

**CHIPPEWAS OF GEORGINA ISLAND  
COUNCIL REVIEWS AND UPDATES**

**May 2, 2011**



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## **Council Reports and Reviews**

**May 2, 2011**

### **Community Centre**

**Present:** Chief Donna Big Canoe  
Councillor Patricia Big Canoe  
Councillor Bill McCue  
Councillor Lorraine Big Canoe

**Regrets:** Councillor Brett Mooney – in Windsor on Transportation Business

**Band Staff:** Kim Big Canoe, Suzanne Howes, Willow Hill, Janice Taylor, Nick Charles, Scott Jacobs, Marlene Stiles, Sandra Big Canoe, Sylvia McCue.

**Band Members:** Delores Charles, Tom Summers, Albert Big Canoe, Andy Big Canoe, Albert Big Canoe, Myrtle Linders, Ellie Big Canoe, Elexis Charles, Hannah Big Canoe.

**Law Enforcement:** Sergeant Buffett

**Clergy:** Rev. Betty Lou McNabb

**Minute Taker:** Natalie Priester

#### **Community Announcements:**

This morning we have two of our youth who have requested to do the opening prayer in our Native language for our Council Meeting. Alexis Charles and Hannah Big Canoe.

**\*\*These youth did an excellent job with their prayer, and the rest of those in attendance, were very impressed.\*\***

- Happy Birthday to Albert Big Canoe.
- Council would like to congratulate and welcome into the community two new arrivals over the winter season. Congratulations to Jen and Brad Beelby on the arrival of their new baby girl and to Greer Atkinson and Jake Charles on the early arrival of their baby girl.
- Council has scheduled a swearing-in-ceremony on Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. to take our oaths of office for this new term. We also will be announcing the citizen of the year award at the dinner. Please send in your nominations in a sealed envelope to the attention of Chief and Council in care of Natalie at the reception desk by May27th.

- Due to the weather forecast, Earth Day cleanup has been rescheduled to May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please come out and help clean up our First Nation and set an example on the importance of keeping our community clean for future generations.
- As per recommendations from Willow Hill at the Council meeting in January, Council has discussed to move our monthly Council meetings to early evenings on the first Monday of every month beginning in September 2011. The time will be announced and posted in the Community before the September date. Council will also be reviewing over the summer recess how other First Nations conduct their Council meetings and in what format and how often.
- Following the Council meeting Kerry Ann has scheduled a presentation from Georgian College Lake Simcoe clean-up Fund. Please stay to hear the presentation regarding our Lake.

### **Coldwater Treaty:**

Chief and Council met with Nawash First Nation and Rama and Christian Island First Nation to discuss the offer from Canada. It was decided that each First Nation would hold meetings with their respective communities on May 19<sup>th</sup> to announce and discuss the offer with their membership.

A meeting has been scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Community Centre to make the announcement. Please be aware that only Georgina Island Membership will be allowed into the meeting. Status cards will have to be presented at the door showing Georgina Island Membership. Any non-members or non-natives will be asked to leave.

This announcement is strictly confidential to our First Nation members and our agreement with Canada is that we will only correspond with our membership.

The Chief encourages all of our membership to attend and any off-reserve membership that are not able to be present at the meeting to please contact our Community Consultation Worker Suzanne Howes at 705-437-1337 to make arrangements to become involved in the decision making and the up to date communication. Mail outs of off-reserve members will also be sent out throughout this process.

Council has been in discussions with a Trust Lawyer and have requested he be at our Community meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> to provide a general overview and presentation on Trusts and answer any questions the membership might have concerning the development of Trusts.

### **Williams Treaty:**

The Williams Treaty First Nation have instructed our lawyer Peter Hutchins to request to the courts a trial date and move into a phased approach to trial. The Chiefs of the Williams Treaty First Nations feel that we have given Canada enough time to secure a mandate and have even provided them time as we move into the first phase of a trial.

To date Canada has not come back with a mandate as we had hoped and therefore we feel that we have no other choice but to continue with the litigation and trials. The first phase of the trial approach will be

the hearing from community evidence which will begin in the summer months. A full trial and in court date is being presented from our lawyer for early 2012 for completion and settlement.

**Pukwis:**

A community information meeting was held on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the community center. It was well attended and it could've turned out a lot better if a couple of members were not so rude and vulgar during the meeting. We encourage the membership to ask questions, but to not listen or pay attention to the responses or answers is just unacceptable.

This disrupts the meeting for other membership who are there to ask their own questions and make recommendations and hear the updates and progress.

There was vulgar language directed towards Council members, and that's completely uncalled for. Community meetings will not continue on in this format, if these individuals cannot conduct themselves properly in a meeting. Their disruptive behaviour made everyone uncomfortable at the meeting to express their thoughts or questions.

It's a shame but Council has come to the conclusion that they have no choice but to have police presence at all community meetings due to the behaviour of a couple of members.

Anyone obviously under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be asked to leave the meetings.

Council would like to express to the membership not to be discouraged about attending Community Meetings and that Council will try to ensure that all meetings in the future are conducted in a more professional, peaceful manner with the presence of police.

Council will be attaching a flyer to the minutes on the questions that were asked at the meeting and addressed.

It was reported at our Pukwis Management meeting on Friday that the Balance Of Plant operator, Rankin, that has been hired by Enercon has been coming to the First Nation recently and speaking with local businesses on lodging and labour.

The First Nation is going to enter into discussion with Rankin to host a job fair with this Company to notify members and for them to meet membership formally and hopefully hire them for positions.

**Health:**

Willow Hill will be joining the Health Team. The youth program that Willow manages is essentially health and well being for the younger members of our First Nation. We know that there are gaps in the structure of our Health Department mainly due to funding, space and staffing. This move will fill one of those gaps and be of benefit not only to the Youth Program but also the Health Department and the First Nation.

**Library and Literacy:**

Councillor Patricia Big Canoe was pleased to announce that both Library and Literacy received increases in their funding this year. The extra money received will enable the teacher to continue on and programming to be continued and perhaps expanded.

It has been and will be a focus of both the Library and Literacy Programs to bring more of the Community Members into a variety of training areas offered to them.

The Library and Literacy report will be attached.

**Recreation:**

Due to the cutbacks in this budget, the amount available to each family for registrations has been capped at \$600.00 per family. As much as the Council is pleased that our children are participating in off-reserve activities, the budget does not allow for complete funding for all activities this year.

**Training:**

Chief and Council received a Thank –You card from the Women in Emerging Trades and Technologies. Councillor Pat said it was greatly appreciated because often they too become discouraged.

**Lands and Membership:**

Councillor Bill McCue welcomed the first member brought in to obtain status and membership in regards to the McIvor Case. Dallas Williamson (Laurie Hoeg's son) has received his status and will be a member after the B.C.R. has been posted for 90 days. Memberships are starting to be processed now. Those members who have children who don't have status and are entitled to it should begin to send in their applications immediately.

It is really positive that this is beginning to happen because it shows that we're removing certain aspects of the discriminatory Indian Act that has plagued us all along. Especially when you have grandchildren that have membership and those that don't and they have the same lineage so its good that this is getting done. You have to go on the website, or contact Sylvia McCue at the Band Office for information on how to access website.

**Pukwis Project:**

Councillor Bill McCue attended a Wind Energy Conference in Toronto. It was alternative wind energy, because they talked about all the First Nations across Canada that are doing different energy projects. They did mention ours, but there are energy projects in Alderville, all the way across Canada. Solar Projects are a big thing. Wind Power is certainly being done on a lot of First Nations across Canada.

**Economic Development:**

An information brochure has been developed for students and their parents for those that are interested in the Summer Student employment program. Due to funding cutbacks students are not guaranteed work placements, however positions will be posted by May 16<sup>th</sup> in the First Nation study center at the high school and on the Georgina Island website.

**Nanabush Trails:**

A community meeting was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. Councillor McCue thanked those that came out. There were a lot of great ideas. Community input is needed. A community survey is being developed to guide the future development of Nanabush Trails.

**Language & Culture:**

Councillor Lorraine Big Canoe reported she hasn't had the opportunity to discuss the Pow-wow with the committee. She thought she would be invited to a meeting this week and she thought June 11<sup>th</sup> was a tentative date for the pow-wow.

Councillor Lorraine Big Canoe would like to form a small committee to get ideas on what we can do on Aboriginal Day. There is a small budget to plan events. Ian Big Canoe always organizes the Aboriginal Day Parade and Lorraine will be in touch with him to discuss this further.

There is a problem at the high school with the language classes. There isn't an Ojibway teacher at the high school since Isadore Toulouse left. The York Board felt they were doing the right thing when they employed a non-Native teacher who is associated with an Oji-Cree person and she is teaching our children Oji-Cree. There have been complaints from the students regarding this. Laurie Williamson and Lorraine will be having a meeting with the York Board about the program. At this time, we don't have anyone available and qualified to teach at the high school. Art Beaver from O.T.C. will be informing surrounding communities that we are looking for a language teacher. One of the other options that the Board is suggesting is that we allow this teacher to continue with guidance from one of our community members. The Board is willing to pay for this special advisor. Lorraine has talked to a few people and she has one interested member, and is looking for more. This won't be organized until the fall when class resumes.

**Education:**

Councillor Lorraine is still working on the new school/daycare project. This week Lorraine will be meeting with the engineer and the housing inspector from O.T.C. to do a thorough conditional assessment. We will still have to have a structural assessment and we need a certified engineer to do that. We're moving ahead with this, we're getting a feasibility study and an architectural study done. Councillor Lorraine hopes everyone will vote for this when the Coldwater settlement distribution is presented. Government funding will not be available.

The whole school will be attending the Christian Island pow-wow on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Parents wishing to attend, contact Ann or Tanya at the school.

Councillors Pat and Lorraine will be meeting with the Daycare Committee. Pat has transferred all the daycare files to new portfolio holder Lorraine.

Seniors Social is planned for June 4<sup>th</sup> from noon until 4:00 o'clock. First Nations, Christian Island and Rama will be attending as well as an invitation has been extended to Curve Lake and Nawash. This is a 50 plus only event. It is a Hawaiian Theme.

Housing will be transferred to Brett. Brett will be announcing at the June meeting what is available for housing money.

Q. Andy Big Canoe said the problem with getting language teachers is the pay is \$12,000.00 as compared to \$60,000.00 for other teachers.

A. Councillor Lorraine Big Canoe said the teachers must be certified through the Lakehead University Native Language program to get the teachers wage.

#### **New Business:**

Q. Andy Big Canoe asked if Chief and Council were aware of the Robert' Rules for conducting a meeting and that there is a section in the Indian Act on conducting a meeting.

A. The Chief thanked Andy and said she would look into it.

Q. How old is the school?

A. Councillor Lorraine said she attended 1 year at the old school then went to where the present school is located. So she thinks it's about 60 years old. Also they found out the school was built on top of an aquifer and the daycare was never built to be a daycare facility.

Reverend Betty Lou gave her report and a copy is attached.

\*\*\* Delores Charles wanted a correction made to last months minutes saying she said "she congratulated everyone who ran in the election and thanked her supporters.

.....correction noted on original file copy in Band Office.....n.p.

Q. Delores also wanted to know if any follow up was done on the questions from last months' meeting.

A. Councillor Pat Big Canoe said following the suggestion regarding the time change for the Council Meetings, Council had made the decision to do that.

Delores asked for explanation on a Ministerial Loan Guarantee

Councillor Lorraine said we are different than other places in that the bank can take the ownership of land or house if a person defaults on their mortgage payments. With a ministerial loan guarantee the Minister of Indian Affairs guarantees that they will pay the mortgage and then the First Nation loses the money and then everybody else suffers and the house becomes a band owned house.

Rev. Betty Lou closed the meeting in prayer.

Next Meeting June 6<sup>th</sup>, @ 10:00 o'clock in the community center.

## **PUKWIS COMMUNITY MEETING**

### **QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS**

#### **Are the windmills going to be providing free power to the Membership's houses?**

This is a business venture for the First Nation. Membership of the First Nation may be compensated from the revenue received from the Joint Venture.

#### **How is the membership going to benefit from the project?**

Profits will be used to put into existing and new programs to offset cut backs from Government Funding.

#### **Where will the power lines be placed?**

Along Band owned road allowances with consideration for environmental protection.

#### **What is a Co-Op and can the membership buy shares?**

A Co-Op is a cooperative society, business or enterprise. One share is \$1000.00.

#### **How will the people be affected by the sound of the Turbines?**

Chief and Council have agreed on a minimum distance to the residents which meet or exceed those distances used in European Communities who have the most experience with Wind Farms in populated areas.

#### **Is there any of our endangered species at risk from the project?**

Environmental studies have been conducted and are ongoing to protect the natural environment,

#### **Can we add windmills to the project in the future?**

It would be a community membership decision, but as of now there have not been any discussions on the topic.

## **Human Resources Report**

### **April**

#### **Women in Emerging Trades and Technologies**

Course is going well. We have sent some pictures an article by Becky Big Canoe and some other information to the Ontario Native Women's Association. They have suggested that this group be profiled in their provincial newsletter. Unfortunately the programming dollars have come to an end and we are looking at individual cases to see if we can get people to progress to the next level. From the class there have been six people that were interested in carrying-on if the funding was available. Currently looking at 3 cases to see if we can find funding from different sources to allow these women to carry on in more specified trades training. With the end of the course, morale and attendance issues are becoming more prevalent. Input is being received from the class. In future, it is recommended that we shorten the in-class time from 8 weeks to 6 or 4. Final day for the course is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. . Invitation has been extended to Council to come in on the last day to get feedback in person and attend the completion of the program.

#### **Pukwis**

Names continue to be taken in. There have only been a few applications received. It is important that all of those that are interested submit a resume to be included in the process. It is expected that the majority of the positions will be provided by the contractors of the project. Brent Kopperson will be available at the community meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> and it is expected that this will be one of the foremost topics.

#### **Organizational Structure**

Portfolio Structure for Council is being implemented. There are some changes in reporting relationships. Continuing to review the org structure. No plans for change unless new funding lines are developed that can create new positions or attrition takes place allowing for change and restructuring.

#### **Trails**

Received a brief regarding the Trails. Currently, the trails have zero revenues and this is of concern. Although accepted for review, this proposal has been withdrawn to allow for Georgina Island Members to have the first opportunity. Currently reviewing a structure for competition that would allow ideas and business plans to be evaluated to ensure the self-sustainability of the business.

#### **WSIB**

Joint Health and Safety Committee is currently reviewing the Health and Safety Policy of the organization. This month it has been determined that we will be looking at Structure and purpose or Section 5 of the Health and Safety Manual. The primary areas of concern are full representation and incentive for new members. This committee is mandated by law in the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Josie Gies of WSIB will be coming to the island on April 13, 2011 to review the hazard reporting system that we have in place.

#### **Benefit Plan**

Received the usage report for the 6 months proceeding January 31, 2011 from the benefit provider. We are currently using about 87% of our premiums in paying out claims. It is expected that this level of usage will create an increase in rates at the end of this year.

**CHIPPEWAS OF GEORGINA ISLAND  
LIBRARY AND LITERACY  
REPORT  
APRIL 2011**

**All programs have been running as usual. Our teacher is in 2 days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays but is flexible in those days should someone need her assistance at another time.**

**Total number of visits in April -118**

**Meetings Attended**

<b>April 6</b>	<b>Joint Services</b>
<b>April 7</b>	<b>Southern Ontario First Nation Librarian Committee teleconference</b>
<b>April 19</b>	<b>Southern Ontario First Nation Librarian Committee teleconference</b>
<b>April 27</b>	<b>Southern Ontario First Nation Librarian Committee teleconference</b>
<b>April 27</b>	<b>OLA Aboriginal Streaming teleconference</b>

## **POLICE REPORT April 2011**

20 occurrences for the month of April 2011

- 1 – Theft Under \$5000
- 1 – Police Information
- 1 – Community Event
- 4 – Police Assistance
- 1 – Serve Documents
- 5 – Break and Enter
- 2 – School Presentation
- 2 – Traffic/Radar Patrol
- 1 – Property Checks
- 1 – False Alarm - School
- 1 – Joint Services Meeting

\* The Georgina Island Police would like to extend their thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the Easter Fun Day activities.

- Alexandra Carleton-Porte
- Matt Hammond
- Melanie Porte
- Charity Trumble
- Willow Big Canoe
- Rachel Big Canoe
- Mavis Trivett
- Kelsey Trivett

We are hoping everyone had a great time!

**Kerry-Ann Charles**  
**Environmental Co-ordinator**  
**Annual Report**  
**2010-2011**

**Lake Simcoe Cleanup fund – Georgian College**

We are currently wrapping up the Point and Non-Point Phosphorus project that we were successful in securing funds for from the Lake Simcoe Clean-up Fund last spring. We now have an almost complete Geographic Information System (GIS) database of all the septic systems that are on the lakeshore of all three Islands. There were approximately 20 systems that were not identified and entered into the GIS and letters have been sent out to those people in order to receive the information to complete the database. During the data collection not only have we identified some systems that may need replacement and repair, we have also entered into the GIS system the distance from the septic systems to the shoreline so that we can now monitor our shoreline erosion, identified whether the shoreline is naturalized or not, has a dock, as well as how many buildings are on each lot. Water samples as well as YSI readings which measure the amount of phosphorus have also been conducted.

With this project we now have a handheld geographic positioning system (GPS) as well as a laptop that has the GIS software downloaded to it in which we will be able to add to in the future information from projects like the cultural mapping. I will be given training on the GPS as well as the GIS database once the report has been finalized. Once the report has been finalized there will be a presentation given at the Council meeting before Council breaks for the summer.

Those that have septic systems that may need replacement or repair will be contacted over the next few months with information on grants etc.. to aide them in doing so. I am also planning to do a few workshops as well in regards to septic systems with the Ministry of Natural Resources through their stewardship program as well as Health Canada for funding and maintenance programs. I have tentatively scheduled the MNR to be here for the first weekend of June 2011 and Health Canada in September.

Through working with the College I was invited to take the high school students in November to Barrie to listen to Roberta Bondar speak on environmental issues. A traditional water teaching workshop was also arranged for us to take part in and the students were able to wonder around and view different booths that were set up by different organizations in regards to the environment.

Another aspect of this project was the atmospheric monitoring which has yet to take place through the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and will commence this spring. An atmospheric station will be set up which will fill in some scientific gaps that are needed to help improve the lakes health. We will have access to all information gathered which may help us in securing funding for environment initiatives in the future.

We developed and submitted another proposal to the Lake Simcoe Clean-up Fund which we wanted to develop a complete database system of all three Islands but unfortunately were denied due to the lack of funding and the amount of proposals that were submitted.

It is my hope to continue on with the partnership with Georgian College on other environmental initiatives that will benefit the First Nation. The community will be kept informed of such exciting projects.

### **Lake Simcoe Co-ordinating Committee - Lake Simcoe Protection Plan**

I have been an acting member of the Lake Simcoe Co-ordinating Committee now for almost a year. This is an Advisory Agency established under the Lake Simcoe Protection Act. The Committee is responsible for the following:

- provide forum to co-ordinate implementation of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and identify and resolve issues that arise in relation to the implementation of the Plan.
- Provide advice to the Minister on any issue or problems related to the implementation of the Plan.
- Provide advice to the Minister on the types of measures that could be taken to deal with threats that may be identified by the Lake Simcoe Science Committee. This could include policies that could be added to the Plan or regulations that could be made under the Lake Simcoe Protection Act or any other Act.
- Assist the Minister and other Public bodies in monitoring the progress of the implementation of the Plan.
- Make recommendations on any proposed amendments to the Plan to ensure the Plan meets its objectives.
- Assist the Minister with a review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.

The first report on the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan was released in January and I had the pleasure of expressing gratitude on behalf of the First Nation to Environment Minister John Wilkinson for the funds and effort that has been put forth for the health of Lake Simcoe as the health of the Lake greatly affects our way of life.

While sitting on this Committee I am able to identify areas in which we have capacity to take part in right away such as the shoreline restoration, septic system re-inspection program, invasive species etc.. and can also ensure that while these policies and programs are being implemented and developed the First Nations aspect is heard.

### **Onsite Sewage Installation Training Course – Health Canada**

I arranged for George Korzenki to facilitate an On-site Sewage Installation course which was held in May 2010. It was a three day course to prepare the participants for the examination which gets administered by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. This course was arranged to ensure that we have some of our members trained to install the systems properly. This will hopefully decrease the possibility of pollution from an incorrectly installed system. The participants also learned how to maintain the systems which may prove beneficial in trying to develop and implement a maintenance program sometime in the near future. I also took part in the training sessions to get educated on septic system installation and maintenance so that I can actively promote and stress proper maintenance as well as assist in dealing with Environmental issues that may arise from septic systems.

## Stewardship Rangers Program – MNR – Ontario Stewardship Council

This Summer three (Nikii Hartwick, Jordan Hartwick and Alyssa Warren) of our students had a chance to work for the MNR as Rangers carrying out projects not only within our Community but within the surrounding Communities. The Lake Simcoe Team (Team Anishinabe) completed 15 days of Work on the Islands. This work included sign making, CPR First Aid and Pleasure Craft Operator card training, Butterfly garden and surveys, trail clearing, shoreline restoration and invasive species removal among others.

At the end of the program our youth along with all other youth that had taken part in the Rangers Program took part in an Algonquin Camping trip to celebrate and reflect on all the hard work and good things that they had accomplished over the Summer months. An end of year BBQ at the Aurora District office was also arranged for them along with anyone who had participated in the program such as funding partners, to acknowledge and give thanks for the great effort put forth.

This partnership that has been created between the MNR and the First Nation has been a huge success and will be carried forth into the future. One of the Highlights of the partnership was the *Cultural Awareness Day*. I organized to have all the Ranger Crews and MNR staff visit the Trails for the day. During this visit I arranged for a guided tour through the wigwam village in which the students were enlightened with some ojibway history and Nanabush legends. I had Karen Foster and Barb McDonald speak about the history of the Island and how we came to be here as well as Chris Gynan and Rob West speak about the Forrest and the Species at Risk.

I am currently working with the MNR again this year to have a group of our youth take part in this great opportunity. We are looking at doing projects such as:

- invasive species removal
- tree planting along shorelines to improve fish spawning areas
- shoreline restoration projects
- locating SAR such as butternut and planting of butternut
- fisheries sampling work in the littoral zone and creeks installing traps and completing seine netting surveys
- spring spawning identification and mapping
- butterfly and dragonfly surveys...some species are provincially rare
- breeding birding surveys for provincially rare species
- build and position Trumpeter Swan nesting boxes and
- Build and position wood duck boxes
- Specie rescue and planting

In partnership with the MNR and Toronto Fire Council a fishing trip was arranged to have an aboriginal youth group come to the island for a fishing day which was held in July. Many of the youth had never had the opportunity to fish before. Ed McCue gave permission for the youth and councillors to fish from his Marina. Conservation authorities were invited to teach the youth about what they do and the search team brought one of their dogs which conducted a search demonstration when they suspect poaching. Other activities of this sort are being planned for this coming summer that would include having our

youth involved and giving them opportunity to learn about the environment as well as make long lasting friendships with Native Youth from urban communities.

I am also working with the MNR to do other possible programs and community stewardship initiatives such as an invasive species community based social marketing program among others which the community is encouraged to take part in.

### **Lands Advisory Board – Development of Environmental Management Act – Chris Gynan**

Over the past couple of years we have been involved in the development of an Environmental Management Agreement (EMA) which is a plan on how the First Nation will enact essential environmental protection legislation to include timing, resources, inspections and enforcement requirements for our First Nation. Chris Gynan had been contracted to conduct the initial stages of this document and I worked along with him. Council decided this winter that the EMA should now be completed by me in order to fully engage the community and get the much needed community input. I have been out in the Community conducting one on one interviews to gather the communities input for the development of this document. I have also been in preliminary discussions with the different government agencies such as the MNR, MOE, LSRCA, the Georgina Township etc.. to gather information, as well as educate them on our undertaking and build a respectful working relation in order to possibly negotiate with them possible partnerships, mentorships or other relationships that the community sees fit. This is to be completed in a four phase process as identified by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). We are currently involved in step#2.

**Step 1** Identification of environmental issues

**Step 2** Developing a plan for enacting laws / Negotiate EMAs

**Step 3** Develop, adopt and enforce environmental protection/assessment laws

**Step 4** Monitor laws and EMA

### **Species at Risk – Environment Canada**

Since 2007 we have been funded through Environment Canada's Aboriginal Funds for Species At Risk Program to complete a Species at Risk Mapping Project. During the past four years in which I have been the Project Manager working with our consultant from Oakridges Environmental, we have developed detailed maps of all three Islands (Georgina, Fox and Snake) that identify the Environmentally Sensitive areas, Species at Risk and Species at Risk Habitat. We are continuously updating this information. We have also catalogued and developed a protocol for such areas which has been incorporated into the developing of the Land Use Plan. This information has been used to plot the turbines for our Pukwis (wind farm) project and will be used in other proposed development projects that may arise. Trails have been rerouted around SAR and SAR habitat, signage has been posted and habitat improvements have been produced. We are currently entering into our fifth year of this project which focuses on specific SAR protection and rehabilitation as well as the monitoring and mapping of new SAR that have been entered onto the SAR list such as the chorus frog. We have developed and submitted a three year proposal this time around in which we have been successful in securing funds for these initiatives.

## **Land Use Plan – Darryl Tighe - LandMark Associates**

Since 2007 we have been developing a Land Use Plan for our Community with the help of Land Mark Associates. I have been a part of this process from the beginning as a Committee Member and play a very big part in this process being the Environment Co-ordinator. I have been working very closely with Darryl in the development of the Draft plan by gathering information for him, reviewing his work and giving him my input as well as attending the Committee meetings which help steer him in the right direction for the Community. This has been a very intense process as things within the community are constantly changing and being incorporated into the plan to reach the ultimate goal and the Mission Statement of “We, the people of Georgina Island First Nation recognize and accept our duty to protect, manage, care and otherwise utilize our lands in an environmentally sustainable manner now and for the future generations.” The final draft has been reviewed by the committee and some of the Administration staff and should be brought forth to the Community sometime this Spring/Summer for comments and input. During this process there have been several Community meetings and surveys to ensure that the document will capture the Community needs and help guide us to fulfill the mission statement that has been selected by the Community.

The Committee Members that have been a part of this process from the beginning are as follows: Sylvia McCue, Natalie Priester, Charlie Warren, Ian BigCanoe, Rob Porte, Lorraine BigCanoe and Kerry-Ann Charles.

### **Pukwis**

On occasion I have been requested to accompany different people to the turbine locations. I accompanied Rob West as well as Chris Gynan on foot to each of the turbine sites while they investigated and mapped the roadways and SAR. I have also accompanied Enercon who will be constructing the turbines on site visits.

### **Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network – Biodiversity Day with School**

I organized a Biodiversity Day for the Waabgon School kids which included the cleanup of the two bays and the community centre beach, a presentation by Chris Gynan on what biodiversity is, a story telling session by Delores Charles and a BBQ put on by our police. The kids all received reusable bags that contained a biodiversity day t-shirt, a cedar tree to plant and a bug kit for them to get in touch with nature. The day was a huge success. I am hoping to secure funding again this year from the Biodiversity Awareness Network to conduct another biodiversity awareness day.

### **Latornell Symposium and Conference**

I prepared and conducted a power point presentation in November at the Latornell Symposium and Conference in Alliston. This is one of the biggest Environmental conferences in Ontario. It was a great opportunity to show others the environmental initiatives that the First Nation has accomplished, is

involved in and is undertaking now and in the future. I have also been asked to showcase at the Science forum that is being held in Barrie in May.

### **Waste Diversion Ontario – Blue Box Funding**

I attended a workshop in Toronto in February with Waste Diversion Ontario in order to try and learn how we can receive more funds for our recycling program through them and the data call. The data call is a comprehensive survey of our recycling program in which the government will fund a portion depending on the program's cost, effectiveness, diversion rates and best practices. There are several key things that we can do to increase funding and improve our program through the best practices section of the survey such as the development of the Waste Recycling Strategy, the development of a Public Education and Communication strategy, partnerships with other First Nations and or surrounding Municipalities among others.

I have secured funds to develop a Waste Recycling Strategy from the Continuous Improvement Fund through Waste Diversion Ontario. A consultant was hired to help in this endeavour and the strategy has been developed and posted in the Community for quite some time now for feedback. It contains actions, goals and objectives for the First Nation to strive towards in improving our recycling program over the next five years. I am hoping to have it passed by Council over the next couple of weeks which will increase the funding we will receive for 2010.

I have also contacted the Township of Georgina as well as York Region and have meetings set up with both to discuss possible recycling partnership in terms of disposal and education and awareness programs. With our current service provider our recycling program has always been a straight cost as we have not had the opportunity to negotiate with them to recoup some of our funds because they were the only service provider out there that would service us due to our location. In meeting with the Township and York Region I hope that we can negotiate with the three service providers and the recyclables that we produce will start to generate a profit of some sort to help in sustaining and improving our program.

I also hope to be able to develop and implement a Green Bin Program in the future.

I have also submitted proposals to the Continuous Improvement Fund for funding to increase:

1. curb side collection capacity – purchase of blue box and blue bags for all residents
2. Public Space recycling – purchase of blue boxes for all of the public areas within the reserve
3. Public and Education – development of a Public education and communication strategy. This could include things such as development of fridge magnets, collection calendars, monthly newsletters etc..

I am told that I should hear something in May of whether or not they have been successful.

## **Earth Day Co-ordination**

As always I am working with Rachel BigCanoe to plan and co-ordinate our annual Earth Day Clean up and BBQ. Every year the Administration Staff as well as the Community Members come together to clean up the Island on Earth Day and everyone is rewarded for their efforts through a BBQ some draw prizes. Last year we expanded those activities to include information booths about the Environment and the different initiatives going on within the community. We invited organizations such as the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Environment, Health Canada, Georgian College and the Anishnabek Fisheries to name a few. I was very well received.

This year with so much going on we are keeping it simple with the Clean up and the BBQ. We will although be focusing on recycling. Everyone will be asked to the best of their ability to separate the recyclables from the garbage when participating in the clean up. Both garbage bags and blue bags will be distributed and a list of what is and isn't recyclable will be posted.

We are hoping to incorporate the annual tree sale and pansy sale and possibly other flowers etc..in with some activities in May around Biodiversity Day.

A free dump day is arranged twice a year once in the spring and once in the fall to encourage people to clean up their properties. Arrangements are made with the landfill Site attendant to have the Landfill open for certain hours so that people can drop off any unwanted items or garbage for free. Arrangements are also made to have someone go around and pick up items from those who are unable to get to the Landfill site on their own and to assist the elders. The spring Free Dump day will be held on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00am until 2:00pm each day and the pick-up will be conducted on May 1<sup>st</sup> starting at noon.

## **Water Centre Committee**

I have been asked to sit on and attend meetings for the Water Centre Committee within the town of Georgina. This committee has been put together in hopes of establishing a Water Centre within Georgina Township that will be an educational centre for all to visit and learn about anything and everything to do with water. They have been planning for several months now a festival which will introduce people to the idea of this centre and generate awareness and possible investors. The festival is planned for August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 2011 and will be held at the Dela sal park. Keep your eyes open for the details on this exciting venture.

## **Archaeological Liaison**

I have been involved somewhat in the Archaeological Liaison training that has been initiated by the Williams Treaty First Nations and have attended a few of the meetings and site visits. Andrew BigCanoe has been the primary First Nation representative for the past few years for this and is still actively involved. Susan Howes whom is our community Consultation worker is also involved in this initiative

and will probably become the new primary contact. A protocol for Consultation and Accommodation is currently being developed to address development projects that occur within the Williams treaty territories. I will be staying current on this issue and will take direction from Chief and Council on how much involvement I will have.

### **Credit Recovery Program**

I was involved in helping plan activities for the credit recovery program last summer and helped in organizing environmental events that were incorporated into the academic program. Some of the activities included arranging for the students to join our Species at Risk Consultant in the field doing monitoring, surveying, gpsing etc..on one or more of the Islands as well as arranging to have the students conduct a tour of Windfall Ecology and receive a power point presentation on the Pukwis project.

### **Other Duties and Responsibilities**

**Liaison between Health Canada for issues of concern raised for septic, air quality, water quality etc..**

### **Proposal Writing**

#### **Marina Board – Secretary**

- Scheduling meetings
- Preparing agenda's
- Completing minute of meetings
- Dealing with restaurant Leasee Issues
- Any other tasks assigned by the Board

#### **Education Committee – Member**

- Help in policy review and development
- Participate in decision making and problem solving etc..
- Strategic planning activities

#### **Joint services Committee -Member**

#### **Administration and Enforcement of By-laws**

- Mostly Animal Control, Waste Management and Building
- Have drafted a Land Development By-law and Residency By-law.

#### **Report Writing**

- Infrastructure Canada -Prepared report for Rinc Project

**Any other Duties assigned by the Band Manager, Lands Manager and/or Council**

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me

Miigwetch

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Environmental Co-ordinator

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