



# Maajiigi-Starting to Grow

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

DAGWAAGIN 2011

## ABOUT This Issue

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Georgina Island veterans "We Will Remember"
- Georgina Island Entrepreneur wins Waubetek Award 2011!
- Upcoming community meetings

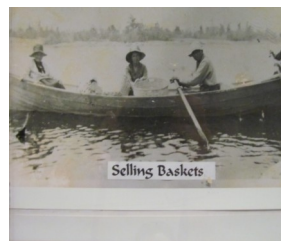
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Fall is traditionally a time of harvest. In the Anishinabe cycle, the fall fishing for whitefish and trout, as well as collecting and storing wild rice were some of the ways to prepare for the long winter ahead. The rice fields are now long gone from the island, and our preparation includes ensuring a supply of gas is in the garage, stocking up on supplies and worrying about freeze-up.

This fall, the Georgina Island Economic Development Department wants to begin developing an updated Economic Development Action Plan with your input. A successful community planning process depends on factors such as leadership skills and abilities, and opportunities for the community to participate in the planning process. In order to do this successfully, we will need to take a close look at Georgina Island's strengths, chal-

lenges and economic growth opportunities. Please be on the look out for community meetings and questionnaires in the near



**Prior to the Trent Severn Waterway, the Chippewas of Georgina sold baskets and gathered rice on Lake Simcoe.**

future.

Exciting things are happening this fall! The Waubetek Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Award has been won by our very own Michelle Charles, owner and operator of MCT Excavating. She gives

us some insight into her experience as an entrepreneur on Georgina Island.

Two other young entrepreneurs are featured in this issue; one is on his way to starting a successful farming business with support from the Future Farmer's program and the other is a talented young woman who started up a successful tattoo business with funds from the Hugh Big Canoe Youth Entrepreneurship Fund.

This season is a time to enjoy the fresh air and head to the rink! Some local boys have been putting in a lot of hours, and their work is very impressive. This is a great facility for all ages and for all kinds of recreational activities!

There is lots to read about, so get comfy, put your feet up and get ready to be informed about the great stuff happening here on Georgina Island!

## Upcoming Community Meetings

**Tuesday, Nov. 15**

**Coldwater Meeting & Dinner**

To be held at the Georgina Island Community Centre at 5:00 pm  
Kim Fullerton will be presenting the draft Trust Agreement.

**Wednesday, Nov.23**

**Career Counselling**

with Linda Grant, OTC

To book your private, individual appointment call Rachel Big Canoe at (705) 437-1337 ext. 2224.

**Thursday, Nov. 24**

**Talking Circle**

Georgina Island Community Centre at 6:30 pm.

Bring stories and pictures about the Island. A potluck dish would be appreciated, everyone welcome!

# The Chippewas of Georgina who served in the Canadian Armed Forces during WWI & WWII



JOHN BIG CANOE & MOTHER



GEORGE VERNON

After the war of 1812 between Canada and the United States, the Government of Canada made a declaration that the Native People of this country would never be asked to fight another war, nor would ever be called on to join forces against another country. As long as the grass grows, The sun shines, And the rivers flow. But they have been called to arms, to every battle that Canada was involved in. Some never returned. Some came home maimed and passed on without any mention of their efforts. A few are still struggling to stay alive without any thanks for their part in winning freedom for this country.

WWI (\*Died in action) Sam York, Ross Peters, Herb Big Canoe, Tom Big Canoe Sr., Duncan Ashquabe, Bill Ashquabe, Enoch Big Canoe, Robert Porte, George Vernon, Alfred Porte, Edward Johnson, Jas. Johnson Sr., Roger Ashquabe.

WWII Steven Ashquabe, Jas. Ashquabe Jr., Mary Ashquabe (Airforce), Ken Blackbird, John Big Canoe, Tom Big Canoe Jr., Bill Big Canoe, Graydon Big Canoe, Harris Charles, Ralph Charles, Amos Charles (Overseas), Leonard Charles (Overseas), Percy Charles, Tom Charles (Navy), Clayton Charles, Joe Johnson (Mainland), George Johnson, Stanley Johnston, Ron Johnson, Herb Johnson, Stewart McCue (Overseas), Harold McCue (Overseas), Morris McCue (Overseas), Bert McCue (48th Highlander), Walter McCue (Overseas), Harvey McCue (Overseas), Jim Porte, Mick Porte, Tom Porte (Overseas), Garnet Porte, Angus Scelbe (Overseas), Harry Sillaby, Fred Sillaby, Joe Snake (Airforce), Merle Snake\*, Jack Snake, John Snache Jr., Jim York, Dave Trumble, Harry Porte, Harold Porte.



JIM YORK



MERLE SNAKE



STEWART McCUE



AMOS CHARLES



STEVE ASHQUABE



NAME UNKNOWN?



TOM PORTE - AMOS CHARLES  
LEONARD CHARLES



DAVID TRUMBLE



JOE JOHNSON - MOTHER - JIM JOHNSON



SAM YORK - ENOCH BIG CANOE



BERT McCUE



MARY ASHQUABE



STEWART McCUE



HARRY SILLABY



HAROLD (SCORE) McCUE



THOMAS BIG CANOE JR.



HARRIS CHARLES



ANGUS SCELBE



## Miigwech

“The drum beat  
steady and deeply resonant  
reaches into the past, present and future:  
pulsing with medicines  
the drum is our heartbeat,  
a golden glow that always moves  
beneath the surface of all that takes place.

Everywhere there is war,

.....

But streaming from the four directions,  
The sky is filled with legions of thunderbirds  
Young and old sacrificing life  
To restore peace and love.”

-unknown Aboriginal author



*The following is a letter that I came up on while doing some research about First Nation veterans, written by the Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.*

## ***Honouring Aboriginal Veterans for their extraordinary service***

**By The Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs**

This time last year, not long after I became Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, I was meeting with Serpent River First Nation. I was honoured to have been invited by their Chief to attend their community's Remembrance Day ceremonies in Elliot Lake.

In the year since, I've learned a great deal about the contributions that Aboriginal people have made to Canadian society.

First Nation, Metis and Inuit people aided the early settlers, provided our ancestors with lifesaving and necessary food and medicine, and were key to forming the early economy through the fur trade.

But one of the most significant contributions has been their extraordinary military service that goes back as far as the War of 1812 and before.

I've been reminded of this sacrifice each time I've attended a Pow-Wow. I'm always moved by the respect and recognition that is paid to First Nation veterans. Their recognition isn't limited to one day a year.

I've learned in the past year that Aboriginal military service was inspired, in large part, by the friendship treaties and by loyalty to the Crown. And so when Canada entered into global conflicts during the first and second World Wars and in Korea, Aboriginal people volunteered en masse to support Canadians' shared principles.

During this time, Six Nations of the Grand River provided more soldiers to Canada's military than any other First Nation. In one eastern Ontario First Nation, the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, nearly every single able-bodied man volunteered to serve in the armed forces. The key word is volunteered. Aboriginal people were exempt from conscription and not required to serve.

That they volunteered in such numbers is all the more notable because they knew what they were giving up upon returning home. Through a process called enfranchisement, they would immediately lose their Indian Status when they joined the armed forces. Then, upon completion of their service, Aboriginal veterans would not be eligible for military pensions, subsidies, and land grants provided to their non-Aboriginal comrades. They would not even be eligible to vote until 1960. Thankfully, enfranchisement is a thing of the past.

But many veterans of the 20th century conflicts lived their remaining days in outright poverty. Canada's most decorated Aboriginal soldier, Sgt. Tommy Prince, was forced to sell his medals to support himself. He died penniless in Winnipeg in 1977.

Aboriginal veterans deserved better.

On November 11 at 11 a.m., we should take time to honour Canadian veterans of all backgrounds. Many will reflect on the service of their family members. Others will be thankful for those long passed. At that time, I will be sure to remember and honour our those many brave Aboriginal veterans who paid many sacrifices in service, in life and in death.

You will not be forgotten.





## MCT Excavating— Waubetek Youth Entrepreneur of the Year!

Congratulations to Michelle Charles, owner and operator of MCT Excavating. Michelle will be given her Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Award at the Waubetek Business Awards Gala on November 17th to be held at Casino Rama. Their theme this year is "Investing in Aboriginal Business Spirit!"

The Waubetek Business Development Corporation is an Aboriginal-owned and controlled organization that delivers financing and economic development services to First Nations and Aboriginal Entrepreneurs. Their goal is to assist in strengthening the economies of the local First Nations through business and

community development.

**November 29th**  
Jason Peltier, Business Development Officer, will be available on Georgina Island. Call the Economic Development Office to book your appointment!  
705-437-1337

## Michelle Charles - Don't Stand In Her Way

As a young First Nation woman, Michelle Charles is a great example of what is possible when you have your heart set on a dream. Michelle has a strong desire to see her business succeed both on and off her First Nation. Michelle was kind enough to take the time to tell us about the path that led her to become the owner of an excavation company, MCT Excavating.

**When did you start your business?**

I started with Taylor Haulage, and got my license through Beamish for heavy machinery. I could see the potential to make money and started my own business in 2009. I own a K080

Caboda Excavator and a 2012 Mac Granite Dump Truck.

**Are you comfortable handling heavy machinery?**

I was nervous at first, but my brother, Nick, patiently taught me and I have become much more comfort-

able behind the wheel. I was comfortable enough to let myself be filmed by Sinking Ship Productions down at Sandy Beach this past summer, and by Waubetek for a filmed interview.

**Did you always want to be a Heavy Equipment Operator?**

Being the only girl in a family with three brothers, I was always a tomboy. My dad would let me drive his trucks-I never thought I'd grow up to be a ballerina! (laughs) It feels empowering to drive a great big machine!

**What are the challenges of running your own business?**

Right now there is a lot of competition for work. There are about three excavation companies that work on the island. I want to work mainly on Georgina Island, but I also work locally in town sometimes, and haul for LaFarge and Beamish regularly. Besides driving, I also do quotes, invoices, deal with clients, pick up parts and fuel and I am even learning to do some of the mechanical stuff. It is a lot of work!

**What do you like best about running your own business?**

I love being my own boss.

I'd rather do my best and work hard for my own benefit, than do it for someone else.

**What do you have planned for the future of MCT Excavating?**

We just recently expanded and purchased the new dump truck. Down the road, I'd love to have my own bulldozer! I plan to build this company up and leave it to my son someday.

**What advice do you have for other entrepreneurs?**

Never give up! There is a lot of hard work and challenges, but you just have to keep going.

**Congratulations on your award! How does it feel to be the Youth Entrepreneur of the Year?**

She laughs. "Good, I guess!"

Thanks for sharing your experience with us!

-Rachel Big Canoe



*"I'd rather do my best and work hard for my own benefit, than do it for someone else!"*

MCT Excavating's mighty machines!



# Rink Update



**Jimmy Ellis helping Sports Systems to install netting** As well, new glass is on the boards and netting has been installed at the open ends of the rink, protecting cars and people from pucks flying through the air.

Get ready to lace up your skates! Thanks to Trillium Funds, the Buzzy Big Canoe Memorial Arena has been upgraded with an interior sidewalk, new players' boxes, rubber matting and even penalty boxes, which I am sure will come in handy

lan would like to thank all the young men who donated their time and strength to this community project. Miigwech to Jimmy Ellis, Billy Villeneuve who helped out with this phase of construction., as

well as Bruce Big Canoe. In the next few weeks, the final repairs on the canvas covering will be completed, and some stands for the fans will be installed.

Projected ice date is the first or second week of December-See you on the ice during the holidays!



**Billy and Jimmy putting up new glass around the boards.**

## The Entrepreneurial Spirit of a Young Artist



Koren Smoke was this year's recipient of the Hugh (Buzzy) Big Canoe

Youth Entrepreneurship Award, which is awarded each spring by the OTTER Board at Ogemawahj Tribal Council. The program objective is to continue the spirit of Buzzy Big Canoe's dedication to helping youth understand and start their own business enterprise.

Ms. Smoke is an artist from Alderville First Nation who applied to start her own tattoo business called "Home is Where the Art Is." Her application spoke to her love of art, and her wish to give back to her community. Her year-round business is run out of her home and features custom artwork and design, as well as tattooing. She also offers art classes at the Alderville Health Centre and the Alderville Learning Centre. After graduating from high school, Ms. Smoke com-

pleted a year at Georgian College in the Fine Arts Program, then apprenticed for a year as a tattoo apprentice.

Ms. Smoke says she plans to continue with her business and hopes to travel more.. Her favourite artists include works of Rick Beaver, Norman Knott, Fiddler, Christi Belcourt and her own uncle Randy P. Smoke.

"The sky is the limit and the possibilities are endless!" - Koren Smoke



## Raising Cattle-a profitable enterprise

Congratulations to Jimmy Ellis, who has been granted start-up funding through the First Nations Youth Agricultural Program. This program is designed to provide First Nations youth with financing and support to start an agricultural business. Jimmy grew up on a farm and has a lot of experience as well as a great work ethic and attitude

that will go a long way in developing his own business. To get started, Jimmy met with Career Counsellor, Linda Grant and received an application for the Future Farmers program. With support from the Youth Worker, Willow Hill, Jimmy contacted the Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario and meet with a Farm Management

Advisor. He put his ideas on paper and submitted his business plan for approval. Simply by dedicating time to his idea, and following the application process, Jimmy is on his way to running a full fledged profitable farming business.



**Jimmy Ellis, a Georgina Island youth, is starting his first cattle farm with help from the IAPO First Nations Youth Agricultural Program**



**What's special about our library?**

*\*Work on your grade 12, or take courses on-line with support from qualified teachers!*

*\*Learn how to bead every Monday evening!*

*\*Have fun with your child at the Early Learning Literacy Stations*

*\*Access an amazing collection of books written by First Nation authors*

## Georgina Island Public Library News

-by Karen Foster, Librarian

The Georgina Island Native Literacy Program offers all types of programs including on-line courses.

Sabrina Sorchoran from Elearnnetwork is here every other week to assist anyone who is interested in doing online courses. **If you need your Grade 12 now is the time to set up an appointment to see how you qualify and how many courses you may need.** A high school transcript is needed for this. Marian Borsellino, our

teacher, is here on Tuesdays and Thursdays for anyone needing help with their courses or upgrading for GED.

Our beading classes have been rescheduled to Monday evenings from 6-8 pm for anyone interested.

The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Public library continues to have the visits from the daycare and Waabgon School students. We have two Early Learning Literacy Stations with won-

derful programs for toddlers-Grade 3.

We meet with the LLC quarterly. The LLC is the Local Literacy Committee for York Region/Simcoe area. At our meetings we meet with all the Literacy providers for our area to discuss programs (what we all offer in terms of programming) We also have stakeholder meetings with the Region's, Employment Ontario service agencies, ODSP and apprenticeship and education boards.

## Developing an Economic Development Action Plan

In the new year, the Georgina Island Economic Development Department will begin reviewing the existing Economic Strategy for our community and developing an Action Plan for the future economy of Georgina Island.

Information will be gathered from the community through meetings, surveys and questionnaires.

This will be a three stage process:

1. Develop an overall Economic Development vision of where we want to be in the future.
2. Review existing strategy, identify areas that need to be updated or deleted, and add new initiatives.
3. Develop a comprehensive Economic Development Action Plan.

Georgina Island is a progressive First Nation, and there are opportunities to expand new and emerging economic and business developments to create ourselves a sustainable community without compromising our culture, heritage or

land.

The challenge for Georgina Island is to identify these opportunities and develop a viable economy, entrepreneurial initiatives and associated capacity.

The goals of the Economic Development Action Plan will include:

- Enhance economic investment and development
- Increase self-reliance and capacity

The purpose of this community driven action plan is to increase income and employment levels; to create a climate to attract investment and generate wealth; and to foster relationships and create partnerships and economic development.

With YOUR help, we will achieve this purpose by setting out a collective vision, goals and principles, and concrete action items in each goal set out in the Action Plan.

We are truly looking forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas looking into the future economy of the Chippewas of Georgina Island.

## The Advantage of Early Career Planning

-by Erica Kelly, Aboriginal Transition Coordinator, YRDSB



Kara Mooney, grade 10 student, began using Career Cruising before entering high school which helped her determine a career direction in culinary arts-based on her personal interests and skills.



"Kara demonstrated her amazing potential making a 3-tiered cake in Art Class-It was as delicious as it was beautiful!"

Often people do not realize their full potential. Some are born into circumstances that inhibit their growth, while others take a lifetime to recognize their strengths and discover what they really enjoy doing. Thinking about a future career can be especially overwhelming for students who may not yet realize where their strengths and interests are.

So, how do we help our child/student understand themselves and their natural strengths and talents, and suggest practical ways to apply them in their lives? *Career Cruising* is a very useful tool that has assisted students in discovering and channelling their interests and skills in a way that will help them set long-term educational and career goals. With this knowledge, students can better accept themselves and find educational and career paths

that match their natural competencies and abilities. In particular, using this online resource can:

- Support students in academic planning and course selection when arriving to high school
- Help students

seek out special pathways or programs in secondary school that support their learning styles, interests and needs

- Help individual students to envision a plan for post-secondary and target some short and long term goals
- Provide information around all post-secondary pathways (workplace, college, apprenticeship, university) and career pathways
- Support students in establishing effective study habits and exam preparation
- Coach in the scholarship application process
- Support students in such life skills as decision-making, problem-solving, conflict resolution, stress & time management and relationship awareness

As a Transition Coordinator, it is important that I employ all the available tools necessary to make the transition process for students as successful as possible. *Career Cruising* has provided the opportunity for our First Nations students to better understand their interests and assist with the skills needed to move toward a specific career or educational path.

Many of Georgina Island's own students have used this tool as a way to help plan for the future. One student in particular, Kara Mooney, has demonstrated how this program has been effective in helping her set her career goals as a Culinary Chef. Kara began using this program before entering high school— she completed the self-interest and skill assessments online. Her results indicated that pursuing a career as a chef would be closest to her own personal interests. This knowledge prepared Kara for her grade 9 course selections; she was able to pick classes focusing on her creative talents that also tied to her educational goals. As Kara moves through high school she will have obtained the necessary pre-requisites to take courses in her senior years that focus directly towards a career as a chef — for example, Food and Nutrition studies, Hospitality and Visual Arts. Kara has already demonstrated her amazing potential making a 3-tiered cake last year in Art class; it was delicious as it was beautiful!

Www. Careercruising.com

### Career Cruising What is it?

Career Cruising is an external website that features Canadian information on over 400 occupations, a career matchmaker quiz, and career portfolio and resume builder tools.

For more information on the Career Cruising Program, check out:

[www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com)



**Georgina Island  
Economic Development  
Department**

Marlene Stiles  
Economic Development Officer

Rachel Big Canoe  
Economic Development Assistant

Councillor Bill McCue  
Economic Development Portfolio

Phone: 705-437-1337

Fax: 705-437-4597

E-mail:

mstiles@georginaisland.com

rbigcanoe@georginaisland.com

wmccue@georginaisland.com

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**  
**Big Canoe General Contracting**  
(289) 231-2310

**Charlie Warren Contracting**  
(905) 868-2844

**Charlotte's Veggies and  
Homemade Preserves**  
**B&C Fisherman's Rest**  
(705) 437-4387

**Doug Warren's Septic Service**  
(705) 437-3775

**East Point Marina &  
Construction** (905) 955-1022

**Neezh Meegwunun Family  
Campground & Eagle's Nest  
Eatery** (705) 437-3025

**Ted Big Canoe Contracting**  
(905) 955-1952

**Farmer's Contracting**  
(705) 437-3103

**MCT Excavating**  
(905) 955-0033

**G.I. Gym Personal Training  
& Fitness Instructor**  
(705) 323-8058

**Tammy Charles'**  
**Custom Beaded Jewellery**  
(705) 437-3977

**Heron's Landing Cottage**  
(705) 437-3775

**Island B&B**  
(705) 437-3025

**Nish Radio 102.7**  
(705) 437-2255

**Sunset Cottage Rentals**  
(905) 955-5840

**Virginia Beach Marina &  
Restaurant**  
(705) 437-2533

If you would like your business listed in our directory, please give your information to Rachel Big Canoe!  
  
(705) 437-1337 ext. 2224  
rbigcanoe@georginaisland.com