

## GEORGINA ISLANDS' CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAM

With funding from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, the Georgina Island First Nation has partnered with the Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources (OCCIAR) on a three year project to develop a climate change adaptation plan for our community. Combining aspects of Traditional Ecological and Community Knowledge, and a vulnerability /risk assessment approach, this project will help the Georgina Island First Nation deal with the current and future impacts of climate change in our community.



Island Sandy Beach

## CHIPPEWAS OF GEORGINA ISLAND FIRST NATION CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAM

Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation  
R.R. #2 P.O. Box N-13 Sutton West,  
Ontario L0E 1R0

For more information, please contact:

Rebecca Trumble,  
Community Climate Change Adaptation Liaison  
Phone: 705-437-1337 ext. 2242  
Fax: 705-437-4597  
E-mail: rebecca.trumble@georginaisland.com

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## CHIPPEWAS OF GEORGINA ISLAND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAM



*Scientists have been warning about global warming for decades. It's too late to stop it now, but we can lessen its severity and impacts.*

*David Suzuki*

*This three year project will culminate with the development of adaptation recommendations and plans to address the impact of current and future climate change for Georgina Island and its members.*



<http://georginaisland.com/>

# Climate Change Adaptation Planning Within The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Reserve

## YEAR ONE:

### Project Initiation and Engagement

Community engagement has been an integral part of the project to date. In Year One the Community Adaptation Liaison (CAL) helped build a foundation for the Climate Change Adaptation Project in the community by developing relationships with community members and elders. The CAL actively engaged community members to take interest in the project and share Traditional Knowledge.

### Workshops and Advisory Committee

Community Workshops were held to inform the community of the project, and explain the intentions and process to collect Traditional



Storm Approaching Georgina Island

Ecological Knowledge pertaining to climate change and impacts. In addition, a Community Advisory Committee was formed.

### Traditional Ecological Survey (TEK) Gathering

A survey was developed, and administered to community members by the CAL. The results were used to inform the community of climate risks.

### Vulnerability/Risk Assessment and Adaptation Planning Framework

The project team developed a climate change vulnerability assessment/ adaptation planning framework and workbook that utilized both western science and results of TEK Knowledge Survey to inform climate risks.



Ice Damage

## YEAR TWO:

### Vulnerability, Risk, and Adaptive Capacity Assessment

Drawing on results of TEK Survey a visual image of impacts of climate change was developed for the community. In the form of Impact Trees. Risk Assessments were then conducted to prioritize impacts on the community. Building knowledge on existing vulnerabilities and risk to a changing climate was valuable to see how the community faced challenges of current climate, and what was done in the past to cope.

### Regional Climate Data for Lake Simcoe Watershed

Historical temperature and precipitation data for Shanty Bay was collected, treated and plotted to determine trends. Climate projections were also used to help understand how the climate may change in the future.

## YEAR THREE:

### Develop a series of adaptation recommendations to respond to risks associated with current and future climate change risks

Year Three will include the development of adaptation strategies and adaptation plan to address the risks associated with climate change on the Island. Adaptation recommendations may be developed for a variety of areas such as policy adjustments and development, adaptive natural resource management, monitoring, outreach, communication, economic development, infrastructure renewal/upgrades and emergency preparedness, etc. An implementation plan will also be put in place to assist in adaptation.

The Georgina Island First Nation will share the results of this project in hopes that it will serve as a model for other First Nation Communities.

Georgina island will be involved in the development of a subwatershed plan for the island that is being conducted by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. The outcomes of this project will be incorporated into a subwatershed plan for an island community which will be unique.