

Georgina Island Updates

SEPTEMBER, 2017

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A word from Chief and Council

Benson Big Canoe

Roads:

This year we will be doing heavy patching of the bad areas in the road. Unfortunately, we cannot do any major resurfacing due to the timing of having to truck over the aggregate and us not having a company that can do the work on such short notice. The roads will be maintained. As per community input, this fall we will be preparing tendering packages to ensure that next year we can secure a contractor and get the best quality for our monies being spent. The Coldwater money allocated to roads will be deferred until next year and will not be touched until the road work commences. Should you have any further questions feel free to call Benson Big Canoe at (905)-909-0380.

Reminder from Landfill

ATTENTION BAND MEMBERS

Big junk pick up is the last Thursday of every month, but you must have landfill tags on said items in order for them to be picked up. Ellie Big Canoe has \$5 and \$10 tags available at the Landfill Office.

Thank you for your cooperation!!

A word from Chief and Council



From Chief Donna Big Canoe

Ahneen Georgina Island membership!

I'm happy to include in this addition of our newsletter that we have finally received the other half of the funds that we so required in order for us to begin construction on our project with upgrading our Water Treatment Plant. Once the work is completed we will be able to come off the Boil Water Advisory. It's been 2 years of back and forth discussion and challenges with the INAC department but we are now set to move into phase 1 and get this project tendered out so that we can begin the necessary repairs. The Minister of Indigenous Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Carolynne Bennett came to our First Nation on August 15th to present us with the letter of commitment to half the funds required for our project with the Water Treatment Plant. Roughly 2.6million has been contributed to our project while the other half of the funds was committed 2 years ago from the Small Communities Fund at just over 2.7million. Council expressed that this was a phased approach and that we still have plans for expanding the water line and working on providing water to the East Side of the Island for our members. This will require INAC to partner with us on achieving clean drinking water to the whole First Nation membership on Reserve. Council would like to say Miigwetch to our staff and team who have been diligently working on this project for a number of years now with the engineers and having everything ready to go once we had commitment to the monies.

Council's meeting with Minister Bennett also included us speaking with her on our school feasibility study and the lack of progress being made there from years ago. Commitments were made to get the ball rolling on finalising the study.

Our discussion then led into Transportation and the support we are going to need. We corresponded with the Minister our concerns with the Aazhaawe car ferry and the maintenance becoming increasingly constant and the break downs that have happened. We stated we wanted to be proactive and start discussions on a bridge versus a new vessel for our First Nation as we do not want to be in a situation where our boat becomes decommissioned and we are left with nothing. They were very open to us being proactive and raising this in our discussion. Contacts were made on who we reach out to and work with on moving forward.

The Minister complimented us on our community and the successes of what the leadership have accomplished over many years and how progressive we are in our initiatives. She stated how we really are an example of how First Nations can move forward independently while maintaining partnerships with Canada.

We expressed our appreciation to her for coming to the community and the kind words exchanged. We also included that we are glad INAC is committing to the promises made and we look forward to working together in a respectful way on all the concerns and issues we had discussed that day.

Update on the Upper York Sewage System (UYSS) Council continues to be actively involved in combating the proposed sewage plant. We have had meetings with the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority to seek advice on alternate solutions and their position on them. They agreed with the researching of other solutions such as ground water filtration or looping back into the system. We stated that we were not opposed to looking at other alternatives that would not impact Lake Simcoe. We also met with York Region reps to discuss again our concerns based on the direction the Minister of Environment suggested. In our meeting we discussed what our position was and that we would like to see the 3 year study completed regarding the pharmaceuticals, a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) incorporated. York Region has committed to doing a HIA and the TEK with our First Nation. We have come back and stated we think this whole project should be halted until these studies are completed over a 3 year period. Nothing was committed by York Region to state they would honour our position and a meeting has been set up with the Chairman of York Region to discuss further.

In the meantime we are still moving forward with our campaign to raise awareness on the UYSS and our position. We are fortunate to have a team who has committed to helping us raise this awareness through social media and signing the petition. To date we have over 26 thousand signatures and climbing! Once we feel we have enough signatures and support we plan on presenting the petition to the new Minister of Environment Chris Ballard. The Grand Chief and Chiefs of Ontario (COO) reps along with our campaign team are meeting to discuss our strategy and next steps to hopefully sit down with the Minister of Environment (MOE) and reiterate our position.

Council would like to share that we have 2 employees who have moved on from there positions with the First Nation. Greer Atkinson has moved up into working with the Ogemawahj Tribal Council (OTC). She will still be connected with the First Nation through OTC and thankfully we will be able to still access her services for the community. Council would like to congratulate Greer and wish her all the best in her new position and are quite confident she will do well in her new role. Greer will be able to provide support and assist other First Nations within the OTC with her guidance and expertise in her position. Miigwetch to Greer for all her years of services to the First Nation with Education!

The other employee Council would like to recognise who is moving on to bigger plans within her role for Environment, Kerry Ann Charles. Kerry Ann has been committed to the betterment of the Environment for many years, she actively takes seriously her responsibilities and duties within her position. Kerry has made huge impacts and awareness on the effects of Climate Change. Her new position will also be providing guidance to other First Nations and bringing First Nations forward in Environment initiatives. Kerry will be working with the company Cambium but will still stay connected to the First Nation with our battle against the Upper York Sewage System (UYSS). Council congratulates and wishes Kerry success in her new role. We are also grateful we can rely on her expertise and support with the UYSS battle. Miigwetch to Kerry for all the Environment initiatives she began for the First Nation and the awareness that has been made to the importance of protecting our Environment!

Council continues to meet every Monday and if any members would like a meeting with Council please do not hesitate to contact Natalie Priester at the Administration Office (705) 437-1337 to set up a time. Council also has an open door policy where members can come in to see Council individually should we not be booked for other meetings or discussions.

Reminder to community that our Annual General Meeting and Community Auditors Presentation is scheduled for October 17th 2017.



A word from Chief and Council continued...

From Councillor

Lauri Hoeg...

Last fall, our community voted yes to the Anishinabek Nation Education System. On August 16th Chief Donna Big Canoe along with Georgina Island youth delegate Justin Big Canoe-Trumble sat in the ceremonial pipe circle in the Rama Casino ballroom along with 22 other First Nation Chiefs and youth delegates to sign the historical agreement that recognizes our authority over our education programs and services from kindergarten to post-secondary.

The agreement is the largest education self-government agreement in Canada and the first of its kind in Ontario and we are a part of it! It is a wonderful time in history to be working in First Nations education as it is our path forward to community development and success, and further to culture and language revitalization and community wellness. What an exciting time!

For us, it means the ability to create and design educational programming that is culturally relevant, innovative and will set our students up for academic success and personal well-being. On April 1, 2018 we will no longer be subservient to INAC's policies and procedures that do not serve our students to their highest potential. The First Nation will now work in full partnership with the Ministry of Education and the York Region District School Board to ensure we have access to the best possible resources and services for our students. Literacy, Numeracy, Student Retention and Student Well-being will continue to be a priority as education has always been historically important to the First Nation

This has been an incredibly busy summer with little down time. Georgina Island education staff and I attended WIPCE, the World Indigenous People Conference on Education in July; this happens only once every 3 years and is an inspiring event with indigenous people sharing their successes from all over the world.

On August 12 & 13, Georgina Island joined the Ogemawahj Tribal Councils Culture and Language Camp. A great mix of Georgina Island elders, children, families on and off reserve members joined the fun. The weekend long event held at Springwater Park included members from the six Ogemawahj Tribal Council communities who came together to play language games, traditional competitive games like Double Ball, and learning sessions with plenty of time for laughter and visiting. Auntie Barb would have been delighted in our participation and the fun that was had!

Miigwech Greer Atkinson for organizing our members to attend.

Language Camp Participants

The new learning center feasibility study is at completion as we move to the detailed design phase. After months of unresponsiveness, INAC now has an officer designated to look after new school builds and we see some momentum picking up. With a recent visit from Minister Bennett for our water, we were able to use the opportunity to raise our education infrastructure issues and raise awareness with the Minister and INAC officials.

Cultural activities have included regalia sewing and Creation Story teachings with Jim Dumont. The Georgina Island pow wow committee has been busy with preparations for the upcoming pow wow on September 23 and 24 to be held at Sibbald Point Provincial Park. This year's theme is "Ambe Mnowaangozdaa Anishnaabe Enaadziwin" Let's celebrate our Anishnaabe Way of Life

Watch for upcoming indigenous film screenings on our newly installed audio/visual equipment at the Georgina Island Community Center on August 28th at 6:00 pm.

On August 24th, we recognized the important educational achievements of our members as we focused on the last few years and all the academic achievements. Patti Big Canoe, Rachel Big Canoe and Erica Kelly did a wonderful job of organizing the event and dinner catered by the Belvedere. The keynote address was delivered by James Crittenden and Patti, followed by a wonderful address by parent Lynn Mooney.

During the evening we recognized the educational leadership of Greer Atkinson who moved on in June to take a position at OTC, she was so valued for her dynamic vision and often years ahead of everyone else in her innovative thinking. She was presented with a Pendleton blanket.

And lastly but not least of all, our elder and language teacher, I took a moment to acknowledge Auntie Barbara McDonald's passing this past spring that was such a great loss. She taught at Waabgon Gamig up until this last year and it has been difficult...but education was her passion, she valued and stressed the importance of an educated community for a well community. In particular, the language and the importance of culture and identity as part of that education. She is missed..mii-go-geget...as she always said, that's for sure.



NEWS FROM LANDS/MEMBERSHIP/ESTATES/COLDWATER

WILLS & ESTATES:

We are hoping to have an Estates Workshop provided by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Estates Department sometime in September or October we have not received a definite date at this time but if you are interested in attending please call the Lands Department and put your name down, space will be limited.

COLDWATER:

Applications for the annual distribution from Coldwater must be received in the Lands Office by close of business 4:00 pm October 16, 2017. Cheques and automatic deposits will be processed December 1, 2017. Please note if you are choosing Direct Deposit you must get a new form from your bank, this is required each and every year we are able to do the distribution.

MEMBERSHIP:

Please note as well anyone having the new Secure Certificate of Indian Status Cards (hard plastic) cannot go back to the paper laminated cards. Any renewals should they have expiry dates will have to apply either on-line or go directly to the Toronto office or Headquarters in Hull Quebec. Please feel free to call the Lands Dept. for assistance.

At this time we are being allowed a limited number of cards to issue so please do not renew your card until you absolutely have to.

Regular Certificate of Indian Status cards are done by **appointment only** from Monday to Thursday, there is a \$ 10.00 fee for the photo and 2 pieces of photo identification must be presented along with your existing expired card. Please call 705.437.3614 ext. 2228 to set up appointment time.

NOTE: Anyone wishing to do any renovation or building on their property, please come in to get a map to be sure of property lines etc. Please call ahead if possible and we can have your maps ready. This is extremely important so you are aware of any setbacks and survey issues.

Thank you,

Sylvia McCue



Islandview Business Center

Island View Business Centre has had a busy and successful summer.

Maintenance has been busy prepping for the new maintenance building; it will be completed in the fall of 2017. They have been painting all the parking markers and steel capping, putting up new railings and the dock repair is ongoing. Jamie Ellis and his summer staff are doing a great job with the upkeep of the property.

Virginia Beach Marina is now providing pump outs along with their regular services: boat storage, Boat Repair, Parts and Service, Gas Docks, launch Ramp, parking, Ice and Propane is coming soon. Terry Crate and his staff have been busy.

Tobacco Trails has added a lottery kiosk, ATM machine and offer a wide variety of native crafts and products along with their tobacco products. They are continuing to grow their customer base and have been a success from the start. Leslie McCue Frosch and her staff always make it an enjoyable shopping experience.

The Boondocks Eatery is a family owned and operated restaurant specializing in comfort food with a twist and good times. Whether it be a date night, girls night out, watching the game with your friends, or a beer on the patio overlooking the waterfront, they have all of your needs covered.

Island View Business Centre wants to thank all of the summer students (Elexis Charles, Justin Big Canoe, Ethan Duguay, Meadow Crate, Glenn Stevens and Evan hall) who contributed to the success over the summer. They worked hard and were a great asset to IVBC



Health

September 13th – Diabetes Workshop – Managing Stress with Diane Dumas – 10 am at Community Centre

September 19th – Dr. Barcza

September 25th – New horizons for Seniors – Learn about Alzheimers and Dementia. 10:30 at Community Centre

September 26 – Lisa, Lau Dietitian - 10 to 3

September 26th – Car Seat Safety at Resource Building. Apt times 10 – 1:45. Call Charity or Julie to register.

Melissa Cassidy, NP here every Thursday

Ashley Devi – Massage Therapy and Reflexology every Thursday

Wallace Olenyk here every Wednesday

Joyce Ying here every Tuesday

Steve Beaupre here on Thursdays

Julie – Mothergoose – Tuesdays and Thursdays afternoons

Thursday – Playgroup 6:30 p.m.

Report for the Georgina Island Native Literacy Program and Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Public Library

September 2017

30th Anniversary September 6, starting at 11:30 am –flyer was previously sent to Natasha Charles.

Scrabble/Potluck – Ladies from Sutton Scrabble Club attending. Date to be determined.

School children will resume the first week in October for Library visits and beading.

Beading for Adults will also resume in the first Monday of October.

Computer Training – Microsoft Word, September 11-14

Local Literacy Committee meeting in Keswick – Sept 25.

Morgz In The Mornin'

7am - 11am

NiSH 92.3FM

Radio

**THE
CHRIS BIG CANOE
SHOW**

**WEEKDAYS 4PM
ON NiSH 92.3FM**

Nish Radio Report

We would like to welcome Sally Charles back to Nish Radio! She has volunteered some time recently and will be officially joining us in September. Stayed tuned to hear her hosting a new show

back on the Nish airwaves in the near future. We are looking forward to the fall we'll be hosting some bingos (september 6) and have some contest giveaways coming up too. Thanks to all community members who filled out our Nish survey this summer. The info gained will help us in creating new content for listeners. Stay up to date with us by tuning in weekday mornings with Morgan in the Morning and afternoons with Chris Big Canoe or feel free to give us a call or drop by

the station sometime!

Ash Tree Monitoring

ASH TREE MONITORING & MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – September 2017 Newsletter Report

APRIL

Ash Tree sourcing and training site selection along road allowances for the Experiential Learning Project.

Assisted by Kathleen Conners, Registered Professional Forester and Arborist (Silv-Econ Ltd.).

Partnership with SDHS - Experiential Learning Program – 10am-2pm, Tuesday & Wednesday (for approximately 16 weeks - total of approximately 64 hours). Recommended reading for the students, The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben. He worked for the Forest Commission in Germany for over 20 years, prior to leaving to put his ideas about ecology into practice and run an environmentally friendly woodland, where he works for the return of primeval forests. His international bestseller draws on ground breaking scientific discoveries to describe how trees are like human families and that the forest is a social network. He explains the processes of life, death, and regeneration that he has observed. His views and beliefs run parallel with the Traditional Ecological Knowledge and belief system of First Nations.

Bus Driver Training – theory/classroom only, GIFN.

Participated in the OTC Bowling Tournament - Drinking Team with a Bowling Problem, Orillia.

MAY

Experiential Learning Program training site at Rabbit Road (Landfill) was chosen as it is a high-traffic area requiring some attention due to risk trees, it was a central location- in case of emergencies or bathroom breaks, foul weather.

Ash and other species in decline - such as Poplar, were flagged or marked with orange tree paint. Once felled, trees were limbed and bucked by the students – under Teacher supervision which included: Ray Rietvelt - Teacher Supervisor – Lead, Ted Appleby - Teacher Supervisor, Branko Kordez - Teacher Supervisor and Brad Shadlock - Teacher Supervisor.

Students: Nathaniel Begley, Joshua Fancsali, Brandon Fanuzzi, Harlan Hakkarainen, Evan Hall, Brandon Ireland, Trent Myette, Dawson Searle, Ryan Taylor and Evan Winstone. They were a great bunch to work with and were very respectful and mindful throughout the program.

Trees within 10-25 DBH (diameter) were removed with the remaining wood (approximately 1 bush cord) stockpiled for the Winter Wood Distribution Program for Seniors/Elders/Disabled members of GIFN. The final Report is available upon request.

Attended the National Aboriginal Land Managers Association (NALMA) & Reserve Land and Environment Management Program (RLEMP) Engagement Session, Toronto. The Engagement Session was intended to start a dialogue with First Nations' Land and Environmental Managers with respect to how environmental assessment of projects on-reserve might ideally be conducted to enhance benefits for First Nations, community involvement throughout the process, and support the decision process for lands and economic development planning. This was also an opportunity for Land and Environment Managers to learn about and share views on federal environmental assessments more broadly, as part of the ongoing Review of Environmental Assessment Processes.

An **Environmental Assessment** is a vital planning and decision-making tool for communities to *mini-*

Ash Tree Monitoring continued...

mize or prevent adverse environmental effects before they occur, and incorporate environmental considerations into decision making.

The RLEMP provides financial support to First Nation communities, First Nation institutions and professional development organizations for services associated with *Indian Act land and environmental management services*. The RLEMP is expected to enhance decision-making at the community level in regards to land use and increase the capacity of First Nations. As a result, the community will be able to take advantage of land-based economic opportunities on reserve and to facilitate a First Nation community's transition beyond the *Indian Act* into more sophisticated land management regimes such as the **First Nation Land Management** (FNLM) regime - that GIFN is currently under - or comprehensive self-government.

RLEMP Presentations Included:

Land Regimes Overview, Building Lands and Environment Management Capacity, Funding Sources and RLEMP Funding Formula.

Environment Presentations Included:

First Nation Solid Waste Management, Environmental Assessment Review Panel Report, Environmental Assessment On-Reserve, Discussion on the Environmental Review Process, Environmental Review Discussion Paper

Issues Papers: Environmental Assessment Panel Recommendations

Walked Nanabush Trail System to identify and flag/paint trees that were felled during storms, including any species that appear in decline. Mapped areas along Road Allowances re: Hydro Tree/Shrub Removal & Pruning along Hydro power lines.

Bio-Diversity, Butternut Planting at Tree Park and Gerties Creek Celebration, Meeting with Landscape Design Consultant re: Toyota Evergreen funding application and sight inspection for Waabgon Gamig Greening Schools project. Successful application towards purchase of garden seeds, tools, equipment, etc.

WORKSHOP ON COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTION, EI MINGO, TABASCO (MEXICO)

As part of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation's (CEC) project, *Using Ecosystem Function and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Together to Build Resilience and Adapt to Climate Change* this workshop provided an opportunity to disseminate project results from each study site. Participants shared lessons learned in the three countries (Canada, Mexico, US) to support climate change adaptation. The CEC sponsored our trip which included KerryAnn Charles and Alexandra Porte – both of whom did a fantastic job representing our First Nation on an International level! They made me feel proud. The similarities between the people of El Mingo and First Nations was palpable. This was one of the greatest experiences of my life thus far and cannot be expressed in a few mere sentences or paragraphs. Our visit touched me on so many levels and I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity. I will never forget it.

Presentations included: Project results and outreach from Tabasco, Mexico; featuring a presentation

Ash Tree Monitoring continued...

of a coloring book and related activities in El Mingo, at the Primary School with assistance from the inspirational and powerful ladies from **MOOTS (Mujeres, Organización y Territorios / Women, Organization and Territories)** ; Followed by a community visit and presentation of technical brochure by youth community group; Project results and community engagement from Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Reserve.

WHMIS Training, GIFN

JUNE & JULY

First Aid & CPR Training, GIFN

Installation of 14 EAB Prism Traps on GIFN

Mother Earth Mentoring Celebration

End of the Experiential Learning Program with SDHS, closing ceremony and luncheon at Nanabush Trails, give-away of handmade monogrammed tobacco pouches to students that participated.

Chris Gynan and I met with the Chief, some Council members and the Band Administrator regarding the Transport of Firewood Ban and the possible *lifting* of the ban for a short period of time after the “flight season” of the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle (EAB). According to research the usual flight season for the adult Emerald Ash Borer is May 1st through September 30th. During the non-flight season of October 1st through April 30th (which may vary from year to year) regulated ash materials may move outside of the quarantine area untreated in an enclosed truck to an approved site for winter storage. It has been recommended that all firewood imported to the Island should be *burned by early April* (when temperatures begin to rise significantly) in order to help prevent the emergence of any Invasives which have overwintered while hidden under the bark.

There was discussion of hiring a professional harvester, such as Ings from Uxbridge to perform some winter harvesting with a machine for next year’s firewood - Chris Gynan (Silv-Econ Ltd) is familiar with him. This would help to alleviate the demand for firewood from our members and to mitigate the transportation of potentially infected firewood from an infected area onto Georgina Island. We are at risk from Invasive Species such as the EAB, the Asian Long Horned Beetle. Unfortunately, there are associated costs to implement such a project – at approximately \$2,000/day for a harvesting machine - and a lot of factors to consider and organize; therefore, it is not feasible for this winter season. We are hopeful that this project will be made possible for the winter of 2018.

A Seasonal Firewood Transport Policy & Criteria along with Compliance Agreements will be drafted for approval regarding the Handling of Regulated Ash Materials. This is so that the FN can perform *their due diligence* and monitor the flow of firewood (and other wood products) onto Georgina Island – as it relates to Invasive Species as well as Species at Risk. For example the development of a Checklist to determine whether or not the Brokers have “clean wood” would have indicators like: type of wood, inspecting for signs of infestation in trees in *and around* the “storage area”, bark sampling (examine for EAB and ALHB galleries), whether or not the wood has bark remaining, evidence of previous or current insect or fungal infestation, Frass, presence of exit holes, if the wood is piled and stacked neatly or is laying in a pile and whether or not the wood has been properly “seasoned”. * for further information see Abstract Article “Forest Entomology, Retail Firewood Can Transport Live Tree Pests” by W.R. Jacobi, J.G. Hardin, B.A Goodrich and C.M. Cleaver – Available upon request*

Ash Tree Monitoring continued...

After making numerous inquiries it has been determined that there aren't any members able or willing to harvest firewood on the FN for numerous reasons: they are in ill health, too old, too busy, do not have the equipment or skills, do not possess land to harvest from, etc. This makes it more than difficult to enforce a firewood transport ban due to the approaching fall season, and especially hard when the transport of firewood has been *allowed* to happen several times over the past few months. We need to take a more proactive approach in order to save our forests and support our Species at Risk. A major loss of canopy cover and obliteration of our Ash species will have devastating effects on our forest ecosystem as well the FN culturally, traditionally and economically.

Installation of 2 EAB Prism Traps on Snake Island

The **Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, conducted a monitoring research study project in the Lake Simcoe watershed (Lake Simcoe Natural Cover Monitoring Project)** that is pioneering an innovative vegetation sampling approach and sampling design to monitor natural vegetation in the Lake Simcoe Watershed. The project is in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC). It was developed in response to the Lake Simcoe Protection Plans call for the establishment of a natural cover monitoring program for the watershed.

U of T had done sampling on Fox and Snake Islands during the summer of 2015. This past July they conducted similar observation-based vegetation inventories at 12 plots located on Georgina Island. The Ash Tree Monitoring & Management Coordinator along with 2 GIFN students (Alexandra and Stephen Porte) accompanied the 3 teams of students over the two-day period.

As of summer 2016, Vegetation Sampling Protocol (VSP) has involved about 400 crew members, many of which are university/college students or recent graduates. The monitoring component includes repeat censuses of individual plants in individual sample plots using standardized methods. Research plots throughout the watershed have been systematically defined, and randomly selected on both public and private lands. Data gathered includes information on vegetation cover, plant and observed wildlife species, forest regeneration, the amount of dead wood on the ground, and soil characteristics.

The research study will contribute to the development and implementation of the *first comprehensive monitoring program* for the land-based ecosystems of the Lake Simcoe watershed, and will give vital information on the biodiversity of the area.

By monitoring the natural vegetation in the Lake Simcoe watershed, it is possible to assess the state of local biodiversity, and detect and monitor changes in natural vegetation (due to invasive species impacts, climate change, land use and development practices, natural cover fragmentation and other presently unforeseen factors). There is currently no monitoring program for the land-based ecosystems in the watershed, and as a result very little site-level vegetation information exists for the area.

By monitoring natural areas, like forests, wetlands, and other natural vegetation, we can learn about vegetation composition and structure, and detect *if* and *where* changes occur on a landscape over time. To understand these changes, there needs to be baseline information about natural vegetation against which to compare monitoring data. From the baseline condition, changes can be detected

Ash Tree Monitoring continued...

and measured, cause and effect relationships understood, trends defined, changes forecasted, and ultimately, timely monitoring information can support informed planning, conservation and management decisions.

Forest Management Planning Training – 2020 FMPs – Organizing for Planning, Huntsville. Purpose was to familiarize members of the Algonquin Park FMP planning team with the process defined in the Forest Management Planning Manual for completing the FMP.

The MNRF and the Algonquin Forest Authority are preparing to begin the development of the Algonquin Park FMP for the 2020-2030 period. The FMP will be prepared under the direction of the forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM) and will identify the long-term strategic direction for the Algonquin Park Forest, harvest, renewal and tending areas, and road corridors for the 10-year period. *The FMP will also specify measures to protect, enhance or mitigate the effects of forest management activities on natural resource features and First Nation values.*

An approved FMP is required by the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA)* before forest management operations may be undertaken, including access development, timber harvesting, forest renewal, and forest maintenance. It will take approximately 3 years to prepare the Plan, not including time to assemble background information and update the planning inventory. The production schedule for the Plan follows a tight timeline with crucial checkpoints that must be met if the Plan is to be produced in time to allow for the continuity operations

GIFN was invited along with other Williams Treaty First Nation Communities, to participate in the development of the Algonquin Park FMP and briefly describe some of the opportunities for GIFN involvement and consultation in the Forest Management Planning Process.

Ontario acknowledges and is committed to addressing any obligations it may have under Section 35(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982, including the duty to consult.

These opportunities are intended to *provide for the consideration of any rights, interests and traditional uses that GIFN may have in the Algonquin Park Forest.*

The consultation approach may, among others, address items such as:

How the community is to be notified during the development of the FMP

How information is made available to the community to support the community's review and comment during the development of the FMP

How the community identifies and provides values information and the communities involvement in development of prescriptions associated with those values

How the community is to be involved in the planning of operations

If the community decides to proceed without an agreed upon consultation approach, the FMPM includes a default approach which will provide the community with information and consultation opportunities throughout the Forest Management Planning Process.

The FMP is prepared by an interdisciplinary Planning Team comprised of Algonquin Forest Authority and MNRF planning/technical staff, a representative from each FN and Metis community that is in or adjacent to the Algonquin Park Forest, the Local Citizen's Committee, and the local forest industry. The Planning Team is a working body that actively participates in the development of the FMP. It will include individuals with expertise in various resource management areas (e.g. forests, fish & wildlife, ecology, fire, etc.).

The release of the first formal public notice for the FMP is not expected to occur until after October 2017. A great

deal of background and preparatory work must be done before then. The development of a FMP is a challenging and lengthy task. Membership on the Planning Team will involve a significant investment of time and effort on the part of the GIFN's representative. A substantial amount of work must be completed in a timely and methodical manner to ensure the FMP is completed by December 2019.

An *Aboriginal Background Information Report* is required as part of the preparation of the background information for the FMP. This Report includes a *values map* and describes past and current resource use by the community and recent forest management related interests and concerns. *This information is used in planning forest management activities and protecting identified Aboriginal values.*

Field Work: Snake Island with Kathleen Conners (Silv-Econ Ltd); install EAB Prism Traps.

Performed 3 site visits re: Firewood Brokers – all located off Hwy 48. Upon inspection of the site at Hwy 48 and Park Road an Emerald Ash Borer Beetle was found on an Ash Tree within 20 feet of a pile of firewood which included Ash species. Pictures were taken at each location for documentation purposes. One of the brokers informed me that they transport their stock from 3-4 hours away from such places as North Bay, South River and Magnetawan. Untreated firewood can harbor destructive insects and pathogens and transport them to infested areas, creating pathways for new infestations. Retail firewood should be heat treated in a manner to eliminate insects that is uniformly accepted across North America. Firewood movement has been proposed and documented as a potential pest pathway.

AUGUST

Climate Change Workshop for Forestry Practitioners, Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority, Newmarket. The LSRCA has commenced a study – funded by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) to support the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan – into how Climate Change (CC) will impact its forestry programs, and how they may be adapted. The study will include a focus on species selection, implications for afforestation, forest management, managing risk trees, and green infrastructure. Project recommendations will be implemented into LSRCA program delivery, sharing results with forestry practitioners in and beyond our watershed. (Workshop summary available upon request).

Cultural Awareness Day at Nanabush Trails, brief presentation with Chris Gynan (Silv-Econ Ltd.) on the Ash Tree Monitoring & Management Program.

Webinar, “Ecological Forestry to Promote Healthy Forests”, University of Minnesota –Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative.

Regional Consulting Session for Indigenous Communities regarding the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) integration, North Bay. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is developing an integrated policy framework that meets the regulatory requirements of both the CFSA and the ESA. *The framework will provide for protection of species at risk and their habitat, while also providing greater certainty to Indigenous Communities, the forest industry and stakeholders.* Interested First Nations were provided in advance with a working draft prior to consultations, of the Forest Management Guide for Species at Risk and Their Habitats, associated draft background and rationale materials, as well as a summary of Caribou Prescription Options. When finalized the guide will provide direction to planning teams regarding forest management activities in relation to species at risk.

13 Ash Tree Injections with Chris Gynan. First time being swarmed by Yellow Jackets while treating trees!

GIFN Annual Health Fair – EAB (& Invasive Species/Species at Risk) Information Table, distribution of brochures and other related resources, referrals. Community Outreach and Education continues to be successful and remains on going;

Water Treatment

Beach Sampling 2017



Georgina Island monitors the water quality at our local beaches, by working with York Region Public Health Department. Water sampling was done between

June 30th– August 24th 2017 by Casey Searle this year.

A minimum of five samples were collected from each beach , every Thursday and tested for bacteria. A warning sign at the beaches indicated that levels of E.coli bacteria were high enough to pose a greater risk to your health. Overall results for this summer, all beaches were clear.

The Following Beaches were tested:

- 1) Simcoe (The Docks)**
- 2) Moonyaang Beach**
- 3) Sandy Beach**
- 4) Community Centre**
- 5) North End (Across from Kerry-Ann Charles's House)**
- 6) The Bay (Across from Sheri Taylor's House)**

Water Treatment continued...

Household Water Samples

Attention all Georgina Island Members.

Casey Searle, water treatment operator will be testing household distribution samples for bacteria commination, chlorine levels this summer. Casey will be going door-to-door on Wednesdays starting July 12th 2017 . We encourage all members to allow Casey to collect water samples from every household.

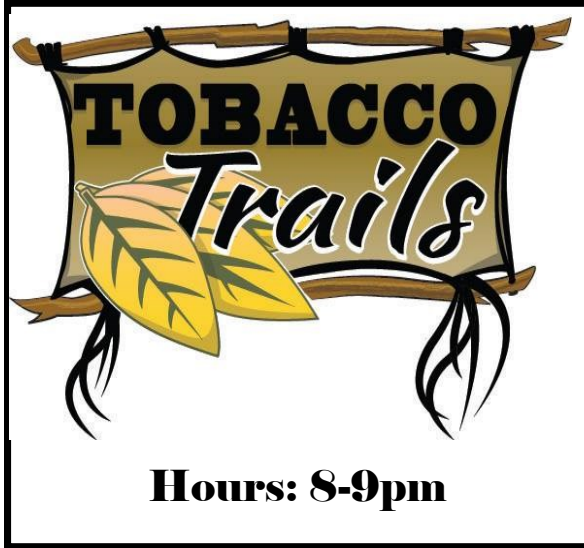
Most samples are done in the most used tap, such as your kitchen tap. Please make sure your tap is clean and has no dirty surrounding objects such as dishes.

If you haven't seen Casey, she probably has stopped by when you are not home. Give her a call to see when she will be making her next rounds to insure you are home to get samples taken!

She can be reached at (705) 437-1337 ext:2256

Thank you





THE BOONDOCKS EATERY

NOTICE

G.I LANDFILL SITE HOURS

MONDAYS
7:00AM-5:00PM

THURSDAYS
7:00AM-5:00PM

SATURDAYS
10:00AM-2:00PM

SUNDAYS
10:00AM-2:00PM

COMPO

RECYCLING

THE EAGLES NEST

MONDAY-SUNDAY

OPEN 8-4