

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Land Claims and the Benefits to Economic Development
- The Life of a Loonie
- Words from a Georgina Island Entrepreneur
- Rink Renovations
- Waubetek Appointments available Aug. 23 and Oct. 25

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ABOUT This Issue

Welcome to the summer issue of Majiigi! The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed about Georgina Island's economy (thank goodness I don't have to write about the global economy!) and to share information about economic issues that impact our community.

Land claims are a regular topic around the dinner table lately, so I think you will be very interested to read about their effects on economic development.

Our youth have been busy this summer both working and volunteering in and around the community. The summer work program gave them a chance to experience the work force in a safe environment. Many of our youth

volunteered their time cleaning up at Sandy Beach. Volunteers are special people in our commu-



nity and the impact they have on others is incredible. As well, our Summer Student Work Program will be ending this month. The students who participated have been outstanding. One supervisor has expressed a wish that the program was longer, because the experience has been so positive for both the student and the

employer!

So where else would you rather be in the summer but on Georgina Island? The natural beauty surrounding this community is truly special. The importance of preserving and protecting species diversity, the health of the land and our waters are issues that our Environmental Director, Kerry Ann Charles, is working to protect. It is important that economic development and environmental protection work hand in hand to ensure a sustainable future for future generations, as outlined in her article about the Environmental Management Agreement.

Enjoy the rest of summer and relax as you read this season's copy of Majiigi!

The Life of a Loonie on Georgina Island

It is said that a healthy local economy can turn a dollar over seven times before it leaves the community. If this is true, then the life of a loonie on Georgina Island is very important to our local economy. Locally owned, independent merchants create jobs, supply fresh quality products and produce, and help to maintain your community's identity. When you shop at a national chain or big box store, very little of that money will remain in your community. Make

a conscious decision to purchase what you need at a local business, preferably one on Georgina Island First Nation. Study after study shows that shopping locally not only helps to strengthen and sustain a community's economy but also helps it to grow. Local businesses are vital to your community. And business owners, remember that the community is vital to your business! Help compete against national chains and spend your dollars locally when possible.

Can you think of seven places to spend your loonie on GI before it leaves the island?! I bet you can!

- Buy gas at VB Marina
 - Pay on the Ferry & Scoot
 - Buy produce, dessert, preserves locally
 - Stop for a meal at an island diner
 - Hire a local contractor/labourer
 - Purchase beadwork/art from a local artisan
 - Boat storage/parking fees at VB Marina
- Check out our business directory to help you think of even more ways!





Dan Shaule is a member of Garden River First Nation, and received his M.A. from Trent University.

“A land claim can ...foster economic development by creating shared understandings, disproving misconceptions and creating unique opportunity for business relations”



Anishinabek territories prior to 1800's

Land Claims and Economic Development

By Dan Shaule, M.A.

A land claim can have economic benefits as it fosters economic development by creating shared understandings, disproving misconceptions and creating unique opportunity for business relations.

What is a land claim? There are two types of government processes for land claims; specific and comprehensive. (A third type of land claim is called Aboriginal Title claims where the First Nation goes directly to court) Comprehensive claims relate to lands that are not covered by a treaty. British Columbia and Northern Canada are examples of areas with comprehensive land claims. The second type of

land claim is a specific claim which arises when there is non-fulfillment of the terms of the Treaty between First Nations and the Government of Canada. There are three examples of a specific land claim. a) the First Nation received less reserve land than they were promised; b) the terms of the treaty were not fulfilled or the surrender was improper; c) money and assets held in trust by the government were not properly managed.

How can a settlement from a land claim benefit economic development? At the community level the money settlement can help families and individuals get a home or car a long awaited repair. The towns and cities will benefit as people

shop for larger items such as cameras, computers, fridges and stove, or just something special for the dog.

A land claim can also be a relationship builder which is good for economic development. For example the historical reports can be used to create education among First Nations and non-First Nations People. This in turn would create economic development where an employer would be more knowledgeable about First Nations and open to employing First Nations people in their business, and with that new or fixed car you can get to that new job.

Chippewa Tri-Council Coldwater-Narrows Land Claim

By Suzanne Howes, Communication Consultation Worker

IN 1830, the Chippewa Tri-Council relocated to the Coldwater-Narrows Reserve as part of a “social experiment” by the Indian Department. However, in 1836, the Chiefs were induced to sign a surrender document which they believed were giving them a title deed to the reserve. The Chippewa Tri-Council were eventually dispersed and lost the economic benefits of the Coldwater Reserve. The loss of the reserve also caused social, cultural and spiritual damage to the community. After 10 years of research, then 7 more years of appealing Canada’s rejection of the claim, and 6 more years of intense

negotiation only to endure a policy change under the Conservative government and 28 more months of lobbying under the Federal government to secure a Cabinet Mandate to settle—we finally have an offer.

For more in depth information on the Settlement Agreement, you can access the information on the Georgina Island website under the members’ section, or contact Suzanne Howes at the Georgina Island Administration Office at (705) 437-1337 ext. 2225. Suzanne can also be reached at showes@georginaisland.com.

The Settlement and Trust Agreement can only take effect if they are approved by adult members of all four First Nations, all three CTC First Na-

tions and Nawash members will have to approve the agreement.

This has been a long time coming and the process has been long and difficult. There are no alternatives that would not involve years of uncertainty and expense. At the end of the day, it is the First Nation members who decide by voting on ratification day whether or not to accept the agreement.

There is a survey on the Georgina Island website under the Members’ Section for members to express their comments and suggestions for the Coldwater Treaty Trust. Take the time to complete this survey—Your input is crucial! Miigwetch

Georgina Island Success Story

An Interview with Charlotte Linders



Charlotte Linders, owner and operator of "Charlotte's Veggies and Preserves"

I called Charlotte and asked if she would be willing to be interviewed. I asked, "Are you busy?"

She laughed at me!

I arrived at Charlotte's house to find her busy doing laundry, making relish and the wonderful smell of a peach pie scenting the air in her beautiful lakeside home. She took off her apron and sat down to share her thoughts about entrepreneurship.

Tell us about your business and how you got started.

I began gardening about 30 years ago, and started selling my vegetables about 15 years ago. Ten years after that, my husband Bill and I decided to form a business and expand our market to the cottagers

who come in the summer to Georgina Island. Now I make homemade preserves, jams, pies and tarts. Two years ago we started to rent our apartment above the garage, which has been very successful as well. We call it B&C's Fisherman's Rest.

What are some of the challenges you deal with?

Birds eating the cherries and rabbits eating my lettuce and strawberries! And like any gardener, my worst enemy is weeds. All of our produce is organic. It's a lot of work, but worth it.

Do you have any plans to expand your businesses?

In fact, we have been looking into financing options to purchase a scooter. This would extend our rental business in the winter season, since a lot of the fisherman from the States come up here when the crossing is not always safe.

What advice do you have for others who want to start their own business?

Make sure you enjoy what you are

doing! You will be successful because you will naturally put energy into something you like to do. Your customers will appreciate the energy and enthusiasm you put into your work., and will come back for more of your business.

What do you like about running your own business?

My hours are flexible, so if something important comes up I can just put my CLOSED sign up. I enjoy baking, gardening and making preserves, so it is not stressful. If I feel tired, I can stop for awhile. I like the fact that people enjoy my cooking. People call me "The Pie Lady" now (laughs). It makes me happy.

If you want to purchase any of Charlotte's organic, home made produce, you can locate her on Strawberry Road, Georgina Island. She can be reached at (705) 437-4387. B&C's Fisherman's Rest can be viewed online at www.georginaislandtourism.ca/

Thank You, Charlotte!

Rachel Big Canoe,

Economic Development Assistant

"Customers will appreciate the energy and enthusiasm you put into your work, and will be back for more of your business!"



Rink Update

Thanks to funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and lots of local boys pitching in, upgrades to the rink started this spring. As you have probably noticed, the interior of the rink is now completed with a concrete side walk. Fencing was erected around the

perimeter for safety and security. Starting soon, the players' boxes, timekeeper and penalty boxes, as well as netting, will be installed. Completion of the next phase will be completed by early fall 2011. In order for the next phase to be possible, we need to keep costs

down. Ian is looking for two volunteers to assist Sports Systems to install these upgrades. If you are interested in volunteering your time to this important community project, contact Ian Big Canoe at (905) 953-6338.



Miigwetch to everyone who volunteers their time and equipment!



Cement Pad!

The Environmental Management Agreement...

What it means to you!



Georgina Island was the first cosignatory to the First Nations Management Act in 1996. Today there are 29 First Nations that have empowered themselves with this legislation!

Kerry Ann Charles is our Environmental Coordinator, and has been reaching out to the community to raise awareness about the steps being taken to protect and preserve this unique island we call home. First we will explain a little about the background of this Environmental Management Agreement.(EMA).

Way back in 1996, the Chipewas of Georgina Island First Nation was the first to sign the Lands Management Agreement which is a government to government accord. This Agreement allowed the First Nations to break free of the Indian Act and manage their own lands.

Today there are 29 First Nations that have entered the Lands Management Agreement! This process led to the Georgina Island First Nations Land Code, which is a document that defines the First Nation's process to govern its own lands. It was drafted by

2000.

Kerry Ann has been tasked with developing the Environmental Management Agreement. This plan will show us how Georgina Island First Nation will enact environmental protection legislation to include timing, resources, inspection and enforcement requirements and to identify environmentally significant areas. A community survey identified the top 5 environmental issues for Georgina Island as:

1. Septic systems
2. Natural Heritage
3. Solid waste
4. Environmental Emergencies
5. Fuel Storage

There has been outreach into the Community with surveys as well as one-on-one interviews. There will be more to come as the process moves along. Some of the surrounding Ministries have been consulted as advisors, *not enforcers*. Together, we are building partnerships that allow us to share

our traditional knowledge with scientific information in a respectful relationship beneficial to everyone.

Economic Development will use the information gathered as a tool that will allow us to develop projects while keeping the land and environmental issues a top priority. Species at Risk and Natural Heritage Areas will be protected and preserved for future generations.

Your input and ideas are always welcome.

Kerry Ann can be reached at the Band Office at (705) 437-13337 ext. 2233.



By Marlene Stiles, E.D.O.

With the latest report coming down from the Ontario Minister of Energy, a directive has been given to the Ontario Power Authority instructing them to lock in existing FIT contracts. (This is the "Fit-In-Tariff Agreement" that we have with the Ontario Power Authority to sell electricity to HydroOne at \$0.15/kilowatt) This is good news for us!

Even though we were unable to start construction this year, this will give us security with our FIT contract, even if the provincial government changes this fall.

We are still negotiating our financial agreements with our partners and hope to proceed with construction in Spring 2012. As with most large endeavours, unexpected issues sometimes arise and cause delays. We are still cautiously

moving forward, keeping the community's best interests as the priority. Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Marlene Stiles, Economic Development Officer at the Georgina Island Administration Office at (705)437-1337, ext. 2238.

To find out all the latest information, check out the website at www.pukwis.ca!



The Chippewas of Georgina Island
First Nation Public Library
&
Adult Native Literacy Program



For more info call
the library at (705)
437-4327 and speak
to Karen or Lynn!

Aaniin

Lynn and Karen would like to invite you to visit the library. Here are some of the programs that are offered out of the library.

- *Free Library Membership
- *E-Learning
- *Upgrading
- *Beading Classes
- *Computer and Internet Access
- *Computers for children
- *Tutoring
- *Scrabble

We have four computers with public internet access. We also offer hands on computer skills.

E-Learning is access to online courses for completing grade 12, college, university and computer skills.

We have two early learning literacy stations geared for children, toddlers to grade three.

Our LBS program includes upgrading, tutoring and GED preparation, we also have two computers that are equipped with a program (destinations) which is designed for you to work independently on upgrading your skills, and is the same program that is offered at the Georgina Learning Center in Keswick.

Tutoring is available for both adults and children.

We have a qualified teacher who will assist students with their studies.

We have computer software programs that assist with math, reading and typing.

Beading classes are offered to all age groups starting from junior kindergarten to adults. Classes for adults ages 16 and up are offered on Tuesday evenings 6-8pm.

We also have a weekly scrabble game for adults to attend it usually runs from 2-5pm on Wednesday afternoons. We invite the Sutton Public Library Scrabble Club to come and join us, usually it is a potluck lunch and an afternoon of socializing.

Weshiniigidig – Georgina Island Youth

Summer Student Employment

Youth Support Worker Assistant



From the assistants themselves...

Allison Porte: "I am really enjoying my summer Student position job as the Youth Support Assistant because I love working with the youth and I really enjoy teaching them things they never knew before. The youth support assistant is also a really fun job. We do things like play baseball, go to the beach and hold different workshops for the youth. We meet a lot of interesting people. Overall I would say that this job is Amazing!

Kanisha Boucher: "Good work experience, it prepared me more for the work/business world"

Sandy Beach

The Youth Team along with a number of community volunteers worked very hard on cleaning our community beach.

We held one large community clean up day at Sandy Beach, which attracted 26 volunteers!!

Sandy Beach Youth Quotes

"I think that working at Sandy beach was hard but fun at the same time and all our hard work has paid off."
-Allison Porte

"Respect our beach as you would respect our Elders"- George Snache

"No place like Sandy Beach, I love it there"- Lexie Charles

"My favorite spot on the Island"
-Justin Trumble - BigCanoe

Events Students planned and coordinated

PSA Workshop June 4th -8th

7 short films were created based on the interests of the youth.
3 youth groups +7 films = new perceptions

Fishing Day July 18th 2011

Joined youth groups with Toronto lil Embers for a fun day of fishing & activities

Grassy Narrows Trip Aug 18-26th 2011

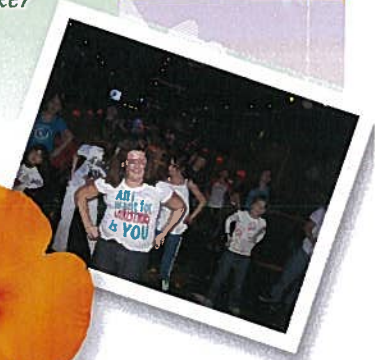
Youth exchange trip between Grassy Narrows and Georgina Island First Nations. Youth are very excited!





Youth Support Worker Assistant Summer Employment Program brought to Georgina Island students by The Chippewas Of Georgina Island Economic Department

-by Willow Hill, Youth Support Worker



Summer Employment



Please stop in any time to check out our Youth Office and see all the neat and exciting things the Youth Support Worker Assistant have worked on over the course of the summer. It has been a great summer and we have managed to squeeze tons of fun and interesting activities in a period of 8 weeks.

It's very important to apply for positions that you really want, for instance if you are interested in working with Youth, the Youth Support Worker Assistant posting would be the right fit. If you are passionate about something and like what you do you will do 80% better of a job!

Our students are very fortunate the Economic Development department begins applying for funding in January for students to receive summer employment in June. There are 5 different agencies that provide funding.

There is a process of how to apply and what the eligibility criteria is and that is available at the Band Office Ec Dev department or at the Youth Office 116 Root Road in the Family Resource Building.

Please stop by any time and we and discuss the importance of education and I will do my best to answer questions you have in regards to education and Summer Employment.

**Way to go to all the Summer Students going through resume and interview process!!
You all did amazing!**



**Georgina Island
Economic Development
Department**

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Closing

The Georgina Island Economic Development Department is responsible for planning, organizing and implementing activities related to economic development, training and employment.

For information about community economic development projects or if you are thinking of starting your own business, contact the Economic Development Officer or Assistant.

Georgina Island Business Directory

Our greatest resource are the people in our community

Big Canoe Cabin Rentals (705) 437-3103
Big Canoe General Contracting (289) 231-2310 (905) 715-8079

Charlie Warren Contracting (905) 868-2844
G.I. Gym Personal Training & Fitness Instructor
The Grill & Chill (705) 955-4575

Charlotte' Veggies and Homemade Preserves
B&C Fisherman's Rest (705) 437-4387
Heron's Landing Cottage (705) 437-3775

Doug Warren's Septic Service (705) 437-4387
Island B&B (705) 437-1173

East Point Marina & Construction (905) 955-1022
Neezh Meegwunun Family Campground
The Eagle's Nest Eatery (705) 437-3025

Ted Big Canoe Contracting (905) 955-1952
Farmer's Contracting
Sunset Cottage Rental (905) 955-5840



If you would like your business listed in our directory, please give your information to Rachel Big Canoe!

Jason Peltier, the Business Development Officer from Waubetek, will be here on August 23 and October 25. Call Jason at 705-285-4275 to discuss your business needs.