



WHY I LOVE NORMAN BAY LABRADOR

The *NunatuKavut Community Sustainability Initiative* is a year-long project that aims to help three pilot NunatuKavut communities – Black Tickle, Norman Bay and St. Lewis – to identify and build on existing community strengths and assets, to foster community engagement in creating a strong future and to develop a sustainability plan for their community.

The approach of this initiative is to start with what is already strong and successful in communities. This is called strength-based or asset-based community development. Instead of being defined by problems or issues, communities identify and celebrate what works well, and how it can build on all the good things.

The quotes in this booklet are from past and present residents who love and celebrate their communities.



JEANNIE WARD

(Winning Entry)

"I love Norman Bay because it's my home, it's where I grew up. It's a tiny community of family, a place where we could go to anybody's house at any time and be welcomed or have a lunch. It's a community of simplicity. Life was easy, relaxing and fun. We spent our days outside, sliding or skating or building snow castles, berry picking, trout fishing or climbing hills. It's a community where we could stay out late in the night, our only worry was bears or wolves, though we often played "bears" as a past time and it was terrifying and exciting. It's the kind of community where, if someone was going out in boat fishing or berry picking, the boat would always be full of other people's kids as well as your own. It's a very close knit place. It may not be the tidiest community but it's beautiful and the air is fresh and the water is pure. It may not have everything, but it had all we needed. There might not be a lot there to do, but we were never bored. It may not be much to most, but it was everything to those that knew it. That's the kind of life it was there and that's what I remember and that's why I love Norman Bay."

CHESLEY GREEN WARD

"I could bring my partner back home to meet everyone and have him feel accepted and like he belonged there. Hard-working crowd with big hearts and open minds, what more could you ask for? Oh and Aunt Sadie's raisin duff, obviously."

VINCE WARD

"Family."

TORI WARD

"It's where we are all family. If we needed something, someone would always be there to help."

JESSIE WARD

"I love Norman bay because it's a small community, with lots of hills to climb. You can go berry picking and go in boat in the summer. In winter, it's great for going on skidoo, ice fishing and sliding. I know everyone there and I am related to most. It is where my kids were born and raised with the help of my parents and George. It's quiet with very little crime. Even though I don't live there any longer, it will always be home. Put the road and water there and I will be moving back! Love you Norman Bay!"

EMILY WARD

"Norman Bay for me is snow tunnels. Sliding down the big hill, skating on the pond, ice fishing and many find memories. And the loving family that I am blessed to be part of."

GLADYS WARD

"My beautiful home town, Norman Bay. I couldn't think of a better place to live, especially at winter time. There's tons to do there like my number one things to do ski-dooing, ice fishing, boil-ups, hunting and family gatherings. There's always something to do."

DAWN WARD

"I'm not from Norman Bay but I love it there. I love that there is so much to do – boating, fishing, ski-dooing – which I do not get to do at home. It is a close knit community where everyone helps everyone and looks out for everyone. They make you feel at home and welcomed. I love going for visits whenever I can."





ALICE EMILY

"Where do I even start? Norman Bay to me is a place I'll always know as home. This small community is full of so much beauty, freedom and love. The best thing about Norman Bay is family. It's just a great big family. Everyone is there for each other, there's always a helping hand. You can rely on the people. It's just a place you always feel welcome. I'm so privileged to have been raised in such a beautiful place. There's countless wonderful memories of playing outside, or going in boat and ski-dooing. Nature is our backyard. It's a place I'll always hold dear to my heart. Norman Bay is beautiful, it's family, it's home."

LENORA ELSON

"You don't know what freedom is until you live in a small place like Norman Bay. I have so many memories of growing up there. We were all like brothers and sisters and everyone looked out for each other. We were always outside, rain or shine, it didn't matter. We never stopped from the time we got up in the morning until we went to bed at night. We didn't have a whole lot growing up but we had everything we needed. And we appreciated everything and had lots of respect for everyone. We still do. I still get butterflies when I think of going home and sometimes I long to be there. There is no place on this earth like Norman Bay. The only regret I have is my kids will never fully understand what it's like to have the freedom I had growing up. They will never know what it's like to get up as soon as its light enough to see around to try and catch the first trout. They'll never know the feeling of going to cut a Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. Just a few examples, I could name many more. I always look forward to going home."



MARYANN WARD

"I have been reading everyone's comments and it makes me so homesick. I have all those awesome memories too. Building snow tunnels and widdy camps, setting snares, trouting, swimming, going out in boat and on skidoo, making rafts, walking up the pond in the spring, berry picking, bonfires, boil-ups, tarn back and frog catching, skating, baseball, tidley and, who can forget hide and seek or bears! I loved waking up to nan lighting the fire and filling up the kettles. And Aunt Carry toasting bread for our breakfast before school. I loved the first time the puddles would freeze over and we would crunch it with our feet. I loved Christmas, especially Christmas day. We couldn't wait to go visiting everyone to see what they got. Loved the Christmas concerts and the good laughs we had practicing for them. Loved the sports days and how exciting it was when family who had gone outside the community came back home. I'd say there aren't many ponds or hills we didn't explore. We would be gone from daylight till dark. Loved the beautiful evenings with the sound of the brook or early mornings. The air was always fresh. Always loved rainy foggy days and the smell of the salt water. I am so grateful that we got to grow up with so much freedom. We got to experience doing our homework by lamplight and grow up without electricity. We spent most of our time outside. We knew to respect our Elders. We didn't have much, but we had everything we needed and everyone always helped each other whenever something needed to be done. Our cousins were more like our brothers and sisters. I have so many memories of home and I'm so proud and thankful I grew up the way I did. I miss home a lot lately."

KATIE WARD

I would come to Norman Bay when I was just a little girl and not want to go home. I loved the place and its people. Sometimes I would pretend to be sick just to stay that extra day! It seemed a good idea at the time. It was so peaceful and quiet and I felt at home with my friends and family here. I came to live here 47 years ago and I still love living here just as much. Norman Bay gave my husband and I a quiet, peaceful, and safe place to raise our children. Everybody's children played together. If you knew where one child was, you knew where the whole bunch was. I can honestly say I was never bored. The isolation from other communities never bothered me and still don't. I have always felt safe here. People would always be there to give help when it was needed, no matter what and it's still that way today. We don't have far to go for our wild foods and berries or wood for our heat. We have lovely places to go within our area with some beautiful scenery. There's lots of outdoor activity in the winter and summer, spring and fall. Any community may have all or most of what I have listed above and I could go on and on with why I love Norman Bay. But with its beauty and all I think that's beautiful about living here, it's the people that makes any community feel like home I think."

