

Aamjiwnaang Community Traditional Land Use Study

*How it helped Aamjiwnaang address concerns related to
industrial development*



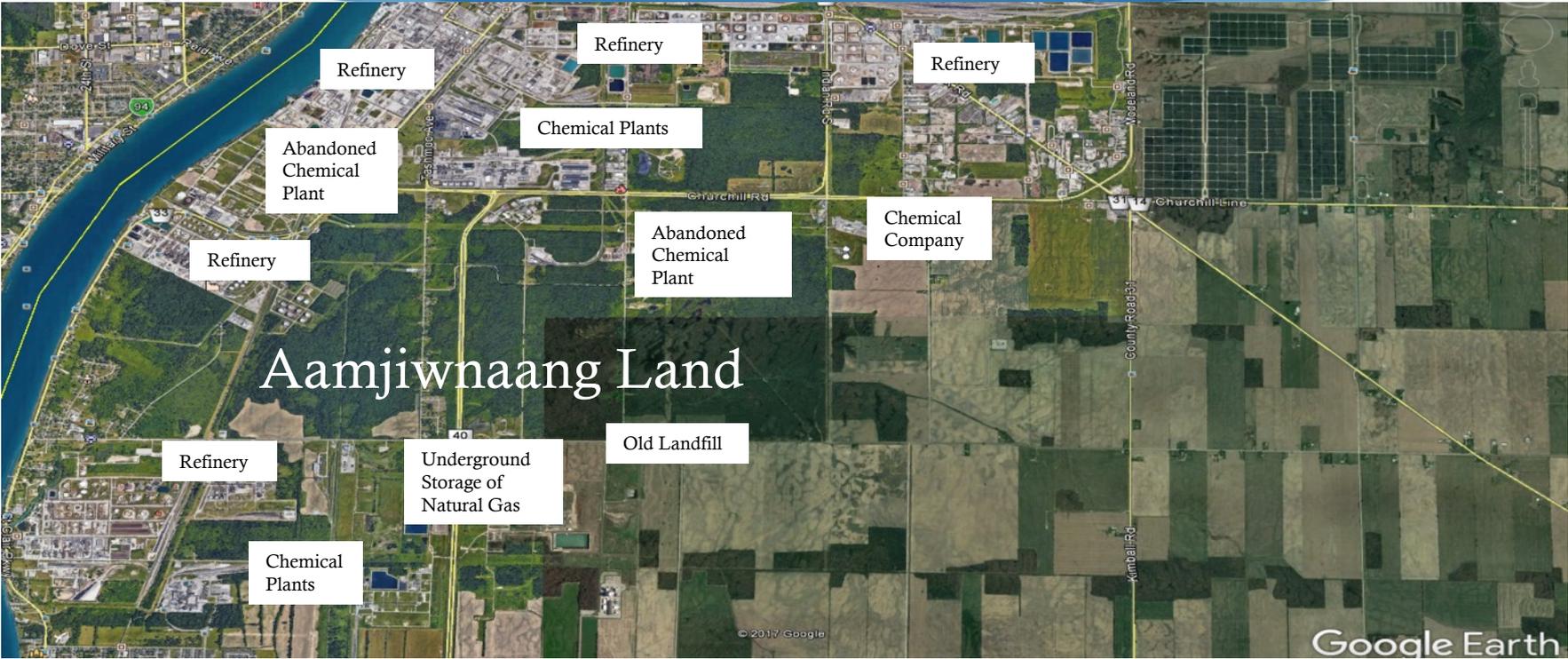


1. Who are the Aamjiwnaang
2. Community Concerns
3. Preliminary Traditional Land Use Study
4. Youth Programming

Sarnia – Ontario's Blue Coast



Location of Aamjiwnaang First Nation



Refinery

Hazardous waste Landfill

Cumulative Environmental Impacts

- ◆ Community concerns are related to pipeline ruptures, air releases of toxic chemicals and spills of hazardous materials in the St. Clair River
- ◆ These types of environmental incidents have directly impacted our community.
- ◆ Shell and Imperial Air Release - Charges laid and Fines
- ◆ Styrolutions product to St. Clair river as a result of shipping

Imperial Oil Flare

Wednesday October 29, 2014



Community Perceptions

- ◆ **Distrust** – fears that all spills are not being reported
- ◆ **Cumulative effects** – more analysis to inform policy and to be included as part of the modelling requirements for industry.
- ◆ Perhaps industry sets up in Ontario because the standards are lower
- ◆ After a while people don't say anything because there is no validation
- ◆ Science as a tool to confuse the people
- ◆ There needs to be more transparency with the community – warnings to the community of releases to air and the river.

Recent Impacts

- ◆ Imperial Oil – pipeline rupture, Anomaly - 1954 – 1,200 litres crude oil Indian Road, rock
- ◆ Sun Canadian – pipeline rupture, Anomaly – 1953 – 36,000 litres low sulphur diesel, corrosion
- ◆ Union Gas – NEB new line installed under St. Clair River due to lease from Nova ended
- ◆ Suncor – Benzene Remediation due to pure product leak from benzene line in 2006 still under going remediation, 90,000 m3 of impacted soil and groundwater
- ◆ Enbridge – pipeline replacement due to dent identified as a result of regulatory audit from spill in Marshall Michigan, NEB filing for Line 9 reversal
- ◆ Nova – NEB filing for pipeline along south border of Reserve to transport natural gas to their facility from Marcella's shale to support their new expansion plans
- ◆ DOW – remediation of soil on TCE, pipeline leak

NEB Applications

- ◆ Union Gas and Nova granted approvals by NEB without hearing
- ◆ Enbridge was required to have a hearing and granted an approval after the NEB hearing
- ◆ The National Energy Board approved Enbridge's Line 9 Reversal application on July 27, 2012.
- ◆ Aamjiwnaang's involvement in the process was as an Intervenor in the hearing and provided oral submissions to the NEB Hearing Board.

NEB Decision

- ◆ The board's decision indicated that in their view Aamjiwnaang First Nation did not provide specific information respecting traditional activities that it practices in the project area (AFN territory).
- ◆ It also states AFN only made broad assertions about potential impacts of the project and that we did not identify ways in which any potential effects of the project on our interests could be avoided or mitigated
- ◆ The NEB, approved the project and determined that, **“any potential Project impacts on the rights and interests of Aboriginal groups are likely to be minimal and will be appropriately mitigated**

***** Decision incorrectly focuses on the significance of impacts rather than the potential for the Project to cause them**

Why do a Traditional Land Use Study

- ◆ As Anishinabe peoples, we are subject to Anishinabe law and have a duty under our law to be stewards of our land.
- ◆ Our people have a long relationship with our land, including the harvesting of resources, which remains important to our people.
- ◆ Fishing, hunting and the gathering of medicines is of special importance to our people, both historically and today.
- ◆ Canadian Courts have recognized and affirmed the protection of existing Aboriginal and treaty rights (which are constitutionally protected).
- ◆ Our traditional territory is also important to us for its ceremonial and sacred sites. It is also one of our most important laws that the places where our ancestors are buried should not be disturbed.

Traditional Land Use

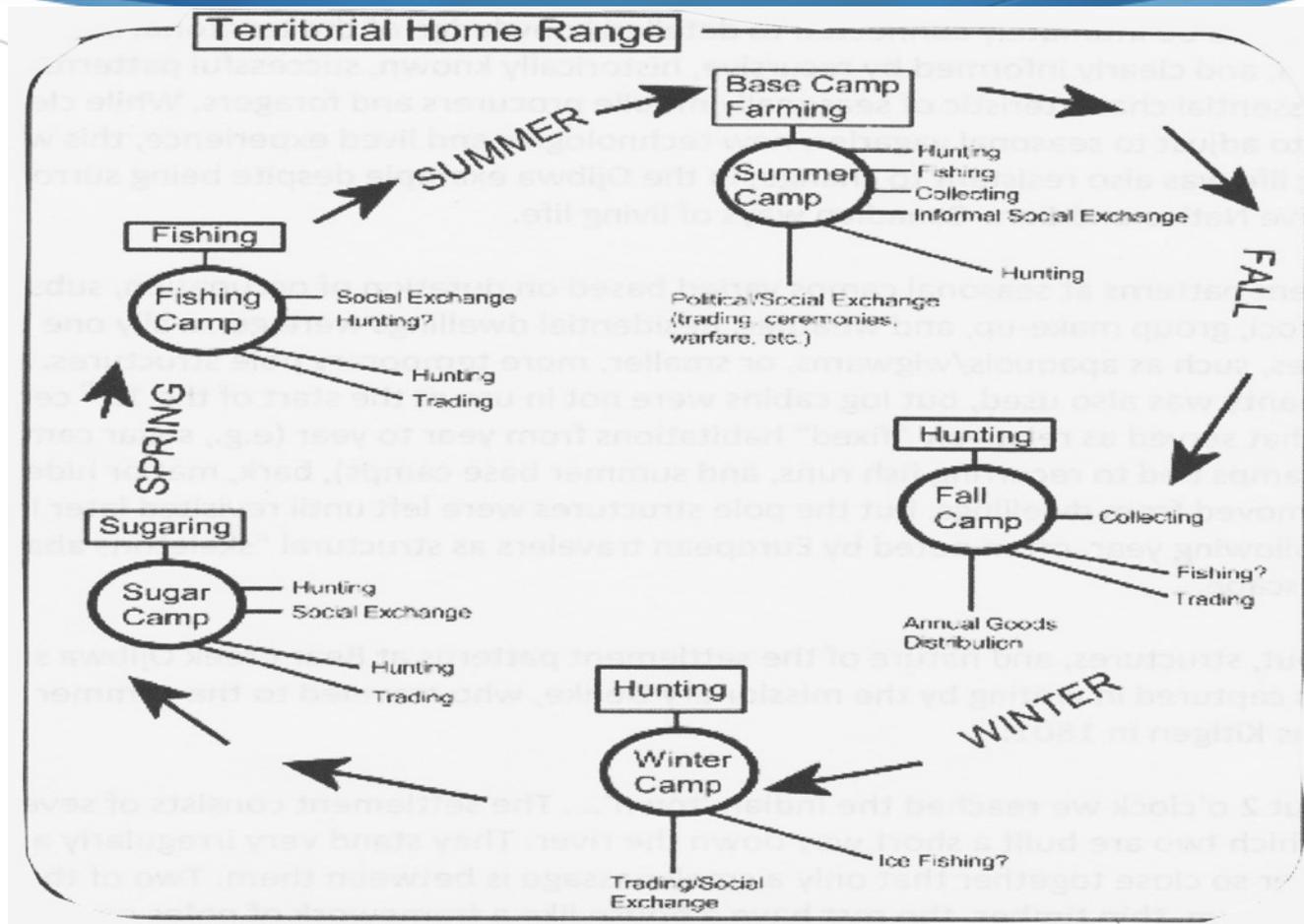
- ◆ Environment Committee recommended a Traditional Land Use Study be undertaken to address the perception that AFN does not practice traditional activities in its territory.
- ◆ Upon review of NEB's decision and comments about our traditional practices Chief and Council agreed with the recommendation and felt it would be beneficial to AFN in future negotiations with government and industry proponents to have a traditional land use study completed.

Traditional Land Use Study

Aamjiwnaang Intervenes In the NEB Process

- ◆ Preliminary research and elder interviews indicate that AFN's ancestors used, occupied, and controlled lands extending from the St. Clair River eastward between Lake Huron and Lake Erie.
- ◆ AFN's ancestors used lands and resources in a cycle typical of hunter-gatherer societies sometimes referred to as "annual rounds".
- ◆ They used the rivers and the lakes for fishing, and low-lying lands and wetlands for trapping muskrats and other furbearing animals.
- ◆ They gathered various berries and medicines and nuts and used trees for wood and bark. They also hunted deer over a relatively large area extending well up the peninsula of southwestern Ontario.
- ◆ AFN author and historian David Plain (2009) describes how the same lands were used by AFN after the War of 1812.

Dr. Ferris diagram (May 20, 2009) of seasonal rounds



Traditional Land Use Study

Aamjiwnaang conducted a preliminary traditional land use study that documents and describes traditional practices carried out by current Aamjiwnaang First Nation (“AFN”) in proximity of the Line 9 right-of-way, specifically.

The study was limited in scope and extent.

Only the amount of background research necessary to achieve a historical context was carried out and no in-depth historical, archeological, anthropological and/or ethnographic research was performed.

A smaller number of land and resource users were interviewed during the study than would typically be interviewed in a full traditional land use study.



Traditional Land Use Study



Fourteen (14) Elders and other AFN land and resource users were interviewed over the course of four days in July 2013. The data from these interviews were collected on video and audio tapes

The locations of land and resource use identified by the interviewees were overlaid on a map of the area

We asked questions about traditional life such as fishing, medicinal plants, family values, habitats and species, important areas, previous land uses, stories.

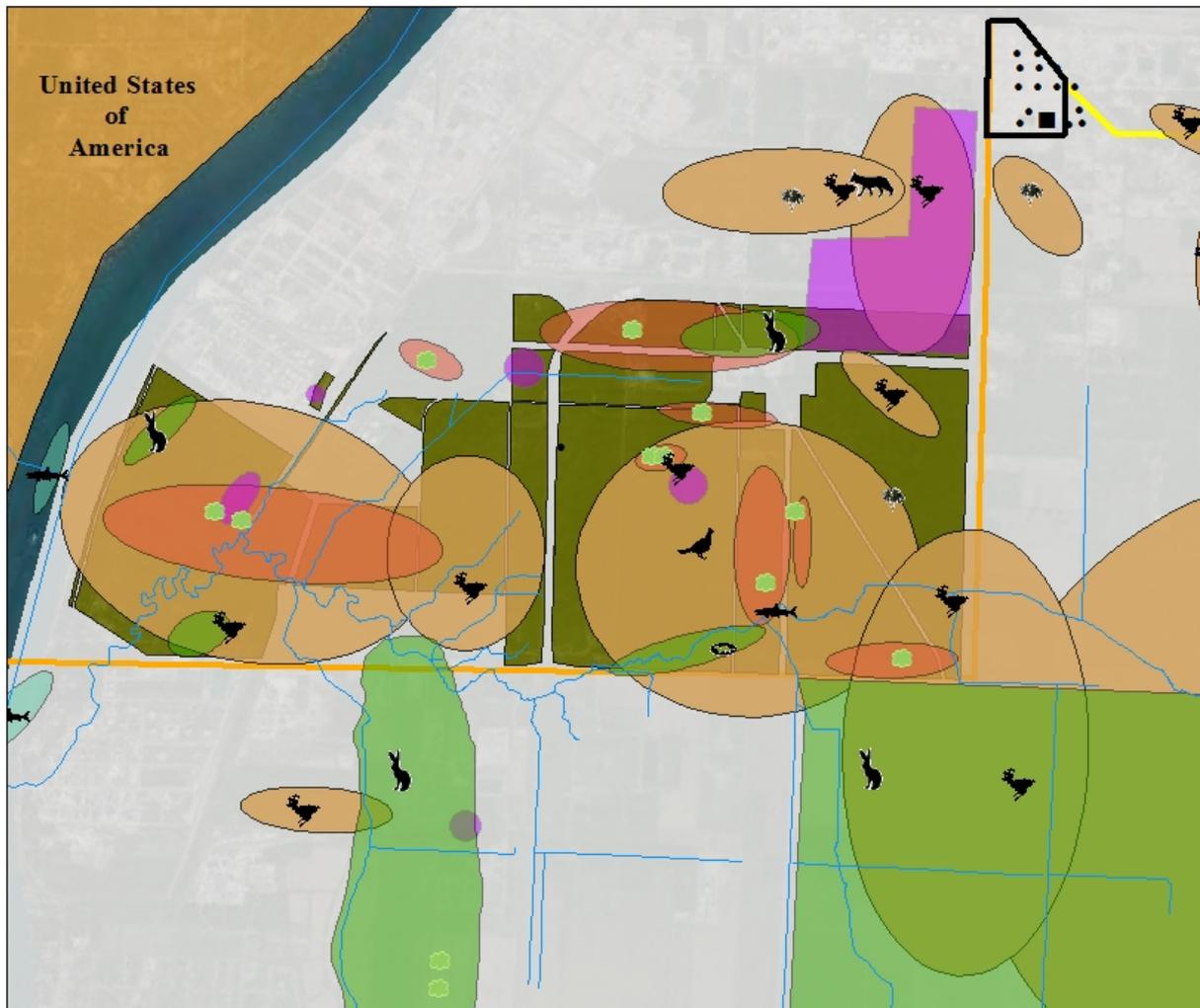
Aamjiwnaang First Nation



Data: GeoBase 2013,
USGS



NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Projection: Transverse Mercator



Aamjiwnaang First Nation Traditional Land Use Study

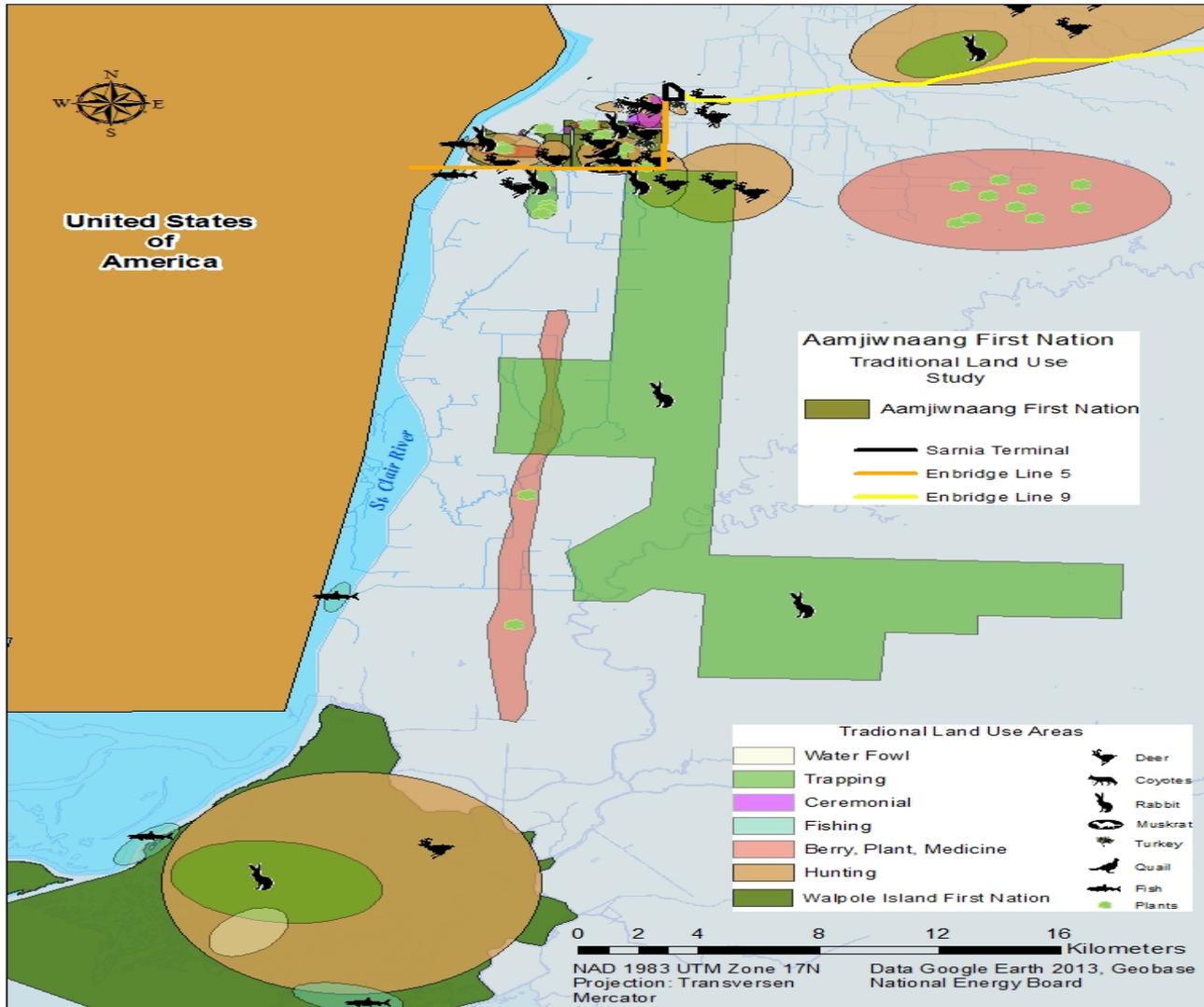
- Aamjiwnaang First Nation
- Samia Terminal
- Enbridge Line 5
- Enbridge Line 9
- Plants
- Muskrat
- Fish
- Coyotes
- Deer
- Quail
- Rabbit
- Turkey
- Water Fowl
- Trapping
- Ceremonial
- Fishing
- Berry, Plant, Medicine
- Hunting

Data: Google Earth 2013, Geobase,
National Energy Board

NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Projection: Transversen Mercator



0 0.45 0.9 1.8 2.7 3.6
Kilometers



Findings of TLU

- ◆ The data gathered and presented indisputably establishes AFN members continue to teach and carry out an annual round of seasonal land and resource use similar in kind to the annual round followed by their ancestors.
- ◆ A number of interviewees identified specific sites and hunting grounds within AFN's traditional territory where they continue to harvest a variety of species of fish, birds, and mammals and gather medicine, maple sap, and other flora, including at sites that are directly adjacent to the Line 9 right-of-way. In addition to providing sustenance, these practices and the land and water bodies they are carried out on have deep spiritual significance to the interviewees.

Findings Continued

- ◆ AFN members made significant use of lands and resources in their traditional territory, including in close proximity to where Line 9 leaves the Sarnia Terminal and heads eastward.
- ◆ In particular, AFN members hunt, trap, and harvest plants over relatively large areas east of the Sarnia Terminal on both sides of the Line 9 right-of-way. Important and intensive land and resource use is also occurring on AFN's reserve. The locations of current land and resource use, and the users themselves, have been clearly impacted by large-scale industrial development that encircles all four corners of AFN's reserve.

Findings Implications

- ◆ The environmental effects of spills, leaks, and discharges of contaminants been well documented. Given the findings set out in this Study, it is Aamjiwnaang's opinion that a release of crude oil from Line 9 in this area would directly impact the lands and waters historically used by AFN and would, therefore, carry with it a serious risk of severely impairing the current exercise of rights and traditional practices associated with those lands and waters.
- ◆ AFN's membership is severely impacted by on-going industrial and refining operations located around the perimeter of our First Nation. These sites continue to affect our quality of life and health. It is the communities opinion that further development of additional pipelines and facilities will contribute to the already significant negative cumulative effect on our reserve and traditional lands and waters, and will further impair our ability to carry out traditional practices.

Traditional Land Use Study continues

- ◆ We are presently conducting a full land use study.
- ◆ We have been partnering with Enbridge, Shared Value solutions and the Toronto Zoo for cultural mapping
- ◆ Aamjiwnaang is developing the methodology, interview guide, and protocol for the study.
- ◆ Gathering and archival information, historical mapping and land use occupancy

April 2018 to be Completed

- ◆ We have trained community researchers and completed the interviews
- ◆ Presently coding the interview transcripts, processing the GIS data and report writing
- ◆ Next is the presentation of the completed project to the community and approval for sharing by Chief and Council on a online platform

Antler River Guardians From The 4 Directions

Thames River Clearwater Revival First Nation's Youth Stewardship Project



Antler River - Deshkaan Ziibi

- ◆ The Thames River Watershed is the second longest in southwestern Ontario and connects to Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie
- ◆ Designated as a Canadian Heritage River in 2000
- ◆ 11,000 years of continuous occupancy by Canada's First Nations people
- ◆ Antler River gets its name due to the different branches meeting at a forks in London, ON representing the image of antlers, the North Thames near Mitchell, the middle Thames near Hickson, and the South Thames near Tavistock

About Us

- ◆ The Antler River Guardians From The 4 Directions (ARGFT4D)
- ◆ Walpole Island First Nation (Bkejwanong Territory), Chippewa of the Thames First Nation, Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Caldwell First Nation
- ◆ Thames River Clear Water Revival Steering Committee, Tides Canada, MOECC, MNRF, UTRCA, LTRCA





Ska Nah Doht Longwoods Conservation Area





Medicinal Plants

- ◆ We learned about traditional medicinal uses for many different plants
- ◆ Collected our own plants to make a medicinal salve
- ◆ Used plantain, colts foot, mullen, wild bergemont, jewel weed, dandelion flower, yarrow, clover
- ◆ Ron Sands from Bkejwanong territory was our teacher
- ◆ Taught us many valuable do's and don'ts when picking traditional medicine
- ◆ Our mshkiki salve comes in very handy on our canoe and camping trips



Information gathering from the Canoe



We will be paddling down the Thames River, to document and map in GPS points of soil erosion, At risk and invasive plant and animal species and water quality.

Delaware Fishing Access

-Left Delaware

- ① - First Stop → N 42° 53' 979"
W 81° 25' 165"
 - ↳ saw Bald Eagle
 - ↳ took group photos w/ Theo's phone
 - six photos of banks of the river
 - photos of hogweed, deer tracks & encountered some stinging nettle
 - ↳ 11 photos in total w/ Carly's camera
 - ↳ 3 more photos of mussel hunting & id

②





Drumming at Chippewa of the Thames First Nation

Drummers from local First Nations, and from as far as Saskatchewan, passing on their knowledge of singing and drumming to our youth.

Joined by Chief Leslie White-Eye and council member George Henry



Wetland Restoration



Wetland Restoration

- ◆ The Antler River group worked with Tides Canada Foundation - Dragonfly Strategic Grant making Fund to construct three wetland restoration projects.
- ◆ Tides Canada's mission is to support healthy environments and resilient communities. They are dedicated to advancing solutions oriented work by building strong collaborations and networks, and strive to ensure that regional lessons inform national challenges.
- ◆ We feel this project met these goals by allowing us to work with Enbridge, Lower Thames River Conservation Authority and local land owners to add biodiversity to the wetlands being created.
- ◆ By being involved in wetland restoration we helped with regional lessons informing National challenges like Nutrient loading to the great lakes and habitat restoration for improved Source Water Protection.











Wetland Restoration

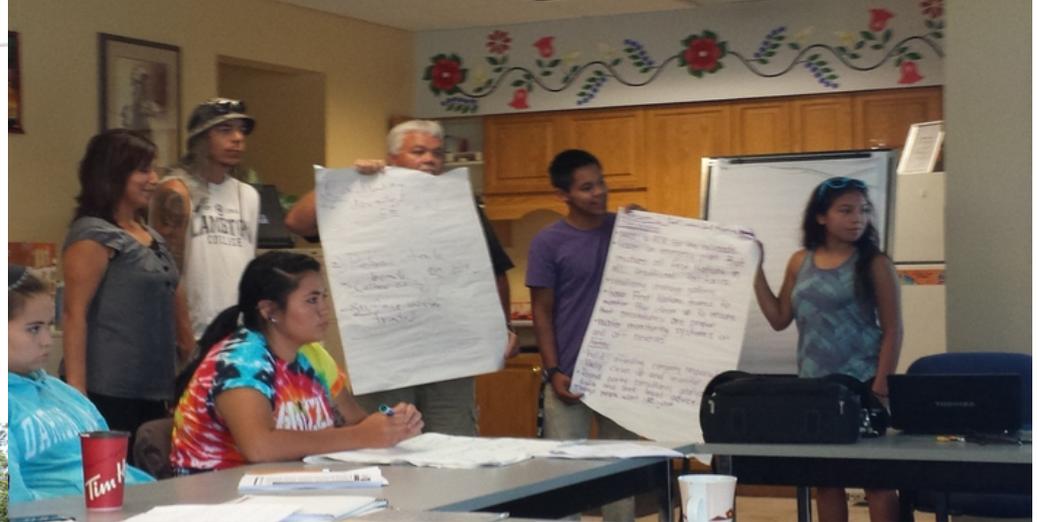
- ◆ We provided the sweat equity by digging and adding plants at the wetland restoration areas. Wetlands are essential areas and they help address some of the nutrient issues being experienced in the Thames River as a result of farm run off and non point sources.
- ◆ Nutrient loading into the St. Clair River from the Thames River on the Canadian side is one of the main contributors to the Lake Erie Basin algal bloom problems.
- ◆ The other main contributor to Nutrients is the Maumee River on the American side.
- ◆ New targets are being set by the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and Environment Canada.
- ◆ These Targets are On our future agenda, we also have wetland restoration work, treaty canoe, bird and butterfly banding, and work with Turtle Island Conservation from Toronto Zoo planned.





Wetland Restoration





Birch Bark canoe Building



Turtle Island Zoo Species at Risk



Water Ceremony and Teachings



Treaty Canoe

- ◆ We spent a day at Walpole Island with the other rangers learning about treaties.
- ◆ We made a treaty canoe and paddled it on the snye river





Chii- Miigwetch From ARGFT4D



Check out our Facebook Page,
Twitter and Instagram #ARGFT4D



Any Questions ?

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