

## **Mother Earth Water Walk Drivers if you wish to help!!!**

by Tina Kuckkahn-Miller

Notes to potential SUPPORT VEHICLES: Your role will be a very crucial source of support on the journey. It can be done with one vehicle but it's best if there are more than one, because one vehicle follows behind the walkers and one leads ahead of the walkers, both with flashers on to warn oncoming traffic from ahead and behind. Once the asemaa has been put down, the water and the staff do not stop moving until Josephine signals when it is time for an official "touch down", in which asemaa is offered and the water and staff rest during lunch break. On the first two days of the walk, there was only one touch down until the end of the day. Because we had two vehicles on the first two days, one vehicle was able to scout ahead of the road for rest stops, facilities, etc. while the other stayed behind the walkers with the hazard lights flashing (at that point they were walking with traffic). On the third day I had the only support vehicle so I either followed behind the walkers or zoomed up ahead to where there was a safe place to pull over. By that time the women were walking solo with the staff and water because 2 people who had committed were not able to participate. So the walkers were given time frames, the younger walkers carried the staff and water for 8 minutes each and our elder would go for 3 or 4 minutes. The driver has to be timing the walks, be aware of potential road hazards and scouting out for places to let the walkers exchange roles. With one vehicle, people need to relieve themselves just off the roadside in the bush. The walks begin between 3:30 and 4, so the role of the support vehicle for safety in alerting other drivers is very crucial. By noon they will have already been walking for 8 hours, there will be a break and then the walk continues until late afternoon. When we had no one else to help with the eagle staff they were given 2 breaks in the day. The vehicles also carry beverages and snacks for the walkers because there are very few, if any, breaks. I hope this is helpful to all. Tina Kuckkahn-Miller