



Marathon, Ontario

# Community Profile



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# 1 Introduction

Marathon is unique in many respects. Being an industrial, service and retail hub on the north shore of Lake Superior midway between Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay, Marathon is uniquely positioned to provide a plethora of business opportunities. Coupled with the vast boreal forest and mineral deposits surrounding the community, Marathon is well established and ready for continued growth and prosperity.

Marathon's economy is fuelled by Hemlo Gold Mines - which houses the Williams and David Bell Gold Mines. The gold deposit at Hemlo is the richest outside of South Africa. Current estimates date the life of the gold mines to extend beyond 2020. In addition to gold, copper and platinum minerals are being explored and multiple prospectors are actively investigating the area.

Historically, the forestry sector has been vitally important to Marathon's growth. Currently, there are exciting developments in the forestry sector with many interested companies touring Marathon.

The great outdoors and the surrounding wilderness await the enthusiast. In addition to the traditional pastimes of hunting and fishing, there are opportunities for white water canoeing, sea kayaking, golf, cross-country skiing, hiking, exploring Pukaskwa National Park, snowmobiling and much more. Marathon also has excellent indoor recreation facilities including the Port Hold Pool, Marathon Arena and the Marathon Curling Club.

The Town of Marathon's quality of life is unparalleled. As you read through this profile, the breadth of Marathon's many amenities, services and growth potential will become apparent and you will realize why Marathon, Ontario is the perfect place to live, work, play and do business!



## 1.1 - Location

The Town of Marathon is located in the Thunder Bay District near Pukaskwa National Park and in the heart of the Canadian Shield, 300 km east of Thunder Bay and 400 km northwest of Sault Ste. Marie. It is the largest town on the north shore of Lake Superior between these two cities which positions it as the regional centre of commerce. For instance, it boasts the largest indoor shopping mall between Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie and one of only three Canadian Tire department stores in the region.

Located 2 km south of the Trans-Canada Highway 17, the town enjoys both the convenience of being located on this important connector without having the highway run through the community itself. The town is serviced by the Canadian Pacific Railway and a geographically important airport just north of the Trans-Canada Highway, approximately 4 km from the town.

Marathon is adjacent to Peninsula Harbour with a natural deep water port. It has several coves including Carden Cove, Sturdee Cove and Craddock Cove; all three are located west-northwest of Marathon.



## 1.2 - History

The Marathon of today was born in 1881 as a railroad community named Peninsula, due to its location on a peninsula on Lake Superior. At the time of construction, some 12,000 men and 5,000 horses worked out of the town. Like most railroad communities, Peninsula's population dwindled considerably once the railroad was completed and by 1935, the census of the town was just 23.

It was not until a pulp mill was constructed in the town, between 1944 and 1946 that the population rose back to 2,500. The town's name was changed to Marathon, in honour of Marathon Paper Mills of Canada.

In the early 1980s, gold was discovered at Hemlo, an uninhabited area adjacent to the Trans-Canada Highway and 40 km east of Marathon. By the late 1980s, three mines were running at Hemlo and they all located their employees in Marathon, which effectively doubled the population making it the largest town along the north shore between Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay – a designation it still holds today.

# 2

## Demographics

### 2.1 - Population Size and Growth

Overall Characteristics:

- Population: 3,330
- Total private dwellings: 1,644
- Population density: 629.5 km<sup>2</sup>
- Land area: 5.29 km<sup>2</sup>

The Town of Marathon has a population with a median age of 42 years of age.

### 2.2 Growth in All Age Groups

FIGURE 1 AGE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION (2011)

	Total	Male	Female
<b>Total population</b>	<b>3330</b>	<b>1720</b>	<b>1610</b>
0 to 4 years	180	100	80
5 to 9 years	200	110	90
10 to 14 years	185	95	90
15 to 19 years	240	120	115
20 to 24 years	205	120	85
25 to 29 years	195	95	100
30 to 34 years	175	95	85
35 to 39 years	185	80	105
40 to 44 years	185	85	100
45 to 49 years	305	160	145
50 to 54 years	405	205	200
55 to 59 years	330	180	150
60 to 64 years	200	115	85
65 to 69 years	130	65	65
70 to 74 years	95	50	40
75 to 79 years	50	20	30
80 to 84 years	40	15	25
85 years and over	35	10	25
Median age of the population	42.6	42.8	42.5
% of the population aged 15 and over	83.0	82.3	83.9

## 2.3 - Mobility Characteristics

Over 96% of people are long-time residents having lived in the Town of Marathon for more than 5 years. There is great stability in the local workforce and the town is succeeding in retaining its citizens.

FIGURE 2 MOBILITY CHARACTERISTICS OF TOTAL POPULATION (20011)

<b>Total population 1 year and over</b>	<b>4365</b>
Lived at the same address 1 year ago	3950
Lived within the same province or territory 1 year ago; but changed addresses	380
Lived in a different province/territory or country 1 year ago	45
<b>Total population 5 years and over</b>	<b>4165</b>
Lived at the same address 5 years ago	3005
Lived within the same province or territory 5 years ago; but changed addresses	1040
Lived in a different province or territory 5 years ago	120

## 2.4 - Income

In Marathon average household and family incomes are significantly higher than provincial averages and extremely competitive. Take into account the small incidence of low income, and Marathon is an excellent place to 'live, work, play and do business'.

FIGURE 3 AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2006)

	<b>Town of Marathon</b>	<b>Province of Ontario</b>
Median Household Income	\$82,991	\$60,455
Median Family Income	\$92,950	\$69,156
Incidence of Low Income	6.2%	11.1%

## 2.5 - Diversity and Language

The Town of Marathon has been successful in attracting immigrants to the area. A number of highly skilled newcomers have settled in Marathon over the past decade adding to the town's human capital and cultural mosaic. There are also a number of Aboriginal peoples residing in Marathon, as well as in neighbouring Pic River and Pic Moberg First Nations. The town is committed to fostering close relationships with First Nations communities throughout the region.

FIGURE 4 CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN POPULATION (2011)

Aboriginal	275
Filipino	35
South Asian	10
Japanese	20

Generally speaking, most people in Marathon speak English, however, there is a large and growing population of French speakers.

FIGURE 5 LANGUAGES SPOKEN (2011)

Languages First Learned and Still Understood	Total	Male	Female
Total - All Persons	3,310	1,710	1,600
English Only	2,760	1,435	1,325
French Only	10	5	10
Both English and French	535	270	265

## 3

## Utilities and Fees

### 3.1 - Property Tax Rate

The majority of operating finances collected by the Town of Marathon are dependent upon the annual taxes levied on its property owners. Between 2010 and 2011 there was a decrease in commercial tax rates and only a slight increase in industrial and residential rates.

FIGURE 6 ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX RATES

Property Class	2011 Final Tax Rate (%)	2012 Final Tax Rate (%)	
Residential	3.275517	3.274435	-0.03%
Multi-Residential	3.579969	3.579779	-0.005%
Commercial	5.135646	5.076794	-1.15%
Commercial Vacant/Excess Land	3.594952	3.553756	-1.15%
Industrial	8.180163	8.130229	-0.61%
Industrial Vacant/Excess Land	5.317106	5.284649	-0.61%
Large Industrial	8.180163	8.130229	-0.61%
Large Industrial Vacant/Excess Land	5.317106	5.284649	-0.61%
Shopping Centre	5.135646	5.076794	-1.15%

### 3.2 - Available Spaces

There are a variety of available options for a company or business looking to establish operations in Marathon. Available locations range in size, zoning and features. A list of available properties and lease spaces is available through the economic development website as well as from the municipal office.

#### 3.2.1.1 - Existing Space

Traditionally, there is a healthy turnover of businesses in Marathon which allows newcomers to find reasonably priced commercial and industrial space. The size and type of these commercial spaces vary, with properties ranging from less than 800 ft<sup>2</sup> to those in excess of 8,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. Some of these spaces offer high traffic, high profile locations in indoor and strip malls and in separated buildings while others offer locations on Highway commercial zones, or modern industrial park space. Whatever your location preference may be, the MEDC is confident it can provide your business with exactly what it needs and is more than willing to organize a tour of available land and spaces.

### 3.2.1.2 - Option to Build

If you are interested in building a new facility, Marathon has locations to suit your industrial or commercial needs.

The Town of Marathon owns and maintains a 1,500 acre, fully serviced Industrial Park in the upper eastern limits of the municipality. The park is zoned for light industrial usage. Provided services include piped water, sewer/septic systems, communications hook-ups and electrical power. The Industrial Park is located between the Trans-Canada Highway and the built up area which makes for very easy access to the highway. Distances from the Industrial Park and other important transport links are:

- Trans-Canada Highway 17, approximately 2 km north
- Marathon Airport, approximately 2 km north-east
- Lake Superior/Peninsula Harbour, approximately 4 km south
- Canada Pacific Rail, approximately 3 km south

FIGURE 7 INDUSTRIAL PARK SPECIFICATIONS

Zoning	Light Industrial - M1
Area	618 ha, 1529 ac
Water	Town of Marathon, 3" plastic mains
Sewers	Town of Marathon, field beds
Telephone	Bell Canada
Telecommunications	Shaw Cable
Energy	Ontario Hydro
Transportation	Road, water, air, rail
Register Plan	Plan 55M-515
Current Industrial Park Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tire sales</li> <li>• General contracting</li> <li>• Heavy equipment rentals</li> <li>• Full service of bits and steel</li> <li>• Sales and service of drills and drilling tools</li> <li>• Retailing in mining and logging</li> </ul>

### 3.3 - Water and Sewer

Marathon has an excellent raw ground supply of water that is rated amongst the most pure fresh water sources in Ontario. Six wells pump 3,935 m<sup>3</sup> of water per day. Marathon's water reservoir has a capacity of 4,950 m<sup>3</sup>.

FIGURE 8 ANNUAL WATER RATES (2011)

<b>Marathon Annual Water Rates - 2011</b>	
Self-containing dwellings, churches	\$567.84
Retail businesses	\$585.07
Barber and beauty shops, doctors, dentists, liquor outlets	\$599.40
Service clubs, department stores, recreation concessions	\$1,158.67
Restaurants, service stations, groceries, industrial park	\$1,468.40
Schools, motels, dormitories	\$5,905.20
Hotels, hospital	\$11,798.89
Industries using more than 1,000,000 gallons per month	\$76,156.56
Non-services - \$0.11 per gallon plus \$33 service charge	
Car wash, Laundromat	\$1,846.98
Multi-Residential	\$567.84

### 3.4 - Hydro

Electricity is provided by Hydro One. Rates are set through the Ontario Energy Board. To obtain residential consumer and business information, visit [www.oeb.gov.on.ca](http://www.oeb.gov.on.ca) or call 1-877-632-2727.

Large operations requiring bulk amounts of hydro must apply to the Independent Electricity Market Operator to become market participants. For information related to this please visit [www.theimo.com](http://www.theimo.com) or call 1-888-448-7777.

### 3.5 - Propane

Superior Propane Inc. and Calgas are the bulk propane fuel distributors in Marathon. Both distributors can be contacted at: Superior Propane - 1-877-873-7467 or Calgas - 1-888-269-4380.

### 3.6 - Fuel Oil

Bluewave Energy & Davidson Fuels maintain bulk storage of fuel oil for heating and diesel power within Marathon. They can be contacted at: Bluewave - (807) 824-2383 or Davidson Fuels - (705) 856-2166.

# 4 Key Industries

## 4.1 - Number of Jobs by Employment Sector

The economy of Marathon is heavily reliant on resource-based sectors - mainly mining and the forestry sector. This strength, coupled with Marathon's strength in the services sectors strategically positions it as an economic hub along the north shore.

FIGURE 9 NUMBER OF JOBS BY SECTOR (2006)

Mining and forestry	560
Construction	100
Manufacturing	250
Wholesale trade	50
Retail trade	270
Finance and real estate	60
Health care and social services	160
Educational services	305
Business services	215
Other services	365



## 4.1.1 - Top Employers

### 4.1.1.1 - Hemlo

The Hemlo operation consists of the Williams Mine and the David Bell Mine and currently employs 550 people. Hemlo personnel meet regularly with the Town of Marathon, Pic River First Nation and Pic Moberg First Nation to discuss issues of concern. The mine has a partnership with Confederation College, Northwest Employment Works and two First Nations to deliver a Heavy Equipment Mechanics apprenticeship program.

Current projections for the life of the mine currently are past 2020 although there is ongoing exploration and prospecting occurring throughout the area surrounding Marathon.

To learn more about the Hemlo operation visit: <http://www.barrick.com/GlobalOperations/NorthAmerica/Hemlo/default.aspx>

### 4.1.1.2 - Wilson Memorial General Hospital

The town is home to the Wilson Memorial General Hospital that has full emergency services, recent infrastructure upgrades and an experienced medical team. The hospital currently employs 60 people.

The hospital is a recently renovated facility with 9 Acute Care beds, 12 Chronic Care as well as a 24 hour Emergency Department. Low risk obstetrics and chemotherapy are provided by local physicians. Cataract surgery and colonoscopy services are provided by visiting specialists.

There are two telemedicine suites at the hospital - one devoted to clinical work and one to education. There is an additional telemedicine suite at the clinic making access to specialist care easier.

To find out more visit: <http://www.wmgh.net/>

### 4.1.1.3 - Educational Institutions

Substantial educational facilities are located in Marathon including the Board Office for the Superior-Greenstone District School Board and a satellite campus for Confederation College. In total, over 100 people are employed through these educational facilities.

These educational assets provide stable employment for a number of residents and also provide the training and skills development for the future generation.

To find out more about Marathon's educational facilities visit:

- Confederation College: <http://www.confederationc.on.ca/>
- Superior-Greenstone District School Board: <http://www.sgdsb.ca/>
- Superior North Catholic District School Board: <http://www.sncdsb.ca/>

### 4.1.1.4 - Canadian Tire

The Town of Marathon is home to one of only three Canadian Tire stores in the region with many residents from neighbouring communities coming here to shop. This location currently employs about 20 people in Marathon and provides increasing numbers of visitors to the town.

For more information visit: <http://www.canadiantire.ca/>

## 4.2 - Key Industries

### 4.2.1 - Mining

Mining and mineral exploration is the backbone of Marathon's local economy. Marathon offers mineral exploration and mining companies a highly productive workforce, reflecting local skills and talent. Marathon keeps business costs low through affordable taxes and fees and well-established infrastructure and services. Companies gain reliable access to local, northern and global markets through Marathon's well-connected road, air, water and communications networks.

The Hemlo Gold Camp is one of the largest gold mining facilities in Canada and provides the local community with a number of benefits including employment for citizens and taxes to support the local and provincial economy. There is a wide variety of mining service providers including parts dealers in the community that support the mines activity. In addition many prospecting firms are active in the area and are constantly discovering new and exciting deposits in the region. Junior firms, including Entourage Metals are also actively engaged in prospecting and mineral exploration. The Stillwater Marathon PGM-Cu (Platinum Group Metals and Copper) Project, is currently in the approval process to develop an open pit and milling operation. The Project will mine an estimated 91 million tonnes of Platinum Group Metals with the life of the mine expected to be approximately 11.5 years.

### Hemlo - Major Employer

The Hemlo operation consists of the Williams Mine and the David Bell Mine and currently employs 550 people. Hemlo personnel meet regularly with the Town of Marathon, Pic River First Nation and Pic Moberg First Nation to discuss issues of concern. The mine has a partnership with Confederation College, Northwest Employment Works, and two First Nations to deliver a Heavy Equipment Mechanics apprentice program.

Current projections for the life of the mine currently extend beyond 2020 although there is ongoing exploration and prospecting occurring throughout the area surrounding Marathon.

### Provincial Support

Ontario's Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry (MNDMF) delivers government programs and spurs economic growth and investment by providing:

- Financial assistance
- Guidance from local northern development professionals
- Online information and business forms

### Marathon's Competitive Advantages:

- One of the largest gold deposits in Canada
- Geological studies show deposits of many other valuable minerals including the prospect of diamonds
- A skilled and knowledgeable workforce
- An established infrastructure of equipment suppliers, human resources training and other specialized services
- Northern Industrial Electricity Rate (NIER) program
- Positive support within the community for the industry

#### 4.2.2 - Forestry

Surrounded by extensive supplies of biomass from the Boreal forest and located strategically on a deep water harbour on the banks of Lake Superior, Marathon is strategically positioned as a prime location for development in the forestry sector. The creation of the Nawiinginiima Forest Management Corporation, as the first local forest management corporation (LFMC) pilot project, is an exciting development in the local forestry sector and promotes localized control of forestry resources for the local community.

Marathon offers forestry companies a highly skilled and knowledgeable workforce, reflecting local skills and talent. Marathon keeps business costs low, through affordable taxes and fees and well-established infrastructure and services. Companies gain reliable access to local, northern and global markets through Marathon's well-connected road, air, water, rail and communications networks.

#### Provincial Support

Beginning in 2005, the government has made more than \$1 billion available through various programs to assist the forestry sector over five years. These include:

- \$350 million in loan guarantees to stimulate new investment in value-added manufacturing, energy conservation and energy co-generation
- \$150 million over three years in conditional grants to support new capital investments
- \$140 million in electricity rebates for Northern pulp and paper mills
- \$75 million annually for the construction and maintenance costs of primary and secondary forest access roads
- \$10 million per year to enhance the Forest Resource Inventory
- \$3 million a year for three years to reduce timber fees for poplar veneer and white birch, beginning in 2006
- \$1 million per year in an Ontario Wood Promotion program to enhance value-added manufacturing

#### Marathon's Competitive Advantages:

- Available feedstock for varied commercial forestry uses including biomass, saw logs, chips, underutilized species, etc.
- A priority for Provincial government through MNDMF
- Northern Ontario Growth Plan
- Northern Industrial Electricity Rate (NIER) program

### 4.2.3 - Residential and Business Services

Marathon is strategically located on the Trans-Canada highway between Thunder Bay and Sault St. Marie positioning it geographically as the service centre for the region. A number of financial and business services are located in Marathon as well as a plethora of retail facilities highlighting its success in attracting commercial development and customers throughout the region.

Aside from its strategic location, the Town of Marathon also boasts a higher than average family income and a relatively low cost of living, giving many of its residents a large disposable income. This makes Marathon a strategic location for retail development and investment. This is seen in the level of retail investment that currently exists in the community such as large Canadian Tire - with the closest competing Canadian Tire retailer located in Wawa.

Businesses locating in Marathon do not just benefit from Marathon's customer base, they receive customers from a variety of small towns around Marathon, including: Manitouwadge, White River, Terrace Bay, Pic River First Nation and Pic Mobert First Nation. In addition, Marathon has a highly skilled and qualified workforce to ensure that your business hires the best and the brightest.

### Community Support

There are a variety of resources available to small business owners and entrepreneurs in Marathon and the surrounding region. Some of these include:

- Marathon Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)
- Superior North Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC)
- Thunder Bay and District Entrepreneur Centre
- Canada-Ontario Business Service Centre

### Marathon's Competitive advantages:

- Geographic location between two major urban centres making it a service centre in the region
- Access to a wide consumer base from neighbouring communities
- Diversified services sector with multiple small and medium-sized service businesses
- High personal income
- Major growth potential in the primary mining and forestry sectors

### 4.2.4 - Residential Development

Marathon provides a quality of life that is second to none. This is particularly true for the large and growing segment of 50-70 year old `active retirees` who are looking for the quality of life available in the Town, including a variety of outdoor activity opportunities, an affordable living cost and a welcoming community.

### Competitive Advantages:

- One of the strongest health services sectors in rural Ontario
- Exceptional lifestyle for those who enjoy the outdoors and are active
- Town has large boundaries and there is plenty of surrounding land
- Municipal system has plenty of water and sewer capacity
- Town owns pockets of vacant property for new development
- Crown Land could be made available through application to Ministry of Natural Resources

## 5

## Labour Force

## 5.1 - Employment Rate

Business needs well trained labour to establish or operate a successful business and Marathon has just that! The majority of Marathon's workforce is well trained and highly skilled. Overall, the unemployment rate is just over 6% with a 73% participation rate in the local labour market.

FIGURE 10 EMPLOYMENT NUMBERS (2011)

<b>Total population 15 years and over</b>	<b>3,435</b>
In the labour force	2,518
Employed	2,365
Unemployed	153
Not in the labour force	917
Participation rate	73.3%
Employment rate	69.1%
Unemployment rate	5.8%

## 5.2 - Education Level

Marathon has a highly skilled and knowledgeable workforce which is absolutely necessary in establishing and running a profitable business or industry. Marathon's workforce can assist your business in competing in today's competitive global economy.

FIGURE 11 LEVEL OF EDUCATION (2011)

<b>Highest Level of Schooling</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Total Population aged 20-34	725	340	385
Population aged 20-34 with a trades certificate or diploma	11%	16.2%	5.2%
Population aged 20-34 with a college certificate or diploma	25.5%	20.6%	29.9%
Population aged 20-34 with a university certificate, diploma or degree	13.8%	4.4%	23.4%
Total population aged 35-44	1015	500	520
Population aged 35-44 with a trades certificate or diploma	18.2%	26%	9.6
Population aged 35-44 with a college certificate or diploma	21.7%	13%	28.8%
Population aged 35-44 with a university certificate, diploma or degree	9.9%	12%	7.7%
Total population aged 45-66	1,010	590	420
Population aged 45-64 with a trades certificate or diploma	22.3%	33.1%	7.1%
Population aged 45-64 with a college certificate or diploma	13.4%	6.8%	23.8%
Population aged 45-64 with a university certificate, diploma or degree	14.9%	12.7%	17.9%

# 6

## Transportation and Communication

### 6.1 - Highway

The Town of Marathon is strategically located on the Trans-Canada Highway 17, the primary land corridor linking Canada from east to west. United States border crossings at Sault Ste. Marie (east) and Pigeon River (west) are four hours away.

The Corporation of the Town of Marathon maintains 34.3 km of paved and 16 km of gravel roads within the Town boundaries.

	Kilometres	Miles
Thunder Bay, ON	320	200
Sault Ste. Marie, ON	420	255
Winnipeg, MN	980	610
Toronto, ON	1,200	720
Ottawa, ON	1,050	630
Montreal, QC	1,390	740
Calgary, AL	2,300	1,430
Detroit, MI	960	600
Minneapolis, MN	1,200	720
Milwaukee, WI	1,260	760
Indianapolis, IN	1,280	730
Chicago, IL	1,380	830
St. Louis, MS	1,580	950

Marathon is serviced by one major cartage company operating inter-provincial and international transportation services. For more information visit [www.manitoulintransport.com](http://www.manitoulintransport.com) or call (807) 229-0551.

#### Transport Delivery to Major Centres

Destination	Delivery Time
Thunder Bay, ON	1 day
Toronto, ON	1-2 days
Winnipeg, MB	2 days
Minneapolis, MN	2 days
Chicago, IL	2 days
Milwaukee, WI	2 days

## 6.2 - Railway

Canadian Pacific Railway operates freight cartage out of Marathon.

## 6.2 - Airport

The runway of the Marathon Municipal Airport is 100 feet wide by 3,933 feet long with a 200 foot displaced threshold. There is currently no regular air service but landing and fuel services are available. The municipal airport is located along Highway 17 just 5 kilometres from downtown Marathon.

## 6.4 - Waterway

Marathon is strategically located on Peninsula Harbour, a prime deep water harbour on Lake Superior.

## 6.5 - High Speed Telecommunications

A number of communication companies have operations and services in Marathon. Services range from telephone services and high speed internet telecommunications, to cellular phone service and dial-up Internet service. All of these services make Marathon a “smart”, fully connected community with the ability to perform business competitively in the global marketplace.

Telecommunications services are provided by a number of companies including: Bell Canada ([www.bell.ca](http://www.bell.ca)), Shaw Cable ([www.shaw.ca](http://www.shaw.ca)), and Tbaytel ([www.tbaytel.net](http://www.tbaytel.net)).

# 7

## Education

### 7.1 - Elementary and Secondary

Marathon is served by five schools. Three of these are public schools: Margaret Twomey Public School, Marathon High School and École Secondaire Cité-Supérieure. Two Roman Catholic separate schools also service the town: Holy Saviour School and École Val-des-Bois.

### 7.2 - Post-Secondary

Confederation College operates a satellite campus in Marathon which acts as the coordinating focal point for college education programming. The campus provides a wide range of programs and courses designed to meet the needs of the local labour market. Furthermore, a number of postsecondary institutions operate facilities within a 400 kilometre radius (4 hours drive) east of Marathon, and a 300 kilometre radius (3 hour drive) west of Marathon. These educational institutions offer a variety of training, education and research programs and services, ranging from different sectors, industries and disciplines.

- Confederation College - Marathon Campus
- Confederation College - Main Campus
- Lakehead University
- Algoma University College
- Sault College

8  
Quality of Life

Marathon offers a quality of life that is second to none. The Town offers all the amenities of a large service centre while also being close-knit and rural.

### 8.1 - Healthcare

Quality and accessible healthcare and social services are an attractive feature about Marathon. The Town is serviced by a modern hospital that houses 25 beds and employs approximately 60 people. Marathon Family Health Team staffs 9 physicians, a nurse practitioner and has 6 full time and 4 part time administrative staff. Three dental offices operate in Marathon, a full service optometrist office, as well as the Marathon Chiropractic Clinic. Visiting specialists offer services in ophthalmology, orthopedics and audiology. Superior North Emergency Medical Service operates a base in Marathon and has 6 paramedics on staff. A branch office of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit is also located in Marathon.

### 8.2 - Housing

Marathon has an extremely competitively priced housing market. Residential housing is affordable, while offering quality homes and rental units. In addition, Marathon is a very safe and enjoyable community to live in and an excellent place to raise a family.

Housing Characteristics	
Total Occupied Private Dwellings	1,415
Number of owned dwellings	1,210
Average monthly payments for owner-occupied dwellings	\$682
Number of rented dwellings	420
Average gross monthly payments for rented dwellings	\$544
Number of dwellings constructed before 1991	1,570
Number of dwellings constructed between 1991 and 2001	60
Average value of dwelling	\$78,041

### 8.3 - Arts and Culture

Marathon’s arts and cultural community is thriving. Within the last decade, Marathon has hosted a community entertainment series, a community choir, coffee houses, cultural jams, a writer’s group and art gallery. There are a wide variety of local artists, photographers and performers in the area that help bolster Marathon’s cultural depth and contribute to the unique sense of place that exists within the community.

## 8.4 - Recreation

The Town of Marathon is home to a variety of exciting outdoor and recreational opportunities. If fishing and hunting are your passion, this is the place for you. The area abounds in excellent river fishing opportunities as well as deep water fishing in Lake Superior.

The town has 56 hectares of municipal parkland including Penn Lake Park, Peninsula Golf Course and Board of Education properties. Marathon's parkland provides designated areas and facilities for a wide variety of four-season recreational activities including hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and mountain biking. The Pukaskwa National Park is a short drive away and offers breathtaking scenery and excellent hiking trails.

In addition to these parks systems, Marathon has a beautiful, public 9-hole golf course overlooking Lake Superior, which was designed by Stanley Thompson, CGA. A licensed club house, concessions, rental equipment, pro shop and CPGA Pro are on site. The town is also home to the only indoor pool between Thunder Bay and Sault St. Marie. It has 5 lanes and is 25 metres long. The Community Services Department offers a full range of pool programming including the Canadian Red Cross Aquaquest water safety program, Lifesaving Society programs, advanced training and courses, family and open swims and school programs. Recent recreational developments in town also include a new skate park, basketball courts and the refinishing of the tennis courts.

Marathon also has a wide range of winter sport facilities. The cross-country skiing trails system contains over 14 kilometres of groomed classic and skate skiing trails including lit trails for night skiing. Equipment rentals, lessons and group rates are available. Weekday hockey and figure skating, weekend tournaments and special events and public skating time make the Marathon arena a very busy facility from August to April. Marathon's curling club has four sheets of ice and is owned and operated by its members. Nightly women's, men's, mixed and junior play, annual bonspiels, private rentals and special functions, make the curling club a community hub in Marathon.



# 9

## Contacts and Resources

### 9.1 - Marathon Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)

There are various sources of information and resources for businesses or entrepreneurs looking to establish operations in Marathon. The Marathon Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) is the primary office responsible for assisting business and industry to locate, relocate or expand operations in or around Marathon. In a situation where other agencies or organizations have a role to play in the process, MEDC officials will facilitate meetings with the right people.

The MEDC is in place to assist new and existing businesses and industry locate or expand in the town. The office provides detailed and current information to companies wanting to make informed decisions on site selection.

In addition to the Community Profile - a comprehensive information publication - and listings of available real estate, the staff of the MEDC can assist clients in all phases of the site selection process. Local and prospective firms can take advantage of the Office's resources and expertise to source the information and contacts necessary to succeed in today's competitive global economy.

For further information on the excellent prospects for doing business in Marathon, contact the staff at MEDC.



**Bob Hancherow**, *General Manager*

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