

Traditional Knowledge Values Mapping Update

By: Sasha Michano

Hello Everyone! It has been a busy beginning of the year. I have attended the Prospectors and Developers Association Conference (PDAC), as I learned a lot from attending the forums with other communities on how they collected their Traditional Knowledge (TK) data and how I have a lot more to learn and look forward too. We have completed an elders session, as well as a visit to the historical society. The session turned out to be a good, we have tons of old pictures and documents. If you would like to come check them out you can at my office. Also if you would like to bring your old pictures and stories we can set a interview time up. You can contact me by phone 807 876 1660 or by email sasha.michano@ginoogamingfn.ca



Ginoogaming First Nation Mineral Development Newsletter

Spring Edition

Issue Date: April 15th, 2019

Ginoogaming Resource Development Team

Our Mineral Development Team is composed of various community members working on a variety of projects, including mining, forestry, environmental monitoring, land claims, traditional knowledge data collection, community engagement and communications, all of which have different workplans with many different deliverables and project outcomes.

In This Issue....

- Community Communication Liaison Officer Update (Mineral Exploration and Mining)
- Environmental Monitoring Update
- Traditional Knowledge Data Collection
- Greenstone Gold Mines Hardrock Project – Environmental Assessment
- Nuclear Waste Management
- Community Based Land Use Planning Initiative – NEW PROJECT!

Nuclear Waste Management

Boozhoo Everyone Marianne here!

I just like to say it is great being back in the office. As much as I loved being a new mother again, Iverson is happy to let me get back to work. So with that being said, my new position is with Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), they're a company that takes care of Canada's used nuclear fuel.

"In fact Canada has been generating electricity from nuclear power for more than half a century. Used nuclear fuel is a byproduct of this process."



NEW PROJECT!

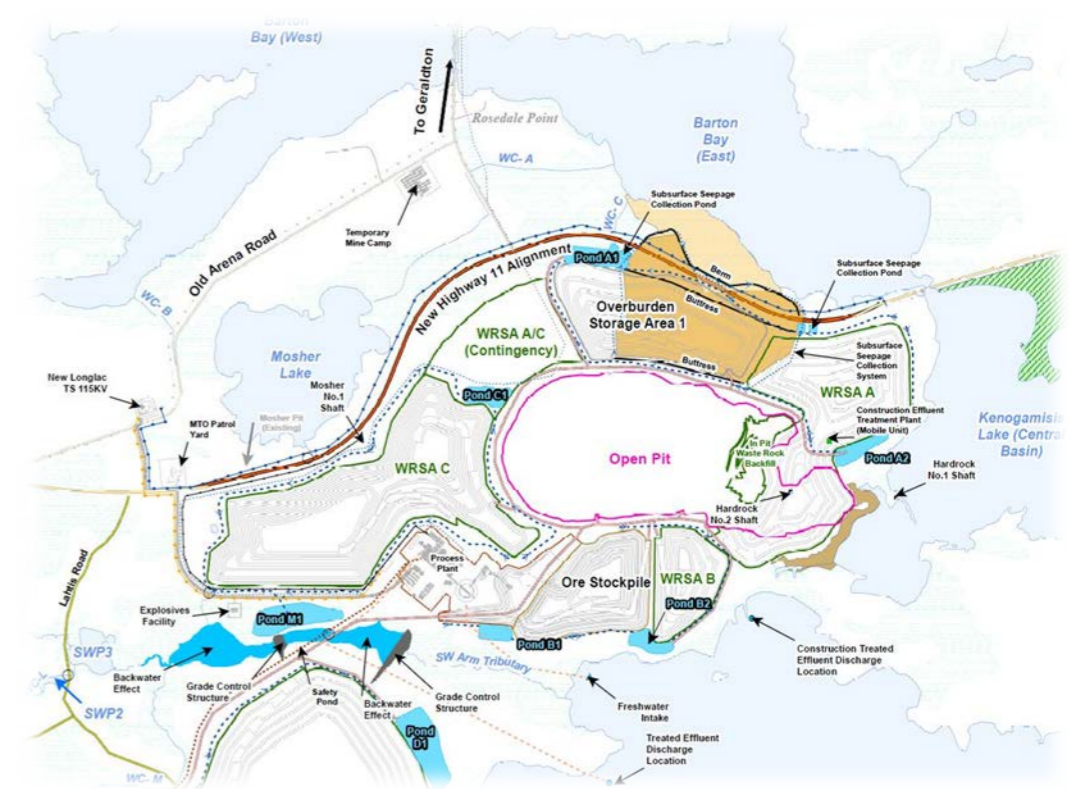
Community Based Land Use Planning

We are please to announce that we have received funding to begin work on a community based land use plan that will help in affirming the importance of ongoing traditional use of our land and water and help with efficiency of managing our land base ultimately protecting the well-being of future generations.

Stay tuned for more information!

Greenstone Gold Mines – Environmental Assessment (EA) Update

Greenstone Gold Mines (GGM) has completed their Environmental Assessment (EA) and has received approval from both the federal (December 13, 2018) and provincial (March 26, 2019) governments. This milestone in the project allows GGM to apply for many of the permits required for both the construction and operational phases of the project. The GGM team will be advancing workplans which include: detailed engineering, additional drilling to plan for areas to be targeted in the first few years of mining operations and updating many of the plans associated with the project (reserves, economics etc.). GGM continues to work with Ginoogaming through our long-term relationship agreement negotiations with more information to come on this in the near future.



For more information on the Hardrock Project – www.greenstonegoldmines.com

Have Questions? Give us a call at the Band Office (807) 876-2242 or at the Resource Centre (807) 876-1660

Meegwetch!

Community Communication Liaison Officer Update

Boozhoo/ Hello Ginoogaming First Nation Band Members!

My name is Peter Rasevych, and I am the Community Communication Liaison Officer (CCLO) here at Ginoogaming First Nation. As some of you are aware, the CCLO works for the First Nation community as a liaison to coordinate communications and information sharing on behalf of the community with leadership, mining industry proponents, and both the Ontario (provincial) and federal governments. As CCLO, part of my job is to ensure that mineral and resource development related issues are communicated to the community, to the GFN Chief and Council, and to GFN technical staff. One way of doing this is through meetings. Another way is through open houses. As you may recall, we had several of those last fall. As CCLO, I also work with Matawa First Nations Mineral Development Information Support Officer, Peter Moses, as well as Mineral Exploration Consultants. We need to ensure that feedback is provided on early exploration plans and permits. As CCLO, I also coordinate education and outreach regarding mineral exploration and development for community members, if this is required or wanted. Some mining exploration activities that we see taking place on our lands need to be communicated to our leadership and to our members first, before they can take place. Some examples of these include: line cutting, pitting, trenching, mechanized surface stripping, geophysical surveys using a generator, or drilling. All of these exploration activities require the industry proponent to apply for an exploration plan or permit. Our community needs to have free prior and informed consent first. Permits must follow provincial standards. There are rules for carrying out exploration plan activities and exploration permit activities. There are also Mining Act requirements for these activities. Some require exploration plans, while others require exploration permits. There may also be rehabilitation requirements, to be done after the exploration activity is complete or before the exploration plan or permit expires.



I am a trapper, hunter, and fisher and I know that these are our Anishnawbe lands and territories. We need to hold government and industry to task. We need to keep a good watch out, over our lands and waters and animals. Let's do this together through good clear communications. Please keep a lookout on our lands, and also keep a lookout for any CCLO publications online or in hard copy paper formats. We need to make sure that our areas are being treated properly.

Please come by the Lands & Resources Office at the GFN Training Centre, if you would like to go over the maps that have been produced of mining activity in our area (see insert in this Newsletter).

How do We Protect Our Lands? SOACS (Sites of Aboriginal Cultural Significance)



Some of your ancestral lands, and/or traditional territories you may want withdrawn from all mining activity. This is what government and industry call "Crown land," but we all know that these are our traditional Ginoogaming lands that were never given up under any treaty. Some of these lands hold special importance. Some of them are lands that we utilize to exercise our constitutional "Aboriginal rights" (ex. hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, praying, etc.) that are protected under Section 35 of the Constitution of Canada (1982). If you are interested in protecting your Anishnawbe values on these lands, and you wish to have them withdrawn from all mining activity, then it is possible to apply for them under a SOACS (Sites of Aboriginal Cultural Significance). The Ministry of Energy Northern Development and Mines will provide discretion for these lands, if it can be shown that they meet the SOACS criteria set out in regulation. Land that can be protected as a site under a SOACS application is up to 25 hectares (ha). That is a good chunk of land. One hectare is 2.47 acres. That is basically the area where the GFN Health Centre, the GFN band office, and the GFN Aboriginal Head Start is. So just imagine 25 of those. It depends on what you are wanting to protect.

What are SOACS criteria?

- 1) The site must be strongly associated with Ginoogaming First Nation community for social, cultural, sacred, or ceremonial reasons.
- 2) The site may be used by the Ginoogaming First Nation community traditionally, according to our observations, customs, and beliefs.
- 3) The site must be in a fixed location (must be able to delineate it on a map).
- 4) The site's identification must be supported by the community (as evidenced by documentation).

As of September 2017, 41 sites in Ontario have been withdrawn from mining under SOACS. The total number of hectares for those 41 sites is 863. Anyone giving information for a SOACS process is assured that it is confidential. Some examples of SOACS: burial grounds, places of worship, traditional teaching sites, ceremonial lands, pictographs. Ineligible sites include: traplines, hunting grounds, waterways, wildlife migration routes. Identification of the site must also be supported by GFN through a BCR (Band Council Resolution). Other documentation that can support SOACS applications include: testimonials (written or audio) collected from Elders, land users, knowledge holders; transcripts of oral history and stories about the area; existing reports or land use studies; documentation from other purposes (land claims, mapping projects, archaeological studies); historic references in secondary materials to the site and its uses and significance; and, photographs of the site and its features.

Environmental Monitoring Update

By: Jason Chapais

Good Day All! My name is Jason Chapais and I am your environmental monitor working at Greenstone Gold Mine. It's been a busy 2 years working at the site doing ground well monitoring also surface water sampling and flow stations. In the next couple months GGM want to come for a community visit (date to be determined) to discuss the goldfield creek diversion aspect of the project, here we want community input as to how we can help in the development of the new channel. We will be taking members to the site now to get a better understanding how it looks and how it's going to look when done. The next few months will be a busy for me on the site with ground well repairs, flow station monitoring and surface water sampling. It will be a great year and I look forward to updating you on this project. Thanks!

