

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- What is Economic Development,
- Women in Trades!
- Interview with a GI Entrepreneur
- Pukwis Community Meeting
- Nanabush Trails Community Meeting

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

- What's Ec 2
Dev?
- Women in 3
Trades
- A Success 4
Story
- Weshiniigidig 5
GI Youth
- Public Li- 6
brary & Liter-
acy Program
- Business 7
Directory &
Information

Majiigi-Starting to Grow

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

ZEEGWUN 2011

ABOUT This Issue

Welcome to the springtime issue of Maajiigi! I hope you enjoy this issue, and take special note of the community meetings that are happening this month. (you'll have to read on to find out when!) Entrepreneurship and economic development go hand in hand, and is important if we are to maintain a healthy vibrant economy on Georgina Island. In Councillor Bill McCue's article, he outlines the history of economics on Georgina Island. Entrepreneurship is the heart of

healthy economies, and it seems that many people here have been able to take hold of business opportunities that meet the needs of the community.

To start a successful business, you need to find out what it is that you do better than everyone else. Highlight that element that makes you different. Find out what your customers want before you decide what to offer them. Then put your unique personality behind whatever it is you're going to offer. And in the

words of island entrepreneur, Mike Big Canoe, "Go for it!" Read on to find out more about what's happening with our youth, opportunities at the library, some exciting news about the rink and celebrate the accomplishments of twelve women who will be completing their pre-apprenticeship training in the trades this month.

Enjoy!
Rachel Big Canoe
Economic Development Assistant

Pukwis Community Meeting



There will be a community meeting to update members about the Pukwis Project. This is the perfect time to learn about the latest developments and to ask questions.

WHEN: April 28th, 2011

WHERE: Georgina Island Community Centre

TIME: 7:00 pm

In the meantime, be sure to check out the Pukwis website at:

www.pukwis.ca

There are tons of great links you can access, and loads of information!

What is Economic Development and How Does it Affect Our First Nation?

By Councillor Bill McCue



From the Georgina Island Community Centre Collection, photo of a family making baskets in the early 1900's.

“The First Nation must find ways to create self-sufficiency and participate in the local economy.”

These are just a few examples Economic Development on GI. Please send us your photo of Economic Development for the next issue of Maajigi!

The basis of a strong economy is the ability of our people and businesses to capture a niche in the marketplace to attract external revenues and to keep money circulating within our community. It's the creativity and ingenuity to recognize what is needed, combined with the initiative, resourcefulness and perseverance to take the chance and do it.

Throughout the years our people have always demonstrated the spirit of entrepreneurship, from our original members of the Coldwater First Nation with a fully self-sustaining economy including grist mills and farms to the present day multi-million dollar initiatives by the First Nation.

My dad told me how our people used to catch fish and sell them in Jackson's Point. Our people still exercised their hunting and fishing rights back then. I can also remember the elders' stories about the logging operations on the island.

When I was a young boy I

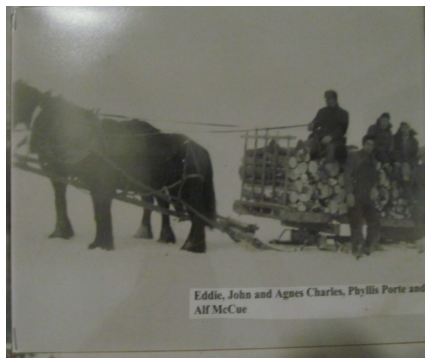
used to play around the old sawmill down at Simcoe right across from Bear Road and wondered what it had been like when it was fully operational. One of my fondest memories is of Uncle Les's candy store where you could buy a pop and a bag of chips for a quarter. Buzzy BigCanoe used to operate a water taxi, which Eric Charles later bought. I think they charged 1 dollar for adults and 25 cents for kids. I can't recall anyone complaining of having to wait or about the cost of the ride. We were happy for the service provided.

As our economy shifted toward the tourism industry, our entrepreneurship changed as well. We now have a number of business people focusing on that market. We have Charlotte Linders' fresh market garden, Doug Warren's lawn service, Elaine McCue's B & B, Paul and Claire BigCanoe's Eagles Nest Restaurant and Campground, Mike BigCanoe's Cabin Rentals and Ted BigCa-

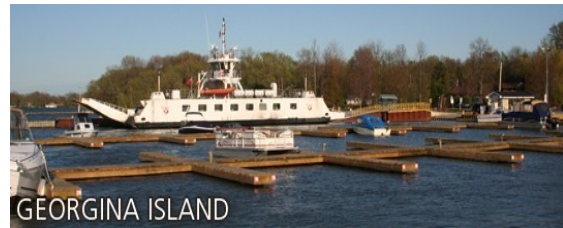
noe's general contracting, just to name a few. Small businesses are the foundation of economic growth. In Canada, for every public sector job created, businesses create five jobs.

Although we take great pride in our members economic development successes, the First Nation must also find ways to create self sufficiency and participate in the regional economy. Virginia Beach Marina has been operating for over 15 years. In the years to come, the Pukwis Windmill project has the potential to generate considerable profit for our First Nation.

In closing, it's not always easy to create your own business in this economy, with limited access to capital and stiff competition, but this can be overcome by a person's desire and will to venture forward, and take a chance on improving their financial standing and controlling their own destiny.



Eddie, John and Agnes Charles, Phyllis Porter and Al McCue



Georgina Island Women in Trades



by Becky Big Canoe

Twelve women from Georgina Island First Nation have been taking part in a unique program this winter. They have enjoyed 13 weeks of employment training in aspects of the “green” economy. As part of their employment experience they spent 4 weeks clearing roads for the windmill project that is taking place on Georgina Island.

Pukwis Inc., a company formed after the province awarded Georgina Island a multi-million dollar Feed In Tariff contract, is going to erect 10 wind turbines to generate electricity to feed back into the provincial grid. The move towards a greener economy, in particular the energy generation field, is creating opportunities in non-traditional occupations. The Ontario Native Women’s Association noticed this trend and saw an opportunity to create a program that would encourage women to take up these non-

Georgina Island Women in Trades Training!

traditional jobs and become ready for the workforce of tomorrow.

The women in the program have received training in conventional construction skills such as carpentry, dry-walling, electrical wiring and plumbing. They have also taken field trips to local colleges in order to explore what is available to them in post secondary education. They will tour the Kortright Centre for Conservation which has a diverse display of sustainable buildings as well as examples of many different types of green energy, wastewater and sewage treatment options that are becoming more available. The training is being delivered by Georgina Trades Training Inc. in a unique venture with the Chippewas of Georgina Island. The women in the program express great interest in learning about these things, both for their personal concern about the environment and for their interest in jobs of the future. GTTI Executive Director Bruce Franklin says, “It’s been a great experience working with the ladies of Georgina Island. I’m so impressed with their curiosity and enthusiasm for learning about the emerging green industries.

It’s the first time we’ve done a program of this kind with Georgina Island. I hope the women are getting something valuable from the program and we look forward to further partnerships to promote learning and opportunity for the members of Georgina Island.”

Program participant Lenora Charles says, “This is a great program and I hope the funding continues so our youth get the same opportunity to learn these things in different areas. This gives one a choice to be what and where you want to be in the future..”

Chief Donna Big Canoe adds, “Women in Emerging Trades is a program Council supported to give First Nations women the opportunity to become involved in the various trades to explore as well as gain insight into the emerging green energy economy. We are proud of our First Nation women in the program that have been so dedicated with following through with the tasks that have been required of them. All the women in the program have shown to be responsible in attending everyday and meeting the requirements of the training. We have high hopes that these women will continue on in future initiatives.”

“This program gives one a choice to be what and where you want to be in the future.”

RINK UPDATE

We are excited to announce that the Ontario Trillium Foundation has approved funding for the Buzzy Big Canoe Memorial

Arena. Funds were approved to pave the parking area and the rink interior, and to install player’s benches, penalty boxes and fan stands. Fencing around the chiller unit and the installation of the score board are on the to-do list as well.

Once completed, the arena will be a fully-functioning facility,

able to host Georgina Island events and extracurricular activities for all ages.

Construction activities will be starting soon. Thanks to Trillium Foundation for their generous support..



Island youth enjoying a day at the rink in February 2011.

A Success Story

An Interview with Georgina Island Entrepreneur, Mike Big Canoe

By Rachel Big Canoe



Photo above:
Mike Big Canoe,
Owner and Operator
of Big Canoe Cabins

“Do some
research, this is
very important.
Make some
phone calls. If
you get good
feedback, go for
it!”

Some cus-
tomers
hanging out
with the
locals, shar-
ing fishing
stories.



A frozen lake, a fish cleaning station, comfortable cabins, and some avid anglers is what Mike Big Canoe used to start a successful ice-fishing operation here on Georgina Island.

Mike Big Canoe is an avid outdoorsman and has been fishing the waters of Lake Simcoe his entire life. It seems only natural that he has turned his love of fishing into a thriving business venture. I asked Mike to share his insights for entrepreneurs and talk about the experience of building his own business.

Who inspired you start your own business?

I was influenced by my Dad, growing up and watching him run many successful businesses. He always told me “Plan it out and just do it.” He was an inspiring man.

Tell me how you got your business started.

Before I even built the cabins, I spoke with Bill Linders first. He used to have his own fish hut business. I asked him to share

some of his contacts with me, which he did. He gave me the number for Captain Dan, a Bait & Tackle shop owner from Michigan. I called the number, and Captain Dan brought some his buddies to the island to check out my business. He was impressed with the set-up and he spread the word to his customers. Business has been steady since then. I started with one cabin and a woodstove and a table in the garage. The cabins are booked 90% of the winter. If the ice is there, cabins usually open from New Year’s to the end of March.

Who are your customers?

About 10% are Canadians from Niagara Falls, Oshawa and London. The other 90% are Americans mainly from Michigan, and are the majority of my customers. The Americans that come make fishing a priority. They have their family time, their work time and they make sure there is time for fishing, hunting and trapping. They have a great time in my shop, swapping fishing tips and stories, hanging out with the locals and there is usually someone who starts a fish fry on the weekends. Many of

these clients have become good friends. I will be heading down to Michigan in a few weeks for some turkey hunting and morels.

What is your biggest challenge?

The biggest challenge is the ice conditions. They can change day to day. I meet them at the marina and they come to the island with me. The ice road may change or have a crack in it, and I help them to get across the lake.

What advice would you give a person starting a business?

Do some research, this is very important. Make some phone calls and if you get good feedback on your research, go for it!

What are your next steps?

I’d like to build a big shop with accommodations for overflow. Also, I want to finish off the grounds in the front, do some landscaping and build a few fire pits. This will hopefully increase rental in the summertime.

Thanks to Mike Big Canoe for taking the time to share his entrepreneurial spirit with us!

Weshkiniigidgig—Georgina Island Youth

The Professional and Personal Value of Obtaining a Post Secondary Education

Erica Kelly – Aboriginal Transition Coordinator YRDSB

For a great number of reasons, having a post-secondary education is vital to furthering your career – no matter your field or profession. In today's work economy, your options for career advancement can be limited (or sometimes eliminated) by not having a post-secondary education. Many types of careers actually require post-secondary education as a prerequisite for entry to that particular field. Even in those occupations where post-secondary education is not a mandatory prerequisite, it is certainly viewed in a favorable light by employers.

Possessing a post-secondary education can also benefit a person financially. To date, there are a growing number of jobs for which you will not even be eligible for consideration if you have not earned a post-secondary degree or certification. For many positions, the starting salary differs depending on the level of education that a person has completed. In addition, pay raises and promotions are also tied to completion of post-secondary education programs.

Therefore, while you might be

able to gain entry to a particular occupation without a post-secondary education, you may not move up or increase your salary until you complete additional studies. However, the advantages in having a post-secondary education are not only limited to an increased salary or furthering your career options. Education truly empowers an individual; it strengthens communities and develops a nation. Broadening ones knowledge and skills not only benefits the economy, it fundamentally supports a growing community.

Many of our own Georgina Island high school students are looking seriously at their future goals and taking advantage of the variety of post secondary opportunities and pathways currently available. At present, it is a pleasure to announce that there are five Georgina Island high school students who have been accepted to their college and program of choice.

David Big Canoe - Centennial College: Business Administration

Alyssa Warren - Fleming College: Fish and Wildlife Technician program

Casey Searle - Seneca College: General Arts and Science program

Allison Porte - Georgian College: Leisure and Recreation Services program

Shonalee VanVught - Georgian College: Massage Therapy Certification program

Kelly Warren - Sir Sandford Fleming College: Educational Assistant



In addition to this we have one student – **Rachel Warren** who is pursuing a Specialist High Skills Major in a health and wellness program at Sutton D.H.S. This will go towards advancing her nursing diploma when she applies to college the following year. We would also like to congratulate Rachel for being S.D.H.S' *Student of the Week* in the month of March!

“Education truly empowers an individual; it strengthens communities and develops a nation.”

Nanabush Trails Community Meeting

WHEN: April 21, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Georgina Island Community Centre

WHY: To find out your ideas, thoughts and vision for the Trails!
Everyone Welcome!



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

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

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 children are offered on Mondays after school until 5pm. 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.



**Georgina Island
Economic Development
Department**

Marlene Stiles
Economic Development Officer

Rachel Big Canoe
Economic Development Assistant

Councillor Bill McCue
Economic Development Portfolio Holder

R.R.#2, Box N-13
Sutton West, ON L0E 1R0

Phone: 705-437-1337

Fax: 705-437-4597

Email:

mstiles@georginaisland.com

rbigcanoe@georginaisland.com

wmccue@georginaisland.com

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
Big Canoe General Contracting (289) 231-2310

Farmer's Contracting
(705) 437-3103
(905) 715-8079

Charlie Warren Contracting (905) 868-2844

G.I. Gym Personal Training & Fitness Instructor
(705) 955-4575

Charlotte' Veggies and Homemade Preserves
B&C Island Cottage
(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

Sunset Cottage Rental
(905) 955-5840

