

Timmins:



The City with a Heart of Gold

By Warrior, STUSOFC

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“Ahh!” That was probably the first word out of Harry Preston’s mouth when he slipped on a rocky knoll, stripping the moss off to reveal a large amount of gold back in 1909. That slip of his boots founded what is today the City of Timmins, a combination of the towns of Timmins, Schumacher, Whitney, Mountjoy, South Porcupine, and Porcupine. Noah Timmins founded the town of Timmins in 1911 to house the employees of Hollinger Mine. The Dome and McIntyre discoveries proceeded shortly after, and hundreds of miners, along with their families, called Timmins home sweet home. With someone like our number one gal, Shania Twain, calling Timmins her hometown, you know that Timmins is a wonderful and exciting place, full of excellent activities: come on over and explore it with us!

Among the numerous interesting sites in the city, the Timmins Underground Gold Mine Tour is the link to its origins. Here you can journey to the center of the earth and see how gold is extracted from beneath the earth’s surface. Supplied with complete mining gear, you can witness up close mining demonstrations, a mock blast that will impress all of us much, a mine rescue station, and the largest gold nugget your eyes may ever fall on! But be forewarned, visitors are advised to wear pants and socks due to lower temperatures. Back on the surface, you may pan for gold. What a great souvenir that would be, considering its finders keepers. There’s plenty more to do at the mine, but you’ll have to wait and see! The mine is open May 15 to the end of June, five days a week (Wednesday-Sunday); July



and August, seven days a week; and September-October 31, five days a week (Wednesday-Sunday).

For those of you interested in camping, Kettle Lakes Provincial Park provides great camping around a group of small lakes, with a variety of recreational facilities for visitors who wish to enjoy peace and quiet, just east of Timmins on Highway #67. For more information, write to Ontario Parks, 896 Riverside Drive, Timmins, ON P4N 3W2. Also, Horseshoe Lake Park and several private campgrounds are available for your enjoyment. **Important note:** Non residents will need to apply for a permit with the local Ministry of Natural Resources office for camping on Crown land.

Calling all animal lovers! If that caught your attention, then Cedar Meadows is for you! This 175 acre park and wildlife sanctuary provides wilderness tours dedicated to Eco-tourism, a remarkable experience for close encounters with the animal kind.



Visitors will observe a variety of native wildlife, ranging from bears, birds, and beaver to moose, fox, and muskox on a sleigh or hay ride through the park. After the tour, visitors can visit the kindergarten farm where a variety of domestic animals await them. The admission is \$8.00 for adults, \$6.00 for seniors, and \$5.00 for children 14 and under. Tours leave at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays May 15-Oct. 15 and Nov. 15-April 1st .

Bird watchers will definitely enjoy the habitat of Timmins. Numerous species, such as hawks, waterfowl, owls, and many song birds call Timmins their home. The Demonstration Forest attraction offers programs to allow visitors to gain a better understanding of the Boreal Forest eco-system and also provides great photo

opportunities. Berries such as raspberries, blueberries, and strawberries are available for picking as well as a variety of mushrooms.

Plenty of outdoor activities take place in Timmins. Walking trails such as the green belt that links the Mattagami Waterfront Development area and the downtown core are extremely abundant. Golf is offered at the Hollinger Golf Club, which offers a view of the historic Hollinger Gold Mine, and the interesting challenge of finding your way around abandoned mine shafts. Tuesday night is ladies night and Wednesday nights are men's night. Another golf place is the Spruce Needles Golf and Country Club, which offers an 18-hole scenic course on the shores of the Mattagami River. If you are more interested in fishing or hunting, then you must contact the Ministry of Natural Resources for licensing information.



If you visit Timmins during the winter season, there is a vast range of winter activities offered, such as skiing, ice fishing, snowmobiling, and so much more. A favorite for skiing is the Kamiskotia Ski Resort, which is the third largest peak in Ontario and is equipped with snowmaking facilities, quad lifts, and an excellent chalet atmosphere. For free information on snowmobiling, a trail map is available through the Timmins Convention and Visitors Bureau so be sure to get one while you're there!

All this talk about outdoor activities makes you feel incredibly energetic, eh? If not, just drink a can of rootbeer, or if you're really desperate, a rootbeer-Dr. Pepper mix and you'll be ready to go...SHOPPING! Normally, I would never get this excited about shopping, but we are going to be in SHANIA'S hometown! You may want to try the 101

Mall where there is a diverse selection of stores. After that, you may want to take a trip to the Timmins Square, where there are stores ranging from Fast Food to Pet Stores. And don't forget all the gift shops along the way!

Speaking of food, Timmins satisfies the tastes of everyone. The City offers international foods such as the Golden Dragon Restaurant, or familiar food like the pizza at Don's Pizzeria. There are lots of cafés and diners all throughout the city that serve anything from hot coffee to soup. For you family people, there are also many family restaurants available. And yes, to those of you who are of legal age, there are bars and such.



Last but certainly not least, I'm almost certain you all will want to visit the Mattagami First Nation, a small Ojibway community of about 165 people 80 kms (50 miles?) south of Timmins via Highway 144. They have Monster Bingo give aways of \$30,000.00 monthly (did anyone else see my mom perk up at the sound of Bingo? lol). The money raised from this event and others goes back into the community. So, anyone up for a game of bingo?

I am looking forward to visiting the exciting City of Timmins! To see where our favorite girl grew up will be amazing! The Shania Twain Centre will be an experience of a lifetime, I'm sure. The other attractions like Cedar Meadows or the Timmins Square will be a blast also. Timmins offers a wide variety of activities for everyone, so come on over and enjoy the city with the heart of gold!

For more info: <http://www.shania-twain.org/trip.htm>