

Community *Public* Committee
Group *Organization Stakeholder*

engagement



Involving or working actively with a group of people with a set of common characteristics, interests or history and living together in a particular area for decision making about issues that affect them.



Remediation & Restoration Program - Environment Division

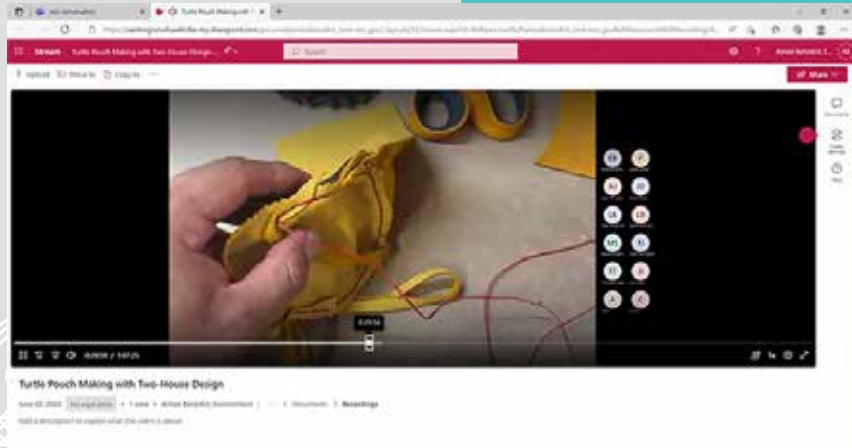
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

2020 to 2023

events

Earth Day - 4/22/2020, 4/22/2021,
4/22/2022, 4/21/2023

Turtle Pouch Making
5/20/2022



ASET REU - 06/17/2022

The Clarkson University Aquatic Science, Engineering, and Technology (ASET) Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program visited Akwesasne for a river tour, aquatic research and cultural activities.

**Water Rangers Class
03/29/2023**

Training for six 4-grade students to complete commonly tested water parameters monthly at various locations near and around Akwesasne.



video

No PCBs in Your Dish

7/29/2021

Ahoy Mateys! See your favorite water creatures pass the fish to bring awareness of fish advisories in our local Akwesasne waters along the Grasse River and the Saint Lawrence shoreline. Feel free to sing along with Angello and Ashley Johnson in our new favorite sea shanty.



storymaps

Healthy Mussels - Healthy River

9/8/2020

*Propagating Freshwater Mussels for the Grasse River
Superfund Site, Massena/Akwesasne, New York*

GM Cleanup a Reality

2/22/2021

*Story of the General Motors Central Foundry Superfund
Site - Decades in the Making*



meetings



Remedial Advisory Committee (RAC) Quarterly Meetings

Held virtually in January, April, July, October from 2020 - 2023

RAC Traditional Ecological Knowledge Team Sub-committee Meetings

Held virtually in August, September, November, December 2020 and

January, February, March, September 2021

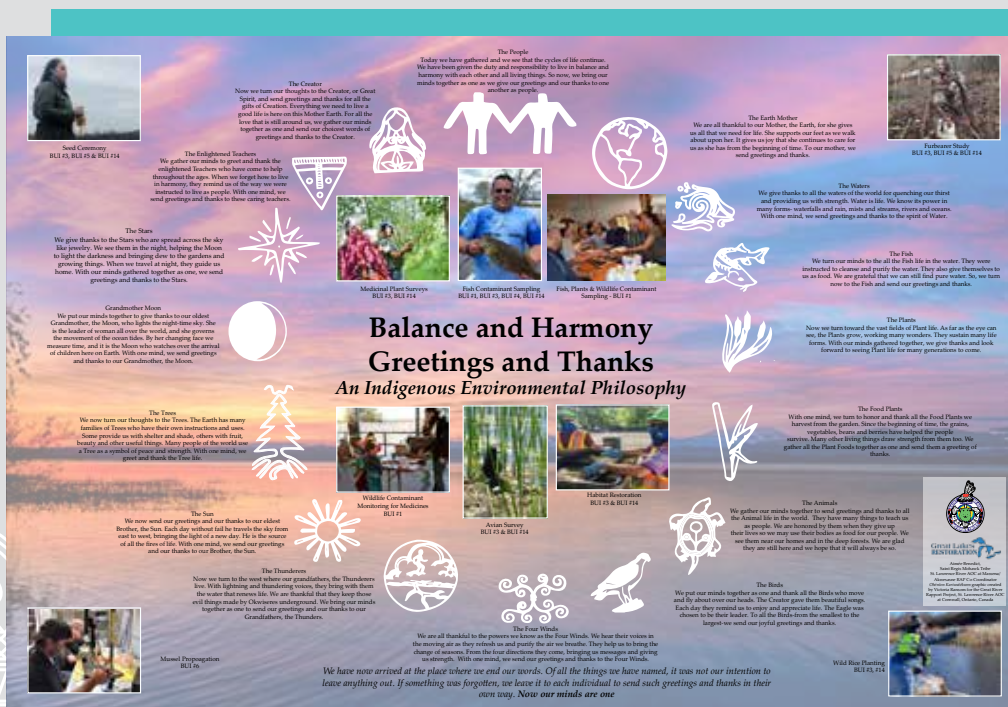
RAC Public Outreach Sub-committee Meeting

Held virtually on 7/20/2021



Great Lakes Forum - September 2022

*Restoring water quality and ecosystem health
in Great Lakes Areas of Concern panel
Indigenous-led restoration and protection of
the Great Lakes panel*



social media

facebook

@St. Lawrence River AOC



Skip the Plastic Straw Day
02/24/2023



Great Lakes Water Quality
Agreement 3/31/2022



World Nature Conservation
Day 7/28/2021



NYSDEC Seeking Comments
Great Lakes Action Agenda
10/13/2022



National Recycling Day
11/15/2021



Reynolds Metals 4th - 5 year
Report 7/20/2021



Grasse River Ice Scour Remedy
Public Meeting 9/1/2022



DEC, SRMT Save over 50k
Freshwater Mussels in Grasse
River 11/4/2021



National Indigenous
Peoples Day
6/21/2021



Funky Fish Photos Needed
7/20/2022



Turtle Pouch Cultural Class
5/20/2022



World Wolf Day
8/21/2021



World Otter Day
5/21/2021

publications

Remediation & Restoration Program Update Mailers

Nearly 4,000 mailers are sent to community households and PO boxes.

The mailer includes updates on Superfund, sturgeon restoration, monitoring, Area of Concern BUI and management action statuses, freshwater mussels, lake sturgeon telemetry, habitat construction plans and other projects.

Fall 2020



Kanien'k'haka people fished, hunted, gathered and harvested traditional foods and medicines on the local rivers since time immemorial. *Akwesasne* recognize these ancestral lands based on mutual respect and responsibility.

These resources and their traditional uses were impacted by industry chemicals, and the remediation and restoration projects are a positive step towards restoring this relationship.

01

Tsi nitewakierà:ne Project Updates

Grasse River - Alcoa/Arconic

The Grasse River site has had another busy year. Activities include dredging, capping, restoration and monitoring activities. Weather permitting, work will wrap up at the end of *Kentenkhk:wa*/November.

General Motors - Racer Trust

Projects are winding down and the site is in the final stages of activity. All of the dredging and capping remediation projects have been

completed. Final site restoration has just been completed this year. The site will enter into long-term monitoring to ensure the remedies remain effective.

Reynolds Metals - Arconic

All of the remediation and restoration activities have been completed. The site has entered into long-term monitoring to ensure the remedies remain effective.

02

Tsi Nitsi letewahwihtha' tsi Nahò:ten lo'táksen Remediation

Grasse River - Alcoa/Arconic

An *Explanation of Significant Difference* (ESD) was approved in *Ennisk:wa*/March to conduct additional dredging of approximately 85,000 cubic yds of contaminated material in the Snug Harbor area. It is being performed to accommodate the larger draft of a new Seaway Development Corp tug boat that had the potential to damage the capping layers that are proposed to be placed in this area in 2021. This work started the first week of *Ohlari:ha*/June after a short delay due to COVID 19.

Armored capping (sand filtration, rocks and gravel) is being placed from the old Massena Power canal to the Route 131 bridge. Several six-inch layers will be placed until a thickness of 25 inches is reached.

General Motors - Racer Trust

All remediation activities for this site have been completed.

Reynolds Metals - Arconic

All remediation activities for this site have been completed.

Spring 2021



Kanien'k'haka people fished, hunted, gathered and harvested traditional foods and medicines on the local land and rivers since time immemorial. *Akwesasne* recognize these ancestral lands based on mutual

respect and responsibility. These resources and their traditional uses were impacted by industry chemicals and economic uses of the land. The Remediation and Restoration projects are a positive step towards restoring this relationship.

The Environment Division restructured its programs in 2019 to combine related work tasks and finances. The Remediation & Restoration (R&R) Program was one of the new programs formed.

R&R uses scientific measures and Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) to manage industrial chemical risks to human health, and restore healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and traditional foods and medicines in the Akwesasne territory and surrounding environments.

Akwesasne is part of 43 environmentally impacted areas of concern within the Great Lakes River basin. Officially called the St. Lawrence River Area of Concern (AOC) at Massena/Akwesasne, our territory has impairments to fish, wildlife, plant and river uses. The Tribe works with local, state, and federal agencies to study and remove these impairments through management actions. The partnerships ensure Akwesasne has a say in what happens within our territory.

Tribal oversight at the ALCOA/Arconic, General Motors/RACER and former Reynolds Metals Superfund sites guarantees cleanup plans are followed and air and water monitoring is conducted to make sure no contaminants are leaking out threatening the environment or community members. After the remediation activities are completed, long term monitoring will continue to make sure the cleanup was effective.

Where areas of improvement have been identified, restoration works to restore habitat, populations and conditions of fish, plants, wildlife and ecosystems. Before the removal of the Hogsburg dam in 2016, tens of thousands of mussels were relocated including several rare species. A project will grow mussels in an aquaculture lab and stock them in the Indian Meadows Grasse River where dredging occurred. Also in that same area, culturally important plants will be restocked with the future goal of revitalizing traditional use of the Indian Meadows shoreline.

The SRMT Environment Division aims to prevent disease and injury while, at the same time, promoting lifestyles that respect, protect and enhance the environment for the next seven generations.

Coming soon!

Funky Fish Guide

Tacklebox-sized printed booklet and online resource for anglers to identify tumors, parasites, viruses and other funky things they would find on local fish.

Spring 2023 Update Mailer

In addition to regular features, information on the progress of TEK BUI removal criteria and management actions, Grasse River ice scour event and proposed remedy, and management action approval for BUI #6 Benthos.