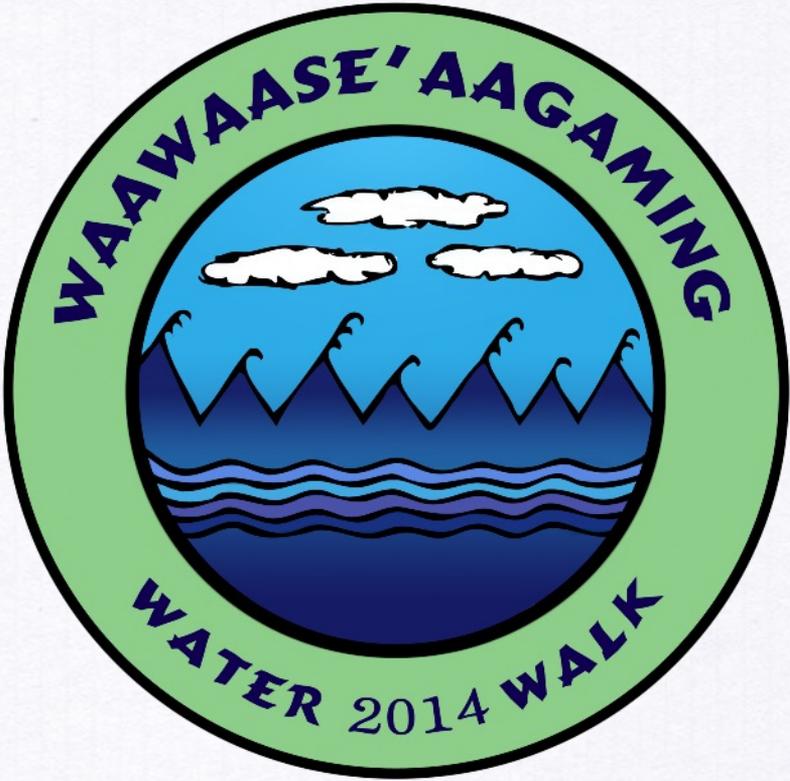
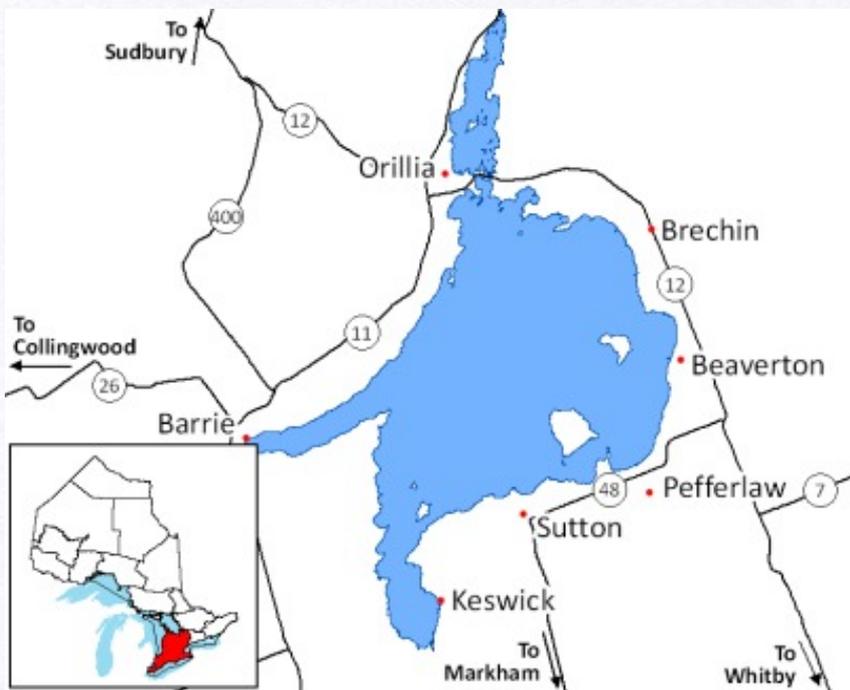


**A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY AROUND LAKE
SIMCOE AND COUCHICHING**



IN THE SPIRIT OF THE MOTHER EARTH WATER
WALKS BY GRANDMOTHER JOSEPHINE MANDAMIN
OF THE THREE FIRES LODGE OF THE MIDWEWIN
SOCIETY OF THE ANISHINAABE NATION.

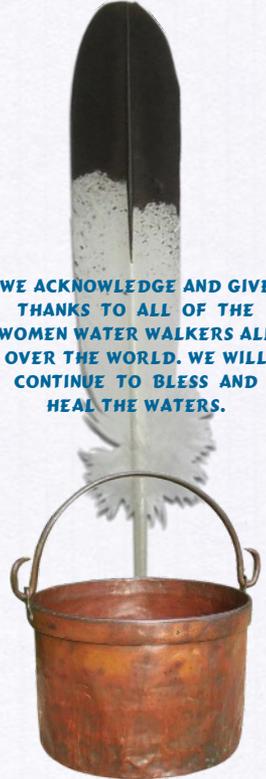


A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

SINCE THE MOTHER EARTH WATER WALKS BEGAN IN 2005, ALL OF THE GREAT LAKES, THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER AND A JOURNEY THAT BROUGHT WATER INLAND FROM ALL OF THE OCEANS, HAS TAKEN PLACE. THESE EPIC WALKS HAVE BEEN IN RESPONSE TO THE DETERIORATING HEALTH OF THE WATERS OF TURTLE ISLAND AND WHEN GRANDMOTHER JOSEPHINE MANDAMIN REALIZED THIS, SHE REINVIGORATED THE TRADITIONAL WOMAN'S ROLE OF CARING FOR AND SPEAKING FOR THE WATERS. CARRYING A COPPER KETTLE FULL OF WATER AND ACCOMPANIED BY A MAN CARRYING AN EAGLE FEATHER STAFF, THE WALKERS ENGAGE IN PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE-GIVING PROPERTIES OF THE WATER. CEREMONY IS DONE FOR THE WATER IN ADVANCE AND ALONG THE WAY AS WELL. IN ANISHINAABE TRADITION, THE WOMEN WEAR SKIRTS WHEN ENGAGED IN CEREMONIAL PRACTICE. WE ALSO OBSERVE A TRADITION OF NOT TOUCHING SACRED ITEMS WHEN WE ARE IN MOON TIME OR MENSES. WE USE THE FOUR SACRED MEDICINES IN OUR CEREMONIES AND NATURAL, UNPROCESSED TOBACCO IS USED WHEN POSSIBLE IN OUR OFFERINGS AND PRAYERS. WE ALSO LOVE STRAWBERRIES AND THEY HOLD A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR LIVES, AS THEY ARE THE FIRST FRUITS OF A NEW SEASON. YOU WILL ALSO OFTEN SEE THEM USED IN OUR CEREMONIES.

KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY ARE ALSO PART OF OUR TRADITION. WE HOPE THAT THE COMMUNITIES WE WALK THROUGH WILL THINK OF US AND COME TO SPEAK WITH US, AND LEARN ABOUT CARING FOR THE LAKE AND THE TRIBUTARIES IN GOOD WAYS. WE WOULD ESPECIALLY LIKE TO INTERACT WITH CHILDREN AND ELDERS AND ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING ALL OF YOU ALONG THE TRAIL.

CHI MIIGWECH KINA WAAYA. THANK YOU ALL OUR RELATIONS



WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND GIVE THANKS TO ALL OF THE WOMEN WATER WALKERS ALL OVER THE WORLD. WE WILL CONTINUE TO BLESS AND HEAL THE WATERS.



THE THREATS FACING LAKE SIMCOE & COUCHICHING

LAKE SIMCOE ASSUMES A MIGHTY ROLE IN THE LIVES OF ITS RESIDENTS AND YET IT IS SO VERY EASY TO TAKE THIS INCREDIBLE NATURAL RESOURCE FOR GRANTED. THE MANY STRESSORS ON THE LAKE INCLUDE SEWAGE, INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION, STORM DRAIN RUNOFF, EXCESS FERTILIZERS, INVASIVE SPECIES AND WASTE LEFT IN THE LAKE FROM ICE FISHING SEASON AND SUMMER BOATERS.

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

ACCIDENTS DO HAPPEN AND EVERY DAY WE HEAR OF MORE OIL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILLS IN WATER BODIES ACROSS NORTH AMERICA. IT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST IN LAKE SIMCOE. WE STRONGLY FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR A DEDICATED EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM FOR THE WATERS OF LAKE SIMCOE AND COUCHICHING. WE NEED TO PURCHASE CLEAN UP EQUIPMENT AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY TRAINING TO ALL OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS ALL AROUND THE LAKE. WE WILL BE WORKING ON THIS EFFORT UNTIL WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT PROGRAM IN PLACE..



A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET AT SANDY BEACH
ON GEORGINA ISLAND.
(PHOTO BY REBECCA TRUMBLE)

SOME USEFUL LINKS

LAKE SIMCOE REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
WWW.LSRCA.ON.CA

MOTHER EARTH WATER WALKS
WWW.MOTHEREARTHWATERWALK.COM

LADIES OF THE LAKE
WWW.LAKELADIES.CA



CONNECT WITH US...

PHONE: 905-252-8003

EMAIL: BIGCANOEB@GMAIL.COM



DONATIONS: WWW.GOFUNDME/7ZN454



FB.COM/GROUPS/WAWAASAEMANING



THE WALKING ROUTE

*PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS ROUTE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.
PLEASE USE THE CONTACT INFORMATION LISTED ON PAGE 3 TO CONFIRM LOCATION OF WALKERS.

JUNE 23RD

GEORGINA ISLAND WALK. COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND GUESTS ONLY.

JUNE 24TH

FROM VIRGINIA BEACH TO KESWICK VIA LAKESHORE ROUTE.

JUNE 25TH

KESWICK TO INNISFIL

JUNE 26TH

INNISFIL TO BARRIE

JUNE 27TH

BARRIE TO ORILLIA

JUNE 28TH

ORILLIA TO WASHAGO

JUNE 29TH

WASHAGO TO RAMA

JUNE 30TH

RAMA TO GAMEBRIDGE

JULY 1ST

GAMEBRIDGE TO BEAVERTON

JULY 2ND

BEAVERTON TO VIRGINIA