

*Featured Programs*

ECDP  
Head Start

Chronic Care  
Nursing

Superfund  
Oversight

Akwesasne  
Group Home

# Kawennì:ios

**HELPING BUILD A BETTER TOMORROW**



## 2012 Tribal Government

Helping Build a Better Tomorrow

# Economic Development

## Looking Toward the Future

*By Steven B. Cook, Director Economic Development*

The goal of the SRMT office of economic development is to create a vibrant, sustainable, diversified economy. To accomplish this, we have networked and established partnerships with our local business partners, neighbors and competition. Great things are possible when people work together. It takes vision and a willingness to adapt to change, to survive in today's tough competitive global market.

As we witness the current national recession, we have turned our attention inward and examined the many strengths and opportunities which exist within the boundaries of our own community of Akwesasne.

We are taking the following measures to address the current recession by:

- providing training to our workforce which will prepare them for existing job opportunities,
- expanding and restoring our infrastructure to accommodate both existing and future needs of our community
- upgrading our Casino which will increase its revenue generating potential and create more jobs for our people
- building a fiber optic network and exploring new technology based opportunities
- exploring solar and other renewable energy technologies
- promoting our arts, language and culture through

various program initiatives

- building new facilities to address specialized health care such as diabetes
- exploring recreation projects and facilities for our community residents
- exploring new agricultural programs/training to revitalize the agricultural community
- supporting our local business community by offering them training, technical support
- working with banks and financial institutions to resolve challenges which prevent our business community from accessing capital.



### ***Mission Statement***

*The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) Office of Economic Development is committed to promoting economic self-sufficiency through the provision of training, technical assistance and financing designed to support the development of new and expanded businesses which shall support a strengthened and diversified economy while creating new employment opportunities.*

Whether people realize it or not, our local economies are greatly influenced and supported through tourism. We will be looking at a beautification project which will make Akwesasne more attractive and appealing

for both our community members and visitors.

We realize that we cannot and should not leave it up to the state and federal governments to create our future for us. "Our Actions Today -- Affect our Future Tomorrow". The world is changing and we must adapt with it.

While people might argue that you cannot predict the future – one thing is certain – our current projects and initiatives are creating it. The leadership and staff of the SRMT are working together to "Help Build a Better Tomorrow." ◇



# Good Words of Welcome



Shékon Akwesashró:non,

What a hot summer this has been! First and foremost, congratulations to incoming Council Chief Paul O. Thompson, Sub-Chief Eric Thompson and re-elected Tribal Clerk Corleen Jackson-Jacco.

It was nice to see incoming Council observe the tradition of the Tribe and hold the ceremony on the first of July, which happened to fall on a Sunday this year. It brought with it a grand audience with many familiar faces and some unfamiliar faces. So often it is said, that the people of this community cannot attend functions of the Tribe because it falls within the normal working hours of the Tribe. I applaud Tribal Council for holding the ceremony on the time-honored day. It speaks volumes to our promises of listening to the voice of the people.

There were a few moments that stick in my memory that I would like to share with you. How inspirational it is to hear incoming Council speak Kanienkeha and later translate it for the audience. Two years ago, I remember an elder cite Diefenbaker (a member of Parliament in the '70s) who said in order to maintain our identity we

have to maintain our language. Perhaps hearing more of our language within the corridors of the offices, it will help me rekindle what I knew as a child who grew up in household fluent in Kanienkeha.

Another notable was listening to Sub-Chief Thompson speak from his heart, how motivating to hear the words flow naturally. Somewhere I read that the beauty of listening to a speaker speaking from their heart is hearing their words coming from their mind, not just hearing a performance. Niá:wen.

Last, but not least, I especially enjoyed the introduction of the drumming. Mark Light led the group in a tribute to incoming Council with the honor song; a symbolic gesture, the first step in the sharing of our culture, and the being together as one Akwesasne.

In closing, enjoy this month's edition and I look forward to working with new Council in helping build a better tomorrow.

Shelley Jacobs, Sub-Chief

**On the Cover:** 2012 Tribal Government at Swearing-In Ceremony. L-R: Sub-Chiefs Eric Thompson, Michael Conners and Shelley Jacobs, Tribal Clerk Corleen Jackson-Jacco and Chiefs Ron LaFrance, Jr., Paul O. Thompson and Randy Hart.

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# Head Start

## Early Childhood Development Program Feature

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*By Administrative Staff, Early Childhood Development Program*

The SRMT Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP) provides enhanced educational opportunities and supports to promote higher outcomes and improved services. The ECDP gives priority placement for children with special needs within Head Start, Center Based Program, as well as the Home Based component. Our staff is sensitive to the needs of the families we serve and are willing to continually modify service delivery to fit the needs identified through parent and children interaction.

ECDP's early childhood advocacy component involves two sections, Early Intervention for children zero to three years of age and Child Preschool Special Education (CPSE) for children three to five years. Children are identified for special needs during registration, weekly child concern meetings and during CPSE meetings. Our partnership with BOCES allows us ample opportunities to house certified BOCES staff to evaluate and work with the children on specific goals onsite in a familiar environment.

Research-based early childhood studies have shown that children develop fastest during the years from birth to age five. Early intervention and CPSE give children the opportunity to develop at their own individual levels.

The years before kindergarten are the most critical to influence learning. With early intervention we are able to assist not only the children but also the entire family. Increasing the well-being of the entire family can provide the child with special needs a more supportive environment, allowing them to grow intellectually, emotionally and physically.

ECDP focuses on providing staff with special needs training. Every year our program develops a training plan for employees and hosts a pre-service week in collaboration with Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country (CCCCNC). Our goals for the upcoming school year are to offer family informational sessions that open to the community. By utilizing our partnerships with

other programs we are giving our children and families the resources, confidence and skills needed for school readiness.

Head Start accepts 64 children from three to five years of age. Selections are prioritized, with priority given to low income families and children with disabilities. Head Start classrooms use the Creative Curriculum. This curriculum focuses on each child's individual learning style with an emphasis on school readiness to help transition into public schools as they continue their education. ◇



# 2012 Swearing-In Ceremony

*Paul Thompson, Eric Thompson and Corleen Jackson-Jacco Sworn In*

## *Press Release*

Tribal Judge Peter J. Herne swore in Tribal Chief Paul Thompson, Tribal Sub-Chief Eric Thompson and re-elected Tribal Clerk Corleen Jackson-Jacco. Paul Thompson and Eric Thompson are the two newest members of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council. The tribe held its tented ceremony behind the Tribal Community Building beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 1, 2012. Tribal officials from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and Chief Brian David of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne were on hand for the ceremony and provided words of welcome to the approximately 250 community members attending the event. A traditional-style communal luncheon followed the swearing-in ceremony.

Newly elected Tribal Chief Paul Thompson has spent his career working in Akwesasne in small businesses, construction and gaming. Earlier, he served two terms as a Chief between 1996 and 2003. In his remarks, Tribal Chief Thompson stated, "Even though the earlier generations are gone, the challenge is still the same. Do the best we can with what we have. Make our community the greatest that we can make it." Chief Thompson thanked his family and supporters

for their help in his campaign and election to Tribal Council.

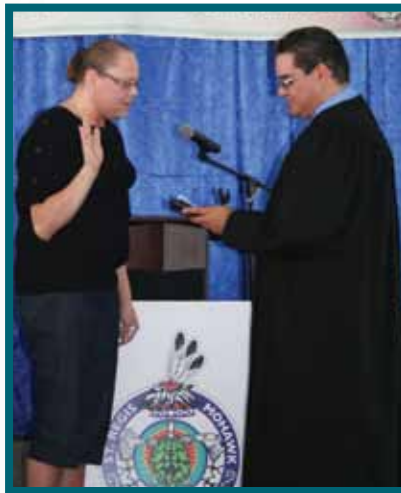
Sub-Chief Eric Thompson has worked with various Akwesasne organizations and served as a consultant in the private sector to local businesses and government departments. Sub-Chief Eric Thompson noted, "I am very surprised at the turnout today, for people to come out on such a nice day and take their time on the weekend was great. I'm grateful for that support and for the voter turn-out." Sub-Chief Thompson also expressed his appreciation to his family and supporters who supported him in his election bid.

Akwesasne voters re-elected Tribal Clerk Corleen Jackson-Jacco to a third term. She was elected to a partial term in 2008, was re-elected for full terms in 2009 and again in 2012. She had served as Deputy Tribal Clerk in 2003.

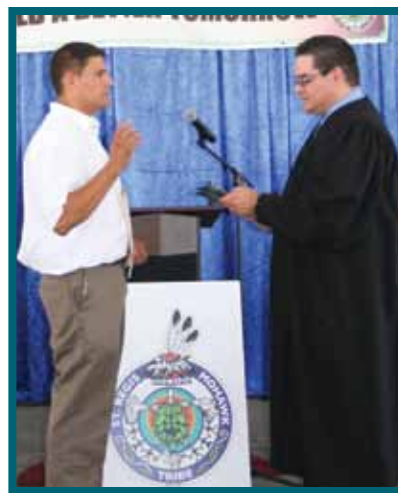
Chief Paul Thompson and Sub-Chief Eric Thompson join the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council along with Chiefs Ron LaFrance and Randy Hart and Sub-Chiefs Michael Connors and Shelley Jacobs. ♦



*Chief Paul O. Thompson*



*Tribal Clerk Corleen Jackson-Jacco*



*Sub-Chief Eric Thompson*



# Medicaid Service Coordination

## Department of Social Services Program Feature

*By Heath R. Kuhn, Medicaid Service Coordination Coordinator*

The Medicaid Service Coordinators (MSCs), Trina Terrance, Calvin Thomas, and Floyd “Beaver” Barnes are at present providing services to fifty-two community members. I am overseeing the MCA youth which consists of fourteen people.

The MSCs I have listed above do an extraordinary job at assuring that those in which they serve receive the optimum care. Being an MSC is more than an 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. job. An MSC is entirely committed and dedicated to their particular caseload and in some instances, support in their colleagues caseload(s) twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred and sixty five days a year. If a consumer is having difficulties with their breathing and is escorted to a local hospital, (even Fletcher Allen Hospital in Burlington, Vermont), the MSC is there. If a consumer sadly finds him or herself in trouble with law enforcement and is in Town Court at 2:30 a.m.; their MSC is there.

MSCs lend a hand with their consumers in making healthy relationships with either friends and/or family

within the community. MSCs ensure that every individual’s life is unique and that their Individualized Service Plan (ISP) acknowledges such. An ISP may have an area or two in which we may not believe that

a particular activity or future goal is in that person’s best interest on a professional and/or personal level. That is irrelevant – we provide the consumer what he/she wants. The MSCs work at supporting self-reliance and not fostering dependency. We do not take consumers grocery shopping, we assist in the coordination of the grocery shopping. The MSCs uphold a Person Centered Planning Process where we capitalize on an individual’s gifts and capabilities. The individual with whom the MSC is working with has the opportunity to make choices and express preferences. An example is, “You need to clean your apartment,

it is absolutely filthy!” This is a very negative and disruptive approach. We move toward a more strength-based approach such as, “Let’s work on cleaning your kitchen today. Please let me know when you would like to begin.”

The New York State Office for People  
with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)  
Mission statement is:

*We help people with  
developmental disabilities live  
richer lives.*

OPWDD’s Vision is:

*People with developmental  
disabilities enjoy meaningful  
relationships with friends,  
family and others in their lives,  
experience personal health and  
growth and live in the home of  
their choice and fully participate  
in their communities.*

When working with their consumers, one other noteworthy responsibility an MSC has is to make certain that people's lives are having an important effect and are worthwhile to them. For example, for an individual who has a love for animals, arrange for them to do some type of volunteer work two times a week at an animal shelter and/or pet store.

The entire MSC model is driven on the mindset that everything possible is Person-Centered; a "Nothing about me, without me," viewpoint. The individual receiving services drives their service. With this way of life, it is essential for the MSC to get to know the individual's support network and the people in the individual's life. An MSC who reaches out to current and past individuals from the consumer's life can discover patterns of life experience and perhaps assist in developing a plan to where the consumer wants to go. The MSC and the consumer will take action, try new things and work together. They work with other human service professionals, family, friends and community members to see if the plan is effective. If the plan is flourishing -- magnificent. If not, the consumer in most cases will call for a change

in their plan. It is important throughout this process to develop constructive system support. This may require the MSC to explore the consumer's community as an opportunity for individual growth.

In closing, I feel Trina, Beaver and Calvin give 110% to the consumers they serve at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. They are fully devoted and committed employees who go beyond to adhere to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's policies, and OPWDD policies to guarantee services. I am delighted to be an employee of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and I am pleased to have three superb and devoted employees. From working their regularly scheduled hours, to sitting in the

emergency room, courtroom, and/or taking phone calls late into the evening hours, you cannot say anything other than "Dedicated."

Should anyone have any questions, concerns, and/or recommendations about the MSC program, individuals served, or basic questions – please feel free to contact us via phone and/or email. We are glad to assist. ♦



*The MSC Team*

*Top L-R: Calvin Thomas and Heath Kuhn*

*Bottom: Trina Terrance and Beaver Barnes*

# Chronic Care Nursing

## Health Services Program Feature

*By Theresa Gardner, Outreach Chronic Nursing Care Supervisor*

The Chronic Care Nursing Department was established in 2008. Our mission statement is to "Provide quality professional healthcare with dignity and privacy within the scope of the Chronic Care Nursing Department."

Our program provides home health aide services, foot care, medical transportation, smoking cessation counseling, wound care, case management, home-care for eligible veterans, nursing and provider visits, falls prevention program, on call 24/7 for home care patients. It also provides CPR and first aid for SRMHS employees, immunizations, health and wellness screening days, food and safety inspections, environmental assessments, post-partum and newborn home visits, car seat installations and safety checks.

Our program has been very successful with our wound care. Our success rate is excellent. We do diabetic wounds, post-op care, and hard-to-heal wounds. Our foot clinic for diabetics is essential to the well-being of our patients. Our nurses are continually assessing the needs of our elders and chronically ill. Patients receive nursing care and provider visits as necessary. The patient may need Home Health Aide Services. This is all managed on a case by case basis. Health and wellness screening days are scheduled throughout the year. We

collaborate with other service agencies to provide the best service possible.

We work closely with the Office for Aging and Adult Protective. We case manage with the local hospitals discharge planners to help transition the patients to the home. We provide medical transportation to patients needing transportation from Syracuse NY to Burlington

VT. We have four vehicles and would appreciate at least a 24 hour notice to make appropriate transportation arrangements. We have a smoking cessation counselor that takes clients by appointment. She assists with stop smoking products as

necessary. We have three trained car seat technicians to assess and educate you on your needs for proper car seat safety and installations.

The Chronic Care Nursing Department accepts referrals from outside agencies and medical providers. We work with local health agencies and medical providers to provide optimum care for our patients. Our program has provided a very important aspect of care that was missing in the community. Our elders were being placed in nursing homes. Now they are able to stay home with the benefit of nursing and home health aide services that the Outreach chronic nursing care department offers. ◇



*Chronic Care Nursing Staff*



# Tribe Co-Hosts Food Distribution Conference

*By David T. Staddon, Editor*

**L**et's move Towards a Healthier Generation" was the theme of the 25th Annual National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations (NAFDPIR). The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and Seneca Nation of Indians and the Midwest Region co-hosted this year's conference. SRMT Food Distribution Director Sharon Thompson was co-chair of the conference committee. They held it in Niagara Falls at the Seneca Niagara Casino-Resort.

The opening ceremonies were held on Monday, June 25, 2012 beginning at 1:00 p.m. Master of Ceremonies Flip White gave a traditional greeting in the Seneca language. Susie Roy of the Leech Lake Ojibway and Midwest Region Vice President of NAFDPIR also provided welcoming remarks.

Robert Odawi Porter, President of the Seneca Nation spoke of the progress tribes have been making, much of it due to the tribal casino economies. Dexter McNamara, Chairman of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Sharon Thompson and SRMT Chief Randy Hart also spoke. "Over the years, much has changed for food distribution programs on Indian reservations," remarked Sharon Thompson. "But one thing never changes. We continue to provide a service vital to the health and well-being of our communities."

Chief Hart told a humorous story about one of his first experiences with the commodity food program, and went on to describe Akwesasne and how the tribal government works here. "Mrs. Thompson and her

staff provide a needed service to our members." He remarked, "The best compliment one can give is, 'This is just like my mother's kitchen. Everyone is always welcome, help is provided and no one leaves hungry.'"



*Chief Randy Hart*



*Sharon Thompson, Director*

The keynote speaker for the opening ceremonies was Kevin Concannon, Deputy Undersecretary for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) falls under the jurisdiction of the USDA. Mr. Concannon spoke about the nature of the relationship between the USDA and tribes who host food distribution programs.

He assured attendees that the USDA is making every attempt to be responsive to the needs of tribes with food distribution programs. He also spoke about an upcoming research project that will more closely identify specific tribal needs.

Conference workshop sessions delved into the specific areas of Civil Rights, Customer Service, Certification, Nutrition and Budget Preparation. In the General Session they covered the Farm Bill, Prime Vendor Pilot Project, Food Package review update, Guide Rate Changes and FNS Policies.

A reception on Monday evening was provided by TJ Jackson (as Elvis) and on Thursday evening the 25th Annual Celebration-Jubilee took place with Mel Back and the Hoop Dancers. The conference also included morning walks and Zumba Break-ins with Jamie Ross and Rachel Ward. ♦

# SRMT Compliance Conducts Motor Vehicle Fuel Inspection and Testing

*By Elliott Lazore, Director of Compliance*

The SRMT regulates the sale and quality of motor fuels under the licensing and jurisdiction of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe through the Compliance Department. The priority is to investigate consumer complaints if someone feels that they have been overcharged or the quantity of a product that they have purchased is misrepresented in some way, or the motor fuel they have bought is contaminated by water or particulate matter. Consumers have often brought a problem to the attention of the department which has led to a field investigation. These complaints may be for overcharging or inaccurate quantity or any other weighing or measuring practices.

This department is comprised of Inspectors who conduct field inspections in many areas. The inspections are to ensure that fuel dispensing devices are operating within established guidelines for the volume dispensed, total price computation and dispenser labeling is accurate and meets established guidelines. In addition, they will randomly sample fuel for specialized testing to assure quality products are sold to the consumer. This program is also responsible for investigating consumer complaints involving the sale and/or quality of motor fuels in the SRMT jurisdiction.

The Compliance Department maintains and enforces minimum performance standards and specifications for most petroleum and related motor fuel products

(gasoline, gasoline/ethanol blends and diesel) offered for sale or sold in Akwesasne and for the devices used to dispense these products. Additionally, the program regulates the advertising and labeling of these products, however they do not determine the retail cost of product. The program only provides the results of the Akwesasne Convenience Store Association retail petroleum business polled and enforces minimum price based upon the poll.



*Inspector Charlie Thompson Inspects Lead Seal on Calibration Area*

Compliance Inspectors are trained Weights and Measures officials who inspect all motor fuel dispensers a minimum of once a year to ensure compliance and that they are operating within established tolerances. A typical inspection of a retail motor fuel establishment will begin with the inspectors making sure that all posted signs advertising the price are in agreement with

the dispenser price. SRMT regulations do not require that the price be posted on a street sign. However, if the station so chooses, the street sign price must be in agreement with the dispenser price and the retail minimum price as per the Akwesasne Convenience Store Association poll of retail petroleum stations.

After checking that the motor fuel dispensing device starts at zero, a calibration check is performed to ensure the correct volume is dispensed from the nozzle. The dispenser's displayed total price is then checked against the store's console for pricing accuracy. SRMT



regulation requires that the tolerance limits for accuracy be within +/- 6 cubic inches for each 5 gallon delivery and that the total purchase price be within \$0.01 of the computed purchase price (cost = price per gallon X gallons dispensed). The device must also initiate at \$0.00 and 0.00 gallons on the display and remain at this value until activated by the customer at the nozzle. Dispensers are also checked for proper octane labeling and for any signs of leakage or wear. Upon completion of the inspection, a lead seal is applied to the point of calibration to prevent tampering.

All fuel storage tanks are checked with an appropriate water detection paste to ensure that water levels are at or below the maximum allowable levels. SRMT regulations states that at any given time the water level cannot exceed 2 inches in bulk fuel storage tanks or a percentage inch, in ethanol blended fuel tanks. To ensure the quality of each grade of motor fuel, random samples are tested in the field for octane rating, foreign matter and water. After verifying the dispenser and fuels dispensed meet all the above requirements, a current-year SRMT seal is placed on the dispenser and a lead seal is placed upon the calibration area to ensure that adjustments are not made thereafter. These seals are then randomly checked to ensure that there has been no tampering with the calibration of the dispenser.

The Compliance Inspector also conducts motor fuel octane testing. The SRMT have adopted minimum standards for motor fuel octane for unleaded and super

unleaded fuels. The inspector utilizes a Zeltec field testing device that pre-screens the motor fuel for an octane reading. If the device indicates that discrepancies may exist in the motor fuels octane, a second test sample is taken. If the second field test indicates some question on the quality of octane, the product line is ordered closed immediately and must be removed from the bulk storage tank. Then a third sample is taken and forwarded to an independent laboratory for testing. The independent laboratories results shall determine any fines and penalties to the wholesale distributor and retail petroleum businesses.

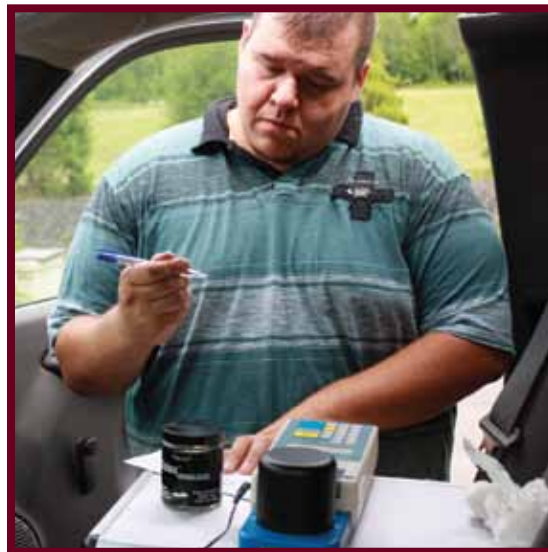
With the recent transfer of the Environmental Compliance Inspector to the Tribe's Compliance Department, field inspections can be conducted simultaneously. The Environmental Compliance inspections consists of a visual inspection of Petroleum Bulk Storage tanks (PBS), dispenser wells, piping, containment walls and proper labeling, record-keeping and maintenance schedule verification.

Each retail petroleum business inspection takes Inspectors approximately four hours to conduct a complete Weights and Measures inspection. These inspections are to ensure quality, quantity and help protect the consumers as well as the businesses.

If anybody has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Compliance Department at 518-358 - 2272. ◇



*Inspector Carrie Benedict Dispenses Fuel to Verify Proper Accuracy*



*Inspector Brandon Smoke Checks Octane Test Results*



# General Motors Site Remediation Update

*By Craig Arquette, Environmental Specialist*

I am an Environmental Specialist for the SRMT's Environment Division. One of my job duties is to provide oversight for the community regarding the cleanup of the GM property. Basically, I keep an eye on the GM site to make sure their remediation activities are not impacting our community. The property is currently owned by Revitalizing Automotive Communities Environmental Response (RACER) Trust, but I think it will always be referred to as the GM site.

Several areas on the GM site are contaminated with PCBs. When one of these areas is selected for cleanup, then a Remediation Work Plan is written, detailing how the work will be conducted. I review the work plans, along with our office's Environmental Consultant, and we provide comments to the US EPA.

Right now, demolition efforts continue for the former GM Plant. Last year, the old plant building was demolished down to the concrete slab. Work began in April to demo the concrete slab and the contaminated soils under it. The contaminated demolition debris and soils will be sent off-site to a secure landfill at Model City NY. Non-hazardous waste soils will be sent to Boonville NY in Oneida County. This work is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Residences in the area are expected to experience

noise from the operation of construction equipment. Nine air monitoring stations are in place downwind from the work site. One air monitoring station is located on residential property in Raquette Point. All air monitoring stations will continue to collect

samples now and until the work is completed. When future work activities are in close proximity to the property line, the monitoring station on residential property will continue to be used. Monitoring results are available online at [http://racertrust.org/News/Massena\\_Community\\_Air\\_Monitoring\\_Plan\\_Reports](http://racertrust.org/News/Massena_Community_Air_Monitoring_Plan_Reports).

In addition to the demolition work this year, the Water Treatment System will be reconfigured. The Water Treatment Building, the Aeration Basin, and the Clarifier Building will be taken offline. The water treatment system will be consolidated to the Red Shed Building near the river and the building will probably be expanded. Some of this work is planned to be

completed by the end of this year.

The remediation projects for 2013 will be the four lagoons and the North Disposal Area (NDA). The NDA contains sludges and other contaminated debris. When the plant was in operation, the lagoons would fill with sludges containing PCBs. In order to maintain the lagoons, these sludges would be transferred to the NDA. During this remediation project, if needed,



*Craig Arquette Performs Remediation Oversight at GM*

air emissions will be controlled by foam suppression techniques. This will keep down dust and odors.

In years 2014 through 2015, the two sludge pits in the East Disposal Area will be cleaned up. The edge of the dump will be pulled back 150 feet from the shore of the St. Lawrence River and reservation boundary. The material removed from the dump to create the 150 foot setback will be consolidated under new EDA dump cap. Also during this time period, a ground water

control system will be installed. The last of the general site cleanup and restoration activities will occur in 2016.

The SRMT Environment Division and the regulatory agencies that we work with will continue to work for this community to try to achieve a more comprehensive cleanup of the property. Any questions? Please call Craig Arquette at 518-358-5937 ext.120. ◇



GM Site Remediation Status





# 2011 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

*Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe - Public Water Supply ID # NY 1617071*

## *Introduction*

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe will annually provide the community of Akwesasne a report of the drinking water quality to your homes or businesses to comply with federal regulations. The purpose of this report is to raise understanding of drinking water and the need to protect and conserve the drinking water sources. Last year, tap water met drinking water health standards. We continue to assess and improve our operations to ensure that we continue to provide drinking water that meets health based standards. Details are provided below in the “Table of Regulated Detectable Contaminants” and in the “Notes” following the table.

### *What's in the Source Water?*

Drinking water comes from the St. Lawrence River. The sources of drinking water are surface waters such as streams, rivers, lakes or ground water from wells that tap underground aquifers. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

A Source Water Protection Plan has been developed to help establish a way to protect any source of contamination to the river from upstream sources.

### *How does the water get to my home?*

Water is pumped from the St. Lawrence River to the water treatment plant on Garrow Road. The water goes through treatment by dual-sand filtration, powdered activated carbon (PAC) chlorination and ultraviolet (UV) disinfection. The treated water is then stored in a clearwell, pumped to the water tower on McGee Road where it is gravity fed to your faucets. It is also stored on State Route 37 for fire protection by way of booster pumps. The system currently supplies water to residents of Akwesasne.

The treatment plant is a dual-sand filtration system and uses sodium hypochlorite and UV for disinfection. The plant has the capability of producing 1.4 million

gallons of treated water per day. We presently have 990 connections and produce an average of 420,000 gallons of water per day.

### *How can I get this chlorine taste and smell out of my water?*

The water is treated with chlorine before it leaves the plant to protect public health and prevent microbiological organisms from growing. You can place a carbon filter ( i.e. Brita®) on your faucet to remove the chlorine taste or allow a pitcher of it to sit on the counter before refrigerating. The facility will be undergoing an upgrade to extend the raw water intake 80-100 ft. to provide water with less organic matter, reducing filter stress and reducing chemical use.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency provides guidance and prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water systems.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the SRMT Environment Division or the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### *Do I need to take special precautions?*

Some people may be more vulnerable to certain contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on



appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Outreach Office at the clinic and at the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. SRMT is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing

components. When water has been sitting for several hours, minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. For concerns about lead in your water, have the water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps to take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ead>.

## Regulated Detected Chemical Parameters

### *Inorganics*

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	No	11/3/11	0.26	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	No	11/3/11	<0.1	mg/L	4.0	MCL=2.2 NYSDOH standard	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium	No	11/3/11	.019	mg/l	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Lead <sup>1</sup>	No	October 2011	0.002 (ND .035)	mg/l	0	AL= .015 mg/l	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper <sup>2</sup>	No	October 2011	0.0423 (.001-0.23)	mg/l	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Uranium*	No	2005	2.24	ug/l	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits

\* Uranium determination was made by a radioactivity method. The last result was 1.5 pCi/L. The result was converted to mass (ug/l) by dividing 1.5 pCi/L by 0.67 = 2.24 ug/l.

### *Microbiological Contaminants*

Total coliform	No	Monthly (5/mo)	0	Negative or positive	0	1 positive monthly allowed	Naturally present in environment
Fecal coliform and E.coli	No	Monthly (5/mo)	0	Negative or positive	0	None	Human and animal waste

### *Turbidity*

Turbidity <sup>3</sup>	No	Daily March 16	0.265	NTU	N/A	1 NTU maximum allowed	Soil runoff; stormwater
Turbidity <sup>3</sup>	No	Daily	.00 - 0.265	NTU	N/A	0.3 - 95% of samples - TT	

## Disinfection By-Products

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) <sup>4</sup> Water treatment plant - WTP	No	Quarterly <b>See Note</b>	63 66.3 61.5 43 <b>27 - WTP</b>	ug/L	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) <sup>4</sup> WTP	No	Quarterly <b>See Note</b>	27.5 26 31.25 33 17.25- WTP	ug/L	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

## Other Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	Guideline
Semi-Volatile Organic Chemicals	Non-detect	mg/l	See Note #5

### Notes:

N/A - means not applicable

1 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 sites sampled. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90 % of the lead samples detected at your water system. There were no violations due to the 90th percentile being below the Action Level.

2 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 sites sampled. There were no violations due to the 90th percentile being below the Action Level.

3 - Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. We did not have any violations of turbidity in 2011. Original turbidimeters failed in March and were replaced in late April / early May. All numbers were manually logged in to the operator's logbook.

4 - This level represents the local averages calculated from the data collected on a quarterly basis at five sites. Routine flushing and disinfection management has kept the by-products in check.

5 - Organic chemical sampling was done for our three year requirement. EPA method 524.2 POC's, Vinyl Chloride, and MTBE was used.

### Definitions:

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Action Level (AL):** The level that, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

### Health Effects Language:

**Turbidity:** Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

**Total Coliform Bacteria:** Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

**Fecal coliform:** Fecal coliforms and *E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

**Lead:** Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. Additional information is available from the SRMT Health Services or the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). ♦

# Cough, Cough, Gasp!

*By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager*

Mom, "Hey go take the clothes off the clothesline." Daughter, "I don't want to go outside -- it smells funny out there." Mom, "What do you mean it smells funny out there?" Daughter, "It not only smells funny there is a lot of smoke, too." Mom, "WHAT? Every time I put out clothes someone has to burn their garbage, now I have to go back and wash all my clothes again!" I don't know how many times, in the 17 years I have been working for the environment division, I have heard this in our community. For 10 years now the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Burn Regulations have been in effect and in the 10 years we have issued over 550 burn permits.

So why do we regulate burning in Akwesasne? For one thing, burning your garbage does not make it disappear. Some of the toxics go up in smoke and into the lungs of our children and our elders. This smoke contains particulates that get into the lungs and make people sick. The smoke contains toxins that cause cancer, (yes, cancer - that "C word" that no one likes to hear). These toxins are nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) and polycyclic organic matter (POMs). Burning plastic and treated wood also releases heavy metals and toxic chemicals such as dioxin. Cancer deaths are on the rise. Asthma and respiratory problems are on the rise and allergies are getting worse.

Other toxics get deposited in the land or soil around the burn site. Wherever the smoke goes the particles go and the particles get deposited on the land causing contamination. Then you let your children or grandchildren, nieces, nephews and your friends children play in an area that is contaminated. If they pick up toys or stick their fingers in their mouths after playing in this area they are exposed.



I still get asked about paper and cardboard too. Most paper is treated with some type of chemical. If you like a nice white sheet: it has been bleached. Some boxes have wax or plastic coating on it especially if it comes from something like a frozen food. If it has a coating on it, then it requires a different ink, one that may contain heavy metals like lead. It also may be impregnated with fungicides which can affect the nervous system.

Furniture is another item you may think is natural. After all it is just fabric and wood, right? Well no, the material can be "scotch guarded" (chemical) or it can be glued together (chemical) or be made of a particle or pressed board which contains formaldehyde to bond it (chemical). Pressure treated wood can contain arsenic, chromium, creosote or chlorophenol compounds (chemical, chemical, chemical and chemical).

The SRMT has a recycling depot to recycle cardboard, glass, plastic, aluminum and is free to use. We also offer a roadside pickup, which has already happened, but should be utilized to get rid of old furniture and other big items. And there is also the "PAYT" Pay as You Throw, our blue bag means of disposal. I, with a household of four, who cooks at home 75% of the time, still have only one bag of trash.

We cannot be perfect all the time, but we can try to control what we can when we can. After all, we all still drive, some people smoke or burn wood for campfires. So next time you want to burn your trash or furniture think about your neighbors, your family and the next seven generations. ♦





# Monthly Tribal Meeting

*Obiaribko::wa / July 7, 2012*  
*Chaired by Chief Randy Hart*

## *Agenda*

1. Introductions:
  - Welcome
  - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
2. Broadband Update
  - Jason Hall
3. Casino Expansion Project Update
  - Elliott Lazore and Colleen Thomas
4. Five Month TGF Reports to May 31, 2012
  - Sub-Chief Michael Conners
5. New Business
6. Reading of Action Items
  - Tribal Clerk
7. Adjournment

## *Follow-up on Action Items from May Meeting*

1. To look into TCR 95-258 to see if it has been rescinded.

***Follow-up:*** The Special Projects Administrator researched the TCR's and found no subsequent TCR's that specifically rescinded 95-258. Legal reported that they are going to submit a recommendation to Tribal Council on how to deal with those resolutions during that time period.

2. To have a special meeting on membership to address issues raised at May's Tribal Monthly meeting.

***Follow-up:*** A meeting date will be discussed at the July Monthly Meeting.

3. Have Compliance check with local business on their hiring policy of Non-Natives.

***Follow-up:*** Compliance is awaiting the ACSA to address their hiring policies.

## *Action Items from July Meeting*

- To have Tribal Council check with the GM at the Casino regarding the handicapped parking
- To have the MCA Ambulance agreement issue added to next month's agenda items
- To look into the restricted contingency & other line item and report back at August's monthly meeting
- To (have Compliance) add Mohawk preference plus Native preference for the next casino expansion update

# Calendar

## *Seskéha / August*

4 - Monthly Tribal Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building lobby

14 - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's office

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

# New Faces

Jenna Herne

Business Office Clerk

IHS - Business Office

Veronica Thompson

Cooks Helper

ECDP

Brenna Susice

Project Manager

Administration

Dakota Tarbell

Summer Intern

Environment

Stacie Collette

Registered Nurse

Family Support

Dallas B. Caldwell

Forestry Laborer

Environment

Abraham Francis

Summer Student

Environment

# Giving Back

Community Donations - \$ 3,000

Funeral - \$ 500

Sports Requests - \$ 9,250

# Jobs

Air Quality Technician - Environment

Child Care Teacher - ECDP

Chief Financial Officer - Finance

*View complete job descriptions at: [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov).*

# Higher Education

St. Lawrence University is offering a graduate level course beginning September 4, 2012. The class is listed as EDPS 551B "Relationship between Schools and Families." It is designed for counselors, teachers and administrators. It will cover research addressing several factors influencing family involvement and practices

that encourage parent involvement. The course will be taught by Larry Casey and will take place at the Community Building upstairs board room. The class starts at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. For more information contact Rod Cook at the Higher Education office 358-2272 x 215. ♦

# Akwesasne Group Home

## Dept. of Social Services Program Feature

*By Francine Thompson, Resident Manager*

**The Concern:** More and more of our community's troubled youth were being sent away from Akwesasne, away from their families, their culture, their identities and placed in non-native facilities across and out of state. The concern was not whether our children were receiving adequate services off-reservation, but rather a need existed to develop a program emphasizing not only home and family but also the preservation of native culture and identity.

**The Solution:** The Akwesasne Group home was developed as a result of the need for direct access to active and effective residential services in Akwesasne and other Native communities. In 2001, the Akwesasne Group Home opened its doors for the first time as a 24-hour, 12-bed residential program for troubled adolescents. These adolescents were at risk for being placed outside of their community. The facility is capable of housing six females and six males between the ages of 12 and 18. The goal of the Group Home is to establish a behavior modification based program to meet the spiritual, cultural and family-oriented needs of Native youth placed in our facility. The basis of this methodology is that the individual is reinforced appropriately, either positively or negatively, for corresponding appropriate or inappropriate behaviors. This is accomplished several ways. First, the resident is placed on a level system where he or she earns their privileges over time with positive behaviors such as attending school daily, passing grades, respect for one another and themselves, completion of recommended

services, community service and for following the rules of the home. Progression is also based on the ideology of taking responsibility for one's actions, accepting their roles and the natural consequences that follow, actively working toward a solution and moving forward. These are all fundamentals of becoming a successful, productive

young adult in the community. Overall, the Akwesasne Group Home is here to assist each Native adolescent and his or her family to attain the fullest potential in the shortest period of time. This is achieved by providing a high quality of service and providing that service in a structured setting geared toward helping the individual. The concept is to move an adolescent from dysfunction and abuse to ongoing recovery, health and healing in their home and community. The environment at the Group Home contributes to holistic developmental growth, socially and spiritually. The focus is for an adolescent to learn more effective methods of coping and to gain more internal control of one's

self. In this way adolescents learn to live productively and learn how to solve problems without hurting themselves or others. Sometimes this can be as simple as empowering the adolescent to communicate effectively, to help them see that they have a voice and they can be heard to make a positive change.

The Akwesasne Group Home employs a 24-hour staff of male and female Youth Workers. Daily, they work closely with each resident to guide them through the program. These workers are unique and special





individuals who strive to make a difference in the lives of the adolescents they serve. They are caring members of the community and surrounding communities who want only the best for our youth.

Youth Workers ensure safety and well-being at all times through 24-hour supervision. They teach daily living skills, assist with homework, plan and participate in outdoor activities, special trips and provide a caring ear. Most importantly, they offer their time, life experiences and empathy. All are dedicated to the residents' success and eventual graduation from the program. They are always focused on one of the program's main goals: reunification of the family unit whenever possible.

As a program within the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Department of Social Services, the Akwesasne Group Home is dedicated to servicing families in need. Assistance can be requested in several ways. Any enrolled adolescent who requires intensive services to address problematic behaviors such as educational issues, abuse, neglect, drugs, or alcohol can contact the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe DSS at 358-4516 or contact the Group Home directly at 358-9184 and ask about admissions. Generally, adolescents are placed by order of family court or the probation department with the assistance of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) representative. Placement will be made at the Akwesasne Group Home if the environment is deemed suitable to meet the needs of the child and the family.

Every child is unique and treated as an individual at the Group Home. Upon admittance, an Individual Service Plan is developed and needs are assessed. The

service plan includes, but is not limited to: medical, family, mental and emotional health, substance usage, academic education, spiritual or cultural, recreational and independent living. Throughout their stay in the program the adolescent works toward successful completion the program by meeting the goals of their respective service plans. At the same time, the adolescent

will be expected to participate in group therapy, talking circles, A.A. and N.A. meetings, community service, coping skills activities and individualized mental health and chemical dependency counseling. The family is strongly encouraged to participate in the healing process of their child. Various meals, barbecues and special holiday events are planned throughout the year in order to help families reconnect and begin to rebuild the foundations of their relationships. Recognizing that problems are not resolved overnight, the program is designed to be long-term and is based on the level of participation and completion from each child individually.

The Akwesasne Group Home focuses on those inherent strengths of each adolescent and builds on those strengths through a multi-dimensional program. Although the program is a structured alternative to off-reserve placements, it is fundamentally a home. A home away from home to begin the stages of life changing experiences. ♦



# School-Based Health Center

## Health Services Program Feature

*By Aimee C. Vida FNP and Lisa Tarbell, Health Assistant*

The School Based Health Center (SBHC) program, located at the Saint Regis Mohawk School, is a satellite off the Saint Regis Mohawk Indian Health Services. The SBHC program is staffed by a New York State Licensed Family Nurse Practitioner, a Health Assistant and a Supervising Physician. The staff works with a School Nurse to provide a team approach to the overall care and well being of students enrolled in the SBHC program.

The overall mission of the program is to provide primary health care and educational services at the school for students. The SBHC is dedicated to providing each student with the opportunity for easy access to health care with a strong focus on prevention. In partnership with the school, health care providers and parents, the SBHC will work with families to assure that children come to school each day healthy and ready to learn. Other key objectives include improvement to access of health care and to provide support for students who may be at risk for physical and emotional concerns.

All students that are enrolled in the SBHC program are eligible to receive free check-ups,

health education and counseling, immunizations, physical exams, prescriptions and treatment for illnesses or injuries. Preventive dental services are also offered and include routine dental cleaning, fluoride treatment, sealants (one of the best ways to prevent tooth decay), oral hygiene instructions, dental related education and temporary/permanent fillings. It is important to note that although the SBHC offers these dental services; they do not replace a regular dental exam.

Enrollment is open to all students in the school building regardless of insurance status. All enrolled students will receive health care provided by the SBHC at no cost to them. Insurance will be billed but no payments are required from families. Services will be available to assist families that may need help in obtaining insurance coverage for services outside the SBHC.

The School Based Health Center's hours of operation are Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This program runs from

September through June, when school is in session. If you would like to contact SBHC, please call (518) 358-4124 or (518) 358-2763 Ext. 6164. ◇



*Aimee C. Vida, FNP*



# Alcoa Superfund Program

## Environment Program Feature

*By Jacob Terrance, Alcoa Superfund Oversight Specialist*

The Grasse River has been a concern for 21 years. However, the process is about to move one step further toward completion. This is due to recent progress and developments between United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division's Alcoa Superfund program. The goal of the SRMT Alcoa Superfund program is to ensure the remediation of the Grasse River to safe acceptable standards. The Superfund program will also serve as a liaison between all the involved agencies and the tribe. Once remediation is complete, the fish will begin to lose contamination. After some time, they will become edible once again.

Recent events include a Citizen's Advisory Panel (CAP) meeting in Massena, NY on June 20, 2012 and Technical Team meeting between agencies on June



*Source: Alcoa 2001. New Superfund Module*



*Source: Alcoa 2001. New Remedial Options Module*



*Source: Alcoa 2001. New Remedial Options Module*

21, 2012. The purpose of the CAP meeting is for invited local community members to stay informed with updated information about the Grasse River project and to address questions and concerns. At the last CAP meeting, the topic of discussion was the finalization of the Analysis of Alternatives. Future events include a release of Analysis of Alternatives and later a Proposed Remedial Action Plan. Also, there will be general public sessions for anyone to attend. At these sessions, USEPA will be on hand to provide recent information and answer questions. The USEPA has not yet set dates for any of the upcoming general public sessions. Once finalized, they will be advertised and announced.

The Alcoa Superfund Oversight Specialist, Jacob Terrance, is the main point of contact for matters regarding the Grasse River and Reynolds remediation. He can be reached by phone at (518) 358-5937 extension 135 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday or by email anytime at [Jacob.terrance@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:Jacob.terrance@srmt-nsn.gov). ♦

# Hunter's Education

*By Les Benedict and Angela Benedict, SRMT Environment Division*

The NYSDEC Hunter's Education course will be delivered in Akwesasne by instructors Angela Benedict and Les Benedict on Friday, *Seskéha*/August 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It will take place in the training room at the Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department, Station 1. Students must complete home study, attend class session, demonstrate proper attitude and safety and pass the test to obtain the certificate. You must register in person at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division Office located in the Akwesasne Business Center 449 Frogtown Rd.

All first-time hunters, bow hunters and trappers must pass one or more courses before they can get a license in New York State. Trained instructors certified by the Department of Environmental Conservation teach safe and responsible outdoors

practices and the important role of hunters and trappers in conservation. All courses are free of charge, but space is limited to 20. Sign up early!

Studies include basic firearms handling and outdoor skills plus hunting techniques.

The minimum age for course is 11 years (minimum age for licensing is 12 years). All students under 16 years of age are required to bring a permission slip signed by a parent or legal guardian.

You must register **and** complete the Home Study Course to be admitted into the class. If you do not complete the Home Study you will be turned away. Bring your own refreshments and lunch. ♦



*New York's Sportsman Education Programs are supported in part by Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration, funded by your purchases of hunting equipment. Additional funding comes from sales of hunting and trapping licenses. Hunters and trappers pay for Sportsman Education and wildlife conservation.*

*Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from Hunter Education programs is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap.*



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