintain the existing infrastructure networks designed to service a community of more than 5,000 residents. There is a collective aspiration for Wawa to grow and lessen the financial burden on each resident.

### 2.4.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES

The Municipality of Wawa is well serviced by existing infrastructure networks. However, trends of population decline have resulted in an oversupply for current population levels. The following priorities and key issues have been identified:

- The surrounding natural environment should be protected;
- Effective use and management of existing infrastructure networks;
- Municipal resources to maintain and upgrade infrastructure, where appropriate; and,
- Encouragement of new development, including the creation of a new residential subdivision.

### 2.4.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

Wawa is an established urban community with a collective vision for growth. Future growth can be accommodated by the community's existing infrastructure networks which are currently underutilized. The availability of infrastructure to accommodate a population of up to 5,000 residents can provide a catalyst for new investment and new opportunities. In addition, the community has available, serviced land that can be utilized for new development. However, a desire for growth is balanced by a desire to protect and preserve the surrounding natural environment. The community's scenic location on the shores of Lake Superior and Lake

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<sup>192</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d.. *Wawa: Passionate People, Perfect Place!*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa and the Economic Development Corporation of Wawa.

Wawa is a source of pride. This location enables residents to enjoy an outdoor lifestyle and a vast array of recreational opportunities in the area surrounding Wawa.

#### **2.4.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY**

Wawa's infrastructure networks are capable of accommodating a larger population base than currently exists. However, the provision of infrastructure services to the community's existing residents is a financial constraint due to trends of out-migration and population decline over the past decades. Wawa is well situated along road and marine transportation networks with direct access to the TransCanada Highway (Highway 17), a privately owned deep water port, and a municipal airport. Existing facilities – such as the Wawa Municipal Airport and Michipicoten Harbour – can be revitalized to capitalize on new opportunities in the future. In addition, freight and passenger rail networks are available in the area surrounding Wawa, which may provide additional opportunities.

## **2.5 SOCIAL ASSETS**

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The Social Assets within a community include the social and community activities in which people participate and the resources that they draw upon in pursuit of their livelihood objectives. These activities and resources create networks within and between communities, enhance cohesion and generate trusting relationships and community pride.

This section of the community profile addresses social assets in Wawa. The key social assets described for this community are:

- Cultural Heritage Resources;
- Community Facilities and Programs; and,
- Social Services and Organizations.

### **2.5.1 SOCIAL ASSET INDICATORS**

#### **2.5.1.1 CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES**

The Municipality has a strong cultural heritage linked to its history and evolution (see Figure 47 below). The Municipality has been in existence since 1725 under different names<sup>193</sup>. The area was first established as Michipicoten in 1725 as a French fur trading post<sup>194</sup>, and became a local headquarters for the

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<sup>193</sup> Wawa Goose. 2010. *History - Wawa Goose*. Website. <http://wawagoose.com/history/>.

<sup>194</sup> Rowe, Johanna. n.d.. *Signs of History: An Explorer's Guide to the Rich Heritage of the Wawa Area*.

Hudson Bay Company between 1827 and 1887<sup>195</sup>. In 1899, the area was reportedly surveyed and registered as WaWa City<sup>196</sup>. It later incorporated in 1952 and was renamed the Township of Michipicoten. The Township then joined the Municipality of Wawa in 2007<sup>197</sup>. The Municipality appeared as Michipicoten Bay on Samuel De Champlain's 1632 map<sup>198</sup>, and remains "one of the oldest place names found on Ontario maps"<sup>199</sup>. Prior to this, the area was inhabited by the Ojibway people. The name Wawa, when translated from the native Ojibway language, is believed to mean "wild goose"<sup>200</sup>.

**Figure 47: Sign of History (located at Harry McCluskie Memorial Marina)**



Source: DPRA Canada, 2012

The Municipality's unique cultural history is becoming increasingly visible to residents and visitors. Over the past few years, a number of strategies and initiatives have been undertaken to highlight the Municipality's cultural history. These include completion of the *Official Plan*<sup>201</sup>, *Initial Screening Report for Siting a Deep Geological Repository for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel, Municipality of Wawa*<sup>202</sup>, *Wawa Culture*<sup>203</sup> and new additions to a series of interpretative art installations.

As a component of the *Official Plan* preparation process, Municipality residents identified sites of natural and historical importance. These sites were collected and identified in *Schedule 'D' Cultural Heritage Features* of the Municipality's *Official Plan*. Identified features include the historic Sir James Dunn home, various parks, the Wawa Goose, natural heritage features and built features such as a prominent dock and community cemetery<sup>204</sup>. Additional cultural heritage resources were reported during Wawa's involvement in Step 2 of the

<sup>195</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community (n.d.). *Wawa: Passionate People, Perfect Place!*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa and the Economic Development Corporation of Wawa.

<sup>196</sup> Rowe, Johanna. May 2012. "There's gold in them hills: eastern shoreline of Lake Superior has brilliant past". *J. Rowe Heritage Consulting*. Website. <http://www.wawahistory.com/2/category/michipicoten%20river%20village/1.html>.

<sup>197</sup> Information confirmed by members of the Nuclear Waste Community Advisory Committee at the May 30, 2012 meeting.

<sup>198</sup> Rowe, Johanna. n.d.. *Signs of History: An Explorer's Guide to the Rich Heritage of the Wawa Area*.

<sup>199</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. (n.d.). *Wawa: Passionate People, Perfect Place!*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa and the Economic Development Corporation of Wawa.

<sup>200</sup> Wawa Goose. 2010. *History - Wawa Goose*. Website. <http://wawagoose.com/history/>.

<sup>201</sup> Meridian Planning Consultants Inc. 2010. *Municipality of Wawa Official Plan*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>202</sup> Geofirma Engineering Ltd. October 2011. *Initial Screening for Siting a Deep Geological Repository for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel, Municipality of Wawa, Ontario*. Prepared for NWMO.

<sup>203</sup> Wawa Culture. 2011. *Cultural Spaces and Facilities*. Website. <http://wawaculture.com/cultural-resources/cultural-spaces-facilities/>.

<sup>204</sup> Meridian Planning Consultants Inc. 2010. *Official Plan for the Municipality of Wawa, Schedule 'D' Cultural Heritage Features*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

NWMO Process. Contained in the Initial Screening Report for the community, more than 11 archaeological sites were identified in various locations along the Lake Superior shoreline. In addition to the cultural heritage features identified by residents, Wawa's cultural heritage includes reference to the historic fur trade that once occurred in the area<sup>205</sup>.

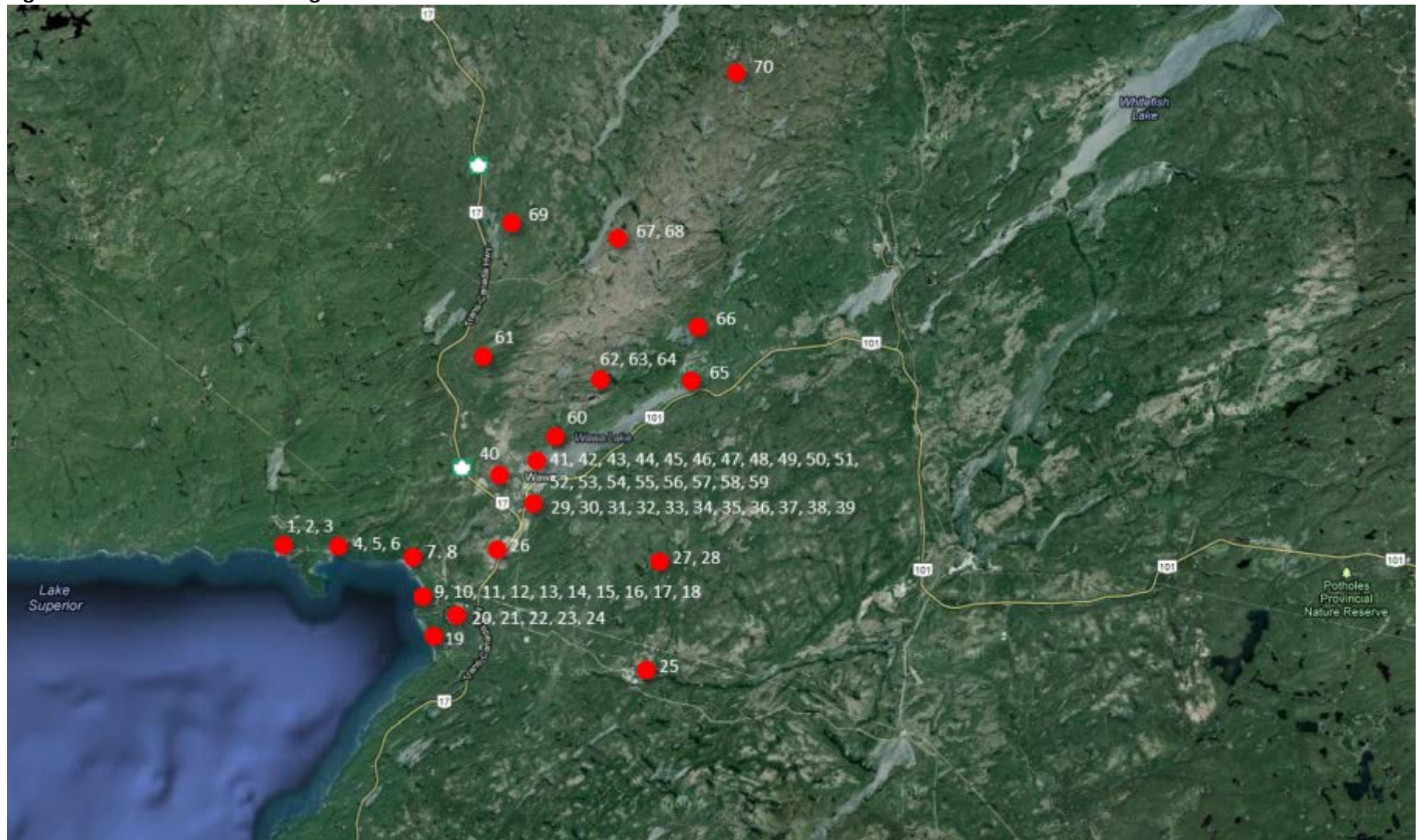
In 2011, steps were taken to further identify cultural heritage resources through the Wawa Cultural Mapping Project<sup>206</sup>. The project consisted of mapping various locations, spaces and facilities identified by residents to be symbolic of the Municipality's cultural history. Over the period extending from September 2011 to March 2012, Municipality residents submitted a list of spaces and facilities; the final report was completed and released in May 2012. Figure 48 below illustrates those spaces and facilities identified by residents.

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<sup>205</sup> Geofirma Engineering Ltd. October 2011. *Initial Screening for Siting a Deep Geological Repository for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel, Municipality of Wawa, Ontario*. Prepared for NWMO.

<sup>206</sup> Wawa Culture. 2011. *Cultural Spaces and Facilities*. Website. <http://wawaculture.com/cultural-resources/cultural-spaces-facilities/>.

Figure 48: Wawa Cultural Heritage Sites



Source: Derived from Wawa Culture. 2011. *Cultural Resources*. Website. <http://wawaculture.com/cultural-resources/>.



Wawa's cultural heritage resources include a diverse selection of sites. Figure 49 above shows:

- White Sands Beach (item number 1);
- Michipicoten First Nation Pow Wow (item number 2);
- White Sand Cemetery (item number 3);
- Harbour Pottery (item number 4);
- Michipicoten Harbour (item number 5);
- Brient [an abandoned railway siding on the Algoma Central Railway] (item number 6);
- Sandy Beach (item number 7);
- Sandy Beach Pavillion (item number 8) – also see Figure 51;
- Rock Island Lodge (item number 9);
- Government Dock Beach (item number 10);
- Silver Falls/Mission Falls (item number 11);
- Scenic High Falls (item number 12);
- Rock Island Lodge House Concerts (item number 13);
- Driftwood Beach (item number 14);
- Government Dock Beach (item number 15);
- Medicine Cave (item number 16);
- Mackenzie-Bethune Cemetery (item number 17);
- First Mining Records Office (item number 18);
- Fort Friendship (item number 19);
- Sign Zone (item number 20);
- Level Plains Blueberry Fields (item number 21);
- Buck's Marina Playground (item number 22);
- Buck's Marina/Harry McCluskie Municipal Marina (item 23);
- Upper Mission Playground (item number 24);
- Michipicoten High Falls (item number 25);
- Woodland Cemetery (item number 26);
- Grace/Darwin Mine Site (item number 27);
- Parkhill/Gold Park (item number 28);
- Cross Country Ski Club (item number 29);
- Lions Club (item number 30);
- Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness (item number 31);
- Cross Country Ski Trails (item number 36);
- Wawa Goose (item number 37);
- St. Margaret Mary Cemetery (item number 38);
- Sports Wall of Fame (item number 39);
- Michipicoten Golf Course (item number 40);
- Wawa First United Church of Canada (item number 41);
- Wawa Food Bank (item number 42);
- St. Monica's Catholic Church (item number 43);
- Rotary Club of Wawa (item number 44);
- Wawa Anglican Church (item number 45);
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch #429 (item number 46);
- Iris Place (item number 47);
- Wawa Calvary Pentecostal Church (item number 48);
- Wawa Creek Bridge (item number 49);
- Lion's Beach and Docks (item number 50);
- Michipicoten High School Concerts (item number 51);
- Centennial Park Playground (item number 52);
- Polish Hall (item number 53);
- Queen's Park (item number 54);
- Hillcrest Heights (item number 55);
- Wawa Beach (item number 56);
- Log Cabin [located behind the Canadian Tire Outdoor Shop] (item number 57);
- Lakeview Hotel (item number 58);
- Mining Heritage Park (item number 59);
- Blueberry Point (item number 60);
- Siderite Junction (item number 61);
- Eagles Nest (item number 62);
- Helen/MacLeod Mine Site (item number 63);
- Sir James Open Pit Mine [abandoned open pit iron mine site] (item number 64);
- Gravel Pit east end of Wawa Lake (item number 65);
- Algoma Central Railway Abandoned Rail Bed

- Polish Alliance of Wawa (item number 32);
- Waterfowl Viewing Platform (item number 33);
- Michipicoten Memorial Community Centre (item number 34);
- Tourist Information Centre Playground (item number 35);
- (Lena Lake) (item number 66);
- Magpie River Terraces (item number 67);
- Steephill Falls Dam (item number 68);
- Catfish Fire Tower (item number 69); and,
- Magpie Blueberry Fields (item number 70)

**Figure 49: Sandy Beach Learning Pavilion**



In addition to those spaces and facilities identified above in Figure 49, the Anishinaabe Cultural Centre<sup>207</sup> is a site of importance. The Centre, opened in 2009<sup>208</sup>, is a partnership between the Michipicoten First Nation and Algoma District School Board<sup>209</sup>. The Centre, also referred to as an Aboriginal Cultural Room<sup>210</sup>, is available for students and teachers of Michipicoten High School and acts as a way to increase awareness of and appreciation for Aboriginal culture and traditions. According to Chief Joe Buckell of the Michipicoten First Nation, the Centre serves as a way to

“open up our culture to all the students and teachers”<sup>211</sup>. Additional Aboriginal Cultural Rooms exist in other secondary schools across the Algoma District School Board<sup>212,213</sup>.

There are also additional sites of cultural heritage in addition to the Aboriginal Cultural Room highlighted through artistic installations referred to as Signs of History<sup>214</sup>. Signs of History are interpretative art

<sup>207</sup> The Anishinaabe Cultural Centre is also referred to as the Michipicoten High School Cultural Room in sources.

<sup>208</sup> Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa. March 2009. *Regular Council Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, March 17, 2009*. Website. <https://wawa.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentDisplay.aspx?id=119>.

<sup>209</sup> Mowat, Gord. 2009. *Michipicoten High School – Viking Saga (7)*. Website. <http://www.thealgomanews.ca/Wawa+and+Area/School+News/Michipicoten+High+School+-+Viking+Saga+.str?922>.

<sup>210</sup> Algoma District School Board. October 2009. *Bauwatic (Rapid Waters) News*, Fall 2009. Website. <http://www.google.ca/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=michipicoten%20high%20school%20cultural%20room&source=web&cd=2&ved=OCFMQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.adsb.on.ca%2Fuploads%2Finfo%2Flistings%2FOct.2009NEWSLETTER.doc&ei=OM8GUI7UCbK80QGLsz1CA&usg=AFQjCNHMBhqdw0rZrUhAN59u1XHjx7MFAA&cad=rja>.

<sup>211</sup> Buckell, Joe. 2010. *Michipicoten First Nation Newsletter, March/April 2010*. Prepared for the Michipicoten First Nation.

<sup>212</sup> Michipicoten High School. 2008. “Developing A Partnership”. *Viking Focus #12*. Website. [http://www.mhsvikings.ca/MHS2008/index.php?view=article&catid=37%3Aviking-focus&id=236%3Adevelopingapartnership&format=pdf&option=com\\_content](http://www.mhsvikings.ca/MHS2008/index.php?view=article&catid=37%3Aviking-focus&id=236%3Adevelopingapartnership&format=pdf&option=com_content).

<sup>213</sup> Algoma District School Board. October 2009. *Bauwatic (Rapid Waters) News*, Fall 2009. Website. <http://www.google.ca/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=michipicoten%20high%20school%20cultural%20room&source=web&cd=2&ved=OCFMQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.adsb.on.ca%2Fuploads%2Finfo%2Flistings%2FOct.2009NEWSLETTER.doc&ei=OM8GUI7UCbK80QGLsz1CA&usg=AFQjCNHMBhqdw0rZrUhAN59u1XHjx7MFAA&cad=rja>.

installations situated throughout the Municipality in various locations of historical or natural interest. The installations utilize different media, ranging from photography, signage and plaques to sculptures (see Figure 50 and Figure 51 below). The installations provide information and highlight the unique events and personalities that have shaped the Municipality in its present form.

**Figure 50: Wawa Tourist Information Centre – Signs of History**



**Figure 51: Downtown Wawa - Signs of History**



<sup>214</sup> Rowe, Johanna. n.d.. *Signs of History: An Explorer's Guide to the Rich Heritage of the Wawa Area.*

### 2.5.1.2 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

There are a number of community facilities and programs available to Municipality residents in one location – the Michipicoten Memorial Community Centre (see Figure 52). The Centre provides facilities, services and programming for area residents and visitors. These include<sup>215, 216</sup>:



Source: DPRA Canada, 2012.

- Wawa Arena, including five dressing rooms and heated viewing areas;
- Curling Rink;
- Exercise/Dance Room;
- Banquet Room;
- Licensed Lounge;
- Meeting Facilities;
- 400 metre running track;
- 2 soccer fields;
- 3 baseball diamonds;
- 2 tennis courts;
- 5 public municipal playgrounds;
- Superior Gym Weight Centre;
- Michipicoten Fitness Centre; and,
- Michipicoten Golf Club, including a 9-hole course.

In addition to the facilities and services available in the Michipicoten Memorial Community Centre, Wawa also offers the following:

- Harry McCluskie Memorial Marina;
- Michipicoten Public Library;
- Beaches; and,
- Hiking trails.

<sup>215</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010d. *Recreation*. Website: [http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=122&Itemid=183](http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=122&Itemid=183).

<sup>216</sup> Municipality of Wawa. 2010i. *Tourism, Beaches & Sunsets*. Website: <http://www.wawa.cc/tourism/tourism.aspx?ID=42>.

Recreational activities include<sup>217</sup>:

- Soccer;
- T-ball;
- Baseball;
- Ultimate Frisbee;
- Boot Camp;
- Golf;
- Dance Programs;
- Archery; and,
- Karate.

Committees and Clubs include:

- Ladies Auxiliary;
- Lady Dunn Foundation;
- Royal Canadian Legion
- Polish Alliance;
- Wawa Rotary Club; and,
- Various local boards and committees.

### **Media**

Media and communication services assist in strengthening ties within the community and providing information to local residents. In addition, media outlets communicate information within the community and to communities in the surrounding area. Media services in Wawa include:

- Municipality of Wawa website;
- The Algoma News – a local newspaper;
- The Sault Star – an area newspaper serving Northeastern Ontario;
- Wawa-News.com – an online newspaper serving Northeastern Ontario;
- CBC 88.3<sup>218</sup>
- CBON-FM-27 90.7 FM Wawa;
- CBON-FM-9 92.5 FM; and,
- CJWA-FM 107.1 FM.

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<sup>217</sup> Simple Machines. 2011. *Wawa Wow Public Forum, 2011 Summer Programs*. Website: <http://wawawow.ca/index.php?PHPSESSID=6ufgk4mnlpkp716bbea68au947&topic=1293.0>.

<sup>218</sup> Insight provided to DPRA by community members.

### 2.5.1.3 SOCIAL SERVICES & ORGANIZATIONS

Social services in Wawa are delivered by a number of organizations. Although each organization provides differing services, collectively, they assist in ensuring the social well-being of Wawa as a whole. Organizations include:<sup>219,220,221</sup>

- Algoma District Services Administration Board;
- Algoma Public Health;
- Algoma Women’s Sexual Assault Services;
- Canadian Red Cross;
- Chadwic Home & Family Resource Centre;
- Children’s Aid Society;
- Children’s Rehab Centre;
- Community Living Algoma;
- Food Bank;
- Integrated Services for Northern Children;
- Iris Place;
- Lions Club;
- Masons;
- Non-Profit Housing;
- North Algoma Counselling Service;
- Wawa Regional Employment Help Centre;
- North Algoma Family Services;
- North Algoma Literacy Coalition;
- Superior Children’s Centre;
- Wawa Area Victim Services;
- Wawa Family Health Team;
- Wawa Minor Hockey; and
- Wawa Senior Citizens Drop In Centre.

There are also seven churches/religious institutions in Wawa. These include<sup>222,223,224</sup>:

- Calvary Pentecostal Church;
- First United Church;
- Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses;
- St. Giles Anglican Church (Hawk Junction);
- St. Monica’s Catholic Church;
- St. Paul’s Anglican Church; and,
- Wawa Baptist Church.

<sup>219</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010d. *Recreation*. Website: [http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=122&Itemid=183](http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=122&Itemid=183).

<sup>220</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010c. *Health Services*. Website: [http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=121:health-services&cat](http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=121:health-services&cat).

<sup>221</sup> Wawa Family Health Team. 2012. *Social Work*. Website: <http://www.wawafamilyhealthteam.com/programs-services/-mental-health--social-work/>.

<sup>222</sup> Municipality of Wawa. (n.d.). *Churches*. Website: <http://www.wawa.cc/tourism/tourism.aspx?ID=37>.

<sup>223</sup> Wawa First United Church. 2012. *Happenings At Wawa First United Church – Mar 21<sup>st</sup>*. Website: [http://www.wawa-news1.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=15122:happenings-at-wawa-first-united-church-mar-21st&catid=144:faith&Itemid=205](http://www.wawa-news1.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15122:happenings-at-wawa-first-united-church-mar-21st&catid=144:faith&Itemid=205).

<sup>224</sup> Insights gained by consultant observations between May 2012 and October 2012.

### **2.5.2 SUMMARY OF SOCIAL ASSETS**

The Municipality has a population that is predominantly Non-Aboriginal. In 2006, approximately 8.6% of residents self-identified as being Aboriginal, while less than 2% of Municipality residents identified as being visible minority in the same period. However, there is a sizable Francophone population in Wawa and surrounding area.

All Municipality residents are able to access social services, organizations and recreational activities. Wawa Minor Hockey is a key organization in Wawa providing local and area residents with recreational opportunities. The community of Wawa recognizes the importance of recreational opportunities and has expressed a desire for new recreation facilities and programming. In recent years, recreational programs have increased to include dance, karate and other activities. Maximizing recreational opportunities for youth is desired to ensure Municipality residents have a range of recreational activities. Providing additional recreational opportunities will encourage young families to stay in the community as well as draw new families to the area.

#### **2.5.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES**

The priorities and key issues related to the 'social assets' category include:

- Continued support for a range of recreational activities such as hockey and dance in the community;
- Maintaining and enhancing the visibility of Wawa's history through new Signs of History displays and other means;
- Maintaining or replacing aging community facilities (e.g., the Michipicoten Memorial Community Centre); and,
- Provision of a range of recreational programming for community members of all ages.

#### **2.5.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS**

Wawa and its residents recognize the importance of recreational and social opportunities for a high quality of life. Minor hockey and dance are two of the most popular recreational and social programs in the community. However, residents have expressed a desire for population growth and families to locate in Wawa. While minor hockey is a popular activity, there are constraints given Wawa's demographic profile and at times, the absence of residents in certain age groups for sports teams. There is also a desire for a growth of extracurricular activities in the schools to provide additional recreational and social opportunities for students.

#### **2.5.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY**

Despite trends of population decline and out-migration, Wawa has maintained a diversity of recreational and social programming for residents. However, these trends have resulted in the reduction and/or cancelation of certain programs due to participation levels. Wawa residents have indicated there are a limited number of community and recreation facilities and programs available for residents of all ages in the community. Given the presence of existing infrastructure (such as the Michipicoten Memorial Community Centre and other community facilities), additional programming can be accommodated without the need for new facilities.

## 2.6 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

This section of the profile outlines the natural environment or natural assets in Wawa. The key natural asset indicators discussed for this community are: Parks and Protected Areas, Natural Areas and Features of Significance.

**Figure 53: Wawa's Natural Surroundings**



Source: DPRA Canada, 2012.

### 2.6.1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT INDICATORS

#### 2.6.1.1 PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS/NATURAL AREAS/FEATURES OF SIGNIFICANCE

**Figure 54: Michipicoten Memorial Community Centre Park**



Source: DPRA Canada, 2012.

Parks and open spaces (see Figure 54) are present throughout the Wawa and Michipicoten River Village Settlement Areas. Natural features in the community include parkland along the shores of Lake Superior, Wawa Lake and proximity to the two rivers which flow through the area. Parks (see Figure 56) range in size and function and are situated to maintain street frontage and direct pedestrian access<sup>225</sup>.

Located north of the Wawa Settlement Area, the Magpie River Terraces Conservation Reserve is an additional feature within the municipality's boundaries<sup>226</sup>. The Conservation Reserve is approximately 2,088 hectares in

<sup>225</sup> Meridian Planning Consultants Inc. 2010. *Official Plan for the Municipality of Wawa*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>226</sup> Geofirma Engineering Ltd. October 2011. *Initial Screening for Siting a Deep Geological Repository for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel, Municipality of Wawa, Ontario*. Prepared for NWMO.



size and was created in March 2002 under the *Public Lands Act*<sup>227</sup> to provide protection to lake and river terraces present on the Lake Superior shoreline<sup>228</sup>

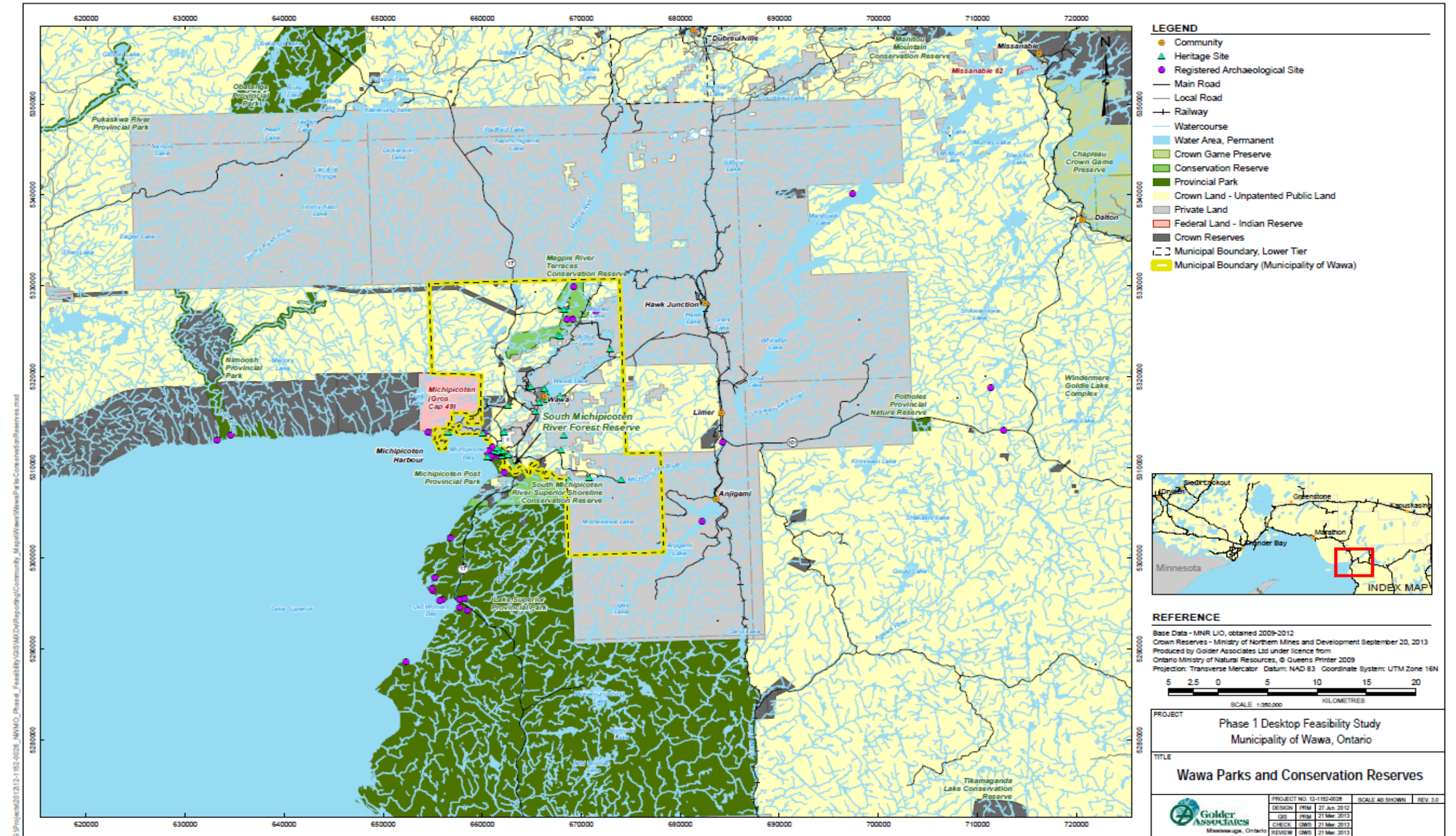
**Figure 55: Lion's Beach Park**



<sup>227</sup> Government of Ontario. December 2002. *Ontario Regulation 313/02 made under the Public Lands Act*. Website. [http://www.google.ca/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=4&ved=0CDEQFjAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.e-laws.gov.on.ca%2FDownload%3FDocName%3Delaws\\_src\\_regs\\_r02313\\_e&ei=Lf9hUMeSB5GBYAGE9YCoCw&usg=AFQjCNEf7XZj2XWdJ\\_ggE-JUmhxuX\\_Zhmg](http://www.google.ca/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=4&ved=0CDEQFjAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.e-laws.gov.on.ca%2FDownload%3FDocName%3Delaws_src_regs_r02313_e&ei=Lf9hUMeSB5GBYAGE9YCoCw&usg=AFQjCNEf7XZj2XWdJ_ggE-JUmhxuX_Zhmg).

<sup>228</sup> Rowe, Johanna. January 2012. "Long abandoned industry often leaves something sweet in its wake". *J. Rowe Heritage Consulting*. Website. <http://www.wawahistory.com/2/category/michipicoten%20river%20village/1.html>.

Figure 56: Parks and Protected Areas Surrounding Wawa



Source: Golder Associates Ltd. 2013. Wawa Parks and Conservation Reserves.

Municipality and area residents are able to access a number of parks and Protected Areas in the area surrounding Wawa (see Figure 57 above). These include Pukaskwa National Park<sup>229</sup>, seven Provincial Parks (Lake Superior Provincial Park, Michipicoten Island Provincial Park, Michipicoten Post Provincial Park, Montreal River Provincial Nature Reserve, Nimoosh Provincial Park, Pokei Lake/White River Wetlands Provincial Park and Potholes Provincial Park), the Michipicoten River-Superior Shoreline Conservation Reserve and the proposed Lake Superior Highlands Conservation Reserve<sup>230, 231</sup>. The Parks and Reserves are located at varying distances from the Municipality. In addition to those listed above, a number of Provincial Parks are located south, northeast and northwest of Wawa<sup>232, 233</sup>. Provincial and National Parks present in the area surrounding Wawa range in size from approximately 0.43 km<sup>2</sup> s to 1,878.0 km<sup>2</sup> and provide a range of recreational opportunities (see Table 16 below).

**Table 16: Size and Amenities of Parks and Protected Areas in Proximity to Wawa**

Park Name	Park Size	Park Class	Description
Lake Superior Provincial Park	160,810 hectares (1,608.1km <sup>2</sup> )	Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities – hiking, boating, fishing, swimming, canoeing, wildlife viewing, natural heritage education, hunting, winter activities, backcountry camping</li> <li>• Facilities – camping, electrical campsites, flush toilets, laundry, showers, day use area, rentals, boat launch, visitor centre, park store, barrier free access</li> </ul>
Michipicoten Island Provincial Park	36,740 hectares (367.4km <sup>2</sup> )	Natural Environment <sup>234</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-operational<sup>235</sup></li> </ul>
Michipicoten Post Provincial Park	289 hectares (2.89km <sup>2</sup> )	Historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-operational</li> <li>• No visitor facilities, but has nature viewing and hiking</li> </ul>
Montreal River Provincial Nature Reserve	43 hectares (0.43km <sup>2</sup> )	Nature Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-operational</li> <li>• No visitor facilities</li> </ul>

<sup>229</sup> Pukaskwa National Parks includes a number of year-round facilities and recreational opportunities including: more than 67 campsites including several with electrical connections; visitor centre; gift shop; restrooms and shower facilities; recycling facilities; canoe rental; canoe launch; firewood; backcountry campsite; five hiking trails; and picnic areas. Parks Canada. 2011. *Pukaskwa National Park Guide & Map*.

<sup>230</sup> Geofirma Engineering Ltd. October 2011. *Initial Screening for Siting a Deep Geological Repository for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel, Municipality of Wawa, Ontario*. Prepared for NWMO.

<sup>231</sup> The proposed Lake Superior Highlands Conservation Reserve covers an area of approximately 54,007 hectares and contains one of nine Great Lakes Heritage Coast Signature sites situated within Ontario. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. January 2006. *Crown Land Use Policy Atlas Policy Report C1519: Lake Superior Highlands*. Website: <http://www.lio.ontario.ca/imf-ows/sites/clupa/xmlReader.jsp?xsl=XML/web-primary.xsl&polid=C1519>.

<sup>232</sup> Ontario Parks. 2012. *Ontario Map*. Website: [http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/ont\\_map.html](http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/ont_map.html).

<sup>233</sup> There are several Provincial Parks located varying distances from the Municipality, including several categorized as Non-Operational Provincial Parks by Ontario Parks.

<sup>234</sup> Ontario Parks. 2004. *Michipicoten Post and Michipicoten Island Management Options*. Website: [http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning\\_pdf/michipicoten\\_mgmt\\_options2.pdf](http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/michipicoten_mgmt_options2.pdf)

<sup>235</sup> Non-Operational Provincial Parks are unmanned and do not collect fees. According to Ontario Parks, some Non-Operational Provincial Parks may have limited facilities. Ontario Map. (n.d.). *Ontario Parks*. Website: [http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/ont\\_map\\_nonop.html](http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/ont_map_nonop.html).

Park Name	Park Size	Park Class	Description
Nimoosh Provincial Park	3,550 hectares (35.5 km <sup>2</sup> )	Waterway <sup>236</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-operational</li> </ul>
Obatanga Provincial Park	9,409 hectares (94.09km <sup>2</sup> )	Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-operational as of 2013</li> <li>• Activities – canoeing and wildlife viewing</li> </ul>
Pokei Lake/White River Wetlands Provincial Park	1,768 hectares (17.68km <sup>2</sup> )	Nature Reserve <sup>237</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-operational</li> </ul>
Potholes Provincial Park	347 hectares (3.47km <sup>2</sup> )	Nature Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities – hiking, natural heritage education</li> <li>• Facilities – day use area</li> </ul>
Pukaskwa National Park	187,800 hectares (1,878km <sup>2</sup> )	Wilderness <sup>238</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities include – camping, hiking, fishing, boating, cycling and mountain biking, interpretive events, boating, canoeing, and kayaking</li> <li>• Facilities – visitor centre, camping, and trails</li> </ul>
Pukaskwa River Provincial Park	1,465 hectares (14.65km <sup>2</sup> )	Waterway <sup>239</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-operational</li> </ul>

Source: Government of Ontario. December 2002. *Ontario Regulation 311/02 made under the Provincial Parks Act*. Website.

[http://www.google.ca/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=6&ved=0CDoQFjAF&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.e-laws.gov.on.ca%2FDownload%3FdDocName%3Delaws\\_src\\_regs\\_r02311\\_e&ei=3I5jUOruLOKfYwHv4IHQDA&usg=AFQjCN GgiDJKowzPM0JfIDNH4kTkkC95A](http://www.google.ca/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=6&ved=0CDoQFjAF&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.e-laws.gov.on.ca%2FDownload%3FdDocName%3Delaws_src_regs_r02311_e&ei=3I5jUOruLOKfYwHv4IHQDA&usg=AFQjCN GgiDJKowzPM0JfIDNH4kTkkC95A); Ontario Parks. (January 2013). *Obatanga Provincial Park*. Website.

<http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/obat.html>; August 2012. *Lake Superior*. Website.

<http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/lakes.html>; (2012). *Ontario Provincial Park Statistics 2011*; 2008. *Michipicoten Post*. Website. <http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/michp.html>; 2008. *Montreal River*. Website.

<http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/mont.html>; 2008. *Potholes*. Website.

<http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/poth.html>; 2004. *Michipicoten Post and Michipicoten Island Background Information*. Website. [http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning\\_pdf/michipicoten\\_background\\_info2.pdf](http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/michipicoten_background_info2.pdf); Parks Canada. 2012. *Puskaskwa National Park*. Website. <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/on/pukaskwa/index.aspx>; 2008.

*Pukaskwa National Park of Canada State of the Park Report*. Website: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/on/pukaskwa/plan/plan1.aspx>.

Puskaskwa National Park is the largest park in the area, measuring approximately 1,878 km<sup>2</sup> in size<sup>240</sup>. Lake Superior Provincial Park is the largest Provincial Park present in the area surrounding Wawa measuring approximately 1,608 km<sup>2</sup> in area. It is characterized by Ontario Parks as being one of the largest parks in Ontario. In addition, the Park is also one of Wawa's largest employers (see Section 2.3.1.5) offering a range of activities including hiking, boating, fishing, swimming, canoeing, wildlife viewing, natural heritage education, hunting, winter activities and backcountry camping. The Park is also a tourist attraction for outdoor enthusiasts who

<sup>236</sup> Ontario Parks. 2006. *Nimoosh Interim Management Statement*. Website:

[http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr\\_bpp0017.pdf](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr_bpp0017.pdf)

<sup>237</sup> Protected Planet. 2012. *Pokei Lake/White River Wetlands Provincial Park*. Website.

[http://www.protectedplanet.net/sites/Pokei\\_Lake\\_White\\_River\\_Wetlands\\_Provincial\\_Park\\_Nature\\_Reserve](http://www.protectedplanet.net/sites/Pokei_Lake_White_River_Wetlands_Provincial_Park_Nature_Reserve).

<sup>238</sup> Parks Canada. 2013. *Pukaskwa National Park of Canada*. Website: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/on/pukaskwa/index.aspx>

<sup>239</sup> Government of Ontario. n.d.. *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 – Ontario Regulation 316/07 Designation and Classification of Provincial Parks*. Website: [http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws\\_regs\\_070316\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_070316_e.htm)

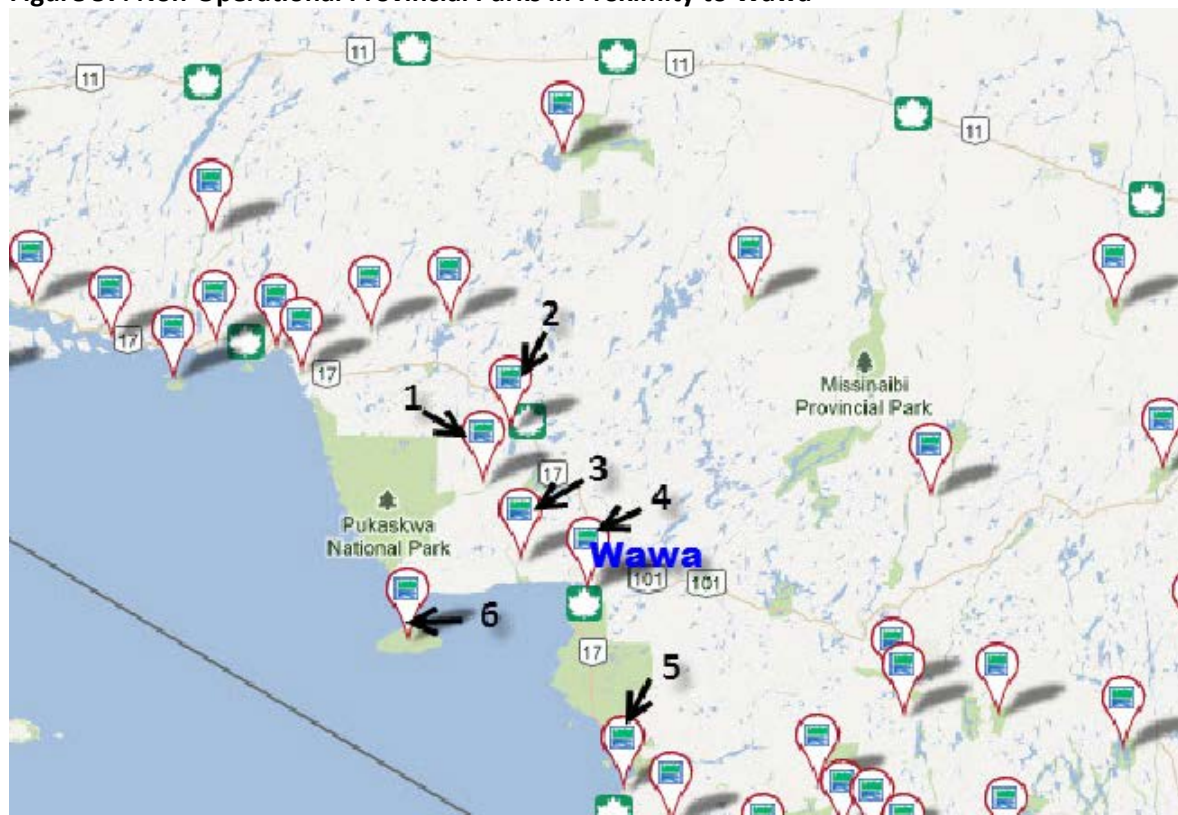
<sup>240</sup> Parks Canada. 2012. *Puskaskwa National Park*. Website: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/on/pukaskwa/index.aspx>.

enjoy the diverse scenery and natural beauty of Lake Superior<sup>241</sup>. The remaining Provincial Parks also provide recreational and tourism opportunities including hiking trails, nature viewing and day use areas<sup>242, 243</sup>.

Table 16 above includes several Provincial Parks categorized as “Non-Operational”<sup>244</sup> by Ontario Parks. Non-operational provincial parks located in the area surrounding Wawa include<sup>245</sup> (see Figure 57):

- Pokei Lake/White River Wetlands Provincial Park (indicated as item number 1 in Figure 58);
- Pukaskwa River Provincial Park (indicated as item number 2 in Figure 58);
- Nimoosh Provincial Park (indicated as item number 3 in Figure 58);
- Michipicoten Post Provincial Park<sup>246</sup> (indicated as item number 4 in Figure 58);
- Michipicoten Island Provincial Park (indicated as item number 5 in Figure 58); and,
- Montreal River Provincial Nature Reserve<sup>247</sup> (indicated as item number 6 in Figure 58).

**Figure 57: Non-Operational Provincial Parks in Proximity to Wawa**



Source: Ontario Parks. 2008. *Ontario Map – Non-Operational Parks*. Website.

[http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/ont\\_map\\_nonop.html](http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/ont_map_nonop.html).

<sup>241</sup> Ontario Parks. August 2012. *Lake Superior*. Website. <http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/lakes.html>.

<sup>242</sup> Ontario Parks. 2008. *Michipicoten Post*. Website. <http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/michp.html>.

<sup>243</sup> Ontario Parks. 2008. *Potholes*. Website. <http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/poth.html>.

<sup>244</sup> Non-Operational Parks are those which are unmanned, have no fees charged and have limited facilities. Ontario Parks. 2012. *Ontario Map – Operating Parks*. Website. [http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/ont\\_map\\_nonop.html](http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/ont_map_nonop.html).

<sup>245</sup> Ontario Parks. 2012. *Ontario Map – Non Operational Parks*. Website. [http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/ont\\_map\\_nonop.html](http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/ont_map_nonop.html).

<sup>246</sup> Ontario Parks. 2008. *Michipicoten Post*. Website. <http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/michp.html>.

<sup>247</sup> Ontario Parks. 2008. *Montreal River*. Website. <http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/mont.html>.

Non-operational provincial parks located in the area surrounding Wawa provide residents with a range of recreational and tourism opportunities including hiking trails. This includes but is not limited to Montreal River Provincial Nature Reserve, which is recognized for possessing varied landscapes and natural habitats<sup>248</sup>. In addition, Pukaskwa National Park provides varying natural environments which include habitat for five species at risk<sup>249</sup>.



**Figure 58: Chapleau Crown Game Preserve**



Source: DPRA Canada, 2012.

Lake Superior Provincial Park is the only park offering serviced facilities that attract residents and visitors to the Wawa area. In 2011, the park received more than 100,000 visitors, with a majority (65%) being day-use visitors<sup>250</sup>. In the same year, there were also a number of campers utilizing the park with approximately 10,700 camp site rentals in 2011. Puskaskwa National Park reported an average of approximately 7,000 visitors annually between 2004 and 2008<sup>251</sup>.

The Chapleau Crown Game Preserve is an additional feature present in the area surrounding Wawa (see Figure 58). The Preserve is located approximately 140 kilometres northeast of Wawa, near the Township of Chapleau. It is the world's largest game preserve and encompasses more than 2,700 km<sup>2</sup> (2,000,000 acres) of land<sup>252</sup>. The Preserve was created in 1925 to protect depleted fur-bearing animals and provides a range of recreational opportunities for visitors including wildlife viewing<sup>253</sup>. The Preserve remains a key feature in the area surrounding Wawa and is a significant protected area.

In addition to the above parks and protected areas, the area surrounding Wawa provides access to a number of natural areas and features of significance. Natural areas include aggregate resources and conservation zones on lands to the north of Wawa. Features of significance include environmentally sensitive areas resulting from the Municipality's waterfront location. Water is a particularly dominant feature, as Wawa fronts on Lake

<sup>248</sup> Ontario Parks. 2008. *Montreal River*. Website. <http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/mont.html>.

<sup>249</sup> Parks Canada. 2008. *Pukaskwa National Park – State of the Park Report*. Website. [http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/on/pukaskwa/plan/~media/pn-np/on/pukaskwa/pdf/pukaskwa\\_SOPR\\_20100715\\_en.ashx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/on/pukaskwa/plan/~media/pn-np/on/pukaskwa/pdf/pukaskwa_SOPR_20100715_en.ashx).

<sup>250</sup> Ontario Parks. 2012. *Ontario Provincial Parks Statistics 2011*. Website: [http://www.ontarioparks.com/statistics/2011\\_park\\_statistics.pdf](http://www.ontarioparks.com/statistics/2011_park_statistics.pdf)

<sup>251</sup> Parks Canada. 2008. *Pukaskwa National Park – State of the Park Report*. Website. [http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/on/pukaskwa/plan/~media/pn-np/on/pukaskwa/pdf/pukaskwa\\_SOPR\\_20100715\\_en.ashx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/on/pukaskwa/plan/~media/pn-np/on/pukaskwa/pdf/pukaskwa_SOPR_20100715_en.ashx).

<sup>252</sup> Township of Chapleau. 2012. *Chapleau Crown Game Preserve*. Website. <http://www.chapleau.ca/en/visit/gamepreserve.asp>.

<sup>253</sup> Ontario-Canada-Travel. 2013. *Chapleau Game Preserve*. Website. <http://www.ontario-canada-travel.com/chapleau-game-reserve.html#.UXaggUrVjOM>.

Superior and Lake Wawa, and has the two rivers travelling through the community<sup>254</sup>. Local and surrounding area waterways support the presence of Environmentally Sensitive Areas within and beyond Wawa (see Figure 59).

## 2.6.2 SUMMARY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The Municipality of Wawa and its residents have access to a number of waterways, parks and natural features including Lake Superior and Wawa Lake. The presence of Wawa Lake, Lake Superior and the Magpie and Michipicoten Rivers throughout the Municipality have contributed to a diverse natural environment. A number of natural features present throughout the Municipality (see Figure 60 above) provide recreational opportunities. In addition, Municipality and area residents are able to enjoy a number of public sand beaches located in all of the Municipality's Settlement Areas. The surrounding natural features contribute to the Municipality's reputation as a destination for outdoor and nature-based tourism activities including hiking, canoeing, kayaking, fishing and hunting.

Municipality residents also have access to more than nine Protected Areas in the area surrounding Wawa. However, the several Protected Areas present in the area surrounding Wawa are characterized by Ontario Parks as "Non-Operational". Pukaskwa National Park is the largest Protected Area in the area surrounding Wawa. Lake Superior Provincial Park is the largest Provincial Park and provides a range of recreational activities and is a popular tourist destination for residents and visitors.

The surrounding natural environment is a source of pride for residents. It has been recognized as a key attribute by tourist operators offering programming options for outdoor enthusiasts, including hiking, canoeing and kayaking. Protection of Wawa's natural environment has been recognized as a priority for residents and has been incorporated into the Municipality's *Official Plan*.

### 2.6.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES

The natural environment within and surrounding Wawa is a source of pride for area residents. It also provides a wealth of recreational and tourist opportunities. Priorities and key issues related to the natural environment category include:

- Preserving the natural environment present within and beyond Wawa;
- Protecting the environment and water quality of Lake Superior;
- Provision of additional tourism opportunities to further explore and appreciate Wawa's natural environment;
- Protecting the integrity of parks and protected areas;
- Preservation of the area's pristine natural environment; and,
- Balancing of tourism opportunities with environmental protection.

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<sup>255</sup> Municipality of Wawa. January 2010. *New Beginnings: The Municipality of Wawa Sustainability Plan 2010-2015, Final Draft*.

### ***2.6.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS***

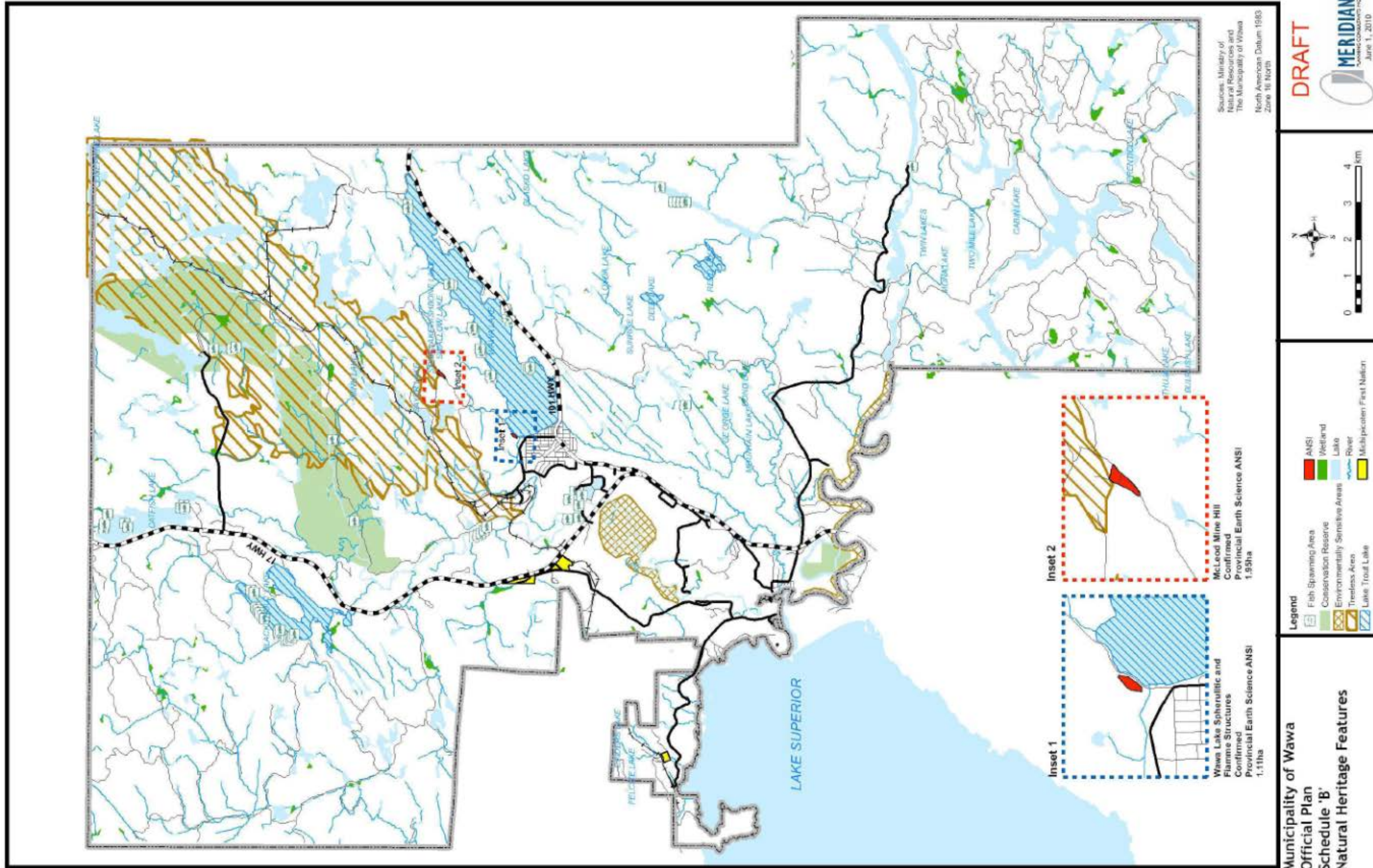
The natural environment, including the land, water and air, surrounding Wawa are highly valued by residents and visitors. Wawa's surrounding natural environment has been a source of local pride and remains a key component of the community's tourism industry. However, there is a desire to further promote and expand the tourism industry in ways which protect the natural environment. In addition, seasonal activities such as fishing are valued by residents who wish to ensure the protection of the area's natural resources.

### ***2.6.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY***

Wawa's natural environment has supported and continues to support the community's tourism industry. In addition, the natural environment is valued as a community asset. The presence of multiple Provincial Parks and trails are also valued assets. While the natural environment supports existing tourism opportunities, it also enhances the lifestyles of community residents. There are a number of businesses within and outside the Municipality which comprise the local tourism industry. Through completion of the strategic planning process currently underway, insight can be gained on the community's vision, goals and objectives as they relate to protecting the natural environment while growing the existing tourism industry.



Figure 59: Wawa's Natural Features and Areas of Significance



Source: Meridian Planning Consultants Inc. 2010. Municipality of Wawa Official Plan Schedule 'B' Natural Heritage Features. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

## 2.7 UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

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This section of the profile outlines the unique characteristics for Wawa. The key unique characteristics described for this community are:

- Community Character;
- Environmental Values;
- Community Goals; and,
- Community Action Plans.

### 2.7.1 COMMUNITY CHARACTER

The Municipality of Wawa is described by residents as having a small-town atmosphere. The community, like many in Northern Ontario, has experienced the “boom and bust” cycles of resource-based economies, but continues to remain resilient. It is a generous community where residents know one another. It is also a community with a safe, family-friendly environment and proximity to nature as noticeable features contributing to Wawa’s community character.

There is also an emphasis placed on the outdoors and environmental protection given the community’s waterfront location on Lake Superior and Wawa Lake. A number of businesses including Naturally Superior Adventures and local tourist operators encourage residents and tourists to explore Wawa’s natural beauty and natural surroundings by promoting hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing and kayaking.

### 2.7.2 ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

Wawa and its residents are committed to being stewards of the environment through the development of policies and practices that promote sustainable growth and protection of the biosphere<sup>255</sup>. The *Official Plan* and *Draft Sustainability Plan* both identify the need for balancing development with protection and preservation of Wawa’s environmental features.

Wawa has a number of unique environmental features, including the presence of two rivers and lakefront properties. The Magpie and Michipicoten Rivers flow through the community<sup>256</sup>, creating a series of natural heritage and topographical features. These features and their protection and retention have gained

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<sup>255</sup> Municipality of Wawa. January 2010. *New Beginnings: The Municipality of Wawa Sustainability Plan 2010-2015, Final Draft*.

<sup>256</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010a. *Wawa Community Profile 2010-2011*.

importance for Wawa residents. An environment-first perspective has been incorporated into the municipality's land use planning framework to ensure land use compatibility<sup>257</sup>.

### 2.7.3 COMMUNITY GOALS

Community goals are centred on the concept of sustainability. The Municipality's *Official Plan* identifies community goals for environmental sustainability, economic sustainability and social sustainability. Collectively, these goals articulate a desire for Wawa to be a sustainable community that features:

- A connected system of environmental features that support a healthy ecosystem;
- A strong, diversified and resilient economy that provides a variety of employment opportunities for citizens and is attractive to commercial and industrial investment; and,
- A strong sense of culture and heritage and the provision of affordable public services and amenities.

### 2.7.4 COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS

Referred to as SMART plans, a series of Community Action Plans are envisioned to be developed in *New Beginnings: The Municipality of Wawa Sustainability Plan 2010-2015, Final Draft*. The Plans are intended to inform monitoring and will be integrated into the Municipality's operating and capital budget processes<sup>258</sup>. In addition, a strategic planning process began in 2012 with the appointment of a Steering Committee<sup>259</sup>. The process is intended to assist Wawa Council in understanding a future vision for Wawa and outlining the necessary measures to achieve the vision<sup>260</sup>.

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<sup>257</sup> Meridian Planning Consultants Inc. 2010. *Official Plan for the Municipality of Wawa*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

<sup>258</sup> Municipality of Wawa. January 2010. *New Beginnings: The Municipality of Wawa Sustainability Plan 2010-2015, Final Draft*.

<sup>259</sup> Information obtained by DPRA from NWCAC Member, June 2013.

<sup>260</sup> Wray, Chris. May 2012. *The Municipality of Wawa Budget 2012*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa.

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## 3.0 REGIONAL PROFILE

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### 3.1 OVERVIEW

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The definition of the regional context of a community is subjective. The regional boundaries of a community are defined differently by various entities. For the purposes of this Community Profile, the regional context is left undefined, as further dialogue with community members and members in surrounding communities is required to best understand the broader regional context.

The Municipality of Wawa is situated within Algoma District. Statistics are readily available for the District; for this reason and for the purposes of this profile, they will be used only for the purpose of setting context and comparison.

Chapter 3 will also discuss the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group and the Northeast Superior Forest Community (NSFC) (see Figure 61 and Figure 62, respectively), which reflects areas of current coordinated economic development activity.

The key components described in this section are:

- Location and List of Communities;
- Land Size and Uses;
- Expenditures; and,
- Social, Economic.

#### 3.1.1 LOCATION – LIST OF COMMUNITIES

There are a number of communities located within Algoma District (see Figure 60) a large area in Northern Ontario that encompasses more than twenty communities. The District is significant as an administrative basis for the delivery of a number of social services and as an area for which statistics are available for analysis purposes.

Figure 60: Algoma District



Source: Algoma Kinniwabi Travel Association. n.d.. Regional Map. Website. <http://www.algomacountry.com/490/regional-map>.

The communities are<sup>261, 262</sup>:

- City of Elliot Lake;
- City of Sault Ste. Marie;
- Municipality of Huron Shores;
- Municipality of Wawa;
- Town of Blind River;
- Town of Bruce Mines;
- Town of Thessalon;
- Township of Dubreuilville;
- Township of Hilton;
- Township of Hornepayne;
- Township of Jocelyn;
- Township of Johnson;
- Township of Laird;
- Township of Macdonald, Meredith and Aderbeen Additional;
- Township of the North Shore;
- Township of Plummer Additional;
- Township of Prince;
- Township of Spanish;
- Township of St. Joseph;
- Township of Tarbutt and Tarbutt Additional;
- Township of White River; and,
- Village of Hilton Beach.

Communities in the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group (see Figure 61) are<sup>263</sup>:

- Municipality of Wawa;
- Township of Chapleau;
- Township of Dubreuilville;
- Township of Hornepayne;
- Township of Manitouwadge; and,
- Township of White River.

Figure 61 below identifies the area within which the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group functions. The Northeast Superior Mayors' Group was formed approximately 10 years ago<sup>264</sup> as a voluntary association of Northern Ontario community mayors<sup>265</sup>. Monthly meetings are held by the Group to discuss and/or address issues facing the communities and broader area as a whole<sup>266</sup>. Communities participating in the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group are shown in Figure 62.

<sup>261</sup> Association of Ontario Municipalities. July 2012. *Ontario Municipal Home Pages*. Website.

<http://www.amo.on.ca/YLG/yig/ontario.html#REGIONS>

<sup>262</sup> Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities. 2010. *Members*. Website. <http://www.fonom.org/?q=node/5>.

<sup>263</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010g. *Regional Communities*. Website.

[http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=115&Itemid=174](http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=115&Itemid=174).

<sup>264</sup> Whent, Howard. n.d.. *Northeast Superior Mayors' Group*. Website.

<https://sites.google.com/site/howardwhent/home/northeast-superior-mayors-group>.

<sup>265</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>266</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010g. *Regional Communities*. Website.

[http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=115&Itemid=174](http://www.edcwawa.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=115&Itemid=174).

Figure 61: Northeast Superior Mayors' Group



Source: DPRA Canada, 2013.

The Northeast Superior Forest Community (NSFC) (Figure 62) is a regional partnership of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal communities with shared interests in forestry and sustainable economic development opportunities<sup>267</sup>. NSFC includes the six Aboriginal communities participating in the Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs Forum and the six Non-Aboriginal communities<sup>268</sup>. Communities participating in the NSFC include: Brunswick House First Nation, Chapleau Cree First Nation, Hornepayne First Nation, Michipicoten First Nation, Missanabie Cree First Nation, Municipality of Wawa, Pic Mobert First Nation, Township of Chapleau, Township of Dubreuilville, Township of Hornepayne, Township of Manitouwadge, and Township of White River<sup>269, 270</sup>.

The NSFC also includes the communities of Albany, Hawk Junction and Millwood. The NSFC is one of eleven Forest Community sites funded by Natural Resources Canada. There are currently fifteen Forest Community

<sup>267</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d.. *About NSFC*. Website. <http://www.nsfcc.ca/nsfc/about-nsfc>.

<sup>268</sup> Canadian Model Forest Network. 2012. *Northeast Superior Forest Community*. Website. [http://www.modelforest.net/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=38&Itemid=39&lang=en](http://www.modelforest.net/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=38&Itemid=39&lang=en).

<sup>269</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d.. *Our Communities and Our Region*. Website. <http://www.nsfcc.ca/nsfc/about-nsfc/our-communities-and-our-region>.

<sup>270</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d.. *Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs' Forum*. Prepared for the Northeast Superior Chiefs' Forum and Superior East Community Futures Development Corporation.

Sites across Canada; all of which are participants in the Canadian Model Forest Network. Through the partnership, communities of the NSFC are able to pursue development opportunities in the forest sector and resource development activities which support long-term environmental sustainability. Development opportunities include the pursuit of non-timber forest products, biomass energy and eco-tourism among others<sup>271</sup>.

The NSFC shares spatial boundaries with the Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs’ Forum. The Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs’ Forum was established in 2008 and is comprised of six Chiefs from First Nation communities whose members have a shared territorial interest in the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve<sup>272</sup>.

Figure 62: Northeast Superior Forest Community



Source: DPRA Canada, 2012.

<sup>271</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d. *About NSFC*. Website. <http://www.nsfca/nsfc/about-nsfc>.

<sup>272</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d.. *NSRCF - First Nation Communities*. Website. <http://www.nsfca/nsfc/about-nsfc/our-communities-and-our-region/nsrcf-first-nation-communities>.



### 3.1.2 LAND SIZE AND USES

The communities represented by the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group encompass a total combined area of approximately 1,340 km<sup>2</sup><sup>273</sup>. However, this significantly increases to approximately 1,519 km<sup>2</sup> when Aboriginal communities contained in the Northeast Superior Forest Community area are included<sup>274,275,276</sup>. The Northeast Superior Mayors' Group sits within the much larger Algoma District which encompasses a total area of approximately 48,810km<sup>2</sup>.

### 3.1.3 EXPENDITURES – WHERE DO RESIDENTS PURCHASE GOODS AND SERVICES?

Municipality of Wawa residents visit a number of communities for a variety of purposes, including shopping and specialist health care services. These communities were defined by discussions in the community in 2012. In discussions with Wawa residents, they identified the area in which they travel for social and economic purposes (i.e., shopping, health care services, etc.). The area includes primarily Sault Ste. Marie and communities as far as Marathon, Sudbury, and Elliot Lake.

## 3.2 COMMUNITIES

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### 3.2.1 COMMUNITY NAMES & LOCATIONS

As mentioned above, there are a number of communities present in the area surrounding Wawa. Figures 61 to 64 illustrate the communities located within the various areas. The names of communities present within the various areas are presented above in Section 3.1.1.

In addition to the above areas, the Municipality is also a member of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM). FONOM is a regional corporation which provides advocacy for more than 110 cities, towns and municipalities throughout Northeastern Ontario including the Municipality of Wawa. As a member

<sup>273</sup> The total land mass of the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group was calculated by adding the total land mass identified by Statistics Canada for the communities of Chapleau, Dubreuilville, Hornepayne, Manitouwadge and White River. Wawa's land area of 583 km<sup>2</sup>, a figure provided by members of the Nuclear Waste Community Advisory Committee at the May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting, was added to the area total.

<sup>274</sup> The total land area of the NSFC of 1,510 km<sup>2</sup> is an approximation based on available data sources. The calculated total does not include lands occupied by the Hornepayne First Nation and Chapleau Cree First Nation who are currently in the land claims agreement negotiation process with the Province of Ontario. Statistics Canada. 2012. *Chapleau, Dubreuilville, Hornepayne, Manitouwadge, Wawa and White River, Township Community Profiles*.

<sup>275</sup> The Northeast Superior Forest Community area land total was calculated using available Statistic Canada Census data for the communities of Chapleau, Dubreuilville, Hornepayne, Manitouwadge, White River and Wawa. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada First Nation profiles for Brunswick House First Nation, Chapleau Ojibway First Nation, Michipicoten First Nation and Pic Mobert First Nation were also referenced. The Missanabie Cree First Nation website was referenced for the total land size belonging to the Missanabie Cree First Nation, established through the partial settlement of a land claim agreement with the Province of Ontario.

<sup>276</sup> The NSFC includes lands granted to Missanabie Cree First Nation through the partial settlement of a land claim agreement with the Province of Ontario. Missanabie Cree First Nation. 2011. *About*. Website.

[http://missanabiecree.com/?page\\_id=51](http://missanabiecree.com/?page_id=51).

of FONOM, the Municipality receives economic support under the organization's mandate of improving the economic and social quality of life for all northern residents<sup>277</sup>.

### 3.2.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Algoma District is one of forty-nine Census Divisions recognized by Statistics Canada<sup>278</sup>. Algoma District has been in existence since 1858 although the District's spatial boundaries have changed over time<sup>279</sup>. Since 1858, a number of communities have been added and removed from Algoma District as new Census Divisions were created<sup>280</sup>. Prior to 1871, Algoma District included areas in proximity to Thunder Bay and Sudbury.

## 3.3 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The information in this section reflects readily available information from publicly available sources and does not reflect conversations or dialogue with Aboriginal communities or organizations unless otherwise noted.

The Aboriginal communities included here are those which are nearby to Wawa.

First Nations: The following First Nations are all part of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (Treaty 9) Treaty area:

- Brunswick House First Nation<sup>281</sup>;
- Chapeau Cree First Nation<sup>282</sup>;
- Chapeau Ojibway First Nation<sup>283</sup>; and,
- Missanabie Cree First Nation<sup>284</sup>.

The following First Nation is part of the Robinson Superior Treaty area:

- Michipicoten First Nation<sup>285</sup>.

<sup>277</sup> Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities. 2010. *Mandate*. Website. <http://www.fonom.org/>.

<sup>278</sup> Statistics Canada. 2012. *Census Profile*. Website. [http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/search-](http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/search-recherche/lst/page.cfm?Lang=E&GeoCode=35&TABID=1&G=1&Geo1=CD&Code1=3557&Geo2=PR&Code2=35)

[recherche/lst/page.cfm?Lang=E&GeoCode=35&TABID=1&G=1&Geo1=CD&Code1=3557&Geo2=PR&Code2=35](http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/search-recherche/lst/page.cfm?Lang=E&GeoCode=35&TABID=1&G=1&Geo1=CD&Code1=3557&Geo2=PR&Code2=35).

<sup>279</sup> Ontario, Canadian Census Finder. 2012. *Algoma District – Carleton County*. Website. <http://www.censusfinder.com/ontario-canada-census-records.htm>.

<sup>280</sup> Algoma District GenWeb. 2009. *Algoma District*. Website.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~onalgoma/algo3.html#dates>.

<sup>281</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Brunswick House First Nation Profile*. Website. [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=228&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=228&lang=eng).

<sup>282</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Chapeau Cree First Nation Profile*. Website. [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=221&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=221&lang=eng).

<sup>283</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Chapeau Ojibway First Nation Profile*. Website. [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=229&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=229&lang=eng).

<sup>284</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Missanabie Cree First Nation Profile*. Website. [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=223&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=223&lang=eng).

<sup>285</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Michipicoten First Nation Profile*. Website. [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=225&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=225&lang=eng).

Métis: Wawa borders the Métis Nation Ontario Regions 2 & 4. MNO Region 2 includes Thunder Bay Métis Council, Greenstone Métis Council (Geraldton and Area), and Superior North Shore Métis Council. MNO Region 4 includes Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council and North Channel Métis Council.

The text which follows provides a brief introduction to these communities and organizations.

### 3.3.1 FIRST NATIONS

#### 3.3.1.1. BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION

Brunswick House First Nation is located east of the Township of Chapleau, off of Highway 101<sup>286</sup> and is a signatory of Treaty #9. The most populous reserve is Duck Lake 76B Indian Reserve<sup>287</sup>. Brunswick House First Nation community members have maintained a traditional lifestyle in the surrounding area for centuries.

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) indicates (as of February 2013) a total registered Brunswick House First Nation population of 745, of which 197 are on reserve and 548 are located off reserve<sup>288</sup>. According to Statistics Canada Census of Population data, the population residing on the Duck Lake 76B Indian Reserve lands decreased by 23.4% between 2001 and 2006<sup>289</sup> followed by a 2.4% increase between 2006 and 2011<sup>290</sup>.

#### 3.3.1.2. CHAPLEAU CREE FIRST NATION

Chapleau Cree First Nation (CCFN) is located southwest of the Township of Chapleau and is a signatory of Treaty #9. The community is located in close proximity to the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve<sup>291</sup>. The creation of the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve in 1925 by the Government of Ontario to protect fur-bearing animals has affected the use of traditional areas by Aboriginal community members, including the CCFN<sup>292</sup>. The CCFN's original settlement, the Fox Lake Indian Reserve, was located on the shores of the Chapleau and Nebskwashi Rivers, approximately 1 mile east of the Township of Chapleau; however, the land was reportedly of poor quality<sup>293</sup>. As such, the CCFN community members chose to settle in the Township of Chapleau. CCFN

<sup>286</sup> Brunswick House First Nation. 2009a. *About*. Website. <http://brunswickhousefirstnation.com/about.asp>.

<sup>287</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Reserves – Brunswick House First Nation*. Website. [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNReserves.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=228&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNReserves.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=228&lang=eng).

<sup>288</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2012. *Registered Population – Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation*. Website: [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=192&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=192&lang=eng)

<sup>289</sup> Statistics Canada. 2007. *Duck Lake 76B, Indian Reserve Community Profile*. Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3552054&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&Data=Count&SearchText=duck%20lake%2076B&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=>

<sup>290</sup> Statistics Canada. 2012. *Duck Lake 76B, Indian Reserve Community Profile*. Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3552054&Geo2=CD&Code2=3552&Data=Count&SearchText=duck%20lake%2076B&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=&TABID=1>.

<sup>291</sup> Chapleau Cree First Nation. 2009. *Our Region*. Website. [http://chapleaucree.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=101&Itemid=67](http://chapleaucree.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=101&Itemid=67).

<sup>292</sup> Chapleau Cree First Nation. 2010. *Community Development Strategy*. Website. [http://chapleaucree.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=98&Itemid=88](http://chapleaucree.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=98&Itemid=88).

<sup>293</sup> Wakenagun Community Futures Development Corporation. 1999. *Chapleau Cree Community Profile*. Website. <http://www.wakenagun.ca/PDF/Chapleau%20Profile.pdf>.

community members currently reside in the Township as well as on the Chapleau 75 Indian Reserve. The Chapleau 75 Indian Reserve was created in 1989 as a permanent community<sup>294</sup>.

According to Statistics Canada Census of Population data, the Chapleau 75 Indian Reserve's population declined by 1.1% between 2001 and 2006<sup>295</sup> and by a further 14.1% between 2006 and 2011. In 2011, there were reportedly 79 CCFN members living on the Chapleau 75 Indian Reserve<sup>296</sup>. In 1999, Chapleau Cree First Nation was a community of approximately 337 members with 73 members living on reserve (Wakenagun Community Futures Development Corporation, 1999).

### 3.3.1.3. CHAPLEAU OJIBWAY FIRST NATION

Chapleau Ojibway First Nation, also known as Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation, is located south of the Township of Chapleau, off of Highway 129<sup>297</sup>. The community is a signatory of Treaty #9. The most populous reserve is Chapleau 74A Indian Reserve<sup>298</sup>. In addition, the Chapleau 74A Indian Reserve is the only Ojibway-language reserve located in the Chapleau area.

In February 2013, AANDC indicated a total registered Chapleau Ojibway First Nation population of 42, of which 34 reside on-reserve and 8 reside off-reserve<sup>299</sup>. Statistics Canada Census of Population data indicates the number of Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation community members living on the Chapleau 74A Indian Reserve declined by 39.4% between 2001 and 2006<sup>300</sup>, and then increased by 55.0% between 2006 and 2011.

### 3.3.1.4. MISSANABIE CREE FIRST NATION

The Missanabie Cree First Nation is a distinct group of the Mushkegowuk Cree with traditional territory centred on Missanabie Lake, Dog Lake, and Wabatongushi Lake in Northern Ontario. Missanabie Cree First Nation is located in the Mushkegowuk Territory and is part of the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council.<sup>301</sup>

The Missanabie Cree First Nation was recognized as a band by the federal government in 1951. Though the community was not allotted reserve lands, it remained a signatory to Treaty 9. In 2011, the Missanabie Cree First Nation and the Government of Ontario signed an agreement to provide the First Nation with 15 square

<sup>294</sup> Chapleau Cree First Nation. 2009b. *Our Community*. Website.

[http://chapleaucree.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=108&Itemid=66](http://chapleaucree.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=108&Itemid=66).

<sup>295</sup> Statistics Canada. 2007. *Chapleau 75, Indian Reserve Community Profile*. Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3552058&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&Data=Count&SearchText=chapleau%2075&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=>.

<sup>296</sup> Statistics Canada. 2012. *Chapleau 75, Indian Reserve Community Profile*. Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3552058&Geo2=CD&Code2=3552&Data=Count&SearchText=chapleau%2075&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=&TABID=1>.

<sup>297</sup> Township of Chapleau. 2012. *First Nations – Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation*. Website. <http://www.chapleau.ca/en/live/firstnations.asp>.

<sup>298</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Reserves – Chapleau Ojibway First Nation*. Website. [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNReserves.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=229&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNReserves.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=229&lang=eng).

<sup>299</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Registered Population – Chapleau Ojibway First Nation*. Website. [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=229&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=229&lang=eng).

<sup>300</sup> Statistics Canada. 2007. *Chapleau 74A, Indian Reserve Community Profile*. Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3552053&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&Data=Count&SearchText=chapleau%2074&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=>.

<sup>301</sup> Missanabie Cree First Nation. 2011. *Missanabie Cree First Nation*. Website. <http://missanabiecree.com/>

miles (39 km<sup>2</sup>) of land as an initial allotment of a total 70 square miles (180 km<sup>2</sup>) to which they are entitled under Treaty 9<sup>302</sup>.

The membership of the Missanabie Cree First Nation is scattered across Canada, with many members located in Northern Ontario communities<sup>303</sup>.

### 3.3.1.5. MICHIPICOTEN FIRST NATION

Michipicoten First Nation is located outside of the Municipality of Wawa, on the shores of Lake Superior and has descendants from the signatories of the Robinson-Superior Treaty. The most populous reserve is Gros Cap 49 Indian Reserve<sup>304</sup>. Michipicoten First Nation community members have inhabited the Lake Superior area for centuries with records indicating the first European settlers came in contact with two Ojibway tribes inhabiting the northeast corner of Lake Superior in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>305</sup>

AANDC indicates a total registered Michipicoten First Nation population of 1,046 in February 2013 of which 70 reside on-reserve and 986 reside off-reserve<sup>306</sup>. According to Statistics Canada Census of Population data, the number of residents residing on Gros Cap 49 Indian Reserve declined by 11.5% between 2001 and 2006<sup>307</sup>, and then increased by 25.9% between 2006 and 2011.

### 3.3.1.6 NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (TREATY 9) TREATY AREA

The Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Treaty (Treaty 9) – also known as the James Bay Treaty – was an agreement established between the Government of Canada and various First Nations in Northern Ontario in July 1905<sup>308</sup>. The nations who signed in 1905-06 included those people occupying the area south of the Albany River. Together with the area acquired by adhesions in 1929-1930, Treaty 9 covers almost two-thirds of the area that became Northern Ontario<sup>309</sup>.

Today, the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) is a political territorial organization that represents 50 First Nations with homelands and traditional territories in Ontario. NAN First Nation territories stretch from the Manitoba border in the west to the Quebec border in the east and from approximately the 50<sup>th</sup> parallel in the south to Hudson and James Bay in the North. In 1973 the First Nations of Treaty No. 9 formed the political organization known as Grand Council Treaty No. 9 to advocate on the issues that were common to them. The James Bay Treaty/Treaty No. 9 was one of the last numbered treaties to be signed in Canada. It is the only treaty in

<sup>302</sup> Media Knet n.d.. Ontario Land Transfer to Missanabie Cree First Nation Questioned By Anishnabek Nation. Website. [Http://Media.Knet.Ca/Node/11447](http://Media.Knet.Ca/Node/11447)

<sup>303</sup> Missanabie Cree First Nation. 2011. About. Website. [http://missanabiecree.com/?page\\_id=51](http://missanabiecree.com/?page_id=51)

<sup>304</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2008. *Reserves – Michipicoten First Nation*. Website. [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNReserves.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=225&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNReserves.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=225&lang=eng).

<sup>305</sup> Michipicoten First Nation. 2013a. *Who we are*. Website. <http://www.michipicoten.com/who-we-are/>.

<sup>306</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Registered Population – Michipicoten First Nation*. Website. [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=225&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=225&lang=eng).

<sup>307</sup> Statistics Canada. 2007. *Gros Cap 49, Indian Reserve Community Profile*. Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3557078&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&Data=Count&SearchText=gros%20cap&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=>.

<sup>308</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *The James Bay Treaty - Treaty No. 9 (Made In 1905 And 1906) and Adhesions Made In 1929 and 1930*. Website. <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100028863/1100100028864#chp3>

<sup>309</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Treaty Guide to Treaty No. 9 (1905-1906)*. Website. <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100028855/1100100028857>

Canada that was signed by a province. It was first signed in 1905 and 1906 by the Canadian and Ontario Government and the Cree, Ojibway and Algonquin Nations<sup>310</sup>.

### **3.3.1.7 ROBINSON SUPERIOR TREATY AREA**

The Robinson Superior Treaty, also known as Treaty No. 60, was signed in September 1850 in Sault Ste. Marie between the Crown and Ojibway Indians who occupied Northern Lake Superior from Pigeon River to Batchawana Bay<sup>311</sup>. The agreement ceded to the Crown the shoreline of Lake Superior, including the islands, from Batchawana Bay to the Pigeon River, inland as far as the height of land<sup>312</sup>. The Treaty provided a schedule of reserves with three (3) specified on Lake Superior under the Robinson-Superior Treaty.

The Treaty provided for initial cash settlements, annuities, and reserves for the Superior bands. It formalised the right of Indian Chiefs to choose their own reserve grounds and also enshrined hunting and fishing rights, provided the land was not needed for settlement<sup>313</sup>.

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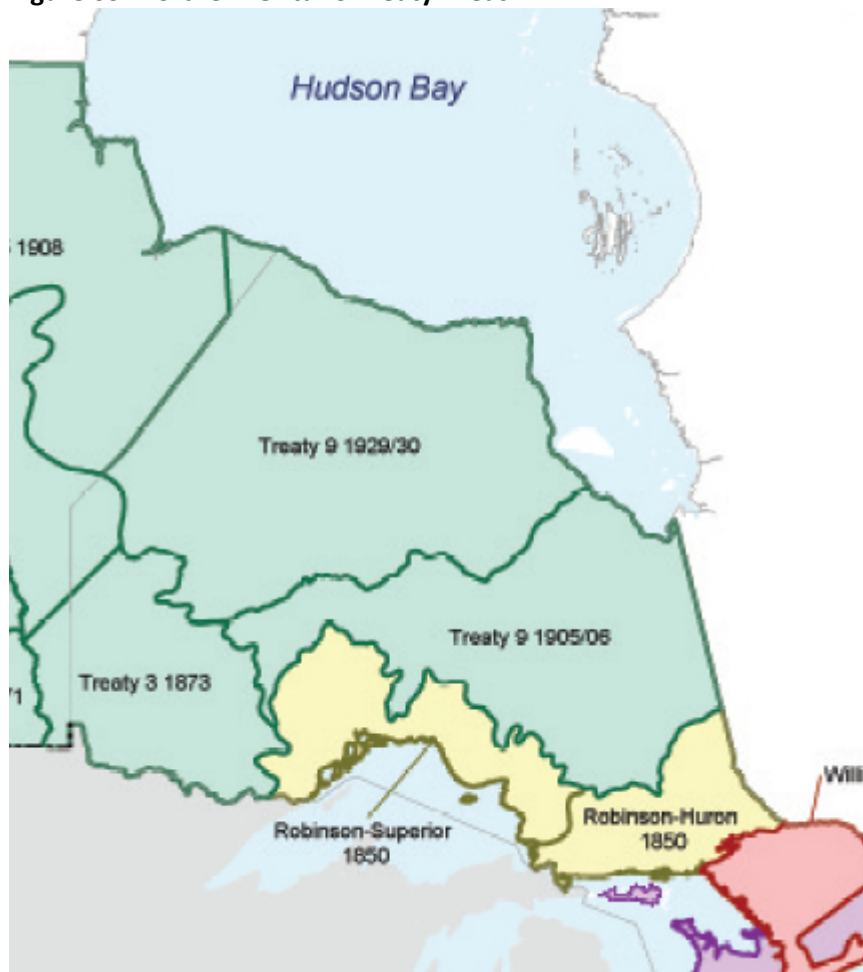
<sup>310</sup> Nishnawbe Aski Nation. 2013. About Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN). Website. <http://www.nanbroadband.ca/article/about-nishnawbe-aski-nation-nan-6.asp>

<sup>311</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. Copy of the Robinson Treaty Made in the Year 1850 with the Ojibway Indians of Lake Superior Conveying Certain Lands to the Crown. Website. <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100028978/1100100028982>

<sup>312</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. Website. <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100028974/1100100028976#chp2>

<sup>313</sup> University of Calgary/Red Deer College. 2000. Canada's First Nations, Treaty Evolution. Website. [http://www.ucalgary.ca/applied\\_history/tutor/firstnations/terms.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/applied_history/tutor/firstnations/terms.html)

Figure 63: Northern Ontario Treaty Areas



Source: Northern Ontario Region. 2007. *First Nations Northern Ontario Region Treaties*. Website. <http://northernontarioregion.ca/default.asp?pgid=113>.

The Robinson-Superior Treaty was negotiated with Aboriginal Nations located north of Lake Superior<sup>314</sup> (see Figure 63). Signing of the Robinson-Superior Treaty enables exploration of the Treaty Area's natural resources.

### 3.3.2 MÉTIS ORGANIZATIONS

Métis citizens are represented at the local level through the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Charter Community Councils. The local Councils are a communication hub for MNO and play a role in fostering community empowerment and development for Métis citizens living within the geographic region of that Council. Community Councils operate in accordance with MNO Charter Agreements, which give Councils the mandate to govern, while ensuring accountability, transparency, and consistency.

Protocol Agreements are set up between the MNO and each of its regions. The MNO Lands, Resources and Consultation Committee is the initial contact in each Region and is the group with which discussion and involvement of local Councils begins.

<sup>314</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2010. *Robinson-Huron and Robinson-Superior Treaties (1850)*. Website. <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100028970/1100100028972>.

Wawa borders Regions 2 & 4 of the MNO classification. There are three Métis Councils within Region 2, namely:

- Greenstone Métis Council (Geraldton and Area)<sup>315</sup>;
- Superior North Shore Métis Council<sup>316</sup>; and,
- Thunder Bay Métis Council.<sup>317</sup>

There are two Métis Councils within Region 4, namely:

- Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council; and,
- North Channel Métis Council.

## 3.4 COMMUNITY DYNAMICS

### 3.4.1 TREND OVER TIME

The area surrounding Wawa as a whole has experienced population decline since 1996. The largest period of decline in the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group occurred between the 2001 and 2006 Census periods when the total regional population declined by 19.4%. In Algoma District, the largest period of decline occurred between the 1996 and 2001 Census periods when the total population declined by 5.5%. Population decline of greater magnitudes has occurred in the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group in contrast to Algoma District (Table 17).

**Table 17: Northeast Superior Mayors' Group and Algoma District Population Trends, 1996 – 2011**

Time Period	Northeast Superior Mayors' Group Population (Change from Previous Census)	Algoma District Population (Change from Previous Census)
1996	14,000 (-5.3%)	125,455 (-1.4%)
2001	12,780 (-9.5%)	118,567 (-5.5%)
2006	10,705 (-19.4%)	117,461 (-0.9%)
2011	9,465 (-13.1%)	115,870 (-1.4%)

Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Algoma District; Chapeau; Dubreuilville; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; and White River, Township Community Profiles.*

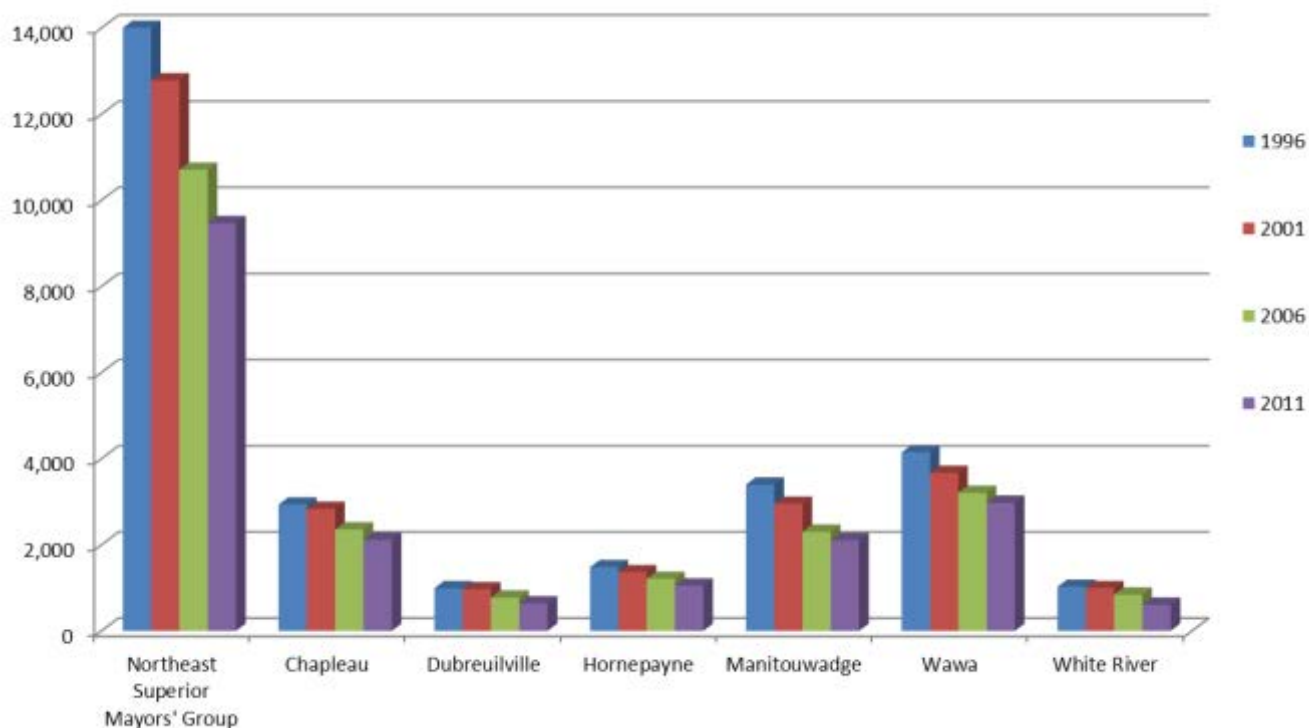
<sup>315</sup> The Métis Nation of Ontario. 2012. *Community Councils Map: Geraldton and Area Métis Council*. Website: <http://www.metisnation.org/community-councils/council-map>

<sup>316</sup> The Métis Nation of Ontario. 2012. *Community Councils Map: North Shore Métis Council*. Website: <http://www.metisnation.org/community-councils/council-map>

<sup>317</sup> The Métis Nation of Ontario. 2012. *Community Councils Map: Thunder Bay Métis Council*. Website: <http://www.metisnation.org/community-councils/council-map>



Figure 64: Area Population Trends, 1996 – 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; and White River, Township Community Profiles.*

As indicated by Table 17 above, the communities of Chapleau, Dubreuilville, Hornepayne, Manitouwadge and Wawa had population declines between the 2001 and 2006 Census periods. Of these communities, White River had the largest decline during this period, with a population decline of 27.8%.

Within the NSFC, the population significantly increases during the summer months due to an influx of seasonal residents and cottagers who “migrate to the area to enjoy the beauty of Northern Ontario”<sup>318</sup>. However, Statistics Canada Census data does not capture seasonal residents in the area population total.

Continued population decline has been attributed to out-migration of well-educated and mobile residents. According to the Algoma Workforce Investment Committee, Algoma District experienced a net out-migration of 1,325 people in the age category of 18 to 24 years<sup>319</sup>.

### 3.4.2 AGE PROFILE

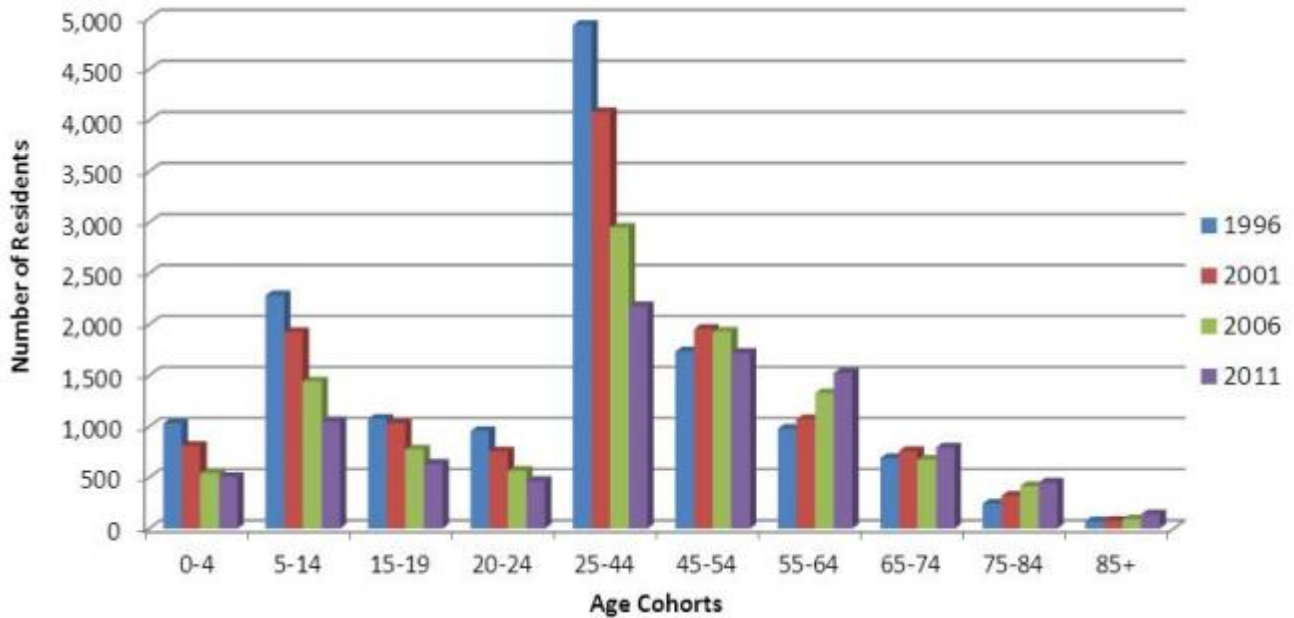
Figure 65 provides the Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group’s total population by age group, while Figure 66 provides Algoma District’s total population by age group. In 2011, a large proportion of residents in the Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group and Algoma District were aged between 25 to 44 years. In 2011, a majority

<sup>318</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d.. *The Northeast Superior Region, Ontario, Canada.*

<sup>319</sup> Algoma Workforce Investment Committee. 2012. *2012 Local Labour Market Plan: Trends, Opportunities and Priorities.*

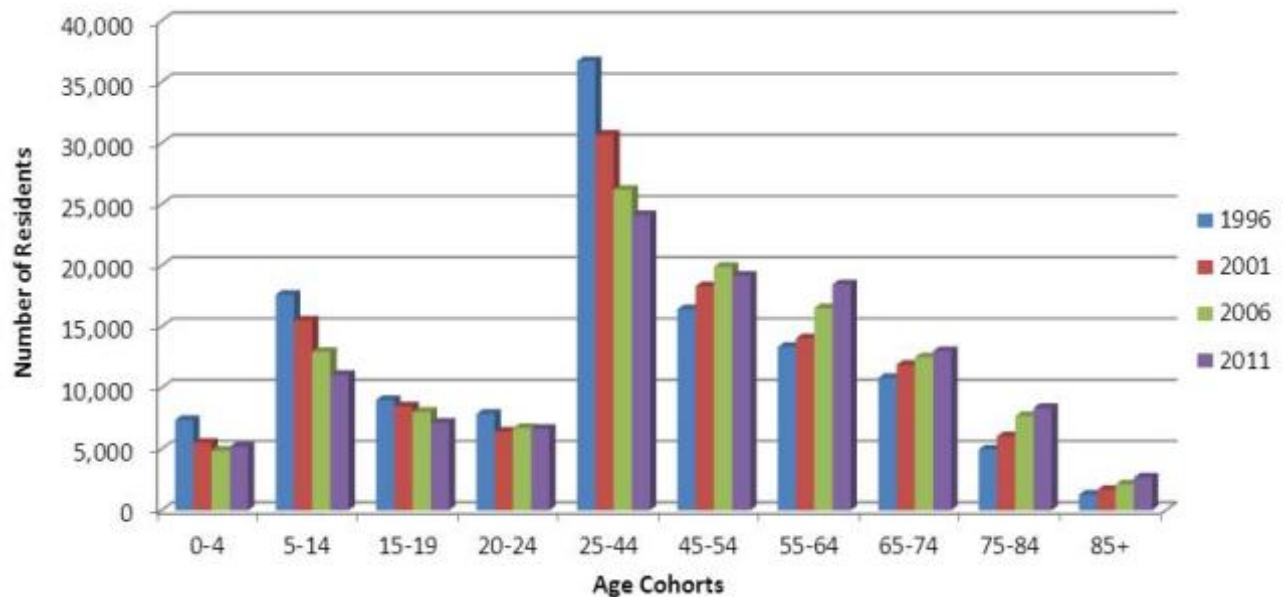
of residents in both the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group and Algoma District were aged between 25 to 44 years.

Figure 65: Northeast Superior Mayors' Group Age Trends, 1996 – 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Hornepayne; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; and White River, Township Community Profiles.*

Figure 66: Algoma District Age Trends, 1996 – 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Algoma, District Community Profiles.*

Table 18 below shows the total population by age group for the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group and Algoma District in 2006 and 2011.

**Table 18: Northeast Superior Mayors' Group and Algoma District Age Characteristics, 2006**

Age Characteristics	2006				2011			
	Northeast Superior Mayors' Group		Algoma District		Northeast Superior Mayors' Group		Algoma District	
Number (No.) and Percentage (%)								
<b>Total population</b>	<b>10,705</b>		<b>117,455</b>		<b>11,476</b>		<b>117,886</b>	
0 – 4 years	540	5.0%	4,880	4.2%	505	4.4%	5,210	4.4%
5 – 14 years	1,440	13.5%	12,945	11.0%	1,050	9.1%	11,080	9.4%
15-19 years	775	7.2%	8,035	6.8%	635	5.5%	7,155	6.1%
20 – 24 years	565	5.3%	6,710	5.7%	465	4.1%	6,660	5.6%
25 – 44 years	2,950	27.6%	26,190	22.3%	2,180	19.0%	24,120	20.5%
45 – 54 years	1,930	18.0%	19,885	16.9%	1,720	15.0%	19,155	16.2%
55 – 64 years	1,325	12.4%	16,515	14.1%	1,525	13.3%	18,455	15.7%
65 – 74 years	675	6.3%	12,485	10.6%	795	6.9%	13,010	11.0%
75 – 84 years	415	3.9%	7,695	6.6%	450	3.9%	8,355	7.1%
85 years and over	90	0.8%	2,115	1.8%	140	1.2%	2,675	2.3%

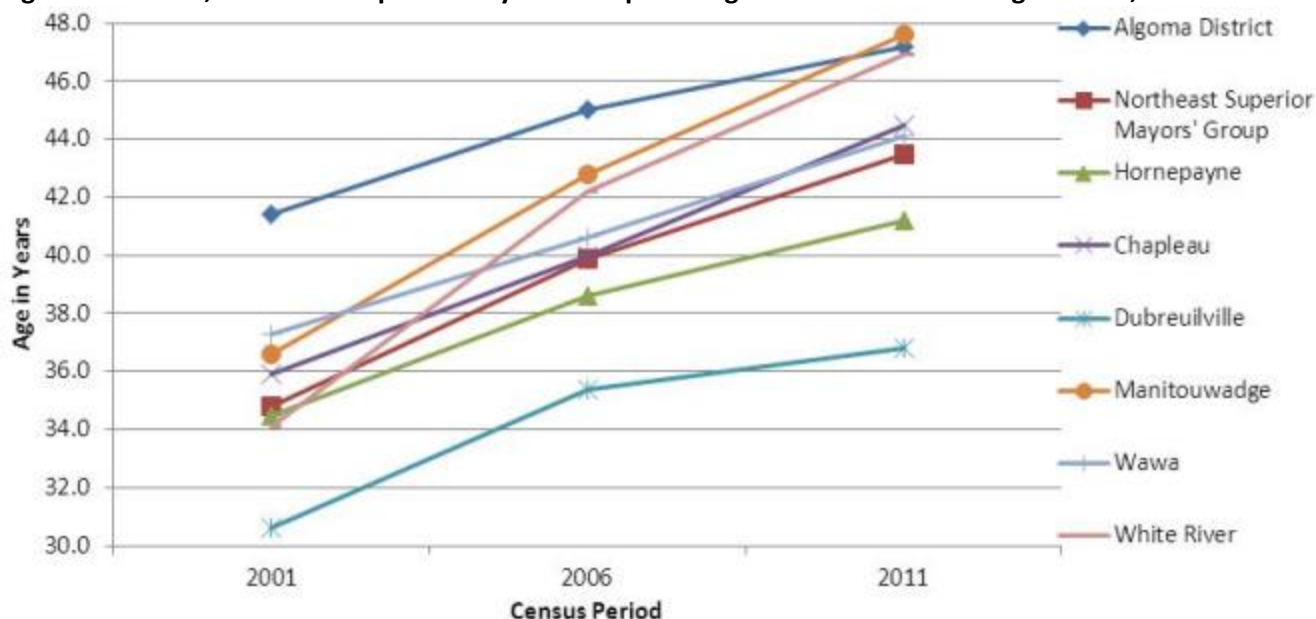
Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Algoma, District; Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Hornepayne; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; and White River, Township Community Profiles.*

As shown in Figure 65 and Figure 66 above, the proportion of Northeast Superior Mayors' Group and Algoma District residents aged 55 years and over has increased between 1996 and 2011. Table 18 above also illustrates a similar trend between 2006 and 2011. The median age has steadily increased across the areas over the same period (see Figure 67 below). Between 2001 and 2011, the median age of the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group increased by 8.7 years<sup>320</sup>, compared to an increase of 5.8 years for residents of Algoma District<sup>321</sup>.

<sup>320</sup> Median age for the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group was calculated by taking on average of the median age given for the communities of Chapleau, Dubreuilville, Hornepayne, Manitouwadge, Wawa and White River for the 2001, 2006 and 2011 Census periods.

<sup>321</sup> Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007, 2012. *Algoma, District Community Profiles.*

Figure 67: Wawa, Northeast Superior Mayors' Group and Algoma District Median Age Trends, 2001 – 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007, 2012. Algoma, District; Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Hornepayne; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; Wawa; and White River, Township Community Profiles.

### 3.5 LABOUR FORCE

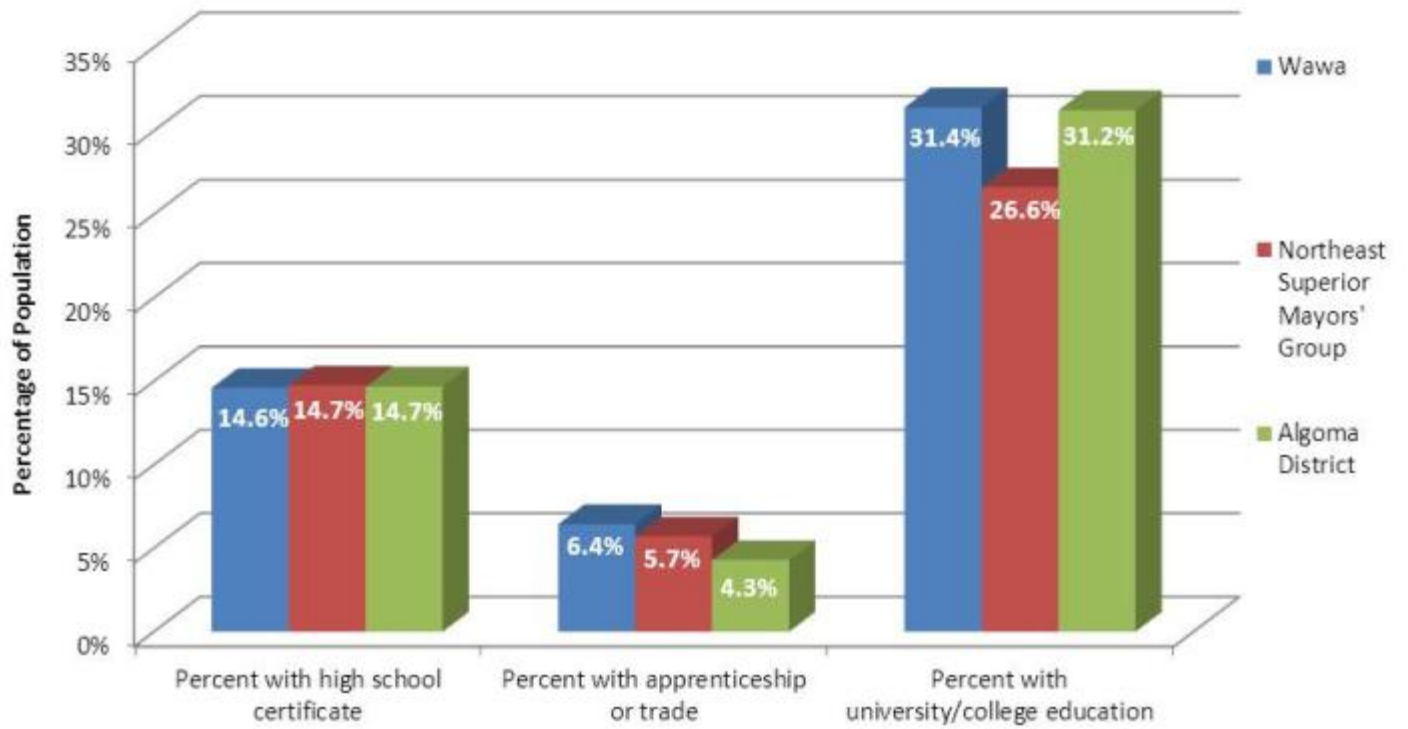
This section of the profile outlines labour force characteristics for Wawa, the Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group and Algoma District. The key characteristics are:

- Population by Education/Training Attainment; and,
- Employment by Activity and Sector.

#### 3.5.1 POPULATION BY EDUCATION/TRAINING ATTAINMENT

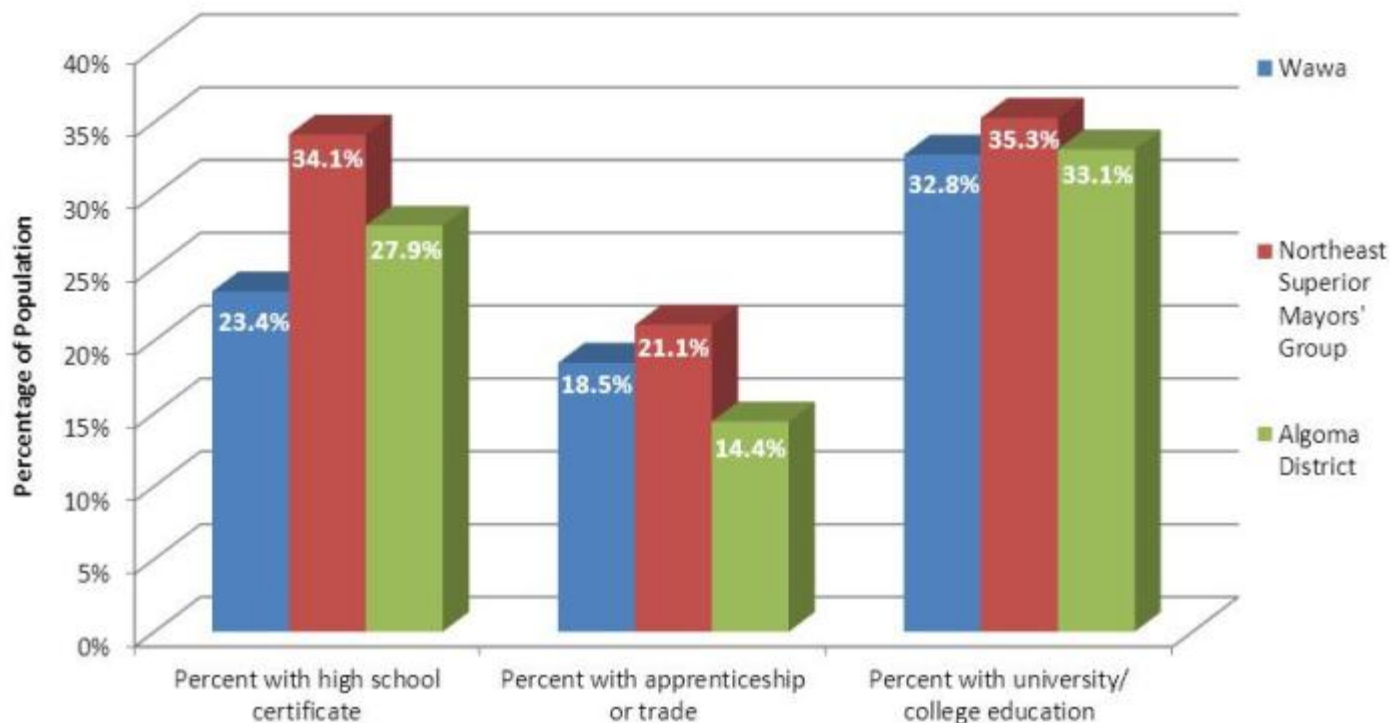
Figure 68 to Figure 71 below illustrate educational attainment in the Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group and Algoma District for the period 1996 to 2006. As indicated by these figures, the Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group had a decreasing proportion of residents with university or college education from 2001 to 2006, while Algoma District had an increasing proportion of residents with university or college education from 2001 to 2006 (see Figures 70 and 71). In 2006, more than 30% of both area populations had a university/college degree or diploma (see Figure 70). The percentage of residents with a university or college degree was 2.7 percentage points higher in Algoma District (34.3%) compared to residents of the Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group (31.6%) for the same period.

Figure 68: Wawa, Northeast Superior Mayors' Group and Algoma District Educational Attainment, 1996



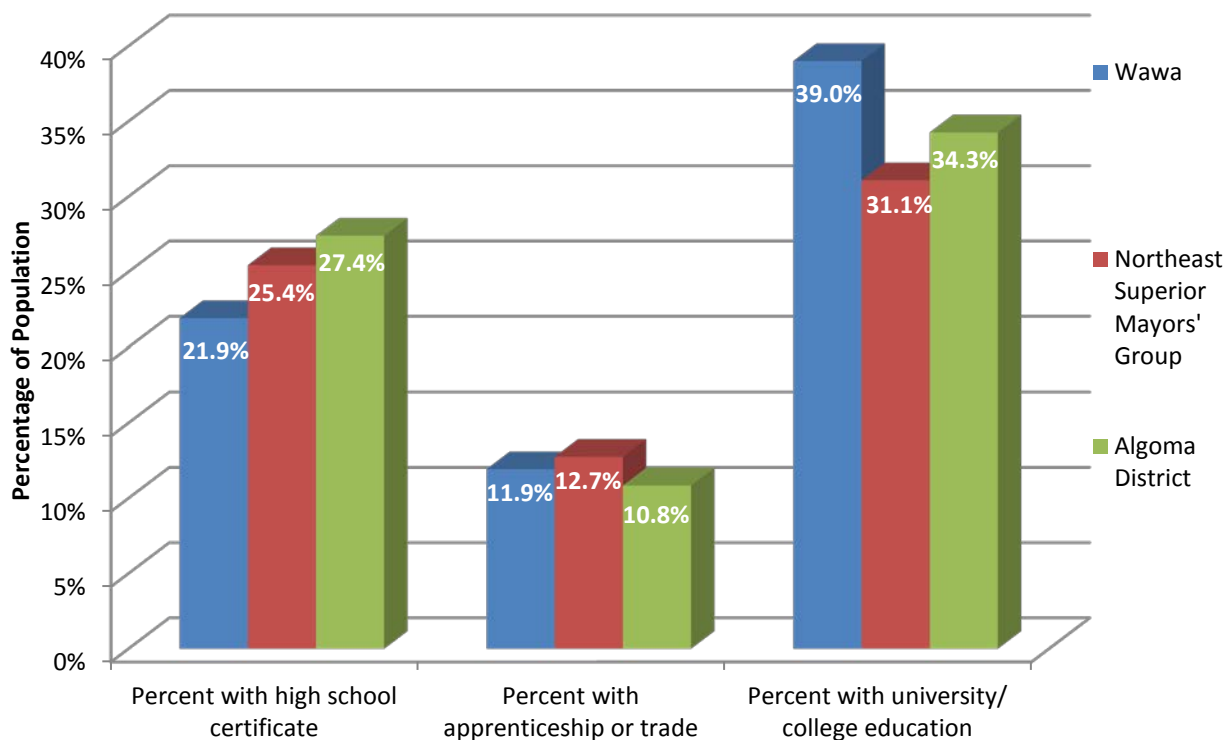
Source: Statistics Canada. 1997. *Algoma District; Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; and White River, Township Community Profiles.*

Figure 69: Wawa, Northeast Superior Mayors' Group and Algoma District Educational Attainment, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada. 2002. *Algoma District; Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; and White River, Township Community Profiles.*

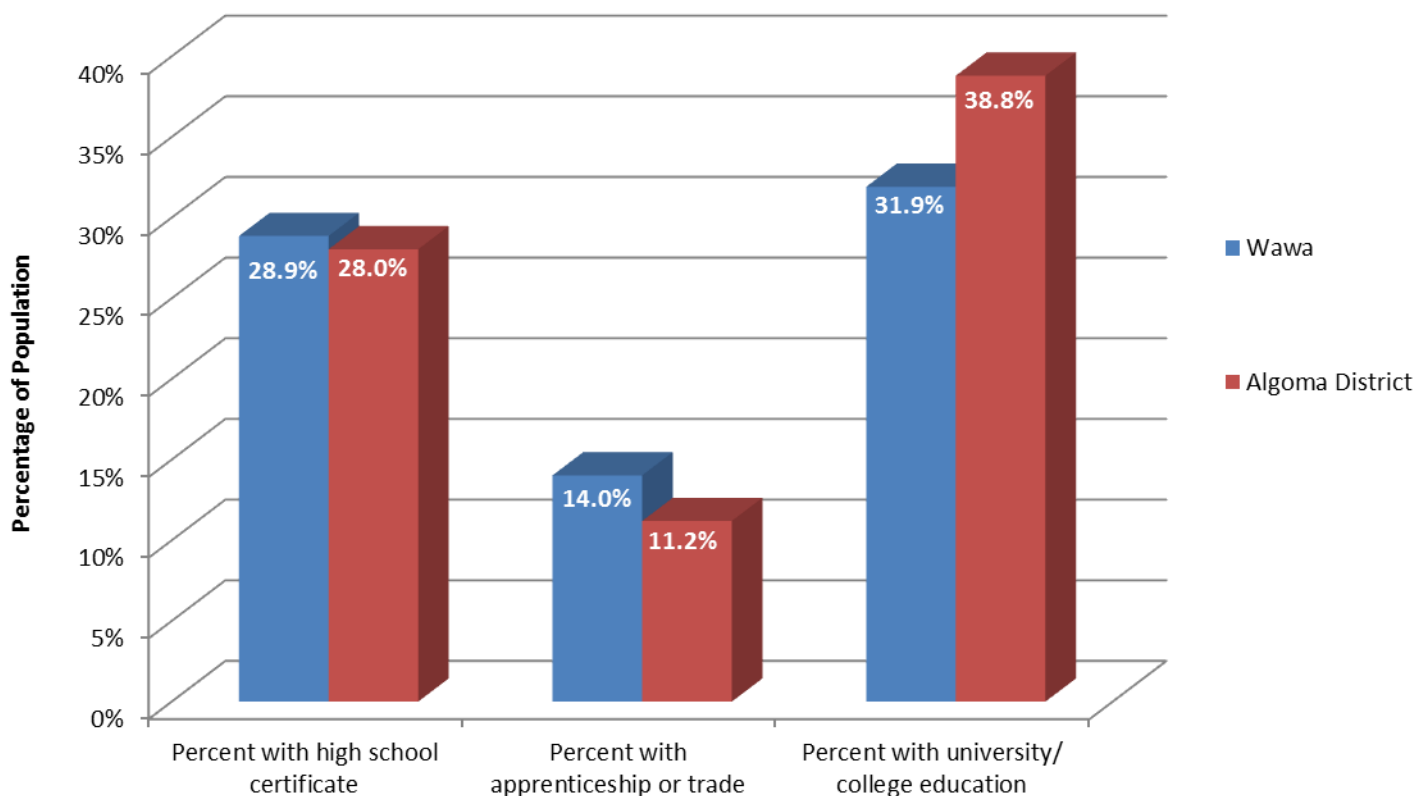
Figure 70: Wawa, Northeast Superior Mayors' Group and Algoma District Educational Attainment, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Algoma District; Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; and White River, Township Community Profiles.*

Figure 71 below illustrates educational attainment for Wawa and the Algoma District for 2011.<sup>322</sup> The percentage of Wawa residents whose highest level of education is an apprenticeship or trade increased between 2006 (11.9%) and 2011 (14.0%). The percentage of Wawa residents whose highest level of education is a university/college education decreased between 2006 and 2011 by 7.3 percentage points; however, it increased in the Algoma District by 4.5 percentage points between the census years.

**Figure 71: Wawa and Algoma District Educational Attainment, 2011**



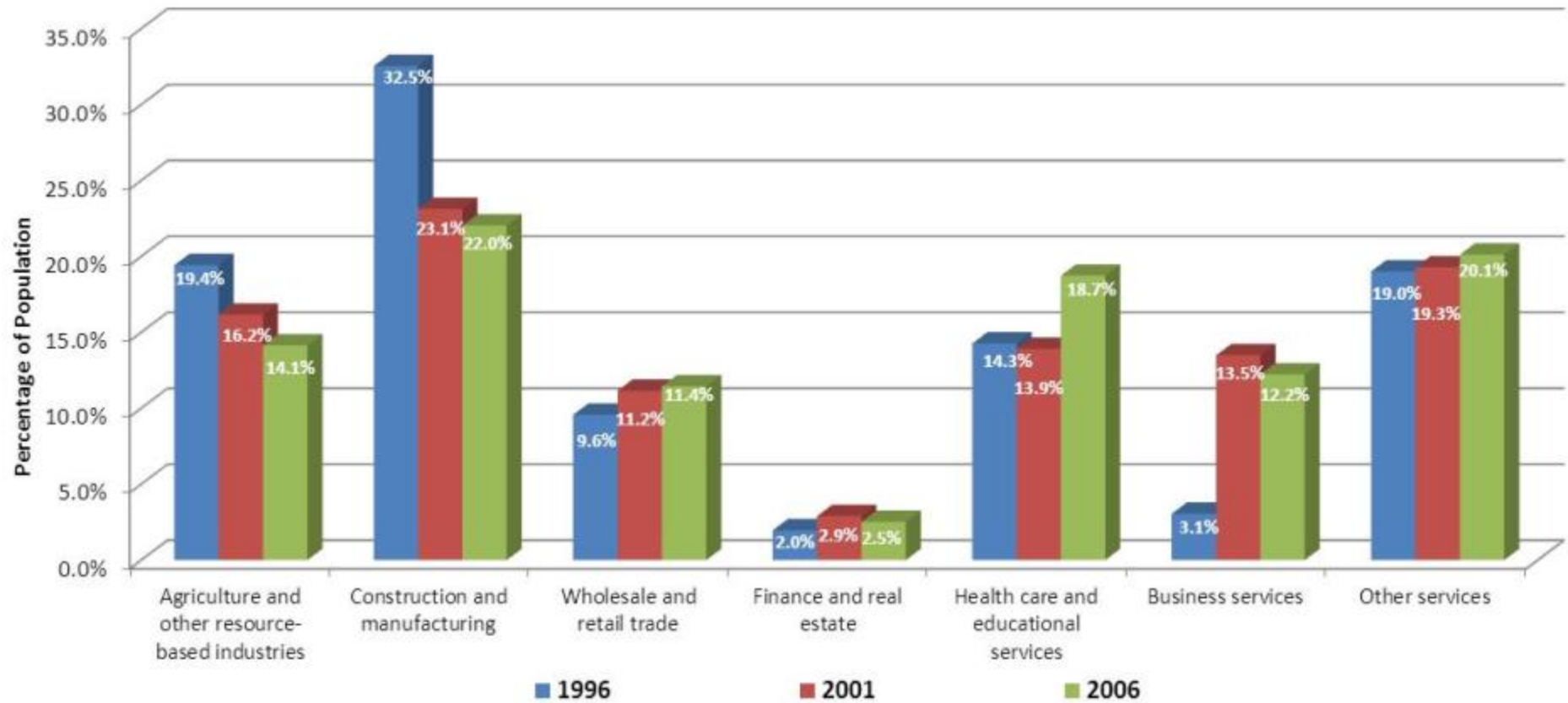
Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. Wawa, MU, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile; Statistics Canada. 2013. Algoma, DIS, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.

### 3.5.2 EMPLOYMENT BY ACTIVITY AND SECTOR

Figure 72 below illustrates employment trends in the Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group, while Figure 73 illustrates employment trends in Algoma District for the period 1996 to 2006. Across the Census periods, *construction and manufacturing, health care and educational services* and *other services* were the industries with the greatest labour force participation. During this period, the total labour force decreased in size in the Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group. In Algoma District, the labour force declined between 1996 and 2001, and then grew in size between 2001 and 2006.

<sup>322</sup> Educational Attainment statistics for some of the Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group communities (in particular Hornepayne and Manitouwadge) have been suppressed by Statistics Canada due to data quality and/or confidentiality reasons. As such, Figure 71 does not incorporate Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group statistical data.

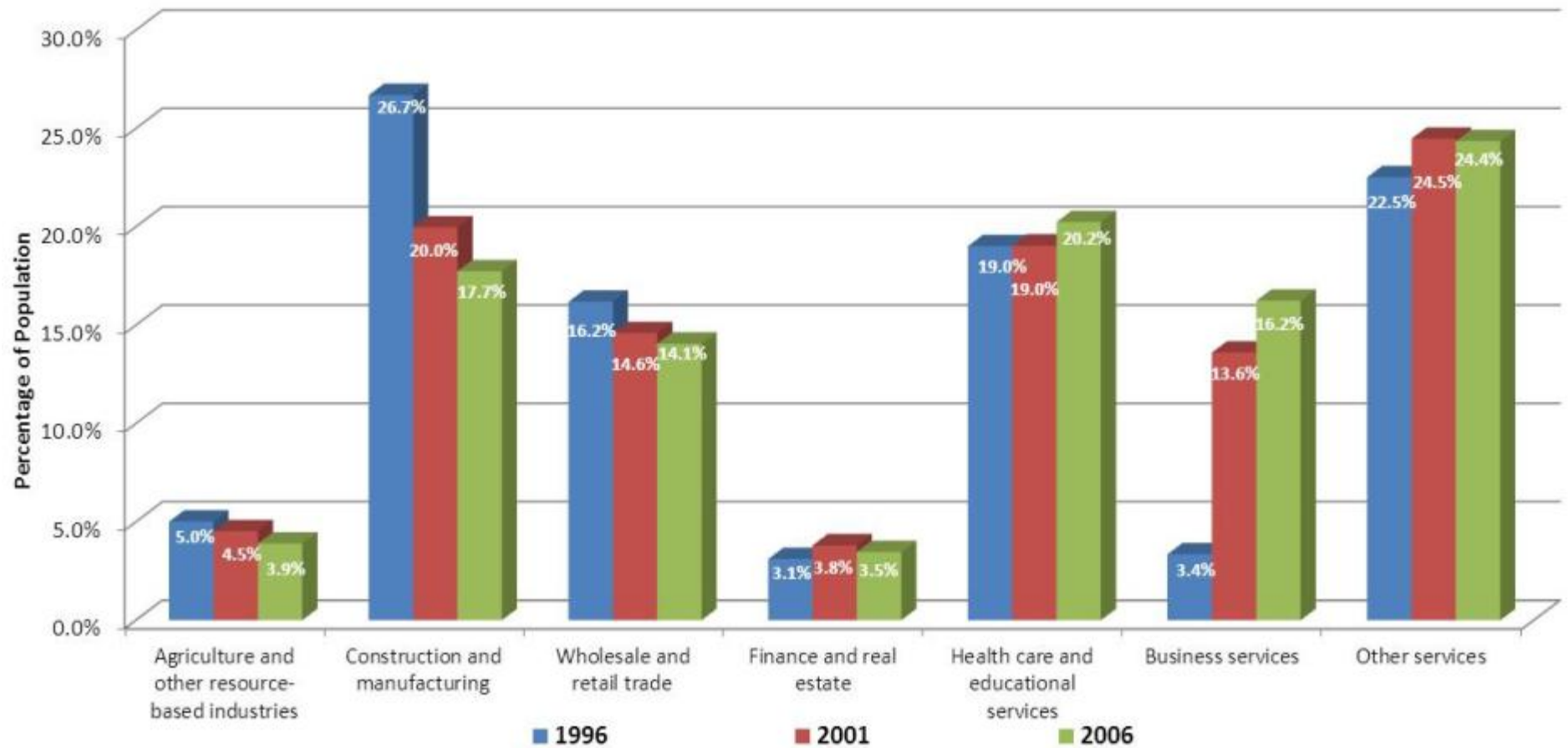
Figure 72: Northeast Superior Mayors' Group Employment Trends, 1996 – 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007. *Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Hornepayne, Manitouwadge; Michipicoten and White River, Township Community Profiles.*



Figure 73: Algoma District Employment Trends, 1996 – 2006



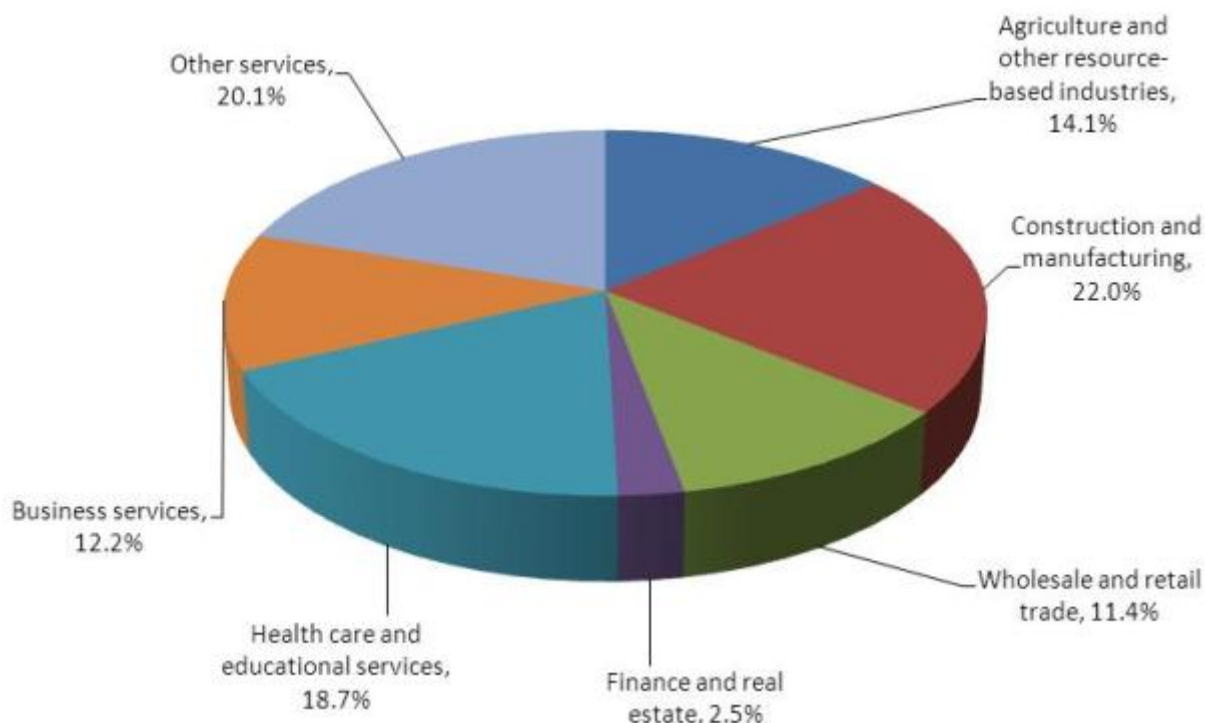
Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007. *Algoma, District Community Profiles*.

Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

Figure 72 and Figure 73 above indicate changing employment activities in the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group and Algoma District between 1996 and 2006. Between 1996 and 2001, the *health care and educational services* industry became a more dominant industry in both the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group and Algoma District. Changes in employment activity can be explained by changes to the local economy resulting from global economic conditions.

Figure 74 and Figure 75 below indicate employment by industry for the 2006 Census period. Figure 75 below indicates that the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group, *construction and manufacturing, other services, health care and educational services* and *agriculture, other resource-based industries and business services* were predominant industries in 2006.

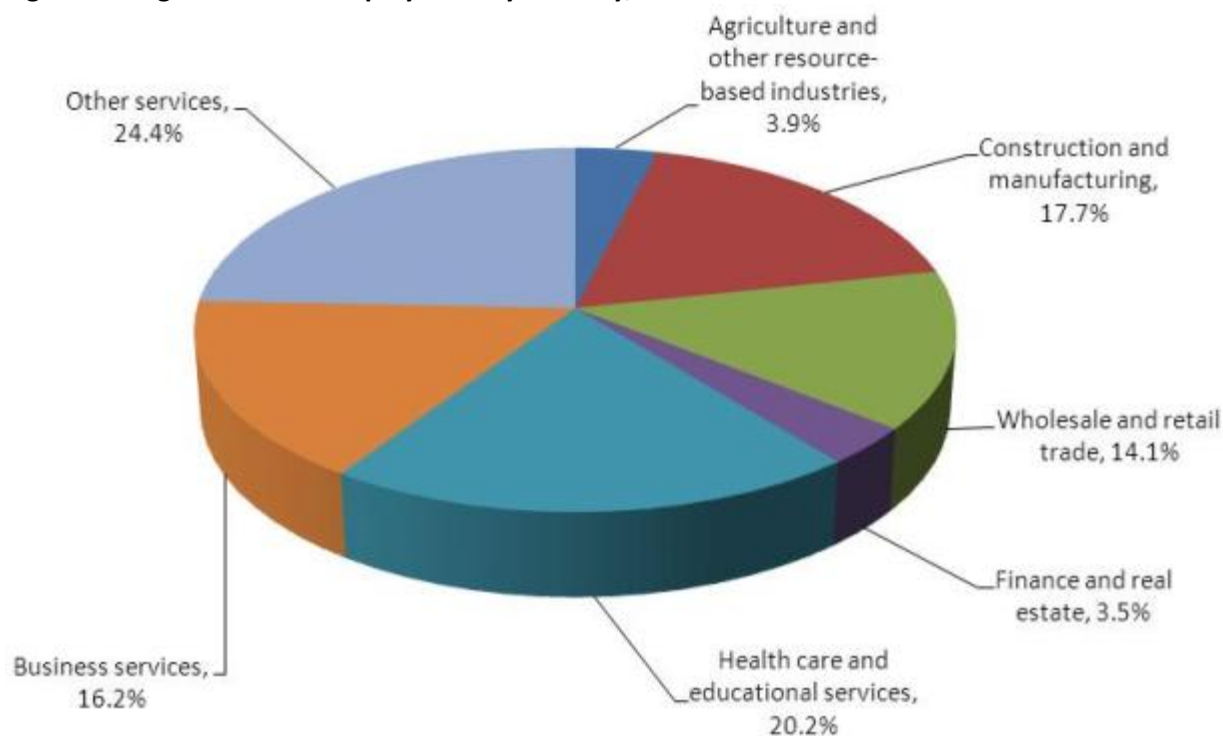
**Figure 74: Northeast Superior Mayors' Group Employment by Industry, 2006**



Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; and White River, Township Community Profiles*.

Figure 75 below indicates nearly one-quarter (24.0%) of Algoma District's total population were employed in the *other services* industry in 2006. Other industries with strong labour force participation for the same period included *health care and social services, construction and manufacturing, business services* and *wholesale and retail trade*.

Figure 75: Algoma District Employment by Industry, 2006

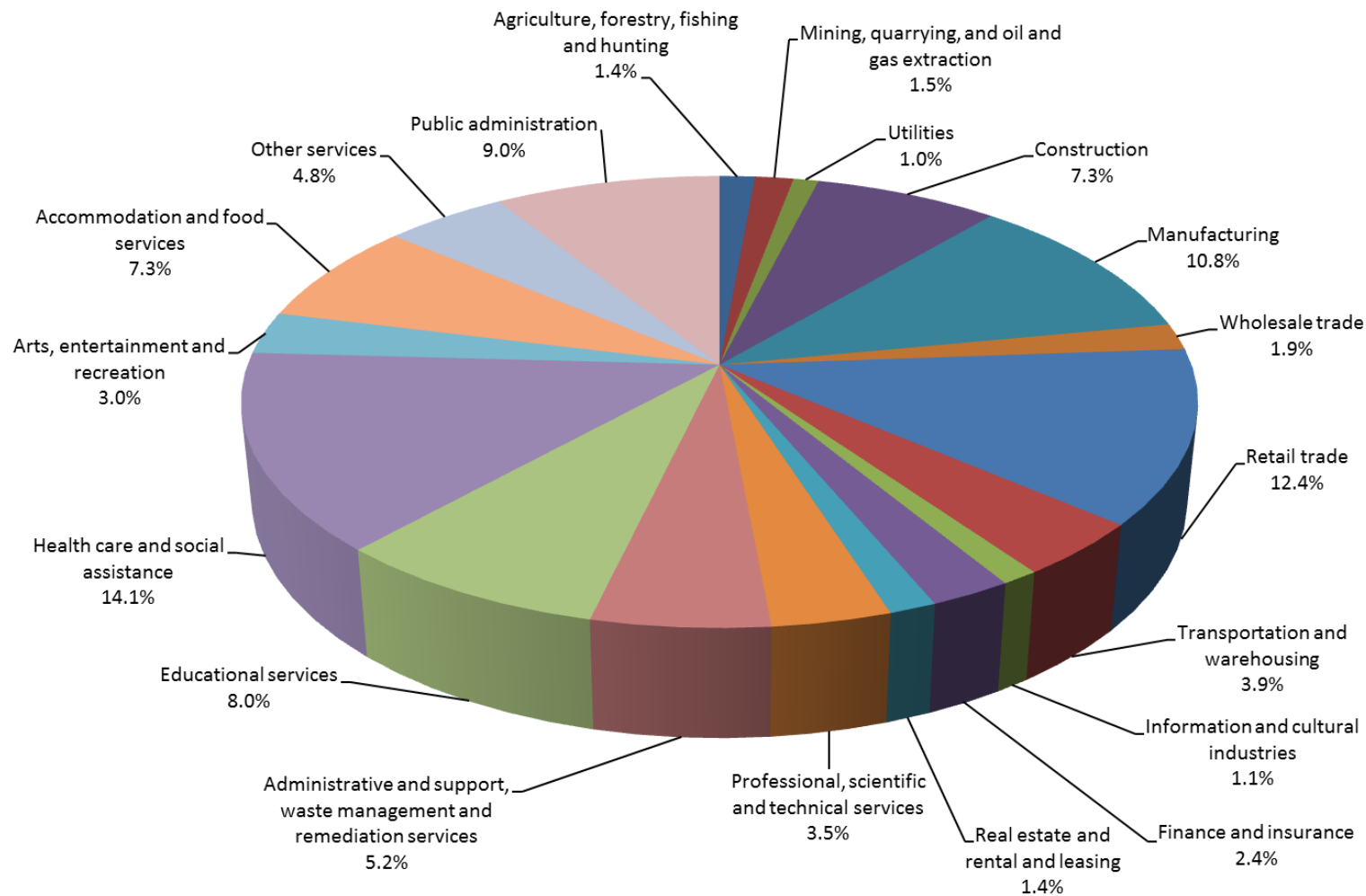


Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Algoma, District Community Profile*.

Figure 76 below shows the employment by industry for 2011.<sup>323</sup> The National Household Survey indicated that in 2011, *health care and social assistance* (14.1%) and *retail trade* (12.4%) were the predominant industries. Industries having among the lowest labour force participation for the same period include *wholesale trade, Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction, agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, real estate and rental and leasing, information and cultural Industries, and utilities* – each with less than 2%.

<sup>323</sup> Labour Force statistics for some of the Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group communities (in particular Hornepayne and Manitouwadge) have been suppressed by Statistics Canada due to data quality and/or confidentiality reasons. As such, Figure 78 does not incorporate Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group statistical data.

Figure 76: Algoma District Employment by Industry, 2011<sup>324</sup>



Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. Wawa, MU, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile; Statistics Canada. 2013. Algoma, DIS, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.

<sup>324</sup> Complementing the data collected by the census, the National Household Survey (NHS) is designed to provide information about people in Canada by their demographic, social and economic characteristics as well as provide information about the housing units in which they live. It is a voluntary survey (unlike the mandatory census). Please note, survey data captured in the 2011 NHS may be categorized differently than preceding census years 1996, 2001, and 2006. The impact of this is particularly noticeable when reading data concerning mobility, education, industry, and occupation.

### 3.6 BUSINESS ACTIVITY

#### 3.6.1 MAIN BUSINESSES – PAST AND CURRENT

In June 2011, there were reportedly 5,337 employers present in Algoma District<sup>325</sup>. The District's businesses range in size and scale, with a small number of large-scale operators who employed between 200 to more than 500 employees. More than 80% of Algoma District businesses had 9 employees or less<sup>326</sup>. Table 19 below shows the size and scale of businesses in Algoma District.

**Table 19: Algoma District Employers, 2008 and 2011**

Employee Size Range	Number of Employers			
	2008		2011	
Undetermined – less than 9	4,501	83.3%	4,448	83.3%
10 – 49	753	13.9%	741	13.9%
50 – 199	116	2.1%	117	2.2%
200 or more	35	0.6%	31	0.6%

Source: Algoma Workforce Investment Committee. 2012. *2012 Local Labour Market Plan: Trends, Opportunities and Priorities*.

#### 3.6.2 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR

Table 20 and Table 21 below identify the major public and private sector employers operating in the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group<sup>327</sup>. Table 20 identifies the largest public sector employers, while Table 21 identifies the largest private sector employers.

**Table 20: Northeast Superior Mayors' Group Major Public Sector Employers, 2012<sup>328</sup>**

Employer	Industry	Number of Employees
Lady Dunn Health Centre	Health	102
Wawa District School Boards	Education	100
Hornepayne Community Hospital	Health	65
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	Government	30+ <sup>329</sup>
Lake Superior Provincial Park/MNR		43 (3 permanent; 40 seasonal)
Municipality of Wawa	Government	29+38 <sup>330</sup>

<sup>325</sup> Algoma Workforce Investment Committee. 2012. *2012 Local Labour Market Plan: Trends, Opportunities and Priorities*.

<sup>326</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>327</sup> Subject to data availability and data quality, certain major employers have an unknown number of employees.

<sup>328</sup> Employment numbers are approximations. Information was obtained by DPRA by phoning each business when/where information was not readily available online.

<sup>329</sup> The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resource employs 27 full-time employees, 7 contract workers and 50 seasonal workers at Lake Superior Provincial Park.

Employer	Industry	Number of Employees
Superior Children's Centre	Children Services	32
Michipicoten First Nation	Government	25
Township of Hornepayne	Governance	20
Township of White River	Government	20
Various School Boards	Education	40+
Ontario Ministry of Transportation	Government	10+
Ontario Provincial Police	Government	30+
Dubreuilville Health Centre	Health	3
Manitouwadge General Hospital	Health	60 est.
Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (Region MNR offices)	Government	Wawa district office – 43 (includes fire & enforcement) Manitouwadge area office – 5 Chapleau district office – N/A Nipigon district office – N/A Terrace Bay area office – N/A
Services de Santé de Chapleau Health Services	Health	105
Township of Chapleau	Government	9
Township of Dubreuilville	Government	7
Township of Manitouwadge	Government	20 (17 permanent, 3 seasonal)

Source: Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012b. *Telephone Survey of Major Employers*; Insight gained from Hornepayne Nuclear Waste Community Liaison Committee members and Wawa Nuclear Waste Community Advisory Committee members; Nord-Aski Regional Economic Development Corporation. 2012. *Major Employers*. Website. <http://www.nordaski.com/frame1.html>; Northeast Superior Forest Community. (n.d.). *Chapleau, Dubreuilville, Hornepayne, Manitouwadge, Wawa and White River Community Profiles*. Website. <http://nsfc.ca/nsfc/about-nsfc/our-communities-and-our-region/nsfc-municipalities>; Township of White River. 2012. *Public Sector Major Employers*. Website. <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/public-sector-166.asp>.

<sup>330</sup> The Municipality of Wawa employs 29 full-time employees and 38 part-time employees. Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012b. *Telephone Survey of Major Employers*.

**Table 21: Northeast Superior Mayors' Group Major Private Sector Employers, 2012<sup>331</sup>**

Employer	Industry	Number of Employees
Wesdome Gold Mines Limited	Mining	225
Richmont Mine	Mining	185
Olav Haavaldsrud Timber Company Limited	Forestry	100+ <sup>332</sup>
Canadian National Railway	Transportation	100
J. Provost Contracting Limited	Construction	47 + 50 (seasonal)
Tim Hortons Limited	Hospitality	40
Wawa Motor Inn	Accommodation	37
Albert and Sons Ltd.	Hospitality/Tourism	30
Canadian Pacific Railway	Transportation	25+
Canadian Tire Corporation	Retail	26
D.J. Oliver & Sons Ltd.	Grocery Store	20
Kenogami Lumber	Forestry	20
A&W Restaurant/Bagdons Esso	Hospitality	12
Kabi Lake Forest Products	Forestry	12
North Central Cooperative	Retail/Food	12
Spadoni Brothers Limited	Construction	10
A&F Kistemaker Trucking	Transportation	8 (maybe some independents)
Dubreuil Forest Products Ltd.	Forestry	4
Aux Trois Moulins Motel, Restaurant and Confectionary	Hospitality	23-25
B&M Hauling Logs/Chips	Transportation	N/A
Barrick Gold Corporation	Mining	600 est.
Hallmark Centre Inn	Accommodation	N/A
Heritage Inn Motel	Hospitality	N/A
Home Building Centre Wawa ( <i>Home Hardware Buildings Centre Wawa, ON</i> )	Retail	7
Keith Spencer Trucking	Transportation	20
Lacroix Enterprises Limited ( <i>Home Hardware Buildings Centre franchise and a grocery store, Dubreuilville, ON</i> )	Retail	30
Manroc Developments Mining Contractors	Mining	N/A
Naturally Superior Adventures	Accommodation/ Tourism	6-12 seasonal
Northern Haul Contracting		N/A
Royal Bank of Canada, Wawa	Banking	11
Tembec Inc.		150 +
True North Timber	Forestry	100

<sup>331</sup> Employment numbers are approximations. Information was obtained by DPRA by phoning each business when/where information was not readily available online.

<sup>332</sup> Current employment was forwarded to DPRA through correspondence with a representative of the Hornepayne Nuclear Waste Community Liaison Committee on June 28, 2012.

Employer	Industry	Number of Employees
White River Forest Products Ltd.	Forestry	90 expected (Restart operations by October, 1, 2013 with a single shift, and add a second shift by January 1, 2014)

Source: Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012b. *Telephone Survey of Major Employers*; Insight gained from Hornepayne Nuclear Waste Community Liaison Committee members, Wawa Nuclear Waste Community Advisory Committee members and conversations with Wawa community members; Nord-Aski Regional Economic Development Corporation. 2012. *Major Employers*. Website. <http://www.nordaski.com/frame1.html>; Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d.. *Chapleau, Dubreuilville, Hornepayne, Manitouwadge, Wawa and White River Community Profiles*. Website. <http://nsfc.ca/nsfc/about-nsfc/our-communities-and-our-region/nsfc-municipalities>; Township of White River. 2012. *Private Sector Major Employers*. Website. <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/private-sector-167.asp>.

### 3.6.3 INVESTMENT TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

Wawa has a long history of natural resource development activities<sup>333</sup>. In recent years, resource development activities have begun to increase in the area surrounding Wawa as existing mines are re-opened and new mines are in development stages. There are currently four operating mines (see Figure 77) located in close proximity to the north shore of Lake Superior, between the communities of Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie<sup>334</sup>. These are<sup>335</sup>:

- Lac des Iles Mine operated by North American Palladium Limited (indicated as item number 19 in Figure 77);
- Hemlo Mine operated by Barrick Gold Corporation (indicated as item number 4 in Figure 77);
- Island Gold Mine operated by Richmond Mines Limited (indicated as item number 8 in Figure 77); and,
- Eagle River Mine operated by Wesdome Gold Mines Limited (indicated as item number 3 in Figure 77).

Of these, two mines are active in the area immediately surrounding Wawa, providing a source of local employment (see Section 2.3.1.5).

<sup>333</sup> Rowe, Johanna. n.d.. *Signs of History: An Explorer's Guide to the Rich Heritage of the Wawa Area*.

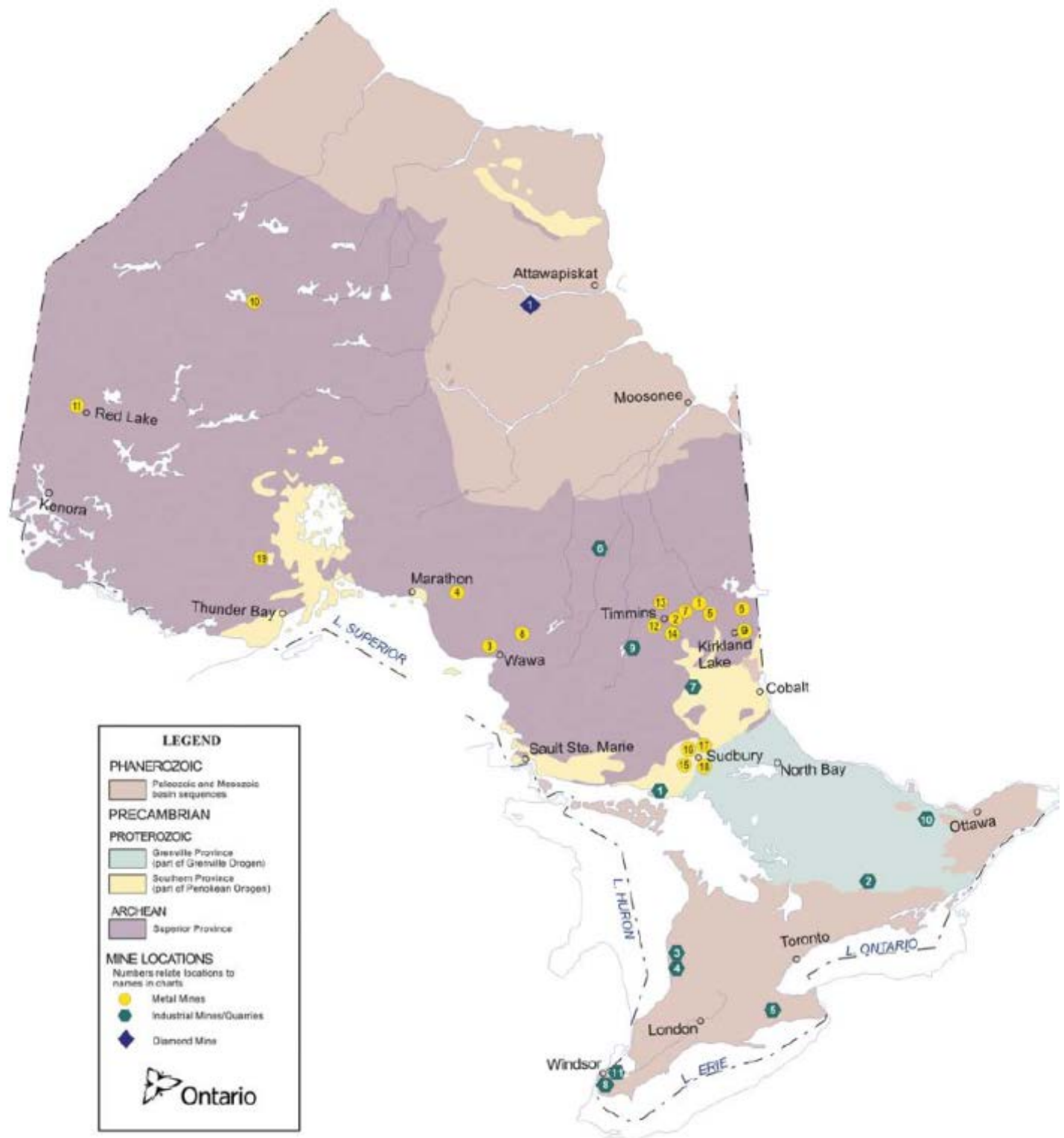
<sup>334</sup> Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. 2012. *Ontario Mining Operations*. Website. [http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mines/ogs/mining\\_facts\\_e.asp](http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mines/ogs/mining_facts_e.asp)

<sup>335</sup> *Ibid.*



Figure 77: Ontario Operating Mines

### Ontario Mining Operations 2012



Source: Ontario Mining Association. 2012. *Ontario Mining Operations 2012*. Website: [http://www.oma.on.ca/en/ontariominng/resources/mndm\\_ontario\\_mining\\_and\\_exploration\\_directory\\_2012.pdf](http://www.oma.on.ca/en/ontariominng/resources/mndm_ontario_mining_and_exploration_directory_2012.pdf).

Of those mines identified above, the Island Gold Mine and Eagle River Mine are situated in closest proximity to Wawa. Despite recent economic declines, the Hemlo Mine operated by Barrick Gold Corporation has remained a source of stability for the communities of Manitouwadge and Marathon<sup>336</sup>. Barrick Gold has remained a major employer despite recent economic and market declines. In recent years, Barrick has commenced a feasibility study to explore the possibility of expanding the existing open pit mine, extending the mine's life by approximately 10 years<sup>337, 338</sup>. If approved, the mine expansion would provide additional local employment opportunities for residents of Manitouwadge and the surrounding area<sup>339</sup>.

In addition to the above mentioned operating mines, the area surrounding Wawa includes a number of active mining claims and three potential mines. There are currently multiple mining claims staked in the area surrounding Wawa<sup>340</sup>, including in proximity to the existing Eagle River Mine and Island Gold Mine facilities. Of these, Argonaut Gold Incorporated is one of many companies currently pursuing mining exploration development activities<sup>341</sup>. Argonaut Gold Incorporated is actively pursuing the development of the former Magino Gold Mine property into an open pit mine<sup>342</sup>. The mine, if pursued, would be located approximately 40 kilometres northeast of Wawa near the Township of Dubreuilville<sup>343</sup> and provide a number of new employment opportunities. Following drilling and property acquisitions, the Magino Gold property includes seven patented mining claims, four leased mining claims and sixty-nine unpatented mining claims<sup>344</sup>.

The Marathon Platinum Groups Metals and Copper Mine is currently in the approval process and is listed on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's Environmental Registry<sup>345</sup>. The Mine is proposed by Stillwater Canada Incorporated<sup>346</sup>. If approved, it is expected to have pit operations operational in 2015 providing a number of new employment opportunities for area residents. In documentation submitted as part of the Marathon Platinum Group Environmental Assessment process, it is anticipated that mining operations will provide approximately 1,000 construction jobs, while an additional 350 jobs will be provided during the mine's operation in the surrounding area<sup>347</sup>.

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<sup>336</sup> Stillwater Canada Incorporated. June 2012. *Marathon Platinum Group Metals – Copper Project. Environmental Impact Statement – Main Report and Supporting Information Documents No. 22 and 23.*

<sup>337</sup> Ross, Ian. June 2012. "Marathon takes action in the mining economy". Northern Ontario Business. Website. <http://www.republicofmining.com/2012/06/07/>.

<sup>338</sup> Barrick Gold Corporation. 2012. *Hemlo*. Website. <http://www.barrick.com/GlobalOperations/NorthAmerica/Hemlo/default.aspx>.

<sup>339</sup> Stillwater Canada Incorporated. June 2012. *Marathon Platinum Group Metals – Copper Project. Environmental Impact Statement – Main Report and Supporting Information Documents No. 22 and 23.*

<sup>340</sup> Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mine. 2012. CLAI Maps. Website: [http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mines/claimaps\\_e.asp](http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mines/claimaps_e.asp)

<sup>341</sup> Pace, Anthony. 2012. "Exploration Highlights in the Wawa District and Changes to the SSM and Wawa Boundary". Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Ontario Geological Survey". Website. <http://www.edcwawa.ca/images/AGM/wawamines2012.pdf>.

<sup>342</sup> Argonaut Gold Incorporated. 2012. *Magino*. Website. <http://argonautgold.com/gold-operations/magino/>.

<sup>343</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>344</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>345</sup> Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. 2012. *Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry*. Website. <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/index-eng.cfm>.

<sup>346</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>347</sup> Ross, Ian. June 2012. "Marathon takes action in the mining economy". Northern Ontario Business. Website. <http://www.republicofmining.com/2012/06/07/>.

Emerging resource development activities, including active mine test drilling activities in multiple locations are occurring outside of the Municipality of Wawa boundaries. A number of companies, including Augustine Ventures Inc., Cline Mining Corporation, Conquest Resources Limited, Dianor Resources Incorporated, Giyani Gold Corporation, Hudson River Minerals Inc., Lakeland Resources Inc., Richmond Mines Limited, Prodigy Gold Incorporated/Argonaut Gold and Strike Minerals Incorporated, are conducting drilling and mining exploration activities<sup>348</sup>. In addition, Lakeland Resources announced promising test results on June 2, 2011. If the positive results from test drilling activities are acted upon, this will have positive impacts on Wawa and will benefit area residents<sup>349</sup>. This increase in mineral exploration developments has led to new employment opportunities for skilled workers.

In addition, there are new resource development opportunities in forestry following the 2009 sale of the White River Mill. The Mill was established in the 1970s by Abitibi Price and later sold to Domtar Forest Products. The facility was closed in July, 2007<sup>350</sup> and was subsequently purchased by the community of White River, Pic Mobert First Nation, and two private sector employers. The facility is anticipated to re-open when favourable market conditions return<sup>351</sup> providing employment opportunities and investment into the Northern Ontario economy. Other resource development opportunities include the continued operation of the Niska North Mill in Chapleau<sup>352, 353</sup> (see Figure 78) and the potential return of limited employment at Dubreil Forest Products in Dubreuilville<sup>354</sup> (see Figure 79). Further, as previously mentioned in Section 2.3.1.5 *Business Activity, a wood pellet plant is also scheduled to begin operations in Wawa in 2014.*

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<sup>348</sup> Pace, Anthony. 2012. "Exploration Highlights in the Wawa District and Changes to the SSM and Wawa Boundary". *Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Ontario Geological Survey*. Website. <http://www.edcwawa.ca/images/AGM/wawamines2012.pdf>.

<sup>349</sup> Lakeland Resources. n.d.. *Midas*. Website. <http://www.lakelandresources.com/projects/midas/>.

<sup>350</sup> Stillwater Canada Incorporated. June 2012. *Marathon Platinum Group Metals – Copper Project. Environmental Impact Statement – Main Report and Supporting Information Documents No. 22 and 23*.

<sup>351</sup> Ross, Ian. January 2010. "White River mill manager hopeful of 2010 start-up". *Northern Ontario Business*. Website. <http://www.northernontariobusiness.com/Industry-News/forestry/White-River-mill-manager-hopeful-of-2010-start-up471.aspx>.

<sup>352</sup> DPRA gained the insight through conversations with Dan Friyia, General Manager of Superior East Community Futures Development Corporation that the Niska North Mill in Chapleau remained open during the recent economic decline and global recession. The facility has provided and continues to provide employment opportunities for residents of Chapleau and the surrounding area.

<sup>353</sup> Niska North. n.d.. *About Us – Our Facility*. Website. [http://www.niskanorth.com/our\\_facility.html](http://www.niskanorth.com/our_facility.html).

<sup>354</sup> Insight gained by DPRA through conversations with David Jennings, General Manager of Dubreuil Forest Products Mill in Dubreuilville.

**Figure 78: Niska North Mill in Chapleau, Ontario****Figure 79: Dubreuil Forest Products Mill in Dubreuilville, Ontario**

### 3.7 HEALTH INDICATORS

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Municipality of Wawa residents have a range of social and health services available in the area. The Lady Dunn Health Centre – a regional hospital – is a major employer for Wawa residents and provides a number of health services to residents in the surrounding area<sup>355</sup>. Despite the presence of a regional hospital within the community, Wawa residents requiring specialized health care services must travel to Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins or Sudbury. Wawa's location along major transportation networks makes access to specialized health care services available to area residents. However, population and employment change have led to changes in community and regional health indicators. Family cohesion and family conflict are being negatively influenced by population out-migration and the loss of local employment opportunities. An increase in family stress has

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<sup>355</sup> Lady Dunn Health Centre. 2012. *Lady Dunn Health Centre – About Us*. Website. <http://www.ldhc.com/about.pho?pg=2>.

been identified, specifically for families coping with lost income and a family member who must work outside the local community for extended periods<sup>356</sup>.

Access to social and health services is made easier by Wawa's role as a sub-regional centre. Social and health services are available for residents of communities in close proximity including White River, Chapleau, Dubreuilville and the Michipicoten First Nation. Wawa is also a regional centre for some government services including the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources<sup>357</sup>. While the immediate health needs of Wawa residents are met by the Lady Dunn Health Centre and the Wawa Algoma Public Health Office<sup>358</sup>, other health services are provided by the Algoma District Public Health Unit<sup>359</sup> and the North East Health Integration Network.

The Algoma District Public Health Unit provides services to residents of Wawa and Algoma District communities, while the Health Integration Network services Wawa residents as well as residents in the Districts of Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury, Algoma and Cochrane. In 2005, the North East Health Integration Network provided a range of services to more than 274 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities<sup>360</sup>.

Services provided by the North East Health Integration Network include<sup>361</sup>:

- Aboriginal Responsible Gaming Program;
- Addiction Counselling;
- Addiction Services;
- Gaming Substance Abuse Treatment;
- Drug and Alcohol Program;
- Youth programming;
- Detox and Substance Abuse programming;
- Children Treatment Centres;
- Community Care Access Centres;
- Community Health Centres;
- Community Support Services;
- Long-term Care Facilities;
- Mental Health Services; and,
- Access to community hospitals.

The Key Informant Survey (2009) and Population Health Indicators for Algoma and Ontario (2010)<sup>362</sup> describe the health status of the Algoma District Public Health Unit's service area population. A number of health issues

<sup>356</sup> AECOM. July 2011. *Community Profile – Wawa, Ontario*.

<sup>357</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2010a. *Wawa Community Profile, 2010-2011*.

<sup>358</sup> Algoma Public Health. 2012. *Contact Us*. Website. <http://www.algomapublichealth.com/default.aspx?l=,1,2,8>.

<sup>359</sup> Algoma Public Health. 2012. *Algoma Public Health*. Website. <http://www.algomapublichealth.com/index.aspx?l=,1,2,3>.

<sup>360</sup> Government of Ontario. 2005. *North East Health Integration Network*. Website.

[http://www.lhins.on.ca/uploadedFiles/Shared\\_Elements/lhin\\_com\\_13.pdf](http://www.lhins.on.ca/uploadedFiles/Shared_Elements/lhin_com_13.pdf).

<sup>361</sup> Government of Ontario. 2005. *North East Health Integration Network – Health Providers, Programs and Services*. Website. [http://www.lhins.on.ca/uploadedFiles/Shared\\_Elements/lhin\\_service\\_13.pdf](http://www.lhins.on.ca/uploadedFiles/Shared_Elements/lhin_service_13.pdf).

<sup>362</sup> Algoma Public Health. 2010. *Population Health Indicators for Algoma and Ontario*. Website.

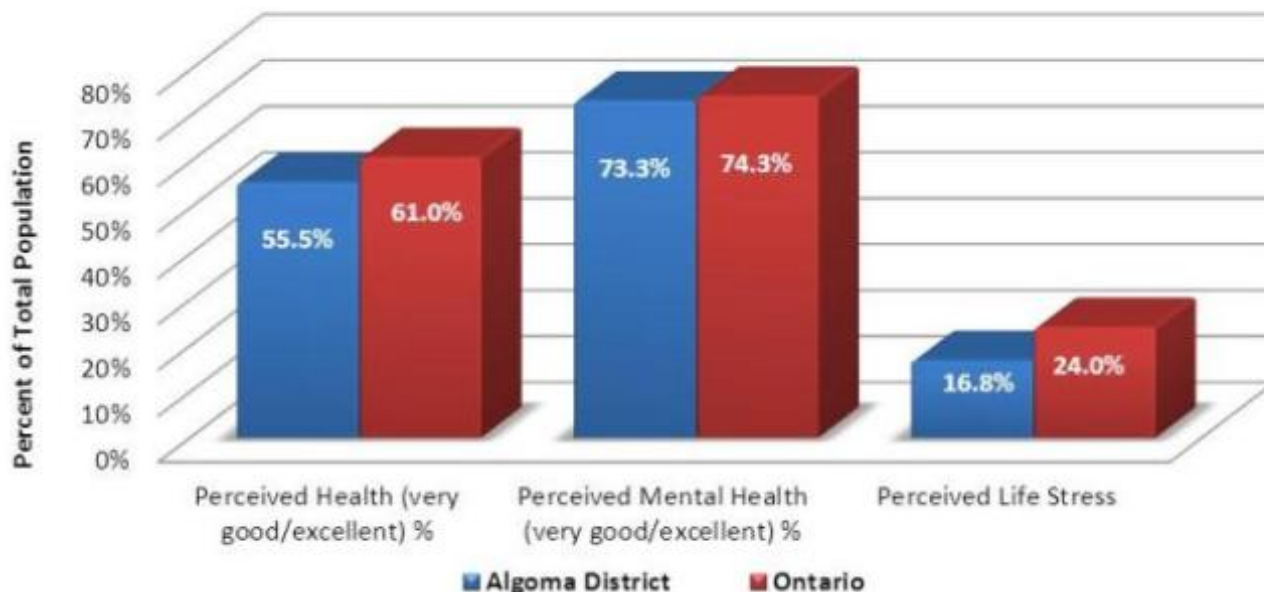
<http://www.algomapublichealth.com/UserFiles/file/Media/Algoma%20Indicators/1509.pdf>.

were reported as being present, including unhealthy eating, unhealthy behaviours and access to health care services, particularly in rural and remote areas.

***Health Care Systems and Perception of Health***

Healthy communities require an efficient and accessible health care system. This system can include a wide range of activities, such as medical services in a clinic, hospital, rehabilitation centre, mental health counseling, community health promotion activities, and substance abuse treatment. In addition to availability and capacity, access is also an important consideration when examining community health perceptions. In 2012, a majority of Algoma District residents (77.8%) indicated they had visited a medical doctor within the last twelve months. For the same period, 85% of residents indicated they have a regular family physician. These figures speak to the accessibility of the health care system in Algoma District. Figure 80 below indicates that in Algoma District, perceived physical health, mental health, and lifestyles are below the Ontario average.

**Figure 80: Health Perceptions in Algoma District and Ontario**



Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. *District of Algoma Health Unit, 3526-C Profile*. Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/health-sante/82-228/index.cfm?Lang=E>.

### 3.8 SUMMARY

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The Municipality of Wawa and the surrounding area have aging populations and continue to experience out-migration and population decline. The magnitude of population decline has increased in recent years with a decline of more than 12.6% between 2001 and 2006<sup>363</sup>. The long-term health and viability of Wawa will require new ways of attracting and maintaining new residents. Continued trends of out-migration in the area have resulted in changes to employment opportunities as businesses open and close depending on economic trends. Educated and skilled workers are leaving the Municipality and the surrounding area in search of employment opportunities further afield. Business “boom and bust” cycles, varying employment opportunities and population out-migration have contributed to employment changes being experienced. However, the current economic decline being experienced is described as the longest and most extensive economic down-turn in recent decades<sup>364</sup>.

Population out-migration and retention of local residents may be addressed by the introduction of new employment opportunities for educated and skilled workers. The increase in mining exploration developments in the surrounding areas of Wawa presents an opportunity for new employment opportunities including opportunities for Wawa’s skilled labour force.

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<sup>363</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012a. *Wawa Community Profile, 2012*.

<sup>364</sup> Insight gained by DPRA through conversations with community members throughout June, July and August 2012.

## 4.0 COMPARISON OF THE COMMUNITY PATTERNS WITH THE AREA & PROVINCE

This section of the profile outlines population dynamics for Wawa, the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group, Algoma District and Ontario. The key population dynamics expressed in this section are:

- Trends Over Time; and,
- Age Profile.

### 4.1 POPULATION DYNAMICS

#### 4.1.1 TRENDS OVER TIME

Over the past 15 years, the population in the Municipality of Wawa and area population have been steadily declining compared to Ontario which has experienced continued growth for the same period. Table 22 below illustrates the contrasting experiences of Wawa, Northeast Superior Mayors' Group, Algoma District and the Province of Ontario.

**Table 22: Wawa, Northeast Superior Mayors' Group, Algoma District and Provincial Population Trends, 1996 – 2011**

Time Period	Municipality of Wawa (Change from Previous Census)	Northeast Superior Mayors' Group (Change from Previous Census)	Algoma District (Change from Previous Census)	Ontario (Change from Previous Census)
1996	4,145 (-0.2%)	14,000 (-5.3%)	125,455 (-1.4%)	10,753,573 (6.6%)
2001	3,668 (-11.5%)	12,780 (-9.5%)	118,567 (-5.5%)	11,410,046 (6.1%)
2006	3,204 (-12.6)	10,705 (-19.4%)	117,461 (-0.9%)	12,160,282 (6.6%)
2011	2,975 (-7.1%)	9,465 (-13.1%)	115,870 (-1.4%)	12,851,821 (5.7%)

Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Algoma District; Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; Ontario; and White River, Township Community Profiles.*

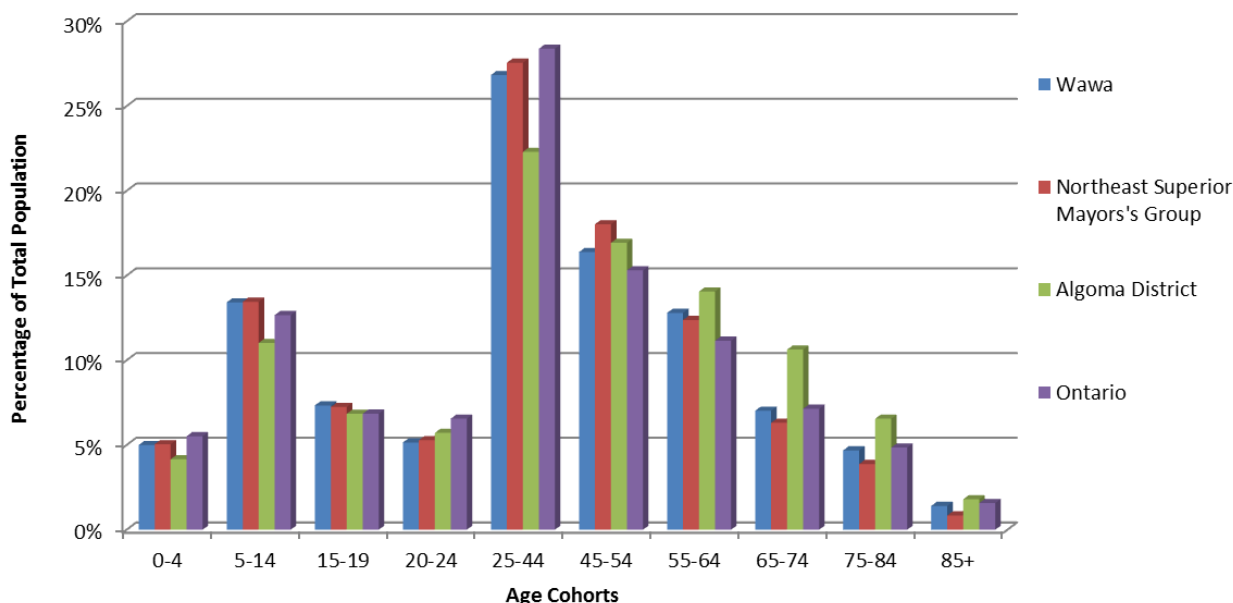
#### 4.1.2 AGE STRUCTURE

Figure 81 and Figure 82 below indicate an increasing proportion of residents are aged 55 years and older in Wawa, the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group, Algoma District and Ontario between 2006 and 2011. There is also an increasing median age of residents in the Municipality of Wawa, Algoma District, Northeast Superior Mayors' Group and the Province of Ontario (see Figure 83). Similar to other Northern Ontario communities, the



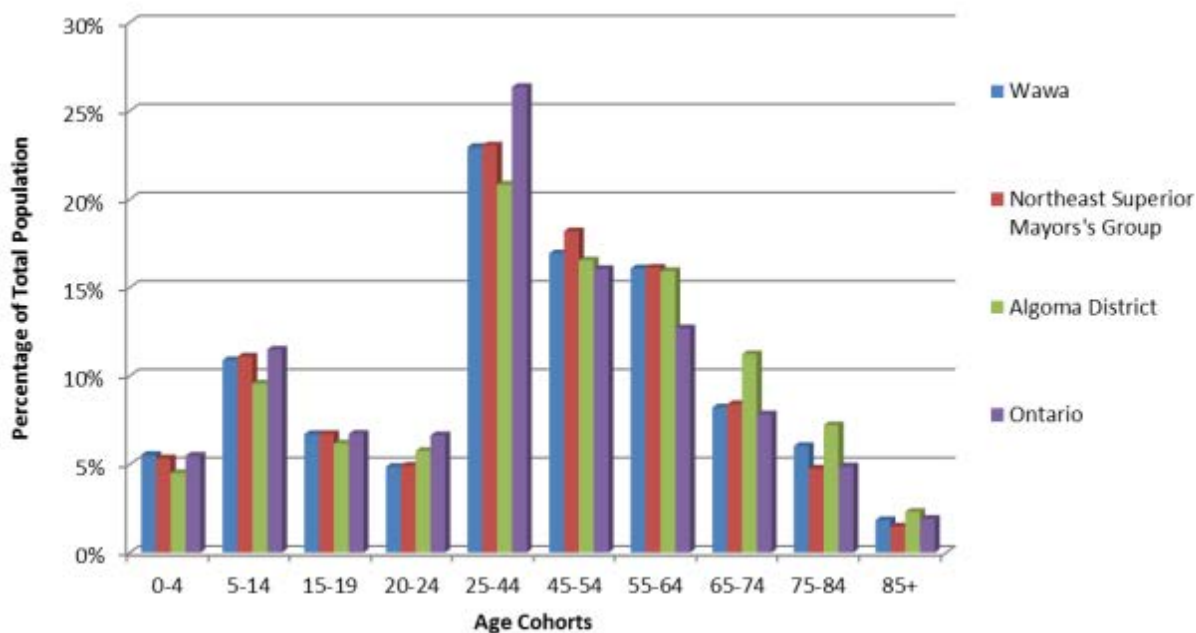
Municipality’s median age has continually exceeded the provincial average, indicating an above-average aging trend. In 2011, the Municipality’s median age exceeded the provincial average by 3.5 years<sup>365</sup>.

**Figure 81: Wawa, Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group, Algoma District and Ontario Age Characteristics, 2006**



Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Algoma District; Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; Ontario; and White River, Township Community Profiles.*

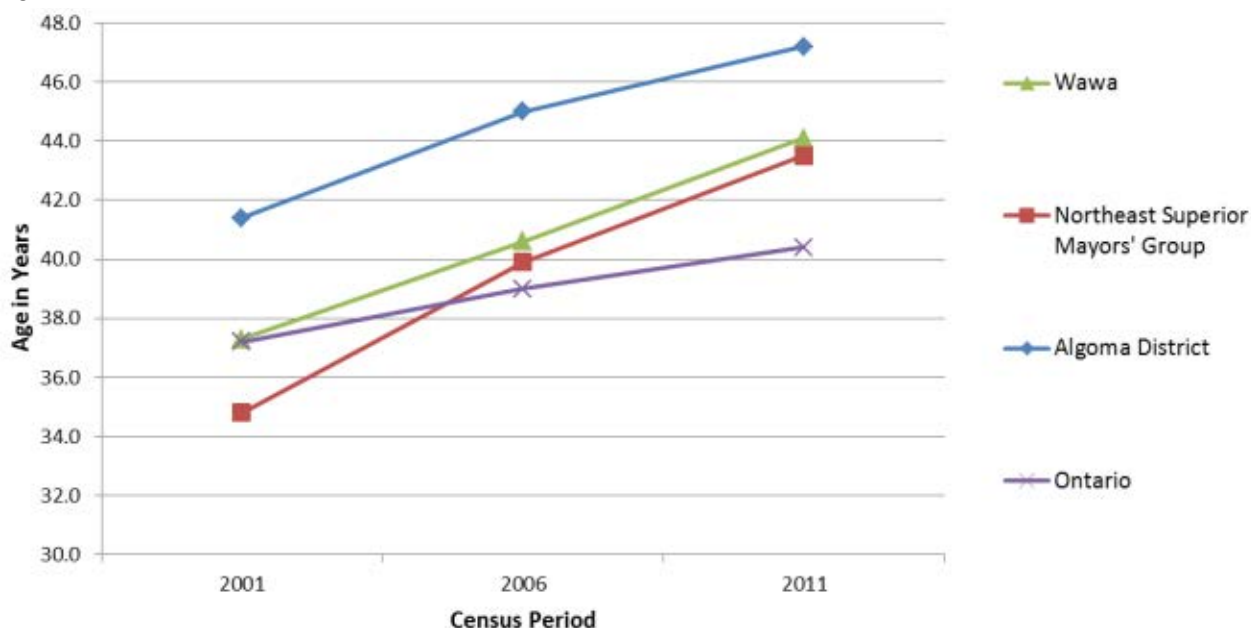
**Figure 82: Wawa, Northeast Superior Mayors' Group, Algoma District and Ontario Age Characteristics, 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. *Algoma District; Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; Ontario; Wawa; and White River, Township Community Profiles.*

<sup>365</sup> Statistics Canada. 2012. *Wawa, Municipality Community Profile.* Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>.

**Figure 83: Wawa, Northeast Superior Mayors' Group, Algoma District and Ontario Median Age Trends, 2001-2011**



Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007, 2012. *Algoma District; Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; Ontario; and White River, Township Community Profiles.*

## 4.2 LABOUR FORCE

This section of the profile outlines labour force characteristics for Wawa, the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group, Algoma District and Ontario. The key labour force characteristics expressed in this section are:

- Population by Education/Training Attainment; and,
- Employment by Activity and Sector.

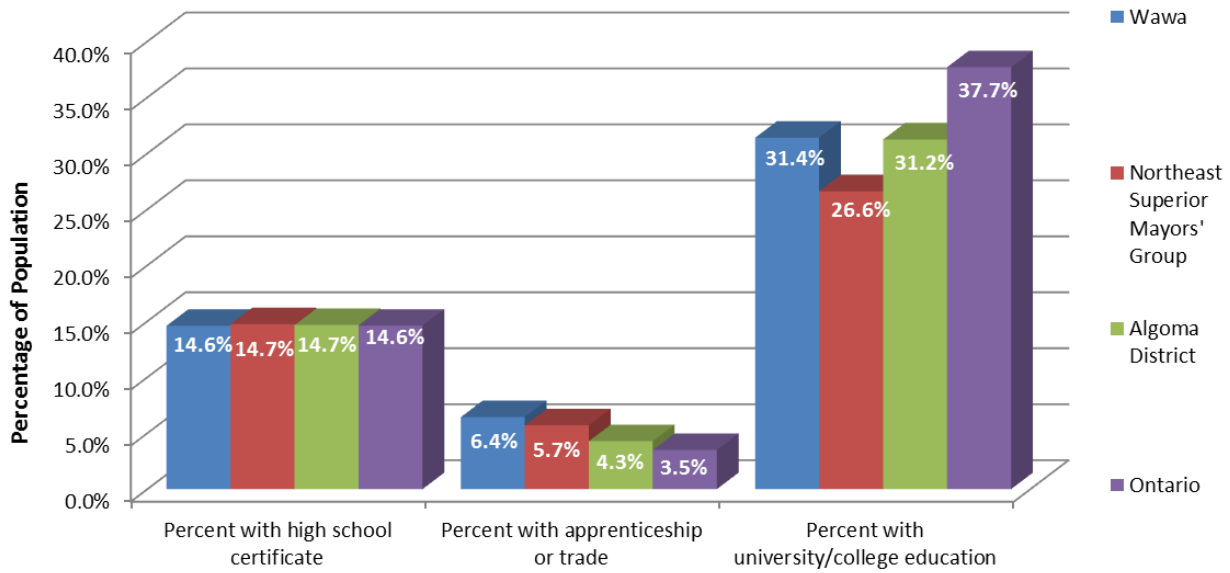
### 4.2.1 POPULATION BY EDUCATION/TRAINING ATTAINMENT

Figure 84 to Figure 86 below illustrate the educational attainment of Wawa, the region, and Ontario. University/college educational attainment was higher in the province compared to the Municipality of Wawa for all census periods; it was higher than the Northeast Superior Mayors' Groups and Algoma District for all census periods except 2001. A larger proportion of Municipality and regional residents had apprenticeship or trades certificates compared to Ontario residents in both 2001 and 2006. In 2001, the contrast was greatest with approximately 18.5% of Municipality residents having apprenticeship or trade training compared to 10.4% of Ontario residents<sup>366</sup>.

<sup>366</sup> Statistics Canada. 2002. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profile*. Website.

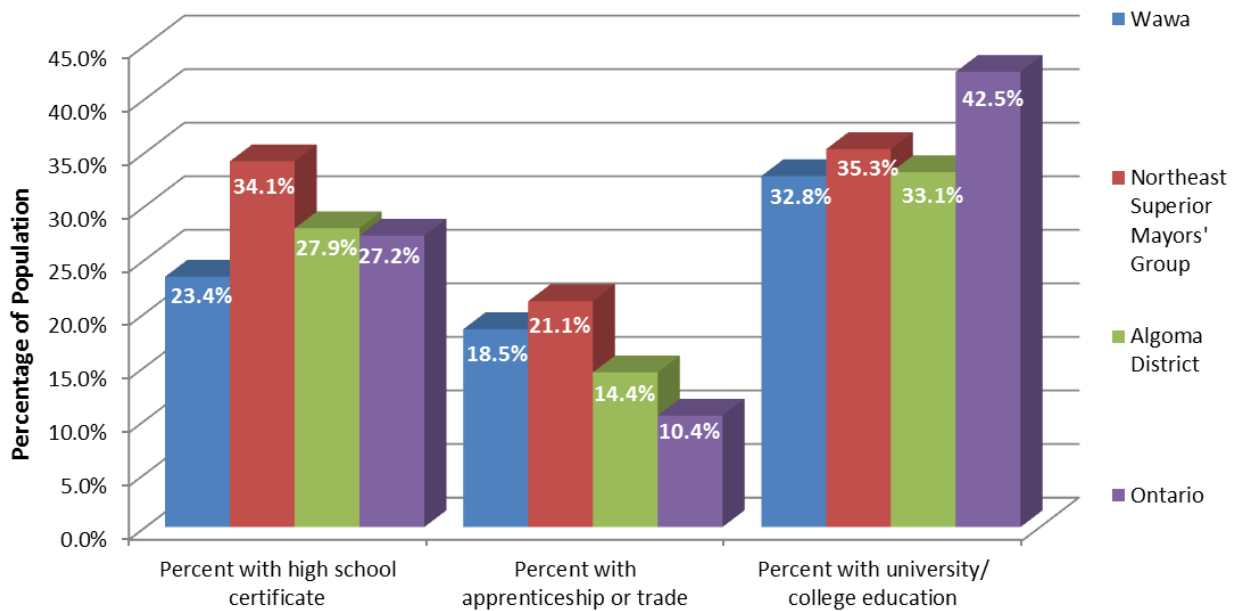
<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/english/Profil01/CP01/Details/Page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3557076&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&Data=Count&SearchText=michipicoten&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=>

**Figure 84: Wawa, Northeast Superior Mayors' Group, Algoma District and Ontario Education Trends, 1996**



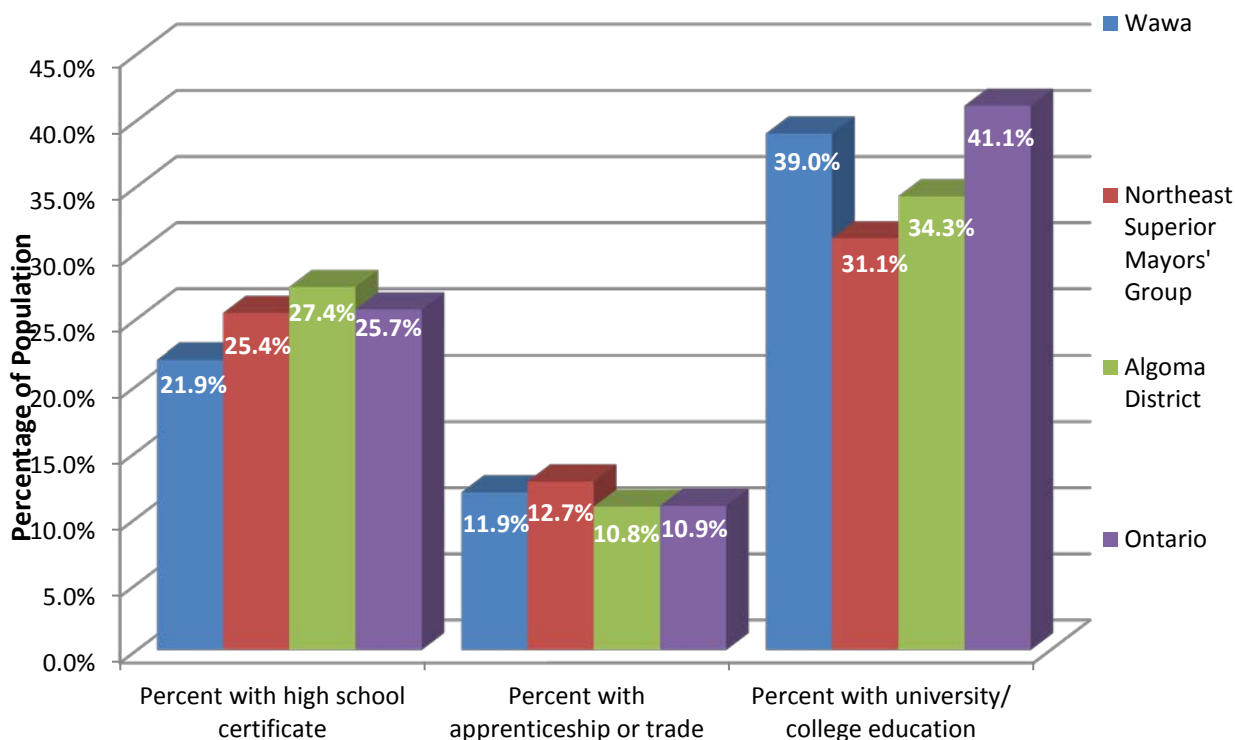
Source: Statistics Canada. 1997. *Algoma District; Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Hornepayne; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; Ontario; and White River, Township Community Profiles.*

**Figure 85: Wawa, Northeast Superior Mayors' Group, Algoma District and Ontario Education Attainment, 2001**



Source: Statistics Canada. 2002. *Algoma District; Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Hornepayne; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; Ontario; and White River, Township Community Profiles.*

**Figure 86: Wawa, Northeast Superior Mayors' Group, Algoma District and Ontario Education Attainment, 2006**

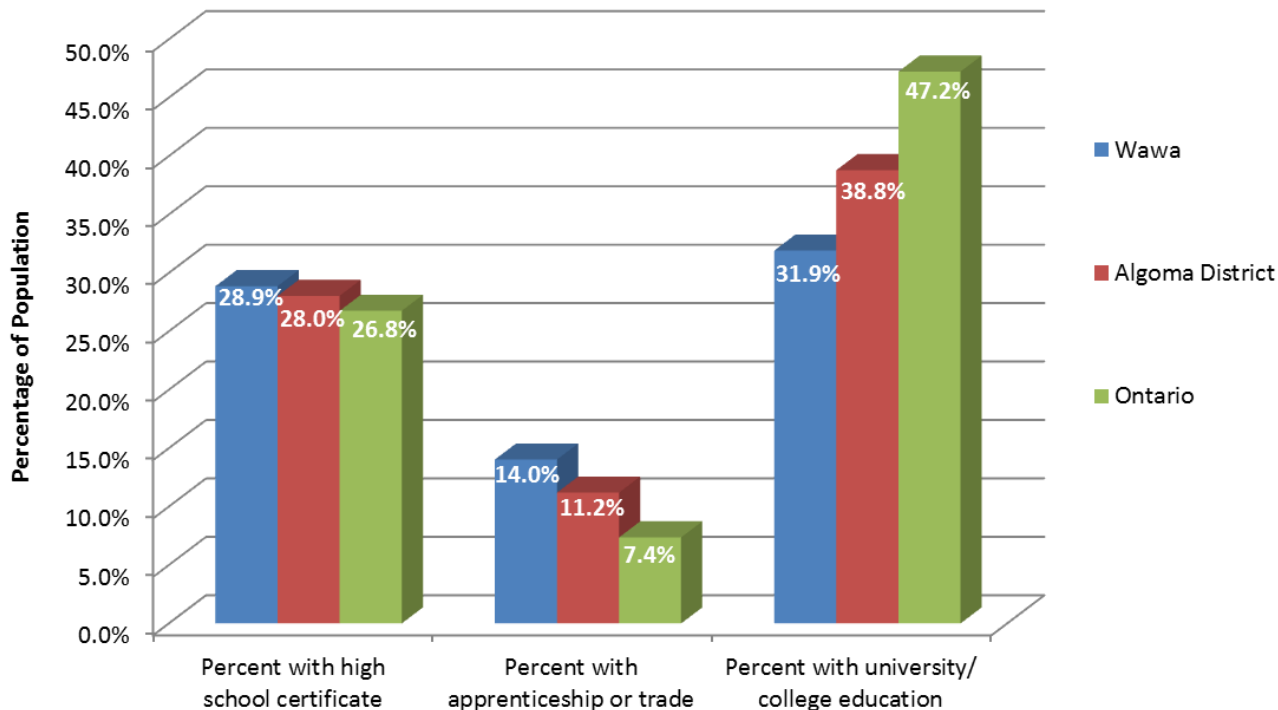


Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Algoma District; Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Hornepayne; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; Ontario; and White River, Township Community Profiles.*

In 2011, the percentage of Wawa residents whose highest level of education was a university/college education was 31.9%, a decrease of 7.1 percentage points from the previous census year (Figure 87).<sup>367</sup> Both Algoma District and Ontario residents whose highest level of education was a university/college education increased between 2006 and 2011.

<sup>367</sup> Educational Attainment statistics for some of the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group communities (in particular Hornepayne and Manitouwadge) have been suppressed by Statistics Canada due to data quality and/or confidentiality reasons. As such, Figure 89 does not incorporate Northeast Superior Mayors' Group statistical data.

Figure 87: Wawa, Algoma District and Ontario Education Attainment, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. Wawa, MU, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile; Statistics Canada. 2013. Algoma, DIS, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile; Statistics Canada. 2013. Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.

#### 4.2.2 EMPLOYMENT BY ACTIVITY AND SECTOR

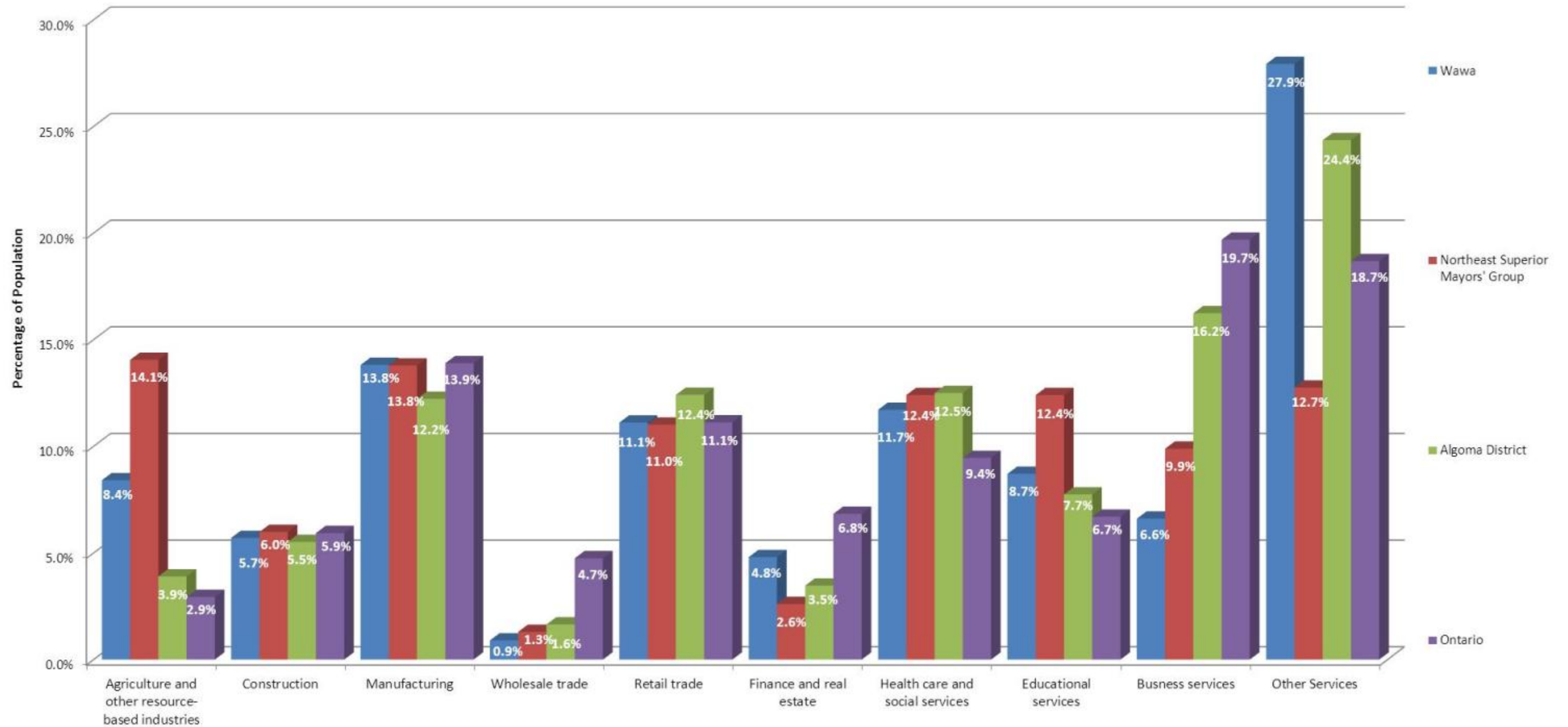
In 2006, there were local and area variations in industries with the largest labour force (employment) activity. Figure 88 and 89 below indicate those industries with the largest labour force employment in Wawa, the Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group, Algoma District and the Province of Ontario for the 2006 and 2011 census years.

The two largest industry categories for the Municipality of Wawa in 2006 were *other services* and *manufacturing* (27.9% and 13.8%, respectively). *Other services* and *business services* were the largest industries in Algoma District (24.4% and 16.2%, respectively) and the Province of Ontario (18.7% and 19.7%, respectively). For the same period, *agriculture and other resource-based industries* and *manufacturing* were the largest industries in the Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group (14.1% and 13.8% respectively).

In 2011, the National Household Survey indicated that the largest percentage of individuals in Wawa (13.5%) and the Algoma District (13.7%) worked in the *health care and social assistance* industry, whereas at the provincial level, the largest percentage of individuals (10.9%) worked in the *retail trade* industry (Figure 89).<sup>368</sup>

<sup>368</sup> Labour Force statistics for some of the Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group communities (in particular Hornepayne and Manitouwadge) have been suppressed by Statistics Canada due to data quality and/or confidentiality reasons. As such, Figure 89 does not incorporate Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group statistical data.

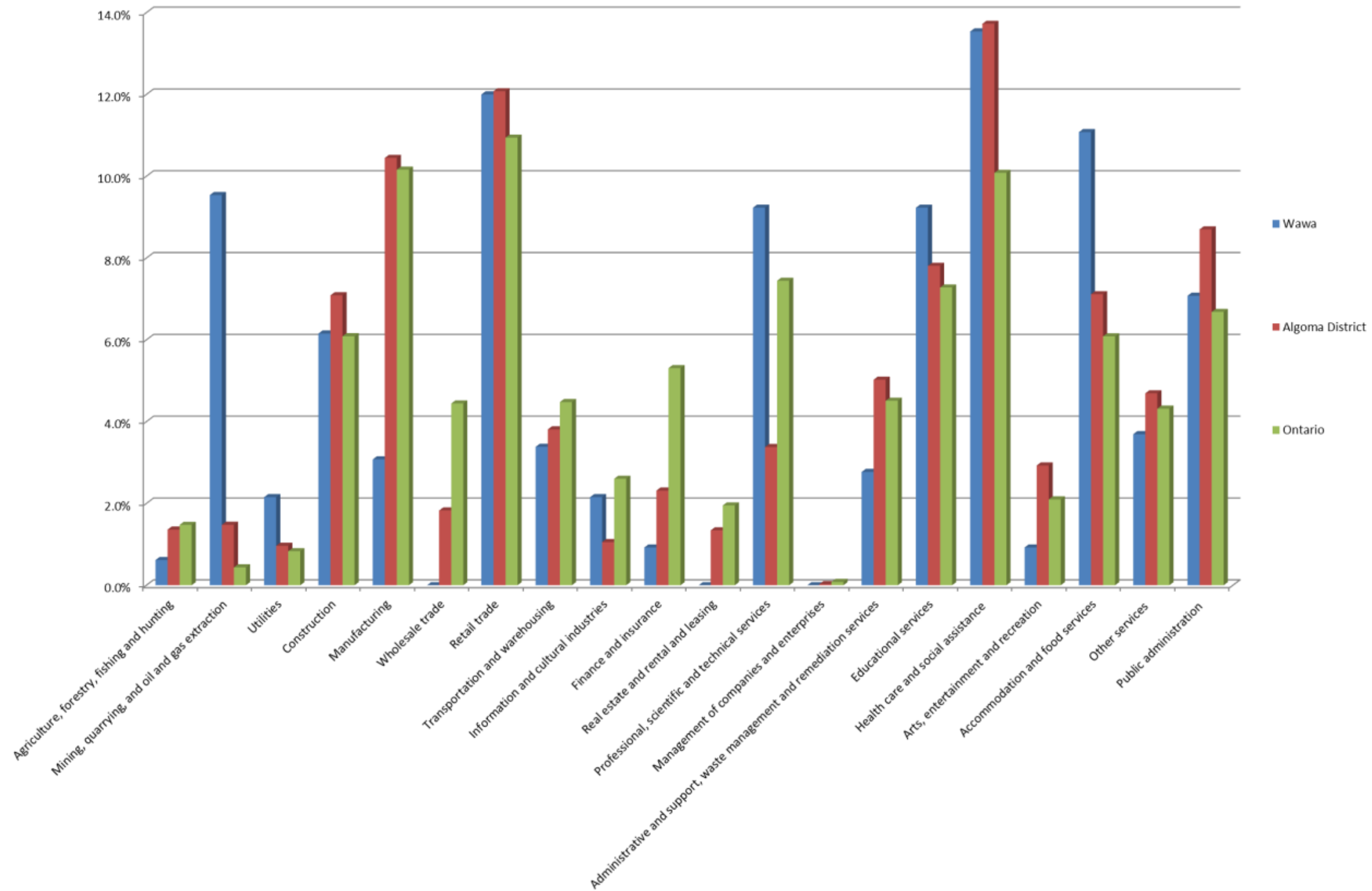
Figure 88: Wawa, Northeast Superior Mayors' Group, Algoma District and Ontario Employment Trends by Characteristics, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Algoma District; Chapleau; Dubreuilville; Hornepayne; Manitouwadge; Michipicoten; Ontario; and White River, Township Community Profiles.*

Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

Figure 89: Wawa, Algoma District and Ontario Employment Trends by Characteristics, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. Wawa, MU, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile; Statistics Canada. 2013. Algoma, DIS, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile; Statistics Canada. 2013. Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.

### 4.3 COMMUNITY PATTERNS WITH THE AREA & PROVINCE SUMMARY

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The available data indicate that overall, when compared to the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group and Algoma District, the Municipality of Wawa has some similar characteristics. Both the Municipality of Wawa and the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group communities have been experiencing population decline and out-migration. In addition, Wawa's population has been declining at a faster rate compared to Algoma District, but at a slower rate than the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group from 1996 to 2011. During this period, the Province of Ontario experienced population growth.

In contrast to both Algoma District and the Province of Ontario, Wawa and the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group appeared to have a greater concentration of tradespersons in 2006. This relative concentration can be attributed to the continued resource development opportunities that are present within Wawa and the surrounding area. Wawa had roughly the same proportion of community members employed in *manufacturing* as the region and the province in 2006, but much less than them in 2011. Wawa and the region had proportionately higher employment in *health care and social services* than the province in both 2006 and 2011.



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## 5.0 SUMMARY

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Wawa is typical of the communities within Algoma District and across Northern Ontario. These communities are largely natural resources based – forestry and mining – and therefore are affected by national and international economic trends which leads to experiencing “boom-bust” cycles.

Currently, Wawa, the Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group and Algoma District are enduring a downturn period. This circumstance has led to Wawa and other area communities to undertake strategic planning in efforts to maintain the communities and find economic activities that can contribute to stability and growth.

Because of the relative isolation of the communities within Algoma District, and their small population numbers (generally between 1,000 and 3,000), there is a limited range of services in each community. Wawa is one of the largest centres in Algoma District and as such has more resources in terms of health services than many other communities in the District. However, the largest centre – Sault Ste. Marie – provides the highest level of specialized health services.

Throughout the decades the communities and area have seen their population fluctuate but generally decline relative to provincial population growth. Even with the economic challenges that go with natural resource communities, the residents express pride in their communities – rooted in their history and the outstanding natural environment in which they are situated. The residents are resilient, proud and resourceful.

The Municipality of Wawa is actively involved in a number of working relationships with surrounding Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities who are members of the Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group, Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs’ Forum, NSFC, FONOM (Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities), and ADMA (Algoma District Municipal Association).. Collectively, these organizations assist in the promotion of economic development business ventures and promotion of resource development activities.

Wawa and area residents reflect the culture of the North in their reverence for the environment – the lakes, rivers, trees and wildlife. As many of them say, “nature is all around us”. Likewise, Wawa residents are conditioned to – and expect to – travel long distances for specialized services and major purchases.

Even considering the difficult conditions experienced due to the “boom-bust” cycle effects and relative isolation, residents make it clear that there is nowhere else they would rather be.

The strategic planning activities seek to stabilize the communities and position them for the prospect of growth, partly based on the transportation infrastructure –two railroads (Algoma Central Railway and Canadian National) and the TransCanada Highway.

In addition, the myriad of natural environmental features are seen as the vehicle to increase development and promote eco-tourism and environmental stewardship.

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