

HISTORIC SAUGEEN MÉTIS
204 High Street, Box 1492
Southampton Ontario N0H 2L0



At the mouth of the Saugeen River
Since the early 1800s

March 31, 2010

Letter to Editor

The Historic Saugeen Métis, Southampton, have played an important role in the development of the Lake Huron shoreline from Sarnia to Tobermory since the early 1800s. Saugeen's fur trade descendants, today represented by the elected *Historic Saugeen Métis Council* at Southampton, are proud of their ancestors' identities and their accomplishments.

It is important that the citizens of the Counties of Bruce, Grey, and Huron be made aware that the Historic Saugeen Métis, Southampton, **are not affiliated in any way with the Owen Sound Métis group** currently identifying as the *Grey-Owen Sound-Saugeen Amalgamated Métis Council*, aka the *Great Lakes Métis Council*, a chartered council of the Métis Nation of Ontario, and making demands related to the Hanover Landfill expansion.

Further the local Southampton Métis, the Historic Saugeen Métis here since the early 1800s, have excellent relationships with the Counties of Grey, Bruce and Huron, and their municipalities. **The Historic Saugeen Métis do not oppose the Hanover Landfill Expansion.** The community has regular, respectful consultations on a range of projects with local municipalities and are mindful of the countless decisions made daily to keep our shared environment clean and sustainable.

The Southampton Historic Saugeen Métis community, independent of outside influence, has throughout history been identified with the name *Saugeen*. Lately others are trying to adopt our community's identity. This appears to be related to environmental consultations and the aboriginal duty to consult, meant to foster reconciliation, respect and cooperation, not generate ill-will and disrespect.

"Métis" as appearing in local newspaper articles and newscasts relating to the Hanover Landfill consultations should not be used to label all local Métis. The two local Métis communities, Owen Sound and Saugeen, are as distinct and diverse as other communities in Ontario. This regretful situation proves that we have different points of view regarding the approach to aboriginal consultation. <http://sites.google.com/site/historicsaugeen/>

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Indoe".

President Jason Indoe,
Historic Saugeen Métis