

Featured Programs

Footprints
Respite
Autism

Three Sisters -
Sexual Assault

AERC

A/CDP
Prevention

Kawennì:ios



Future Artists

Kawennì:ios Forums

In line with our community access to broadband, we are shifting gears in the Communications Office

By Allyson Doctor, Director

Kawennì:ios is a vital part of our community relations. Featuring achievements, program highlights and the impact to our community is the purpose of our publication. Community feedback is important and we're asking for your input on how you would like to receive communications from the Tribe and our programs.

Connected to your smartphone 24/7? How can we engage you? This spring, we are shifting to a mix of printed and online program highlights. Like us on Facebook. We'll keep you updated through social media.

Kawennì:ios Forums starting this spring: The milestones, research and achievements of some of our



programs are so vast; a brief story does not do these programs and initiatives justice. Our monthly meeting format allows for brief updates of our programs, but for the rich topics, we are seeking community engagement and Q & A sessions. This spring we will begin hosting bi-monthly Kawennì:ios Forums. Our first Kawennì:ios Forum will be announced at the April monthly meeting, on CKON, WMSA and through the Tribe's Facebook page. Tell us where you'd like to meet, what topics are most important to you and how you'd like to participate.

- What day of the week works best?
- What time of day works best?
- What topics are most important to you?
- Where would you like to meet?

Send an email to public.information@srmt-nsn.gov or call the Communications office at 518-358-2272. ◇

On the Cover: Amalli Nalli, Age 16 from Salmon River Central School Explores Her Artistic Skills in an Oil Painting Workshop with Instructor Wilson-Bickford During JOM Winter Break Activities.

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Allyson Doctor, Director of Communications
Aimée Benedict-Debo, Publications Manager
Alyson Cole, Production Assistant

Good Words of Welcome



Shé:kon Akwesasne,

Once again, I have the privilege of greeting you through the Kawenní:ios newsletter.

I am pleased to welcome Mr. Mike Cook home to Akwesasne as our new Health Services Director. He's had the opportunity to travel through Indian Country expanding his expertise in the health care delivery field. We are looking forward to all he has to offer our Health Services Division and our community.

Seven months ago I arrived at the Tribe and it is clear that, still today, the voices of our youth and young adults are absent from our community meetings. We are eventually going to relocate the monthly meeting to a more inviting setting where it's easier to hear, and everyone can see the presentations. Time constraints in our agenda will continue to make in-depth discussions difficult.

To remedy this situation we are planning a series of community forums, starting this spring. The goal is to provide important information on issues that affect us all. The frequency of these meetings are not set in stone, but keep in mind, the quality of the discussion is our primary focus.

As we contemplate these serious matters, I remind everyone that April is Alcohol Awareness Month. It is also Child Abuse Prevention month and Sexual Assault Awareness month. Most importantly, April 23rd is Remember Children Lost to Violence Day. It is always a tragedy to lose a child no matter what age or what the cause. Sadly, we cannot escape the fact that, often, losing our children to violence is rooted in the adverse effects of alcohol abuse and other chemical addictions. Children who witness violence in their home are more likely to be perpetrators of violence or become victims of

violence later on in life. The cycle will surely continue if we do not take steps to nurture and tend to our children now. If you stop and think about child protection and prevention services, they are not 9 to 5 jobs.

Our shelter for abused women and children does not shut down because it's the weekend. Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters are on call 24/7. Still, they cannot keep up with the vast need in our community. Home grown activities such as Rites of Passage, summer youth programs, the recent children's pow wow, activities sponsored by the Community Empowerment Coalition are the types of interventions and demonstrations of love for our children that we need more of.

Our foster homes are filled with children in need of loving arms wrapped around them while their parents try to pull their lives back together. I remind everyone that these parents were once small children and for many of them, their childhoods were lost to violence.

I extend many warm thanks to all foster parents who open their arms and their hearts to these vulnerable children. Sometimes that act of selflessness brings a pain of its own that only a foster family can describe.

In closing I formally acknowledge the mothers and fathers who have made that climb out of the depths of pain and sadness. I, for one, am proud of you for the challenges you have overcome and the experiences you have survived. Not only are you a gift to your family, but you bring a huge gift to the community of Akwesasne; you give us HOPE and that is priceless.

Niá:wen,

Chief Beverly Cook

Why Earth Day?

By Angela Benedict,
Air Quality Program Manager



Most people know that Earth Day is *Onerahtókha/* April 22 every year. But do you know Who? What? Why? At a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) conference in 1969 peace activist, John McConnell, proposed a day to honor the Earth and to promote the concept of peace. He proposed *Enniskó:wa*/March 21, 1970 as it is the first day of Spring and it was sanctioned by the UN (United Nations) and UN Secretary U Thant. But a month later, a United States Senator Gaylord Nelson held an Environmental teach-in on *Onerahtókha*/April 22, 1970. He had proposed in *Seskehkó:wa*/September 1969 that a teach in be done to send an environmental message to Washington, that the public was behind a bold political agenda on environmental problems. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species acts.

Today Earth Day is celebrated around the world continuing to fight for a clean environment and recently to increase the education about climate change. One of the terms that came out of the education is "Going Green". But what exactly does that mean? It means

you do your part to practice the 3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. It also means being aware that your actions have consequences. It's not just about the 3 Rs, it's about making good choices; choosing not to take a bag when purchasing only one or two items or choosing to buy a product with less packaging.

Say you go out to eat and you bring home leftovers in a Styrofoam container. The next day you finish the leftovers and throw the Styrofoam in to the trash. How long do you think it takes for that Styrofoam to decompose? It takes 400 years for Styrofoam to decompose.

What is the most common type of debris that litters our ocean? Cigarettes and Cigarette filters

What is the most common type of trash thrown away by Americans? Paper products and cardboard make up around 39% of all trash.

Every year, the SRMT Environment Division, MCA Environment Division and the Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment hold Earth Day events.

The seed & tree giveaway and roadside cleanup events are a time where everyone can help keep our territory clean. Every little bit helps, whether you plant the seeds and trees or clean up an area on your road.

So for now and for the next seven generations, let's think about Mother Earth and do our best to protect her. ♦

Tree & Seed Giveaway
Onerahtókha/April 19
9:00 a.m.
Seniors Center

Roadside Cleanup
Onerahtókha/April 26
8:30 a.m.
Seniors Center

All About Footprints *Tsi tekaiano:ni*

Community & Family Services Division

By Cherrie Lazore, ABA Coordinator

The Footprints program is a program operated under the Community & Family Services, which began in 2011. We have a big job to do due to the fact that a child is diagnosed with autism once every twenty minutes.

Our program is housed in a natural country surrounding. It is a restored wonderful old farm house. It has a very calm and relaxing atmosphere. Our yard is fenced in with a beautiful play set for the children to play on. We have a beautiful garden every year that consists of corn, beans, squash, berries and various herbs. We also have hills of pumpkins. The children are very involved in the garden with the watering and weeding daily. The children also pick the fruits and vegetables when they are ready. We do pickling with our vegetables from the garden and we dry our herbs to make spices.

We also do various crafts, wood working projects, bowling, movies, arcade, sledding, fishing and other activities. We play games, bake, sew, listen to music, do art projects and have Mohawk culture. Sensory input, unique modes of communication and learning to be friends with others are all important learning tools for children with autism. We work on these basic strategies, utilizing the natural world on a daily basis for children to learn through hands-on experience.

For those families who may prefer a more structured clinical approach to helping their children, we provide ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) drills in our small

ABA rooms on a daily basis. Applied Behavior Analysis drills consist of them learning their letters, numbers, colors, shapes, tying their shoes, manners, and lots more. We work on gross motor skills, fine motor skills and potty training. We do a lot of sensory things with shaving cream, finger painting and the water table. Our children have learned to tie their shoes, write their

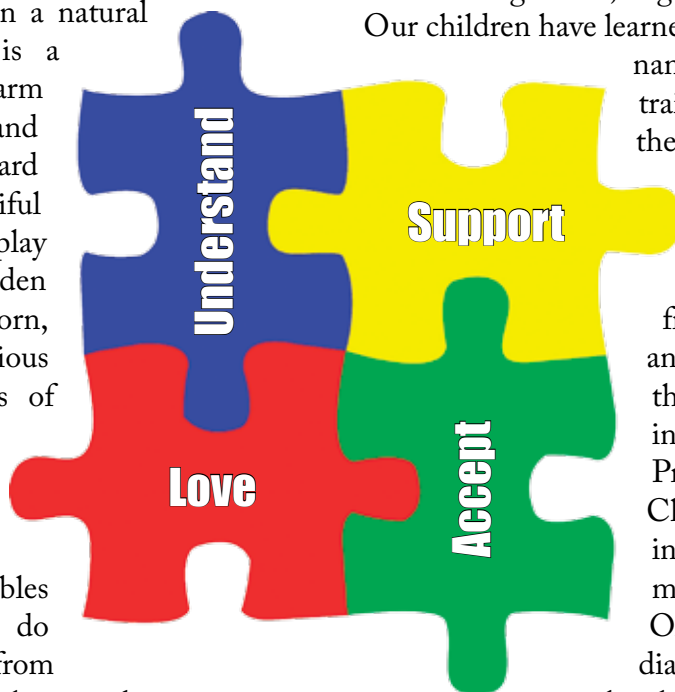
names and be completely potty trained along with learning all their colors, letters, shapes and numbers.

Our program runs daily Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and we run year round through the summer. Our four staff includes Tiann White, Teresa Pryce, Darline Phelps and Cherrie Lazore. In order to get into our program a child must meet eligibility guidelines under OMRDD. Children can be diagnosed as early as four to six months old.

Here are just a few autism characteristics:

- poor eye contact
- odd body posture
- delay or lack of expressive language skills
- unusual pitch or tone
- repetitive and peculiar speech patterns (Echolalia Speech)

It has been said that children with autism leave footprints on your heart. We believe this to be true. ◇



Sexual Assault

Division of Social Services Program Feature

By Carrie Marlowe, Sexual Assault Advocate

Sexual assault is demeaning, demoralizing and unacceptable in Akwesasne. Unfortunately, our community has faced a series of devastating events that have made the horrific topic of sexual assault a frequent topic of conversation. Victims face a stigma that is unfair and equally as punishing as the act of their abuser. It is difficult to face people knowing that others are talking about their assault. The victim only wants to erase that moment in time. They usually feel they will forever be different.

In our Three Sister's program, we teach the victims of sexual assault, "different" is not always bad. Our message is to remember, "You are brave, and you're a fighter and a survivor. You spoke up and told. You did not let fear control you."

For a victim of sexual assault, telling family, friends, or another trusted individual is taking the first step in taking control of their life. We work to empower women to understand they do not need to hold onto their pain any longer. We teach them not to say "I was raped." Instead, we teach our clients to understand they did not want, ask, or invite this into their lives, and they can give this action back to the assailant by stating, "He raped me, this was his choice, his action, his anger and lack of impulse control."

Sexual Assault affects us deeply. We are Haudenosaunee people. People of the longhouse. We follow Kaianere'kó:wa / The Great Law. Peace. Power. Righteousness. Strength in numbers. Individually we are simply broken, but we are unbreakable together.

The Creator teaches us to be thankful.

To live in balance and harmony.

Remember even the smallest creatures.

To greet and give thanks to all.

Remember our eldest Brother, the Sun.

The fire within all that lives.

To respect. Respect your elders.

Remember Grandmother Moon.

The leader of the women.

Protector of the children.

Squash, corn, and beans. The Three Sisters.

Here to protect, empower, and guide our sacred families. ◇

Environmental Response Team

Environment Division Program Feature

By Craig Arquette, Environmental Specialist

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environmental Response Team (ERT) was organized and established in recognition of the need for a community-based organization to respond to the release of hazardous materials which could threaten the health, safety and welfare of community members and the environment. The ERT is comprised of tribal employees who have technical backgrounds, training and education in the management of hazardous materials releases and control technologies. SRMT's ERT also works cooperatively with MCA's Environmental Response Team in addressing each other's major incidences.

The role of the ERT is:

1. To respond to reported spills for evaluation and determination of the best method for correcting the problem;
2. To clean up the spill in accordance with standard operating procedures and personal protection guidelines; and
3. To provide support to other response agencies as required.

A spill or incident is an occurrence where a hazardous material is dispersed into the environment or its container is damaged to such an extent that the contents can be expected to be released with the potential to cause injury to people or harm the environment. The ERT provides technical expertise, assistance and equipment at the incident and performs duties in accordance to their training. ERT members are trained in 40-hour hazardous materials awareness and participate in 8-hour refresher courses yearly.

The SRMT Environment Division takes calls during normal working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday

to Friday. After hours, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department receives calls for spills then notifies ERT members.

Funded yearly through an EPA CORE grant, the ERT responds mostly to petroleum related product spills but has the capacity to respond to other materials as well. Based on a 1999 highway study, the products most likely to be encountered at a spill incident were petroleum products followed by caustics and acids. The ERT performs soil gas investigations to determine the extent of petroleum spills by drilling shallow probes into the soil. We extract soil gasses and analyze it with our air monitoring instruments.

Petroleum spills remain our primary type of response, especially residential heating oil spills. Here is some advice to homeowners to help reduce the risk of a heating oil spill.

1. Have your fuel tank inspected. Call the Tribe's Compliance Department at 518-358-2272 to schedule an inspection.
2. If the tank is over 20 years old, consider buying a new one.
3. If your tank is located outside, a roof could be installed over it to protect it from falling ice and snow.
4. If your fuel dealer tells you that something is wrong with the tank or with any other part of the heating system, correct this problem immediately.
5. If you bleed fuel from the line put it into a clean container so it can be put right back into the tank. If you leave the fuel in the container, it may get knocked over and spilled. If the fuel is bad, then put it in a sealed container, label it and contact the Environment Division at 518-358-5937. We will advise you how to properly dispose of it. ◇



Akwesasne Employment Resource Center (AERC)

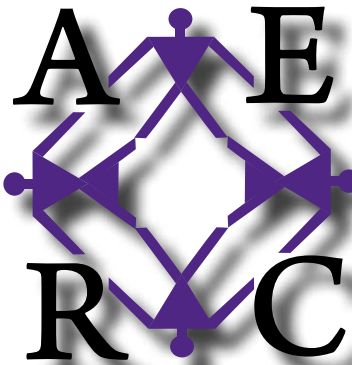
By Wahiaha-wi C. Barreiro, Administrative Assistant

This April marks the Akwesasne Employment Resource Center's (AERC) five-year anniversary serving the Akwesasne community. The AERC is a joint venture that was initiated in 2009 between the Akwesasne Area Management Board and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. We are committed to assisting individuals gain successful employment through our one-on-one support, guidance and job search skill-enhancement programming.

The AERC's goals are to provide a link between job seekers, employers, government agencies and service providers by hosting recruitment fairs, job fairs, workshops and training sessions. We host a very successful annual Akwesasne Job Fair; this year the committee will be hosting two job fairs as a result of the Job Fair 2013 survey feedback. The first job fair was held on February 26 at the Kawennoke Recreation Center.

There were over 300 job seekers in attendance and 25 employer booths. The job fair committee is hoping to host the second job fair at the old IGA building in October 2014.

The AERC offers a resource library with internet access, Job Board and a Resource Coach. The Broadband Initiative provided eight computers to our facility for clients who are looking for employment, on-line training and setting educational goals. We keep our



Job Board current with daily posting of positions within a two hour radius of the Akwesasne Community. Our resource coach, Susan Rourke, is available to assist clients with creating, modifying, and updating resumes and cover letters to suit their employment objectives, job search, interview tips and mock interviews.

We offer three workshops for our clients. These workshops occur three times a year and are taught by our Employment Development Officer, Colleen Nolan.

- *Job Finding Club* is a three week workshop that is available for individuals seeking to enhance their job search strategies and techniques. In this workshop, the members learn to develop an understanding of their personal skills, develop a resume and cover letter based on their employment goal, and connect with Human Resources.



Colleen Nolan with Job Finding Club Graduates

- *Career Choices and Exploration* is a three week workshop for individuals who are looking to identify and choose a career, change career paths, or go back to school. Members are guided to identify careers that would fit their characteristics and interests, research and investigate college & university programs and their requirements for admission, and connect to community agencies to identify requirements for funding.



Cathy Mitchell and Kylee Tarbell, MCA Economic Development, and Wabiabawi Barreiro manning the AERC table at the International Job Fair

- *Personality Dimensions Workshop* is a three hour program that builds self-awareness, self-esteem, and effective communication strategies designed to develop self-knowledge. The AERC provides on-line learning courses for computer & personal development skills, industrial training, and GED certification.

Becoming an AERC client has great benefits. We encourage community members seeking employment to speak with Danielle Sunday, the AERC receptionist, to begin the simple process of becoming a client. For further information on how we can connect you to our resources, please call our offices at 518-358-3047 to arrange an appointment or stop into our offices at 611 State Route 37, the silver building at the Hogansburg four corners. ◇

Year (Jan - Dec)	Traffic Flow	Resource Lab		Employed Follow-Up
		New Clients	RL Flow	
2009 (June - Dec)	1,305	190	712	52
2010	2,186	269	997	79
2011	2,497	296	1,489	69
2012	2,320	347	1,661	83
2013	2,684	248	1,441	38
Grand Total	10,992	1,350	6,300	321

Definitions:

- Traffic Flow: All visitors to the AERC for meetings, presentations, etc.
- New Clients: People who fill out new intake forms to use our facilities
- Resource Library (RL) Flow: Clients who come in to use our computers/copier/fax/telephones
- Employed Follow-Up: People who have become employed within four weeks of using our services

Monthly Tribal Meeting

Enniskó:wa/March 1, 2014
Chaired by Chief Beverly Cook

Agenda

1. Welcome - Chairperson
 - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
 2. Program Spotlight - AERC
 - Wahiahawi Barreiro & Susan Rourke
 3. National Grid Advocate Update
 4. Land Claims Update
 5. New Business
 - Residency
 - SRCS School Board Elections
 6. Reading of Action Items
 - Tribal Clerk
 7. Adjournment
-

Action Items from March Meeting

1. Present the Exclusion Order at next monthly meeting.
 2. A report on how the MBP is doing since the move over to the AMC, percentage of Natives employed with the MBP and why was there a change in the bingo play price.
 3. Look into re-licensing negotiations with NYPA.
 4. A formal request of meeting with Tribal Council regarding services offered to the men in our community.
 5. The Akwesasne Employment Resource Center success rate.
-

Follow-up on Action Items from December Meeting

1. Look into having our own Tribal motor vehicle department

Follow-up: To provide our own Tribal motor vehicle

department is cost prohibitive. The expense would be a financial burden with little to no value based on our population. The Tribe's that successfully run their own motor vehicle department are very large in size and geographically expansive.

Follow-up on Action Items from January Meeting

1. To discuss the location of future SRMT monthly meetings

Follow-up: The Tribal Council is in the process of planning our first community forum to present program developments, research and important community topics. We will begin requesting preference on day and time for these sessions to encourage greater participation, especially from our younger generation. Working together in roundtable discussions can greatly improve our knowledge sharing and encourage innovative ideas to build progress in Akwesasne. We welcome ideas on what topics our community members are interested in.

2. To have an update from the advocate of National Grid

Follow-up: Chief Ron LaFrance, Sub-Chief Eric Thompson, Michele Mitchell, Chrissy Lazore and Allyson Doctor met with representatives from National Grid to discuss the organization's plans for communicating the payment plan options for our members with accounts in arrears. The potential termination of service was discussed. National Grid expressed concern over safety of their employees; the Police Commission has been included and will coordinate as needed with National Grid should any Tribal resources be requested. The expense of any resources utilized would be incurred by National Grid, not the Tribe. Tribal Council recommended National Grid hire an advocate/liaison to assist our members with delinquent accounts through the payment plan process in the Fall of 2013. Tribal Council was advised National Grid will be hiring



an advocate, at their expense, from Akwesasne. The Akwesasne Employment Resource Center is researching strong candidates to submit to National Grid, fluency in Mohawk is a recommendation made by Tribal Council. National Grid has been connected with CKON and Indian Time to ensure our community members with past due bills understand how to set up a payment plan.

items for use during emergencies, such as bedding should a shelter be necessary. Some old electronics in poor condition were given away. Items were in un-usable condition for the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort.

2. To look into providing fuel to enrolled tribal members living outside of the land claims area

Follow-up: Action was taken, a news release and community announcement were sent on February 26, 2014. Tribal members living on the southern portion of Akwesasne who were not in the land claims area but were served by a Tribally licensed fuel service were potentially eligible for a fuel allotment. ◇

Follow-up on Action Items from February Meeting

1. To look into the surplus give-a-way from the casino hotel and to obtain the inventory list

Follow-up: The give-a-way was shared with Tribal programs as priority. The Senior Center accepted many



Health Services Hires Nationally Experienced Director

By Allyson Doctor, Director of Communications

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe proudly welcomes Michael Cook as our new Director of Health Services, starting March 31, 2014. Mike's experience brings thirty years of Indian Health Services leadership and knowledge home to our people. Mike returns to Akwesasne most recently from Syracuse, where he has been responsible for oversight of Contract Health Services programs for the Nashville Area Offices of Indian Health Service. Mike has served as the Executive Director of the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), been the Director of Governmental Programs and Services of the Oneida Indian Nation, the Health Administrator of the Oneida Indian Health Program and the Deputy Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation at Oklahoma University in Oklahoma. We welcome Mike back to Health Services,

where he previously led our organization for ten years from 1980-1990. Mike received both his Bachelor and Masters of Business Administration from Clarkson University in 1990. He's a graduate of Salmon River and attended the St. Regis Mohawk School.



Mike is married to Lisa, and they have five children. Mike is the son of James "Jimmy" Cook and the late Virginia Cook, the proud grandfather of six, and an avid Hab's and Patriot's fan. Mike shares how he is "honored to have been selected to be a member of the highly renowned Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services team of health professionals. The opportunity to come home is priceless."

On behalf of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council and our Tribal members, welcome home Mike. ◇

Calendar

Onerabtókha / April 2014

- 3 - Burn Permit Applications - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Community Building Lobby
E-Commerce Training Series - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. - Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Training Center
- 5 - Monthly Tribal Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building lobby
- 8 - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's office
Akwesasne Mohawk AISES Chapter - 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. - HAVFD Station #1
- 9 - Police Commission Monthly Meeting - 3:00 p.m. - Tribal Council Executive Boardroom
- 10 - E-Commerce Training Series - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. - Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Training Center
- 17 - E-Commerce Training Series - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. - Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Training Center
- 19 - ATFE Tree & Seed Giveaway - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Senior's Center
- 26 - ATFE Roadside Cleanup - 8:30 a.m. - Senior's Center (Raindate May 3)

Tuesdays - Tribal Tribal Council Work Session - 9:00 a.m. - Tribal Council Executive Boardroom

New Faces

Talon Swamp

Youth Worker

Akwesasne Group Home

Donations

Sports - \$ 3,000

Funeral - \$ 4,000

Community Activities - \$ 5,000

Jobs

Medicaid Service Coordinator (Female) -
Community & Family Services Division
Administrative Assistants (3) - Intensive Preventive
Program, A/CDP and Family Support
**New York State Certified Alcoholism Substance
Abuse Counselor (CASAC)** - A/CDP - Health
Services
Teacher Aid/Bus Driver - Early Childhood
Development Program - Education Division
Administrative Floater - Tribal Administration
Internal Auditor - Finance
Safety Officer - Tribal Administration
Assistant Manager - Facilities

Mechanic - Maintenance - Facilities

Director - Office for the Aging

Director - Social Services Division

All current positions with the Saint Regis Mohawk
Tribe are posted on the Tribe's website at :

www.srmt-nsn.gov.

Positions with our gaming operations are posted on
the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino's website at:

www.mohawkcasino.com.

Akwesasne and surrounding area positions are posted
at the Akwesasne Employment Resource Center
(AERC) at www.myaerc.org.

A/CDP Program

Health Services Program Feature

By Chelsea Sunday, Prevention Educator

It's that time of year again! April is Alcohol Awareness month and is a great time to talk about the Alcoholism/Chemical Dependency Prevention Program and all that we do to educate and raise awareness about substance abuse. We have been working hard on the delivery of our curriculum, monthly prevention activities and fun events. This year we have added another hard working addition to our team. Olivia Cook has joined our program as a Prevention Educator and has been having a powerful impact on each person she gets to work with as well as create many positive ideas for the future of our program.

April is an extra busy month for our program because the focus is on alcohol awareness. In October of each year we celebrate National Red Ribbon Week where we challenge the local schools and community members to take a stand against drugs and celebrate their choice to be substance-free! During that month we participate in "Plant the Promise" where students plant tulip bulbs as a promise to lead healthy drug-free lives. Look for our bright red tulips every April at the Saint Regis Mohawk School and Salmon River Central School.

Did you know that culture is prevention? Each year our program holds Culture Enrichment Week which focuses on traditional teachings and activities that bring our youth closer to our culture and establish a greater connection to our community. Those individuals who have a greater sense of identity and belonging are less likely to engage in substance abuse. This year participants visited SUNY Potsdam's Planetarium, High Ropes Course, and had lunch with staff and students of the Potsdam Association for Native Americans. They spent

the day at the Kanenhi:io Farmers Market and learned about traditional foods and celebrated with a social by Kaniehkehaka Ratirennahawi. Local artists such as Niio Perkins and the new Traditional Support Workers, Kawenniotha Jock and Ian Clute, shared their talent and creativity with the youth. Kawennahente Cook, Let's Get Healthy Program and the Akwesasne Museum also engaged with the participants and shared their valuable knowledge.

Since last April, the Prevention Program has participated in Sticker Shock, camped overnight at Meacham Lake, challenged youth at the Arbraska zipline course, worked with participants at the Haudenosaunee Youth Camp, Climbed Azure Mountain, completed the SUNY Potsdam High Ropes course and many

more activities. As devoted members of the Akwesasne Coalition for Community Empowerment, our program helped to offer substance-free events to the community such as "My Guy and Me" Dance, Memorial Day Parade ("Our Veterans are our Heroes!"), Super Family Fun Day, Zombie Infested Obstacle Course, Cookies and

Crafts with Santa and the Akwesasne Komic Kon.

Below are a few upcoming activities:

- My Guy and Me Dance
- Grim Reaper Day
- Memorial Day Parade
- Akwe:kon Music Festival
- SRCS All Night Grad Party

For more information on our program and what we have to offer, please contact us at 518-358-2967. ♦



Meet the Candidates

Salmon River School Board Election

May 20, 2014

By Stephanie Cook, Executive Director of Education

Education. One word that affects every one of us in our community. It is our responsibility to ensure that we are promoting, supporting and respecting the educational needs of our children and community members.

One way in which to do this is to vote in local school elections. On May 20, we will be asking you to vote for three community members in the Salmon River Central

School Board of Education Election. Sheila Marshall, Michael Connors and Jason McDonald will be seeking your support as they vow to bring a voice to all students in the Salmon River Central School District. It is our responsibility to participate in, be proactive about and committed to the overall education, health, safety and well-being of our children.

Please read more about each of our candidates.



Sheila Marshall is seeking re-election for the Salmon River Central School Board of Education seat she was appointed to in 2012. Sheila is running to ensure our district provides the very best for our students through solid Board leadership. She strongly believes in sticking to her principles, a value she demonstrated in seeking to pass the controversial Capital Project, which supported a safe classroom environment and updated ventilation, an imperative for air quality. Sheila is rewarded, personally, by working with the Curriculum Sub-Committee influencing decisions made to benefit teachers and students facing the Common Core Modules. "It's imperative we make every effort to allow our students to be successful in their chosen path post-graduation. Our decisions should be the driving force behind everything we do. I'm committed to keep learning and achievement for all students as my primary focus."

Sheila has been involved in the education field for over twenty years and has experience working with students from middle school through post-secondary. The early days of her career started as the Director of the Higher Education Program for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. She transitioned from this position to manage an educational outreach program administered at SUNY Potsdam. Sheila is currently the Director of the Center for Diversity at SUNY Potsdam. As a higher education professional, Sheila's goal is "to offer guidance and support for students throughout their educational journey, ultimately supporting our student's career goals".

Sheila has earned a Bachelors of Arts degree from SUNY Plattsburgh and a Masters of Education from St. Lawrence University.



Jason McDonald feels it is important to his family that he represents our community youth in their education. Jason has three children in the school system, a 12, 10 and 6 year old. Jason wants our children to learn to take advantage of the education that is offered in our school systems to develop career planning post-graduation. Jason wants to help students connect to educational resources through vocational, technical or collegiate access, in pursuit of their career goals. Considering the substantial population of our Akwesasne students learning at the Salmon River Central School system, it is incumbent upon our community to ensure our youth have a voice on the Board of Education.

Jason was born and raised in Akwesasne. He is the son of Edith and the late Dave McDonald. Jason graduated from Salmon River in 1993. Jason began employment at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe in July of 1999. He is currently the Division Director to Community and Family Services, working with our Akwesasne community members with physical and developmental disabilities. This is a position Jason has held since October of 2011. Jason has been an active member of the Hogansburg Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department for 20 years, currently serving as the Treasurer.



Michael Conners is running for the Salmon River Central School Board in an effort to attain adequate representation for our Mohawk children and families. Our current student enrollment is almost 70%, our native employment is 20% and our Board member representation is 22%. Our Mohawk students are unacceptably under-represented. As a graduate of the Salmon River Central School system, Michael is compelled to give back to the system by representing our children. Michael and his wife have 3 grown children who have graduated from the SRCS system, and have 3 younger children in grades 2, 4, and 6. He is firmly committed to representing all students, employees, and families of the Salmon River Central School district.

Michael is a member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council and a Board member of Mohawk Gaming Enterprises, the Tribal corporate entity that operates and owns the Tribe's Class II and III gaming operations. Prior to being elected to the Tribal Council in June 2011, Michael spent 8 years as the Finance Director of the Tribe's Class II gaming operation, the Mohawk Bingo Palace, 1.5 years as Finance Manager for the Tribe's Class III Operation, Akwesasne Mohawk Casino, and 2 Years as Internal Auditor for the Tribal Gaming Commission. He has a background in accounting, graduating from SUNY Plattsburgh in December 1999. ♦

E-Commerce Training Series



Get Your Business on the Map: Business Listings & Customer Review Sites

Thursday, April 3, 2014 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Presented by: Michelle Collins, SUNY Canton SBDC

Hands-on computer workshop with instruction on how to list your business on search engines, encourage reviews from customers and be seen on internet and mobile map applications. Ideal for businesses who have not built their online listing presence or who have limited experience with listings.

Facebook for Business

Thursday, April 10, 2014 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Presented by: Michelle Collins, SUNY Canton SBDC

Hands-on computer workshop for businesses that have no Facebook presence or may have a page set up but have not utilized it. Participants will learn how to set up their business Facebook page and the basics of developing and managing it.

Hands-On Workshop Session

Thursday, April 17, 2014 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Presented by: Michelle Collins, SUNY Canton SBDC

Session gives attendees of the previous two workshops a chance to troubleshoot and ask more detailed questions after having some time to practice their new skills on their own. SUNY Canton SBDC staff will be on hand to guide participants through any issues they may be having with their newly established online presence.

All sessions held at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Training Center, 921 State Route 37, Akwesasne. Pre-Registration is required. Contact Lindsay Tarbell, SRMT Office of Economic Development at 518-358-2835 or email: lindsay.tarbell@srmt-nsn.gov. ♦



The New York State Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is partially funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The support given by the U.S. Small Business Administration through such funding does not constitute an expressed or implied endorsement of any of the co-sponsor(s)' or participants' opinions, products, or services. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Contact the SUNY Canton SBDC at 315-386-7312 to make necessary arrangements.



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
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