

# Community Profile – White River, ON



**DECEMBER, 2014**

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Management Organization*

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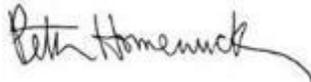
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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

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AANDC	Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
ADSB	Algoma District Services Administration Board
APM	Adaptive Phased Management
AWiC	Algoma Workforce Investment Corporation
CEGEP	<i>Collège d'enseignement général et professionnel</i> [General and Vocational College]
CFDC	Superior East Community Futures Development Corporation
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CPR	Canadian Pacific Railway
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
GNR	Global Non-Response Rate
FONOM	Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities
MNO	Métis Nation Ontario
MPAC	Municipal Property Assessment Corporation
MTCS	Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport
NELHIN	North East Local Health Integration Network
NFMC	Nawiinginiima Forest Management Corporation
NHS	National Household Survey
NOMA	Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association
NSCF	Northeast Superior Chiefs Forum
NSFC	Northeast Superior Forest Community
NESMG	Northeast Superior Mayors Group
NWMO	Nuclear Waste Management Organization
O.P.P.	Ontario Provincial Police

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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This community profile has been prepared as part of the Township of White River's (hereafter referred to as 'White River') 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 APM Project, or other large projects 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 Liaison Committee and through interviews with community leaders; and,
- Consultant visits and observations.

Although this profile contains references to other communities within the region, these references are intended only as a means to round out the community profile and provide some context for discussion. For example, the Census Division is the 'Algoma District' which is not meant to imply region; the regional context is left undefined in this community profile.

This profile also includes Statistics Canada census data (collected at 5-year intervals, e.g., 1996, 2001, 2006, and 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 eight years old. In some cases data are limited by the level of detail available (e.g., data may be rounded or suppressed by Statistics Canada due to small sample sizes), or the type of data collected in a given year. In other 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 (GNR) 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." The 2011 NHS GNR for various geographies considered in the profile are:

- Township of White River – GNR 39.9%<sup>2</sup>
- Algoma District – GNR 32.3%<sup>3</sup>
- Ontario – GNR 27.1%
- Canada – GNR 26.1%

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 White River's involvement in the *Learn More* program.

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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).

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada. 2013. White River, TP, Ontario (Code 3557091) (table). National Household Survey (NHS) Profile. 2011 National Household Survey. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 99-004-XWE. Ottawa. Released September 11, 2013. Website: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>3</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. Website: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>. Accessed: October 2013.

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## 2.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE

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The definition of the regional context of a community is subjective. The regional boundaries of a community can be 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 Township of White River is situated within the Algoma District. Statistics are readily available for the District; for this reason and for the purposes of the profile, they will be used only for the purpose of setting context and comparison. In particular, Algoma District is the Census Division for which Statistics Canada data is available.

This section of the profile includes detailed overviews of all five Asset Categories – Human, Economic, Infrastructure, Social, and Natural Environment – as they relate to the Township of White River.

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### 2.1 OVERVIEW

#### 2.1.1 LOCATION

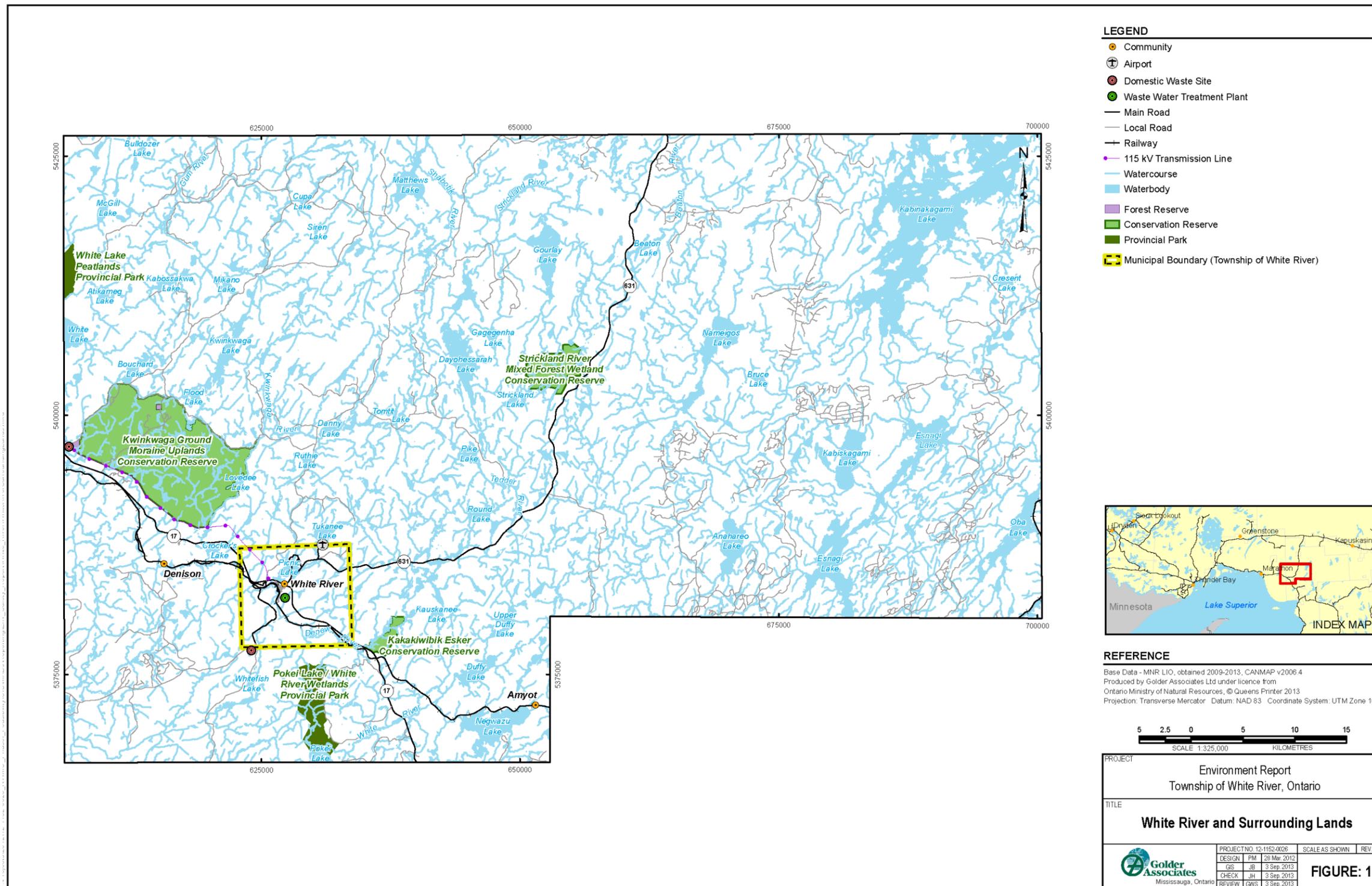
The Township of White River is located in the Algoma District, the Census Division for which Statistics Canada census data is available, approximately 95 km east of Marathon and 92 km northwest of Wawa at the intersection of Highway 17 (TransCanada Highway) and Highway 631. White River is approximately mid-way between Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario (see Figure 1). Figure 2 shows White River and surrounding lands.

Figure 1: Location of White River



Source: DPRA Canada, 2013.

Figure 2: White River and Surrounding Lands



Source: Golder Associates. January 2014. *White River and Surrounding Lands*.

### 2.1.2 LAND SIZE AND USES

The Township of White River covers a land area of approximately 103 km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>4</sup> According to the Township of White River Official Plan (1983), the community planning areas are divided into the following categories: residential, general commercial, highway commercial, industrial, major parks and open space, natural resource area, recreation residential, and hazard land designations.<sup>5</sup> There are approximately 60-80 serviced lots available in the community; however, there is little industrial land available.

The community is primarily situated along and on the south side of Highway 17, and to the north of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) tracks and the White River. CPR operates a rail yard, switch station, and bunk house/office in White River; White River Forest Products operates a mill on the western edge of town, accessible from Highway 17.

The Township also includes large areas of Crown land and Crown reserves (Figure 26 below).

Additional information on land uses is provided in other sections of the profile (e.g., Sections 2.3.1.4 (Tourism), 2.4.1.1 (Land Use), 2.6 (Natural Environment)).

### 2.1.3 VISION AND STRATEGIC PLAN



Completed in December 2013, the Township has an Asset Management Plan in place to enhance existing transportation infrastructure and contribute to infrastructure management and development. Overall, it was determined that the roads, water system, and sewer system are thought to be in fair condition; but, infrastructure improvements are needed. This translates to an overall Township infrastructure deficit of \$5.92 million. The recommendation of the Asset Management

Report indicates that White River's capital investment needs to increase to \$592,818 per annum over the next 10 years; a sizable increase from their current annual capital investment of \$51,595.<sup>6</sup>

The most recent economic development strategy or strategic plan relevant for White River was the 2007 Regional Investment Strategic Plan for the Superior East Alliance, which is not exclusive to White River<sup>7</sup>. Economic circumstances in the region have evolved since 2007. Forestry is rebounding to an extent along the

<sup>4</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. 2014. *Land Information Ontario - Discovering Ontario Data*. Website: <https://www.javacoeapp.lrc.gov.on.ca/geonetwork/srv/en/main.home>. Accessed: September 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Township of White River. (revised) September 26, 1983. *Official Plan for the Township of White River Planning Area*. Prepared by Proctor & Redfern Limited. Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.

<sup>6</sup> Township of White River. December 2013. *Asset Management Plan – Township of White River*. Created by Infrastructure Solutions Inc.

<sup>7</sup> Algoma Workforce Investment Corporation. January 2011. *Labour Force Analysis and Human Resource Development Strategy for the District of Algoma*. Prepared by R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd. Website: [http://www.awic.ca/documents/assets/uploads/files/en/labour\\_force\\_analysis\\_and\\_workforce\\_development\\_strategy\\_june\\_2011.pdf](http://www.awic.ca/documents/assets/uploads/files/en/labour_force_analysis_and_workforce_development_strategy_june_2011.pdf). Accessed: October 2013.

north shore with a number of mills re-opening in the last two years (including the Mill in White River). The White River Community Development Corporation is working towards a Strategic Economic Plan in partnership with the Township of White River. One of the key activities of the Corporation has been the public/private partnership with the White River Forest Products (see Section 2.3.1.3 below for more information).

The community has a beautification plan funded by FedNor that will provide gazebos, benches, banners and flowers.

The Township of White River Official Plan was last updated September 26, 1983. The following nine Goals of Council were set out in the Official Plan<sup>8</sup>:

1. To preserve and enhance those attributes that have established the quality of character of the Township.
2. To overcome existing servicing problems.
3. To provide physical services and community facilities to satisfy the needs of the population.
4. To promote a logical, orderly and economic pattern of development with clearly defined urban and rural areas.
5. To enhance the economic potential of the Township by protecting potential resource development areas and by promoting recreation and tourism.
6. To control municipal expenses by limiting development that would place a financial burden on the Township.
7. To encourage and provide the means for public participation in the planning process.
8. To encourage other levels of government to implement the policies of the Plan.
9. To adopt a positive and optimistic approach to planning and development by ensuring that sufficient land is designated for the maximum attraction of development.

The Township of White River Zoning By-law No. 85-06 is dated November 25, 1985.<sup>9</sup>

White River's vision for the future includes an increased focus on tourism.<sup>10</sup> White River is the home to the original black bear cub that the character 'Winnie-the-Pooh' is named after. For the last 28 years, the Township of White River, in collaboration with the White River District Historical Society, has organized and celebrated Winnie's Hometown Festival; held annually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in August.<sup>11</sup> Promoting Winnie's Hometown Festival, the White River Museum and the Winnie-the-Pooh exhibit, as well as the Winnie-the-Pooh statue and park located at the tourist centre are strategic areas of focus for the future of tourism development in the community.<sup>12</sup> For example, a 'Bear Paw' trail could be developed throughout the community in association

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<sup>8</sup> Township of White River. (revised) September 26, 1983. *Official Plan for the Township of White River Planning Area*. Prepared by Proctor & Redfern Limited.

<sup>9</sup> Township of White River. November 25, 1985. *Township of White River Zoning By-law No. 85-06 as approved by OMB November 25, 1985*. Prepared by: Proctor and Redfern Limited. Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.

<sup>10</sup> This information was obtained from White River community discussions November, 2013.

<sup>11</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *Winnie's Hometown Festival*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/winnies-hometown-festival-140.asp>. Accessed: March 2014.

<sup>12</sup> This information was obtained from White River community discussions November, 2013.

with Winnie-the-Pooh. This trail would provide opportunities for new businesses, craft shop, establishing a “100 acre wood”, street art (e.g., decorative fire hydrants), and Winnie-the-Pooh focused street names.<sup>13</sup>

## 2.2 HUMAN ASSETS

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### 2.2.1 HUMAN ASSET INDICATORS

The Human Assets within a community include the skills and knowledge inherent in a community and 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. The specific indicators within the Human Assets category include:

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

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of human well-being of White River.

#### 2.2.1.1 POPULATION SIZE AND DEMOGRAPHICS

##### Population Size

White River’s 2011 population was 607, compared to 841 in 2006 (see Table 1 and Figure 3). Census data indicates that White River’s population has been declining quite steeply since 1996. During the same period, the population of the Census Division\* has also declined (steeply from 1996 to 2001, then more moderately from 2001 to 2011), but generally less precipitously compared to White River (see Figure 4 and Table 1). During this same period Ontario’s population has continuously increased (see Figure 5 and Table 1). This trend reflects the economic downturn in the community and region over the past couple of decades.

Corresponding with the re-opening of the White River Forest Products Mill in 2013, residents of White River have observed a slight increase in the town’s population. The ongoing construction of the Pic Mobert First Nation’s run-of-river hydroelectric dam project, southwest of White River, has drawn workers into the community since 2013 and is expected to take two years to complete.<sup>14</sup> However, many of these workers are transient. This trend is expected to continue through the early part of 2014.

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<sup>13</sup> This information was obtained from White River community discussions November, 2013.

<sup>14</sup> This information was obtained from White River community discussions November, 2013.

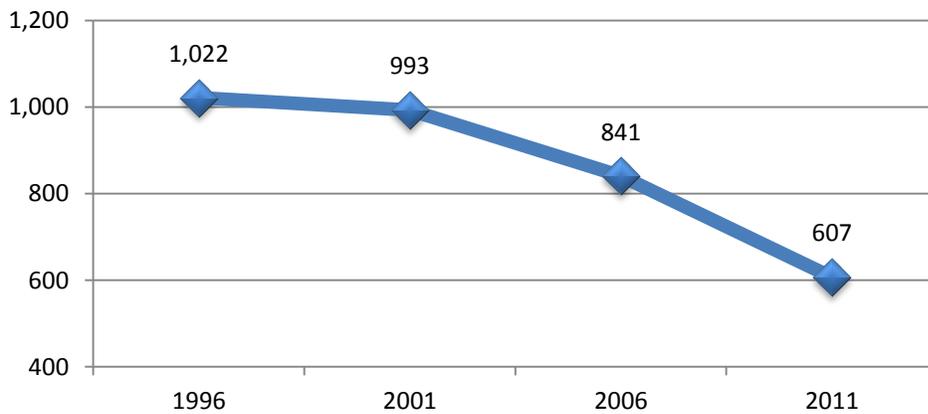
\*Please note, throughout Chapter 2 of this Profile, any reference made to the term ‘Census Division’ means Algoma District.

**Table 1: White River, Census Division\*, and Ontario Population Trends, 1996 – 2011**

Time Period	White River Population (Change from Previous Census)	Census Division Population (Change from Previous Census)	Ontario Population (Change from Previous Census)
1996	1,022 (7.8%)	125,455 (-1.4%)	10,753,573 (6.6%)
2001	993 (-2.8%)	118,567(-5.5%)	11,410,046 (6.1%)
2006	841 (-15.3%)	117,461 (-0.9%)	12,160,282 (6.6%)
2011	607 (-27.8%)	115,870 (-1.4%)	12,851,821 (5.7%)

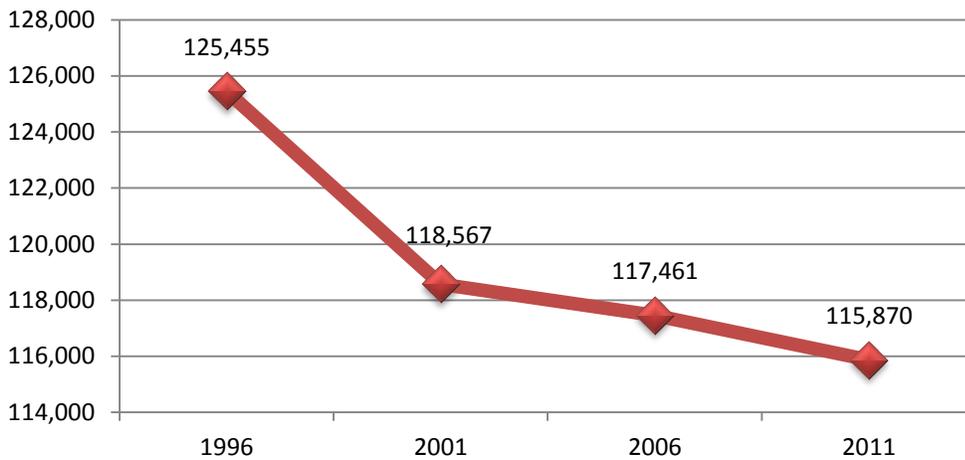
Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles.*  
 \*Please note, throughout Chapter 2 of this Profile, any reference made to the term ‘Census Division’ means Algoma District.

**Figure 3: White River Population Trends, 1996 – 2011**



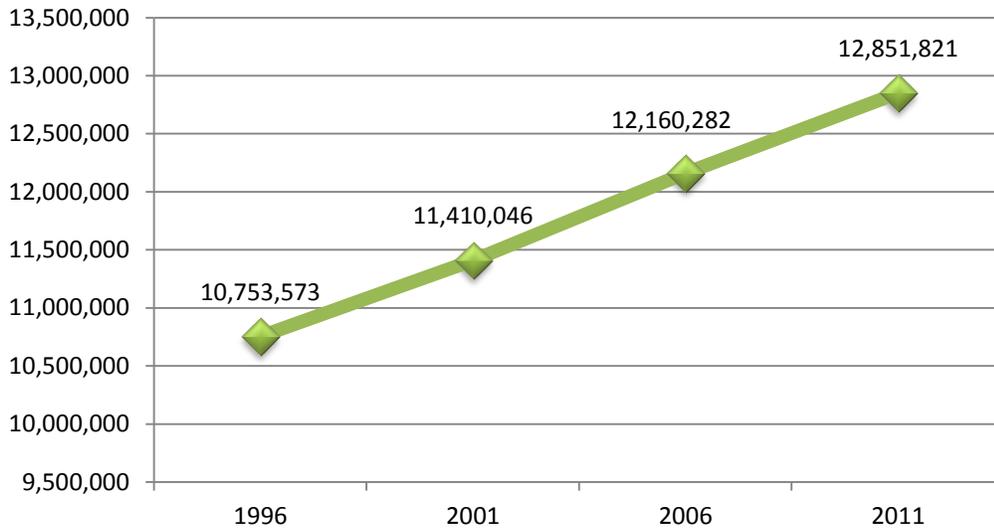
Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *White River Township, Community Profiles.*

**Figure 4: Census Division Population Trends, 1996 – 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Algoma District, Community Profiles.*

**Figure 5: Ontario Population Trends, 1996 – 2011**



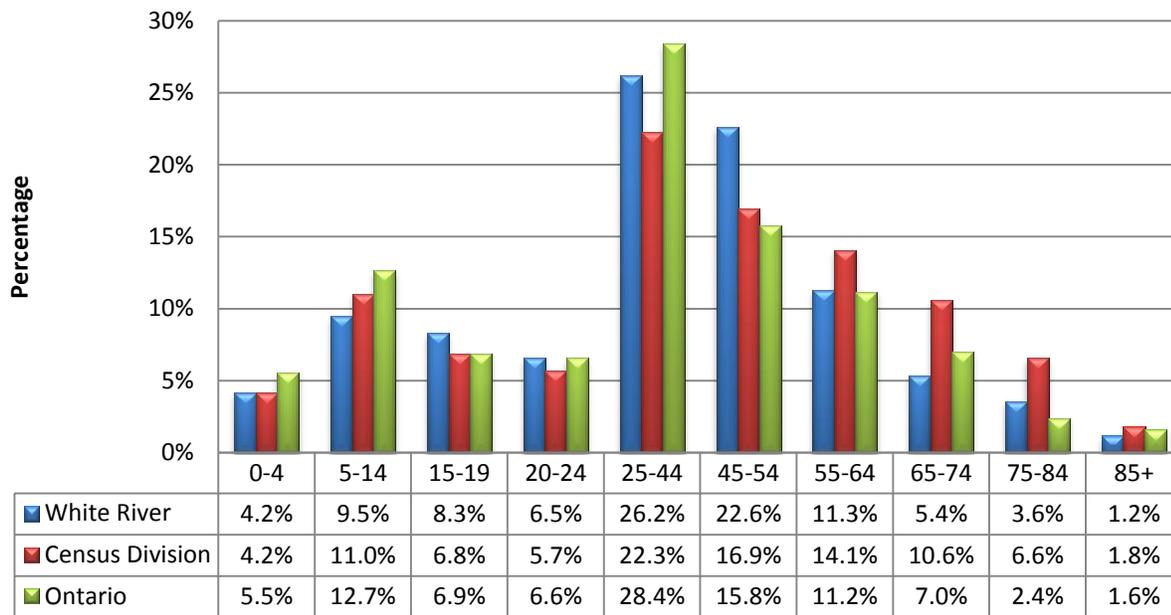
Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Ontario, Community Profiles*.

**Age Structure**

Figures 6 and 7 show the number of residents by age category for White River, the Census Division and the province, for census years 2006 and 2011, respectively. In 2006, White River’s 25-44 age cohort had the largest proportion of individuals among all age categories (at 26.2%, compared to 22.6% for the next largest age category [45-54]). In 2011, the community’s 25-44 age cohort no longer had the largest proportion of individuals (22.1% compared to 23.8% of the population in the 45-54 age category), demonstrating a decrease by 4.1 percentage points over the five year period in the 25-44 age cohort. This clearly indicates an aging trend.

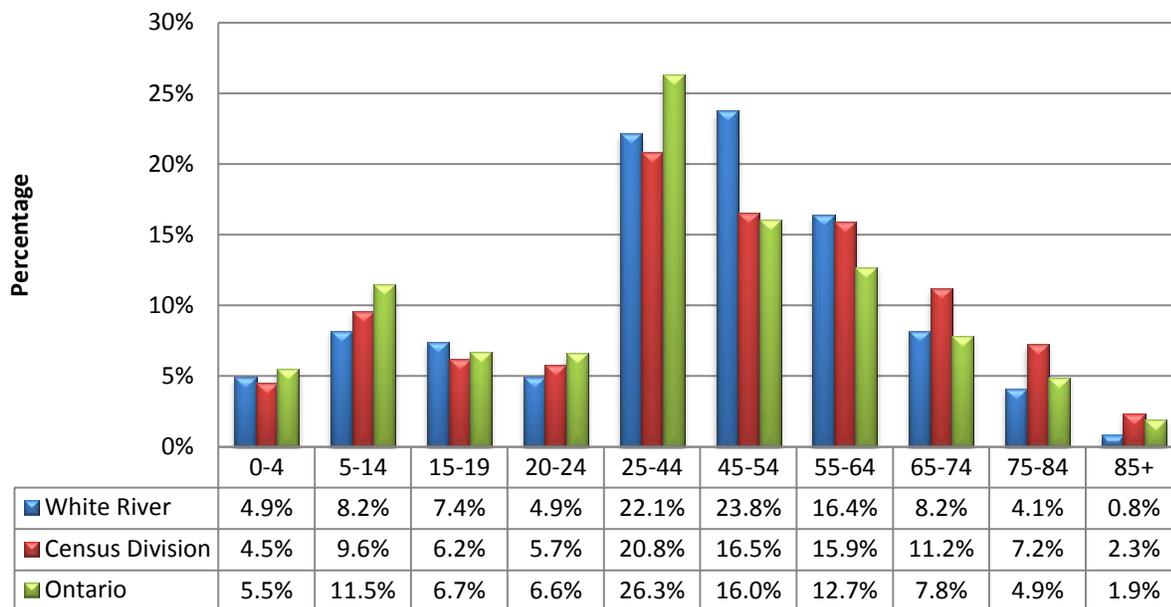
All age groups between 55 and 84 increased in proportion in the community between 2006 and 2011. A similar – though less dramatic – aging trend is reflected in the Census Division and province. In both 2006 and 2011, White River had proportionately more of its population in the cohort 45-54 years than the region or the province. Compared to White River and the province, the Census Division had a larger percent of the population between the ages 65 and over in both 2006 and 2011.

Figure 6: White River, Census Division, and Ontario Age Structure, 2006



Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles.*

Figure 7: White River, Census Division, and Ontario Age Structure, 2011



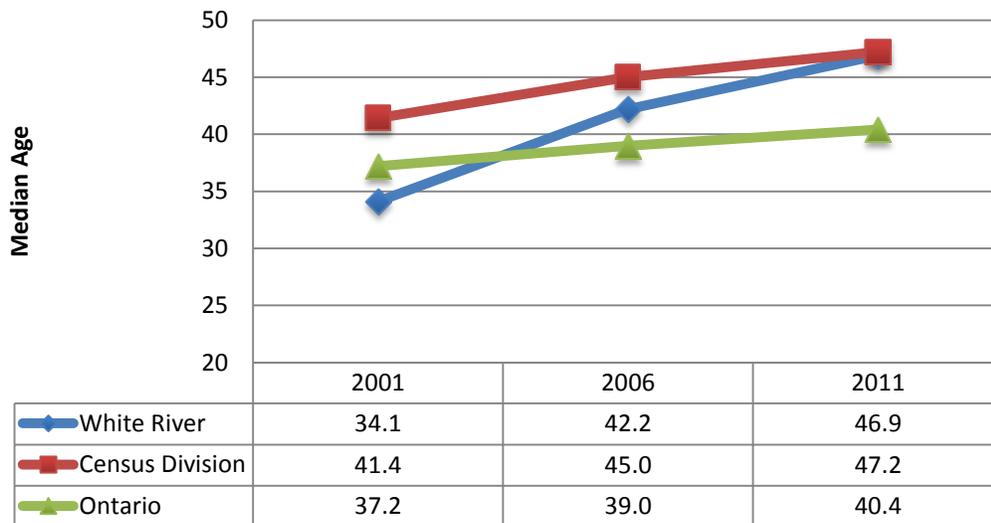
Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles.*

In discussions with several residents, it was mentioned that 50% of the community population is comprised of senior citizens.<sup>15</sup> This is a higher percentage than was recorded in the 2011 census (29.5%).

**Median Age**

Between the 2001 and 2011 census periods, the median age of White River residents increased by 12.8 years, from 34.1 years to 46.9 years (Figure 8). Over the same period, the median age increased to a lesser extent in the Census Division (by 5.8 years) and Ontario (by 3.2 years).

**Figure 8: White River, Census Division, and Ontario Median Age, 2001 – 2011**



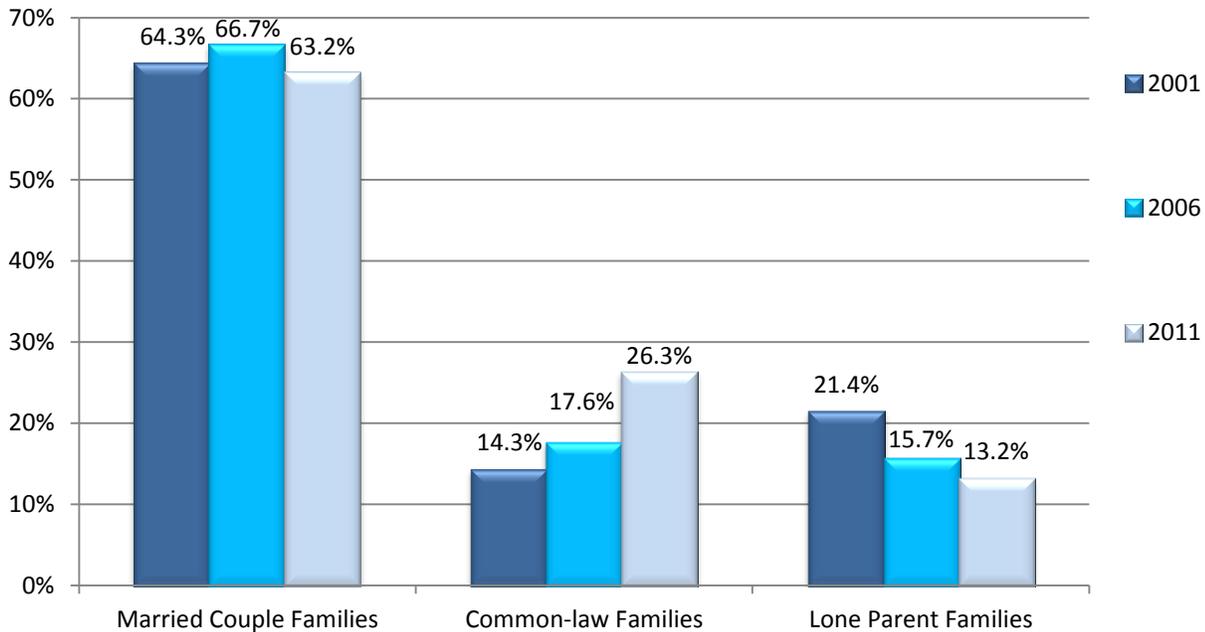
Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007, 2012. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

**Family Characteristics**

Household composition in White River was fairly consistent 2001 through 2011, with the majority of families being married couples and fewer common-law families and lone parent families (see Figure 9). Over time, however, the proportion of married couple families reduced slightly, while the proportion of common law families increased substantially, and the proportion of lone parent families decreased.

<sup>15</sup> This information was obtained from White River community discussions November, 2013.

**Figure 9: White River Family Characteristics**



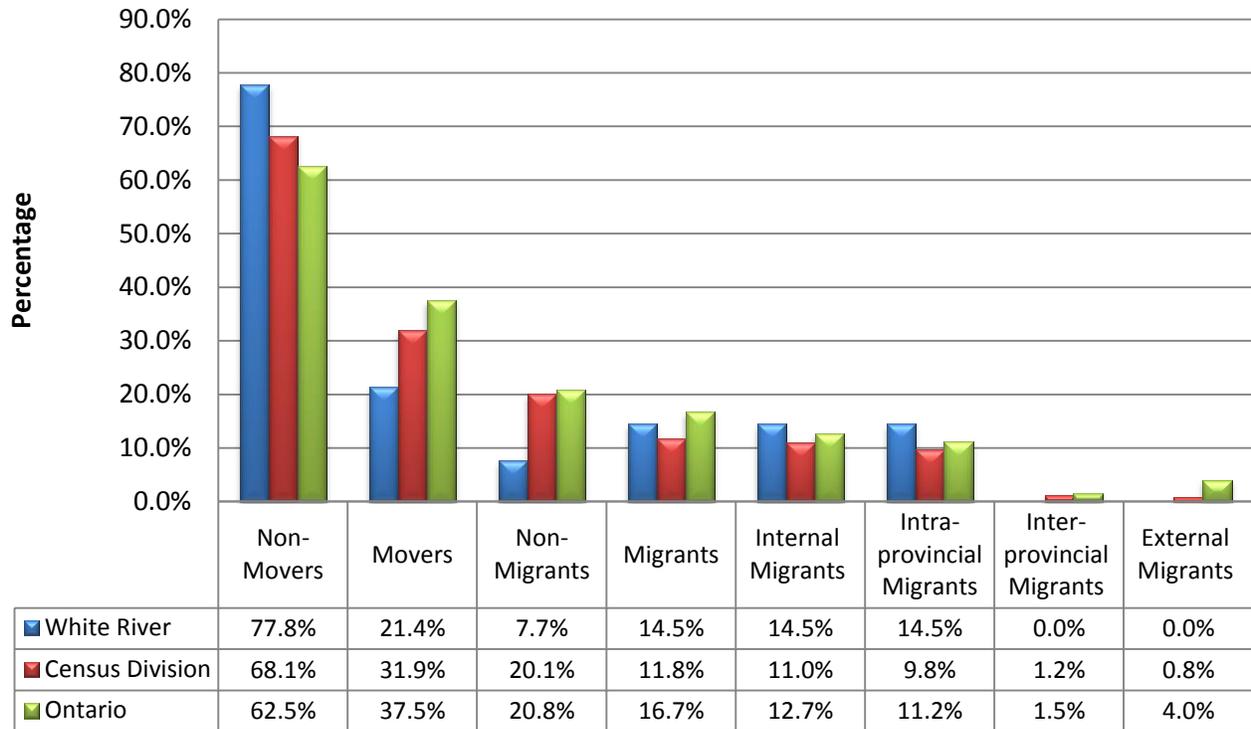
Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007, 2012. *White River, Community Profiles*.

**Population Mobility**

Mobility status refers to the movement of individuals over a period of time<sup>16</sup>. Figures 10 and 11 demonstrate the 5-year and 1-year mobility status in 2011 for White River, the Census Division, and Ontario. More than three-quarters of Township residents (77.8%) had not moved in the past five years. This rate was greater than for the Census Division (68.1%), and the province (62.5%) (Figure 10). Although White River’s overall population is declining, this indicates that those residents who remain in White River tend to be longer-term residents.

<sup>16</sup> Statistics Canada defines 1 year mobility status as ‘information indicating whether the person lived in the same residence on Census Day (May 16, 2006), as he or she did one year before (May 16, 2005)’ and 5 year mobility status as ‘information indicating whether the person lived in the same residence on Census Day (May 16, 2006), as he or she did five years before (May 16, 2001)’. Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River, Ontario (Code3557091)* (table). 2006 Community Profiles. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-591-XWE. Ottawa. Website: <http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3557091&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&Data=Count&SearchText=white%20river&SearchType=Begin&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=>. Accessed: October 2013.

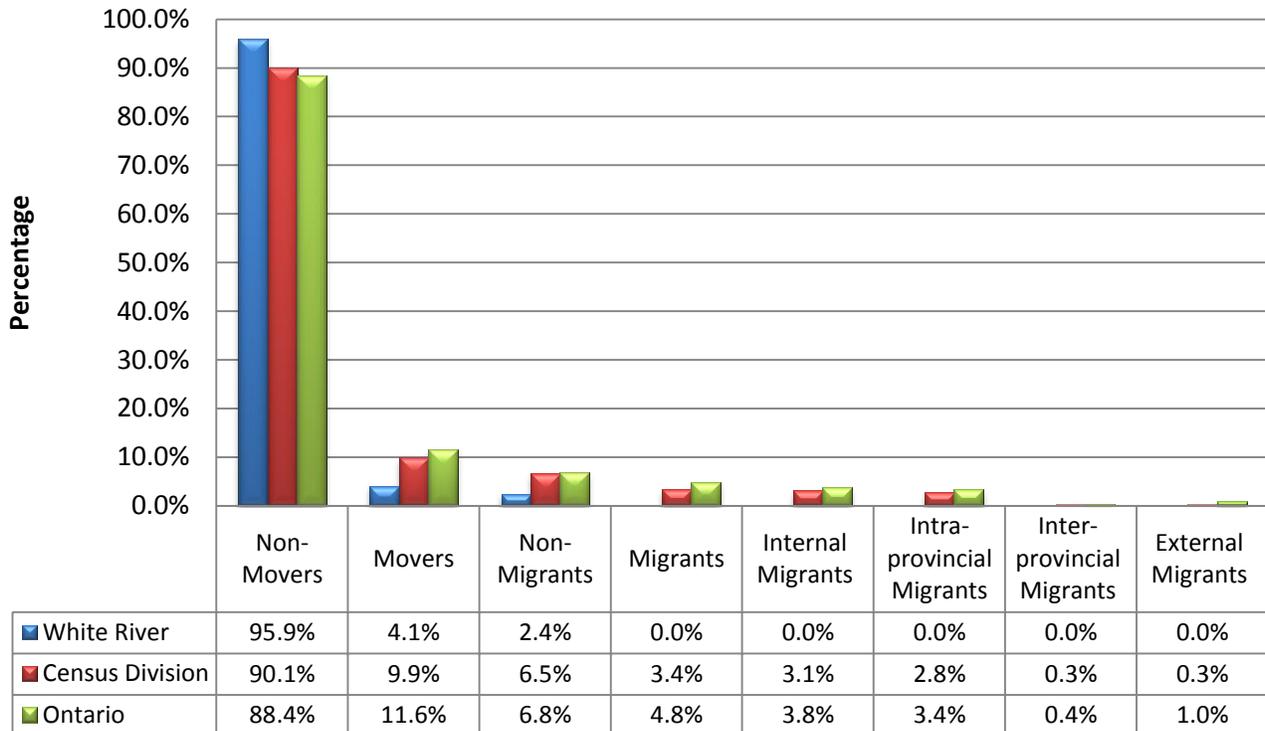
Figure 10: White River, Census Division, and Ontario 5 -Year Mobility Status, 2011



Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey. Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to 1) random rounding of the original community data by Statistics Canada and 2) the inclusion of sub-categories within “migrants” category.

The 1-year mobility status for 2011 shows a similar pattern (Figure 11). In 2011, people living in Ontario (11.6%) or the Census Division (9.9%) were more likely to have moved in the past year than those living in White River (4.1%). Those who had moved in the past year in White River had moved from another address in the Township (i.e., non-migrants).

Figure 11: White River, Census Division, and Ontario 1-Year Mobility Status, 2011



Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile. 2011 National Household Survey.* Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to the inclusion of sub-categories within the “migrants” category.

2.2.1.2 SKILLS AND LABOUR

Algoma /Superior East Labour Force

The Algoma Workforce Investment Corporation (AWiC) is a volunteer community-based planning committee funded by the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities<sup>17</sup>. AWiC members are knowledgeable about labour force development issues in the Census Division. AWiC is one of twenty-five (25) Workforce Planning Boards across Ontario. Its mission is to work collaboratively with community partners to address the region’s key labour force needs. In 2011, an AWiC report summarized research conducted in the Census Division and three sub-regions (including Superior East) to assess the labour force and workforce development needs.<sup>18</sup> The report identified a number of gaps and challenges with respect to the human resource environment in the region. White River was one of the Superior East communities (others were Dubreuilville, Wawa and Hornepayne) included in the research. Challenges relating to demographics, workforce, training, infrastructure and planning/coordination were identified; key challenges in the Superior East area included:

<sup>17</sup> Algoma Workforce Investment Corporation. 2014. *Welcome to AWiC.* Website: <http://www.awic.ca/>. Accessed: May 2014.

<sup>18</sup> Algoma Workforce Investment Corporation. January 2011. *Labour Force Analysis and Human Resource Development Strategy for the District of Algoma.* Prepared by R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd. Website: [http://www.awic.ca/documents/assets/uploads/files/en/labour\\_force\\_analysis\\_and\\_workforce\\_development\\_strategy\\_june\\_2011.pdf](http://www.awic.ca/documents/assets/uploads/files/en/labour_force_analysis_and_workforce_development_strategy_june_2011.pdf). Accessed: October 2013.

- Superior East has traditionally been classed as a resource-based region, with each community relying on one or two employers that employ the majority of residents; mining and forestry have served as the primary industries in the region, and declines in forestry in particular in the 2000s have negatively impacted the region as a whole.
- Unemployment in Superior East, while high, is similar to that for the Census Division as a whole, indicating that job losses have resulted in out-migration from settlements in Superior East (see White River, the Census Division, and Ontario population trends in Table 1 and Figures 3, 4 and 5; see also unemployment <sup>19</sup>trends in Table 3 and Figure 18).

Recommendations were organized in terms of Infrastructure and Planning; Supply-Side Strategies; Education and Training Strategies; and Other Action Items. Highlights in terms of action items include:

#### *Infrastructure and Human Resources Planning*

1. Formalize/maintain a formal group to oversee human resource issues in the region.
2. Develop a means for employers to communicate their training needs to the training bodies.
3. Establish a labour market information “dashboard” to provide up to date labour market information/requirements for the region.
4. Economic development strategies need to be developed regionally.
5. Keep innovative youth.

#### *Supply Side Strategies*

6. Develop the immigration outreach and assistance programs to ensure immigrants stay in the region.
7. Recognize the importance of First Nations communities in meeting current/future workforce requirements.
8. Consider innovative solutions to encourage youth/young adults to remain in the community.
9. Develop a re-training/upgrading strategy to accommodate possible re-opening of plants which are no longer operational.
10. Consider alternative sources of labour and establish a mechanism to connect with such labour.
11. Develop immigration strategies to attract recent immigrants who have settled in other areas of the province.
12. There are specific programs that employers and community groups could utilize to enhance immigration to the region.
13. Provide an internship/ work placement for students in allied and other health professions.
14. Support tourism initiatives.
15. Utilize First Nations populations to support maintenance of the Algoma Central Railway.

#### *Education and Training Strategies*

16. Develop a strategy to attract graduates of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.
17. Ensure that secondary schools are providing the foundation skills necessary to work in the “new economy”.
18. Consider online/mobile education options.

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<sup>19</sup> Statistics Canada’s employment figures reflect whether a person was employed, unemployed or not in the labour force during the week prior to the (census) survey.

19. Consider joint use of K-12 facilities to deliver training programs in rural/remote communities.
20. Increased communication between the district school boards, principals and employers in the regions.
21. Confederation College's business model for satellite campuses could be examined.
22. Establishment of a Training Board.
23. Annual labour market data collection.
24. Increased basic skills training to prepare the unemployed for skills upgrading.
25. Alternatives need to be developed to Internet based training.
26. Tailor straight-to-workforce courses for students at risk of dropping out.
27. Offer essential skills training after hours and on weekends.
28. Extend resources available to high school students in co-op to all students.
29. Build better linkages between the K-12 system and the employer community.
30. Focus the Community Involvement to include work experience.
31. Promote highly needed career pathways to laid off workers<sup>20</sup>.
32. Continue to promote the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program
33. Utilize the Ontario Skills Training Enhancement Program.
34. Promote the Apprentice Training Tax Credit to small business.
35. Build on the Literacy and Basic Skills program for First Nations.
36. Develop a "Weekend College" approach to learning.

#### *Other Action Items*

37. Prepare communications materials to address some current myths/ challenges in the region.
38. Provide education surrounding incorporating succession planning into a business human resource strategy.
39. Broaden community input.
40. Encourage employer involvement in community planning.
41. Develop a grouped service delivery model.
42. Make available supports to help youth whose families have historically been unemployed/on assistance.
43. Duplicate the Destiny Model.
44. Support agricultural initiatives.
45. Continue to position Algoma as a centre of excellence for green energy.

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<sup>20</sup> While statistical knowledge gaps are most apparent in small communities such as White River, these gaps are representative of broader trends in employment data collection. According to the Globe and Mail, May 2014, the federal Auditor-General Michael Ferguson stated that Statistics Canada data contains significant gaps on job vacancies. Specifically, employment data are missing for the various and distinct regions within each province, including jobs for which labour shortages are the most severe and respective skill sets in the highest demand. Source: McKenna, Barrie. May 11 2014. The Globe and Mail – Ottawa. Why Canada has a serious data deficit. Website: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/why-canada-has-a-serious-data-deficit/article18598633/>. Accessed: July 2014.

In 2012, AWIC published *Algoma Mining Hiring Requirements Forecasts 2013*<sup>21</sup>. A number of potential human resource issues were identified. These include:

- Issues related to aging workforce;
- Pending retirements of highly knowledgeable and experienced workers;
- Low participation rates in the mining industry among Aboriginal peoples, women and new Canadians;
- Challenges in attracting local youth to mining professions;
- Poor image of the industry among the Census Division's citizens;
- Shortages of skilled labour with newly emerging coordination among industry employers and education stakeholders; and,
- Challenges in attracting immigrants to the community.

In March 2013, the *Local Labour Market Planning Report* was released; the report "is a community-driven strategic 1-2 year action plan of coordinated local, targeted activities to help address local labour trends, opportunities and priorities".<sup>22</sup>

### Labour Force Participation

According to the Census, White River residents had a labour force participation rate<sup>23</sup> of 84.9% in 2006; in 2011, the community's participation rate decreased to 73.6% (Figure 12). In 2006, White River's labour force participation rate (84.9%) was significantly higher than the Census Division (57.4%) and Ontario (67.1%); in 2011, it remained higher than the Census Division (73.6% vs. 56.8%), and the provincial labour force participation rate (65.5%).

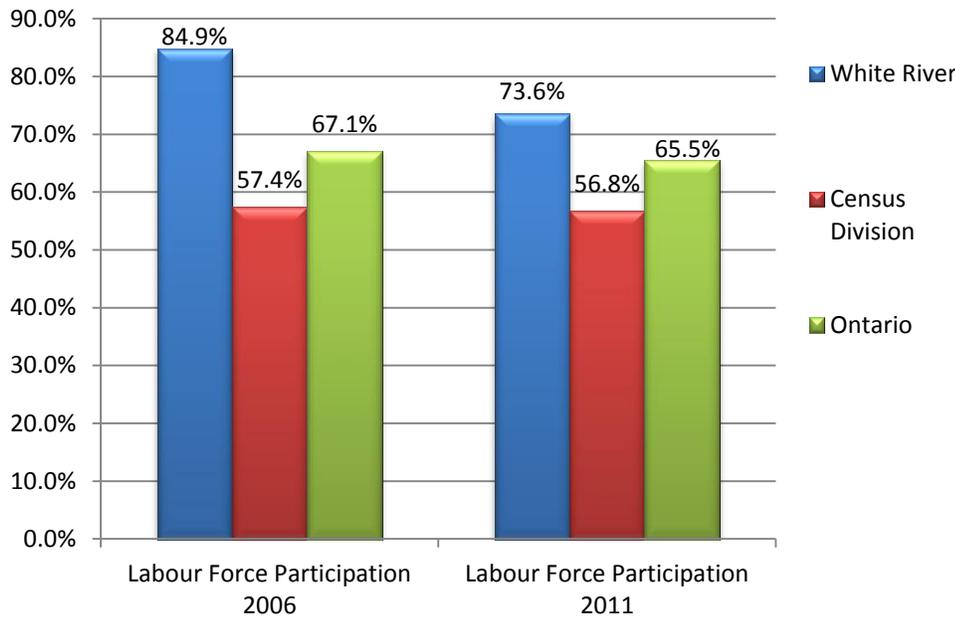
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<sup>21</sup> Algoma Workforce Investment Corporation and Mining Industry Human Resources Council. December 2012. *Algoma Mining Hiring Requirements Forecasts 2013*. Website: [http://www.awic.ca/UploadedFiles/files/RIS%20algoma\\_008.pdf](http://www.awic.ca/UploadedFiles/files/RIS%20algoma_008.pdf). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>22</sup> Algoma Workforce Investment Corporation. March 2013. *Local Labour Market Planning Report*. Website: <http://www.awic.ca/documents/index.cfm?fuseaction=dl&fileID=36&catID=24>. Accessed: January 2014.

<sup>23</sup> According to Statistics Canada 2011 National Household Survey Dictionary, **participation rate** refers to the labour force in the week of Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, 2011, expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over. Statistics Canada. 2012. *2011 National Household Survey Dictionary*. Website: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/ref/dict/pop108-eng.cfm>. Accessed: July 2014. According to Statistics Canada 2006 Census Dictionary, **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>. Accessed: July 2014.

**Figure 12: White River, Census Division, and Ontario Labour Force Participation Rate 2006 & 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey.

**Labour Force Size**

During the period from 2006 to 2011, White River experienced a noticeable reduction in both its total population 15 years of age and older, and an even greater reduction in the size of its labour force (Table 2). The Census Division had a more subtle decline. White River’s decline in labour force exceeded the loss of population aged 15 years and older. The Census Division’s labour force declined in a proportion similar to the loss in population aged 15 years and older. Ontario as a whole had a different trend - the size of the provincial labour force increased, as did the population aged 15 years and over – although the proportion of the population in the labour force declined slightly.

**Table 2: White River, Census Division, and Ontario Labour Force Sizes, 2006 & 2011**

Labour Force Activity		Total population 15 years and older	In the labour force (count/percentage)	Not in the labour force (count/percentage)
White River	2006	695	590 (84.8%)	105 (15.1%)
	2011	530	390 (73.5%)	135 (25.4%)
Census Division	2006	98,260	56,380 (57.3%)	41,875 (42.6%)
	2011	97,665	55,520 (56.8%)	42,140 (43.1%)
Ontario	2006	9,819,420	6,587,580 (67.0%)	3,231,840 (32.9%)
	2011	10,473,670	6,864,990 (65.5%)	3,608,685 (34.4%)

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey.

### Labour Force by Occupation

It is noted that the Labour Force occupation categories used for the census by Statistics Canada are slightly different between 2006 and 2011; however, a general comparison between census years and categories can still be made.<sup>24</sup>

According to Statistics Canada, Figure 13 indicates that in 2006, White River residents worked primarily in *trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations* (27.6%), followed by *occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities* (19.0%) and *sales and service occupations* (16.4%). Two of the community's three largest occupation categories were also dominant at the regional and provincial levels: the primary occupation categories in the Census Division and Ontario in 2006 were *sales and service occupations* (28.3% for the Census Division and 23.5% for the province) followed by *trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations* (17.2% for the Census Division and 14.1% for the province). *Business, finance and administration occupations* were the other occupations in the Census Division's and Province's "top three" occupations by labour force in 2006 (14.9% for the Census Division and 18.6% for the province).

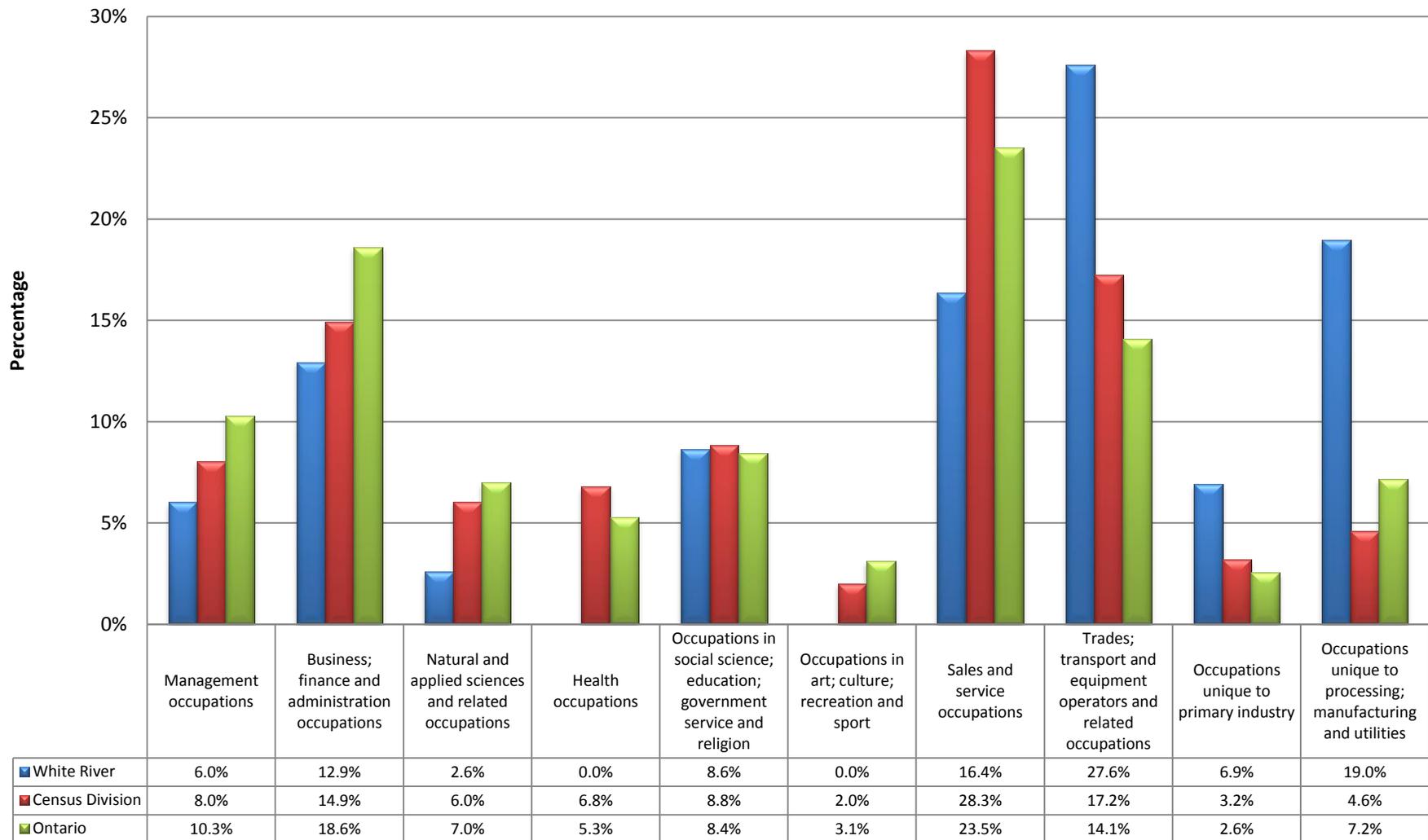
As reported by Statistics Canada for 2011 (Figure 14), the primary occupations and their order for the Census Division and Ontario were the same as 2006 – only the percentage within each category varied slightly. In White River; however, there were major changes in the proportion of labour force participation in several occupation categories: *occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities*, for example, represented 0.0% of the labour force in 2011, down from 19.0% in 2006. It is noted that with the re-opening of the Mill in 2013, this trend is likely reversed. Another major change in White River was in *occupations in education, law and social, community and government services*, which more than doubled from 8.6% in 2006 to 20.5% in 2011. During the same period, the proportion of *trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations* increased from 27.6% in 2006 to 34.6% in 2011. White River has experienced large shifts in occupations in recent years, although the re-opening of the Mill may result in further re-adjustments.

For both 2006 and 2011 *health occupations* was reported in White River as 0.0%. This is likely the result of random rounding of small numbers by Statistics Canada. White River employs several people in the health care profession including one full-time doctor (for further details on health care in White River see section 2.2.1.4 Health and Safety Facilities and Services).

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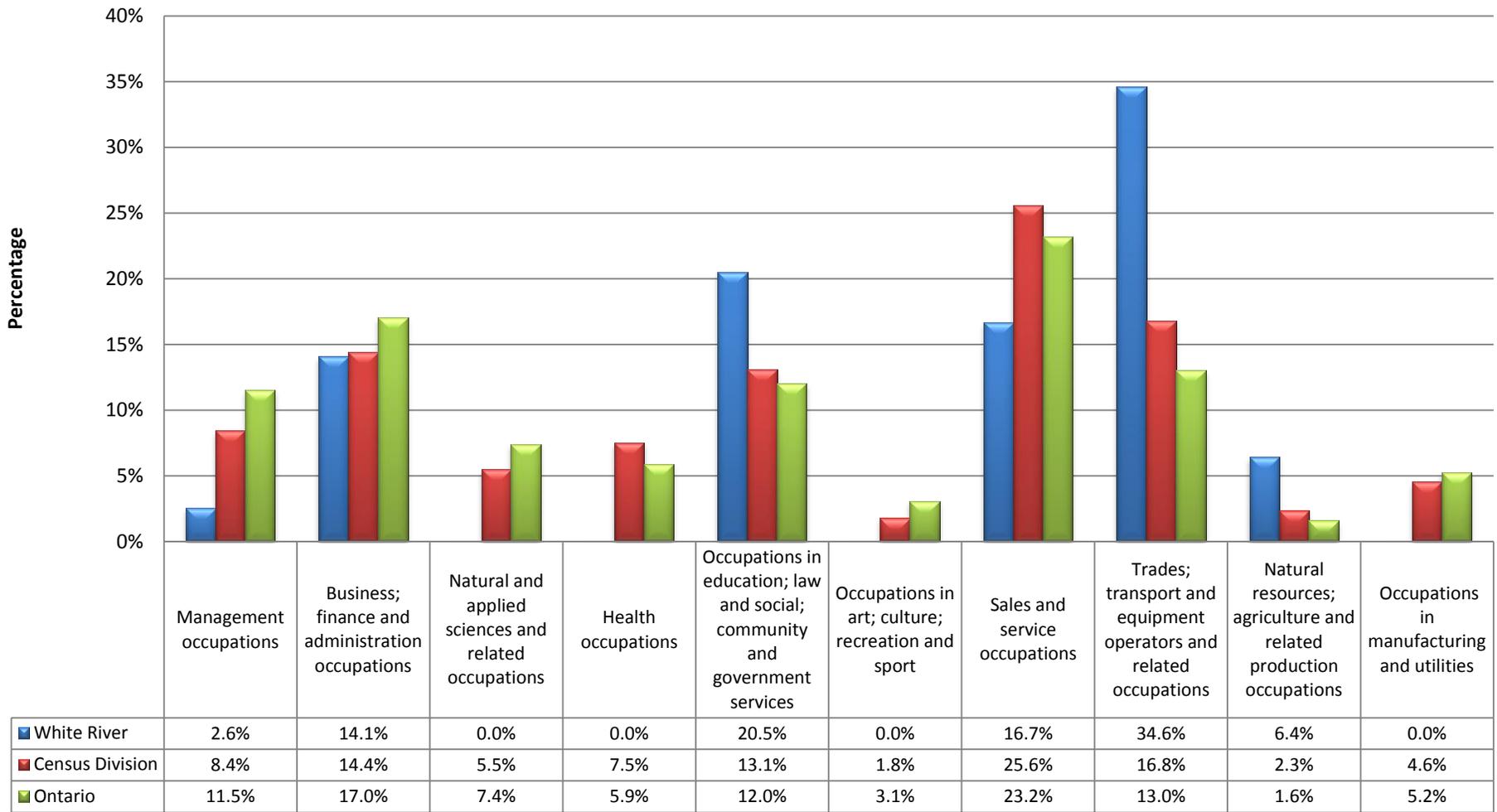
<sup>24</sup> The difference between 2006 and 2011 census categories for Labour Force by Occupation is illustrated in Figures 13 and 14. For full census category definitions in 2006 and 2011 see: Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River, Ontario (Code 3557091)* (table). *2006 Community Profiles. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-591-XWE*. Ottawa. Website: <http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3557091&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&Data=Count&SearchText=white%20river&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=>. Accessed: October 2013; and, Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, TP, Ontario (Code 3557091)* (table). *National Household Survey (NHS) Profile. 2011 National Household Survey. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 99-004-XWE*. Ottawa. Website: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3557091&Data=Count&SearchText=white%20river&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&A1=All&B1=All&Custom=&TABID=1>. Accessed: October 2013.

Figure 13: White River, Census Division, and Ontario Labour Force by Occupation, 2006



Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*. Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

Figure 14: White River, Census Division, and Ontario Labour Force by Occupation, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey. Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

### Labour Force by Industry

Due to significant differences in the labour force industry categories used by Statistics Canada between 2006 and 2011, it is not possible to make a comparison between census periods: therefore only 2011 census data are used in this section.

As reported by Statistics Canada for 2011, the largest industries in White River were *health care and social services* and *mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction* (both with 15.4% of the labour force<sup>25</sup>), followed by *construction* (14.1%) (Figure 15). It has been noted that 15.4% is a relatively high number for the *health care and social services* category considering the limited health care and social services available in the community.<sup>26</sup> Indeed, community members noted that these services are understaffed in White River<sup>27</sup>. With a 2011 labour force population of 390, this 15.4% would indicate an increase of over 50 jobs in health care and social services between 2006 and 2011 despite a rise in community unemployment and decrease in population. Thus the accuracy of these employment data must be called into question.

A much higher proportion of the population in White River is employed in ‘mining’, ‘construction’ and ‘transportation and warehousing’ industries compared to the province. The only other industries with more than 10% of the community’s labour force were *public administration* (11.5%) and *accommodation and food services* (10.3%). The distribution of labour force by industry in the Census Division and Ontario in 2011 was quite different from White River. While both the Census Division and the province had *health care and social assistance* as one of their three largest industries (14.1% in the Census Division and 10.4% in Ontario), their other main industries in 2011 were *retail trade* (12.4% in the Census Division and 11.2% in Ontario) and *manufacturing* (10.7% in the Census Division and 10.4% in Ontario). In comparison, only 7.7% of White River’s labour force was active in *retail trade* and 0% of its labour force was active in *manufacturing* in 2011. It is important to point out, however, that the White River Forest Product Mill resumed operations in 2013 after an extended closure. There are now two shifts operating at the mill, which accounts for over 100 new employment positions in White River. As such, the 0% labour force in “*manufacturing*” is likely to be inaccurate since the reopening of the Mill.

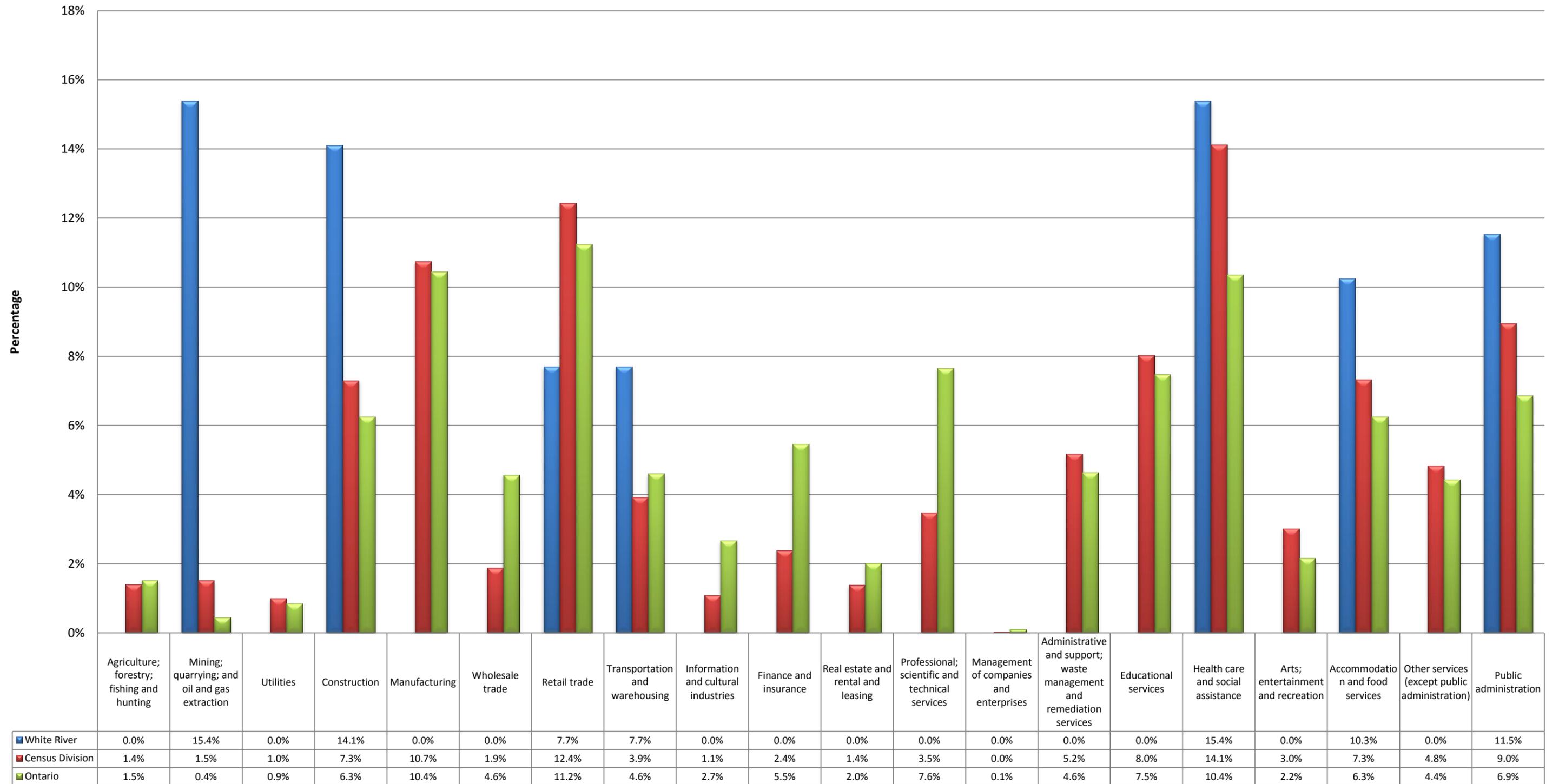
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<sup>25</sup> The accuracy of Statistics Canada labour force data is questionable. For example, the statistic demonstrating 15.4% labour force employment in “health and social services” is disputed by both community members and DPRA consultants in light of White River’s low and declining population levels and community health care/social service inadequacies. With a 2011 labour force population of 390, this 15.4% would indicate an increase of over 50 jobs in health care and social services between 2006 and 2011 despite a rise in community unemployment and decrease in population. Thus the accuracy of these employment data must be called into question.

<sup>26</sup> This information was obtained from White River community discussions April, 2014.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

Figure 15: White River, Census Division, and Ontario Labour Force by Industry, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile. 2011 National Household Survey.* Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

### 2.2.1.3 EDUCATION

#### Educational Attainment

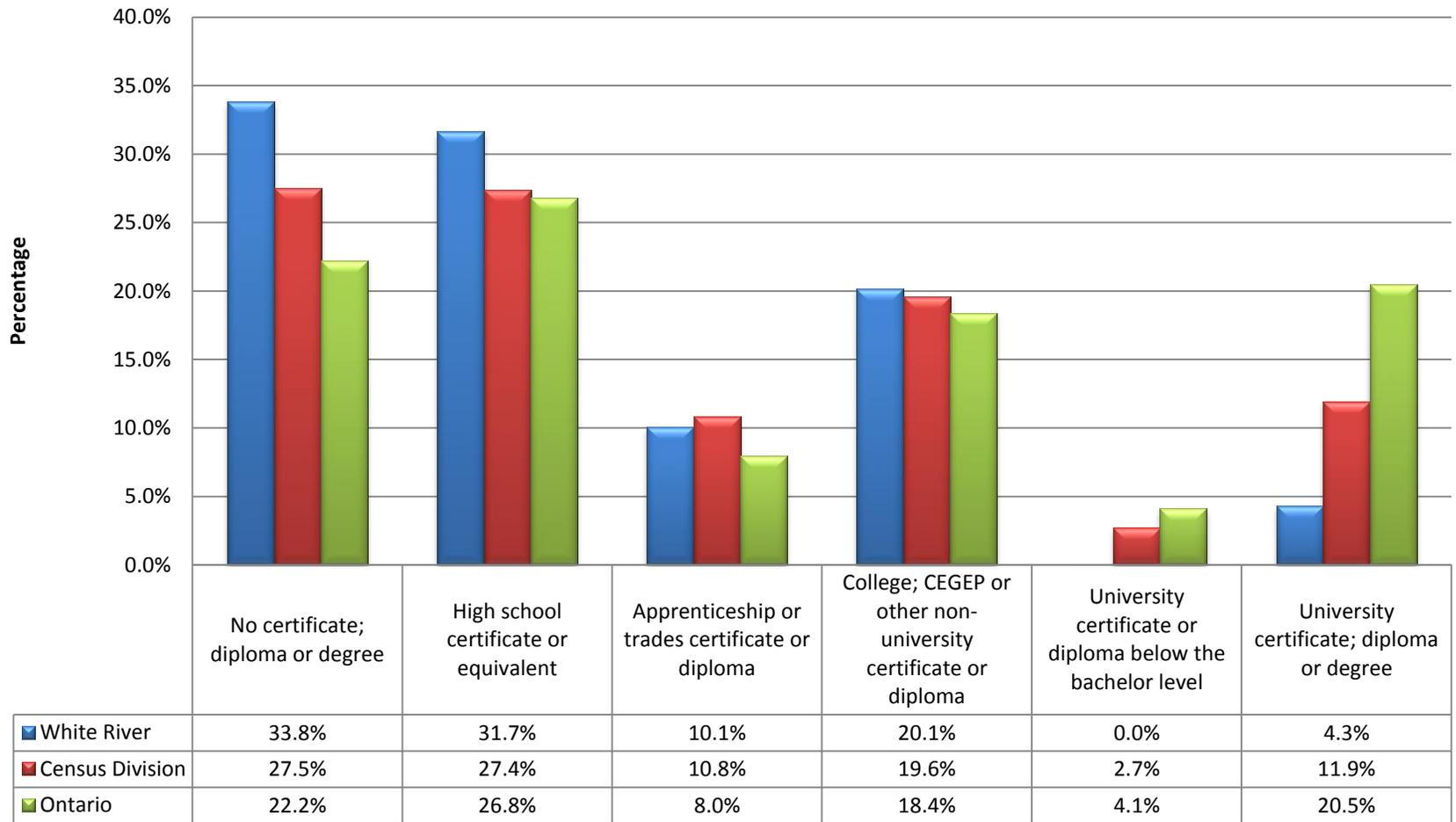
In 2006, White River's educational attainment, when compared to the Census Division and Ontario, was relatively low (Figure 16). Among the three jurisdictional levels, White River had the highest proportion of population with *no post-secondary education (certificate, diploma or degree)* at 33.8%. This was higher than the Census Division (27.5%) and the province (22.2%). White River had slightly fewer residents than the Census Division with *apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma* (10.1%, compared to 10.8% for the Census Division), but more than the province (8.0%). White River had proportionately fewer residents with a *university certificate, diploma or degree* (4.3%, compared to 11.9% for the Census Division and 20.5% for Ontario). However, White River had proportionately more residents with *college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma education* (20.1%) compared to the Census Division (at 19.6%) and the province at (18.4%).

White River's educational attainment in 2011 was somewhat different than 2006 (Figure 17).<sup>28</sup> The proportion of the community's residents with *no certificate, diploma or degree* (34.3%) was still higher than in the Census Division or Ontario as a whole. In 2011 the community had a higher proportion of residents with *apprenticeship or trades certificates or diploma* (23.8% for White River, compared to 11.2% for the Census Division and 7.4% for Ontario). In fact, the proportion of the population of White River with *apprenticeship or trades certificates or diploma* more than doubled between 2006 and 2011 (from 10.1% to 23.8%).

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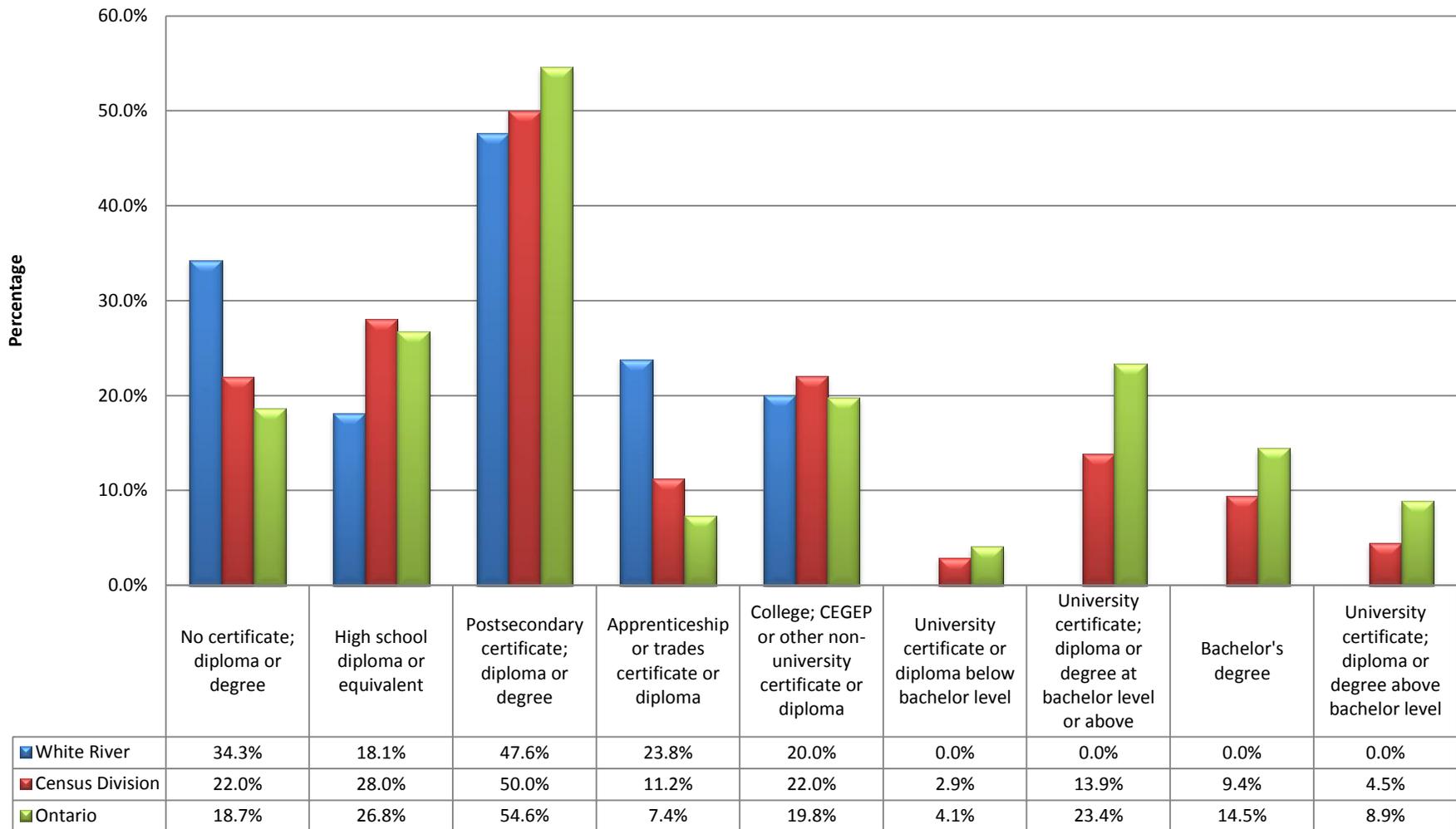
<sup>28</sup> The difference between 2006 and 2011 census categories for Educational Attainment is illustrated in Figures 16, 17. For full census category definitions in 2006 and 2011 see: Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River, Ontario (Code3557091)* (table). *2006 Community Profiles*. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-591-XWE. Ottawa. Website: <http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3557091&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&Data=Count&SearchText=white%20river&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=>. Accessed: October 2013; and, Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, TP, Ontario (Code 3557091)* (table). *National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 99-004-XWE. Ottawa. Website: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3557091&Data=Count&SearchText=white%20river&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&A1=All&B1=All&Custom=&TABID=1>. Accessed: October 2013.

Figure 16: White River, Census Division, and Ontario Educational Attainment, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*. Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

Figure 17: White River, Census Division, and Ontario Educational Attainment, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile. 2011 National Household Survey.* Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

## School Facilities

The community has access to a daycare facility, elementary school, and a secondary school (local students are bussed to high schools in Wawa)<sup>29</sup>.

The White River Best Start Hub is part of the Superior Children's Centre. It is a licensed day care facility offering a toddler/preschool program, as well as after school and summer programs for school aged children<sup>30</sup>.

St. Basil's Catholic School services White River students from junior kindergarten to grade 8. St. Basil's is part of the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board, based in Sault Ste. Marie. Students seeking French or non-Catholic schools are bussed to Wawa to attend Sir James Dunn Elementary School, St. Joseph French Immersion Catholic School, École publique de l'Escalade, and École St. Joseph. However, St. Basil's accepts non-Catholic students, which provides an alternative to students traveling to Wawa.<sup>31</sup>

St. Basil's has nine classrooms and at one time accommodated close to 200 students. There is also a daycare operating within the school, which has approximately 15-20 children. St. Basil's currently has 4 full-time teaching positions.<sup>32</sup> There are 34 students enrolled at St. Basil's for the 2013/2014 school year (Junior Kindergarten to grade 7). An additional 6 students are expected to begin in September 2014; no students will graduate in June 2014.

There are approximately 55 students from White River bussed to Wawa for the 2013/2014 year; approximately 15 of these attend elementary school.

Post-secondary institutions are also available in the region for residents interested in obtaining a degree/diploma after high school graduation. These include: Laurentian University, Nipissing University, Lakehead University, Cambrian College, Canadore College, College Boreal, Northern College, Sault College, Academy of Learning Career and Business College, Everest College of Business Technology and Health Care, and Transport Training Centres of Canada<sup>33</sup>.

Residents of White River also have access to a Contact North office in town, which provides distance education and training services. Residents are given the opportunity to complete their high school diploma; participate in training courses; and enroll in university and college programs through online courses<sup>34</sup>. The office also offers videoconferencing facilities.

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<sup>29</sup> White River Public Library. 2011. *About White River, Ontario*. Website: <http://www.whiteriverlibrary.com/index.php/about>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>30</sup> Superior Children's Centre. 2013. *White River Best Start Hub*. Website: <http://www.superiorchildrenscentre.org/whiteriverbeststart.htm>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>31</sup> *This information was obtained from White River community discussions January 2014.*

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *Education*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/education-125.asp>. Accessed: February 2013.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*

### 2.2.1.4 HEALTH AND SAFETY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

#### Health Services

Given the Township's relatively distant location from a major urban centre or hospital, community preventative health care is limited. White River residents have access to emergency care hospital facilities through medevac services. Health care in the community is provided by the White River Medical Clinic located in town. The clinic is staffed with one full-time physician. The full-time Nurse Practitioner recently left the community; however, this position was recently filled.

Wilson Memorial General Hospital in Marathon, Ontario (approximately 95 kilometres from White River) also provides medical services/care for White River residents<sup>35</sup>. White River is part of the Algoma Public Health Unit<sup>36</sup>

The Lady Dunn Health Centre in Wawa, approximately 93 kilometres to the east, provides services to White River and several other communities. The Lady Dunn Health Centre includes 10 acute care, 2 respite, and 16 long-term care beds. Services include surgical programs, diagnostic services, therapeutic services, obstetrics, Telemedicine, and a nurse practitioner program.<sup>37</sup>

Seniors services – while limited – are also offered in White River, including geared-to-income senior housing (established in 1992), Meals on Wheels, transportation to medical appointments, shopping, banking, and some snow removal and yard cleaning. However, there is concern that health services geared to seniors are limited, and that White River seniors are sometimes forced to leave the community in order to get the care that they need.

The North East Local Health Integration Network (NELHIN) also provides outreach mental health services to residents of White River, as well as rudimentary diabetes education and care services<sup>38</sup>. Currently, NELHIN is funding a regional two-year North Algoma Health Needs Assessment project designed to coordinate existing local health services; and, improve patient care. The project is being led by the North Algoma Needs Assessment Steering Committee, which is comprised of residents and health care providers in the study region. Communities participating in the study include: Wawa, Hawk Junction, Missanabie, Michipicoten First Nation, Dubreuilville, and White River. The study for the project began in March of 2014, and is expected to be complete by December 2015.<sup>39</sup>

The Algoma District Services Administration Board (ADSB) provides services to a number of communities in the region including White River. Other than the medical clinic, Algoma EMS paramedics are the only other medical

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<sup>35</sup> Wilson Memorial General Hospital. 2013. *Welcome*. Website: <http://www.wmgh.net/article/wilson-memorial-general-hospital-1.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>36</sup> *This information was obtained from White River community discussions November, 2013.*

<sup>37</sup> Lady Dunn Health Centre. 2013. *About the Lady Dunn Health Centre*. Website: <http://www.ldhc.com/about.php?pg=2>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>38</sup> Stables, C. 2011. *North East Local Health Integration Network – Changing How Health Care is Delivered and Experienced in Wawa*.

<sup>39</sup> The Algoma News. April 23, 2014. *The North Algoma Health Needs Assessment*. Website: <http://www.thealgomanews.ca/news/local/the-north-algoma-health-needs-assessment/>. Accessed: May 2014.

service in White River<sup>40</sup>. The ADSB operates a two-bay ambulance facility; one ambulance is on site for twelve hours and the second ambulance is on standby for twelve hours<sup>41</sup>. Ambulance employees are currently brought in from Sault Ste. Marie and stay at the ambulance bay for the duration of their 48-hour shift. If needed, the White River ambulance detachment will attend calls and support first responders from neighbouring communities including Hornepayne, Marathon, and Manitouwadge.<sup>42</sup>



This summer, cancer screening services provided through the “Screen for Life” Coach will reach over 35 communities across Northwest Ontario including White River. The Coach began screenings in Dryden on March 31, 2014 and will be travelling as far as Kenora to the West and Wawa to the east, with many stops in small towns and First Nations in between. The Screen for Life Coach provides mammograms and take-home Colon Cancer Check test kits for women over 50 and cervical cancer screening Pap tests to women 30 years of age and older. The Screen for Life Coach Program helps to address issues of health care inaccessibility, providing a valuable service for men and women living in northern communities<sup>43</sup>.

### Policing

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) service the area of White River. The detachment in White River consists of one Sergeant and six Constables<sup>44</sup>.

<sup>40</sup> Algoma District Services Administration Board. n.d. *White River*. Website: [http://www.adsab.on.ca/Base\\_Locations\\_White\\_River.aspx](http://www.adsab.on.ca/Base_Locations_White_River.aspx). Accessed: February 2013.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> *This information was obtained from White River community discussions October 2013.*

<sup>43</sup> Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation. n.d. *The Screen for Life Coach: New Services Now Available*. Website: <http://www.healthsciencesfoundation.ca/article/the-screen-for-life-coach-new-services-now-available-5195.asp>.

Accessed: May 2014.

<sup>44</sup> White River Public Library. 2011. *About White River, Ontario*. Website: <http://www.whiteriverlibrary.com/index.php/about>. Accessed: February 2013.



### Fire Protection

White River has a volunteer fire department - a Fire Chief and twenty-two volunteer firefighters (a number of whom work out of town). On average, the White River Fire Department responds to 20-30 calls per year, many of which are highway calls.<sup>45</sup> The White River Fire Department stands by its Mission Statement: *“Through professionalism, dedication, integrity, and training the White River Fire Department works to safeguard the*

*lives and property and to enhance the quality of life of the people in and around White River. This will be accomplished by providing a vast range of emergency services, strong public relations, and fire safety education. We also endeavor to protect and preserve the health of our membership and return our personnel safely to their families”.*<sup>46</sup> The fire hall is in need of a new heating system.

## 2.2.2 SUMMARY OF HUMAN ASSETS

This section summarizes the Human Assets described above for White River in terms of:

- Priorities and Key Issues;
- Community Aspirations; and
- Capabilities and Capacities within the Community.

### 2.2.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES

White River’s population (approximately 607 in 2011) is lower than the peak of approximately 1,022 in 1996; but has stabilized in the past year – coinciding with the re-opening of the White River Forest Products Mill. The population is aging at a greater rate than either the Census Division or Ontario. Many residents have been forced to leave the community to seek employment following the closure of the Mill (2007); however, a number of families remain with a member ‘working away’ at mills or mines elsewhere in Northern Ontario, or Alberta. Between 2006 and 2011, the types of occupation in the community shifted away from those associated with processing/manufacturing (previously one of the top occupational categories in White River, other than trades and transport). With the re-opening of the Mill in 2013, this will have changed. Unemployment in Superior East, while high, is similar to that for the Census Division as a whole, indicating that job losses have resulted in out-migration from settlements in Superior East.

In 2011, White River’s level of educational attainment, when compared to the Census Division and Ontario, was generally lower, with the exception of the apprenticeships and trades category. Enrollment in the community’s elementary school, as well as number of elementary/high school children who travel to Wawa for education,

<sup>45</sup> Information obtained during CLC meeting February 2014 in the community of White River.

<sup>46</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *Municipal Services*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/municipal-services-5.asp>  
Accessed: October 2013.

have been decreasing as population declines and families leave the community. White River is serviced by a Health Clinic, ambulance, police, and volunteer fire department.

#### **2.2.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS**

White River worked with partners to re-open the White River Forest Products Mill in 2013. The town's Official Plan was last updated in 1983, and outlines nine Goals of Council. Many residents indicated that their future aspirations for White River include increasing the number of families and children, as well as retaining their current youth population. This would contribute to maintaining and/or increasing the current services and programs offered in White River, including: maintaining the recreation complex year round; opening a hospital and high school in town; and, reestablishing lost youth sports and extracurricular programs. For example, due to a lack of funding and capacity, the ice at the recreation complex is only maintained from January – March. The improvement of services for seniors is also a priority.

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

The active volunteer core (in particular seniors), and the successful efforts of the White River Community Development Corporation with respect to the public/private partnership with White River Forest Products, demonstrate that although White River is small in population, there is an active capacity within the community.

## 2.3 ECONOMIC ASSETS

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### 2.3.1 ECONOMIC ASSET INDICATORS

The Economic Assets within a community include resources that people use to achieve their livelihood objectives. Specific indicators within the Economic Assets category include:

- Employment
- Income
- Business Activity
- Tourism
- Economic Development Services
- Governance and Municipal Finances

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of the economic well-being of White River.

#### 2.3.1.1 EMPLOYMENT

As recorded by Statistics Canada, the unemployment rate<sup>47</sup> in White River decreased from 10.7% in 1996 to 7.6% in 2006 (see Table 3, Figure 18). However, between 2006 and 2011 the unemployment rate increased considerably to 15.4% (more than double the rate in 2006). The Census Division had a similar pattern from 1996 to 2006, and increased (although proportionally not as large as White River) in 2011. The province of Ontario had decreases in the unemployment rate from 1996 to 2001, then increases in 2006 and 2011.

White River's unemployment rate has historically been lower than the Census Division; however, in 2011 it was considerably higher. This may reflect the closure of the White River Mill in 2007, followed by its re-opening in 2013. The unemployment rate in White River was higher than that in the province in all years. It has been noted that unemployment in White River is likely to be lower now than as reported in 2011. The reopening of the Mill has created over 100 employment positions and many residents who once worked at the Mill before its closure have gone back to work.<sup>48</sup>

Residents have noted that at this time, there are opportunities for those who have remained in the community to work. Community members have noted that it is difficult to find employees to fill unskilled labour and service positions (restaurants, hotels, stores) and that these jobs are remaining vacant<sup>49</sup>. A number of workers residing in White River commute to jobs in the oil and gas/mining industry elsewhere in Ontario (e.g., Red Lake) or Alberta (e.g., Fort McMurray). With the current construction, forestry and mining exploration activities in the region, there is a reported shortage of trades/skilled workers<sup>50</sup>.

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<sup>47</sup> According to Statistics Canada 2006 Census Dictionary the unemployment rate refers to the unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 16, 2006). 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>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>48</sup> This information was obtained from White River community discussions April, 2014.

<sup>49</sup> Information obtained during April 2014 CLC meeting in the community of White River.

<sup>50</sup> While statistical knowledge gaps are most apparent in small communities such as White River, these gaps are representative of broader trends in employment data collection. According to the Globe and Mail, May 2014, the federal Auditor-General Michael Ferguson stated that Statistics Canada data contains significant gaps on job vacancies.

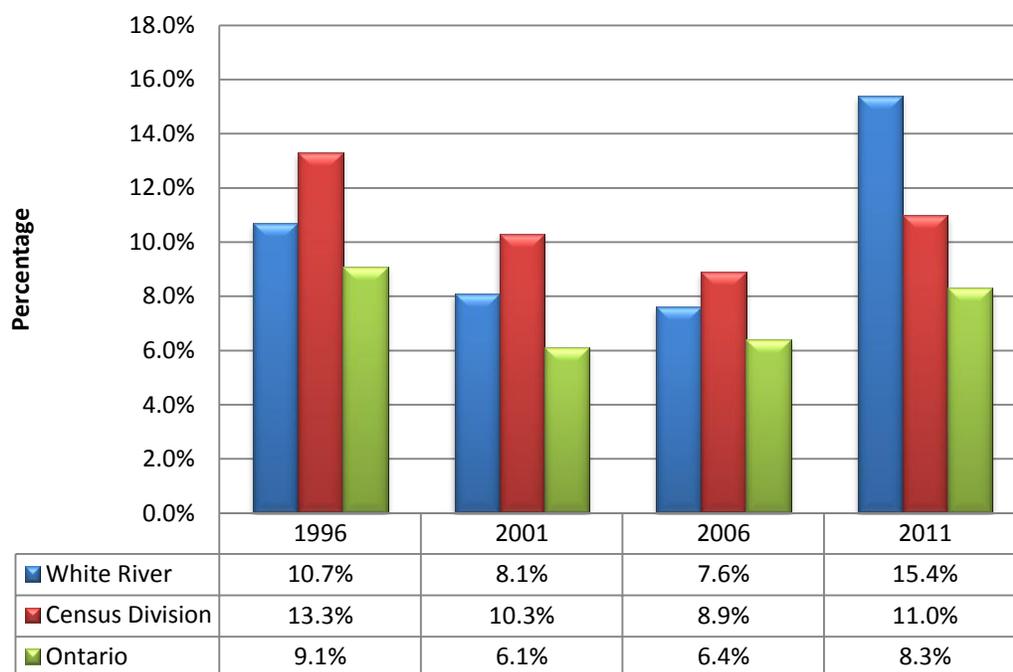
**Table 3: White River, Census Division and Ontario Total Unemployment Rates, 1996 – 2011**

Unemployment	White River	Census Division	Ontario
<b>1996</b>	10.7%	13.3%	9.1%
<b>2001</b>	8.1%	10.3%	6.1%
<b>2006</b>	7.6%	8.9%	6.4%
<b>2011</b>	15.4%	11.0%	8.3%

Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Note: Statistics Canada’s employment figures reflect whether a person was employed, unemployed or not in the labour force during the week prior to the (census) survey.

**Figure 18: White River, Census Division and Ontario Total Unemployment Rates, 1996 – 2011**



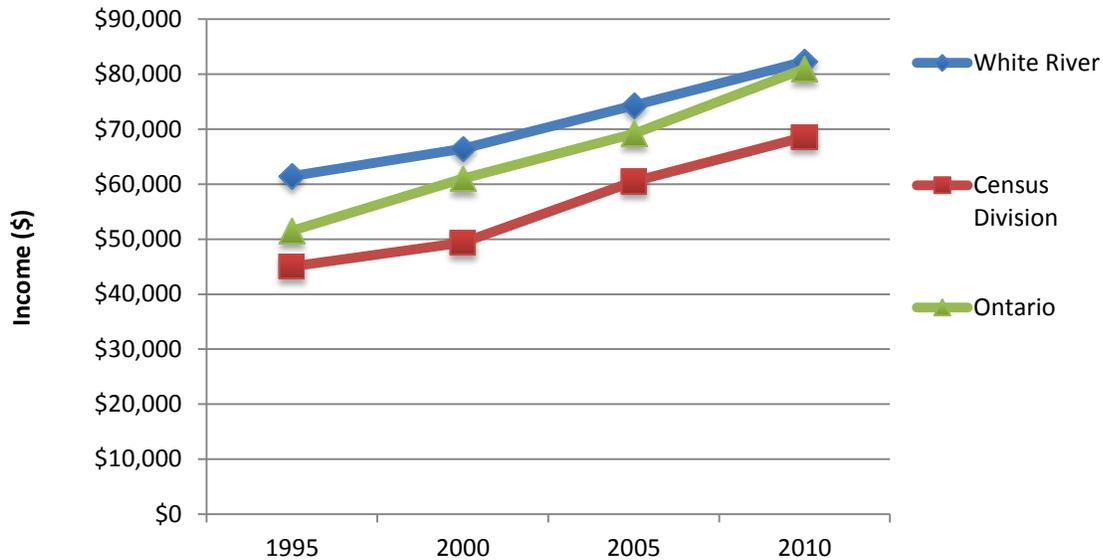
Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey.

Specifically, employment data are missing for the various and distinct regions within each province, including jobs for which labour shortages are the most severe and respective skill sets in the highest demand. Source: McKenna, Barrie. May 11, 2014. "Why Canada has a serious data deficit". *The Globe and Mail – Ottawa*. Website: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/why-canada-has-a-serious-data-deficit/article18598633/>. Accessed: July 2014.

2.3.1.2 INCOME

The median family income for White River, the Census Division, and Ontario for the 1995 – 2010 census years is illustrated in Figure 19 below. The median family income increased in White River from \$61,448 in 1995 to \$82,281 in 2010, in comparison to the Census Division (\$45,013 in 1995 to \$68,593 in 2010) and the province (\$51,520 in 1995 to \$80,987 in 2010). Median family income in White River has consistently been greater than in the Census Division and the province, but the relative difference has decreased over time.

Figure 19: White River, Census Division and Ontario Family Median Income – Trends over Time<sup>51</sup>



Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Between 2000 and 2005 the individual median income for White River increased from \$31,047 in 2000, to \$36,209 in 2005; by 2010, it had decreased to \$28,390. During the same timeframe, individual median incomes increased substantially for both the Census Division and the province (see Table 4).

As indicated in Table 4, the proportion of government transfers<sup>52</sup> as a percentage of income in White River in 2000 was 8.6%, declining slightly to 8.0% in 2005. During the same period, the proportion remained the same in the Census Division and increased by a very small amount in Ontario. However, between 2005 and 2010, the proportion of income from government transfers more than doubled in White River. In 2010 it was much greater than the province’s (19.0% vs. 12.3%) but only slightly less than the Census Division’s (19.7%).

<sup>51</sup> When calculating Median Income, *all census families* category was used for 1995, 2000, and 2005. This is a consistent category that can be compared across each census year.

<sup>52</sup> According to Statistics Canada, Government transfer payments “refers to all cash benefits received from federal, provincial, territorial or municipal governments during [2000, 2005, and] 2010, as indicated in Table 5. This variable is derived by summing the amounts reported in: the Old Age Security pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement, Allowance and Allowance for the Survivor; benefits from Canada Pension Plan or Quebec Pension Plan; benefits from Employment Insurance; child benefits; other income from government sources.” Statistics Canada. 2013. *Appendix A: Variable Definition*. Website: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-221-x/2012002/regions/app-ann/app1-ann1-eng.htm>. Accessed: May 2014.

**Table 4: White River, Census Division and Ontario Individual Income Characteristics, 2000 – 2010**

Income Characteristics	2000			2005			2010		
	White River	Census Division	Ontario	White River	Census Division	Ontario	White River	Census Division	Ontario
<b>Total number of persons 15 years and over (counts)</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>90,645</b>	<b>8,598,560</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>94,060</b>	<b>9,340,020</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>97,665</b>	<b>10,473,670</b>
<b>Median individual income (\$)</b>	\$31,047	\$19,777	\$24,816	\$36,209	\$24,427	\$27,258	\$28,390	\$28,914	\$30,526
Earnings - % of income <sup>53</sup>	86.2%	68.7%	78.7%	85.6%	66.6%	77.4%	75.6% <sup>54</sup>	61.7%	70.1%
Government transfers - % of income	8.6%	16.9%	9.8%	8.0%	16.9%	9.8%	19.0%	19.7%	12.3%
Other Money - % of income	5.5%	14.4%	11.5%	6.1% <sup>55</sup>	16.5%	12.9%	0.9% <sup>56</sup>	1.2%	1.7%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007 *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey. Note: only selected Stats Can Income categories used.

<sup>53</sup> The 2011 National Household Survey refers to this category as *Wages and Salaries (%)* for 2010. The 2011 National Household Survey calculates as Earnings % of income as 'Wages and salaries' – "Refers to gross wages and salaries before deductions for such items as income tax, pensions and Employment Insurance. Included in this source are military pay and allowances, tips, commissions and cash bonuses, benefits from wage-loss replacement plans or income-maintenance insurance plans, supplementary unemployment benefits from an employer or union as well as all types of casual earnings during calendar year 2010. Other employment income such as taxable benefits, research grants and royalties are included".

<sup>54</sup> The 2011 National Household Survey calculates as Earnings % of income as 'Wages and salaries' – "Refers to gross wages and salaries before deductions for such items as income tax, pensions and Employment Insurance. Included in this source are military pay and allowances, tips, commissions and cash bonuses, benefits from wage-loss replacement plans or income-maintenance insurance plans, supplementary unemployment benefits from an employer or union as well as all types of casual earnings during calendar year 2010. Other employment income such as taxable benefits, research grants and royalties are included".

<sup>55</sup> According to the 2006 Census, Statistics Canada does not have a specific definition for the **Other Money** category; but, define the **Composition of Total Income** - Composition of income of a population group or a geographic area refers to the relative share of each income source or group of sources, expressed as a percentage of the aggregate total income of that group or area. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River Community Profile*.

Website: [http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/details/page\\_Definitions.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3557091&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&Data=Count&SearchText=white%20river&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=Income%20and%20earnings&Custom=&LineID=30003](http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/details/page_Definitions.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3557091&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&Data=Count&SearchText=white%20river&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=Income%20and%20earnings&Custom=&LineID=30003). Accessed October 2013.

<sup>56</sup> According to the 2011 National Household Survey, **Other money income** - Refers to regular cash income received during calendar year 2010 and not reported in any of the other sources listed on the questionnaire. For example, severance pay and retirement allowances, alimony, child support, periodic support from other persons not in the household, income from abroad (excluding dividends and interest), non-refundable scholarships, bursaries, fellowships and study grants, and artists' project grants are included. Statistics Canada. 2012. *National Household Survey*. Website: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3557091&Data=Count&SearchText=white%20river&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&A1=All&B1=All&Custom=&TABID=1>. Accessed: July 2014.

### 2.3.1.3 BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Local business activity in White River includes a variety of services ranging from accommodations, automotive and gas, banks, campgrounds, construction, electrical, government, recreation and leisure, retail, and transportation.<sup>57</sup> Table 5 outlines the largest private sector employers; Table 6 lists major public sector employers in White River<sup>58</sup>. A number of workers residing in White River do commute to jobs in the oil and gas/mining industry elsewhere in Ontario (e.g., Red Lake) or Alberta (e.g., Fort McMurray). With the current construction, forestry and mining exploration activities in the region, there is a reported shortage of trades/skilled workers.

Residents also found employment in the forestry industry at neighbouring mills after White River's mill closed down in 2007; some have returned to work at White River Forest Products since it re-opened in 2013. Some residents also took to retirement when the Mill closed, some of whom have also returned to work at White River Forest Products.

Pic Mobert First Nation has begun construction of the White River Hydro Project, approximately 50 km south of White River. The project began in 2013 and is expected to take two years to complete.<sup>59</sup> The project is a joint venture between Regional Power and Pic Mobert First Nation. There are two separate generation sites, Gitchi Animki Bezhig (Upper) and Gitchi Animki Niizh (Lower) that are located 10 km from each other; both are 'greenfield' projects. The project uses a 21 km new transmission line and has combined total design capacity of 18.9 MW.

Beginning in February 2014, a 200 worker camp was being established on-site for this two-year construction project. Residents and businesses have noted increased activity in town by contractors and equipment in relation to the hydro-electric project, as well as the Mill.

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<sup>57</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *Business Directory*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/business-directory121.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>58</sup> NOTE: The number of employees listed in Tables 5 and 6 identify only the number of White River residents working for the employer and do not reflect the total number of employees for that particular employer.

<sup>59</sup> Regional Power. 2011. *White River Hydro Project*. Website: <http://www.regionalpower.com/projects/under-construction/white-river>. Accessed: March 2014.

**Table 5: White River's Largest Private Sector Employers, 2013**

Company	Industry Sector	Number of Employees <sup>60</sup>
White River Forest Products Mill	Forestry	100
Albert & Sons Ltd.	Hospitality/tourism	25
Canadian Pacific Railway	Rail/transportation	15
Belisle Builders	Construction Contracting	15
Barrick Gold Corp. – Hemlo Mines	Mining	25
North Central Cooperative	Retail/food	12
Kabi Lake Forest Products	Forestry	12
A&W Restaurant	Hospitality	12
Spadoni Bros. Ltd.	Construction/hardware	10
Harte Gold	Mining	6-10
Home Hardware	Retail	8
Bert Trucking	Transportation	8
Esso	Tourism/Automotive	8
Green Forest	Forestry Consultants	3

Source: Township of White River. 2013. *Major Employers. Some of this information was also obtained from White River community discussions in 2013 / 2014.*

**Table 6: White River's Largest Public Sector Employers, 2013**

Employer	Industry Sector	Number of Employees <sup>61</sup>
Township of White River	Municipal	20
St. Basil's School	Education	9 (+4 employees at the daycare centre)
Ministry of Transportation	Government	10
Ontario Provincial Police	Government	8
Superior Children's Centre – Ontario Early Years (White River Best Start Hub)	Education	4
Canada Post	Government	4

Source: Township of White River. 2013. *Major Employers. Some of this information was also obtained from White River community discussions in 2013/ January 2014.*

<sup>46</sup> The numbers of employees for each major private sector employers are approximations. Some of this information was obtained from White River community discussions November 2013/January 2014.

<sup>61</sup> The numbers of employees for each major public sector employers are approximations. Some of this information was obtained from White River community discussions January 2014.

## Forestry

In 2006, twenty-eight communities in Northern Ontario had approximately 20% of their labour force employed in the forest industry based on 2006 census data. White River was one of those communities, with 42.2% of its labour force working in forestry<sup>62</sup>. Prior to 2007, Domtar Forest Products was a major employer in the area, operating a sawmill and co-generation facility in the White River Forest. This mill was originally established in the 1970s by Abitibi Price<sup>63</sup>. The White River Mill facility continued operations in 1995, following the issuance of a Sustainable Forestry License by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. In January 2007, the Mill closed, resulting in significant job losses in the community. The Mill was then purchased in 2009 by White River Forest Products, a partnership between the Town of White River Community Development Corporation, Pic Mobert First Nation, and Frank Dottori and Butler Consultants. Through this partnership arrangement, back taxes owed on the Mill property were paid and a finance structure for reopening secured. Initially, the plan was to re-open the White River Mill in 2010. However, in 2011, the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines announced that Rentech Incorporated, a renewable energy and fertilizer company, was awarded a wood supply contract to convert up to 1.3 million US tons of Crown timber into jet fuel and renewable naphtha which could then be used for biodegradable plastics<sup>64</sup>. The proposal, referred to as the Olympiad Renewable Energy Centre, would have created 83 full-time jobs in White River and 300 indirect woodland jobs by April 2015 when the Centre was expected to be operational<sup>65</sup>.

In May 2013, Rentech announced it would not proceed with plans to use the White River Mill, and instead would acquire the former Weyerhaeuser Oriented Strandboard Mill in Wawa, and the Atikokan Renewable Fuels Mill to produce wood pellets<sup>66</sup>. This resulted in the 2011 allocation of Crown timber not being utilized<sup>67</sup>.

The timber supply is situated in the area managed by Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corporation (NFMFC)<sup>68</sup>. NFMFC is the first local forest management corporation in Ontario, established under the Ontario Forest Modernization Act in 2012. Nawiinginokiima is an Ojibway word that means “working together.” NFMFC was established to operate within a defined management area that includes the communities of the Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation, Pic Mobert First Nation, Hornepayne Aboriginal community, Marathon,

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<sup>62</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2010. *Annual Report on Forest Management 2008/2009*. Website: [http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@forests/documents/document/stdprod\\_100058.pdf](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@forests/documents/document/stdprod_100058.pdf). Accessed: February 2013.

<sup>63</sup> Township of White River, Ontario. 2014. *About White River*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/about-white-river-3.asp>. Accessed: May 2014.

<sup>64</sup> Dobrovnik, Frank. 2011. “Energy company to create 83 new jobs in White River (UPDATED)”. *The Sault Star*. Website: <http://www.saultstar.com/2011/05/06/energy-company-to-create-83-new-jobs-in-white-river-updated> Accessed: February 2013.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>66</sup> Northern Ontario Business. 2013. “Rentech drops woody jet fuel for wood pellets”. *Northern Ontario Business*. Website: <http://www.northernontariobusiness.com/Industry-News/forestry/2013/05/Rentech-drops-woody-jet-fuel-for-wood-pellets.aspx>. Accessed: May 2013.

<sup>67</sup> Levay, Lauren. 2013. “Ontario’s biomass jet fuel project up in the air”. *The Working Forest Newspaper*. Website: <http://www.workingforest.com/ontarios-biomass-jet-fuel-project-air/>. Accessed: October 2013; DPR Canada. October 2013. *Community Profile, Wawa Ontario – Draft*. Prepared for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Website: [http://www.nwmo.ca/uploads\\_managed/MediaFiles/2250\\_2013-11-15\\_cwba\\_wawa\\_community\\_profile\\_draft-v11.pdf](http://www.nwmo.ca/uploads_managed/MediaFiles/2250_2013-11-15_cwba_wawa_community_profile_draft-v11.pdf). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>68</sup> Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corporation. 2014. *About NFMFC - Overview*. Website: <http://www.nfmcforestry.ca/about.aspx>. Accessed: February 2014.

Hornepayne, Manitouwadge and White River. The area is comprised of four management units – Big Pic, Pic River, White River and Nagagami Forests.

The White River Mill reopened in September 2013, running one shift with approximately 70 employees. A second shift was started in January 2014.<sup>69</sup> Despite some challenges finding qualified trades people, there are approximately 100 people that are now working at the Mill, which is focused on making 2x4 and 2x6 boards.<sup>70</sup> There is a plentiful wood supply in the area.<sup>71</sup> White River Forest Products is also working to bring the 7.5 megawatt co-generation facility back online.

## Mining

Located approximately 40 kilometres east of Marathon and approximately 50 kilometres west of White River, Barrick Gold Corporation's Hemlo property consists of the David Bell Mine (underground) and the Williams mine (underground and open pit). The property is accessible via the TransCanada Highway 17 approximately 60 km west of White River. Both mines share milling, process, and tailings facilities<sup>72</sup>. The Hemlo mines support nearby towns including White River, Marathon, and Manitouwadge<sup>73</sup>. However, David Bell closed in April/May 2014, resulting in a loss of approximately 100 jobs. Approximately 25 White River residents, and several from Pic Mobert First Nation, work at the Hemlo Mines<sup>74</sup>.

Richmont Mines has operated the Island Gold Mine and Mill just southeast of Dubreuilville since 2007 (approximately 100 km from White River).<sup>75</sup> A number of White River residents are employed there. New mines are proposed near Marathon (Stillwater Canada's proposed Marathon Platinum Group Metals and Copper Mine Project, currently on hiatus<sup>76</sup>) and Dubreuilville (Prodigy Gold's redevelopment of the Magino Gold Mine).

Several exploration projects are also active in the area (e.g., the Harte Gold 'Sugar Zone' property northeast of White River; see Figure 20)<sup>77</sup>. Surveying at the Harte Gold site is now underway and the Ministry of Natural Resources will be working on land transfers once the surveying is complete. White River Forest Products will also do a joint-venture with Harte Gold to open a new road to the future mine site.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> Information obtained during CLC meeting February 2014 in the community of White River.

<sup>70</sup> Information obtained by DPRA during an interview with a CLC member, October 2013; Information obtained during CLC meeting February 2014 in the community of White River.

<sup>71</sup> Information obtained during CLC meeting February 2014 in the community of White River.

<sup>72</sup> InfoMine Inc. 2013. *Mine Sites – Hemlo*. Website: <http://www.infomine.com/minesite/minesite.asp?site=hemlo>. Accessed: February 2014.

<sup>73</sup> Canadian Mining Journal. 2012. *Hemlo Shines – Barrick Gold's only Canadian mines still going strong after 26 years: Mines extend life thanks to faith and investment*. Website: <http://www.canadianminingjournal.com/news/hemlo-shines/1000938133/>. Accessed: February 2014.

<sup>74</sup> Information obtained by DPRA during an interview with a community member, November 2013

<sup>75</sup> Richmont Mines. 2013. *Island Gold*. Website: [http://www.richmont-mines.com/op\\_operations\\_islandgold](http://www.richmont-mines.com/op_operations_islandgold). Accessed: January 2014

<sup>76</sup> Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. 2014. *Marathon Platinum Group Metals and Copper Mine Project*. Website: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=54755>. Accessed: February 2014.

<sup>77</sup> Harte Gold Corp. n.d. *Sugar Zone*. Website: <http://www.hartegold.com/properties/sugar-zone/>. Accessed: February 2014.

<sup>78</sup> Information obtained during CLC meeting February 2014 in the community of White River.

Figure 20: Map of Harte Gold Corp.’s Sugar Zone Property



Source: Harte Gold Corp. 2014. *Properties: Sugar Zone*. Website: <http://www.hartegold.com/properties/sugar-zone/>. Accessed: February 2014.

**2.3.1.4 TOURISM**

White River’s Tourism Information Center is located along Highway 17, and is open seasonally. One of the community’s main tourist attractions is ‘Winnie’s Hometown Festival’, which takes place annually during the third weekend of August. The festival celebrates White River as the hometown of the original black bear that became the popular Winnie-the-Pooh character. In 2014, the festival will be tied into White River’s 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as well as the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the original Winnie-the-Pooh black bear (thought to be born in 1914). White River’s involvement and promotion of Winnie-the-Pooh is done in collaboration with Walt Disney.

The Township of White River possesses a license to produce, ship, and sell Winnie-the-Pooh merchandise. A large private collection of Winnie-the-Pooh memorabilia and collectors’ items are currently on loan to the White River Museum from an American collector.<sup>79</sup> A number of murals can be found throughout the community.



<sup>79</sup> This information was obtained from White River community discussions October and November, 2013.

In addition, White River offers outfitting experiences for people interested in hunting and fishing. These services are offered by: Les' Bear Hunts and Outfitting Service, Superior Bear Outfitters, and North to Adventure<sup>80</sup>. White River also markets itself as a location for the outdoor adventure enthusiast; however, economic circumstances, nationally and internationally, have adversely affected the tourism market in White River and elsewhere in northern Ontario (e.g., declining numbers of American visitors; less vehicle-based tourism). As such, the contribution of tourism to the economy of White River may continue to decline in the future. For example, organized snowmobiling has declined and this is tied to the decline in tourism from Ontario and the United States and the high costs of maintaining an organized trail system. White River is not part of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs and so the trails are no longer being groomed<sup>81</sup>. A number of provincial and national parks, conservation reserves in the area also attract tourists interested in canoeing/kayaking, camping, hiking, fishing and other activities (see Section 2.6, below). Visitors to White River can also enjoy sightseeing tours by White River Air<sup>82</sup>.

### 2.3.1.5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic development services in White River were provided by the Economic Development Office, which provided assistance to business plan preparation, grants/loans, research/feasibility studies, as well as project implementation. Unfortunately due to lack of funding, White River has not had an Economic Development Officer since 2010. The White River Economic Development Committee, restarted when the Mill closed, provides the Township with advice, direction, and support for small business development and the implementation of strategic community plans<sup>83</sup>. The Committee is exploring the potential for tourism and mineral development; the re-opening of the White River Forest Products Mill has been a recent success story.

White River also has a Community Development Corporation, one of the partners in the recently restarted White River Forest Products Mill. Currently, there is no approved Economic Development Plan for White River; however, the White River Community Development Corporation and the Township of White River are working together to finalize a Strategic Economic Plan<sup>84</sup>. The most recent plan of this nature was the 2007 Regional Investment Strategic Plan for the Superior East Alliance, which is not exclusive to White River<sup>85</sup>.

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<sup>80</sup> Township of White River, 2014. *Tourism & Outfitting*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/tourism--outfitting-204.asp>. Accessed: November 2014.

<sup>81</sup> A CLC member noted that in 1990, White River had 150 km of snowmobile trails to maintain. Information obtained from a CLC member April 2014 in the community of White River.

<sup>82</sup> White River Public Library. 2011. *About White River, Ontario*. Website: <http://www.whiteriverlibrary.com/index.php/about>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>83</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *Economic Plans and Services*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/economic-plans--services-155.asp>. Accessed: February 2014.

<sup>84</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>85</sup> Algoma Workforce Investment Corporation. January 2011. *Labour Force Analysis and Human Resource Development Strategy for the District of Algoma*. Prepared by R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd. Website: [http://www.awic.ca/documents/assets/uploads/files/en/labour\\_force\\_analysis\\_and\\_workforce\\_development\\_strategy\\_june\\_2011.pdf](http://www.awic.ca/documents/assets/uploads/files/en/labour_force_analysis_and_workforce_development_strategy_june_2011.pdf). Accessed: October 2013.

The region is served by the Superior East Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC), a non-profit organization funded by FedNor/Industry Canada and established in September, 1989. The Superior East region includes the communities of Chapleau, Dubreuilville, Wawa, and White River and First Nations located in the region<sup>86</sup>. CFDC offers small business loans and counselling to the residents of the region. The CFDC also assists with:

- Strategic community planning and socio-economic development;
- Support for community-based projects;
- Business information and planning services; and,
- Access to capital for small and medium-sized businesses and social enterprises<sup>87</sup>.

### 2.3.1.6 GOVERNANCE AND MUNICIPAL FINANCES

#### Overview of Governance

The mayor and council (as of December 2014) are:

- Mayor Angelo Bazzoni;
- Councillor Ted Greenwood;
- Councillor Raymond St. Louis;
- Councillor Louise Seguin; and,
- Councillor Rodney Swarek.<sup>88</sup>

#### An Overview of White River's Municipal Finances

The Township of White River has grown from a small railway town to a community with investment interest in forestry, mining and tourism. This was made possible with the completion of the Trans-Canada Highway in 1961, and the establishment of the Abitibi Price Lumber Mill in the 1970's, which was later owned by Domtar Forest Products, and recently re-opened by White River Forest Products.<sup>89</sup>

Presently, the Township generates revenue primarily through taxes (property and payments in lieu of taxes), grants (conditional and unconditional) and user's fees/service charges. Economic activity is centred on forestry – particularly White River Forest Products, which is one of the major employers in the Township, Kabi Lake Forest Products, mining through the activities of Barrick's Hemlo Mines, employment with Canadian Pacific Railway and the public sector.<sup>90</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> Superior East Community Futures Development Corporation. 2006. *About Us*. Website: <http://www.superioreast.on.ca/frame1.asp> Accessed: February 2013.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>88</sup> Association of Municipalities Ontario. 2013. 2014 Municipal Election – White River. Website: <http://www.amo.on.ca/election2014.aspx>. Accessed: November 2014.

<sup>89</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *About White River*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/about-white-river-3.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>90</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *Major Employers*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/private-sector-167.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

The statement of financial position reports on White River's revenue fund, expenditures, assets, liabilities and its accumulated surplus annually.<sup>91</sup> These figures are useful indicators of how the Township's financial position has improved or deteriorated over time.<sup>92</sup> For financial reporting purposes, the Township reports on all funds, organizations, agencies, and or boards for which it is financially responsible. The Township provides general government services including fire protection, water and sewer maintenance, trash disposal, and recreational facilities to its residents. Similar to most Northern communities, White River is dependent on revenues from property taxes, Provincial and Federal grants (conditional and unconditional), user fees and charges for services such as recreational and cultural facilities (libraries, etc.) and other fees (e.g., licenses, permits and rents, fines and penalties). The analysis of the Township's revenues, expenses assets and liabilities provides insight into White River's fiscal performance. This overview spans the period 2000 – 2012.

### Financial Summary/Highlights, 2000 – 2012

- The revenue fund was the highest in 2007 compared to any other year;
- Between 2000 and 2012, the Township's revenues decreased by \$107,982 or 3.76%;
- Taxes, grants, user fees and service charges were the main contributors to the Township's revenue fund;
- In 2002, tax (taxes and payment in lieu of taxation) accounted for 42.9% of total revenue receipts, the highest over the period 2000 to 2012;
- White River's operating expenses were the highest in 2009 at \$3,611,634;
- On average, spending on materials, salaries, wages, and employee benefits accounted for more than 50% of all spending by the Township for all years under consideration;
- Spending on materials decreased by 23.4 points from 53% in 2000 to 29.6% in 2012;
- Expenditure for salaries, wages and employee benefits decreased from 35.9% of total expenses in 2000 to 28.5% in 2012;
- Though the value of the Town's total assets and liabilities varied throughout the period, total liabilities exceeded total assets for all years with the exception of 2002 to 2003 and 2007;
- The Township experienced a marked increase in its liabilities from \$841,186 in 2003 to \$4,174,061 in 2004;
- The most significant disparity between assets and liabilities occurred between the period 2004 to 2006.

### Trend in Revenue 2000 - 2012<sup>93</sup>

Revenues are income to the Township. They are typically used to pay for the services that the residents receive. The three main sources of revenue for the Township of White River include: taxes (property), grants (conditional and unconditional) and users fees/service charges. Though the Township receives revenues from other sources, variations in the contribution of the three main sources would have an immediate and direct

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<sup>91</sup> Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2012. *Fiscal Context/Financial Administration*. Website: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page8393.aspx>. Accessed: October 2013.

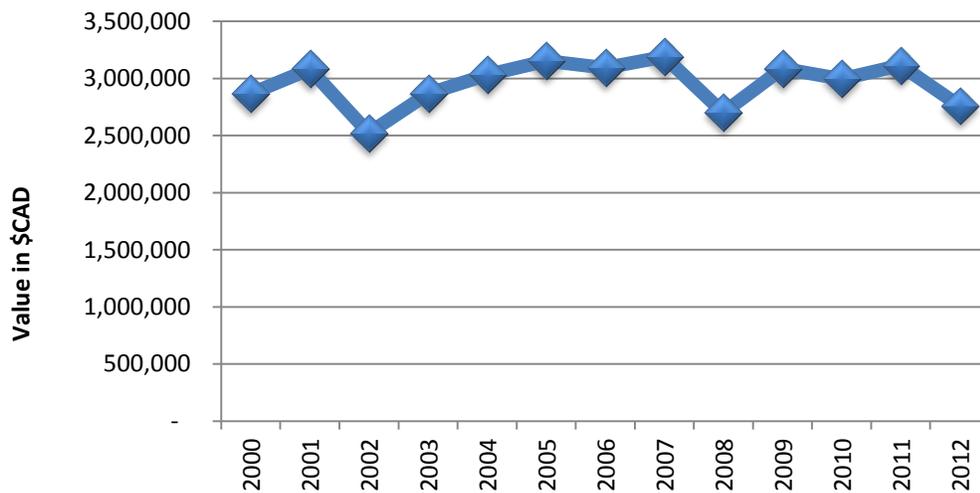
<sup>92</sup> Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2010. *The Municipal Councillors Guide*. Website: [www.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4965](http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4965). Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>93</sup> The categories/line items used to calculate total revenue between 2000 to 2008, and 2009 to 2012 will not (in all cases) be comparable across the two periods. As such the total revenue figures reflect the sum total of all the categories/line items recorded for a particular year.

impact of revenue receipts in any given year. Figure 21 shows the trend in revenue funds between 2000 and 2012.<sup>94</sup>

The increase in revenue was relatively constant with the exception of 2002, 2008 and 2012 periods, when the Township experienced marked declines in revenue receipts. A review of the Financial Information for those years shows that in 2002 revenue from ‘Other Municipalities’ declined from \$344,620 in 2001 to \$7,790 in 2002. Revenue receipts from ‘Other Revenue’ also declined from \$219,383 in 2001 to \$65,642 in 2002. In 2008, revenue from ‘Ontario Conditional Grants’ declined from \$1,093,477 to \$618,612. Similarly, in 2012, ‘Ontario Grants for Tangible Capital Assets’ dropped \$270,589 between 2011 and 2012.

**Figure 21: White River’s Revenue – 2000 to 2012**



Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm>. Accessed: February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on – By Municipality*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm>. Accessed: February 2014.

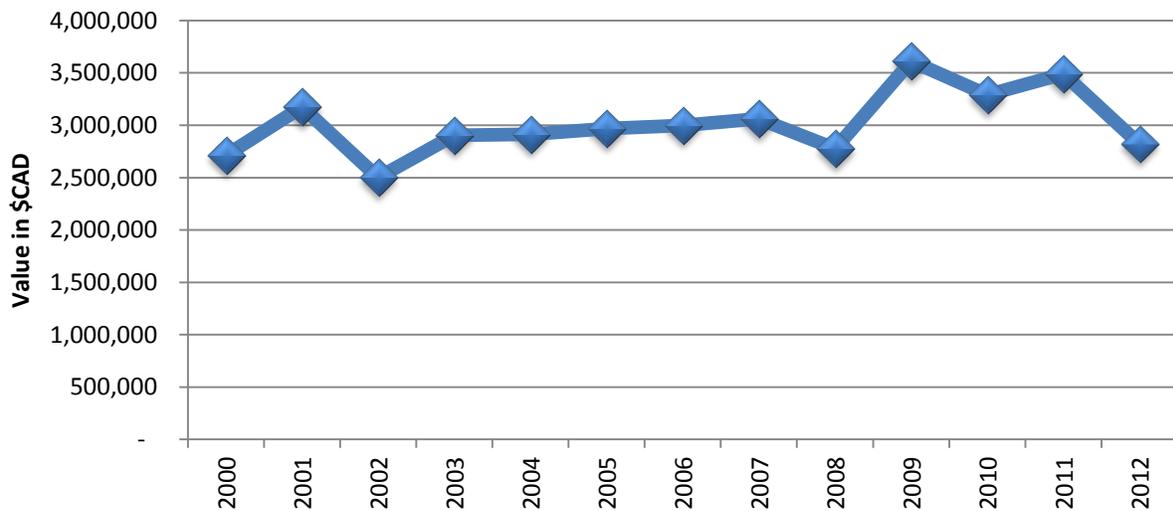
**Operating Expenditure<sup>95</sup>**

Operating expenditures relate to the cost incurred by the Township in its regular business activities. The total operating expenditure for the Township has shown some variation; however, it remained relatively stable with periodic incidences of decline between 2000 and 2012 (see Figure 22).

<sup>94</sup> See the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm>. Accessed: February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on – By Municipality*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm>. Accessed: February 2014.

<sup>95</sup> The categories/line items used to calculate operating expenditure between 2000 to 2008, and 2009 to 2012 will not (in all cases) be comparable across the two periods. As such the total expenditure figures reflect the sum total of all the categories/line items recorded for a particular year.

Figure 22: Operating Expenditure for the Township of White River – 2000 to 2012



Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm>. Accessed: February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on – By Municipality*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm>. Accessed: February 2014.

Operating expenditure for the Township peaked in 2009, increasing by 33% from the 2000 (\$2,712,533) figure. The main operating expenses for the municipality included spending on materials and salaries, wages and employee benefits.<sup>96</sup>

**Inflation**

Inflation is the increase in prices of goods and services or a decrease in the value of money. The *rate of inflation*<sup>97</sup> in Canada refers to inflation 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. Governments typically try to control or maintain inflationary rates between 2-3%. In Canada, the inflation target has stood at 2% since the early 1990s.<sup>98</sup> Assessments are then made on how much the CPI has increased/decreased in terms of percentage over a certain period of time in comparison to the CPI in a preceding period.<sup>99</sup>

<sup>96</sup> See the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. *The Multi-Year FIR Review (2000 to 2008 & 2009 onwards) - By Municipality for a detailed breakdown of the categories/line items used in the determination of the Township’s total expenditures*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-202008.htm>. Accessed: February 2014.

<sup>97</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. 2013. *Inflation Canada – consumer price index (CPI)*. Website: <http://www.global-rates.com/economic-indicators/inflation/inflation-information.aspx>. Accessed: October 2013.

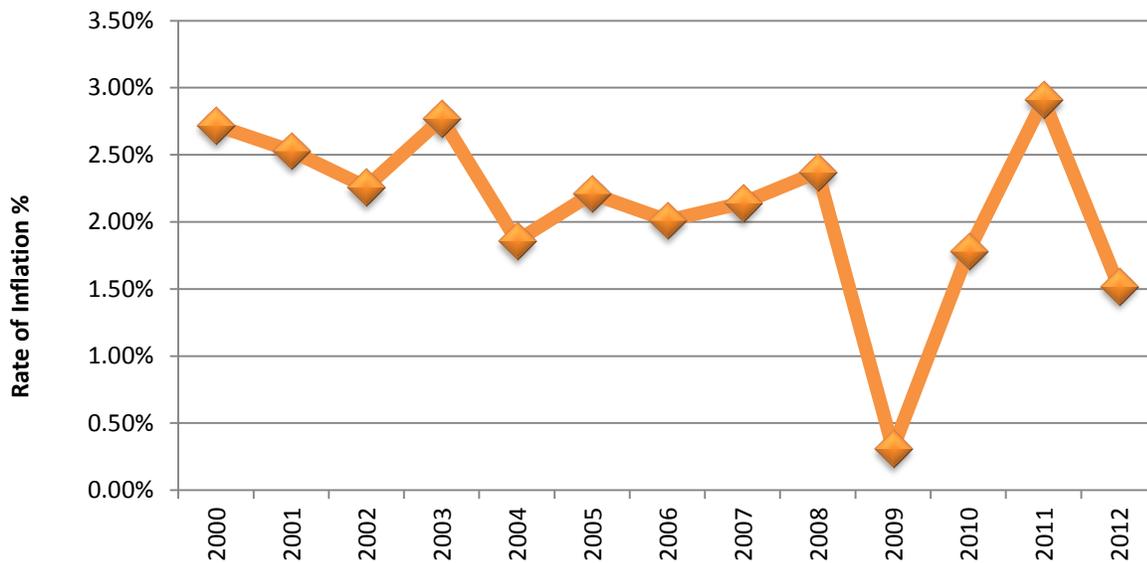
<sup>98</sup> Bank of Canada. 2013. *Backgrounder: Why has Canada’s Inflation Target Been Set at 2 Per Cent?* Website: <http://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/indicators/key-variables/inflation-control-target/>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>99</sup> Global Rates. 2013. *Inflation Canada – consumer price index (CPI)*. Website: <http://www.global-rates.com/economic-indicators/inflation/inflation-information.aspx>. Accessed: October 2013.

Low, stable and predictable inflation serves to increase confidence in the value of money and encourages consumer spending and investments. Higher inflation rates have a negative impact on economic growth as consumers spend less, interest rates increase and investments decline.<sup>100</sup> Inflation rates also have a direct impact on the value of municipal spending. In the case of the Township of White River, high inflation rates are likely to have serious and immediate consequences due to the town’s narrow revenue base in relation to its expenditure. 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 Township can purchase in any one year. Thus, if revenues have not increased proportionally to inflation, fewer resources may be available to the Township.

Figure 23 below shows the average annual inflation rates for Canada between 2000 and 2012. Between 2000 and 2009, the CPI inflation rate was on a downward trend, declining to its lowest in 2009 (0.31%). The average annual inflation rate subsequently peaked in 2011 (2.91%), but fell thereafter.

**Figure 23: Average Annual Inflation for Canada (CPI) – 2000 to 2012**



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

<sup>100</sup> Trading Economics.2012. *Canada Inflation Rate.* Website: <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/canada/inflation-cpi>. Accessed: October 2013.

Table 8 shows the value of the Township's expenditure at constant year 2002 dollars.<sup>101</sup> The constant dollar analysis would account for the inflation and its effects on spending and also revenue receipts. The values shown in the tables were derived using Statistics Canada CANSIM data tables.<sup>102</sup> By using 2002 as the base year, the real value of the goods and services purchased by the Township can be assessed. Table 8 shows that the value of money today, is not the same as the value in 2002; for example: \$1 in 2002 is now worth \$1.217 in 2012. Data from Statistics Canada CANSIM tables show that by 2012, inflation accounted for close to quarter of the value of the dollar compared to 2002. Consequently, the Township would have needed more money in 2012 (due to inflation) to provide the same services as it did in 2002.

**Table 7: Value of White River's Expenditure Expressed at Base Year Prices (2002)**

Year	Tot. Exp. Current \$	Exp. Base Year (2002) \$	Inflation Factor
2002	2,499,466	2,499,466	1.000
2003	2,904,640	2,823,310	1.028
2004	2,913,700	2,776,756	1.047
2005	2,967,916	2,760,162	1.070
2006	2,999,191	2,726,265	1.091
2007	3,063,323	2,711,041	1.115
2008	2,777,450	2,385,830	1.141
2009	3,611,634	3,091,559	1.144
2010	3,290,214	2,747,329	1.165
2011	3,491,334	2,796,559	1.199
2012	2,817,928	2,206,438	1.217

Source: Statistics Canada. 2014. *Table 326-0021 - Consumer Price Index (CPI), 2011 Basket, Annual (2002=100)*, CANSIM Database. Website: <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a21#F9>. Accessed: February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm> . Accessed February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on - By Municipality*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm> Accessed: February 2014.

The Township's total expenditure in 2012 (i.e., \$2.8 million) represents the nominal dollar value for that year. However, \$2.8 million in 2012 expressed using the base year (i.e., 2002) dollars is equivalent to \$2.2 million. Further examination of the data also reveals that the expenditure in 2012 (expressed in base year dollars, \$2,206,438) was lower than the amount spent by the Township in 2002 (\$2,499,466).

<sup>101</sup>According to Statistics Canada the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is an indicator of the changes in consumer prices and measures price change by comparing over time the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services. The CPI compares (in percentage terms) prices in any given time period to prices in the official base year which is current 2002. (See footnotes 1 and 3). Statistics Canada.2014. *Table 326-0021 - Consumer Price Index (CPI), 2011 Basket, Annual (2002=100)*, CANSIM Database. Website: <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a21#F9>. Accessed February 2014.

<sup>102</sup> Statistics Canada (2014). *Table 326-0021 - Consumer Price Index (CPI), 2011 basket, Annual (2002=100)*, CANSIM Database. Retrieved on February 4, 2014 from Website: <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a21#F9>

## Financial Assets and Liabilities

### Assets

Assets are items of value owned by the Township. Assets may be tangible physical items or intangible items with no physical form. These add value to the Township's budget and are important to its financial performance. The main contributors to the Township's financial assets include cash and temporary investments, and accounts and taxes receivables.<sup>103</sup>

The value of White River's financial assets showed much variation between 2000 and 2012. There were marked increases in 2004 (\$2,625,498), again in 2007 (\$3,140,813) and in 2011 (\$2,521,925) (see Figure 24)<sup>104</sup>. The increase in the value of assets in 2004 could be attributed to an increase in accounts receivable by 293% (from \$481,490 to \$1,893,260). Similarly, in 2007 cash and temporary investments increased by \$1,881,302, (from \$239,603 to \$2,120,905); this would have significantly affected the value of the Township's total assets.

### Liabilities

The Township's financial liabilities are debts which arise from past transactions or events, and which the local council is obligated to settle by means of transfer or use of assets. The main liabilities included the Township's obligations to repay temporary loans, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and other long-term liabilities.<sup>105</sup>

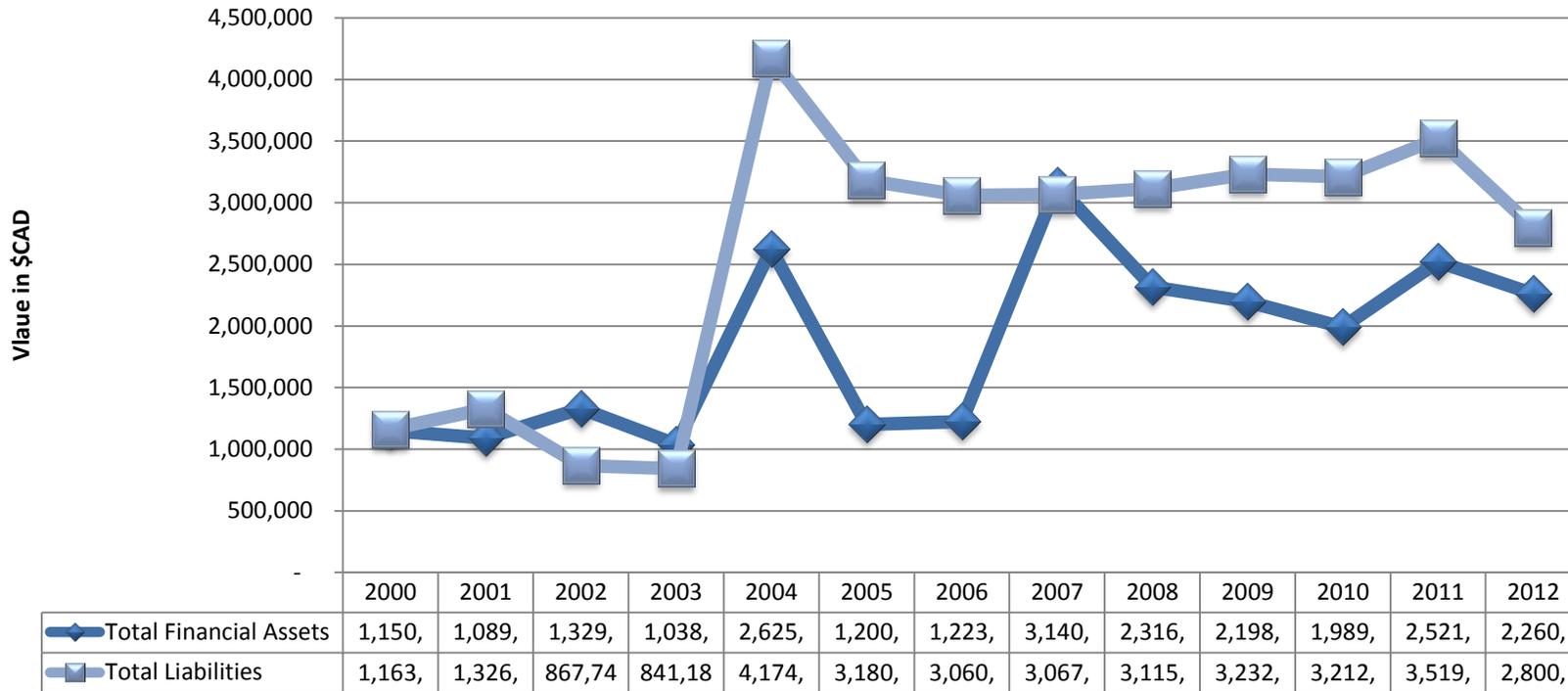
The value of the Township's liabilities remained below \$1.5 million between 2000 and 2003. In 2004, total liabilities peaked at \$4.17 million and remained relatively constant thereafter. The increase in liabilities in 2004 coincides with an increase in the repayments to temporary loans and long-term liabilities. Overall, the Township's liabilities were in excess of its assets for all years with the exception of 2002 to 2003 and 2007 (See Figure 24).

<sup>103</sup> See the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The Multi-Year FIR Review (2000 to 2008 & 2009 onwards) - By Municipality for a detailed breakdown of the categories/line items used in the determination of the Township's total assets. Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 & 2009 Onwards - By Municipality*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm#5844>. Accessed: February 2014.

<sup>104</sup> Between 2005 and 2008 (only for those years), the Township recorded contributions to "Other Assets". See Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 & 2009 Onwards - By Municipality*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm#5844>. Accessed: February 2014.

<sup>105</sup> See the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *The Multi-Year FIR Review (2000 to 2008 & 2009 onwards) - By Municipality for a detailed breakdown of the categories/line items used in the determination of the Township's total liabilities*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-202008.htm>. Accessed: February 2014.

Figure 24: Total Financial Assets vs. Total Liabilities in White River, 2000-2012



Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: <http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm>. Accessed February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on – By Municipality*. Website: <http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm>. Accessed: February 2014.

## Property Assessment <sup>106</sup>

Property assessment values are determined by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). Table 9 and Figure 25 provide property assessment values from 2002 to 2010. Based on the property assessment values illustrated in Table 9 and Figure 25, it is apparent that residential properties accounted for the greatest proportion of the Township's total tax assessment base, followed by industrial properties. Between 2002 and 2010, total residential assessments averaged about 66% of the Township's annual property assessment values. An assessment is the value assigned by MPAC to all properties including land and buildings. It is used to determine the taxes each property owner will pay based on the property's assessed value.<sup>107</sup>

**Table 8: Property Assessment Values for Select Years – White River**

Property Type <sup>108</sup>	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010
Residential	22,369,90	24,443,615	21,231,270	21,139,805	19,698,024
Multi-Residential	771,000	1,026,210	878,740	878,740	883,510
Commercial	3,128,725	3,671,675	3,754,385	3,730,350	3,653,088
Industrial	5,878,600	8,106,100	7,408,000	7,325,000	4,635,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,147,415</b>	<b>37,247,600</b>	<b>33,272,395</b>	<b>33,073,895</b>	<b>28,870,122</b>

Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm>. Accessed: February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on – By Municipality*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm>. Accessed: February 2014.

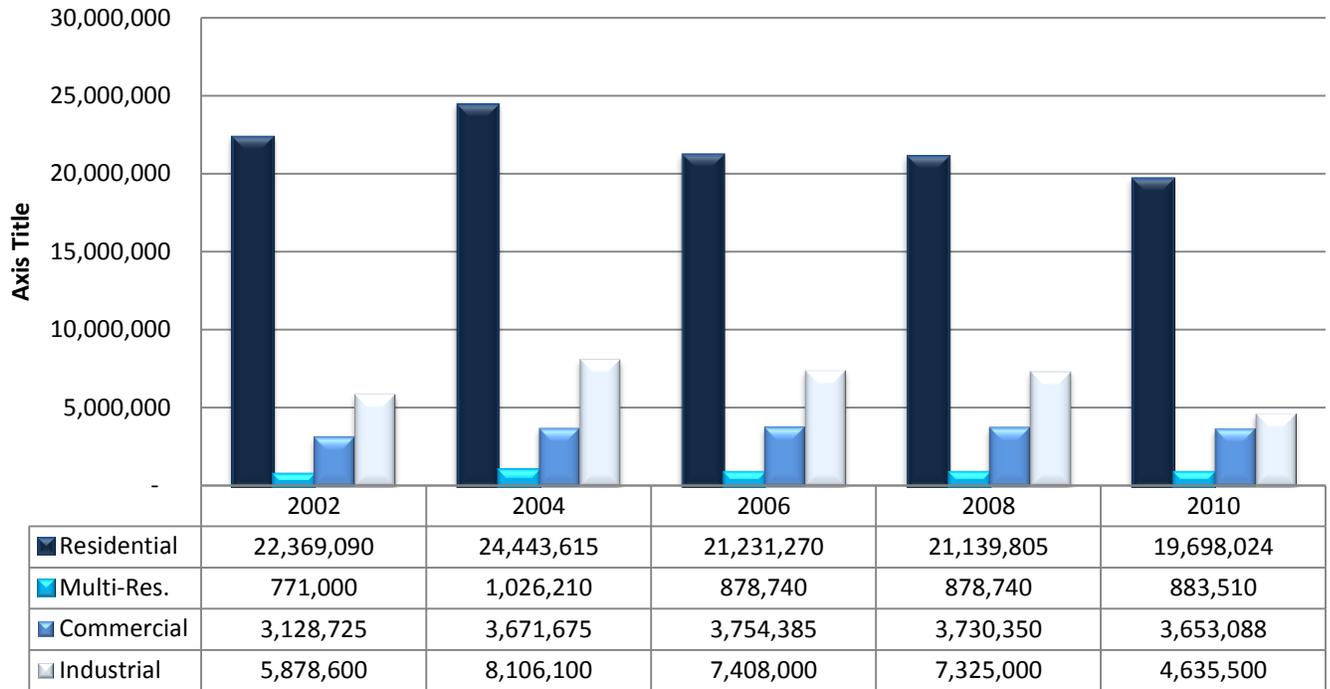
Between 2002 and 2010, the total assessed value for all property classes decreased by approximately \$3,277,293. White River's current assessment profile -- like many other small Northern towns -- places the majority of the tax burden on the residential rate payers.

<sup>106</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, farmland and managed forests. Specialty property classes include new multi-residential, office building, shopping centre, parking lots, vacant lands, large industrial and professional sport 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). Accessed: October 2013; Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. 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). Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>107</sup> Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Section 4: The Fiscal Context. Assessment (Tax Base) Website: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page8393.aspx>. Accessed on May 21, 2014

<sup>108</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 and 2010*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year202000%20-%202008.htm>. Accessed: October 2013.

**Figure 25: Property Assessment Value – White River**



Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm>. Accessed: February 2014;  
 Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on – By Municipality*. Website: <http://csonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm>. Accessed: February 2014.

**2.3.2 SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC ASSETS**

This section summarizes the Economic Assets described above for White River in terms of:

- Priorities and Key Issues;
- Community Aspirations; and
- Capabilities and Capacities within the Community.

**2.3.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES**

The community of White River experienced high unemployment when the Domtar Mill and Co-generation Facility closed in 2007; many residents had to leave the community to find work. Between 2006 and 2011 the unemployment rate in White River increased from 7.6% to 15.4%; however, community representatives have noted that there currently seems to be little unemployment in the community. Since the White River Forest Products Mill (re)opened in 2013, many previous Mill employees and residents of White River returned to work at the Mill; other residents who could not find work locally after the Mill closed moved, or may have commuted elsewhere in the region (e.g., Richmond Mine, Barrick Gold Mines at Hemlo, or other mines in Northwestern Ontario) or beyond (e.g., Alberta), while choosing to keep their families in White River. The Co-

generation Facility at the Mill is currently going through a permit approval process with the province. Community members hope the facility can be up and running in the near future.

White River is situated on Highway 17, approximately half way between Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay making it a service area for people travelling between these two centres. White River is centrally located in terms of its neighbouring communities: Hornepayne, Manitouwadge, Marathon, Dubreuilville, and Wawa. Forestry activity is returning to the region (e.g., several mills have reopened along the North shore); however, its role in the local and regional economy has diminished compared to years ago. The White River Forest Products Mill added a second shift in January 2014 and is working to commission the on-site Co-generation Facility. Many of the other businesses and employment are in the service sector or public service. Many residents travel outside of White River for services (i.e., health care, groceries, retail), which make it difficult for existing (and attracting new) businesses due to 'out-shopping' and competitive markets.

Tourism in White River has been linked to 'Winnie-the-Pooh'; the community is the birthplace of the black bear that originated the stories. However, tourists do not tend to visit White River's museum, which is partially dedicated to Winnie-the-Pooh. The community would like to enhance its potential to attract tourists, for example, by capitalizing on opportunities to develop Winnie-the-Pooh craft shops, a Pooh trail, and a community '100 Acre Wood'. Currently, economic contributions from tourism stem primarily from outdoor and natural area recreation activities, such as hunting and fishing, enhanced by the community's location on the Trans-Canada Highway. These outdoors enthusiasts are the primary type of tourist motel renters in White River<sup>109</sup>. The future potential for tourism in White River may be limited by broader trends in that sector (e.g., declining numbers of American visitors; less vehicle-based tourism).

In terms of municipal finance, liabilities have generally exceeded the community's assets for the last decade. When the Mill was closed, the majority of the tax burden for the Township was placed on residential ratepayers; this has been accentuated by the declining population. With the recent return of the Mill, the tax burden felt by residents may subside; as the population is likely to increase and the return of a major employer and taxpayer.

### 2.3.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

Many residents have expressed their desire for more local or regional employment opportunities, which might allow those residents working out of town to return, retain youth, and attract new people to the community. Entrepreneurship and diversification are viewed as essential components for growing White River's economy in the future (e.g., to fill existing service gaps in the community). Four targeted industry sectors have been identified by the Township – tourism, forestry, mining and energy - to provide new economic opportunities and support overall community aspirations.

White River is looking to strengthen their existing tourism sector, and many see Winnie-the-Pooh as a focus for the future and a foundation for growing the sector in White River. Other tourism opportunities in White River and the surrounding area include camping (e.g., at a national park and provincial parks) and outfitting (hunting,

<sup>109</sup> Information obtained in the community of White River from a CLC member April 2014.

fishing). The need for additional tourism infrastructure to attract people either 'passing through town' or staying for a visit is seen as a priority. Many residents expressed interest in White River's population returning to its previous numbers, with the possibility/potential to double; not changing the overall small town-close knit character of the community.

### 2.3.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

There is currently no economic development plan for White River; however, the White River Community Development Corporation and the Township of White River are working together to finalize a community Strategic Economic Plan<sup>110</sup>.

## 2.4 INFRASTRUCTURE

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### 2.4.1 INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET INDICATORS

The infrastructure within a community includes the 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. The specific indicators include:

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

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of the physical well-being of White River.

#### 2.4.1.1 LAND USE

The Township of White River covers an area of 103 km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>111</sup> According to the Township of White River Official Plan (1983), within the Township itself the community is divided into the following categories: residential, general commercial, highway commercial, industrial, major parks and open space, natural resource area, recreation residential, and hazard land designations.<sup>112</sup> Additional information on land uses is provided in other sections of the profile (e.g., Sections 2.1.2 (Land Use and Sizes), 2.3.1.4 (Tourism), 2.6 (Natural Environment)). Figure 26 shows land ownership in the Township of White River and surrounding area; much of the surrounding area is various types of Crown land.

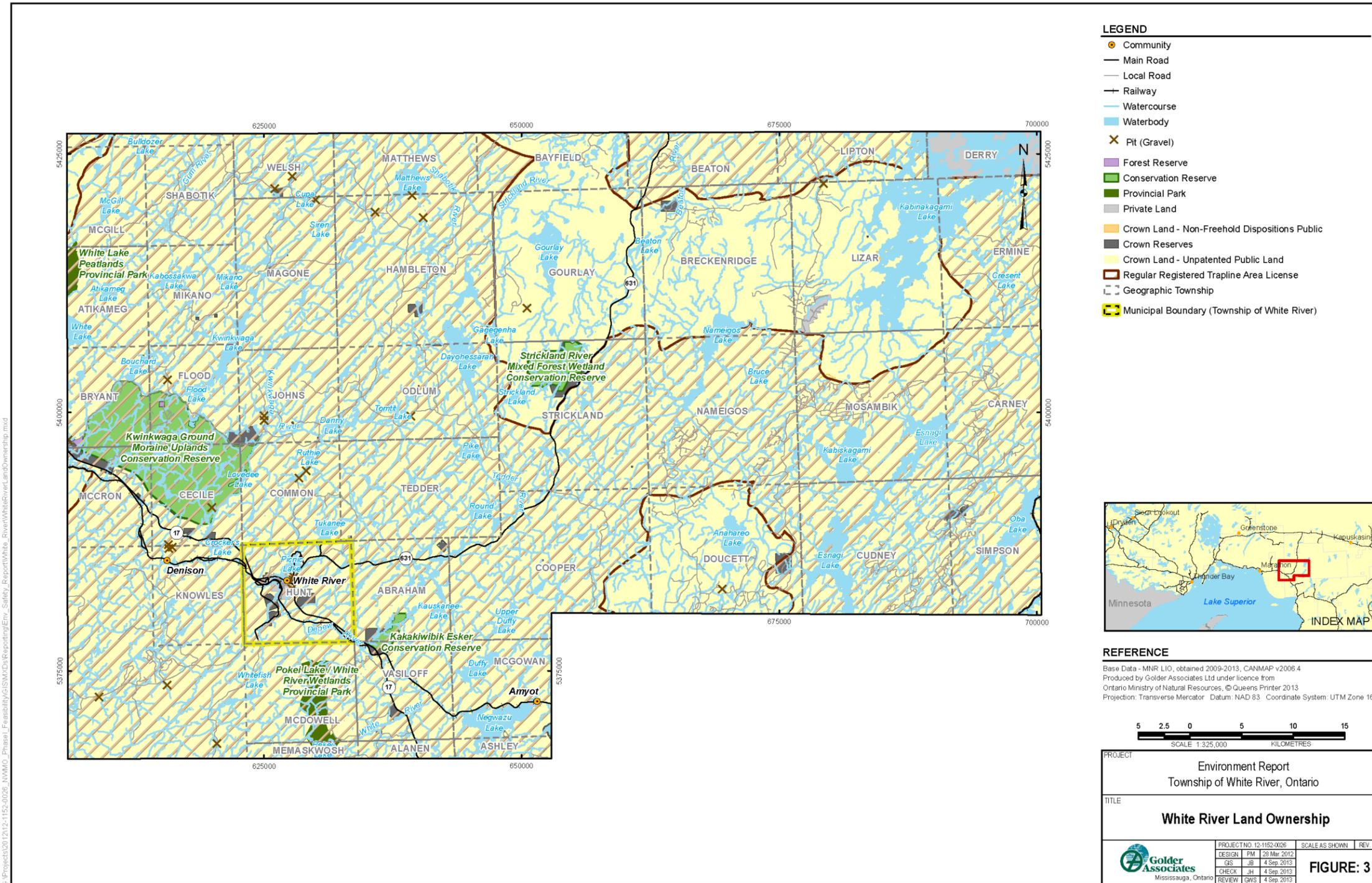
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<sup>110</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *Economic Plans & Services*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/economic-plans-services-155.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>111</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. 2014. *Land Information Ontario - Discovering Ontario Data*. Website: <https://www.javacoeapp.lrc.gov.on.ca/geonetwork/srv/en/main.home>. Accessed: September 2014.

<sup>112</sup> Township of White River. (revised) September 26, 1983. *Official Plan for the Township of White River Planning Area*. Prepared by Proctor & Redfern Limited. Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.

Figure 26: White River Area Land Ownership



Source: Golder Associates. January 2014. *White River Land Ownership*.

### 2.4.1.2 HOUSING

Discussions with community representatives indicate that while housing in White River is relatively inexpensive, prices are beginning to rise. There are few homes available for purchase or to rent. Overall, there is a sense amongst some community members that there are more houses for sale in White River than are for rent.<sup>113</sup> A vacant apartment building complex (with approximately 40 units) in the community is reported to have been recently sold and is undergoing renovation, potentially contributing to additional rental stock.<sup>114</sup> White River also has a senior's housing complex in town, with thirteen one-bedroom, and five two-bedroom, units.

#### Dwelling Characteristics

The number of dwellings has declined steadily between 2001 and 2011 in White River (see Table 10). In both the Census Division and Ontario, the number of dwellings increased during that period. Between 2001 and 2006, the proportion of owned dwellings rose slightly from 70.3% to 71.8% in White River. In 2011, 87.5% of households in White River owned their home; 14.3% rented<sup>115</sup>. White River has a greater proportion of owned dwellings compared to the Census division and the province. White River also has a mobile home park containing 43 sites, of which 17 are currently occupied.<sup>116</sup>

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<sup>113</sup> This information was obtained from White River community discussions November 2013.

<sup>114</sup> Information obtained during CLC meeting February 2014 in the community of White River.

<sup>115</sup> Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey.

<sup>116</sup> Information obtained from a CLC member April 2014.

**Table 9: White River, Census Division and Ontario Dwelling Characteristics, 2001 – 2011**

Dwelling Characteristic	Year	Number of dwellings <sup>117</sup>	Number of owned dwellings	Number of rented dwellings
White River	2001	<b>370</b>	260 (70.3%)	110 (29.72%)
	2006	<b>355</b>	255 (71.8%)	100 (28.2%)
	2011	<b>280</b>	245 (87.5%)	40 (14.3%)
Census Division	2001	<b>48,185</b>	34,380 (71.4%)	13,530 (28.1%)
	2006	<b>50,044</b>	35,610 (71.2%)	13,990 (28.0%)
	2011	<b>50,580</b>	36,290 (71.7%)	13,985 (27.6%)
Ontario	2001	<b>4,219,415</b>	2,862,300 (67.8%)	1,351,365 (32.0%)
	2006	<b>4,554,251</b>	3,235,495 (71.0%)	1,312,290 (28.8%)
	2011	<b>4,886,655</b>	3,491,320 (71.4%)	1,389,915 (28.4%)

Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey.

Note: only selected Statistics Canada Dwelling Characteristics categories are used; number of owned dwellings and number of rented dwellings are not included in the 2011 Statistics Canada Community Profile. The number of owned and rented dwellings is provided in NHS data; the number of dwellings for 2011 is comprised of owned dwellings, rented dwellings, and band housing (Table 10 does not include band housing data).

<sup>117</sup> Number of dwellings refers to 'private dwellings occupied by usual residents': "A separate set of living quarters which has a private entrance either directly from outside or from a common hall, lobby, vestibule or stairway leading to the outside, and in which a person or a group of persons live permanently."

## Housing Stock

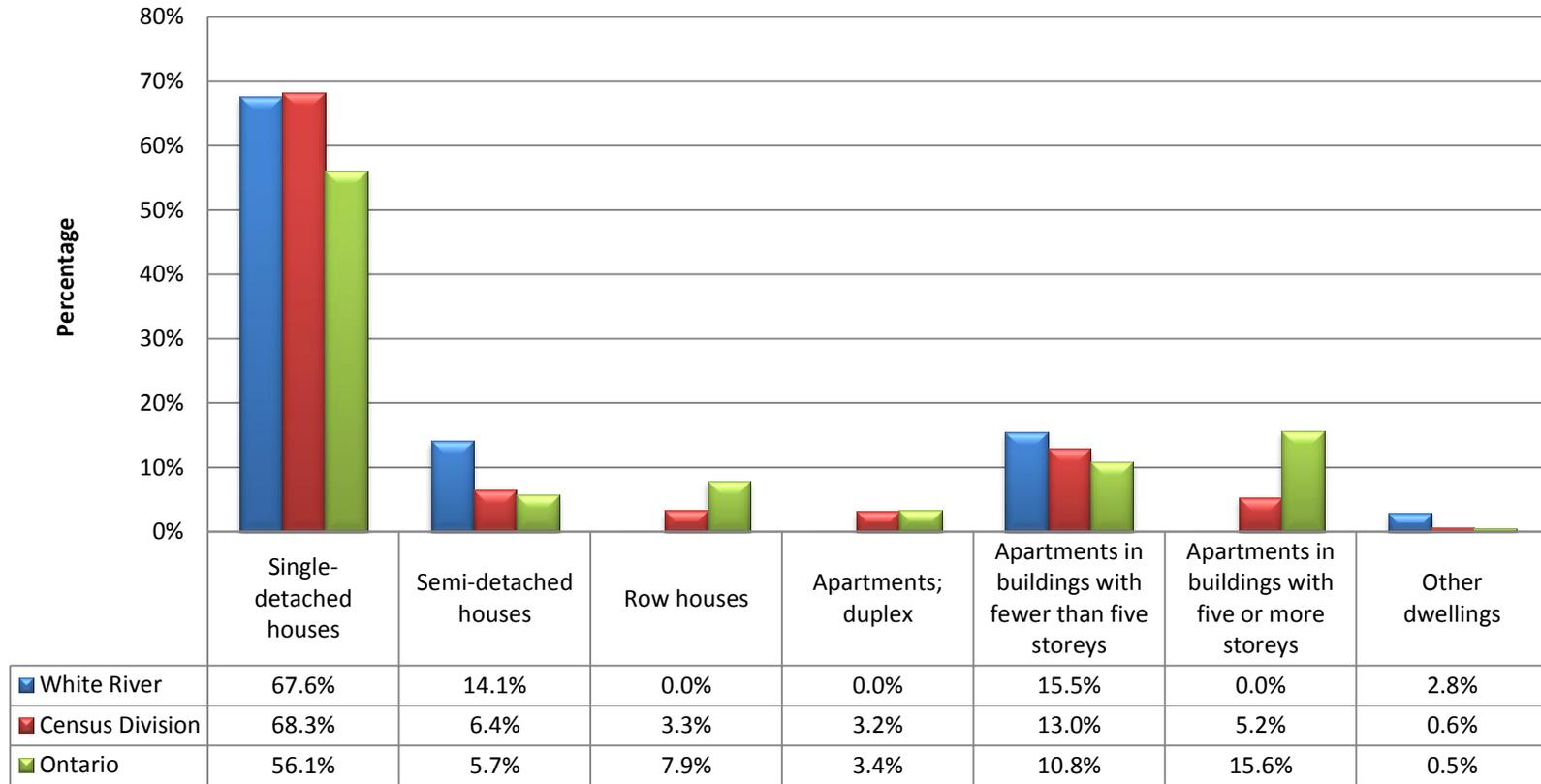
According to the 2006 Census, 67.6% of all private dwellings occupied by usual residents in White River were *single detached houses*, which is comparable to the figure for the Census Division (68.3%), but greater than Ontario (56.1%) (see Figure 27). Most of White River's remaining housing stock consisted of *apartment buildings with fewer than five stories* (15.5%) and *semi-detached houses* (14.1%): these proportions are considerably higher than the Census Division and the province.

In 2011, *single-detached houses* accounted for 70.4% of all occupied private dwellings in White River, in comparison to the Census Division at 68.9% and the Province at 55.6% (Figure 28). The proportion of *other dwellings*<sup>118</sup> (25.9%) in White River is comparable to that of the Census Division (25.4%) and the Province (27.9%). White River has a greater proportion of *movable dwellings* (5.6%) than either the Census Division (0.5%) or the Province (0.3%).

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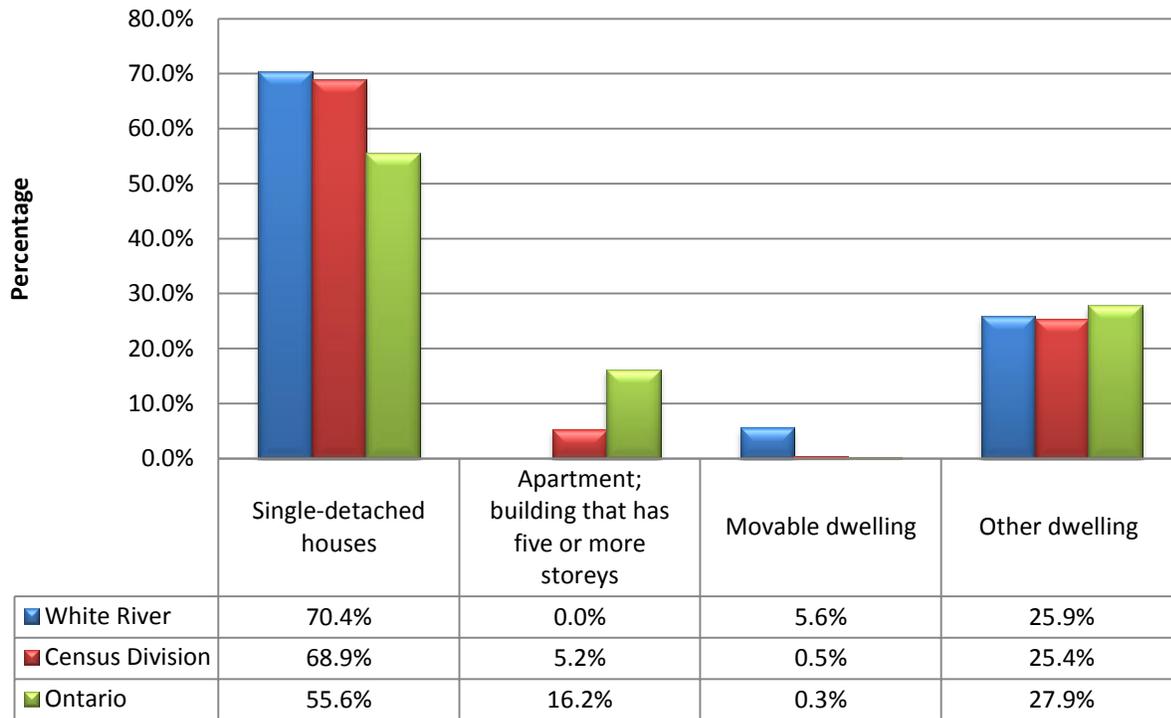
<sup>118</sup> According to the Statistics Canada 2006 Census, **Other Dwellings** is defined as: "Other occupied private dwellings' includes other single attached houses and movable dwellings such as mobile homes and other movable dwellings such as houseboats and railroad cars." Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River Community Profile, 2006*. According to the Statistics Canada 2011 census, **Other Dwellings** is defined as: "a subtotal of the following categories: semi-detached house row house apartment or flat in a duplex apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys and other single-attached house". Statistics Canada. 2012. *White River Community Profile, 2011*.

Figure 27: White River, Census Division and Ontario Average Housing Stock Composition, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*. Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

**Figure 28: White River, Census Division and Ontario Average Housing Stock Composition, 2011**



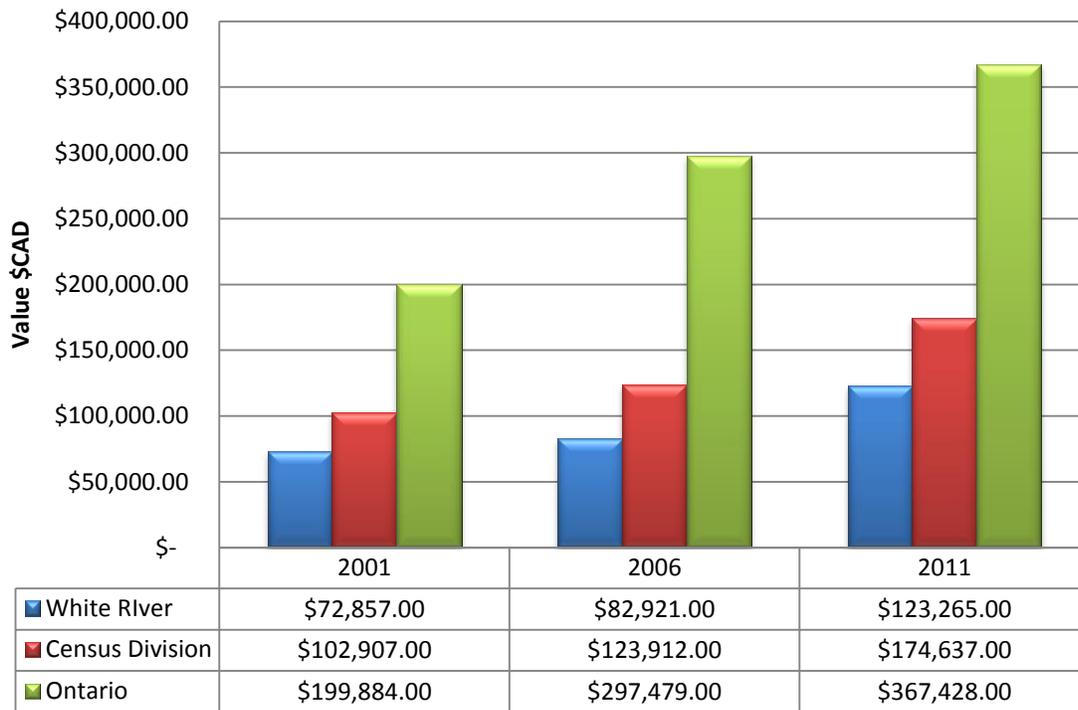
Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.  
 Note: Percentages do not add to 100 % due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

**Value of Owned Dwellings**

Figure 29 shows the average value of owned dwellings in White River, the Census Division and Ontario for 2001, 2006 and 2011. In White River, the average value of dwellings increased by 13.8% between 2001 to 2006, and by 48.7% between 2006 and 2011. During this same period, dwellings in the Census Division increased in value by 20.4% between 2001 to 2006, and 40.9% between 2006 and 2011. The average value of dwellings in Ontario increased by 49.2% between 2001 to 2006, followed by an increase of 23.5% between 2006 and 2011. The community’s and Census Division’s proportional increase in dwelling value between 2006 and 2011 was more than twice the province’s, although actual prices are significantly lower.

When dwelling values are compared across jurisdictions, it is apparent that White River dwellings had lower average values than both the Census Division and the province. In 2001, the average value of a Census Division dwelling (\$102,907) was 41.2% more than the average in White River, and the average value of an Ontario dwelling (\$199,884) was 174% more than the average in White River. By 2011, the average value of a Census Division dwelling (\$174,637) was 41.7% more than the average in White River, and the average value of an Ontario dwelling (\$367,428) was 198% more than that of the average White River dwelling.

**Figure 29: White River, Census Division and Ontario Average Value of Owned Dwellings, 2001 - 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey. Note: Value of Dwelling is defined by Statistics Canada as the dollar amount expected by the owner if the dwelling were to be sold.

It has been noted by residents that the average value of a home is significantly lower than reported by Statistics Canada. According the White River Library *real estate* webpage - posted November 27, 2013 - six houses were posted for sale with asking prices that ranged from \$42,900 to \$60,000.<sup>119</sup> This housing price range is more consistent with estimates provided by several individual residents when compared to Statistics Canada values shown in Figure 29.

**2.4.1.3 MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES**

**Electricity/Natural Gas**

Electric services in White River are provided by Hydro One, the provincial electrical distribution authority based in Thunder Bay. There is no natural gas service in White River.<sup>120</sup>

<sup>119</sup> White River Library. White River Real Estate (posted November 27, 2013).

Website: <http://www.whiteriverlibrary.com/index.php/info-center/46-uncategorised/141-white-river-real-estate>.

Accessed: May 2014.

<sup>120</sup> Information obtained during CLC meeting February 2014 in the community of White River.

## Waste Management

There is a landfill site in White River that is open four days/week. Expansion with a new cell is under consideration. There is a local recycling program on-site. The Township provides weekly garbage collection services<sup>121</sup>. Hazardous wastes are collected every two years.

## Water/ Wastewater

The populated area of the Township is equipped with a relatively new water treatment facility (although there are ongoing legal issues with the engineering contractor), a sewage lagoon and sewer collection system<sup>122</sup>.



The capacity of the wastewater lagoon is becoming an issue for White River; a process to expand the lagoon is underway.

## Roads

In White River, the Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining municipal roads.

## Communications

Broadband internet, cable and modern telecommunications services, are available in White River from a number of providers including Bell ExpressVu/Shaw (television), Tbaytel / Rogers (cell phone/DSL Internet), and Bell Canada (land line phone). Public Wi-Fi services are also offered at the Library. There are gaps in cell phone service for some providers.<sup>123</sup>

### 2.4.1.4 TRANSPORTATION

White River is accessible from the TransCanada Highway 17, as well as Highway 631 (see Figure 2, above). The community is serviced by Greyhound Bus Lines<sup>124</sup>.

<sup>121</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *Municipal Services*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/municipal-services-5.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>122</sup> *Ibid.*

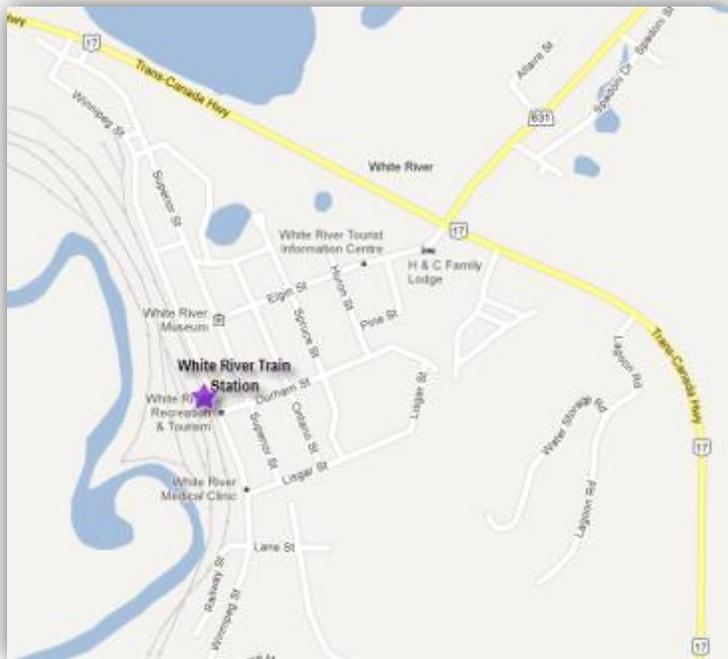
<sup>123</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d. *White River*. Website: <http://www.NortheastSuperiorForestCommunity.ca/files/Library/communities/WhiteRiverEN.pdf>. Accessed: October 2013; *Information obtained during CLC meeting February 2014 in the community of White River.*

<sup>124</sup> White River Public Library. 2011. *About White River, Ontario*. Website: <http://www.whiteriverlibrary.com/index.php/about>. Accessed: October 2013.

The White River Railway Station is located on Winnipeg Street North (see Figure 30) and passenger service is offered by a VIA Rail<sup>125</sup> Budd Car operating between White River and Sudbury. The Budd Car operates three times a week and runs through the community of Chapleau en route to Sudbury; the Budd Car no longer provides service to Sault Ste. Marie. White River residents looking for train service to Toronto or Thunder Bay can connect with the Via Rail passenger train in Hornepayne.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad freight line runs through White River; CPR operations employ a number of White River residents and a new bunkhouse facility has been built in the community.

**Figure 30: White River Train Station**



Source: Google Maps. 2013.

The nearest port is the Michipicoten Harbour, located approximately 90 kilometres away near Wawa<sup>126</sup>.

The nearest commercial airports are the Thunder Bay International Airport (390 km) and the Sault Ste. Marie Airport (315 km). Wawa, Marathon, and Manitouwadge also operate Municipal Airports for air medevac and private charter. A privately operated float-plane airbase (White River Air Service) is also available and is located adjacent to Highway 631<sup>127</sup>.

<sup>125</sup> Via Rail Canada. 2013. *White River Train Station*. Website: <http://www.viarail.ca/en/stations/ontario/white-river>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>126</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *Highways and Ports*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/highways--ports-183.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>127</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d. *White River – Where it All Begins*. Website: <http://www.nsfcc.ca/files/Library/communities/WhiteRiverEN.pdf>. Accessed: October 2013; DPRA Canada. October 2013. *Community Profile, Wawa Ontario – Draft*. Prepared for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Website: [http://www.nwmo.ca/uploads\\_managed/MediaFiles/2250\\_2013-11-15\\_cwba\\_wawa\\_community\\_profile\\_draft-v11.pdf](http://www.nwmo.ca/uploads_managed/MediaFiles/2250_2013-11-15_cwba_wawa_community_profile_draft-v11.pdf). Accessed: July 2014.

## 2.4.2 SUMMARY OF INFRASTRUCTURE

This section summarizes the Infrastructure Assets described above for White River in terms of:

- Priorities and Key Issues;
- Community Aspirations; and
- Capabilities and Capacities within the Community.

### 2.4.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES

Residents have indicated that housing in White River is relatively inexpensive; however, the availability of housing is getting tighter now that the Mill is back in operation and the housing stock is reducing in size. The low cost of housing has attracted retirees and families on fixed income to the community.

White River recently constructed a new water distribution system. While infrastructure in White River is being improved, aging municipal infrastructure remains a challenge as the population base declines.

Public transportation is a limitation in White River. The Budd Car service operated by Via Rail links White River to Sudbury three times per week, offering residents an alternative travel mode to a major centre (especially during the winter months). However, there is uncertainty about the long term viability of the Budd Car service as rail lines servicing Northern Ontario are being cancelled. Residents can also drive to Hornepayne if they wish to travel to Sudbury, Toronto or Thunder Bay by rail. The train provides an alternative to driving in the winter, especially as road closures can be frequent due to weather.

### 2.4.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

Improving the municipal revenue stream for the continued maintenance or improvement of White River's infrastructure, including improvements to water/wastewater management systems, the Tourist Centre and the Winnie-the-Pooh park, are objectives for the Township. Residents are hopeful that the Mill and other resource development projects in the area will increase housing sales and possibly result in new homes being built.

### 2.4.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The Township has a Flood Plain Master Plan, which can help facilitate future improvements. The Township has an Asset Management Plan in place to enhance existing transportation infrastructure and contribute to infrastructure management and development<sup>128</sup>. The seniors housing complex is a valued community asset that residents hope will be enhanced with the addition of a long-term care facility.

<sup>128</sup> Township of White River. December 2013. Asset Management Plan – Township of White River. Created by Infrastructure Solutions Inc.

### 2.5.1 SOCIAL ASSET INDICATORS

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. The specific indicators within the Social Assets category include:

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

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of the social well-being of the Township of White River.

#### 2.5.1.1 DIVERSITY OF POPULATION

##### Aboriginal Identity

As shown in Table 11, White River's Aboriginal identity population has been proportionately greater than the Census Division, and much greater than Ontario's.<sup>129</sup> In 2001, White River's Aboriginal identity population was 18.1%: nearly twice the proportion in the Census Division (9.2%) and ten times the proportion in Ontario (1.7%). The Aboriginal identity population increased between 2001 and 2006 by 140 people; (the Aboriginal identity population increased to 38.0%), but decreased by 2011 to 20.8%. In 2011, at 20.8%, White River continues to have a significantly greater proportion of Aboriginal identify population compared to the Census Division (11.5%) and the Province (2.4%). The percentage of those who are Registered or Treaty Indian in White River was 14.5% in 2011, considerably higher than the Census Division (6.2%) and Ontario (1.1%).

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<sup>129</sup> For details on full census category definitions for Aboriginal Identity in 2006 and 2011 see: Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River, Ontario (Code 3557091) (table). 2006 Community Profiles*. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-591-XWE. Ottawa. Website: <http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/index.cfm?Lang=E>. Accessed: October 2013; and, Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, TP, Ontario (Code 3557091) (table). National Household Survey (NHS) Profile. 2011 National Household Survey*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 99-004-XWE. Ottawa. Website: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>. Accessed: October 2013.

Table 10: White River, Census Division and Ontario Aboriginal Identity Population, 2001 – 2011

Aboriginal Population	Community	2001		2006		2011	
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>White River</b>	995		840		625	
<b>Aboriginal Identity Population</b>		180	18.1%	320 <sup>130</sup>	38.0%	130	20.8%
<b>Non-Aboriginal Population</b>		810	81.4%	515	61.3%	490	78.4%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Census Division</b>	117,200		116,075		113,875	
<b>Aboriginal Identity Population</b>		10,810	9.2%	12,925	11.1%	13,145	11.5%
<b>Non-Aboriginal Population</b>		106,385	90.8%	103,150	88.9%	100,730	88.5%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Ontario</b>	11,285,545		12,028,900		12,651,790	
<b>Aboriginal Identity Population</b>		188,315	1.7%	242,490	2.0%	301,430	2.4%
<b>Non-Aboriginal Population</b>		11,097,235	98.3%	11,786,405	98.0%	12,350,365	97.6%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*. Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey. Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

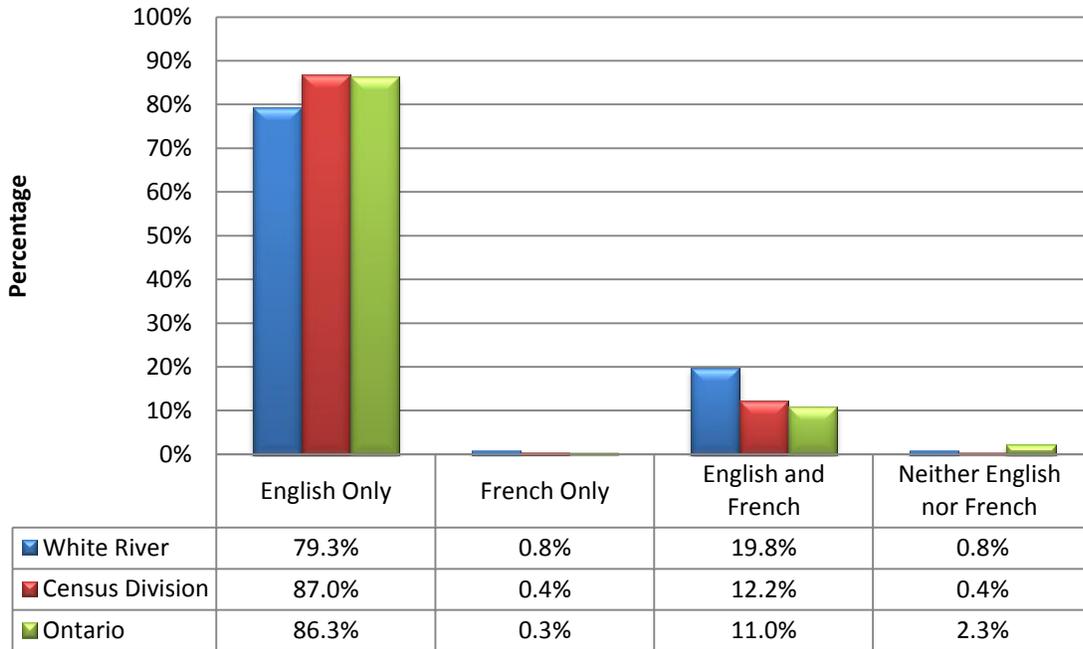
<sup>130</sup> In 2006, Statistics Canada data indicates the Aboriginal Identity Population in White River was 320 (38.0%). This data is subject to dispute as White River Community Officials have noted there has been no event in the community that would result in the substantial difference in numbers between 2006 and 2001/2011 as indicated by Statistics Canada.

**Language**

***Knowledge of Official Languages***

Figure 31 shows the knowledge of official languages for White River, the Census Division, and the Province for the 2011 census year. At 19.8%, the population in White River that has knowledge of both English and French is considerably larger than the Province (11.0%) and the Census Division (12.2%). The percentage of those that have a knowledge of English only is highest in the Census Division (87.0%), followed by the Province (86.3%) and White River (79.3%).

**Figure 31: Knowledge of Official Languages, 2011**

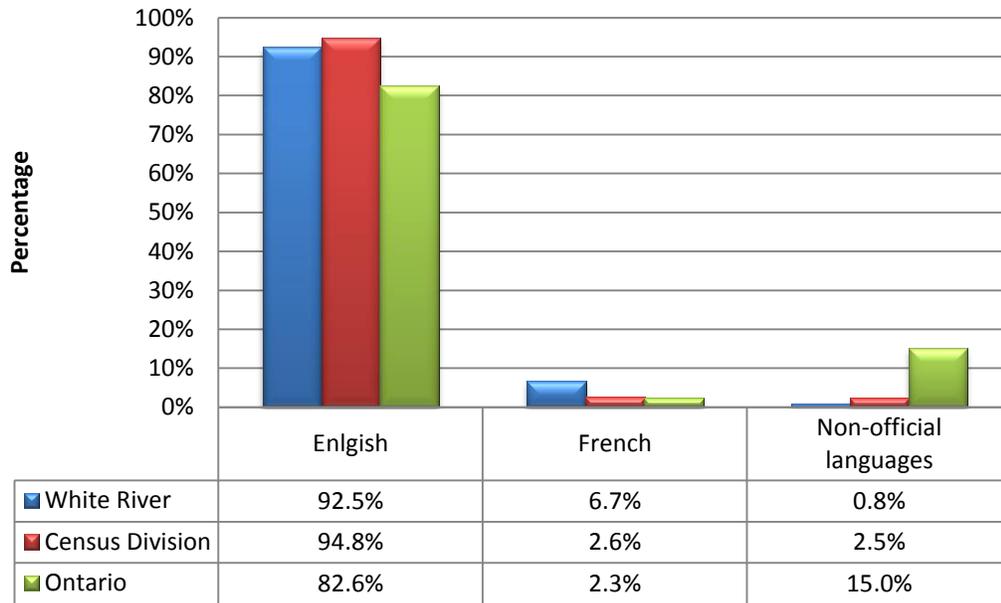


Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario Community Profiles*.

***Detailed Language Spoken Most Often at Home***

At the community (92.5%), the Census Division (94.8%), and provincial (82.6%) levels, English was the language that was spoken most often at home in 2011 (Figure 32). White River has a large Francophone population relative to the Census Division and Ontario as whole. In White River, 6.7% of the population spoke French most often at home, while 2.6% in the Census Division and 2.3% in Ontario spoke French most often at home in 2011.

Figure 32: Detailed Language Spoken Most Often at Home, 2011

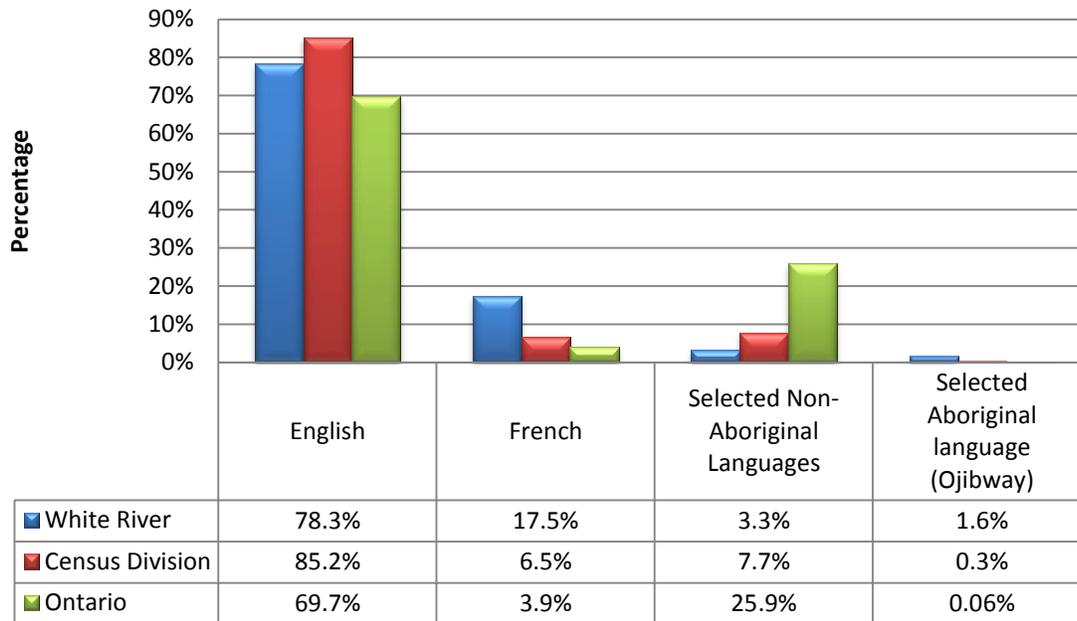


Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario Community Profiles*.

**Detailed Mother Tongue**

At 17.5%, the proportion of White River’s population having French as their mother tongue was more than four times the province (3.9%) and more than 2 times the Census Division (6.5%) in 2011 (Figure 33). In 2011, White River had 1.6% of the population with Ojibway as the mother tongue; more than five times the proportion for the Census Division (0.3%) and more than 25 times that of Ontario (0.06%).

Figure 33: White River Mother Tongue, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario Community Profiles*.

2.5.1.2 CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES



Historical Overview

The Township of White River was incorporated in 1889 and will celebrate their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014.<sup>131</sup> The community’s history is closely linked to the CPR. William Van Horne designated White River, which was then referred to as Snowbank, as a stopover point along the CPR linking the Prairie Provinces with central Canada. In 1886, White River became a modern railway town and, as a result, the population soared (from 10 families to 42) between 1886 and 1906<sup>132</sup>.

White River is also known for its relation to Winnie-the-Pooh, the famous children’s book character based on a black bear from White River. In 1914, a trapper came across an orphaned black bear cub and brought it to White River, where he sold the cub to a soldier named Lieutenant Harry Colebourn. Lieutenant Colebourn named it ‘Winnipeg’ after his hometown. Having been shipped to England and later to France during the First World War, Lieutenant Colebourn brought the bear to the London Zoo. A.A. Milne, author of ‘Winnie-the-

<sup>131</sup> This information was obtained from White River community discussions November, 2013.

<sup>132</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *About White River – History*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/about-white-river-3.asp>. Accessed: February 2013.

Pooh', often visited the zoo along with his son, who named Winnipeg the bear "Pooh". A.A. Milne wrote the first edition of Winnie-the-Pooh stories in 1926, based on Winnipeg the White River bear at the London Zoo<sup>133</sup>.

In 1961, the TransCanada Highway (Highway 17) construction was completed, providing accessibility, as well as new opportunities. This new mode of transportation, along with air travel, provided more people, tourism, business, and industry greater opportunity to travel to, as well as through, White River<sup>134</sup>.

In the 1970's, Abitibi Price established a Lumber Mill that was later purchased by Domtar Forest Products. However, the Lumber Mill closed indefinitely in 2007; it reopened in September 2013 as the White River Forest Products Mill, a joint venture between the Township of White River, Pic Mobert First Nation, and two private investors.

In honour of the community's centennial anniversary in 1985, a pictorial history was published<sup>135</sup>.

### Heritage Resources

The White River Heritage Museum has many historical artifacts documenting the community's history, including silver servers, restored railway speeder, repair tracks, photos, a telegraph system, antique household articles such as an old wringer washing machine and wood cooking stove and artwork by A.J. Casson (a member of the Group of Seven)<sup>136</sup>.

There is one known archaeological site in the White River area and one provincially designated historic site and one federally designated historic site, both within the town of White River.<sup>137,138</sup> The archaeological site is located outside the Township boundaries, at the mouth of Tedder River where it empties into Kakakiwibik Lake. The archaeological site was identified and recorded in 1970 as a campsite with extensive signs of burning and evidence of fire-cracked rock, but very few artifacts. No cultural affiliation or time period is recorded for the site. The historical sites include the provincially designated CP Railway Superintendent's House, located on

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<sup>133</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *Winnie the Pooh*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/winnie-the-pooh-6.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>134</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *About White River – History*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/about-white-river-3.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>135</sup> Houston, M. 1985. *White River – 100 Years – Pictorial History*. Published by Mary Houston, White River ON. Available from the White River Heritage Museum.

<sup>136</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *White River Heritage Museum*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/white-river-heritage-museum-123.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>137</sup> The cultural heritage screening examined known archaeological and historic sites in the White River area, using the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database, the Ontario Heritage Trust Database, the Parks Canada Database and the National Historic sites Database. In archaeological potential modelling, a distance criterion of 300 m is generally employed for known archaeological resources, water sources and early Euro-Canadian settlements. Government of Ontario, 2011. *Standards and Guidelines for Consulting Archaeologists*. Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport.

<sup>138</sup> Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport. 2013. *Heritage Properties Search Form*. Website: <http://www.hpd.mcl.gov.on.ca/scripts/hpdsearch/english/default.asp>. Accessed: June 2013; Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT). 2013. *Home*. Website: <http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/Home.aspx>. Accessed: July 2013; Parks Canada, 2013. *Canada's Historic Places*. Website: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/lhn-nhs/index.aspx>. Accessed: June 2013.

Railway Street and the federally designated CP Railway Station located on Winnipeg Street in the Town of White River.<sup>139</sup>

The presence of local heritage sites would need to be further confirmed in discussion with the community and Aboriginal peoples in the area.

### 2.5.1.3 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Community and recreational organizations in White River include<sup>140</sup>:

- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 169
- Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary
- Local Concerned Citizens Group
- Seniors Harmony Club
- Historical Society
- White River Museum
- Northern Visions Art Studio
- White River Public Library
- Winnie-the-Pooh Festival
- Re-Union-Township
- White River Parks Committee
- White River Beautification
- Figure Skating
- Curling Club
- Gym
- Dart Club

Community events are organized by the Tourism and Special Events Department. One such event is *Winnie's Hometown Festival*, which takes place the third weekend of August each year in commemoration of the black bear cub that inspired the Winnie-the-Pooh children's books.

An abundance of fresh water lakes and rugged forests in the Township's vicinity provide residents and tourists with a number of different recreational activities to take part in ranging from snowmobiling, cross-country skiing to swimming, boating, fishing and hunting<sup>141</sup>. Nearby Picnic Lake has a number of camps/cottages and is a popular destination.



Residents also enjoy White River's baseball diamond during the summer months, as well as children's parks, wildlife viewing areas, and a beach<sup>142</sup>. During the winter, residents and visitors can enjoy public skating and snowmobiling trails<sup>143</sup>.

<sup>139</sup> Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport. 2013. *Heritage Properties Search Form*. Website: <http://www.hpd.mcl.gov.on.ca/scripts/hpdsearch/english/default.asp>. Accessed: June 2013; Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT), 2013. *Home*. Website: <http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/Home.aspx>. Accessed: July 2013; Parks Canada, 2013. *Canada's Historic Places*. Website: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/lhn-nhs/index.aspx>. Accessed: June 2013.

<sup>140</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *Clubs, Committees and Groups*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/clubs-committees-and-groups-124.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>141</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *Things to Do*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/things-to-do-4.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>142</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d. *White River – Where it All Begins*. Website: <http://www.nsfca.ca/files/Library/communities/WhiteRiverEN.pdf>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>143</sup> White River Public Library. 2011. *About White River, Ontario*.

Recreation facilities in White River consist of a recreation centre with a three -sheet curling surface, ice rink, and a 24-hr. gym facility. The ice surfaces will only be operating for the months of January, February, and March due to budget constraints.<sup>144</sup> Adjacent to the recreation centre is a baseball diamond with dugouts and score board. There are also several parks/green spaces around town, including a jungle-gym across from the Municipal Office/Public Library, and Winnie the Pooh Park.



The White River Public Library is open four days a week, and offers computers, wireless Internet, copying, interlibrary loan and lending services (i.e., books, magazines, DVDs, games).

Unorganized recreation and leisure in the community includes hunting and fishing, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hiking, touring, boating, and wildlife viewing.

#### 2.5.1.4 SOCIAL SERVICES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The following social services and organizations are available in White River:<sup>145</sup>

- White River Health Committee
- White River Policing Committee
- White River Emergency Committee
- North Central Co-operative Board
- Food Bank

#### Crime

According to an April 2013 letter from the O.P.P. Superior East Detachment, there were 11 violent crimes and 17 property crimes in 2012 within the Township of White River<sup>146</sup>. Three young persons were charged with crimes in 2012 in White River.

Website: <http://www.whiteriverlibrary.com/index.php/about>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>144</sup> This information was obtained from White River community discussions November 2013.

<sup>145</sup> This information was obtained from the White River Municipal Office and community discussions November 2013.

<sup>146</sup> Ontario Provincial Police – Superior East Detachment: White River, Hornepayne, Chapleau & Wawa Locations. April 16, 2013. Letter to the Corporation of the Township of White River. Rec'd April 18 2013.

## 2.5.2 SUMMARY OF SOCIAL ASSETS

This section summarizes the Social Assets described above for White River in terms of:

- Priorities and Key Issues;
- Community Aspirations; and
- Capabilities and Capacities within the Community.

### 2.5.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES

The history of White River began with the construction of the CPR; and, in 1889 became an incorporated municipal entity. Today, White River remains a railway town with a functioning CPR rail yard and bunkhouse. In 1961, the Trans-Canada Highway 17 was constructed through White River. Tourism and forestry industries would soon follow the completion of the Trans-Canada Highway and in 1970; the Abitibi Mill was established in White River.

The current decline in population and tax base, further threatened by the volatility of the forestry industry, means it is becoming more difficult to maintain, let alone improve community facilities, programs, and events. While White River has a strong volunteer base, it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit new people to provide support for events and activities. Volunteer “burn-out” has been identified by residents as an ongoing issue in White River in recent years, especially as many residents work out of town.

### 2.5.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

Residents have indicated a desire to increase the number of families and children in the community. This would contribute to the ongoing viability of community facilities, culture and recreational programs, and community organizations.

### 2.5.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Community representatives have noted that there are linkages between Pic Mobert First Nation and the community of White River. A number of Pic Mobert First Nation members live in White River. Members living on reserve frequently shop in town and/or are patrons at the restaurants.

Community facilities include the library and a recreation centre with an ice pad and curling sheet, as well as an exercise gym. The Legion Hall is used for a variety of community meetings and events.

## 2.6 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

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

### 2.6.1 NATURAL ASSET INDICATORS

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

White River is surrounded by wilderness, providing outdoor recreational opportunities for residents and tourists alike. Hunting and fishing are abundant in the region. Residents and visitors have the opportunity to fish for Walleye, Bass, Pike, and Lake Trout, and hunters/trappers seek birds, small game, and large game such as moose<sup>147</sup>.

#### **Parks and Protected Areas**

There are several provincial parks, nature reserves, conservation areas and a national park situated near White River.

Table 12 provides information on park class, size, and a brief description of the provincially protected areas near White River.

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<sup>147</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *Things to Do*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/things-to-do-4.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

Table 11: Parks and Protected Areas Near White River

PROTECTED AREA	CLASS	AREA (hectares)	DESCRIPTION
Craig's Pit Provincial Nature Reserve <sup>148</sup>	Nature Reserve	530 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-operational (not staffed)</li> <li>• There are no facilities for visitors</li> </ul>
Kakakiwibik Esker Conservation Reserve <sup>149</sup>	Conservation Reserve <sup>150</sup>	521 ha <sup>151</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no facilities for visitors</li> </ul>
Kwinkwaga Ground Moraine Uplands Conservation Reserve	Conservation Reserve	12,623 ha <sup>152</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 10 km northwest of White River</li> <li>• Geological features – moraines, dunes</li> <li>• White River Canoe Route runs through it</li> </ul>
Lake Superior Provincial Park	Natural Environment	160,810 ha <sup>153</sup>	<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>

<sup>148</sup> Ontario Parks. 2014. *Craig's Pit*. Website: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/craigspit>. Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>149</sup> Ontario Parks. 2011. *Steel River Terms of Reference*. Website: [http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning\\_pdf/stee/stee\\_ToR.pdf](http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/stee/stee_ToR.pdf). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>150</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. October 2004. *Statement of Conservation Interest for the Kakakiwibik Esker Conservation Reserve*. Website: [http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr00\\_bcr0027.pdf](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr00_bcr0027.pdf). Accessed: February 2014.

<sup>151</sup> Government of Ontario. 2014. *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 Ontario Regulation 315/07 Designation of Conservation Reserves Schedule 51: Kakakiwibek Esker Conservation Reserve*. Website: [http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws\\_regs\\_070315\\_e.htm#BK258](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_070315_e.htm#BK258). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>152</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. October 2004. *Enhanced Statement of Conservation Interest for the Kwinkwaga Ground Moraine Uplands Conservation Reserve (C1509)*. Website: [http://files.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/parks-and-protected-areas/mnr00\\_bcr0024.pdf](http://files.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/parks-and-protected-areas/mnr00_bcr0024.pdf). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>153</sup> Ontario Parks. 2014. *Lake Superior*. Website: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/park/lakesuperior>. Accessed: July 2014.

PROTECTED AREA	CLASS	AREA (hectares)	DESCRIPTION
<b>Magpie River Terraces Conservation Reserve</b>	Living Legacy Conservation Reserve <sup>154</sup>	20.8 ha <sup>155</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classified as a Living Legacy Conservation Reserve<sup>156</sup></li> <li>• Created in 2002 to protect ten distinct and expansive terraces</li> <li>• Also referred to as the Wawa blueberry patch, fume kill or “treeless area” by local residents<sup>157</sup></li> <li>• Mining, commercial forest harvesting, hydroelectric power development, extraction of aggregate and peat as well as other industrial activities previously occurred on the site</li> <li>• Located within the Robinson Superior Treaty Area</li> <li>• There are no facilities for visitors</li> </ul>
<b>Manitou Mountain Conservation Reserve</b>	Conservation Reserve	532 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located within the Magpie Forest Management Unit<sup>158</sup></li> <li>• There are no facilities for visitors</li> </ul>
<b>Michipicoten Island Provincial Park<sup>159</sup></b>	Natural Environment <sup>160</sup>	36,740 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-operational (not staffed)</li> <li>• There are no facilities for visitors</li> <li>• Contains sand beaches, forests and species of wildlife including woodland caribou and beavers</li> </ul>

<sup>154</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2004. *C1520 Magpie River Terraces Conservation Reserve Statement of Conservation Interest*. Website: [http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr00\\_bcr0030.pdf](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr00_bcr0030.pdf). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>155</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>156</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>157</sup> Rowe, J. 2012. *Long abandoned industry often leaves something sweet in its wake*. Website: <http://www.wawahistory.com/2/category/magpie%20river/1.html>. Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>158</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2005. *C1527 Manitou Mountain Conservation Reserve Statement of Conservation Interest*. Website: [http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr00\\_bcr0032.pdf](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr00_bcr0032.pdf). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>159</sup> Ontario Parks. 2014. *Michipicoten Island*. Website: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/michipicotenisland>. Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>160</sup> Ontario Parks. 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). Accessed: July 2014.

PROTECTED AREA	CLASS	AREA (hectares)	DESCRIPTION
<b>Michipicoten Post Provincial Park<sup>161</sup></b>	Historical Provincial Park <sup>162</sup>	289 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Originally established as Michipicoten Wilderness Area in May 1971<sup>163</sup></li> <li>Non-operational (not staffed)<sup>164</sup></li> <li>There are no facilities for visitors</li> <li>Park includes areas for nature viewing and hiking</li> </ul>
<b>Nagagami Lake Provincial Nature Reserve<sup>165,166</sup></b>	Nature Reserve	1,650 ha <sup>167</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-operational (not staffed)</li> <li>There are no facilities for visitors</li> <li>Foch/Nagagami Canoe Route passes through the park</li> <li>Provides protection for important natural features</li> <li>Park contains archaeological sites of regional significance, including chert beach<sup>168</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Neys Addition Provincial Park<sup>169</sup></b>	Natural Environment	1,939 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addition of Coldwell Peninsula to the existing Neys Provincial Park</li> </ul>
<b>Neys Provincial Park<sup>170</sup></b>	Natural Environment	3,445 ha <sup>171</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities – hiking, canoeing, swimming, boating, fishing, biking, natural heritage education, birding, hunting</li> <li>Facilities – comfort stations, flush toilets, barrier free access, day use area, park store, laundry, boat launch, rentals, picnic shelter and visitor centre</li> </ul>

<sup>161</sup> Ontario Parks. 2014. *Michipicoten Post*. Website: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/michipicotenpost>. Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>162</sup> Ontario Parks. 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). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>163</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>164</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. Source: 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). Accessed October 2013.

<sup>165</sup> Ontario Parks. 2014. *Nagagami Lake*. Website: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/nagagamilake>. Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>166</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 1985. *Nagagami Lake Provincial Nature Reserve Interim Management Statement*. Website: [http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr\\_bpp0057.pdf](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr_bpp0057.pdf). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>167</sup> Ontario Parks. n.d. *Nagagamis Central Plateau Signature Site: The Management Options – A Working Document*. Website: [http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning\\_pdf/naga\\_manage\\_opt.pdf](http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/naga_manage_opt.pdf). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>168</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>169</sup> Ontario Parks. 2004. *Neys Park Management Plan*. Website: [http://ontarioparks.com/english/planning\\_pdf/neys\\_manage\\_plan.pdf](http://ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/neys_manage_plan.pdf). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>170</sup> Ontario Parks. 2014. *Neys*. Website: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/neys.html>. Accessed: July 2014

<sup>171</sup> In 2000, an additional 1,939 hectares were added to the existing Neys Provincial Park. Neys Provincial Park now includes the islands of Coldwell Peninsula and encompasses a total area of 5,383 hectares. Ontario Parks. 2004. *Neys Park Management Plan*. Website: [http://ontarioparks.com/english/planning\\_pdf/neys\\_manage\\_plan.pdf](http://ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/neys_manage_plan.pdf). Accessed: July 2014.

PROTECTED AREA	CLASS	AREA (hectares)	DESCRIPTION
<b>Nimoosh Provincial Park</b>	Waterway <sup>172</sup>	3,557 ha <sup>173</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also known as University River Complex Provincial Park</li> <li>• Non-operational (not staffed)</li> <li>• There are no facilities for visitors</li> <li>• Nimoosh River waterway connects Obatanga Provincial Park to the Lake Superior coast</li> </ul>
<b>Obatanga Provincial Park</b> <sup>174</sup>	Natural Environment	9,409 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-operational (not staffed)</li> <li>• Viewing opportunities for canoeing and wildlife are provided by park lakes</li> <li>• Utilized as staging area for canoe trips down Dog River</li> </ul>
<b>Pokei Lake/White River Wetlands Provincial Park</b> <sup>175</sup>	Nature Reserve <sup>176</sup>	1,768 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-operational (not staffed)</li> <li>• There are no facilities for visitors</li> </ul>
<b>Potholes Provincial Park</b> <sup>177</sup>	Nature Reserve	347 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities – hiking, natural heritage education, birding</li> <li>• Facilities –day use area, privy toilets</li> </ul>
<b>Pukaskwa National Park</b> <sup>178</sup>	Wilderness	187,800 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities include – geocaching, camping, hiking, backpacking, fishing, boating, cycling and mountain biking, interpretive events, picnicking, canoeing, and kayaking</li> <li>• Facilities – visitor centre, camp, campground, and trails</li> </ul>

<sup>172</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 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). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>173</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2002. *Crown Land Use Atlas – Policy Report: Nimoosh Provincial Park*. Website: [http://publicdocs.mnr.gov.on.ca/View.asp?Document\\_ID=14908&Attachment\\_ID=31070](http://publicdocs.mnr.gov.on.ca/View.asp?Document_ID=14908&Attachment_ID=31070). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>174</sup> Ontario Parks. 2014. *Obatanga*. Website: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/obatanga>. Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>175</sup> Ontario Parks. 2014. *Pokei Lake/White River Wetlands*. Website: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/pokeilakewhiteriverwetlands>. Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>176</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). Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>177</sup> Ontario Parks. 2014. *Potholes*. Website: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/park/potholes>. Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>178</sup> Parks Canada. 2014. *Pukaskwa National Park*. Website: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/on/pukaskwa/index.aspx>. Accessed: July 2014.

PROTECTED AREA	CLASS	AREA (hectares)	DESCRIPTION
<b>Pukaskwa River Provincial Park</b> <sup>179</sup>	Waterway <sup>180</sup>	1,465 ha <sup>181</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-operational (not staffed)</li> <li>• There are no facilities for visitors</li> </ul>
<b>South Michipicoten River-Superior Shoreline Conservation Reserve</b> <sup>182</sup>	Conservation Reserve	22 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reserve links Lake Superior Provincial Park and Michipicoten Post Provincial Park<sup>183</sup></li> <li>• Reserve is associated with the Great Lakes Heritage Coast Signature Site – one of nine areas identified in Ontario’s Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (1999)</li> <li>• Portions of the Reserve are subject to mining claims and leases</li> </ul>
<b>Strickland River Mixed Forest Wetland Conservation Reserve</b>	Conservation Reserve <sup>184</sup>	1,638 ha <sup>185</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no visitor facilities</li> <li>• Accessible only by air, water and foot</li> </ul>
<b>White Lake Peatlands Provincial Nature Reserve</b> <sup>186</sup>	Nature Reserve	992 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-operational (not staffed)</li> <li>• Peatland bog developed over glacial sand deposits</li> </ul>

<sup>179</sup> Ontario Parks. 2014. *Pukaskwa River*. Website: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/pukaskwariver>. Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>180</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2006. *Pukaskwa River Interim Management Statement*. Website: [http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr\\_bpp0018.pdf](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr_bpp0018.pdf). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>181</sup> The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources identifies the park as encompassing 1,370 hectares in the Pukaskwa River Provincial Park 2006 Interim Management Statement. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2006. *Pukaskwa River Interim Management Statement*. Website: [http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr\\_bpp0018.pdf](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr_bpp0018.pdf). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>182</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2005. *Crown Land Use Policy Atlas – Policy Report: South Michipicoten River – Superior Shoreline*. Website: [http://publicdocs.mnr.gov.on.ca/View.asp?Document\\_ID=14918&Attachment\\_ID=31176](http://publicdocs.mnr.gov.on.ca/View.asp?Document_ID=14918&Attachment_ID=31176). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>183</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2004. *C1517 South Michipicoten River – Superior Shoreline Conservation Reserve Statement of Conservation Interest*. Website: [http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr00\\_bcr0026.pdf](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr00_bcr0026.pdf). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>184</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. November 2004. *Statement of Conservation Interest for the Strickland River Mixed Forest Conservation Reserve*. [http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr00\\_bcr0031.pdf](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr00_bcr0031.pdf) Accessed: February 2014.

<sup>185</sup> Government of Ontario. 2014. *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 Ontario Regulation 315/07 Designation of Conservation Reserves Schedule 57: Strickland River Mixed Forest Wetland Conservation Reserve*. Website: [http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws\\_regs\\_070315\\_e.htm#BK258](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_070315_e.htm#BK258). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>186</sup> Ontario Parks. 2013. *White Lake Peatlands*. Website: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/whitelakepeatlands>. Accessed: October 2013.

PROTECTED AREA	CLASS	AREA (hectares)	DESCRIPTION
White Lake Provincial Park	Natural Environment	1,723 ha <sup>187</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities – hiking, canoeing, swimming, boating, fishing, biking, snowshoeing</li> <li>• Facilities –bathrooms, laundry, boat launch<sup>188</sup></li> </ul>
Widgeon Lake Moraine Conservation Reserve <sup>189</sup>	Conservation Reserve	1,240 ha <sup>190</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no facilities for visitors</li> </ul>

<sup>187</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 1987. *White Lake Provincial Park Management Plan*. Website:

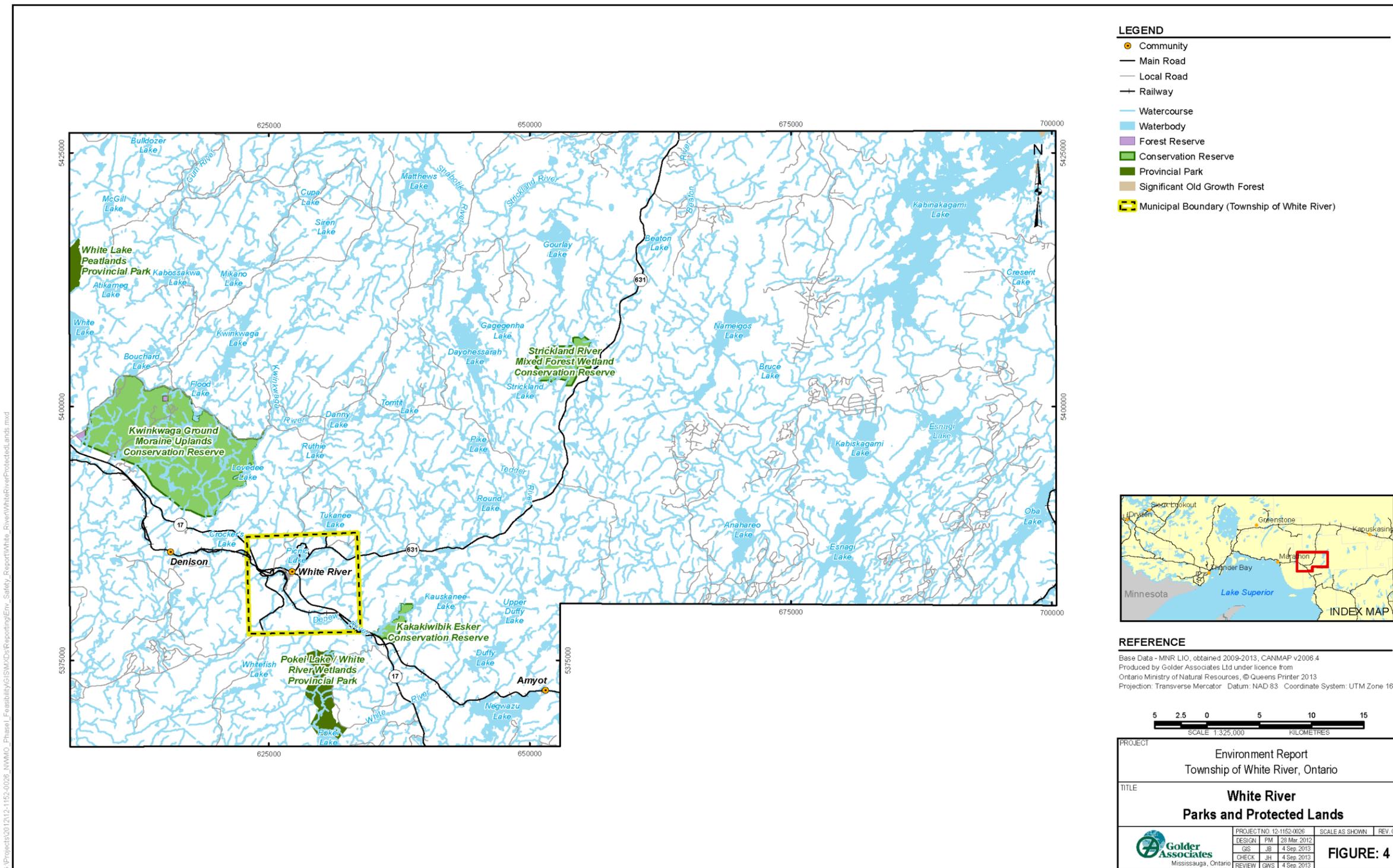
[http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr\\_bpp0015.pdf](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr_bpp0015.pdf). Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>188</sup> Ontario Parks. 2013. *White Lake*. Website: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/park/whitelake#Rentals>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>189</sup> Ontario Parks. 2011. *Steel River Terms of Reference*. Website: [http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning\\_pdf/stee/stee\\_ToR.pdf](http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/stee/stee_ToR.pdf). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>190</sup> Government of Ontario. 2014. *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 Ontario Regulation 315/07 Designation of Conservation Reserves Schedule 161: Widgeon Lake Moraine Conservation Reserve*. Website: [http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regis/english/elaws\\_regs\\_070315\\_e.htm#BK258](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regis/english/elaws_regs_070315_e.htm#BK258). Accessed: July 2014.

Figure 34: Parks and Protected Areas Surrounding White River



Source: Golder Associates. January 2014. *White River Parks and Protected Lands*.

### 2.6.1.2 WHITE RIVER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

The White River Forest 2008 – 2018 Forest Management Plan documents other environmental values in the Plan area, including those related to :<sup>191</sup>

- Bear management areas
- Cultural heritage sites
- Fisheries and wetlands
- Land values/existing roads
- Resource-based tourism
- Resource uses
- Traplines
- Wildlife and forestry

The White River Co-Management Committee is the Local Citizens Committee for this Forest Management Plan. The mandate of the Committee is to contribute to maintaining a healthy environment with sustainable use of natural resources by:

- a) Fostering an atmosphere of co-operation between all user groups in the White River Area
- b) Making recommendations to the District Manager (MNR) on the use, management and allocation of Crown resources in the White River Area
- c) Participating in resource management planning initiatives
- d) Assisting in monitoring activities (e.g., timber operations, fishery exploitation, mining activities, wildlife plans, fire management, etc.)
- e) Working with users, interest groups and stakeholders
- f) Informing the public and gathering their input
- g) Educating committee members so that we can work effectively with the Ministry of Natural Resources, other governments, agencies and communities

Membership includes representation from the Township of White River; Pic Mobert First Nation; tourism; trappers; mining interests; logging/forestry; baitfish; Parks Canada; and the Jackfish River Corporation. The Committee is still seeking membership from local business, naturalists, waterpower, environmental groups, Heritage groups, Marathon Rod and Gun.

### 2.6.2 SUMMARY OF NATURAL ASSETS

This section summarizes the Natural Assets described above for White River in terms of:

- Priorities and Key Issues;
- Community Aspirations; and
- Capabilities and Capacities within the Community.

<sup>191</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2008. *White River Forest 2008 – 2018 Forest Management Plan*. Website: <http://www.efmp.lrc.gov.on.ca/eFMP/viewFmuPlan.do?fmu=060&fid=472&type=CURRENT&pid=472&sid=2568&pn=FP&ppyf=2008&ppyt=2018&ptyf=2008&ptyt=2013&phase=P1>. Accessed: February 2014.

### **2.6.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES**

The natural assets of White River are valued by residents. White River is surrounded by wilderness, lakes, and rivers that provide outdoor recreational opportunities for residents and tourists alike. A national park and a number of provincial parks and conservation reserves are located near White River. Picnic Lake is used extensively by residents, many of whom have camps/cottages on the lake. Other residents have camps in the vicinity.

### **2.6.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS**

The protection and enhancement of the natural environment is a priority for the community. Many residents indicated that access to hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational pursuits are important to the community.

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

The White River 2008-2018 Forest Management Plan and the White River Co-Management Committee provide mechanisms for monitoring and managing various uses of the natural resources that surround White River.

## **2.7 COMMUNITY PATTERNS WITH THE PROVINCE SUMMARY**

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The following section highlights some general trends when comparing White River to the province as a whole.

### **2.7.1 COMMUNITY PATTERNS WITH THE PROVINCE**

The Township of White River and the Census Division as a whole have generally been experiencing population decline and out-migration between 1996 and 2011, while the Province of Ontario has shown population growth over the same period. White River's population has been declining at a faster rate than the Census Division.

Compared to the Province, both White River and the Census Division have proportionately older populations. The median age has increased at the Township, the Census Division, and provincial levels since 2001, further demonstrating aging trends, although the trend is strongest at the community / Census Division level compared to Ontario.

In both 2006 and 2011, White River had a higher labour force participation rate than both the Census Division and the province; the Census Division's participation rate was less than Ontario. The unemployment rates in White River and the Census Division were consistently higher than Ontario's in all census years from 1996 to 2011, indicating a relatively weak economy relative to the province.

In 2011, the proportion of White River's residents with *no certificate, diploma or degree* was still higher than in the Census Division or Ontario as a whole. However, the community had a higher proportion of residents with *apprenticeship or trades certificates or diploma* (23.8% for White River, compared to 11.2% for the Census Division and 7.4% for Ontario). In fact, the proportion of the population of White River with *apprenticeship or trades certificates or diploma* more than doubled between 2006 and 2011 (from 10.1% to 23.8%).

In 2011, the largest industries in White River as reported by Statistics Canada were *health care and social services* and *mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction* (both with 15.4% of the labour force<sup>192</sup>), followed by *construction* (14.1%). The only other industries with more than 10% of the community's labour force were *public administration* (11.5%) and *accommodation and food services* (10.3%). A higher proportion of the population in White River is employed in *mining, construction, transportation and warehousing, health care/social assistance, accommodation/food services* and *public administration* industries compared to the province. The distribution of labour force by industry in the Census Division and Ontario in 2011 was quite different. While both the Census Division and the province had *health care and social assistance* as one of their three largest industries (14.1% in the Census Division and 10.4% in Ontario), their other main industries in 2011 were *retail trade* (12.4% in the Census Division and 11.2% in Ontario) and *manufacturing* (10.7% in the Census Division and 10.4% in Ontario). By comparison, only 7.7% of White River's labour force was active in *retail trade* and none of its labour force was active in *manufacturing* in 2011.

## 2.8 UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

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

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

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<sup>192</sup> The accuracy of Statistics Canada labour force data is questionable. For example, the statistic demonstrating 15.4% labour force employment in "health and social services" is disputed by both community members and DPRA consultants in light of White River's low and declining population levels and community health care/social service inadequacies. With a 2011 labour force population of 390, this 15.4% would indicate an increase of over 50 jobs in health care and social services between 2006 and 2011 despite a rise in community unemployment and decrease in population. Thus the accuracy of these employment data must be called into question.

### 2.8.1 COMMUNITY CHARACTER

The Township of White River has many of the typical characteristics of a small Northern Ontario town. White River was built with a strong entrepreneurial spirit; an extension of Canada's rich railway and transportation history. White River was founded in 1885 as a railway town, and further developed in 1961 when the TransCanada Highway 17 was completed. Since the completion of the TransCanada Highway across the north shore of Lake Superior, White River's economy has primarily been driven by the forest industry and Highway commercial activity. White River hopes to capitalize more on the tourism industry as the hometown of Winnie-the-Pooh<sup>193</sup>. Valued characteristics described by community residents include the following:

- Clean air;
- Strong volunteer base (although it is noted to be aging);
- Tight-knit community;
- Hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities;
- Great location along the TransCanada Highway;
- Central to larger communities such as Wawa, Marathon and Manitouwadge – ½ way between Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay;
- Good working relationships with neighbouring communities (e.g., through Northeast Superior Mayors Group<sup>194</sup>)
- People willing to work together; and,
- Friendly and safe.<sup>195</sup>

### 2.8.2 ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

White River boasts of its natural beauty for outdoor adventure enthusiasts. The community is surrounded by lakes and rivers providing ideal outdoor recreation opportunities both in summer and winter<sup>196</sup>. The White River Co-Management Committee provides a mechanism for monitoring and managing various uses of the natural resources that surround White River.

<sup>193</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *About White River – History*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/about-white-river-3.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>194</sup> The Northeast Superior Mayors Group includes White River, Dubreuilville, Wawa, Manitouwadge, Hornepayne and Chapleau (see S. 3.1.1.2, below).

<sup>195</sup> *This information was obtained from White River community discussions October, November 2013 and January 2014.*

<sup>196</sup> Township of White River. 2013. *About White River – History*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/about-white-river-3.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

### 2.8.3 COMMUNITY GOALS

White River residents have expressed a number of goals for the future:

- Growing the population to increase the number of families/children in the community, to better support the school, community organizations, and services in the community;
- A need to diversify the economy (e.g., through tourism, mining, additional forestry activities, entrepreneurship) in order to minimize the reliance on a single, large employer;
- Focus future tourism efforts on Winnie-the-Pooh as a foundation for growing the sector in White River;
- Continuing success with partnerships in economic development, such as the re-opening of the mill;
- Providing local employment opportunities for new and existing residents, and to address the out-migration of community members (particularly youth) in search of employment or education;
- Improving community vitality by attracting new residents, or the return of former residents (e.g., expanding participation in community organizations and events; enhancing municipal revenues and services);
- Revitalizing existing residential stock and commercial properties;
- Improving health care services such as long-term care (for seniors in particular); and,
- The bussing of children to Wawa for high school and for public elementary education is also viewed as a challenge.

### 2.8.4 COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS

The most recent economic development strategy or a strategic plan relevant for the town was the 2007 Regional Investment Strategic Plan for the Superior East Alliance, which is not exclusive to White River<sup>197</sup>. Economic circumstances in the region have evolved since 2007, and the Superior East Alliance has recently completed a Regional Investment Attraction Strategy<sup>198</sup>. The White River Community Development Corporation is working towards a Strategic Economic Plan in partnership with the Township of White River which identifies the following targeted sectors: tourism, forestry, mining, and energy<sup>199</sup>. The Township of White River Official Plan is dated September 26, 1983. In December 2013, the White River Asset Management Plan was completed.

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<sup>197</sup> Algoma Workforce Investment Corporation. January 2011. *Labour Force Analysis and Human Resource Development Strategy for the District of Algoma*. Prepared by R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd. Website: [http://www.awic.ca/documents/assets/uploads/files/en/labour\\_force\\_analysis\\_and\\_workforce\\_development\\_strategy\\_june\\_2011.pdf](http://www.awic.ca/documents/assets/uploads/files/en/labour_force_analysis_and_workforce_development_strategy_june_2011.pdf). Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>198</sup> Township of White River, Ontario. 2014. *Economic Plans & Services*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/economic-plans--services-155.asp>. Accessed: May 2014.

<sup>199</sup> *Ibid.*

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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 can be 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 Township of White River is situated within the Algoma District. Statistics are readily available for the District; for this reason and for the purposes of the 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 which reflect areas of current coordinated economic development activity.

The key components described in this section are:

- Location and List of Communities;
- Land Size and Uses; and
- Expenditures – Where Residents Obtain Goods and Services.

#### 3.1.1 LOCATION – LIST OF COMMUNITIES

##### 3.1.1.1 ALGOMA DISTRICT

There are more than 20 communities located within Algoma District (see Figure 35), a large area in Northern Ontario. The District serves as an administrative unit for the delivery of a number of social services and is an area for which statistics are available for analysis purposes.

**Figure 35: Algoma District Boundaries**



Source: Wikipedia. 2013. *Algoma District*. Website. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algoma\\_District](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algoma_District). Accessed: October 2013.

The communities in Algoma District are:<sup>200,201</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 Aberdeen 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.

These communities and others are shown in Figure 36. Located to the north of Algoma District is Cochrane District. The population centres in Cochrane District closest to White River include Hearst and Kapuskasing<sup>202</sup>.

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<sup>200</sup> Association of Ontario Municipalities. July 2012. *Ontario Municipal Home Pages*. Website: <http://www.amo.on.ca/>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>201</sup> Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities. 2010. *Members*. Website: <http://www.fonom.org/?q=node/5>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>202</sup> Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2009. *List of Incorporated Northeastern Ontario Municipalities*. Website: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page1044.aspx>. Accessed: October 2013.

Figure 36: Communities in the Algoma District



Source: Algoma Kinniwabi Travel Association. n.d. Regional Map. Website: <http://www.algomacountry.com/490/regional-map>. Accessed: October 2013. Note: This map includes communities located outside the Algoma District.

3.1.1.2 NORTHEAST SUPERIORS MAYOR'S GROUP

Communities that make up the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group (Figure 37) are<sup>203</sup>:

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

Figure 37: Northeast Superior Mayors' Group



Source: DPRA Canada, 2013.

<sup>203</sup> Information obtained during community discussions in White River, Fall 2013.

### 3.1.1.3 NORTHEAST SUPERIOR FOREST COMMUNITY

The Northeast Superior Forest Community (NSFC) was a regional partnership between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal communities with shared interests in forestry and sustainable economic development opportunities<sup>204</sup>. Projects focused on non-timber forest products, biomass/alternative energy, species at risk protection, forest-based youth education, cooperative development, ecotourism, and traditional mapping. The NSFC included the six Aboriginal communities participating in the Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs Forum and the six Non-Aboriginal communities<sup>205</sup>. Communities participating in the NSFC included: 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>206, 207</sup> (Figure 38). The NSFC (as of January 2014) is in the process of wrapping up the group, its assets and activities<sup>208</sup>

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<sup>204</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d. *About NSFC*. Website. <http://www.nafc.ca/nsfc/about-nafc>. Accessed: October 2013.

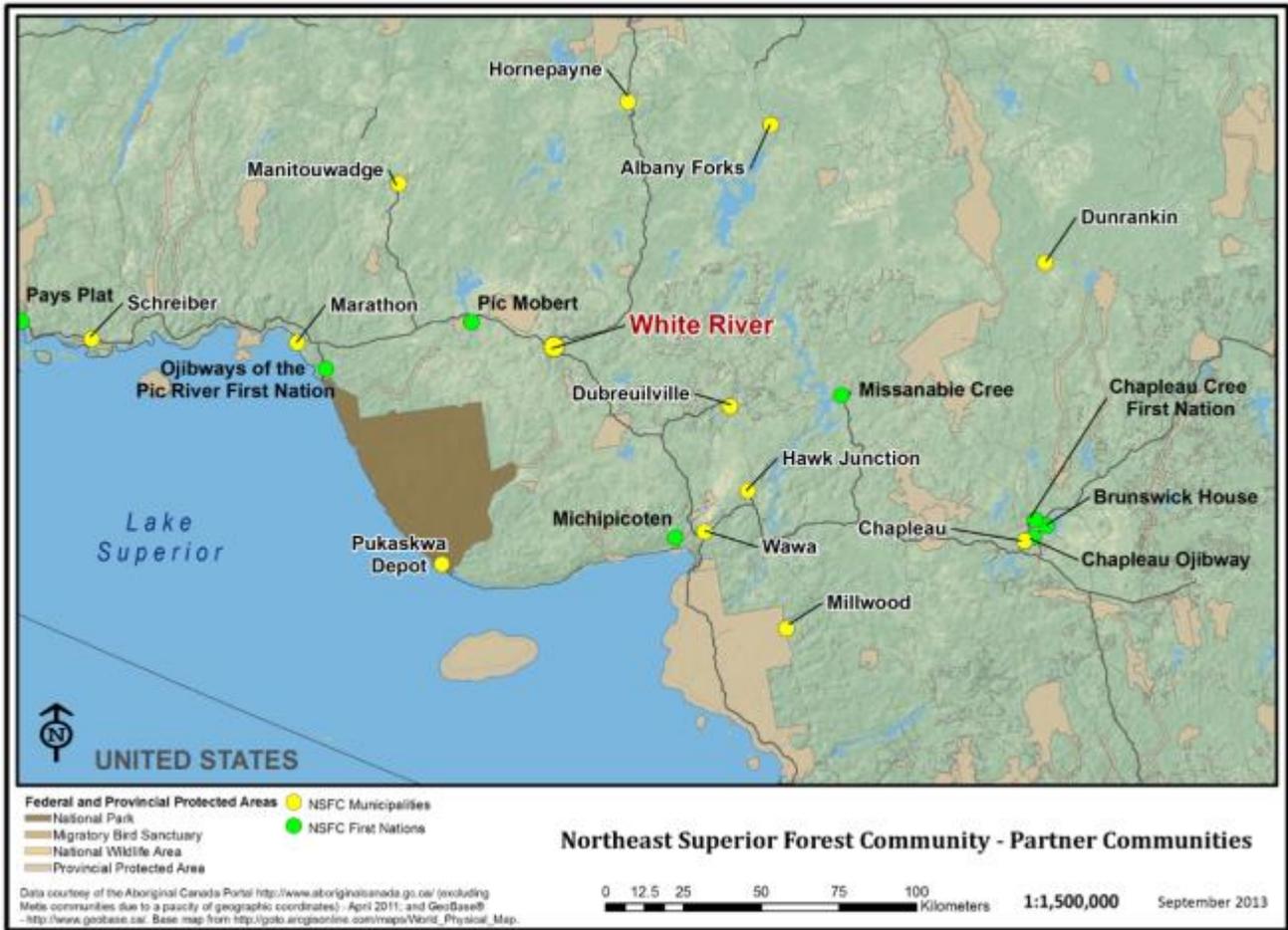
<sup>205</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>206</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d. *Our Communities and Our Region*. Website: <http://www.nafc.ca/nsfc/about-nafc/our-communities-and-our-region>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>207</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d. *Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs' Forum*. Website: <http://nsfc.ca/files/Library/communities/ChiefsForumEN.pdf>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>208</sup> *This information was obtained from White River community discussions January 2014.*

Figure 38: Northeast Superior Forest Community



Source: DPRA Canada. 2013.

The NSFC shares spatial boundaries with the Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs’ Forum. The 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>209</sup>

**3.1.1.4 NAWIINGINOKIIMA FOREST MANAGEMENT CORPORATION**

The Nawiinginkiima Forest Management Corporation was established in 2012 by the Government of Ontario as a Crown Agency<sup>210</sup>. This five-year pilot project is Ontario’s first local forest management corporation with a sustainable forest license. The Corporation was created to “re-energize the forestry sector, create jobs and boost the economy” by managing and overseeing the sale of timber along the northeast shore of Lake Superior. The Corporation was created to achieve the goal of modernizing the management of wood supply as

<sup>209</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d. NSRCF - First Nation Communities. Website: <http://www.nsfcc.ca/nsfc/about-nsfc/our-communities-and-our-region/nsrcf-first-nation-communities>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>210</sup> Township of Manitouwadge. September 2012. “Township Seeks Interested Persons for Nomination to Board of Nawiinginkiima Forest Management Corporation”. *Ontario News North.com*. Website: <http://www.karinahunter.com/?p=40947>. Accessed: October 2013.

outlined in the *Growth Plan for Northern Ontario*. Taken from the Ojibway language, the name means “working together”<sup>211</sup>. The Corporation was created as a partnership between seven communities – Pic Mobert First Nation, Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation, Hornepayne First Nation, White River, Marathon, Manitouwadge and Hornepayne – to jointly manage an area encompassing five existing forest management units: the Nagagami Forest, Big Pic Forest, Pic River Ojibway Forest, Black River Forest and White River Forest<sup>212</sup>.

### 3.1.1.5 FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

The Township is also a member of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), which provides advocacy for more than 110 cities, towns and municipalities throughout Northeastern Ontario, including the Township of White River. As a member of FONOM, the Township receives economic support under the organization’s mandate of improving the economic and social quality of life for all northern residents<sup>213</sup>.

### 3.1.1.6 OTHER MUNICIPAL FORUMS

The Township is also a member of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and Thunder Bay District Municipal League.<sup>214</sup> Collectively, these organizations provide leadership in advocating regional interest on behalf of their membership.<sup>215</sup> These strategic planning activities seek to stabilize the communities and position them for the prospect of growth partly based on the transportation infrastructure – the two major railroads (Canadian Pacific and Canadian National) and the TransCanada Highway.<sup>216</sup>

## 3.1.2 LAND SIZE AND USES

The communities represented by the Northeast Superior Mayors’ Group encompass a total municipal area of approximately 1,340 km<sup>217</sup>. However, the total area increases to approximately 1,519 square kilometers when

<sup>211</sup> May 2011. “Introducing the new Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corporation”. *ForestTalk.com*. Website: <http://forestattalk.com/index.php/2011/05/26/introducing-the-new-nawiinginokiima-forest-management-corporation/>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>212</sup> Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. June 2012. “Ontario Creates First Local Forest Management Corporation”. *News Release*. Website: <http://news.ontario.ca/mnr/en/2012/06/ontario-creates-first-local-forest-management-corporation.html>. Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>213</sup> Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities. 2010. *Mandate*. Website: <http://www.fonom.org/>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>214</sup> Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association. 2012. *Thunder Bay Municipal League*. Website: <http://www.noma.on.ca/article/thunder-bay-district-municipal-league-118.asp>. Accessed: May 2014.

<sup>215</sup> Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association. 2014. *NOMA Mission, Vision, Core Values & Guiding Principles*. Website: <http://www.noma.on.ca/article/mission-vision-core-values-and-guiding-principles-155.asp>. Accessed: May 2014.

<sup>216</sup> Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association. 2012. *Thunder Bay Municipal League*. Website: <http://www.noma.on.ca/article/thunder-bay-district-municipal-league-118.asp>. Accessed: May 2014.

<sup>217</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 square kilometres, a figure provided by members of the Wawa Nuclear Waste Community Advisory Committee at the May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting, was added to the total.

First Nations located in the NSFC area are included<sup>218,219,220</sup>. The Northeast Superior Mayors' Group communities sit within the much larger Algoma District, which has a total area of approximately 48,810 km<sup>2</sup><sup>221</sup>.

### 3.1.3 EXPENDITURES – WHERE RESIDENTS OBTAIN GOODS AND SERVICES

Township of White River residents visit a number of communities for a variety of purposes, including shopping and specialist health care services. The nearby communities of Marathon, Manitouwadge, or Wawa provide for shopping needs not available in White River; each is within approximately 100 km drive. In terms of healthcare services, residents often travel to Wawa, Marathon, Timmins, Thunder Bay, and/or Sault Ste. Marie depending on the service required and availability of doctors.<sup>222</sup> Some residents also travel to Sault Ste. Marie or Thunder Bay for legal and/or financial services.<sup>223</sup>

## 3.2 MUNICIPALITIES

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### 3.2.1 MUNICIPALITIES & LOCATIONS

As mentioned above, there are a number of municipalities in the area surrounding White River, as shown in Figures 36 to 38 above. For the purposes of this profile, four nearby communities– Marathon, Wawa, Hornepayne and Dubreuilville – will be briefly discussed.

#### Marathon

The Town of Marathon is located within the Thunder Bay District, approximately 95 km west of White River along the north shore of Lake Superior on the TransCanada Highway. The community is surrounded by boreal forest and mineral rich deposits.<sup>224</sup> Marathon's population was 3,353 in 2011, 13.2% less than the 2006

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<sup>218</sup> The total land area of the Northeast Superior Forest Community Region of 1,510 square kilometres 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>219</sup> The Northeast Superior Forest Community regional 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>220</sup> The Northeast Superior Forest Community Region 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). Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>221</sup> Statistics Canada. 2012. *Algoma, District Community Profile*. Website. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>222</sup> *This information was obtained from White River community discussions January 2014.*

<sup>223</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>224</sup> Town of Marathon. n.d. *Welcome*. Website: <http://www.marathon.ca/article/welcome-to-marathon-ontario-1.asp>. Accessed: July 2014.

population of 3,863. The median age in 2011 was 42.7 years, and the percentage of population aged 15 and over was 83.1%.<sup>225</sup>

Historically, the primary industrial sectors of Marathon's economy were mining and forestry. More recently, Marathon's labour force suffered job losses as a result of the bankruptcy of Marathon Pulp Inc. and Buchanan Forest Products Limited (Terrace Bay Pulp Mill, recently re-opened under new ownership).<sup>226</sup> In the 1980s, gold was discovered in Hemlo (approximately 40 kilometers east of Marathon). Many employees working at the Hemlo mines reside in Marathon.<sup>227</sup>

### Wawa

The Municipality of Wawa is located about 220 kilometres north of Sault Ste. Marie at the intersection of the TransCanada Highway (Highway 17) and Highway 101. Wawa is approximately 93 km south of White River on the TransCanada. The Municipality's population has been steadily declining since 1976;<sup>228</sup> in 2011, it was approximately 2,975, down from 4,145 in 1996.<sup>229</sup>

Formerly known as Michipicoten, Wawa began as a French fur trade post on Lake Superior in 1725.<sup>230</sup> The names Wawa and Michipicoten are Ojibway. As early as 1625, Michipicoten was reportedly known to French explorers and appeared on a 1632 map published by Samuel de Champlain.

### Dubreuilville

The Township of Dubreuilville is located approximately 82 km southeast of White River on Highway 519, east of the TransCanada Highway; about 310 kilometres north of Sault Ste. Marie. Dubreuilville's population in 2011 was approximately 635; the community has a strong French culture (e.g., 2/3 of the population have knowledge of both English and French).<sup>231</sup>

Between 1961 and 1977, Dubreuilville was considered a non-incorporated municipality, a gated company town built around the local mill.<sup>232</sup> Vehicles were required to check-in at the gate. The mill is currently closed, in

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<sup>225</sup> Statistics Canada. 2012. *Marathon, Ontario Community Profile*.

<sup>226</sup> Stillwater Canada Incorporated. 2012. *Marathon Platinum Group Metals – Copper Project Environmental Impact Statement – Supporting Information Document No. 22-Baseline Economic and Social Conditions in the Vicinity of the Marathon PGM-Cu Project*. Prepared for the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

<sup>227</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>228</sup> Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2014. *Transportation and Market Access*. Website: <http://edcwawa.ca/site-selection/transportation-market-access/>. Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>229</sup> Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Michipicoten, Township Community Profile*.

<sup>230</sup> Geofirma Engineering Ltd. 2011. *Initial Screening for Siting a Deep Geological Repository for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel*.

<sup>231</sup> Statistics Canada. 2012. *Dubreuilville, Ontario (Code 3557079) and Ontario (Code 35) (table). Census Profile. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE*. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012. Website: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>. Accessed: January 2014.

<sup>232</sup> Township of Dubreuilville. n.d. *History*. Website: <http://www.dubreuilville.ca/main.html>. Accessed: October 2013.

maintenance mode<sup>233</sup>. Richmond Mines operates the Island Gold Mine and Mill just southeast of the community<sup>234</sup>, and Prodigy Gold is seeking to re-open the Magino Mine in the same vicinity<sup>235</sup>.

### Hornepayne

The Township of Hornepayne is located on Highway 631 within the Algoma District, approximately 110 km by road/78 km 'straight line' northeast of White River. The Township is a main stop on the Canadian National Rail line, with VIA Rail providing passenger rail service in easterly and westerly directions. The history of Hornepayne is closely tied to the railway. The railway continues to operate in the area with an active rail yard. Hornepayne has experienced some decline in population with a reported population of 1,050 in 2011, approximately 50% less than it was 25 years ago. This is largely attributable to the declining forestry sector and railroad cutbacks. Residents in Hornepayne are still employed primarily in the forestry and railroad sectors. Residents and visitors are able to access natural areas including the Hearst Forest Reserve and the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve.

The two major employers in the town are Olav Haavaldsrud Timber Company Limited and Canadian National Railway. In 2010, the community was hard hit by the closure of the Hornepayne Town Centre, which was a major employer and center of the community. The closure impacted employment and the availability of social and recreational programs for members of the community; however, the community remained resilient.

### 3.2.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Algoma District is one of forty-nine Census Divisions recognized by Statistics Canada<sup>236</sup>. Algoma District has been in existence since 1858, although the District's spatial boundaries have changed over time<sup>237</sup>. Since 1858, a number of communities have been added and removed from Algoma District as new Census Divisions were created<sup>238</sup>. Traditionally, Superior East (Wawa, Hornepayne, White River, and Dubreuilville) has been classified as a resource-based region within Algoma, with each community relying on one or two employers that employ the majority of the residents. Mining and forestry have served as the primary industries in this area since its inception, although the recent decline in resource-based industries has negatively impacted the region as a whole. Rail transportation has also played an important role in the establishment of many communities in the area.

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<sup>233</sup> Township of Dubreuilville. n.d. *Economic Development*. Website: <http://www.dubreuilville.ca/article/economic-development--1151.asp>. Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>234</sup> Richmond Mines. 2013. *Island Gold Operations*. Website: [http://www.richmont-mines.com/op\\_operations\\_islandgold](http://www.richmont-mines.com/op_operations_islandgold). Accessed: January 2014.

<sup>235</sup> Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. 2014. *Magino Gold Project*. Website: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=80044>. Accessed: February 2014.

<sup>236</sup> Statistics Canada. 2012. *Hornepayne, Township Community Profile*.

<sup>237</sup> Ontario, Canadian Census Finder. 2012. *Algoma District – Carleton County*. Website: <http://www.censusfinder.com/ontario-canada-census-records.htm>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>238</sup> Algoma District GenWeb. 2009. *Algoma District*. Website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~onalgoma/algo3.html#dates>. Accessed: October 2013.

### 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 nearby to White River.

- First Nations: The following First Nations are all part of the Robinson Superior Treaty area (see Figure 39 below):
  - Begetikong Anishnabe (Ojibways of Pic River (Heron Bay)) First Nation
  - Ojibways of Pic Mobert
- Métis: The Métis Nation Ontario Region 4 including:
  - Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council
  - 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 BEGETIKONG ANISHNABE (OJIBWAYS OF PIC RIVER (HERON BAY)) FIRST NATION

The Begetikong Anishnabe (Ojibways of Pic River (Heron Bay)) First Nation are located approximately 14 km (straight line distance) south of Marathon and approximately 73 km (straight line distance) west of White River at the mouth of the Pic River on the north shore of Lake Superior. The community is located on Pic River 50 Indian reserve.

According to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), the total registered population of the Begetikong Anishnabe First Nation in November 2014 was 1,137 with 528 living on-reserve and 609 off-reserve.<sup>239</sup>

##### 3.3.1.2 OJIBWAYS OF PIC MOBERT

Pic Mobert First Nation is an Ojibway community<sup>240</sup> located on two adjacent reserves approximately 29 km (straight line distance) northwest of White River and is a signatory of the Robinson-Superior Treaty. The largest is Pic Mobert North Indian Reserve<sup>241</sup>.

<sup>239</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2014. *Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation – Registered Population*. 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). Accessed: November 2014.

<sup>240</sup> Pic Mobert First Nation. 2010. *Heritage*. Website: <http://www.picmobert.ca/index.php?pid=9>. Accessed: January 2014.

<sup>241</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Pic Mobert First Nation Profile*. Website: [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=195&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=195&lang=eng). Accessed: January 2014.

In November 2014, AANDC indicated a total registered population of 953, of which 341 reside on-reserve and 609 reside off-reserve.<sup>242</sup>

### 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.

White River is within Region 4 of the MNO classification. There are two Métis Councils within Region 4 that are near White River:

- Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council
- North Channel Métis Council

### 3.3.3 TREATY AREAS

The following section outlines the Robinson Superior Treaty area. Figure 39 illustrates the location of each treaty area within Ontario.

#### 3.3.1.3 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>243</sup>.

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<sup>242</sup> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2014. *Pic Mobert First Nation – Registered Population*. Website. [http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=195&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=195&lang=eng). Accessed: November 2014.

<sup>243</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>. Accessed: January 2014.

Figure 39: Northern Ontario Treaty Areas



Source: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Historic Treaties in Ontario*. Website: [http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ-AI/STAGING/texte-text/mprm\\_treaties\\_th-ht\\_on\\_1371839599367\\_eng.pdf](http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ-AI/STAGING/texte-text/mprm_treaties_th-ht_on_1371839599367_eng.pdf). Accessed: January 2014.

### 3.4 POPULATION DYNAMICS

This section of the profile outlines population dynamics for White River, Algoma District and Ontario. The key characteristics described in this section are:

- Trends Over Time; and,
- Age Profile.

#### 3.4.1 TREND OVER TIME

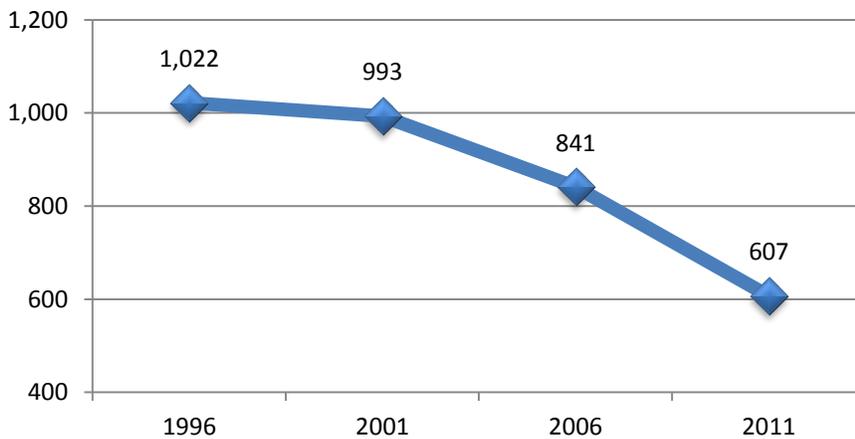
The Algoma District as a whole has experienced population decline since 1996. The largest period of decline occurred between 1996 and 2001, when the total population declined by 5.5% (see Table 13, Figures 40 - 42).

**Table 12: White River, Algoma District, and Ontario Population Trends, 1996 – 2011**

Time Period	White River Population (Change from Previous Census)	Algoma District Population (Change from Previous Census)	Ontario Population (Change from Previous Census)
1996	1,022 (7.8%)	125,440 (-1.4%)	10,753,573 (6.6%)
2001	993 (-2.8%)	118,565 (-5.5%)	11,410,046 (6.1%)
2006	841 (-15.3%)	117,460 (-0.9%)	12,160,282 (6.6%)
2011	607 (-27.8%)	115,870 (-1.4%)	12,851,821 (5.7%)

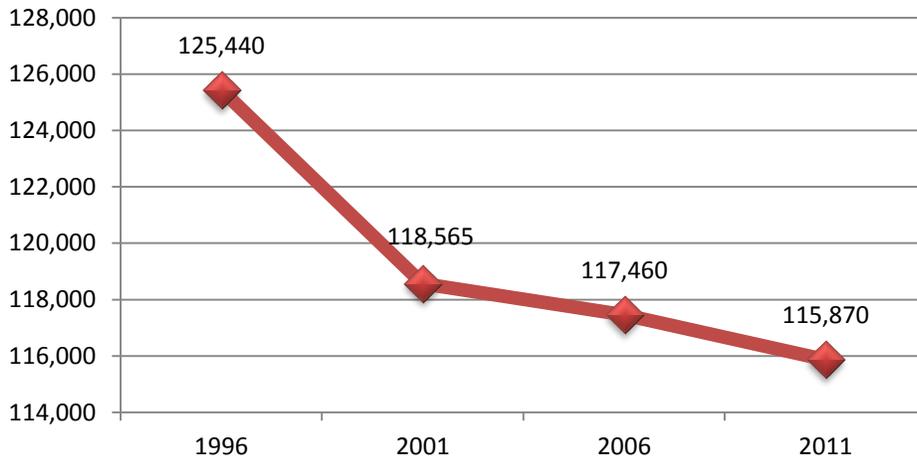
Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles.*

**Figure 40: White River Population Trends, 1996-2011**



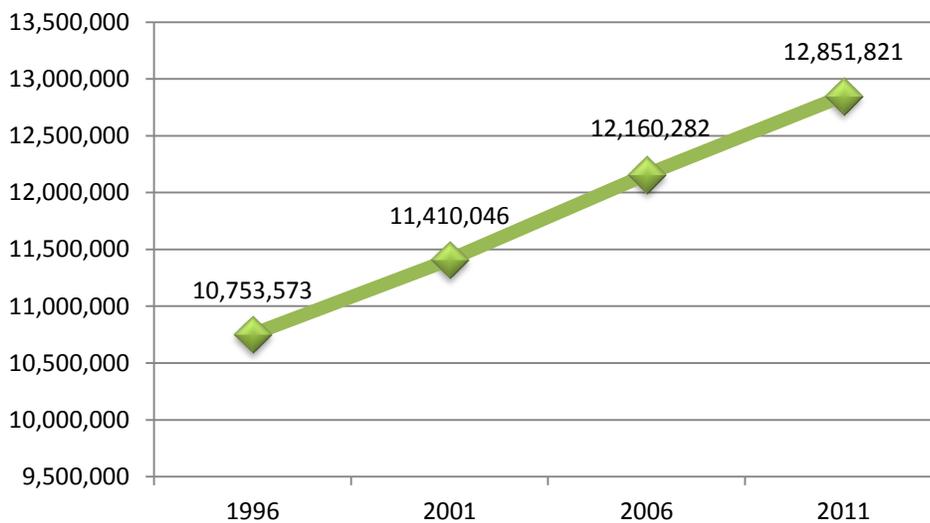
Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *White River, Township Community Profiles.*

**Figure 41: Algoma District Population Trends, 1996-2011**



Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Algoma District, Township Community Profiles*.

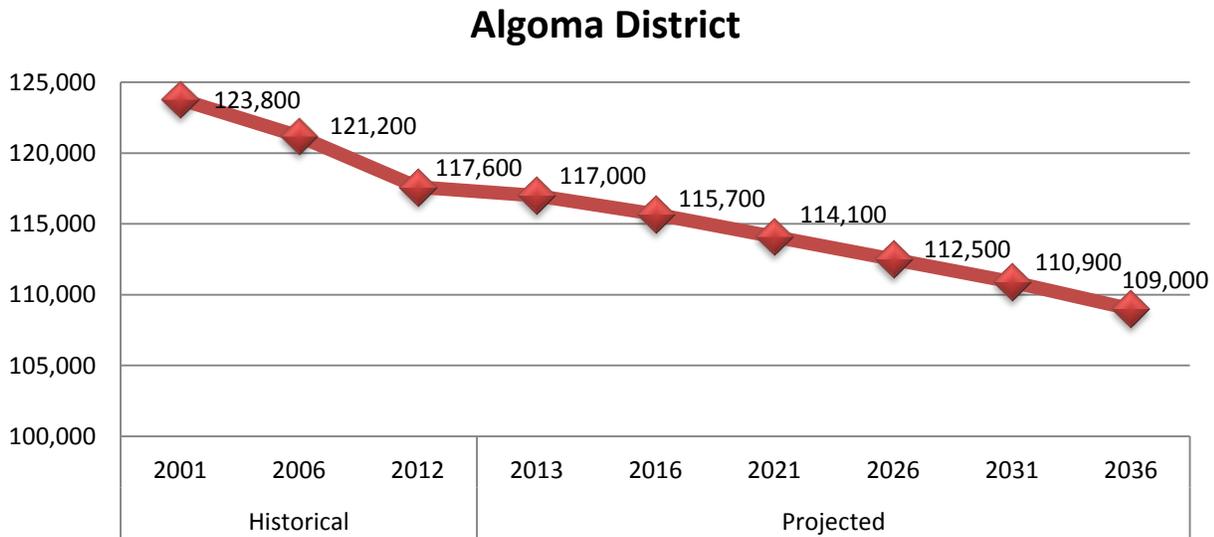
**Figure 42: Ontario Population Trends, 1996-2011**



Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Ontario, Community Profiles*.

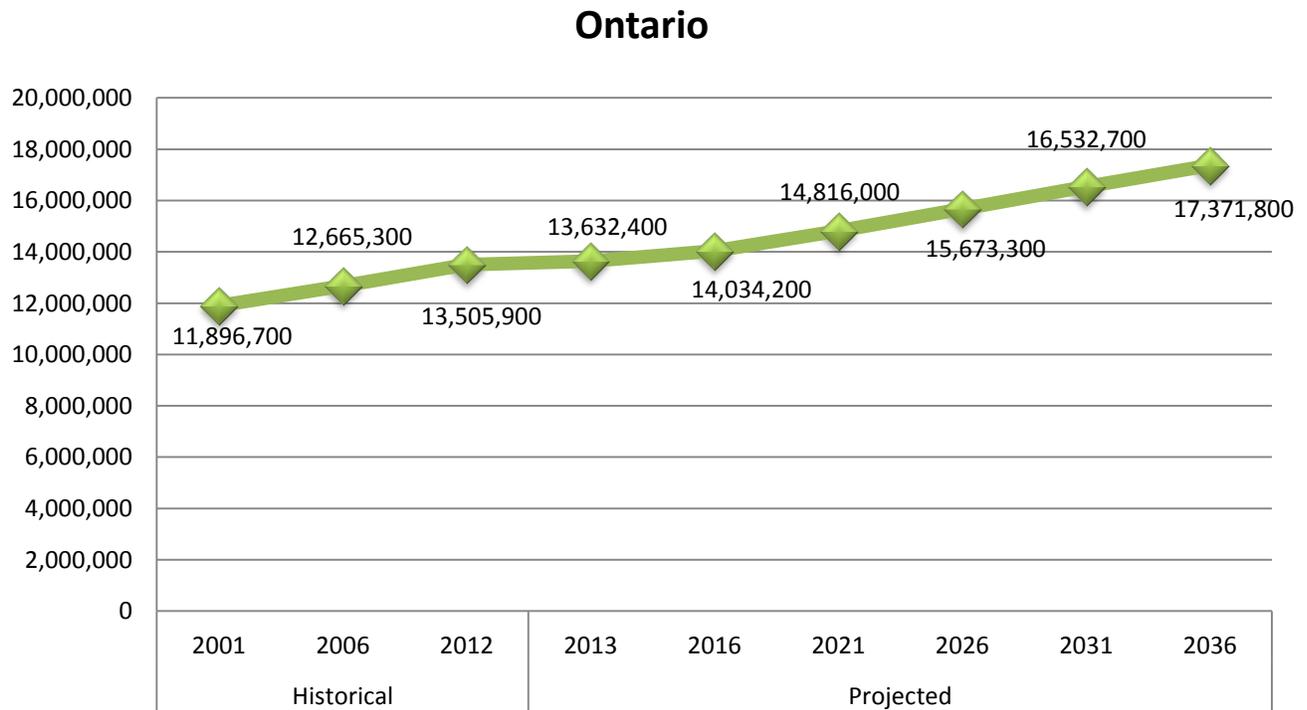
In 2013 the Ontario Ministry of Finance released population projections to 2036 for each of the province’s 49 census divisions. The trend in Algoma District shows a steady decline from 2001 to 2036 (123,000 to 109,000), as shown in Figure 43. The population projection for Ontario shows an increase (from 11,896,700 in 2001 to 17,371,800 in 2036) (Figure 44).

Figure 43: Algoma District Population Projection 2013-2036



Source: Government of Ontario. Spring 2013. *Ontario Population Projections Update 2012-2036: Ontario and Its 49 Census Divisions*. Prepared by the Ministry of Finance. Website: <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/projections/projections2012-2036.pdf>. Accessed: July 2014.

Figure 44: Ontario Population Projection 2013-2036

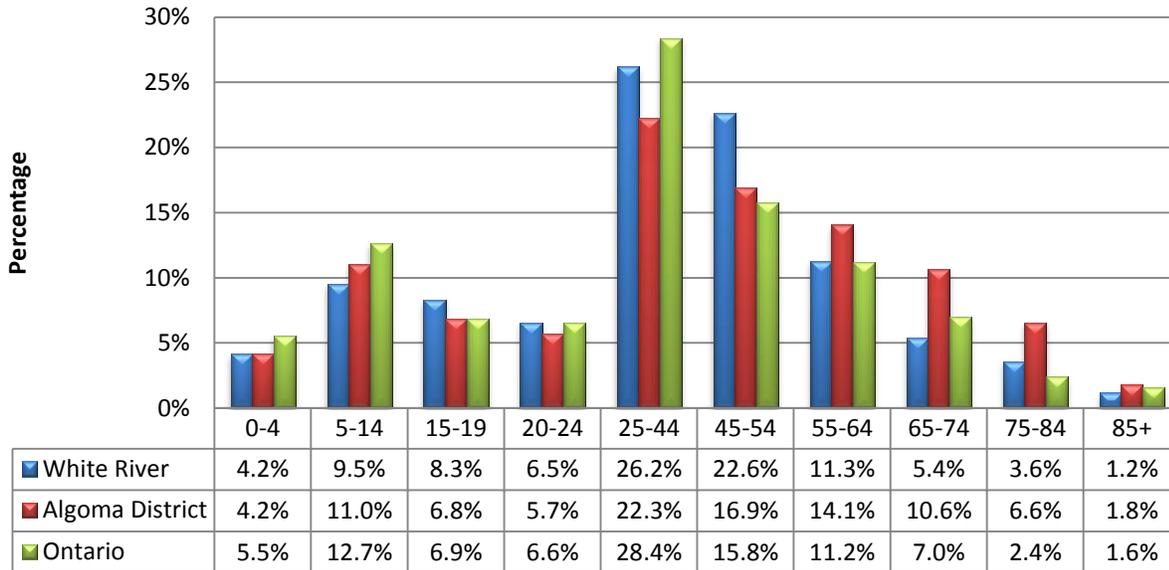


Source: Government of Ontario. Spring 2013. *Ontario Population Projections Update 2012-2036: Ontario and Its 49 Census Divisions*. Prepared by the Ministry of Finance. Website: <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/projections/projections2012-2036.pdf>. Accessed: July 2014

3.4.2 AGE STRUCTURE

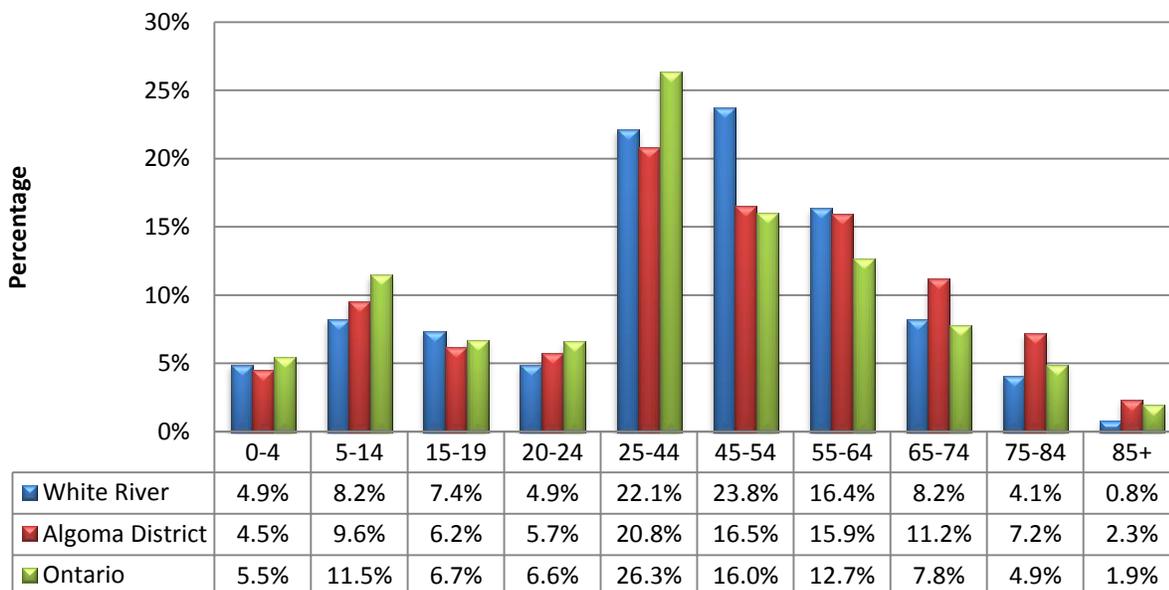
Figures 45 and 46 demonstrate the age distribution for Algoma District in the 2006 and 2011 census years. These figures indicate that the population is aging: in 2011, there were relatively fewer people in the age groups under 45 years and more in the 55-64 and 65-74 age groups.

Figure 45: White River, Algoma District, and Ontario Age Structure, 2006



Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*. Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

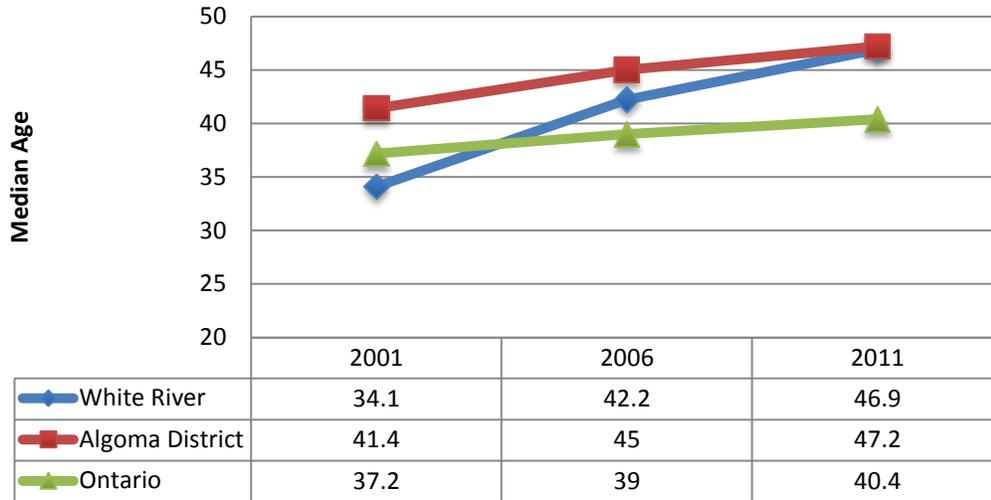
Figure 46: White River, Algoma District, and Ontario Age Structure, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*. Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

Figure 47 shows the median age for White River, Algoma District and Ontario for the 2001, 2006, and 2011 census years. For Algoma District, the median age has increased steadily over the past decade. A similar trend is shown for White River and the province, although the median age in the District is higher than for White River or Ontario.

**Figure 47: White River, Algoma District, and Ontario Median Age, 2001 – 2011**



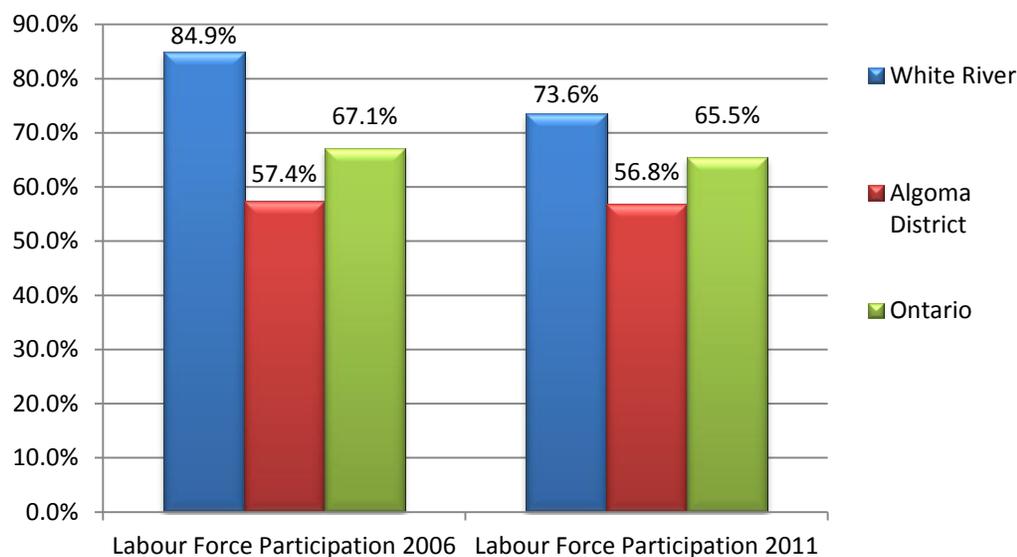
Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007, 2012. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles.*

### 3.5 LABOUR FORCE

#### 3.5.1 LABOUR PARTICIPATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT

##### Labour Force Participation

Algoma District had a labour force participation rate of 57.4% in 2006, declining slightly to 56.8% in 2011 (Figure 48). The provincial labour force participation rate also decreased slightly over this period (from 67.1% in 2006 to 65.5% in 2011). The District’s labour force participation rate has been consistently lower than both the province’s and White River’s during this period.

**Figure 48: White River, Algoma District, and Ontario Labour Force Participation Rate 2006 & 2011<sup>244</sup>**

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey.

### Unemployment

Historically (1996, 2001, 2006), Algoma District's unemployment rate was relatively high, exceeding that of both White River and Ontario as a whole; however, in 2011, the District's unemployment rate (11.0%) was lower than White River's (15.4%) (see Table 14 and Figure 49). In all census years from 1996 to 2011, the unemployment rate in Algoma District was greater than for Ontario, although the differences were smaller in 2006 (2.5 percentage points) and 2001 (2.5 percentage points) than in previous census years (4.2 percentage point difference between the District and province in both 1996 and 2001).

**Table 13: White River, Algoma District and Ontario Total Unemployment Rates, 1996 – 2011**

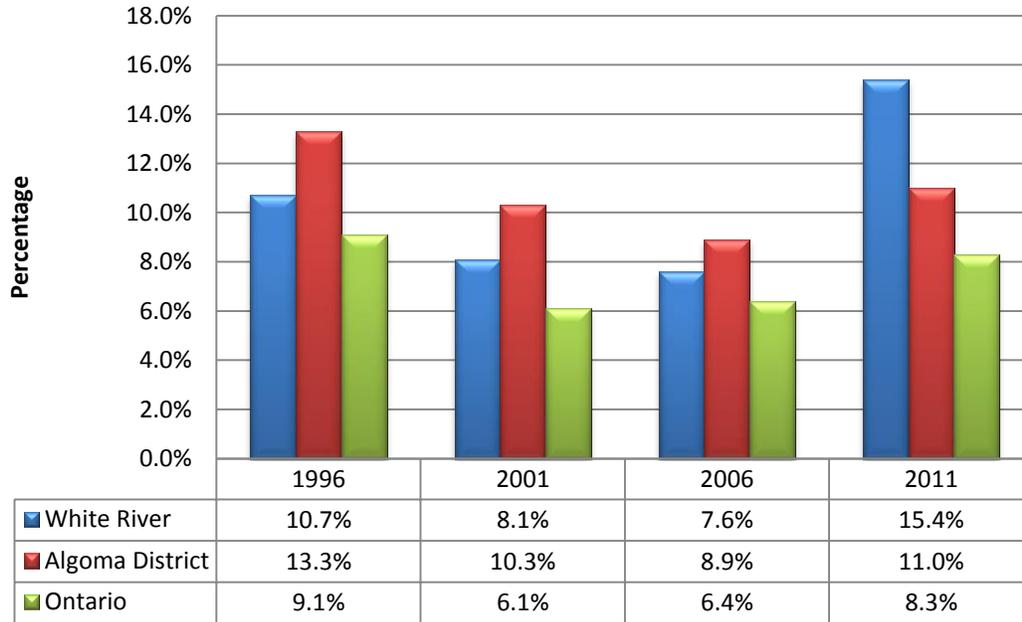
Unemployment	White River	Algoma District	Ontario
<b>1996</b>	10.7%	13.3%	9.1%
<b>2001</b>	8.1%	10.3%	6.1%
<b>2006</b>	7.6%	8.9%	6.4%
<b>2011</b>	15.4% <sup>245</sup>	11.0%	8.3%

Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

<sup>244</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>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>245</sup> This statistic may appear inflated due to the 2007 closure of White River's Domtar Mill. The Mill reopened in the fall of 2013.

**Figure 49: White River, Algoma District and Ontario Total Unemployment Rates, 1996 – 2011**



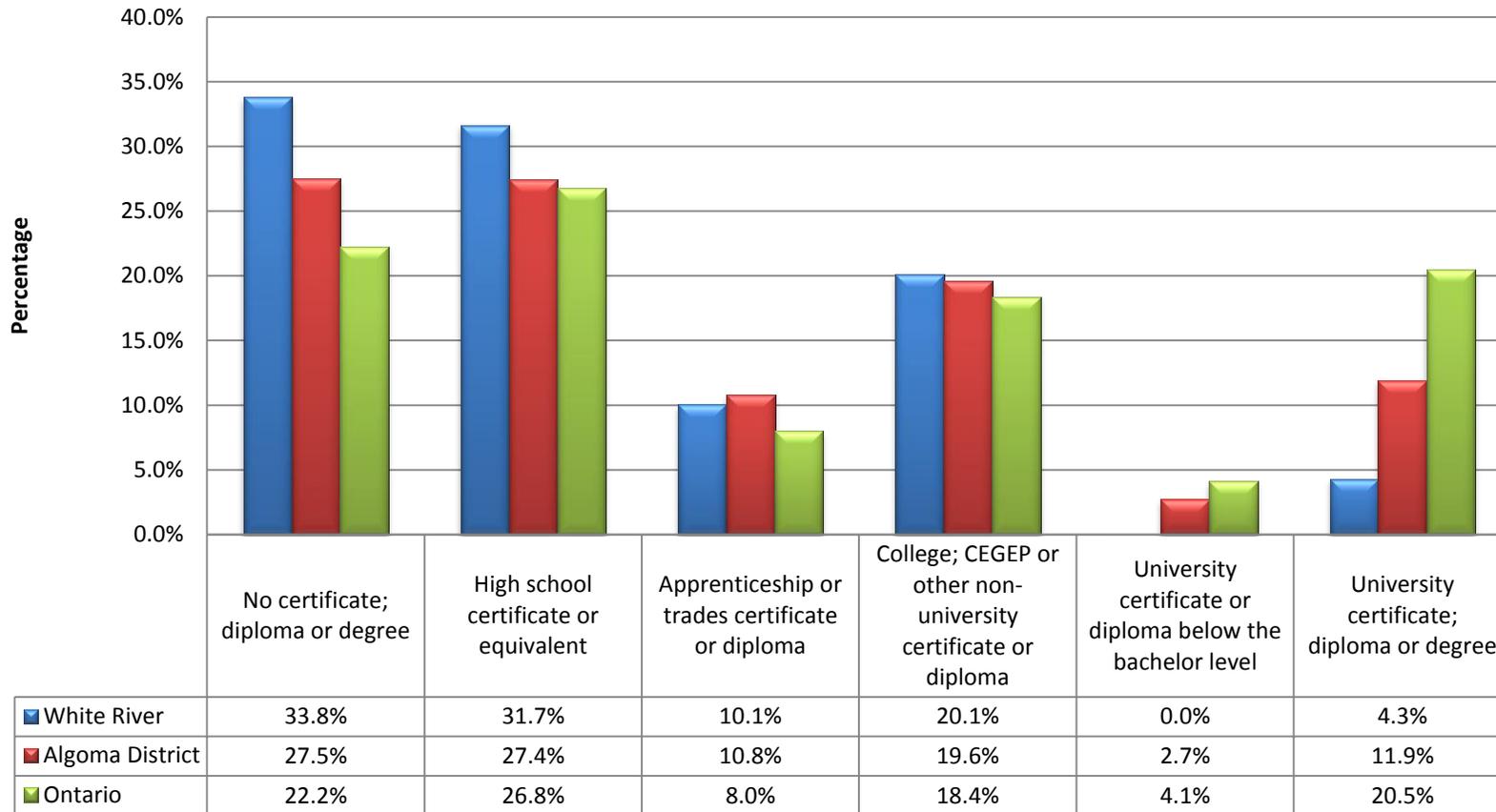
Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey.

### 3.5.2 POPULATION BY EDUCATION/TRAINING ATTAINMENT

#### Educational Attainment

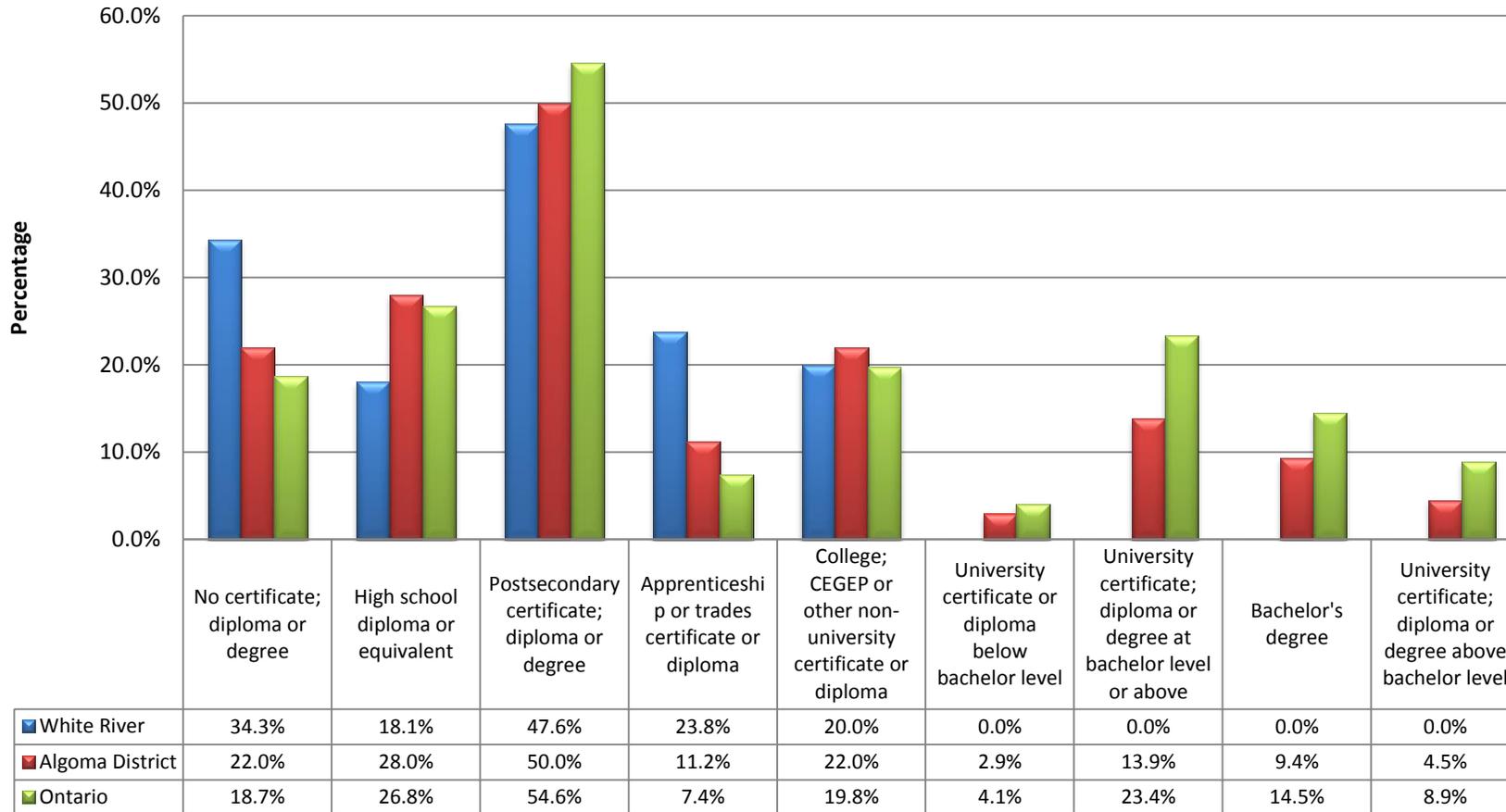
Generally, levels of educational attainment increased modestly in the District between 2006 and 2011 (see Figures 50 and 51). Compared to the Province, in 2011 proportionately fewer District residents had a university education, more had apprenticeships/trades, and more had no certificate/diploma.

Figure 50: White River, Algoma District, and Ontario Educational Attainment, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*. Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

Figure 51: White River, Algoma District, and Ontario Educational Attainment, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey. Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada, and reporting of overlapping categories in the figure.

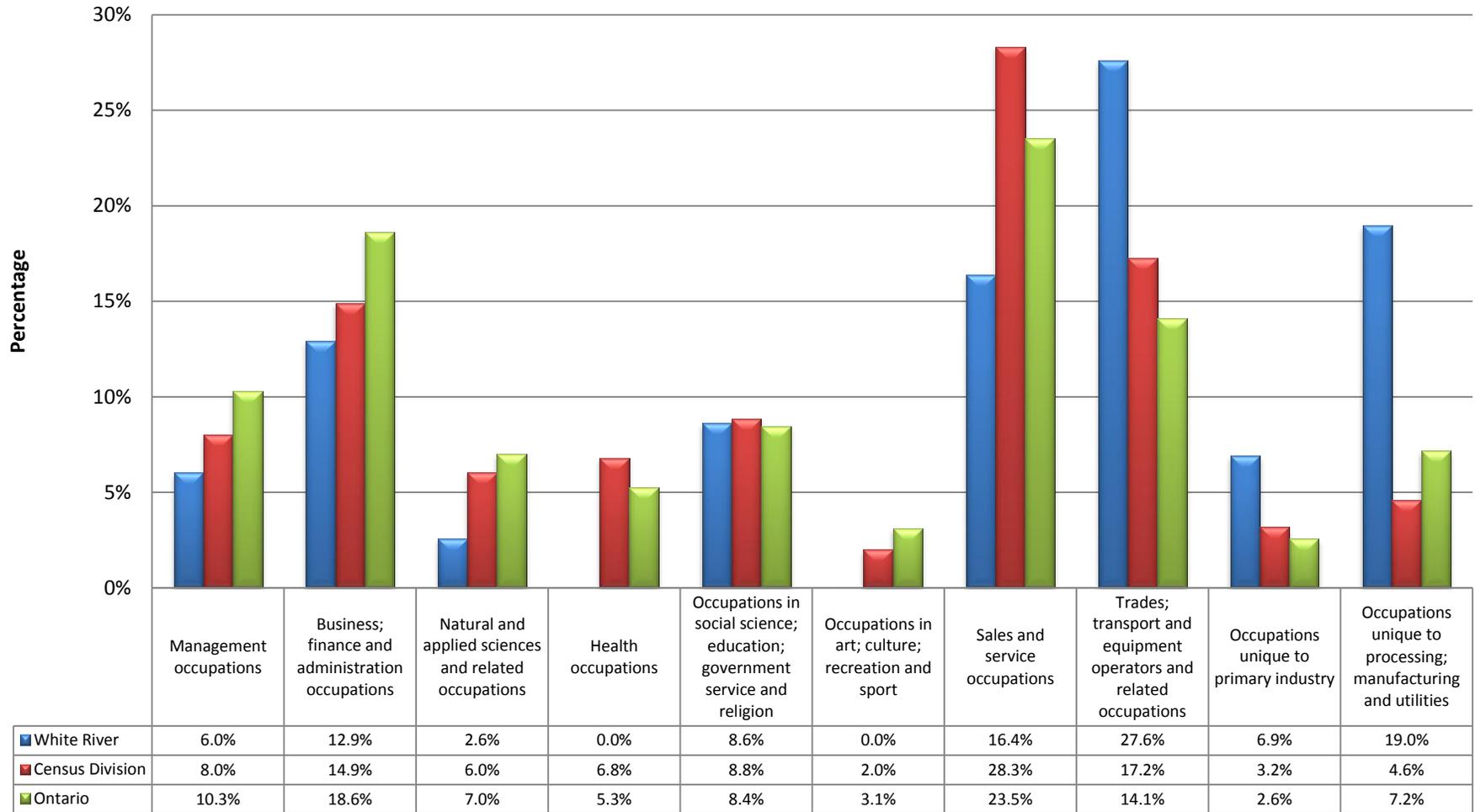
### 3.5.3 EMPLOYMENT BY ACTIVITY AND SECTOR

#### Occupation

Figures 52 and 53 demonstrate the labour force activity by occupation for Algoma District, Ontario and White River for census years 2006 and 2011. In 2006, the largest proportion of the Algoma District labour force worked in *sales and service occupations* (28.3%). It was still the largest occupation for the District in 2011 (at 25.6%). Other occupations with large proportions of the District's labour force in both 2006 and 2011 were *trades, transport and equipment operators* (17.2% in 2006 and 16.8% in 2011) and *business, finance and administration* (14.9% in 2006 and 14.4% in 2011). *Trades, transport and equipment operators* and *sales and service occupations* were also two of the "top three" occupations in White River and Ontario in both 2006 and 2011. Relatively fewer residents reported *management* or *business/administration* occupations compared to Ontario.

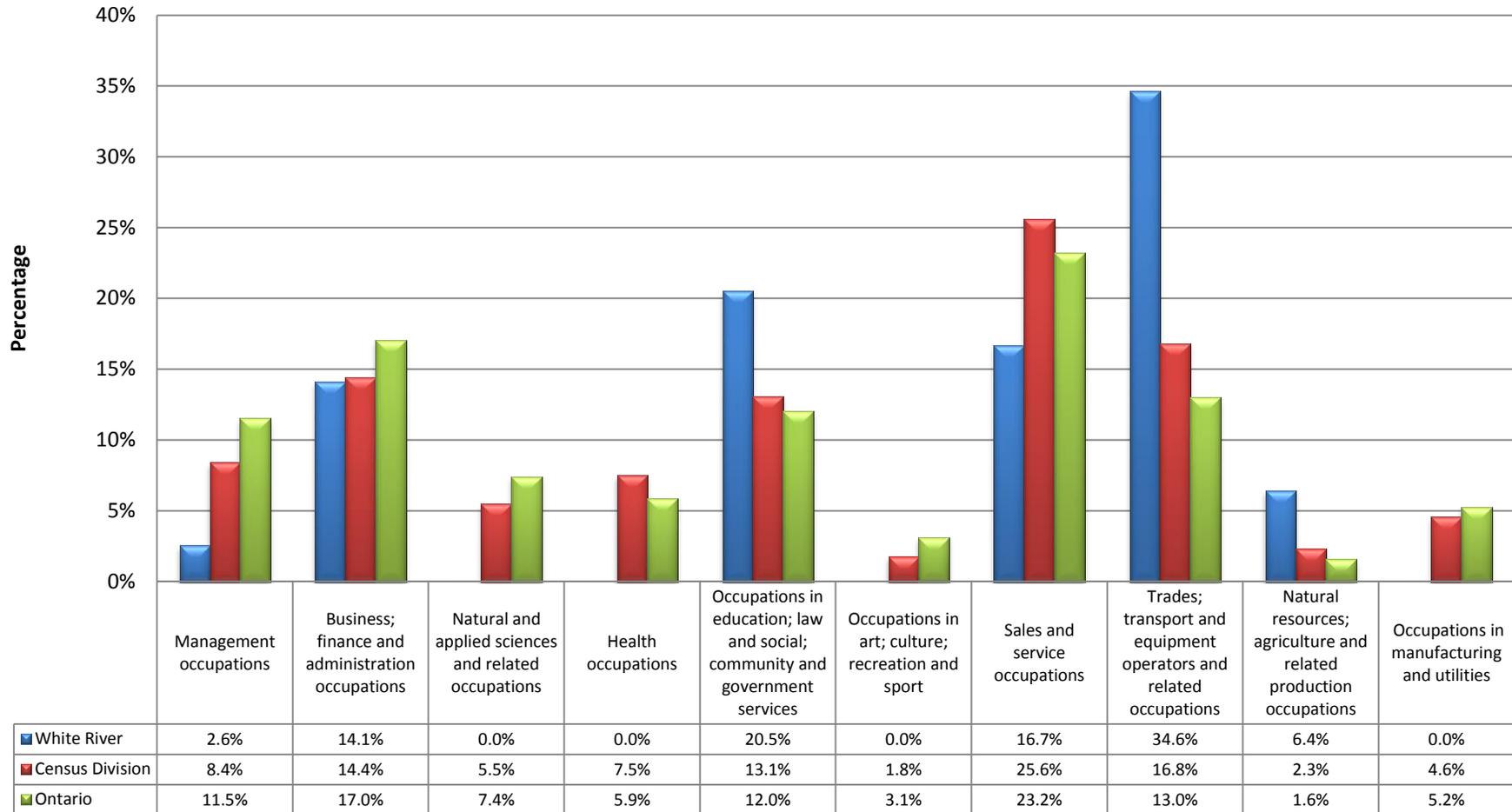
The distribution of Algoma District's labour force among the various categories changed to some degree between 2006 and 2011. For example, *social science, education and government* increased by 4.3 percentage points between 2006 and 2011, while *sales and service* decreased by 2.7 percentage points.

Figure 52: White River, Algoma District, and Ontario Labour Force by Occupation, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*. Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

Figure 53: White River, Algoma District, and Ontario Labour Force by Occupation, 2011



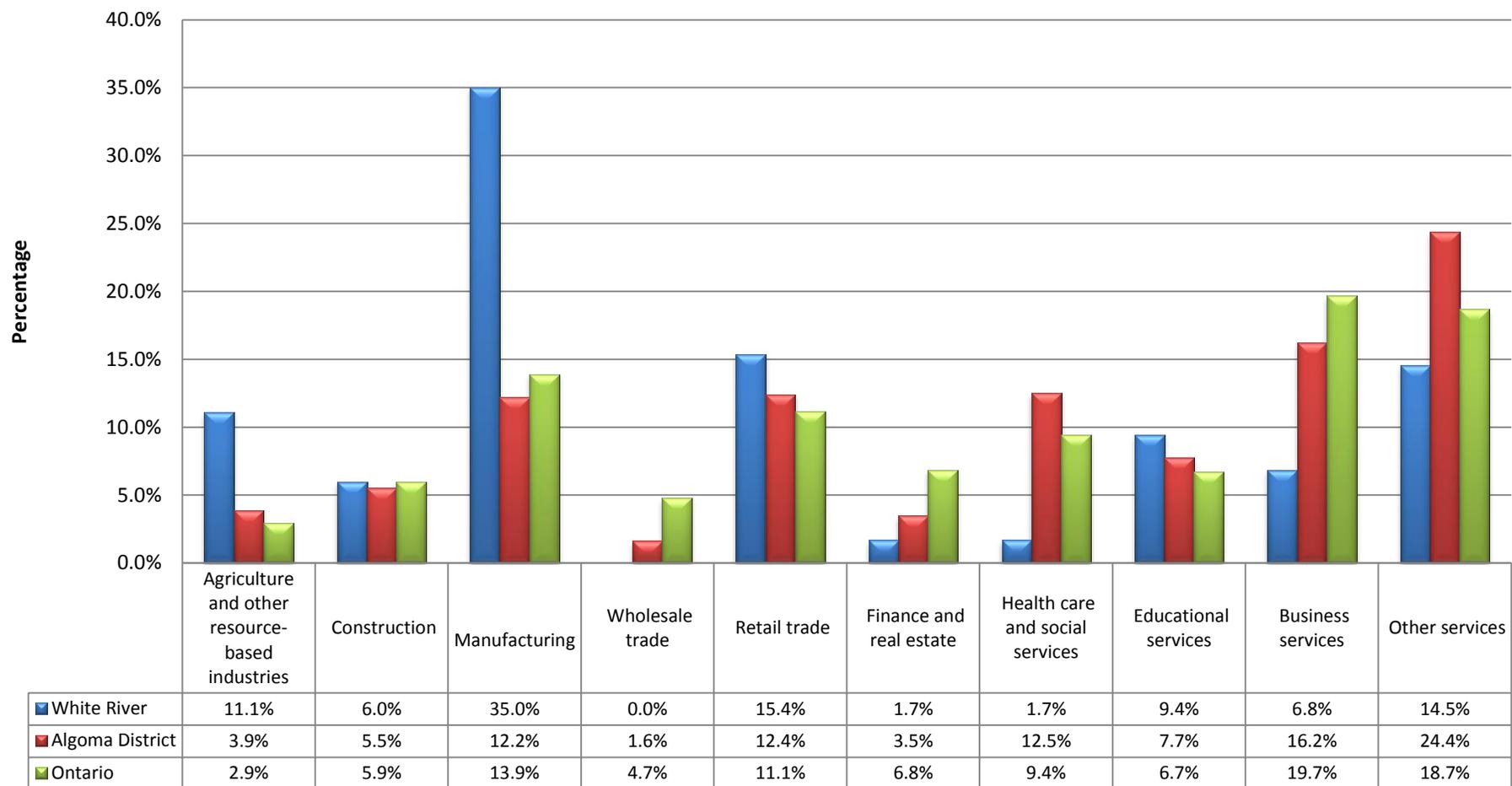
Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey. Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

**Industry**

It is noted that the labour force industry categories used by Statistics Canada are slightly different between 2001 and 2006: the category *manufacturing and construction industries* (2001) was split into “*construction*” and “*manufacturing*” categories in 2006; similarly, *wholesale and retail trade* (2001) was split into “*wholesale trade*” and “*retail trade*” in 2006.

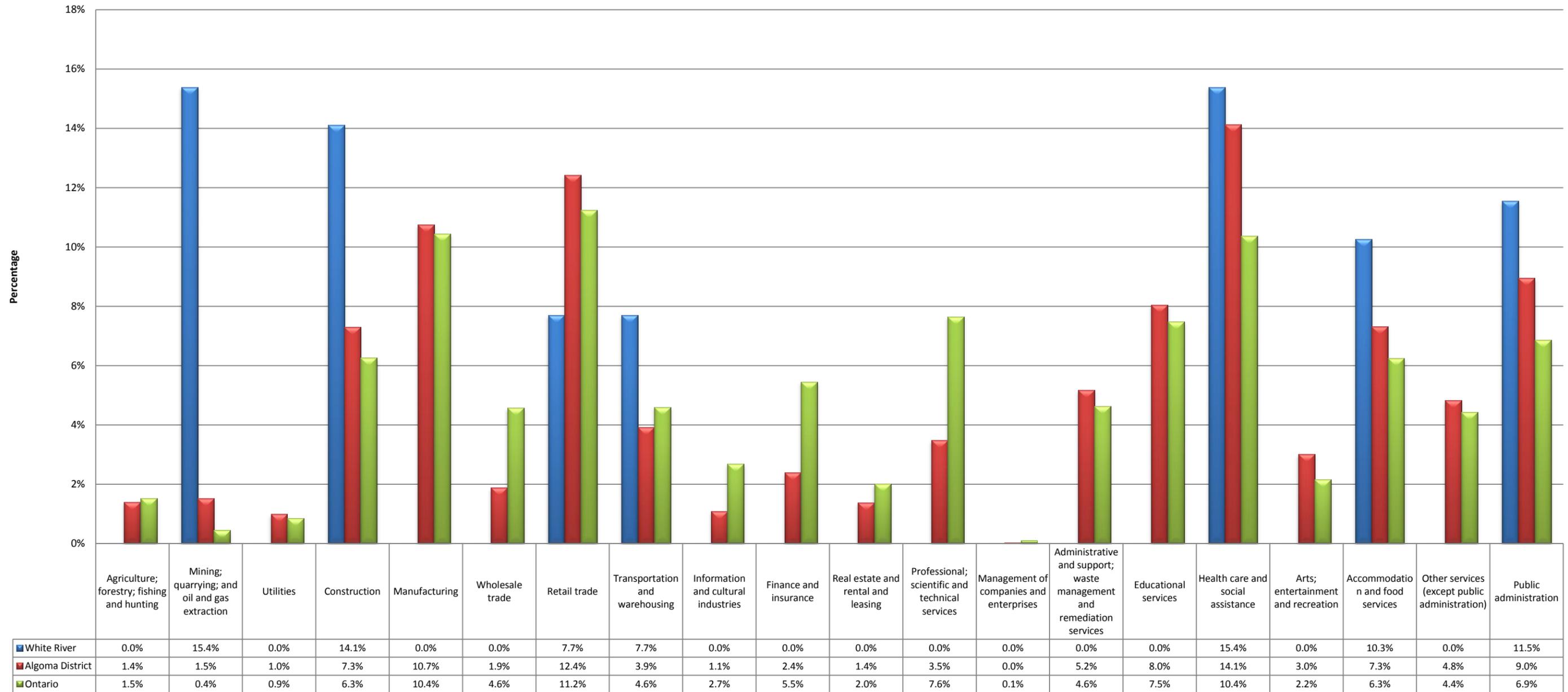
Figures 54 and 55 (below) demonstrate the labour force activity by industry for Algoma District for census years 2006 and 2011. Changes to the classification of data in labour force by industry for the 2011 census renders direct comparison with previous census years impossible. For example, the number of Labour Force industry categories doubled in these census years from 10 in 2006 to 20 in 2011, substantially affecting the distribution of labour force by industry.

Figure 54: White River, Algoma District, and Ontario Labour Force by Industry, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario, Community Profiles*. Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

Figure 55: White River, Algoma District, and Ontario Labour Force by Industry, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. *White River, Algoma District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile*. 2011 National Household Survey. Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

### 3.6 BUSINESS ACTIVITY

The following section provides a general overview of business activity in the Algoma District and Ontario.

#### 3.6.1 MAIN BUSINESSES

The Algoma 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>246</sup>. Table 15 shows the size and scale of businesses in Algoma District in 2008 and 2011.

**Table 14: Algoma District Employers – Number of Employees, 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 Corporation. 2012. *2012 Local Labour Market Plan: Trends, Opportunities and Priorities*.

#### 3.6.2 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR

Tables 16 and 17 below identify the major public and private sector employers operating in the Northeast Superior Mayors' Group<sup>247</sup>.

<sup>246</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>247</sup> Subject to data availability and data quality, certain major employers have an unknown number of employees.

**Table 15: Northeast Superior Mayors' Group Major Public Sector Employers, 2012<sup>248</sup>**

Employer	Industry	Number of Employees
Lady Dunn Health Centre	Health	102
Hornepayne Community Hospital	Health	65
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	Government	34+50 <sup>249</sup>
Municipality of Wawa	Government	29+38 <sup>250</sup>
Superior Children's Centre	Education	32
Ontario Provincial Police	Government	30
Hornepayne Public School System	Education	29
Michipicoten First Nation	Government	25
Township of Hornepayne	Government	20
Township of White River	Government	20
Various School Boards	Education	40+
Ontario Ministry of Transportation	Government	10+
Ontario Provincial Police	Government	30+
Dubreuilville Nursing Clinic	Health	3
Manitouwadge General Hospital	Health	60 est.
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	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. 2012. *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>. Accessed: October 2013; Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d. *NSFC Municipalities*. Website: <http://nsfc.ca/nsfc/about-nsfc/our-communities-and-our-region/nsfc-municipalities>. Accessed: October 2013; Township of White River. 2012. *Public Sector Major Employers*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/public-sector-166.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>248</sup> Employment numbers are approximations. Information was obtained by DPRA by phoning each business when/where information was not readily available online.

<sup>249</sup> The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resource employs 27 full-time employees, 7 contract workers and 50 seasonal workers at Lake Superior Provincial Park.

<sup>250</sup> The Municipality of Wawa employs 29 full-time employees and 38 part-time employees. Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012. *Telephone Survey of Major Employers*.

**Table 16: Northeast Superior Mayors' Group Major Private Sector Employers, 2012<sup>251</sup>**

Employer	Industry	Number of Employees
Barrick Gold Corporation	Mining	600 est. <sup>252</sup>
Wesdome Gold Mines Limited	Mining	225
Richmont Mine	Mining	185
Tembec Inc.	Forestry	150 +
Olav Haavaldsrud Timber Company Limited	Forestry	100+
Canadian National Railway	Transportation	100
True North Timber	Forestry	100
J. Provost Contracting Limited	Construction	47+50 (seasonal)
White River Forest Products Ltd.	Forestry	100 approximately (Mill running with a second shift January 1, 2014)
Tim Horton's Limited (Wawa)	Hospitality	40
Wawa Motor Inn	Accommodation	37
Albert and Sons Ltd.	Hospitality/Tourism	30
Lacroix Enterprises Limited ( <i>Home Hardware Buildings Centre franchise and a grocery store, Dubreuilville, ON</i> )	Retail	30
Canadian Tire Corporation	Retail	26
Canadian Pacific Railway	Transportation	25+
Aux Trois Moulins Motel, Restaurant and Confectionary	Hospitality	23-25
D.J. Oliver & Sons Ltd.	Grocery Store	20
Kenogami Lumber	Forestry	20
Keith Spencer Trucking	Transportation	20
A&W Restaurant/Bagdons Esso	Hospitality	12
Kabi Lake Forest Products	Forestry	12
North Central Cooperative	Retail/Food	12
Spadoni Brothers Limited	Construction/Hardware Supplies	10
Naturally Superior Adventures	Accommodation/Tourism	6-12 seasonal
A&F Kistemaker Trucking	Transportation	8 (+ independents)
Dubreuil Forest Products Ltd.	Forestry	4
B&M Hauling Logs/Chips	Transportation	N/A
Heritage Inn Motel	Hospitality	N/A
Manroc Developments Mining Contractors	Mining	N/A
Northern Haul Contracting	Transportation	N/A
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	Emergency Management Program Rapid Response Base - operational 2014	6

Source: Economic Development Corporation of Wawa. 2012. *Telephone Survey of Major Employers*; Nord-Aski Regional Economic Development Corporation. 2012. *Major Employers*. Website: <http://www.nordaski.com/frame1.html>. Accessed: October 2013; Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d. *NSFC Municipalities*. Website: <http://nsfc.ca/nsfc/about-nsfc/our-communities-and-our-region/nsfc-municipalities>. Accessed: October 2013; Township of White River. 2012. *Private Sector Major Employers*. Website: <http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/private-sector-167.asp>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>251</sup> Employment numbers are approximations. Information was obtained by DPRA by phoning each business when/where information was not readily available online.

<sup>252</sup> Approximately 100 jobs will be lost when the David Bell mine closes in 2014.

In addition to the above private sector employees, NextBridge Infrastructure's proposed East-West Tie Transmission Project may be a source of employment for White River residents now and in future, though actual or projected numbers are unknown. It is estimated through DPRA consultant observations and discussions with community members that the majority of contractors currently employed through this project are from outside the community. NextBridge is currently in the environmental assessment process for this project and a Terms of Reference report was submitted in February 2014. The estimated in-service date for the transmission line is 2018<sup>253</sup>.

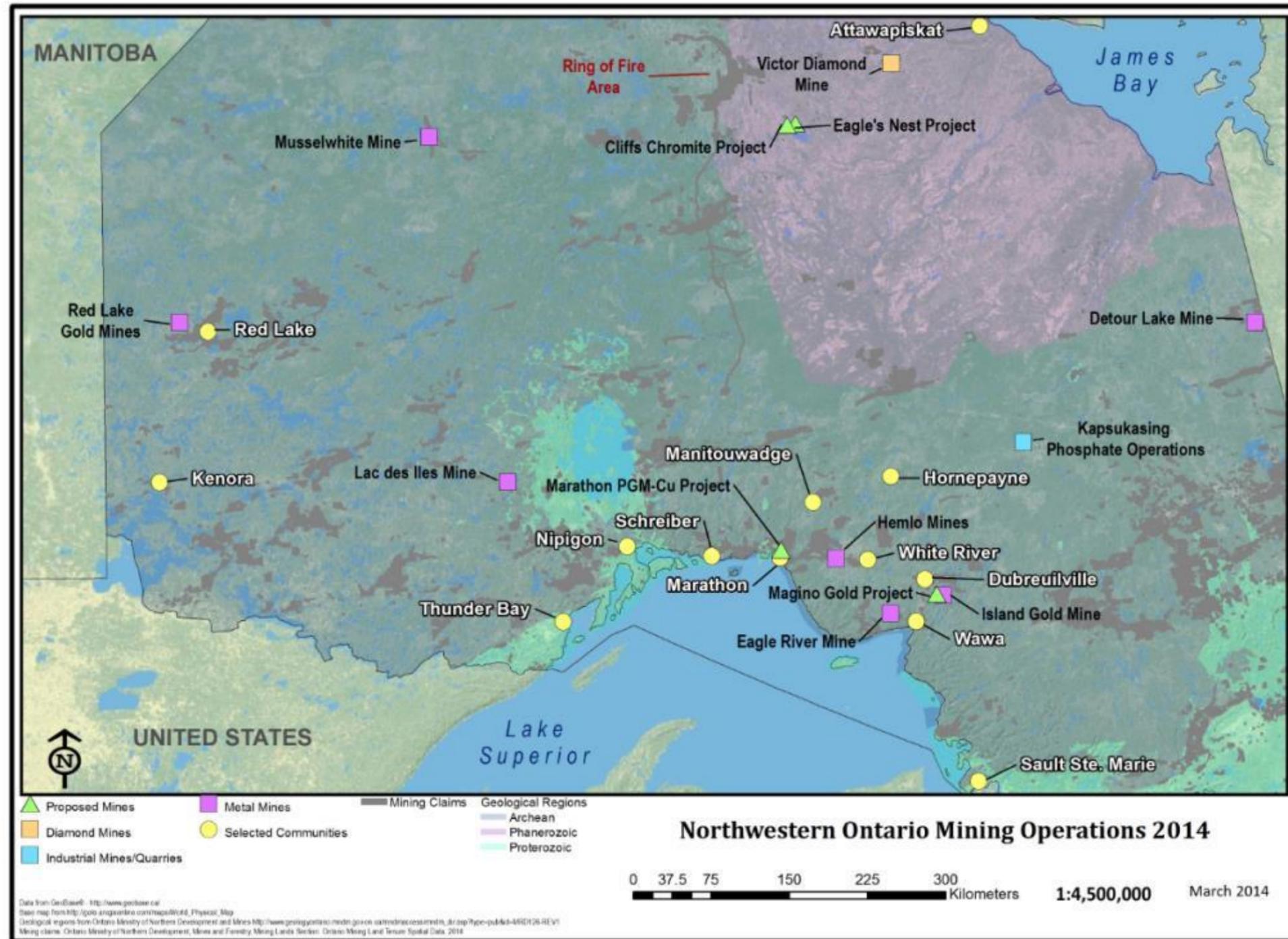
### Operating Mines – North Shore

Figure 56 depicts selected operating mines, proposed mines, and mining claims in Northern Ontario.

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<sup>253</sup> NextBridge Infrastructure. 2013. *Frequently Asked Questions: East-West Tie Transmission Project*. Website: <http://www.nextbridge.ca/files/EWTPublicFAQ-Dec1-2013.pdf>. Accessed May 2014.

Figure 56: Mines in Northern Ontario



Source: DPRA Canada, 2014; Ontario Mining Association. 2012. *Ontario Mining Operations 2012*. Website: [http://www.oma.on.ca/en/ontariomining/resources/mndm\\_ontario\\_mining\\_and\\_exploration\\_directory\\_2012.pdf](http://www.oma.on.ca/en/ontariomining/resources/mndm_ontario_mining_and_exploration_directory_2012.pdf). Accessed: July 2014  
 Stillwater Canada Inc. 2011. *Project Overview*. Website: <http://www.marathonpgmproject.com/Project-Overview.html>. Accessed: March 2014; Argonaut Gold Inc. n.d. *Magino Gold Project*. Website: [http://www.argonautgold.com/gold\\_operations/magino/](http://www.argonautgold.com/gold_operations/magino/). Accessed March 2014; Detour Gold. 2012. *At a Glance*. Website: <http://www.detourgold.com/projects/at-a-glance/default.aspx>. Accessed: March 2014; Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. 2013. *Cliffs Chromite Project*. Website: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=63927>. Accessed: March 2014; Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. 2013. *Eagles Nest Project*. Website: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=63925>. Accessed: March 2014; Noront. 2013. *Corporate Presentation – Vancouver Resource Investment Conference January 2013*. Website: <http://www.norontresources.com/?pressreleases&pdf=Corporate-Presentation-Q2-2013-newtheme.pdf>. Accessed: March 2014

### Proposed Mines – North Shore

In addition to operating mines, the NESMG area contains a number of active mining claims. There are also two potential mines – the proposed Marathon Platinum Group Metals and Copper Mine and the proposed Magino Gold Mine near Dubreuilville. Several exploration projects are also active in the area (e.g., Harte Gold ‘Sugar Zone’ property northeast of White River)<sup>254</sup>. Surveying at the Harte Gold site is now underway and the Ministry of Natural Resources will be working on land transfers once the surveying is complete. White River Forest Products will also do a joint-venture with Harte Gold to open a new road to the future mine site.<sup>255</sup>

Stillwater Canada Inc.’s proposed Marathon Platinum Group Metals and Copper Mine Project is located in close proximity to the North Shore of Lake Superior, near Marathon between Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie.<sup>256</sup> The proposed project was undergoing environmental assessment, but is currently on hiatus. In documentation submitted as part of the Environmental Assessment process, it was stated that mining operations will provide approximately 1,000 construction jobs, while an additional 350 jobs will be provided during the mine’s operation<sup>257</sup>.

The Magino Mine property is a past-producing underground gold mine located 40 kilometres northeast of Wawa, approximately 14 kilometres southeast of the town of Dubreuilville. Magino is being evaluated by Prodigy Gold Inc. as an open-pit mining opportunity with the potential for deeper, higher grade gold production at this brownfield site. The Magino Gold Mine is currently undergoing environmental assessment<sup>258</sup>. It is anticipated that mining operations would provide 400 to 500 jobs annually during the construction, and 300 jobs during operations.

### Forestry in Northeastern Ontario

At one time, there were 21 mills located across the north shore of Lake Superior; in 2014, there are four mills operating between Wawa and Dryden. Forestry in northern Ontario is currently undergoing revitalization with the re-opening of these mills. The re-opening of the White River Mill and Co-generation Facility signal the revitalization 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 Corporation, Pic Mobert First Nation, a private investor and Butler-Consultants<sup>259,260</sup>. The Mill began operating in 2013.

<sup>254</sup> Harte Gold Corp. *Sugar Zone*. <http://www.hartegold.com/properties/sugar-zone/> Accessed February 2013.

<sup>255</sup> Information obtained during CLC meeting February 2014 in the community of White River.

<sup>256</sup> Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. 2014. *Marathon Platinum Group Metals and Copper Mine Project*. <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=54755> Accessed: February 2014.

<sup>257</sup> Ross, Ian. June 2012. “Marathon takes action in the mining economy”. *Northern Ontario Business*. Website: <http://www.republicofmining.com/2012/06/07/>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>258</sup> Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. 2014. *Magino Gold Project*. Website: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=80044>. Accessed: February 2014.

<sup>259</sup> Pic Mobert First Nation. 2013. *White River Forest Products Ltd. Fact Sheet*. Website: [http://www.picmobert.ca/resources/062113\\_WRFPL-factsheet.pdf](http://www.picmobert.ca/resources/062113_WRFPL-factsheet.pdf). Accessed: July 2014.

<sup>260</sup> Ross, Ian. June 2013. “Frank Dottori helms White River sawmill”. *Northern Ontario Business*. Website: <http://www.northernontariobusiness.com/Industry-News/forestry/2013/06/Frank-Dottori-helms-White-River-sawmill.aspx>. Accessed: July 2014.



The Northeast Superior Forest Community (NSFC) (see Section 3.1.1.3, and Figure 38, above) was a regional partnership of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities with shared interests in forestry and sustainable economic development opportunities<sup>261</sup>. NSFC included the six Aboriginal communities participating in the Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs Forum and the six Non-Aboriginal communities<sup>262</sup>. Communities participating in the NSFC included: 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>263,264</sup>. The NSFC also included the communities of Albany, Hawk Junction and Millwood. However, the NSFC (as of January 2014) is in the process of wrapping up the group and its activities.<sup>265</sup>

### 3.6.3 INVESTMENT TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

The *Places to Grow Growth Plan for Northern Ontario* identifies the forestry and minerals sectors as key components of the local economy in Northern Ontario communities. To encourage economic development, the *Places to Grow Growth Plan* encourages growth of the forestry and minerals sectors by encouraging innovation, value-added products and sustainable resource management<sup>266</sup>. Growth of these sectors would enable new economic development and employment opportunities in the region.

<sup>261</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d. *About NSFC*. Website: <http://www.nsfcc.ca/nsfc/about-nsfc>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>262</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). Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>263</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>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>264</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d. *Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs' Forum*. Website: <http://nsfc.ca/files/Library/communities/ChiefsForumEN.pdf>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>265</sup> *This information was obtained from White River community discussions January 2014.*

<sup>266</sup> Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure and Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry. 2011. *Growth Plan for Northern Ontario 2011*.

A number of the mill operations in the area are either re-opening or expanding. The White River Forest Products Mill re-opened in the fall of 2013 (Figure 57). The Terrace Bay Pulp Mill located in the Township of Terrace Bay is now owned and operated by Aditya Birla Group, a multi-national corporation operating in 36 countries.<sup>267</sup> The Terrace Bay Mill's re-opening has created new jobs for north shore residents, and the potential to buy wood chips from Olav Haavaldsrud Timber Company Limited in Hornepayne. The Dubreuil Forest Products Mill in Dubreuilville is currently in 'maintenance mode', but there is hope that it too may re-open.

**Figure 57: White River Forest Products Mill in White River, Ontario**



Source: Kryzanawski, Tony. 2009-2012. "Re-start for White River". *Logging and Sawmill Journal*. 2009-2012. Website: [http://www.forestnet.com/LSIssues/nov2013/white\\_river.php](http://www.forestnet.com/LSIssues/nov2013/white_river.php). Accessed: March 2014.

The area will also benefit from the recent development of the co-generation facility at the Olav Haavaldsrud Timber Company Limited in Hornepayne. The facility will produce electricity from wood waste and was completed in 2013<sup>268</sup>. The new facility is anticipated to provide approximately 40 full-time jobs<sup>269</sup>. The power generated from the new facility will be sold back to the power grid<sup>270</sup> and the steam will be used in the current mill operation. The White River Mill is currently seeking approval for its co-generation facility.

In the Algoma District, mining industry activities have traditionally included the full spectrum — from exploration and development to production and processing. In the view of industry stakeholders, the labour market will remain competitive in Algoma and in the northern region in general. With current gold mining activities, Algoma's mining industry is going through a growth phase with a number of advanced development projects that are expected to come into full production. However, similar to other Northern Ontario districts, Algoma is also facing a demographic shift, with an increase in youth out-migration and overall decrease in local

<sup>267</sup> Ross, Ian. 2012. "New life for north shore forestry mills". *Northern Ontario Business*. Website: <http://www.northernontariobusiness.com/Industry-News/mining/2012/09/New-life-for-north-shore-forestry-mills.aspx>. Accessed: October 2013.

<sup>268</sup> *Insight gained from conversations with a member of the Olav Haavaldsrud Timber Company Limited.*

<sup>269</sup> Hornepayne Community Adjustment Committee. July 2011. *Strategic Plan for the Community of Hornepayne*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Township of Hornepayne.

<sup>270</sup> Northeast Superior Forest Community. n.d. *Hornepayne Your Oasis of Opportunity*. Prepared for the Corporation of the Township of Hornepayne and Superior East Community Futures Development Corporation.

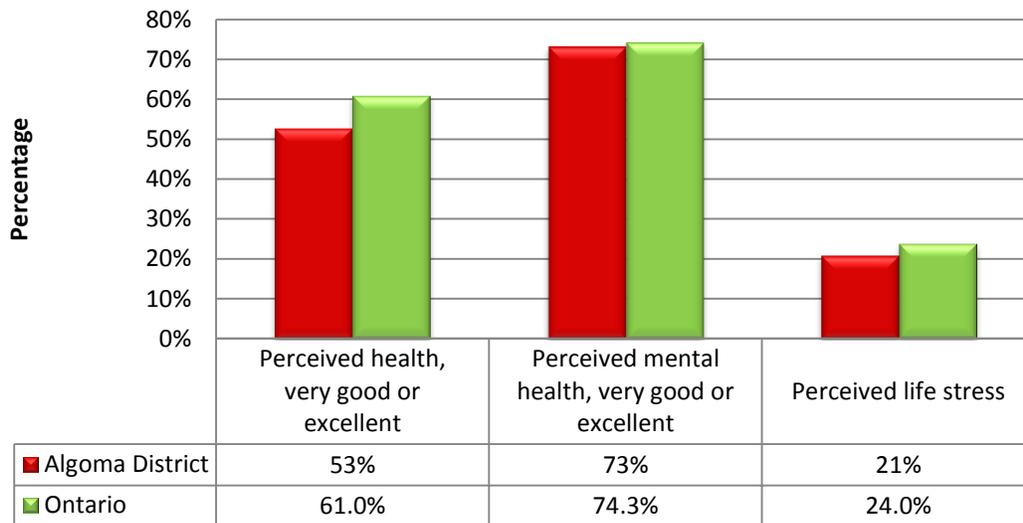
populations<sup>271</sup>. With increased expansion in mining and exploration activities, Algoma’s mining industry will need more skilled and trained individuals, already in short supply. In addition, the region has low participation rates among Aboriginal peoples, women and new Canadians. The continuation of existing mining operations in the region (e.g., at Hemlo and Richmond’s Island Gold), the potential associated with the proposed mines in Dubreuilville and Marathon, and exploration activities will also contribute to future investment. To the northwest, mining potential in the ‘Ring of Fire’ will benefit northern Ontario as a whole.

### 3.7 HEALTH INDICATORS

#### Health Care Systems and Perception of Health

Figure 58 indicates the perceived health status of Algoma District Health Unit and Ontario residents. At the District level, proportionately fewer people (53%) perceived their health as being *very good or excellent* when compared to the provincial level (61%). Similar proportions of District residents perceived their mental health as being either *very good or excellent*, compared to the provincial level. Perceived life stress in Algoma District, was less than reported provincially.

**Figure 58: Health Perceptions in Algoma District Health Unit and Ontario, December 2013**



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>. Accessed: February 2014.

<sup>271</sup> Algoma Workforce Investment Corporation and Mining Industry Human Resources Council. December 2012. *Algoma Mining Hiring Requirements Forecasts 2013*. P.9. Website: [http://www.awic.ca/UploadedFiles/files/RIS%20algoma\\_008.pdf](http://www.awic.ca/UploadedFiles/files/RIS%20algoma_008.pdf) Accessed: July 2014.

### 3.8 SUMMARY

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The Township of White River and Algoma District have aging populations and continue to experience an overall population decline and aging populations.

Population out-migration and retention of remaining residents may be addressed by the introduction of new employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled workers<sup>272</sup>. The revitalization of forestry activity, and the increase in mining activity in the District (and farther afield in the Ring of Fire) present future opportunities.

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<sup>272</sup> While statistical knowledge gaps are most apparent in small communities such as White River, these gaps are representative of broader trends in employment data collection. According to the Globe and Mail, May 2014, the federal Auditor-General Michael Ferguson stated that Statistics Canada data contains significant gaps on job vacancies. Specifically, employment data are missing for the various and distinct regions within each province, including jobs for which labour shortages are the most severe and respective skill sets in the highest demand. McKenna, Barrie. May 2014. "Why Canada has a serious data deficit". *The Globe and Mail – Ottawa*. Website: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/why-canada-has-a-serious-data-deficit/article18598633/>. Accessed: July 2014.

## 4.0 SUMMARY

White River is a Northern Ontario community with a strong entrepreneurial spirit and a few main industries sustained by the community's location on the Trans-Canada Highway 17. White River's economy is primarily based on the forest industry and the Canadian Pacific Railway; industries as a whole that have been affected by national and global economic trends leading to "boom-bust" cycles. After a six-year hiatus, the Mill in White River has reopened a successful partnership between White River, the Pic Mobert First Nation, and private investors. Tourism in White River has historically been driven by outdoor recreation and to a lesser extent, Winnie-the-Pooh, but is waning in recent years. The need for additional tourism infrastructure to attract people 'passing through the town' is seen as a priority. The community is now looking to diversify its economic activities and that can contribute to employment and overall stability, sustainability and growth in the community.

White River's population, approximately 607 in 2011, has steadily decreased from approximately 1,022 in 1996. Residents have noted that the population decline has stabilized in the last few years, perhaps even grown with the reopening of the Mill in 2013. The population is aging at a higher rate than either the District or the province as a whole. Many residents were forced to leave the community to seek employment following the closure of the Mill in 2007. Community representative indicated that there seems to be little unemployment in White River at present. Residents who cannot find work locally move, or may commute elsewhere in the region (e.g., Richmond Mine, Barrick Gold Mines, or to mines in Northwestern Ontario) or beyond (e.g., to Alberta), while choosing to keep their families in White River. Many residents expressed a desire for increased local employment opportunities in order to retain their current workforce, provide an opportunity for residents working out of town to return, and provide future employment opportunities for youth. Entrepreneurship is viewed as necessary to help grow White River's economy and support services in the future.

Unique and valued characteristics described by community residents include:

- Clean air;
- Strong volunteer base (although it is noted to be aging);
- Tight-knit community;
- Hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities;
- Great location along the TransCanada Highway;
- Central to larger communities such as Wawa, Marathon and Manitouwadge – ½ way between Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay;
- Good working relationships with neighbouring communities (e.g., through Northeast Superior Mayors Group)
- People willing to work together; and,
- Friendly and safe.<sup>273</sup>

The town's Official Plan was last updated in 1983. White River residents have expressed a number of goals for the future:

- Growing the population to increase the number families/children in the community, to better support the school, community organizations, and services in the community;

<sup>273</sup> This information was obtained from White River community discussions October, November 2013 and January 2014.

- A need to diversify the economy (e.g., through tourism, mining, additional forestry activities, entrepreneurship) in order to minimize the reliance on a single, large employer;
- Focus future tourism efforts on Winnie-the-Pooh as a foundation for growing the sector in White River;
- Continuing success with partnerships in economic development, such as the re-opening of the mill;
- Providing local employment opportunities for new and existing residents, and to address the out-migration of community members (particularly youth) in search of employment or education;
- Improving community vitality by attracting new residents, or the return of former residents (e.g., expanding participation in community organizations and events; enhancing municipal revenues and services);
- Revitalizing existing residential stock and commercial properties;
- Maintaining, if not improving, health care services (for seniors in particular); and,
- The bussing of children to Wawa for high school and public elementary education is also viewed as a challenge.

White River is situated on provincial Highway 17, approximately half way between Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay making it a service area for people travelling between these two major centres. White River is also centrally located among its neighbouring communities; approximately 100 km (driving distance; 1 hour) from Hornepayne, Manitouwadge, Marathon, Dubreuilville, and Wawa.

Forestry activity is returning to the region (e.g., several mills have reopened along the north shore); however, its role in the local and regional economy has diminished compared to years ago. Presently, White River is looking to strengthen their existing tourism sector, as well as diversify into new areas (e.g., attract new business/entrepreneurs to fill service gaps in the community).

Tourism in White River is tied to Winnie-the-Pooh, as the birthplace of the original black bear that inspired the story. Many see Winnie-the-Pooh as a focus for the future and a foundation for growing the sector in White River. Other tourism opportunities in White River and the surrounding area include camping (a national park and provincial parks) and outfitting (hunting, fishing). The economic contributions from these recreational tourists are considered to be greater than those of Winnie-the-Pooh tourists, who do not tend to stay in the community. The need for additional tourism infrastructure to attract people 'passing through town' is seen as a priority.

Community representatives have noted that there are linkages between Pic Mobert First Nation and the community of White River. Some Pic Mobert First Nation members live in White River; members living on reserve frequently shop in town and/or are patrons at the restaurants. Community facilities in town include the library, a recreation centre with an ice pad and curling sheet, as well as an exercise gym. The Legion Hall is used for a variety of community meetings and events; and a senior's complex is located in White River.

Even with the difficult circumstances resulting from the "boom-bust" nature of a resource-based economy and relative isolation, many White River residents make it clear there is nowhere else they would rather be.

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## APPENDIX A: BIBLIOGRAPHY

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