

**CHIPPEWAS OF GEORGINA ISLAND**

**CHIEF AND COUNCIL REPORT**

**FOR JANUARY 2013**



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**CHIEF and COUNCIL QUARTERLY REPORT  
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Ahneen Georgina Island Membership and Happy New Year!

Please take the time to enjoy reading our brief outlined Quarterly Report from Chief and Council.

Also please be advised that Council is always available to meet with membership when scheduled through Natalie at the front desk, do not hesitate to contact Chief or any Council members for questions or suggestions. Miigwetch!

**Community Announcements:**

Reminder that the Election date has been set for March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and a nomination meeting has been scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Electoral Officer is Sylvia McCue and two Deputy Electoral Officers will be appointed.

The Police Committee and OPP has hired a new officer, Thomas Phillips who has years of experience with the Toronto police department and OPP, he has taken over the vacated position of St. Clair Gagnon. I'm sure you will be seeing him patrolling in the community and introducing himself to the membership

Also the Police are putting on a workshop **"Internet Awareness for Parents and Kids"** **Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am, Georgina Island Community Centre.**

D/Cst. Kip Wolhert of the OPP Child Pornography Section will be coming to provide information on:

- Internet luring
- Predators online
- Recent active sites to watch for
- Safety tips for kids and parents

\*Lunch provided for participants\*

**Coldwater Claim:**

The Coldwater Claim has been finalized! After many many years we have finally been paid compensation for the past grievances of our ancestors and membership. Thank you to our membership for all their support and dedication to the past and present Chief and Councils and negotiators throughout this process. Congratulations!

As stated in Chippewas of Georgina Island Trust Agreement schedule "C" there will be an ongoing annual distribution to the membership of \$1000.00. Any person caring for a Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation member eighteen years of age or younger, regardless of place of residency, may apply for the \$1000.00 CAD Annual Distribution Policy payment for the Member eighteen years of age or younger that they are caring for. The Annual Distribution Policy payment will be issued in the name of the child and parents and guardians are encouraged to invest these annual payments for the benefit of the child.

In order to process an Annual Distribution Policy claim for reimbursement for any given year you must submit an application to Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation no later than October 15<sup>th</sup> of the fiscal year of 2013, along with your name, birth date, current address, telephone number, where you can be reached and status number. Forms will be posted on the website or upon request mailed out to individuals. The First Nation will have access to these forms 3 months prior to the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline date. Any payments claimed for minor Members by a parent or guardian must be accompanied by the appropriate documentation, including proof of legal custody in certain circumstances.

Please review the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Policy for clarification regarding the guidelines for funds in the Revenue Account and the Annual Distribution. The Chippewas of Georgina Island Coldwater Narrows Trust has been posted on the website under the membership section.

Future meetings will be held with First Nation membership to discuss the remaining Revenue funds that are available after the annual PCD of \$1000.00 and the Funeral Policy that has been accessed. As per the Trust Agreement any remaining funds in any given year shall be spent in accordance with guidelines established for either researching, submitting and negotiating further land claims, education, health, housing, culture, economic and community development, environment and all reasonable administration costs associated with the Trust.

Notices and flyers will be posted in the community and on the website when these meetings are scheduled.

#### **Williams Treaty:**

Phase 2 of Trial proceedings in court with opening statements begins for Williams Treaty on February 5<sup>th</sup>. During the month of February testimony of legal historians will be done and into March filing of economic expert reports along with historical evidence that will take the trial into June. Then Canada and Ontario begin their testimony and evidence. Updates will continue to be included in our quarterly reports on the status of the Trial.

## **Social Services:**

As stated by the Ontario Province, any money received as a result of a Treaty Settlement will not disqualify a member to collect social assistance. The member has one year to dispose of the money from the Personal Cash Distribution allotted by the Treaty Settlement. After the one year any residual money will be considered for qualification.

## **Recreation:**

The children continue to benefit from the Recreation Program and the physical activities which result in stronger, healthier bodies and minds.

## **Buzzy BigCanoe Memorial Skating Rink:**

Skating season is here! Thanks to community volunteers, the rink is ready for the community's enjoyment. All members of the community are welcome to skate, play hockey, or meet their friends there.

Some rules and guidelines we would like to encourage be followed so that everyone can enjoy the rink are:

- **Helmet use is recommended for all skaters**
- **Put garbage in cans, not on the floor**
- **Shovels are kept at the rink. If you are able, please help shovel the snow off the ice surface**
- **Do not smoke in the rink house or on the ice**
- **Alcohol is not permitted on the premises**
- **No food is allowed on the ice**
- **Please be respectful of others**
- **Do not fight or play rough inside the building or on the rink surface**
- **Do not damage anything**

\*Please note that the rink is maintained and managed by volunteers. Your assistance with shoveling, maintaining the facility's cleanliness and adherence to the above rules is appreciated.

## **Education:**

### **School Transportation**

Georgina Island School Bus service will begin on Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> on the mainland.

Bus service will run from the Virginia Beach Marina to Morning Glory and Sutton District High School in the morning and there will be a return bus run from both schools in the afternoon. We welcome back Lesley Monague as our regular bus driver.

We currently do not have a bus or bus driver for the on-reserve bus runs and are working towards a viable solution to the problem while parents continue to transport students themselves.

We would like to encourage any community members interested in obtaining their "B" class driver's license to contact Lauri Williamson at the band office. A driver's medical is required and bus driver training will be provided.

**Environment:**

**UYSS (Upper York Sewage System)**

Chief and Council along with our Environment Coordinator and Staff have been meeting with the UYSS team. We have a Communications Protocol in place with the UYSS team to address meetings with the community and discussion amongst our experts on the proposed Treatment Plant going into Holland Landing to replace existing facility. Council has retained our own experts, Northern Waterworks owned and operated by First Nation people to review the studies presented by the UYSS team. We have underlying concerns with this new facility and any potential damage it could do to our Lake and water. According to the communication protocol the UYSS team has to come to the First Nation to present to our community members the project and address any questions and concerns by the people in attendance. Council is hoping to have this community meeting in February or early March when the Lake crossing is more predictable. Notices will be posted on website and in the community as well as announced on radio.

**Transportation:**

We have had a few minor problems with the Aazhwe and some downtime on the scheduled trips. We are hoping to continue the Aazhwe scheduled trips as long as possible. This year the weather seems to be very mild for this time of year and the lake is not freezing as well as we expect which is making it very difficult to judge the crossing and a shutdown of the Aazhwe for the season. We have one scoot over here ready to go if need be for emergency purposes until the Aazhwe stops operating. We encourage people once the scoots begin to operate that they keep into consideration that these vessels are to be utilized for necessary travel only and for band members and their spouses only.

## **Georgian College offers unique Anishnaabemowin Language Programming diploma starting fall 2013**

Georgian College is launching a new Anishnaabemowin Language Programming two-year diploma program at the Barrie Campus in September 2013.

As Canada's original languages are used less and less frequently in daily life, it is more important than ever to take action to preserve and revitalize Indigenous languages. If action is not taken immediately, the majority of original languages will be extinct or bordering extinction within the next generation, says Greg McGregor, Manager, Aboriginal Services at Georgian College, and that is why the launch of the new program comes at such a crucial time.

This fully accredited diploma program is the only one of its kind in Ontario and focuses on creating functional Anishnaabemowin speakers. It incorporates a multi-pronged approach to language retention. Students will receive support in class, as well as one-on-one sessions with a language specialist and facilitated group discussions to help with pronunciation and sentence formation. Students can expect to spend 18 hours/week taking courses in the program, with another 11 hours/week participating in language based activities that also aid in retention. Applicants do not need to have any prior knowledge of the language, but McGregor expects the program will attract students with varying degrees of language comprehension.

The program also prepares students to design, develop and implement language programs at the community level. Students will study the language as a whole, including the history, changes and current issues affecting Anishnaabemowin today, as well as teaching methods and curriculum design. Graduates of Anishnaabemowin Language Programming may find employment in a variety of areas, including Band offices/administration, Aboriginal organizations, cultural centres, childcare facilities, government agencies and others.

"The chance to learn to speak Anishnaabemowin is an amazing opportunity to deepen your understanding of the culture and bring more joy into your life," said Niigaan Enaabid (Lorraine McCrae) of Rama First Nation.

The School of Aboriginal Studies at Georgian College has developed and delivered a variety of programs and services to ensure Aboriginal student success, including four Aboriginal Resource Centres located at the Barrie, Orillia, Owen Sound and Midland campuses.

For more information about the Anishnaabemowin Language Programming program, please visit [www.georgianc.on.ca/programs/ANLP](http://www.georgianc.on.ca/programs/ANLP) or contact April Jones, Community Liaison Education Advisor at (705) 728-1968 ext. 1317 or [april.jones@georgiancollege.ca](mailto:april.jones@georgiancollege.ca).

**Chi-Miigwetch!**