

# Traditional Knowledge Studies From Walpole Island First Nation

December 2, 2014

Thames River Symposium

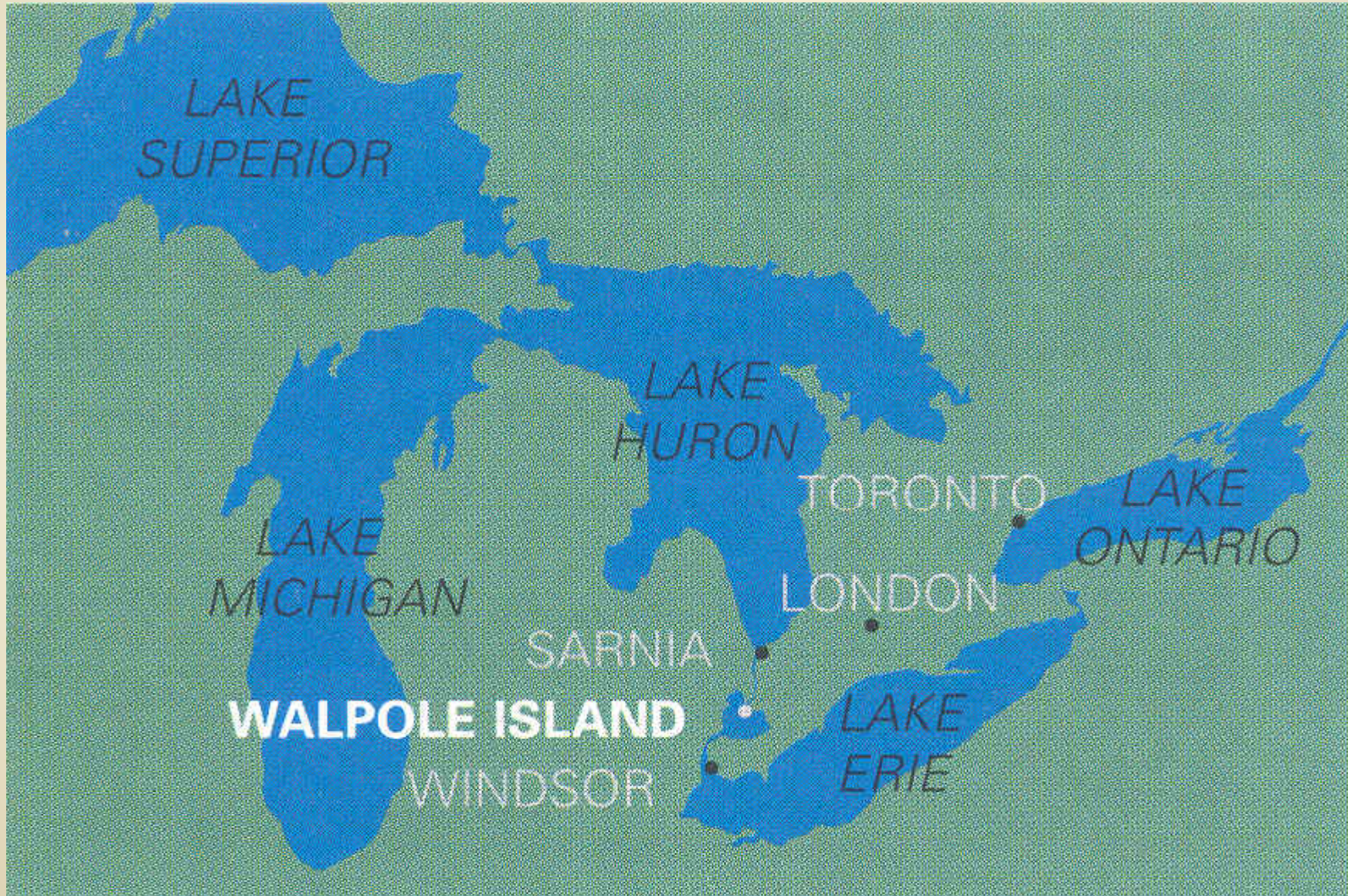
James Jenkins

Walpole Island First Nation



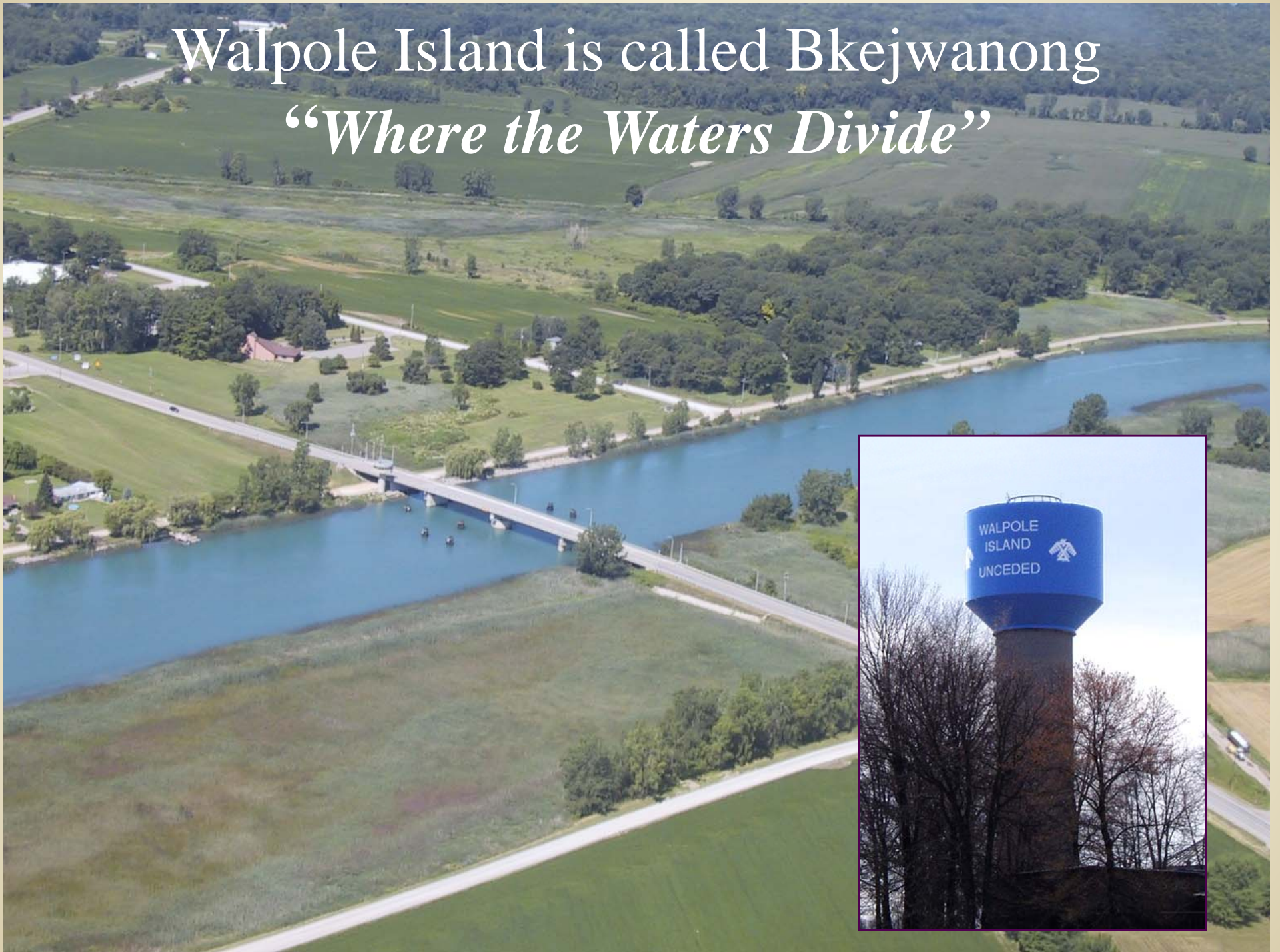


# Walpole Island First Nation





Walpole Island is called Bkejwanong  
*“Where the Waters Divide”*



# Profile of Walpole Island

- Council of the Three Fires
- 4,800 Ojibwe, Pottawattomi, Odawa
- Young and growing population
- 6 islands covering 91 square miles

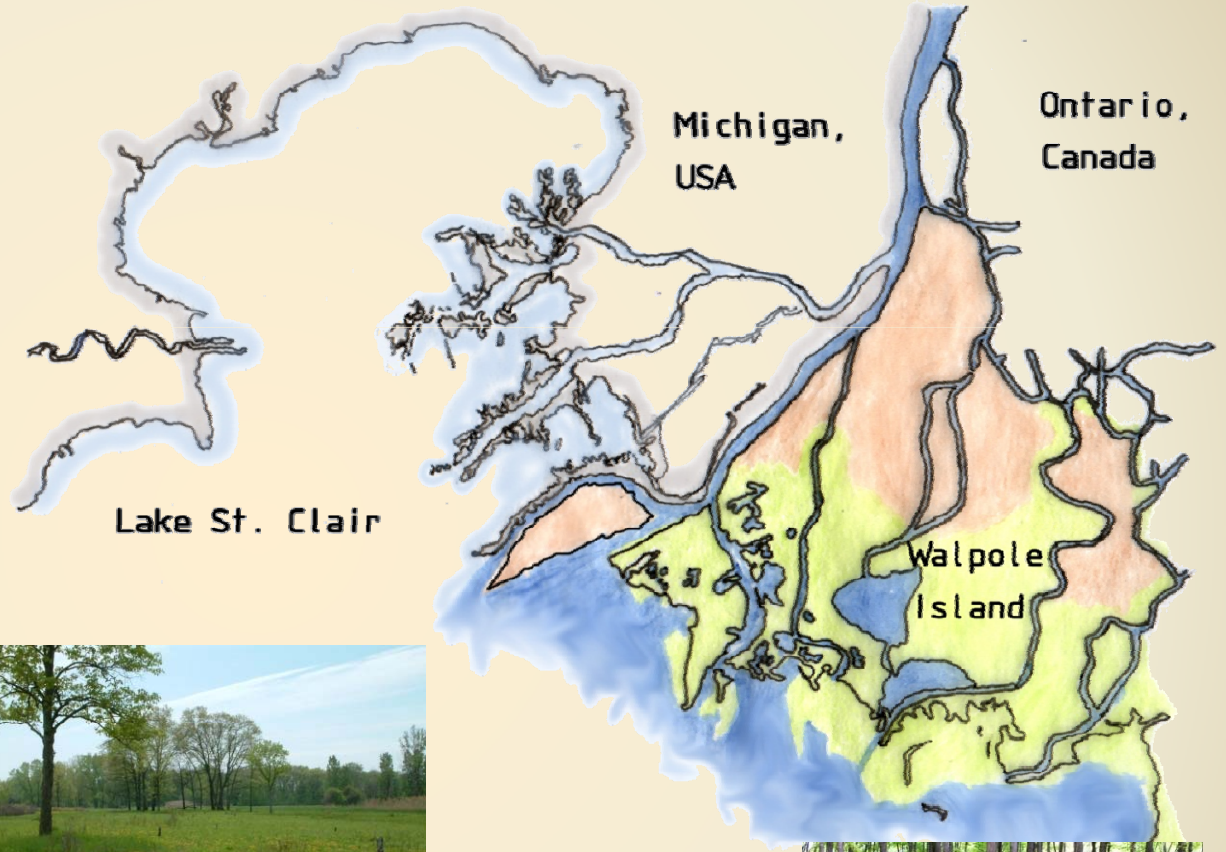


- 12,000 acres of agriculture
- 17,000 acres of wetlands
- 6,400 acres of deciduous forest cover
- 2,050 acres of tallgrass prairie and oak savanna habitat



# Walpole Island's Ecosystems

Walpole Island... supports a rich mosaic of natural areas including some of the most biologically diverse areas in Canada.



Coastal waterways



Wetlands



Tallgrass Prairies

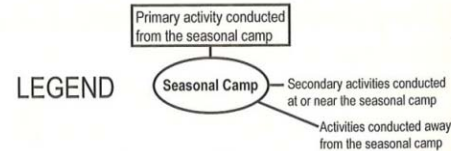
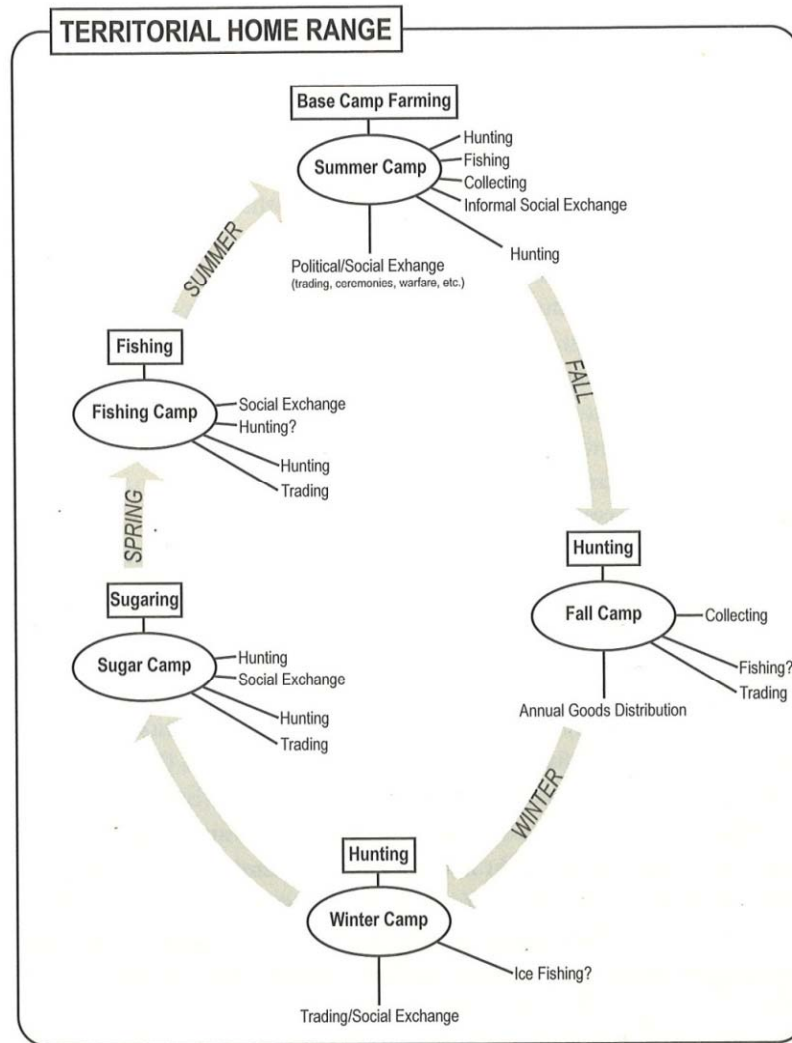


Oak Savannas

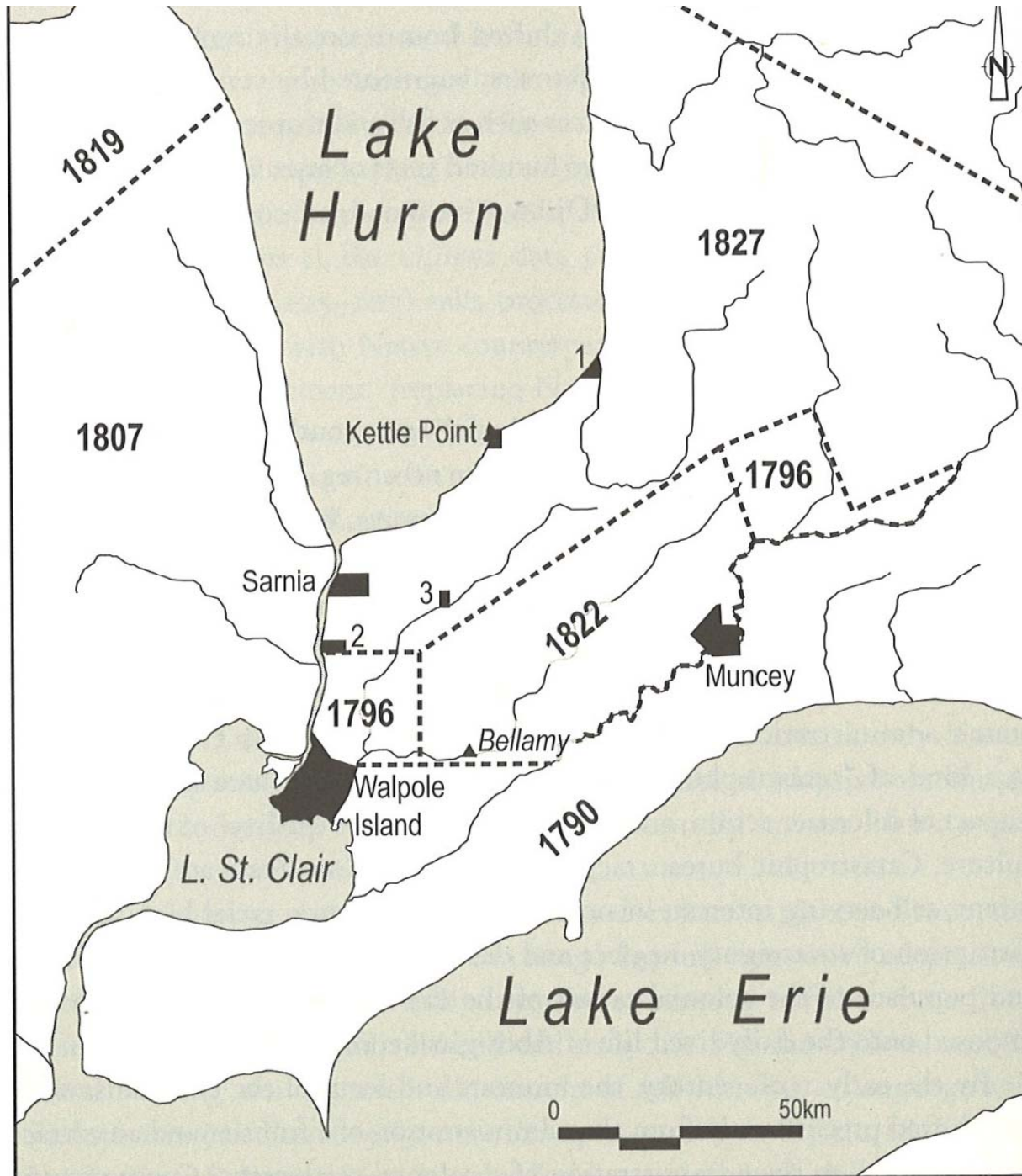


Carolinian forests

# Seasonal Round



# Anishinaabek Territory Detroit Region





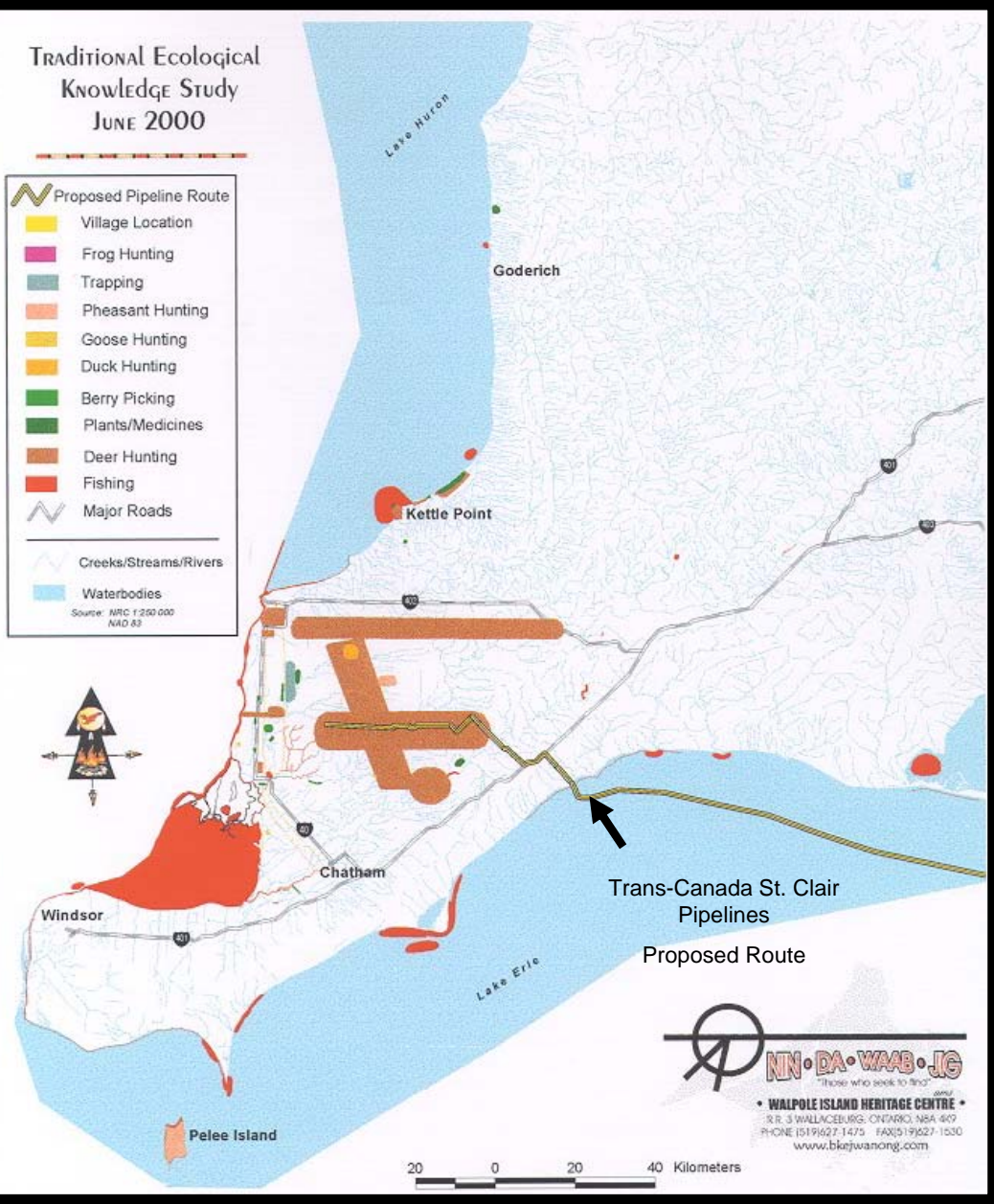
# Our Experience: Case Studies

- TransCanada Pipeline (2000)
- Shell Canada Proposed Heavy Oil Refinery (2007)
- Union Gas Dawn Gateway Project (2009)



TRADITIONAL Ecological  
Knowledge Study  
JUNE 2000

-  Proposed Pipeline Route
  -  Village Location
  -  Frog Hunting
  -  Trapping
  -  Pheasant Hunting
  -  Goose Hunting
  -  Duck Hunting
  -  Berry Picking
  -  Plants/Medicines
  -  Deer Hunting
  -  Fishing
  -  Major Roads
  -  Creeks/Streams/Rivers
  -  Waterbodies
- Source: MRC 1:250 000  
NAD 83



# *Traditional Ecological Knowledge Study*

June 2000

 **NIN.DA.WAAB.JIG**  
 "Those who seek to find" *one*  
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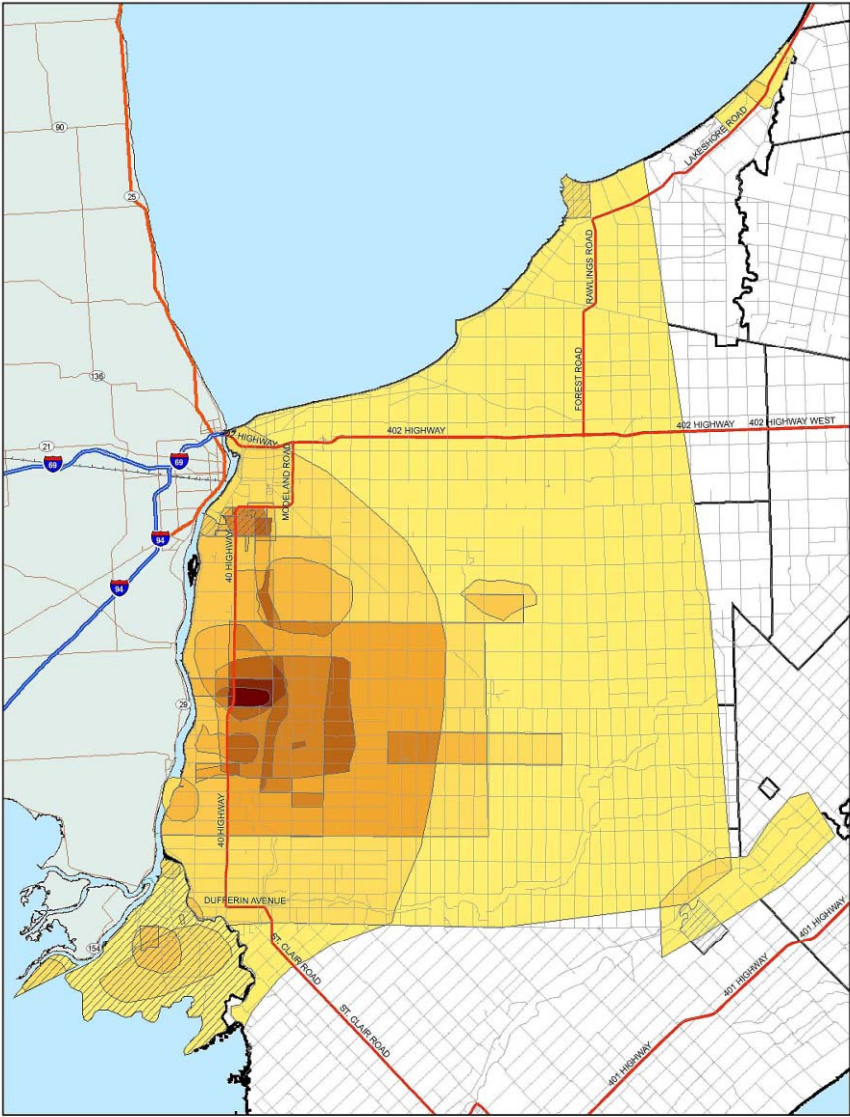


# Shell Canada Proposed Oil Refinery (2007)

- WIFN sat on the Government Review Team.
- Although Shell eventually withdrew from the project, Shell completed several in-depth studies including a TEK study.
- The TEK study dealt with a range of traditional hunting and harvesting practices.



# Deer Hunting Areas (Shell TEK Study)



**Deer Hunting Areas within  
Walpole Island First Nation and Vicinity**

<b>Legend</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Road</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Highway</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>First Nation Reserves</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Municipal Boundaries</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>US Boundaries</td> </tr> </table>		Road		Highway		First Nation Reserves		Municipal Boundaries		US Boundaries	<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4</td> <td></td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>11</td> </tr> </table>		1		6		2		7		3		8		4		9		5		10				11
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**DRAFT**

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Job Number: 1021510102  
Date: January 2008  
Created By: M. Christian  
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**Jacques Whitford**  
AXYS

# Applicability

- The studies resulted in data on hunting of various game, fishing, plant harvesting, and spiritual places.
- TEK knowledge was used and expanded in a Union Gas pipeline study.
- We now own what we know. The projects resulted in two rigorous TEK studies.



# Hurdles

- Added value
  - Eg. introducing TEK into school curricula
- Using TEK to inform other projects
  - Area water supply
  - Green Electron
  - Habitat restoration

# Thames River Clear Water Revival

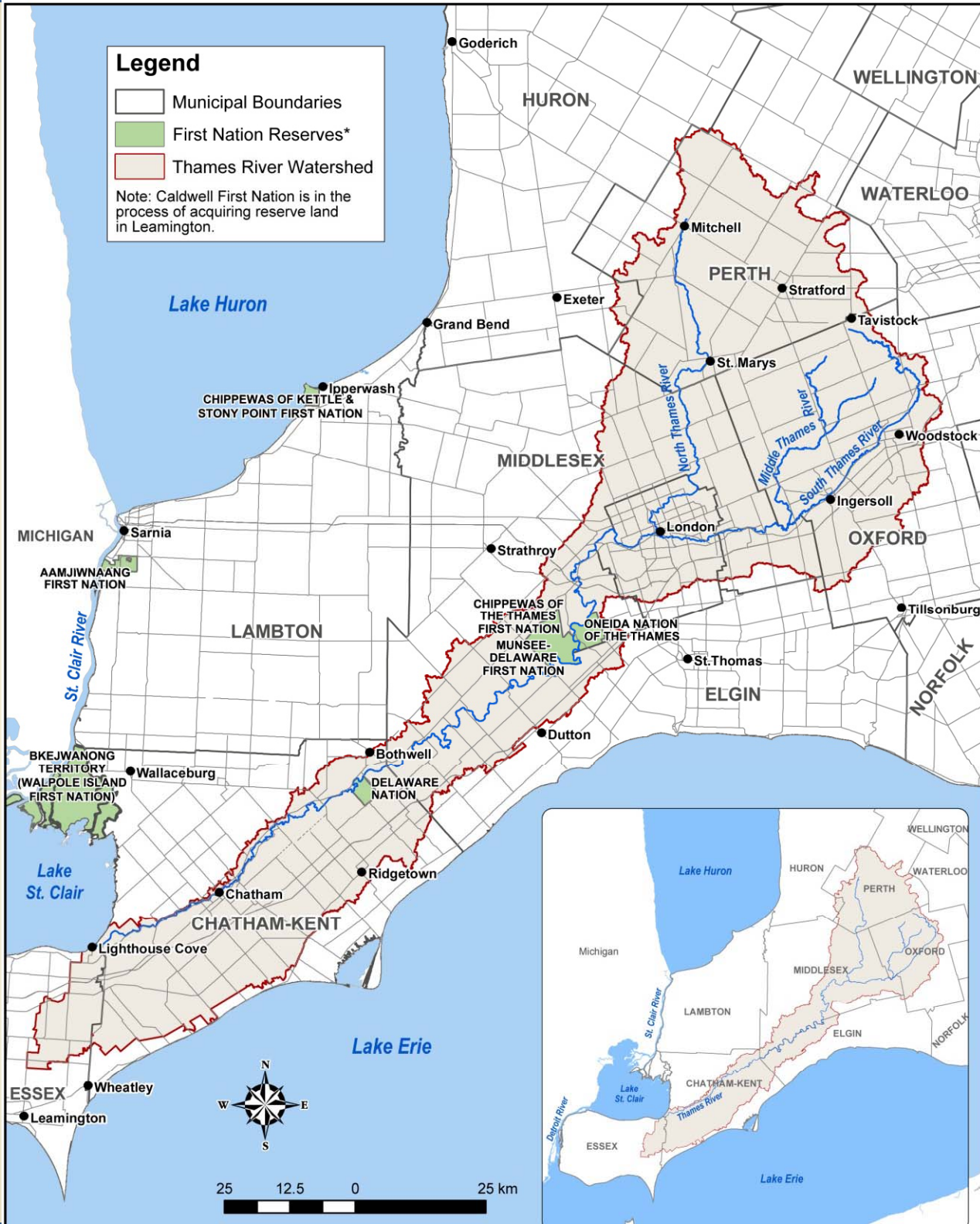
- The Thames River Clear Water Revival (TRCWR) is a multi-year, multi-jurisdictional watershed strategy that will develop management recommendations to improve the health and vitality of the Thames River and its watershed.
- Responsibility for water management is shared among the watershed municipalities, conservation authorities, provincial and federal agencies, and First Nations.



### Legend

- Municipal Boundaries
- First Nation Reserves\*
- Thames River Watershed

Note: Caldwell First Nation is in the process of acquiring reserve land in Leamington.



# Need for the initiative

- First comprehensive watershed study since 1975.
- A 1975 management plan by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources did not involve First Nations.
- Early on First Nation representatives stressed the need for a holistic watershed study.

# First Nation involvement

- Every First Nation with an interest in the watershed is invited to sit on the steering committee.
- Walpole Island First Nation and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority established a First Nations Engagement Committee in March 2012.



# Parties at the table

- First Nations
  - Walpole Island First Nation
  - Oneida Nation of the Thames
  - Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
  - Delaware Nation
  - Munsee-Delaware Nation
- Conservation Authorities
  - Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
  - Lower Thames River Conservation Authority
- Municipalities
  - City of London
  - Chatham-Kent
- Environment Canada
- Ontario
  - Ministry of Natural Resources
  - Ministry of the Environment
  - Ministry of Agriculture and Food

# Aboriginal Awareness Training

- Some federal and provincial agencies receive some sort of awareness training and sometimes have Aboriginal liaison staff.
- Conservation Authorities and municipalities rarely deal with First Nations, and this lack of knowledge led to requests for Aboriginal Awareness Training within the steering committee.
- Walpole Island First Nation provided awareness training sessions in summer 2012 in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

# Historical Ecology Studies

- Walpole Island has begun assemble baseline data on the historical ecology of our traditional territory. This will allow us to create baseline maps to assist in collecting and implementing TEK.
- These studies go beyond land use by focusing on ecology.
- These studies are away to advance our sovereignty while stressing mutual obligations. The emphasis is on stewardship.



# Stewardship Approach

Among many Aboriginal people, 'the land' is understood to encompass not only the earth, but also lakes, rivers, streams and seas; the air, sky, sun, moon, planets and stars; and the full range of living and non-living entities that inhabit nature. In this all-encompassing view, the land is the source and sustainer of life. In return, people must act as stewards and caretakers of the earth...

This philosophical approach to governance, based on respect for the land and the need for responsible action, differs from conceptions of governance that emphasizes domination and control. According to the Aboriginal approach, people do not have dominion over the land; they are subject to the land's dominion.

# Historical Ecology Studies examples

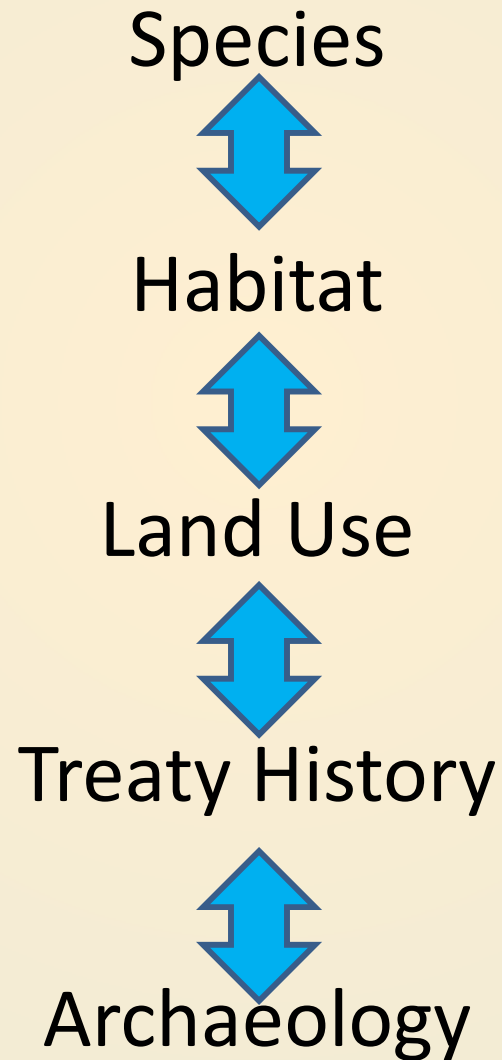
- Treaty No. 7 (Green Electron project)
- Treaty No. 2
- Thames River Watershed

# Quality Data to Inform Decision Making

- There has been continuity from Trans-Canada (2000) to the proposed Shell Refinery (2007) to Union Gas (2009) and ongoing Historical Ecology Studies.
- Studies inform each other and will eventually be used to create a Master Plan using data from multiple studies.



# Layers of Data



# Windsor-Essex Parkway

- Species at Risk are disproportionately found both within the project area and WIFN.
- Impacts to the project area would also impact our ability to practice our rights.
- Dan Shab, a Walpole Island based contracting company, hired community members to use TEK in the transplanting of Species at Risk.

# Windsor-Essex Parkway

- Award-winning partnership between WIFN, MTO, MNR, and the Windsor-Essex Mobility Group.



Congratulations to Danshab Enterprises and the Walpole Island Heritage Centre, who were part of a team that shared a Provincial Infrastructure Award at the inaugural Ontario Endangered Species Act Conference Award this past April. The award celebrated the collaboration of Walpole Island First Nation, the Ontario Ministries of Transportation and Natural Resources, the Windsor Essex Mobility Group and others.



On April 25, 2013, Danshab Enterprises received a Mother Earth Award from Canvas Campus for its role in transplanting species at risk along the Parkway. David Suzuki was on hand to present the award. Left to right: David White, senior team lead, Danshab Enterprises; David Suzuki; Eric Fields, ecosystem project manager, Danshab Enterprises.



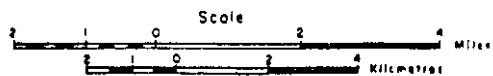
# Looking Ahead

- There is a need for quality data to inform policy development and implementation.
- Collecting and implementing TEK requires respect, collaboration, and awareness.
- Celebration

# Aboriginal Title Litigation

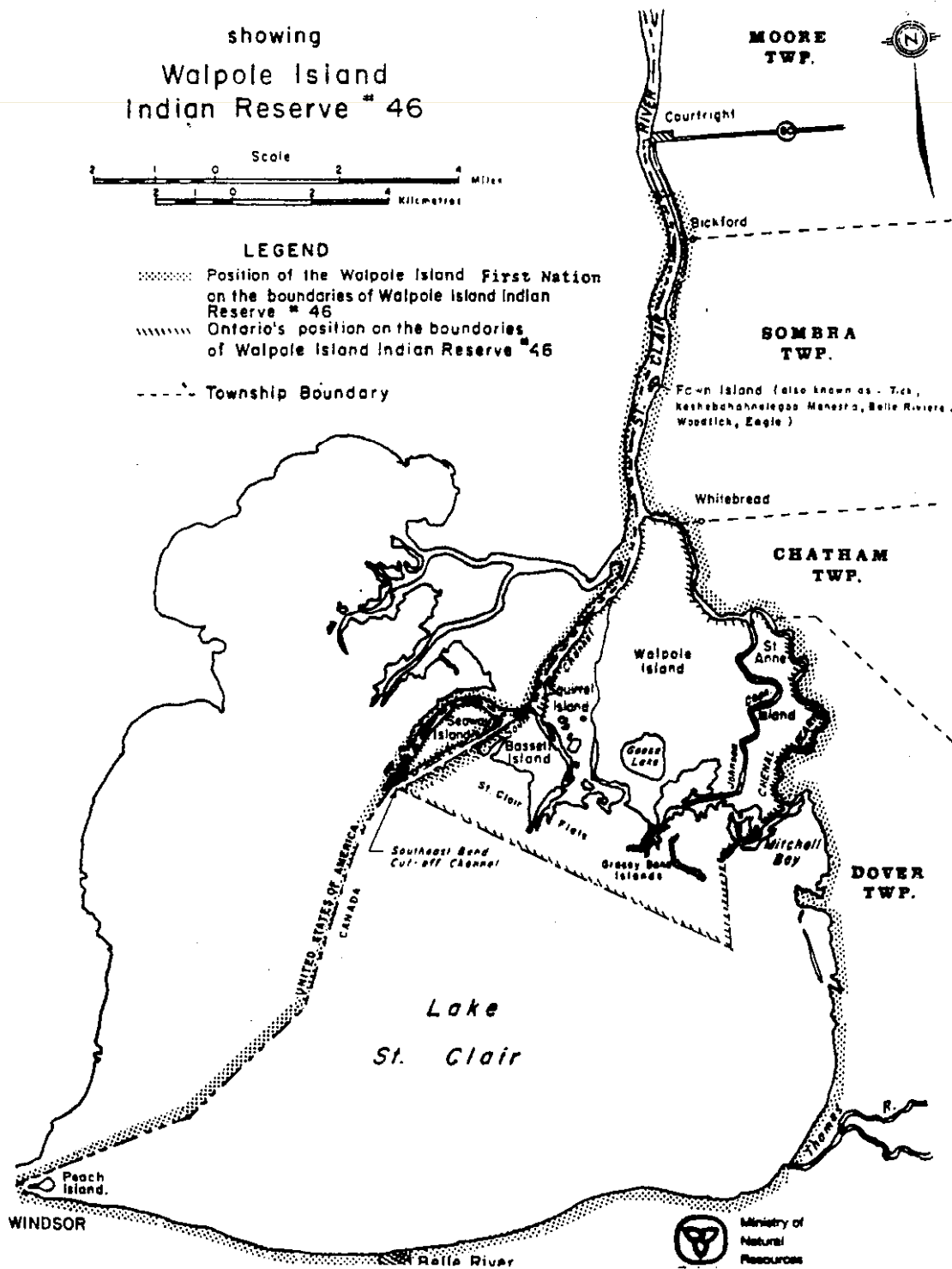
- The lakebeds, riverbeds, marshes, and many islands in Bkejwanong Territory have never been ceded or set apart by any treaty.
- Walpole Island was never properly surveyed, and the question of Walpole Island's boundaries was negotiated but never settled over the course of the twentieth century.

showing  
Walpole Island  
Indian Reserve # 46



LEGEND

- ..... Position of the Walpole Island First Nation on the boundaries of Walpole Island Indian Reserve # 46
- ..... Ontario's position on the boundaries of Walpole Island Indian Reserve # 46
- Township Boundary





# Aboriginal Title Litigation

- After the *Delgamuukw* court decision in 1997 established the possibility of Aboriginal Title in Canada, Walpole Island redrafted its boundary claim.
- In 2000, Walpole Island filed its Aboriginal Title Statement of Claim in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

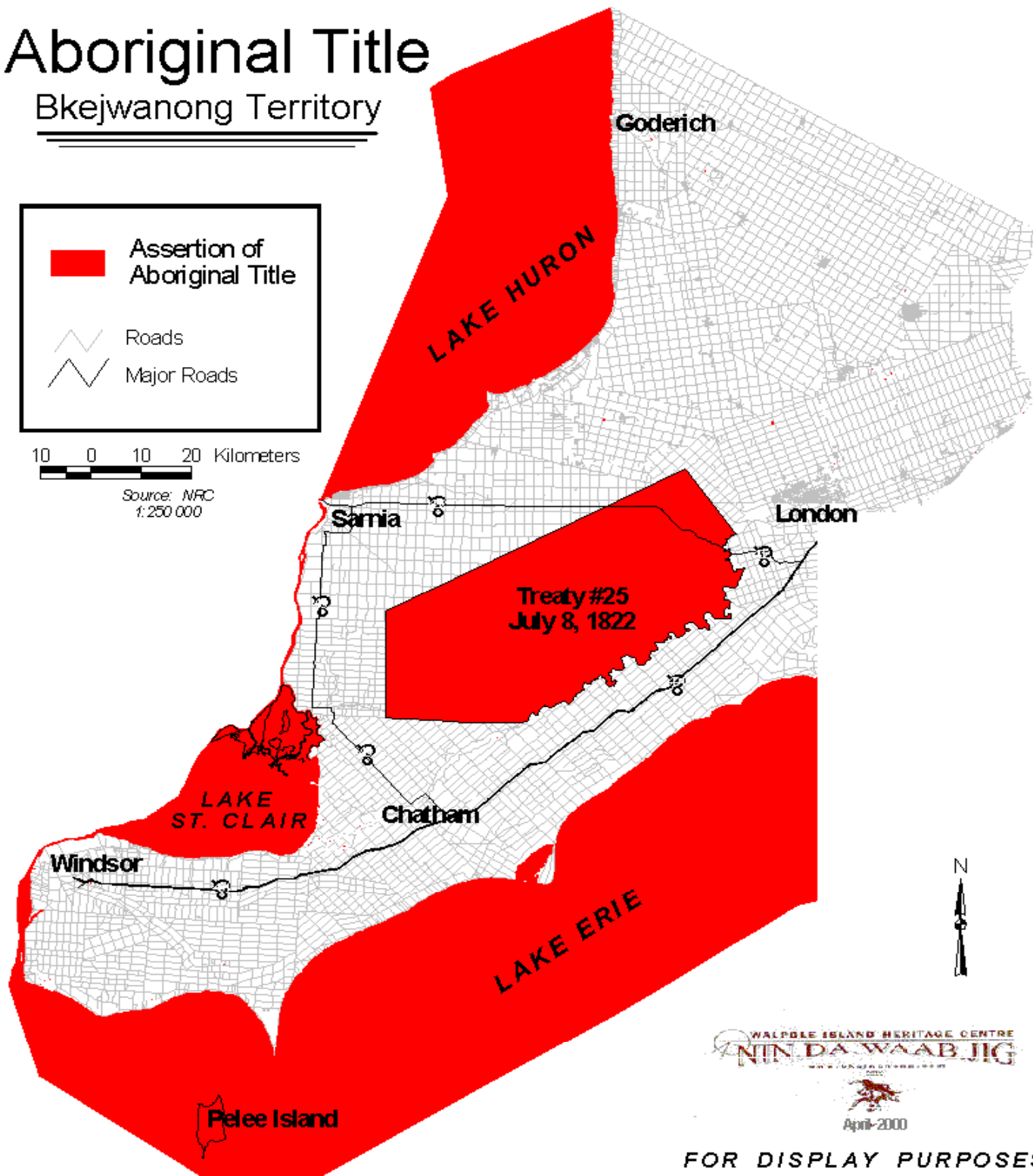
# Aboriginal Title

## Bkejwanong Territory



10 0 10 20 Kilometers

Source: NRC  
1:250 000



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NIN DA WAAB JIG

April 2000

FOR DISPLAY PURPOSES