

**Commission for Environmental Cooperation of  
North America  
24<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the CEC Council  
And  
Sessions of the Joint Public Advisory Committee**

**Increasing Resilience Through Cooperation: Replicating  
Innovative Local Solutions to Environmental Security  
Challenges  
June 27<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Kerry-Ann Charles  
Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation**



# The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation At A Glimpse

- Located in Lake Simcoe approximately 100 km north of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) in Ontario Canada.
- Consisting of 3 separate Islands, Georgina, Snake and Fox with 2 mainland access points..
- Georgina is the largest of the Islands and is where approximately 200 of the 900+ members reside with a land mass of approximately 1,416 ha with 1206 ha being complex diverse wetlands that could be considered PSW status.
- Infrastructure consists of an Administration building, Health Centre, Police Station, Fire Hall, Landfill site, Sewage lagoon, Water Treatment Facility, Community Centre, Church, Trails System, an Outdoor Rink, Childcare facility for infants and toddlers and a two-classroom school that accommodates the children of the First Nation until Grade 5.
- There are a few Member operated businesses on the First Nation which include but are not limited to Bed and Breakfasts, Cabin and Cottage Rentals, Restaurants and a Campground.
- The forest on Georgina Island is one of the largest remaining in the GTA, covering 70% of the island. It includes 39 species of mixed wood, hardwood and conifer supporting over 400 species of flora and fauna, including several locally, regionally and provincially rare species, and approximately 180 species of birds. Rabbits, beaver, racoon, grouse, wood frogs, salamanders, foxes, wolf, wild turkey and deer are just some of the wildlife that make their home in the forest and in wetlands of Georgina Island.
- The second largest Island is Snake covering an area of approximately 135ha and Fox Island is the smallest at 20ha both also having a large untouched forest that support a number of flora and fauna. Neither Island have year round member residents or major Infrastructure.

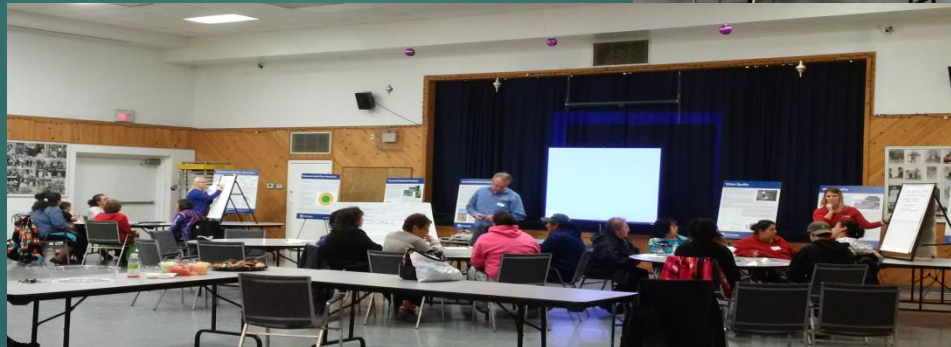




# SUB WATERSHED PLAN



- Vegetation
- Breeding Birds
- Species at Risk
- Shoreline
- Wetland Assessment
- Climate Change
- Cultural Component
- Community Engagement
- Incorporation of TEK
- Benthic Invertebrate and Aquatic Species
- Education and Outreach



# INVASIVES SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- Identification
- Removals
- Pilot Sites
- Education and Outreach
- Band Staff
- Summer Students
- Summer Camp Kids





# ASH TREE MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT

- Thorough inventory of all three islands
- Risk identification in public and residential areas
- Over 170 trees selected for treatment
- Removal of hazard trees
- Trees selected for seed collection
- Management plan being developed
- TEK collected
- Nursery with Waabgon Gamig
- Capacity building within First Nation
- Outreach and education





## NOTICE



OCTOBER 2012

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT DUE TO THE EMERALD ASH BOER BEING IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE GEORGINA AREA **ABSOLUTELY NO FIREWOOD IS TO BE TRANSPORTED TO THE FIRST NATION AT THIS TIME UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**

ALL CREW MEMBERS OF THE AAZHAWE HAVE AUTHORITY TO INSPECT ALL VEHICLES AND REFUSE TRANSPORTATION.

IF YOU SEE THIS BEETLE PLEASE CONTACT THE FIRST NATION ADMINISTRATION OFFICE AT  
(705) 437-1337

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.GEORGINASHORES.COM](http://WWW.GEORGINASHORES.COM) AND CLICK ON THE ENVIRONMENT LINK.





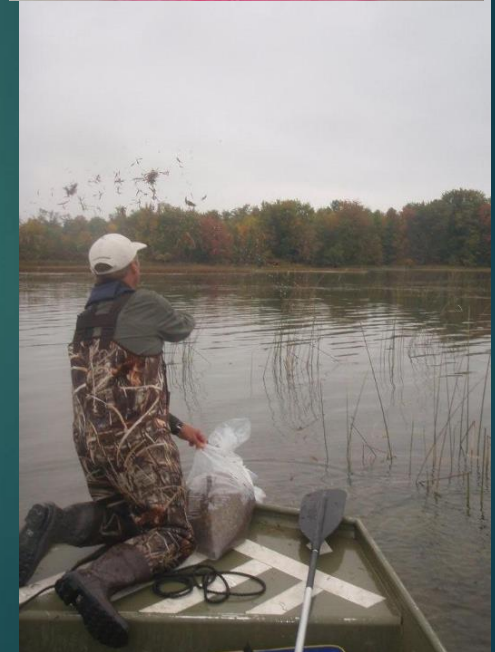






# WILD RICE RESTORATION

- Re-introduction program started in 2012
- Use of TEK
- Important to biodiversity of lakes and rivers
- Provides food and shelter for a variety of waterfowl
- Provides cover and structure for various fish species
- Water quality benefits
- Buffer for shoreline erosion
- Algal blooms can be reduced by stabilizing water quality





# FISH HATCHERY AND AQUATIC PLANT PROJECT

- Implemented in 2013
- LS Plan and Act
- Trout an Indicator fish for water quality
- TEK
- Partnerships
- Relationship building
- Creating Stewards

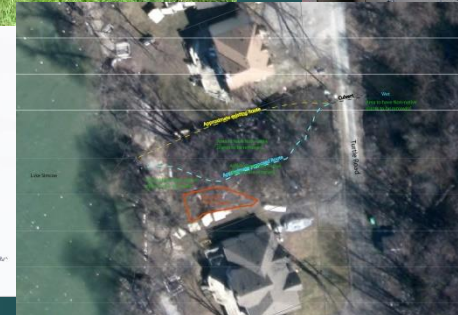
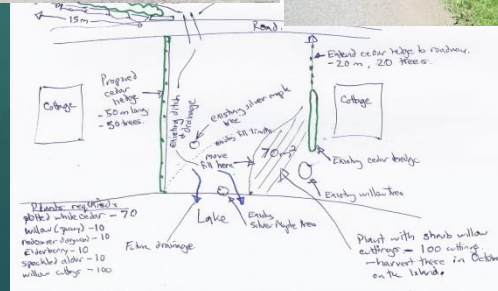
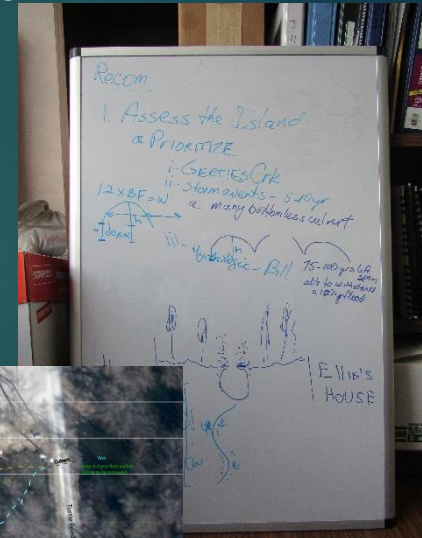




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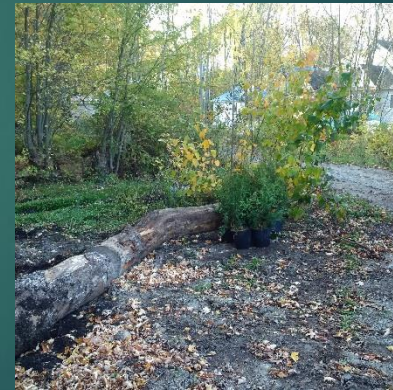
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- An aerial photograph showing a residential development on the shore of a lake. Several houses are visible, including a large white house with a dark roof and a smaller white house with a gabled roof. The houses are surrounded by a dense forest of bare trees, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The lake's surface reflects the surrounding landscape.

## Community involvement Cultural Component





# GERTIES BEFORE AND AFTER

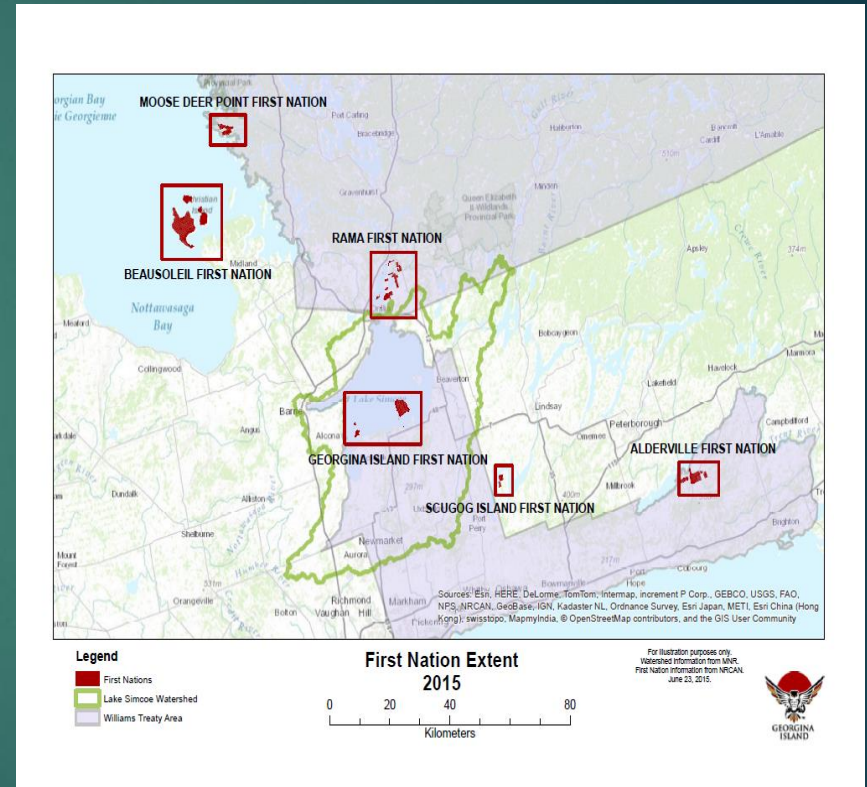
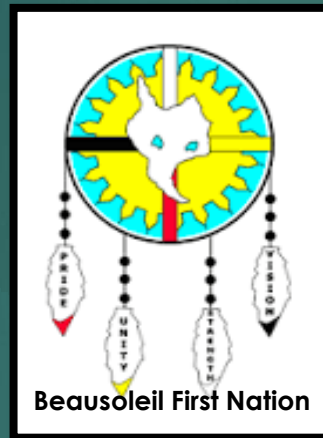




# WORKING TOGETHER AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE

10

## Participating Communities



## Williams Treaty Territory



# OUR PARTNERS

OCCAR

Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts  
and Adaptation Resources



GEORGIAN  
YOUR COLLEGE · YOUR FUTURE

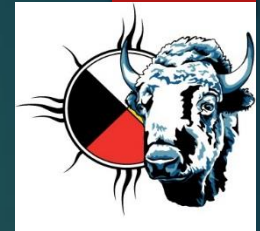


# TAKE HOME

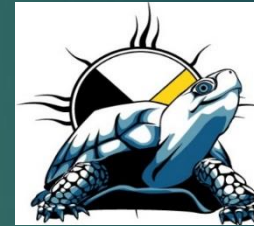
- IMPORTANCE OF TEK
- VALIDATING WESTERN SCIENCE WITH TEK
- CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH THE LAND
- CONNECTING COMMUNITIES WITH COMMUNITIES
- COMMUNITY DRIVEN (BOTTOM UP NOT TOP DOWN)
- BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
- CREATING STEWARDS THROUGH CURRICULUM
- TEACHING KIDS BY DOING
- CREATING CHAMPIONS
- UNDERSTANDING THAT EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED
- IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION
- MANY LITTLE THINGS CAN TURN INTO BIG THINGS



Love.



Respect



Truth



Courage



Wisdom



Honesty



Humility





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