

# Aamoo-ziiisbaakwad

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# Why are we here today?



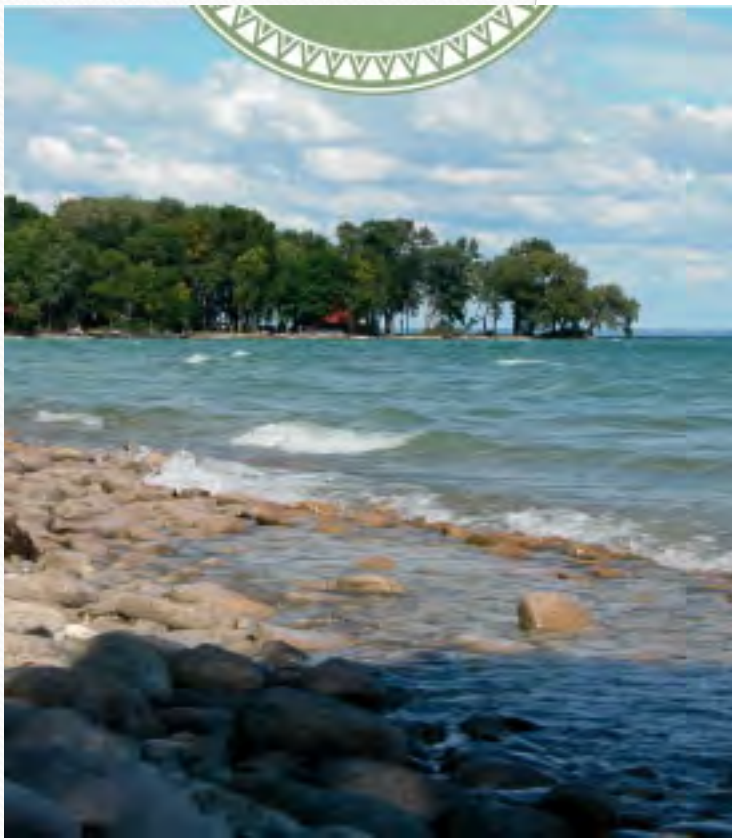
- Before the sun sets over a irreparably damaged environment, we all need to step up and take the future into our individual hands...
- This means taking action on ensuring that critical elements are preserved, like bees, who pollinate and ensure that plants, animals, vegetation, and us, survive.
- The apiary we have established is an exercise in hope, and a commitment to our collective future.



# Georgina Island...



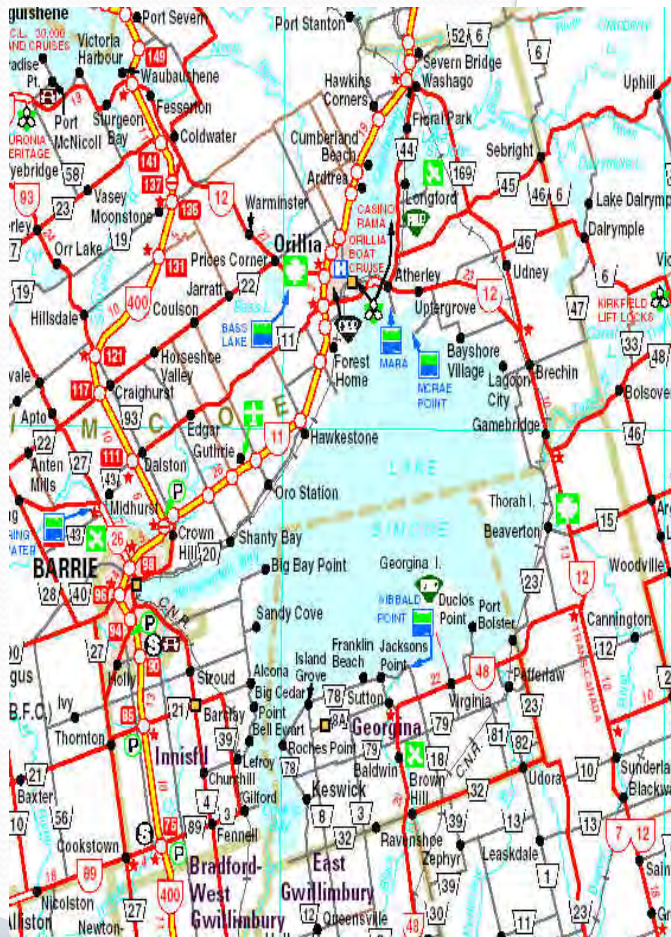
# The Shores...



- We have a pretty healthy ecosystem in GI that supports a wetland, 3 hard maple sugar bushes, 39 species of hardwood, conifer and mixed wood, 400 species of wildflowers (flora), deer, coyote, raccoons, frogs, insects, and aquatic fowl, and 143 species of birds.
- However, like here in NW Ontario, the human element is overrunning the island ecosystem.



# Surrounding Forces...



- We are surrounded by approximately 350,000 people living around the lake and in the watershed.
- The Island population has approximately 220 year-round First Nation members.
- We have an additional 2000 visitors throughout the summer months, and more in the winter ice-fishing season.
- We will also be challenged here in the north as development ramps up – how can we be ready?



# The Hives...



- These are some of the bee hives that we have on the Island, we have had to bring in new bees since we have also had very harsh winters.
- We have been in operation on the Island for 7 years.
- The bees produce a little over 400 pounds of organic honey.
- Our honey is sold at the St. Lawrence Market in Toronto.

# More Hives...



- The colour of the hives is unique and done by a friend of the bees.
- The reason they are painted is for beauty, which we feel is important in and of itself, and to make a statement about this being a Native land based organic and economic initiative.



# The Food Sources...



- Bees need a variety of foods, and do not do well on monocrops, any more than you would only eating bananas; variety and accessibility count. We do not feed our bees sugar, like commercial ops do because this weakens the bees, we allow them to keep their own honey to feed the hive, no antibiotics or sprays are used either.



# Food as Medicine - Elders



Flowers are mostly wild and close to the hives...





# More Food Sources...



Look who's coming to dinner...





# Love the water too...



- The environment needs to be kept very healthy to ensure that the entire ecosystem is strong and well maintained.
- We need to protect the wildlife, and the plants and flowers.
- We also need to protect our water.
- We live on a small Island; and we all live on Turtle Island, we ask that everyone assist in the preservation of our very precious resources for the sake of humanity and for a healthy future.

# Christian Island

First Nation communities everywhere are developing strategies to ensure food security, safe food acquisition, how to grow food locally and preservation – all of these actions are associated to the protection, preservation and health our water – Christian Island has been working hard on the health of Georgian Bay – through prayer...





# Involve your children

- Kids get very excited about being involved, they are our future – they are asking questions, and they can lead the way – let's give them the tools to do so!



# We are all in this together!



- Remember, even the smallest things in life are important, your vision, your awareness, your love, and your support will keep everything around us healthy and contributing to our food safety and security.
- Miigwetch!!!!