



## THE PERMITTING PROCESS



**Day Permit =  
\$20**

### Seasonal Permit Option

Seasonal permits provide the permit holder with 7-day a week access to the Chief Island mooring area from sunrise to 8:00 p.m.



**Seasonal  
Permit = \$125**

Applications for single day and Seasonal Mooring Permits can be found at:  
[www.ramafirstnation.ca/chief-island](http://www.ramafirstnation.ca/chief-island)



## LEARN MORE AT:

[www.ramafirstnation.ca/chief-island](http://www.ramafirstnation.ca/chief-island)

# CHIEF ISLAND



**New Bylaw and  
Permitting Regulations**



## ABOUT THE BYLAW

Protection of the Island is a high priority for Rama First Nation. The Chief Island Bylaw No 21-02 was drafted after significant community and stakeholder consultation and was passed on July 5, 2021. It came into force on July 21, 2021. Copies of the Chief Island Bylaw can be found at [www.ramafirstnation.ca/chiefisland](http://www.ramafirstnation.ca/chiefisland).

The goal of the bylaw is to decrease traffic around the island to lower the environmental impacts and protect the integrity of the resting place of our ancestors. Equally important, the bylaw is intended to facilitate education and reconciliation efforts between Rama First Nation, neighbours, and visitors.

As such, the bylaw requires that ***any person who is not a Rama First Nation Member, and who is not accompanied by a Rama First Nation member, must complete an application and purchase a permit to moor in the waters around Chief Island***, including in the Bay located at the North end. Failure to obtain a permit could result in a fine of up to \$1000, and/or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 30 days, in accordance with section 81 (1) (r) of the *Indian Act*.

The Chief Island Bylaw represents just one of the efforts being made by Rama First Nation to protect Chief Island. Updates regarding other community efforts will be made available through the Rama First Nation website.



## UPDATES AND IMPROVEMENTS

In recent years, we have undertaken improvements to the island, including the cemetery, creation of trails and building cabins for Rama members to use. These improvements primarily make use of valued territory, but also allow for human activity to deter cormorants from nesting. Land-based programming to provide teachings and ceremony to youth in the community is being developed.

Chief Island has always been part of the traditional territories of the Chippewas of Lake Simcoe and Huron,



## OUR HISTORY ON CHIEF ISLAND

who became the Chippewas of Rama, Beausoleil First Nation and Georgina Island First Nation after the loss of the Coldwater Narrows Reserve in 1836. Following this loss, Rama First Nation members lived on Chief Island for a short time in the late 1830's, after which we purchased the ailing township of Rama. Between 1879 and 1920, Lake Couchiching saw dramatic changes with the long, slow construction of the Trent Severn Waterway including significant loss of land on Chief Island.

Lands purchased by Rama became reserve land after they were purchased due to the fact that the *Indian Act* and *Land Titles Act* do not allow First Nations to hold title to lands. Rama First Nation is one of few First Nations in Canada who purchased the land for their reserve.

The Island is a sacred place for our people with a number of unmarked graves and headstones located there. Many of these are from great warriors who died in a battle on and around the island between the Ojibwe and the Mohawks, however, the last burial on the island was in 2002 when remains were uncovered during a construction project at the Horseshoe Valley Resort. The Island makes up approximately 8% of the lands that make up the Chippewas of Rama First Nation Reserve No. 32.