

CAPE DORSET

Kingait

Location

64°14' N, 76°32' W. Elevation 56 m at the airstrip. 402 air km SW of Iqaluit, 1,891 air km NE of Yellowknife, in the Baffin Region.

On Dorset Island, off the Foxe Peninsula, southwest Baffin Island.

Topography

Situated in two valleys of the Kingait Range of hills.

Climate

Average annual precipitation: 15.2 cm rainfall, 117.8 cm snowfall, 26.7 cm total precipitation. July mean high 7.2°C, low 3.3°C. January mean high -23.3°C, low -28.9°C. Winds W at 18.5 km/h.

History

It was at Cape Dorset that the remains of an ancient Inuit people, who flourished between 1000 BC and 1100 AD, were first found. They were called the "Dorset Culture" after Cape Dorset. The South Baffin Inuit of Cape Dorset, descendants of later Thule culture people, know them in legends as the Tuniiit.

The Cape itself was named by Captain Luke Foxe on September 24, 1631, after Edward Sackville, Earl of Dorset. Sackville, a Lord of the Admiralty, was one of Foxe's sponsors in his unsuccessful attempt to find the Northwest Passage. The "Cape" on Dorset Island is actually a 243 m high mountain, part of the Kingait Range. "Kingait" means "high mountains" in Inuktitut and is hence the Inuit name for the community.

Cape Dorset is noted among ornithologists as an entry point to the nesting grounds of the Blue Goose. It was from Cape Dorset, in 1929, that the naturalist Dr. Dewey Soper set out to discover their nests near Foxe Basin. The bird sanctuary to the northeast of Cape Dorset is now called the Dewey Soper Bird Sanctuary.

The Hudson's Bay Company established a trading post in 1913. A Roman Catholic mission established in 1938, but closed in 1960 as the majority of the residents are of the Anglican faith. In 1947 the well-known Arctic supply ship *RMS Nascopie* struck an uncharted reef at the harbor's entrance and sank. The ship and its cargo were lost, but the passengers and crew were saved; they built a cairn still to be seen in memory of the disaster.

In 1949, the market for white fox collapsed. The poor economic situation and crowded and unsanitary housing conditions as Inuit moved into the settlement from the land contributed to several tragic epidemics in the late 40s and the 1950s, spinal meningitis, influenza and typhoid. A federal nursing station was established at Cape Dorset in the 50s to help avert such epidemics.

In 1953, the Inuit of Cape Dorset built the Anglican church on their own initiative, paying for it with musk-ox hides. In the same year, the artist James Houston arrived in the community. Mr. Houston and his wife were to spend ten years at Cape Dorset, finding gifted artists, encouraging carving and handicraft production and introducing print-making. The West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative was formed in 1959, and in that year the first major exhibition of Cape Dorset Inuit sculpture was held at

the Stratford Festival. It was a success, and carving and graphic art have become an economic mainstay of the community.

Demography

Population: June 1981, 784; 1989 Census, 872; GNWT June 1988 estimate, 970.

1986 sex distribution: 53% male, 47% female.

1986 age distribution: 0-4, 16%; 5-14, 25%; 15-64, 57%; 65+, 2%.

1987 ethnic distribution: 1% Dene, 93% Inuit, 1% non-native. Languages spoken: Inuktitut, English.

Political Organization

Hamlet status, April 1, 1982.

Mayor: Charlie Manning.

Senior Administrative Officer: Chuck Cilbuly.

Hamlet Office: (819) 897-8943. Fax (819) 897-8030.

Liquor plebiscite, Dec. 10, 1984: requires community approval.

MLA Joe Arlooktoo (Baffin South); MP Jack Anawak, LIB (Nunatslaq).

Economy

Major Activities — Print-making, carving, sealing.

Banks — None.

Co-ops — West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative Limited.

Renewable Resources — Fish: Arctic Char. Marine mammals: Right Whale, Ring Seal, Harp Seal, Harbour Seal, Bearded Seal, Beluga, Walrus, Killer Whale.

Game: Caribou, Polar Bear, Fox, Wolf.

Quotas: Caribou, 300; Polar Bear, 10.

Renewable Resources Officer: Don Weston. Cape Dorset HTA.

Total number of trappers (1987-88): 12.

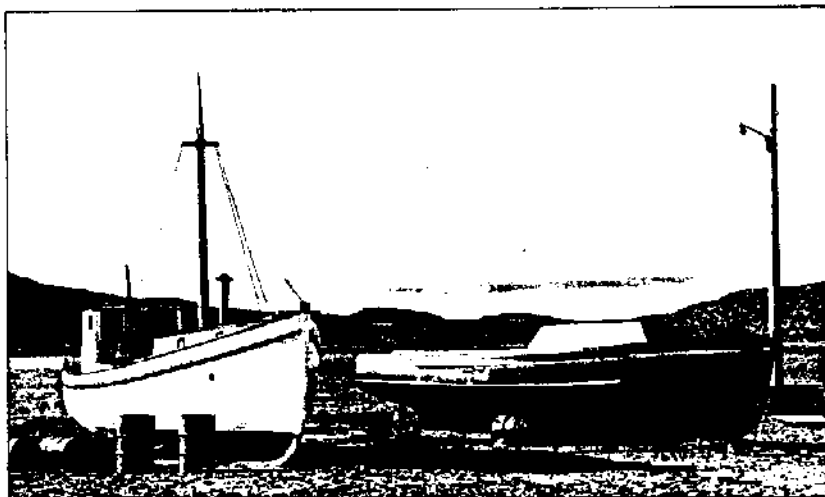
Total dollars earned: \$2,600.

Non-renewable Resources — Minerals: within medium-level uranium potential area.

Tourism — Art, archaeological interest. Arts and crafts: carvings, prints and lithographs by world-renowned artists. Boat, skidoo, dogsled tours.

Prices and Income — Private Households. Average income: \$22,052. Food prices, 1987: 75% higher than Yellowknife.

Local Businesses — The following services are provided by locally based business in addition to those noted above. This list in-



East coast style wooden fishing boats are a common sight on Arctic beaches. GNWT

cludes both primary and secondary businesses and does not include all services available. For more information consult the NWT Business Directory.

Leather goods manufacturing, clothing manufacturing, arts and crafts manufacturing, building contractors, taxis, general retail, food, hotels, outfitters, restaurants, amusement centres.

Infrastructure

Power — NCPC (Area Office Iqaluit), diesel generator, 1,350 kW capacity. 1989 rates, Domestic Service (non-government): 27.93¢/kWh for first 300 kWh per month, 45.22¢/kWh for all over 300 kWh per month; Commercial Service (non-government): 39.77¢/kWh, Domestic Service (government): 48.22¢/kWh, Commercial Service (non-government): 48.22¢/kWh.

Water — Source, Tee Lake 1 km from the settlement. Chlorinated by the addition of bleach to the water truck before distribution. 90.9m³ storage tank, preheating tanks. Trucked delivery, two 4,550 litre trucks, service provided by hamlet.

Sanitation — Sewage pumpout, one 4,550 litre pumpout truck; sewage bags placed in 204 litre drums, collected by truck along with solid waste. Waste water from units without pumpout disposed on ground outside buildings. Sewage and solid wastes dumped at disposal area 1 km west of community near ocean, consolidated and covered in spring.

Fuel — Capacity in use to September 30, 1989: P-50, 3,319,426 litres; gas 674,139 litres; Turbo "A", 502,576 litres. Resupply tanker. 1989 GNWT retail prices: P-50 heating, \$.48 per litre; diesel, \$.62; gasoline, \$.63; naphtha, \$1.25; Turbo "A", \$.64.

Transportation

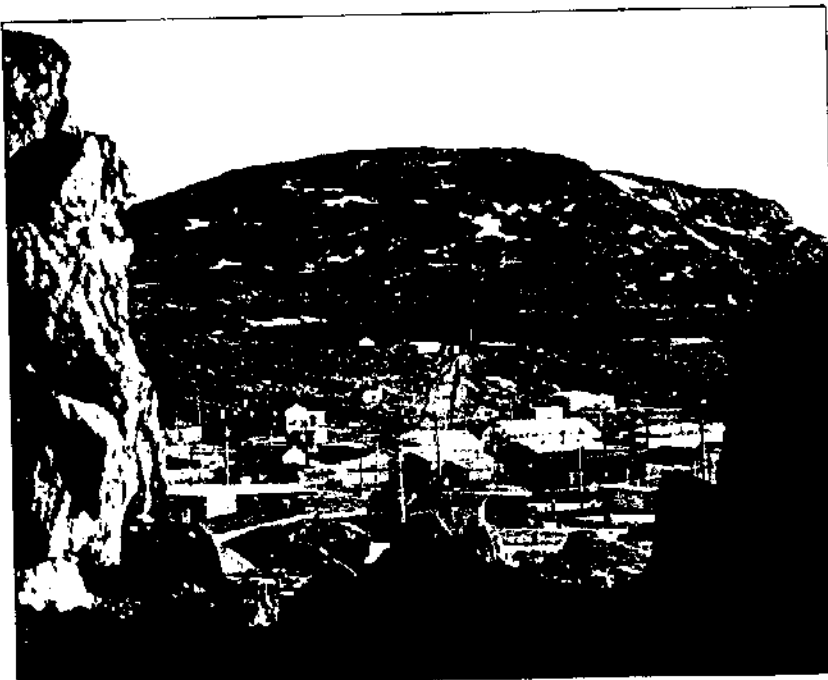
Air — Take-offs and landings, 1988: 1,012. Airport Operator: Government of NWT, Iqaluit.

Airport Facilities: Licensed 1219 m x 3 m gravel runway c/w taxiway and apron; Airfield lighting including runway edge, identification, threshold, end and approach lights. ARCAL, taxi/apron edge lights, rotating beacon and lighted wind sock; Navaid — NDB; Air terminal building.

Services: Community Airport Radio Station (CARS) — Weather/Communications; Scheduled airfield maintenance.

Fuel: Jet A-1.

Scheduled Service: First Air via Iqaluit; Air Inuit via Montreal.



Cape Dorset is a famous centre for Inuit art. GNWT

Water Aerodrome: Licensed (Austin Airways Ltd.) float plane access with dock and buoys; Break-up July 15; Freeze-up November 15; Limited fuel and oil; passenger shelter.

Water Aerodrome Location: 64°14'N, 76°33'W

Water Aerodrome Elevation: 00

Water — Eastern Arctic Sealift: operator, Transport Canada from Montreal.

Communications

Postal code: X0A 0C0. Mail twice a week. Telephone: Bell Telephone (Anik), local and long distance. CBC Radio (Anik); community radio. CBC Television (Anik).

Protection Services

Police: RCMP three man detachment.

Fire chief: Aningmuit Samayualie.

Fire department: volunteer 25 person brigade; no hydrant system; telephone; triple combination pumper and fire hall.

Medical/Social Services

Community Health Centre: four beds, one bassinet, one crib.

Medical staff: Seven persons.

Social Services Facilities: two person Community Social Services Office. Youth Justice Committee, Kingait Aulatsivik Committee (alcohol & drug abuse)

Education

School: Pitseolak, K-10, Principal, Jerry Huculak.

Student Enrolment (1988/89): 265

Teachers: 14, with 4 classroom assistants.

Community Education Council: Cape Dorset Education Council.

School year (1989/90): August 22-June 21.

Vocational and Continuing Education: Adult education centre, one resident adult educator, Arctic College extension program.

Housing and Accommodation

NWT Housing Corporation units (1989): 160.

HAP housing allocations 1980-89: 15.

GNWT staff housing units: 13 houses, 1 duplex, 3 apts.

Commercial accommodation: Kingait Inn, accommodation in 17 rooms, for 35, private/shared bath, meals included.

Recreation and Culture

Community hall, movies; school gymnasium, playground, pool, pool hall; Community Library, Recreation Committee.