

## **Statement from Grey County Council**

Last year Grey County went to trial to resolve the land claim with Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) relating to land on the Bruce Peninsula. The claim, filed 25 years ago, deals with Treaty 72 which was negotiated in 1854. Grey County was named in the claim along with the federal government, provincial government, and several local municipalities.

Today, I am pleased to announce that Grey County has reached an agreement with SON. The settlement will include the transfer of approximately 275 acres of County Forest in Georgian Bluffs known as the Mountain Lake property. County Council must formalize the land transfer by passing a by-law at our next meeting on October 8. After the transfer is complete, the property will continue to be subject to all regular land use planning policies and procedures.

Grey County staff will reach out to residents in the area to advise them of the land transfer. An online public information session will be scheduled for October.

Grey County is the first party named in the claim to reach a settlement. SON will continue with the legal claim against the remaining municipalities and the provincial and federal governments.

This settlement provides some closure to a long-standing claim, and I hope it can also be the beginning of more conversation, more understanding, and a stronger relationship between Grey County, SON and the Anishinaabe people.