

*Featured Programs*

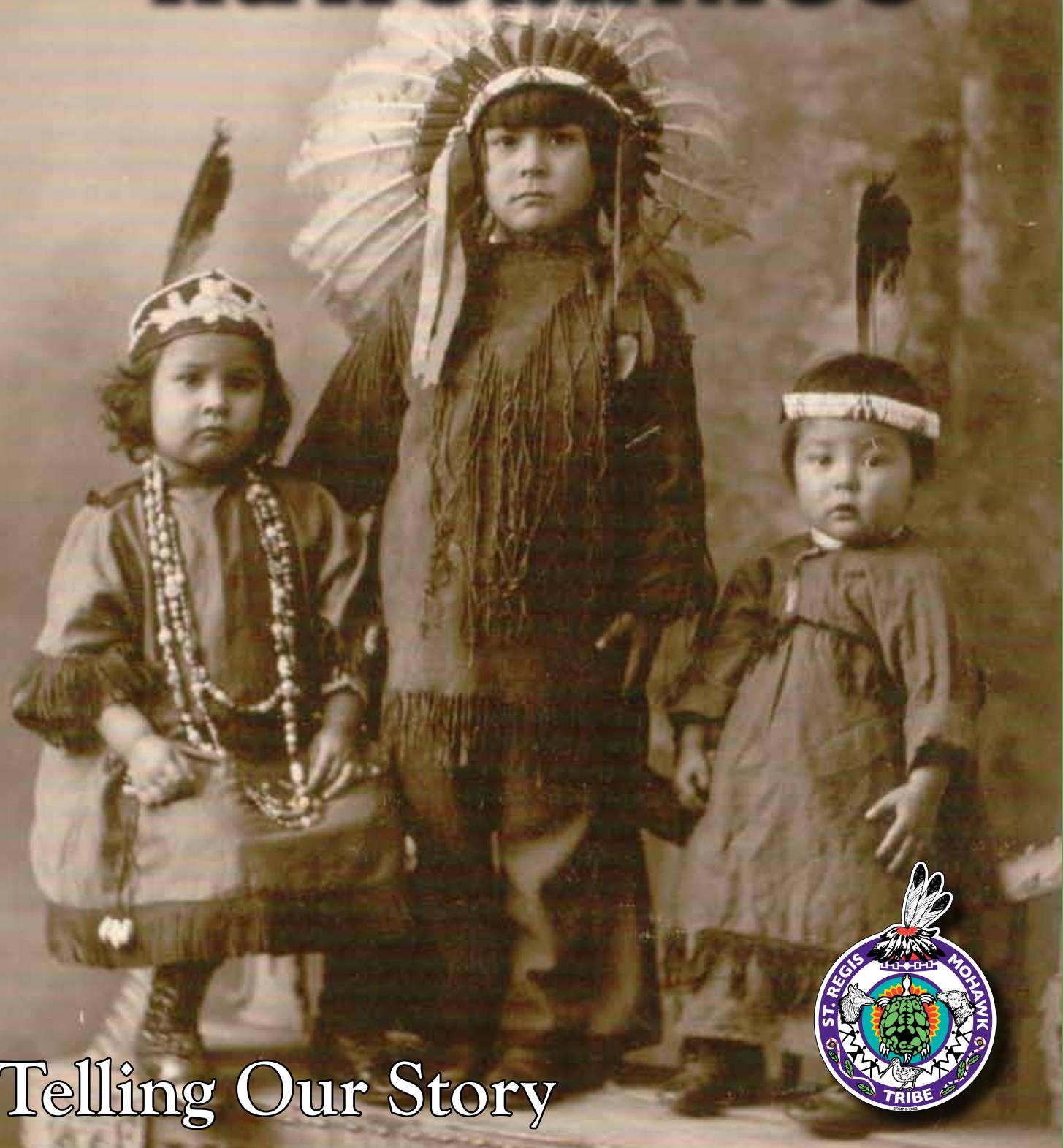
Community &  
Family Services

Let's Get  
Healthy

Core ERT

Nutrition

# Kawennì:ios



Telling Our Story

# Press Release

## *Tribal Gaming Commission Orders Unlicensed Casino to Close*

On Friday January 20, 2012, the Saint Regis Tribal Gaming Commission issued a letter to the Three Feathers Casino, ordering it to close its doors and cease gaming operations. "Under Tribal Law, there are only two licensed gaming properties in Akwesasne," said Tribal Chief Mark Garrow. "They are the Mohawk Bingo Palace and the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino. Any other gaming facilities are unlicensed and operating illegally."

The closure order states, (in part) that Class II and Class III games are lawful, "if operated by the Tribe as a Tribal Enterprise or by any other person or entity authorized by the Tribe. The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe has not authorized licensed or designated as agents, any person(s) to operate the Three Feathers Casino."

The two legal tribal gaming enterprises operate with regulatory oversight by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Gaming Commission along with the National Indian Gaming Commission. The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino is additionally regulated by the New York State Racing and Wagering Board, as required by the New York-Saint Regis Mohawk Compact.

The unregulated and unlicensed gaming operation has been a concern to Tribal Council. "We're not sure just exactly who is involved as financial backers," said Randy Hart, Tribal Chief. "We know for sure that they are not part of the Tribal-State Compact which permits the legal operation of Class III Indian casinos in the Akwesasne Territory." The unlicensed facility, its employees, gaming equipment suppliers, the operators or financiers have not undergone any background checks in order to operate gaming in that facility. "Those background checks are integral to maintain the integrity of Indian Gaming," Hart added. Without those checks, it's not possible to determine whether any of those entities is eligible for gaming licenses.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino and the Mohawk Bingo Palace operate for the benefit of the tribal

community, by providing funding to over 100 programs. These programs include health services, education, prevention programs, a senior's center, the fire department and the environment department, to name a few. This unlicensed casino has no oversight from the Saint Regis Tribal Gaming Commission, which ensures the fairness of the games and protects the gaming public. Further, it does not undergo an audit conforming to the National Indian Gaming Commission's standards. Therefore, it's not possible to know how much money is coming in or where it's going. "One of the big questions is 'Who benefits from the proceeds of unlicensed gaming?" asked Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance. "It's very clear who benefits from the proceeds from the tribally-operated casinos. That is the people of Akwesasne. No matter what the operators of the unlicensed facility may say, we have seen very few tangible benefits in terms of community support."

The closure order further states, "The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Gaming Commission has not issued Three Feathers Casino a gaming facility license, nor have individuals been licensed to conduct gaming activities in the facility. The operation is therefore in violation of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Gaming Ordinance. Accordingly, you are hereby ordered to cease and desist operating...."

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council, as the federally recognized representative of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, is the only entity that has the authority to legally regulate gaming operations located within the reservation. This authority can be confirmed through the National Indian Gaming Commission, the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Furthermore, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is the only governing body in Akwesasne who is a signatory to the gaming compact, a requirement to conduct Class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. ♦

# 2012 Akwesasne Winter Carnival

Beginning Ronwaia'tanentaktóhne / Friday,  
Enniska / February 17, 2012.

Hosted by the Akwesasne Coalition for Community  
Empowerment and sponsored by the Saint Regis  
Mohawk Tribe.

MCA vs. SRMT Competition

Family Puzzle Competition

Wild Game Cook-Off

Family Cake Decorating Contest

Newspaper Fashion Show

Dodge Ball Tournament

Teen Dance

Hot Wheels Race

Klondike Race

and more....

Events held at Kateri Hall, Office for the  
Aging Senior Citizen's Center and St. Regis  
Mohawk School.

*On the Cover: The Akwesasne Museum has collected hundreds of postcard photos over the years. This one was donated in 2002 and has no information associated with it.*



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# Program Feature

## *Community and Family Services*

*By Jason McDonald, Director*

**S**hekon everyone, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Jason McDonald; I am the Division Director to the newly formed Community and Family Services Division. We were formed in July of 2011 after it was identified the Human Services Division was too large of a division. Thus, the Social Services Division and the Community and Family Services Division were formed.

The Community and Family Services Division consists of three programs. The Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) program, the Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP) and the Family Support program. The purpose of the three programs is as follows:

The mission of the TVR program is to assist community members with disabilities in finding and maintain gainful employment. This includes self employment. The consumer enters the program and is assigned a counselor. The counselor will work with the consumer in developing an Individualized Plan of Employment (IPE). The IPE is the plan that guides the consumer to the overall goal of employment. May the consumer go to college, a trade school, computer courses, etc... the overall goal is an employment goal. We can assist with the costs associated with the objectives leading to the overall goal. In its ten year existence, TVR has assisted close to 200 community members in becoming gainfully employed. This was achieved with teamwork. The team is now led by the new Program Manager Nicole David. Nicole has been with TVR since its existence back in October of 2000. She was the administrative assistant of the program until December of 2011 when she was the successful candidate for the program manager's position. TVR is located in the basement

of the community building. They have a high success rate. If you have any questions or would like to see if you qualify for their services, please give Nicole and her staff a call at 518-358-6125/6176. They can help you succeed in the field of employment.

The Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP) is located behind the Akwesasne Library on Route 37. ECDP is led by Program Manager Barbara Buckshot.

The ECDP program houses both the childcare and the head start programs. Childcare is licensed to care for 14 infants, 20 toddlers and 14 preschool children. They are more than just childcare. Led by childcare coordinator Jodele Currier, childcare staff are considered early year educators that provide an educational setting for ages 6 weeks to 5 years old. Childcare staff has lesson plans that they follow, activities for the children, go on field trips, and have a cultural aspect which is throughout the entire building, including head start.



*Barbara Buckshot, ECDP  
Program Manager*

Head start is led by Coordinator Erin Lewis. Erin and her staff (also viewed as early year educators) can provide services to 64 children from ages three to five years old. Head start also follows lesson plans as they promote social and cognitive development, support imaginative and creative thoughts and readies the children for the transition into school. The ratio for head start staff are one staff per seven children with three qualified staff per room.

The ECDP program overall is a busy program as they help mold our young community members. If you have any questions, you can reach Barb and her staff at 358-2988. They would be more than happy to answer your questions.

The Family Support program is the biggest program of our division. The mission of Family Support is:

*To assist and support individuals with developmental disabilities to develop the self-determination to live as independently as possible and to participate as vital and contributing members of the Akwesasne community.*

It is led by new program manager Douglas Hamilton. The Family Support program has many components to it.

**Medical Service Coordination (MSC):** The MSC's led by supervisor Mary Terrance assists individuals with developmental disabilities strive for the highest quality of life and focuses on assisting each person to achieve his/her unique goals. MSCs are located in the community building and can be reached at 358-2272.

**Respite Autism Project (Footprints):** The footprints project led by Cherrie Lazore works with our autistic children ages 3-11 and assists them with development. They are located at 9 Frogtown Road and can be reached at 358-4254.

**Individualized Residential Alternative (IRA):** The IRA program manages three facilities that provide residential habilitation services to individuals with disabilities. These services are person-centered and designed to promote independence based on the needs of the person. The three IRAs are located at:

- High Street in Fort Covington, supervised by Harmony Love. 518-358-2644.
- Connors Road in Akwesasne, supervised by Brenda Butchino. 518-358-4345.
- Pyke Road in Akwesasne, supervised by Jacqueline Lauzon. 518-358-2421.

**Sweetflag Supervised Apartments:** The Sweetflag Supervised Apartments is a residential program designed to meet the needs of our developmentally disabled individuals. This residential program is individualized apartments in which more independent and supervision is based on the person's needs. Led by



*Jason McDonald, Director of Community and Family Services*

supervisor Sheryl Thomas at 315-705-4792, it gives the consumer more independence as they do live on their own, but have the support as they may need.

The Community and Family Services Division is a big division that works with all age groups from six weeks and up. Each of the programs has a solid staff that I feel privileged to work with. We look forward to working with our community members well into the future. We will keep the community informed as we develop our new division. Niawen:kowa. ♦



*Nicole David, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program Manager*

# Program Feature

## *Environmental Compliance Program*

*By Matthew V. Thompson, Environmental Compliance Inspector*

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environmental Compliance Program is focused on reducing pollution by assisting community members and businesses understand environmental regulations through education, outreach and awareness. The program began in 1993 with petroleum bulk storage (PBS) inspections and has expanded to ensure compliance of all tribal environmental regulations. The program now encompasses solid waste hauler permitting, solid waste management facility inspections, burn inspections, open dump inspections, petroleum bulk storage inspections, wetlands permitting and any other issues relating to environmental compliance.

Petroleum Bulk Storage Tank inspections are conducted on both above ground and underground tanks and are designed to ensure businesses properly maintain their tanks. If the inspections were not completed annually, tanks could become hazardous and potentially release petroleum into the ground and surrounding areas.

Solid waste hauler permitting was started to ensure solid waste haulers conducting business in Akwesasne are properly disposing of the waste they collect. Working with the waste haulers ensures that all waste collected in Akwesasne ends up in the proper place. It ensures that recycling is conducted and that no illegal open dumps are being utilized.

Burn Inspections are conducted to protect the territory from harmful noxious air pollutants that are caused from burning such materials as plastics, tires, and appliances. The Tribal burn regulations are in place to protect us from such air pollutants and inspections of burn piles ensure that these harmful chemicals are not introduced into the atmosphere.

Open dump inspections have become necessary due to the number of dumping pits on individual property or secondary lots. Many of these open dumps contain tanks and drums that contain harmful chemicals that, if released, pose a threat to humans and wildlife. It is vital that these open dumps are identified, and the chemicals removed safely.



*This Fuel Tank was Recently Excavated from an Open Dump Site in Akwesasne*

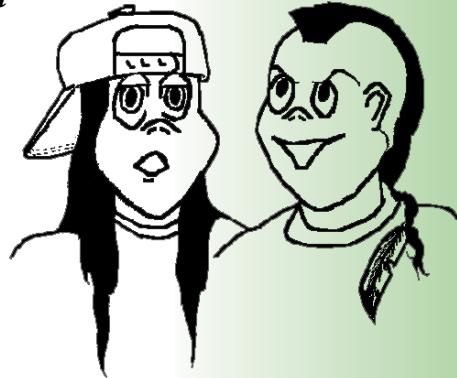
In addition to these tasks, Environmental Compliance deals with all Tribal environmental regulations and many other issues relating to the environment. Recently Compliance worked to develop a Home Heating Fuel and Delivery Ordinance to protect the environment and community members from fuel spills associated with heating fuel.

For further information please contact the Environment Division, 449 Frogtown Road, Akwesasne, NY 13655. Phone: 518-358-5937 ext 132. ♦

# Solid Waste Cost Increases

By Les Benedict, Assistant Director  
SRMT Environment Division

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Solid Waste Program has evaluated its operational costs and decided to increase costs for services at the Transfer Station and for the cost of blue bags. Effective Tsiothohrkó:wa/January 2012, the cost structure at the Transfer Station is:



SRMT Transfer Station 2012 Price List			
Material	2011 Price	2012 Price	Minimum Price
Municipal solid waste	\$90/tn	\$110/tn	\$15 for 200 lb or less
Bulky & CD Wastes	\$150/tn	\$155/tn	\$15 for 200 lb or less
Recyclables including scrap metal	\$75/tn	\$85/tn	\$15 for 200 lb or less
Freon	\$30 each	\$33 each	
Passenger tires	\$4 each	\$4.50 each	
Medium truck tires	\$8.75 each	\$9.25 each	
Heavy truck tires	\$12.50 each	\$13 each	
Tractor/farm/backhoe tires	\$1.50/lb	\$2/lb	
Blue bags	\$3 each	\$4 each	
Waste lamps, straight up to 10 feet	\$1.50 each	\$1.75 each	
Utube/compact/circular	\$0.75 each	\$1 each	
HID lamps	\$1.45 each	\$1.75 each	
Halogen & incandescents	\$0.25 each	\$0.50 each	
PCB ballast	\$0.75 each	\$1 each	
Non-PCB ballasts	\$0.55 each	\$0.75 each	
Broken lamps	\$1.80 each	\$2 each	

Blue Bag customers should note that the cost of blue bags has increased from \$3/each to \$4/each. They are sold in packages of 5 for \$20 and are available at the Environment Division, Community Building in accounting, Wild Bills One Stop, Speedway Convenience and First Americans IGA.

These cost increases will ensure that the Transfer Station meets its operational costs while providing high level of services to the community. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Environment Division, 449 Frogtown Road, Akwesasne, NY 13655, (518) 358-5937. To speak with the Operations Supervisor at the Transfer Station call (518) 358-4632.



# Program Feature

## *Tsitewatakari:Tat - “Let’s Get Healthy” Program*

*by Janine Rourke, Program Manager*

Wishing everyone good health and happiness in the New Year! We thought it would be a great start to the New Year to update the community about our program by answering some frequently asked questions (FAQs). Also, during 2011, we experienced many changes and the community's patience and dedication was amazing! For any program questions, please do not hesitate to contact Janine Rourke, RN, BSN- Department Head at 518-358-9667.

### *Where Will The Diabetes Center Of Excellence Be Located?*

From Route 37, enter the road to the Akwesasne Senior Center/Office of the Aging. One would go past Generations Park, heading north for the site location.

### *When Will The Diabetes Center Of Excellence Building Be Ready?*



*Phase One Construction on the Diabetes Center Begins This Spring*

### *Where Can We Find the LGHP Staff?*

As of June 13, 2011, we are located at the Akwesasne Housing Authority (AHA) Training Center. From Route 37, enter the AHA parking lot and proceed south toward the new residential housing units. Our LGHP sign is displayed at Training Center parking lot entrance. Our main phone # is 518-358-9667. Voicemail options are listed for all staff.

### *What about the Diabetes Center of Excellence Building?*

Understanding our plan for the Diabetes Center of Excellence, AHA offered an opportunity to bridge our staff and services (Mohawk Healthy Heart and the Diabetes Grant). As one team, we continue our diabetes prevention and care services, including the future Diabetes Center of Excellence Building.

Over five years ago, the projected cost was close to \$7 million. Thereby, a two-phase construction plan was implemented. Currently, funds have been raised through the generosity of AHA, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and the Akwesasne community. Federal funding sources have also been sought and acquired. Phase One completion (\$2.9 million projected cost) will include all staff offices, theater kitchen, community education and conference spaces and a fitness zone. To date, the road, water, sewer and power construction bids were posted with Lazore's Construction Company winning the bid for a start in spring 2012. Next, the actual building bid packages are readied and going out soon for bid. We are hoping that 2012 will be the year for the opening of the SRMT Diabetes Center of Excellence.

## *What Is The Program Available To Do At This Time?*

Our staff and services continue to be creative with educational activities, dedication to the goals of diabetes prevention and to help those with diabetes achieve the best management as possible. The team builds upon what is working and rethinks what is not working. Our short and long-term services are often impacted by available grant funding resources. We strive to provide diabetes prevention and self-management education for all age groups. Below is a brief overview of our staff, their responsibilities and some major program activities at this time:

Nursing and Dietitian Staff: Susan Gale, RN, Rosemary Bennett, RN, Heather Pontius, RD.

Patients with and without diabetes are provided clinical case management of support, education and skill-building for self-managed care. This includes collaboration with primary care providers for blood glucose control, blood pressure management, heart health risk reduction, weight management strategies, fitness health planning, prevention of diabetes complications, etc.

Health Promotion Staff: Jamie Ross and Rachael Ward.

Primary program services are supervised fitness sessions using large fitness equipment every Tuesday and Thursday mornings; the Body Works program for adult fitness (evening sessions); Zumbafitness workouts for adults and seniors (evening and day sessions); school-based fitness workouts with SRMS Latch Key students; individualized fitness assessments coordinated with the

RN and RD staff. Call for session times and dates.

Administrative Staff: Kelly Jackson, Mera Faubert.

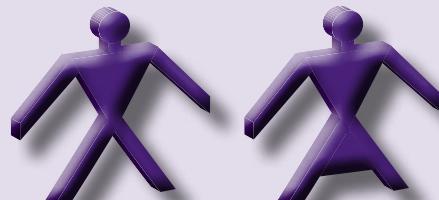
Clerical and office management support is provided to schedule patients, communicate program information, publicize program initiatives, collect and manage program and patient data for federal grant reporting, etc.

Department Head: Janine Rourke, RN.



*Club Circuit is a new fitness program being offered to improve balance, strength, and coordination for Akwesasne Elders.*

## *Who Has Diabetes in Akwesasne?*



**48% are male      52% are female**

Heart Health Classes.

*In memory of Rosemary Bennett, RN ♦*

The *Let's Get Healthy Program* is a department within the operations of the Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services (SRMHS). The Department Head is responsible to meet the operational parameters that fall within the SRMHS health care delivery system. Other responsibilities include annual federal grant reapplications, progress reports and required submissions as part of the two federal grants that support the *Let's Get Healthy Program*.

LGHP Staff and Community Partnership Collaborations:

The Diabetes Extravaganza Health Forum, Monthly Newsletter, Wear Red Day and 7 Miles for 7 Generations Annual Walk. Walking Clubs: Walk to Hawaii, Route 66, Beach Walk, Garden Project, Women's Health Week, Men's Health Day, Youth Fitness Conference, Cooking Demonstrations, Lunch and Learns, Honoring the Gift of

# Tribe's Environment Division Gears up for Fish and Wildlife Sampling

*By Jessica Jock, Environmental Specialist*

In Kentéha / October 2010, the SRMT Environment Division was awarded one of the larger Great Lakes Restoration Initiatives (GLRI) grants. This grant was for \$1,229,415 to conduct field studies in 2011-2013. The funding for field efforts will assist resource agencies (SRMT, USEPA and NYSDEC) to address water-quality related impairments from industry toxins in the St. Lawrence River Area of Concern (AOC). This AOC is located in Akwesasne and Massena, NY. It was identified as a "hot spot" by the International Joint Commission after the 1987 amendments made to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the U.S. and Canada.

Since then, many directives from USEPA to industry in Massena have been for remediation of some of the highest contaminated areas of river sediments and soils affecting the St. Lawrence River watershed. Impairments to fish and wildlife populations, fish and wildlife habitat, fish tumors and degradation to bottom-dwelling bugs will be evaluated with this funding source via field monitoring and



*Jay Wilkins Strategically Collects a Blood Sample for Tularemia Disease Testing on a Coyote (ken'nikakwaho'ta:a)*



*A Raccoon (Ati:ron) Exhibits His Cuter Side for the Camera*

tissue analysis for chemicals. These include PCBs, mercury, pesticides and dioxins. From the river remedial efforts undertaken on the St. Lawrence River between 1995-2009, it is hoped 2012-2013 laboratory results will show a decline since the 1980s in wildlife tissue chemical concentrations for many local and culturally relevant river species. The underlying emphasis of this work is to acquire current information to evaluate human health risks from wildlife consumption.

For the first time a significant source of funding has been awarded to SRMT for intensive monitoring of the St. Lawrence River AOC. The tasks and studies under this grant award were developed by Jessica Jock. She was previously the Superfund Specialist for SRMT on the Grasse and St. Lawrence River. Jessica will coordinate the field sampling and chemical analysis with SRMT staff, scientists, resource agencies

and laboratory analysts. This GLRI award has allowed for funding a full-time Coordinator (Jessica Jock), full-time Wildlife Technician (Jay Wilkins), and Seasonal Wildlife Technicians (Nolan Jacobs and James Paley).

In addition to the new positions, the grant allows for partial funding for other Environment Division Staff time (Education Outreach Coordinator and Water Program).

The anticipated studies for 2012-2013 include studies targeting furbearing mammals, avian, fish tumors, turtles, freshwater mussels and habitat assessments. Fall 2011 was the kick-off of our field collection efforts for evaluating the furbearing mammal species (mink, otter, raccoon, beaver, and muskrat) population, habitat availability and tissue collections. The January-March 2012, winter snow tracking is an additional way to get information on the elusive mink and otter. Otters leave a distinct snow track, called a "slide." This assists Jay, SRMT Wildlife Technician, to calculate the number of otters based on the tracks found over a broad study area.

A brown bullhead fish collection will be conducted April-May 2012 to evaluate external anomalies and liver lesions possibly due to contaminants. Avian, turtle and freshwater mussel reproductive health studies will take place in the summer. Year two of furbearing mammal studies conducted October-December will round out a vigorous sampling year. Please note mammal sampling efforts are associated with a contaminant



*Jessica Jock Spies on a River Otter's (tawi:ne) Winter Den*



*Snapping Turtles (a'nowara) Dominate the "Catch of the Day" During Spring Sampling*



*Jay Catches a Freshwater Drum While Conducting a Field Reconnaissance Effort for Fish Tumor Analysis. Freshwater Drum, Also Known As Sheephead or Croaker, are Known for their Grunting or Croaking Sounds.*

specific work plan approved by USEPA. Staff and program is not funded for providing nuisance wildlife control services to the community.

An additional part of the program is to get the Mohawk community perspective on current fish tumors, wildlife populations and wildlife habitat impairments in the St. Lawrence River watershed. Community outreach will provide valuable feedback to decision-makers. In the next few years, SRMT Environment Division Staff will be at different local events (Wellness Day, Akwesasne Pow Wow, etc.) to interact with the community, provide updates and ask survey questions. Community perspectives and expertise will be a valuable tool to understand current ecological health perspectives in addition to our field data. During the fall 2011 trapping season, an Akwesasne resident generously shared their mink and otter catches with Environment Division staff. From these animals, Wildlife Technicians recorded adult reproductive health and weight measurements and extracted the livers for chemical analysis. If there are other trappers and fishermen who would like to contribute to our efforts, please contact Jay Wilkins at 518-358-5937 x 114 for further details. For any other question regarding the upcoming 2012-2013 field studies, please contact Jessica Jock at 518-358-5937 x 139. ♦

# Love is in the Air... and so is a Lot of Other Stuff

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*By Angela Benedict*

*SRMT Environment Division Air Quality Program Manager*

With Valentine's Day here, yes LOVE is in the air, but that is a different type of air: pheromones and chemical senses. In ambient air you have nitrogen and oxygen, but what else could there be? Well, if you drive, then emissions from your tailpipe. If you smoke, then particulates from tobacco smoke. If you use pesticides to keep pests off your flowers or vegetables then there are volatile organic compounds (VOC). If you live near an industry there may be others. There are also other biological agents in the air. Spores (molds, pollen, other fungi), dust from bird feces, dust from organisms in soil, someone's sneeze. What? Did you know droplets of water and mucus from a sneeze can travel up to over 100 feet in the right conditions? Most of the droplets fall out between six to eight feet. Some of the finer particles can travel further with wind or other accelerants. But if you sneeze into something like your arm or a tissue that stops it from traveling so far and doesn't spread your germs.

Back to the air. It is made up of about 78.1% Nitrogen and 20.9% Oxygen, which doesn't leave much room for other things but it's the other things that affect us the

most. Look at carbon dioxide; the more we have the warmer the air gets resulting in global warming. If you ever read a weather website or watch the news and they tell the pollen or mold forecast -- that is some of the other stuff in the air. Counts can be low, moderate or high. We are lucky in this area though because we have winter and winter actually clears out some of the particulates. The crisp cold air, the snow, the freezing rain, oh the joys of winter. As I am writing this, it is -9°F outside. But it can also add particulates especially when the DOT spread their salt and sand. Then in the spring all the salt and sand that is left on the roads become airborne when cars and trucks drive over it. Another thing we have to deal with is wood smoke. Smoke from wood fires add particulates in the air also and can affect people with respiratory illnesses or sensitivities.

We only have one atmosphere and whether it is clean or not we must breathe it. So, for now and the next seven generations, let's remember that the things we do now affect our future. ♦

*Remember when  
atmospheric contaminants  
were romantically called  
stardust?*

*~Lane Olinghouse*

# Doggy Breath is Nothing to Smile About

By Jennifer Herne, Animal Control Officer

We all know that regular trips to the dentist for cleanings and exams are necessary for people. February is National Pet Dental Health Month. Did you know that your pet also needs regular checks of his/her teeth and gums? You don't need to bring them immediately to the "pet dentist," but it is a good idea for you to check them at home. If your pet will allow it, open its mouth and look inside. Look for the warning signs of gum disease - bad breath, red and swollen gums, a yellow-brown crust of tartar around the gum line, and pain or bleeding when you touch the gums or mouth. If you notice any of these signs you should seek veterinary care. Otherwise you can brush your pets' teeth by doing the following:

STEP 1: Introduce a brushing program to pets gradually. Avoid over-restraining your pet and keep brushing sessions short and positive. A cat or small dog can be held in your lap. Praise and reassure your pet throughout the process.

STEP 2: At first, dip a finger into beef bouillon for dogs or tuna water for cats. Rub the soaked finger

gently over the pet's mouth and teeth. Make the initial sessions short and positive.

STEP 3: Gradually, introduce gauze over the finger and gently scrub the teeth in a circular motion.

STEP 4: Finally, you can introduce a soft toothbrush designed for pets or a sensitive or ultra-soft brush designed for people. Special pet toothbrushes are available from your veterinarian or specialty pet store. Don't use toothpaste designed for people because it could upset the animal's stomach.

Avoid feeding pets table scraps because they can increase the buildup of plaque and tartar, and can lead to other health problems. Even if you aren't able to brush your pet's teeth every day, by incorporating a special pet food into your pet's daily routine, you can provide the dental care needed to keep your pet healthy. Be sure to talk with your veterinarian about the

options that exist and which are right for your pet. ♦

Some information provided by Hills®Pet Nutrition.



**“Studies show that 98% of dogs with bad breath are suffering from periodontal disease, a result of plaque build up.”**



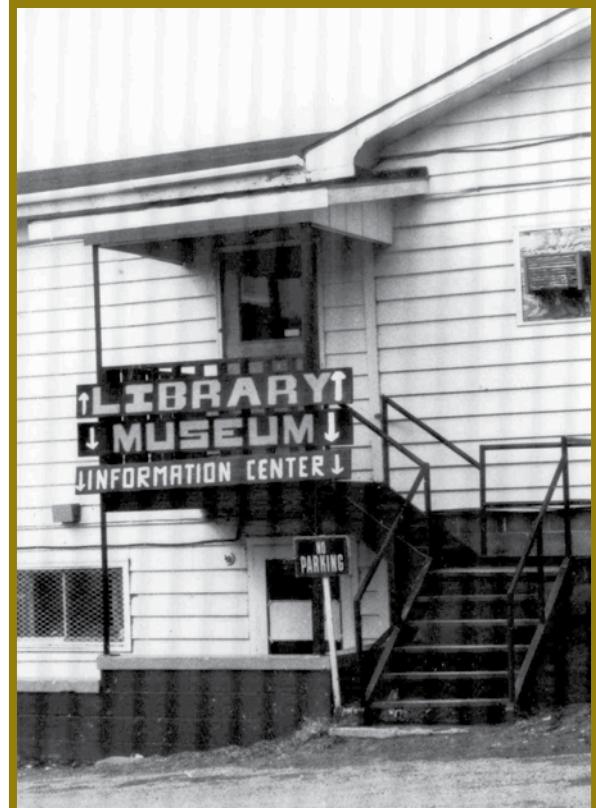
Left: Plaque and Tartar Build-up Cause Discoloration and Bad Breath. Right: Healthy Teeth and Gums

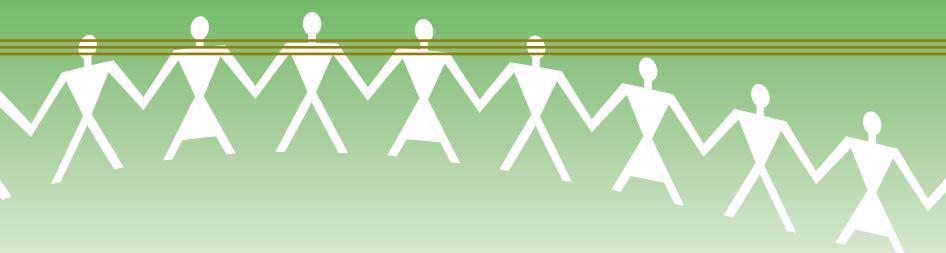
# The Akwesasne Museum: Past Present and Future - Telling Our Story in Our Own Words

*By Sue Ellen Herne, Museum Program Director*

**O**n the December 29, 2011 Tetewathá:ron radio talk show with Reen Cook, Irving Papineau mentioned that the Akwesasne Library began because of community discussions during the time of the 1960's school boycott. The boycott protested the lack of Native representation in educational issues and curriculum. The Akwesasne Museum began in 1972, one year after the Akwesasne Library. This again was due to our community members' initiative. The idea was that if we were to focus our energies on creating opportunities for

broadening our education, we would need to include our cultural education. If we were to have a place to access books, we should also be able to access our own material culture. Today, the museum cares for paintings, baskets, pottery, beadwork, silverwork, and many other items – not only for their beauty, but as a way of honoring our ancestors and sharing their work with the next generations. The Akwesasne Cultural Center also cares for a large collection of photographs. These images hold memories of Akwesasne's past.





The museum also has a long tradition of holding traditional arts classes. This is a way to keep our traditions alive. We are able to learn from masters of many arts, for here in Akwesasne we are blessed to have so many talented people.

Coming up in 2012, we will be working with Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Environment Division to conduct a survey in Akwesasne. The survey will help us to look at traditions beyond the arts. For example,



what cultural knowledge is held in our community that should be strengthened? We will be surveying as many households as possible to find out who has what traditional skills that they are willing to teach, and also to locate who is interested in learning traditional skills. This project is a building block that will be able to assist us in keeping our traditions strong into the future. Akwesasne is a special place and *ionkwao'ite senha aioianerenhakie* -- we are working toward better things to come! ♦

# Program Feature

## *Brownfields*

*By Julia Jacobs, Environmental Outreach Coordinator*

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Brownfields Program is a fairly new program in Akwesasne funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Tribal Brownfields Program is designed to concentrate on areas of environmental concern within Tribal communities by cleaning up and re-using land for recreational and developmental purposes. SRMT Brownfields Team has begun to create a database of potential Brownfields sites within Akwesasne, developing an oversight and enforcement policy and has conducted public outreach activities such as: the CKON radio talk show, public meetings, and the creation of an interactive informational kiosk.

The Brownfields kiosk was created in the hopes that community members will find an interesting and fun way to acquire information and learn about contamination in Akwesasne. The kiosk is a T.V. monitor which operates by touching the screen to access information about Brownfields. The kiosk is mobile and will be



*Old Drums and Tires are Potential Brownfields Sites of Environmental Concern*



moved to different locations throughout the year, and is filled with photos of potential sites as well as many beautiful photos of natural resources from all over Akwesasne. The kiosk will also have a folder attached to provide the community with our brochure and postcard as well as other promotional freebies for those who take the time to explore it.

Right now the Brownfields program is always doing inventory, but the Tribe plans to expand its Brownfields Program and move towards the actual cleanup and reuse of contaminated sites. The Brownfields Team will continue outreach efforts to help make community members aware of

environmental contamination and ways of getting it cleaned up by hosting additional public meetings, radio shows and community activities such as a Brownfields logo and slogan contest. A Brownfields 101 training day for the SRMT staff and other interested Tribes/ Nations is also being planned in Akwesasne for the spring 2012.

The current progress and hard work of the SRMT

Brownfields Program staff was recently acknowledged in a meeting with EPA in November. The EPA was pleased with the outreach efforts and technical abilities of the tribal Brownfields staff in spreading information and in receiving immense feedback from concerned community members about contaminated properties that could become Brownfields sites.

The next big goal for 2012 will be to develop a committee of community members, called the

#### Akwesasne Brownfields Committee (ABC).

Akwesasne members from various backgrounds will be asked to help us prioritize our list of potential sites for cleanup. We will be looking for volunteers with health, safety, environmental, city planning, economic development, cultural specialists, traditional knowledge, elders, and any other background or concerned persons who would like to take action against environmental contamination in our community. If you are interested in helping, just keep an eye out for public notices on the radio and newspapers for a request for volunteers or call our office and speak to Julia for more information.

There are many ways to participate and be active in the Brownfields Program now. We encourage community members to talk with elders and other family members and see what they remember about life in Akwesasne when they were young. Was there a gas station that no longer exists? If so, the fuel tank could still be buried underground. Was there a location in the woods that family members used as a dump? This was common since there were no trash removal

services back then. The trash could be buried but still pose a hazard to health, safety, and the environment. What about outhouses, historic buildings, abandoned marinas? These are all considered hazards that could be cleaned up through the Brownfields Program. The type of information we would like to collect about a potential site is: where it is located (by pointing it out on a map), who owns the property, and what type of contamination is present.

The SRMT Brownfields Program has the potential to make big changes in Akwesasne for a better future. If everyone could realize the importance and learn to appreciate the land and environment in Akwesasne, we can make a better place for everyone, especially our children. Locating and cleaning up these contaminated sites could mean more usable space for parks, housing, recreational centers, cultural centers, and businesses. In turn, this redevelopment could provide more jobs and economic growth for our community as a whole.

If you have any information you would like to share with the Brownfields Program please contact the St.

Regis Mohawk Environmental Office and ask for Julia Jacobs or Amberdawn LaFrance at 518-358-5937 or visit our website at [www.srmtenv.org](http://www.srmtenv.org). Information can also be found in our new interactive kiosk which will be located at the Tribal Community building in the lobby.



*Julia and Amberdawn Demonstrate the Touch-Screen Kiosk at the Senior's Center. They are Available by Appointment to Meet With Groups or Individuals.*



# Program Feature -

## Emergency Response Team (ERT)

*By Julia Jacobs, Outreach Coordinator  
SRMT Environment Division*

The SRMT Emergency Response Team (ERT) is a unit within the Environment Division. Team members are from Environment who have taken the necessary courses and training to become certified ERT members and who will respond to a call using personal protective equipment, materials and tools to minimize harm to life and property.

When a call is made to the Environment division regarding a spill the process begins:

### Initial Response

1. Information about the incident is recorded using a Spill Information Sheet form, recording the following information:

- Name of the person filling out the sheet
- Current date and time
- Date and time of the incident occurred
- Location of incident
- What type of incident
- Who else has the caller notified
- What other people or departments will this office notify
- Names of the ERT members who are

- responding to this call
- Directions to the spill location
  - After this form is filled out, available staff will respond. No less than two trained persons may respond to an incident.
- 2. Responding ERT staff will receive and review the Spill Information Sheet
  - A request will be made for available ERT members to assist with the response
  - A short briefing will be provided to those responding
  - Air monitoring equipment and portable radios required for site assessment and communications are assembled

- ERT members check to ensure that they have the proper personal gear equipment in the response vehicles and then depart to the site
- 3. Upon arrival at the spill location the ERT will assess the spill and evaluate the need for additional resources such as:
  - More ERT members
  - Site security
  - Traffic control



*ERT Team Members Must Complete Many Hours of Training, Exercises and Activities to Ensure Their Safety and Protection of the Environment*

- Medical assistance
  - Notification/request for outside resources
4. The ERT will evaluate the site for dangers to human health and the environment as a result of the spill
  5. The ERT will then work to contain and confine the spill using supplies and equipment to limit the spill from spreading
  6. If the spill is located inside a building the ERT will evaluate the indoor air quality using air monitoring equipment
    - Do they need to ventilate or evacuate the building based on air quality readings
    - Determine if there is a fire hazard

**“Established in  
1993, the Tribe’s  
ERT is one of only  
a few all native  
teams in the US.”**



*This Response Vehicle Stores and Transports Additional Spill and Contamination Equipment to the Location of a Spill*

7. Once the spill has been contained and stopped, the ERT will work to identify the cause of the spill
8. The ERT will then assign a person who will monitor the cleanup and disposal of materials/soil related to the spill
  - Removal of contaminated soil/ materials may be done only with a qualified and licensed hauler
9. The ERT may bill:
  - for materials
  - personnel time utilized in the spill response
  - use of ERT vehicle
10. Cost will be presented to a responsible party such as:
  - Land/home owner
  - Person responsible for spill other than land/home owner
  - Insurance company
  - Any other parties that may have played a role in spill

For more information about Emergency Response Team (ERT) contact Julia Jacobs, SRMT Environment Division at 518-358-5937, extension 126. ♦

# Calendar

## Enníska / February

- 4th - Monthly Tribal Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building lobby  
14th - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's office  
17th & 18th - Akwesasne Winter Carnival  
20th - Presidents' Day - Tribal offices and transfer station closed  
Tuesdays - Tribal Council Work Sessions - 9:00 a.m. - Tribal Council Boardroom

## New Faces

Summer Bero	Administrative Assistant	Administration
Peter L. Garrow	Ethics Officer	Administration
Elisha King	Remedial Tutor	JOM
Konwahontsiawi	Administrative Assistant	Grants & Contracts
Brad Rickerl	Trapper	Compliance
Zachary Rogofsky	Youth Worker	Workforce Investment
Joanne Wellings	IHS - Dental Clinic	Dental Hygienist

## Giving Back

Sports - \$ 2,250

Funerals - \$ 2,500

## Jobs

- Scalehouse Attendants (2) - Environment Division  
Construction Manager - Planning & Infrastructure  
Environmental Program Specialist - Environment  
Staff Attorney - Legal  
Patient Service Coordinator - Health Services

- Environmental Health Educator - Environment  
MSC Supervisor - Community & Family Services  
Home Health Aide - Chronic Care Nursing

*Current postings and complete job descriptions are available online at: [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov)*

# Program Feature - Nutrition

By Kim McElwain, RD

The Nutrition Department has been keeping busy with various tribal programs, serving Partridge House, Office for the Aging, IRA homes, Head Start and Kids' Cooking Classes. Currently we are busy with Head Start providing weekly nutrition education classes using the C.A.T.C.H Early Education Curriculum. The lessons teach about the food groups, what are 'sometimes' foods and the importance of physical activity. We teach the kids through displays and reading to them. We always have them get up do an activity so that they are moving and understand the importance of being healthy. It's great to teach them about eating healthy and being healthy at such an early age.

At the Office for the Aging, we do monthly nutrition-related bingo games that the seniors enjoy. We give out prizes such as IGA gift cards, utensils, nutrition-related goodies and bags of healthy snacks. We also do monthly nutrition education sessions on topics such as heart disease, food safety, the new "My Plate" program and cholesterol. The last Wednesday of the month we are at the senior center from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to conduct heights, weights, blood pressure and blood sugar tests. We also review all menus and analyze the nutrient content of the meals.



The Nutrition Department, along with the W.I.C. program, also offers breastfeeding education with our peer counselor, M. Tricia Herne. She can also provide breast pumps, nursing bras and nursing accessories. We strive to promote "the breast is best" for all our pregnant moms.

This past summer we conducted our first series of cooking classes for kids in conjunction with Eat Smart NY. We had weekly cooking classes that ran for six weeks. They consisted of a lesson on nutrition, a physical activity and then the kids helped in preparing and cooking a kid-friendly dish.

The Nutrition Department is also a big contributor in organizing the annual, community Wellness Day. Each year it grows bigger and better and we try to change it up with different activities and different locations. With the development of the walking trail we have found a permanent spot for our Wellness Day. The Tewathahita walking trail is also a big project. We were involved on the development and funding activities to get it build and open to the community. We continue to make improvements on it and are excited for the spring when we can add our two fitness stations along the trail. We look forward to seeing many more people out walking on it this year. ♦

# Monthly Tribal Meeting

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*Tsiothohrkó:wa / January 14, 2012  
Chaired by Chief Randy Hart*

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## *Agenda*

1. Introductions:
  - Welcome
  - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
2. Broadband Update
3. Planning & Infrastructure -
  - DOT/Waterline
4. Budget
  - Sub-Chief Michael Conners
5. Education update
6. New Business
7. Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
8. Adjournment

## *Action Items from January Meeting*

- to have Juanita Tarbell report on the health insurance costs and the number of employees
- to have Elliott Lazore report on how many stores have opened and how many have closed since the major brand cigarettes became an issue
- to look into having a microphone system set up for future tribal monthly meetings
- to look into the distribution of a flyer to all community members regarding the banned synthetic drug including the side effects and the signs of such use
- to add The Ferry Plan Among Akwesasne as an action item in future monthly meetings once updated information becomes available

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

1. Have Ernie Thompson draft a letter to Rob Hayes of DOT for work session

*Follow-up:* This letter was submitted to Council for signature at prior work session.

# Program Feature -

## *SRMT's Air Quality Program*

*By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager*

The air program was initially formed because of concerns due to emissions from the two industries right next to Akwesasne. The Environment Division started with only a couple of individuals and has now grown to over a staff of 25 in over 10 different programs. The air program consists of two dedicated technicians, Marlene Thompson and Jeri Jacobs. I have been with the air program for over 10 years first as a technician and now as the Program Manager.

Marlene is in charge of sampling for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). PAHs are associated with the production at one of the industries. The Environment Division has been monitoring this for over 10 years. Marlene is also in charge of a site created to monitor the amount of acid rain in this area. It's called the National Atmospheric Deposition Program. -- a national organization with set protocols so that everyone samples in the same exact way with the same exact equipment. This site (NY22) located in Fort Covington Center has been operating since August 1999. Marlene also issues burn permits. She uses a burn regulation guideline brochure and a video to help community members understand the "dos and don'ts" of good burning. And, as a service to the community, Marlene does indoor air quality (IAQ) inspections for individuals who feel their IAQ is not good. Although the program doesn't take corrective action, she can offer recommendations for fixes of any problems that may be found. Marlene can be reached at 358-5937 ext. 128.

The air program is involved in sampling grasses for fluoride content. This is joint project with Alcoa. Grasses in select locations are sampled to see what the fluoride exposure is to our community.



*Jeri Checks Intake Valve  
on Air Shed*



*Marlene Installs a New  
Air Monitoring Hose*

Jeri is in charge of our air shed. This shed is located next to the group home behind the Head Start and day care building on Library road. Several instruments that monitor the outside air for such things as metals, particulate matter, ozone, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides are located in this shed. The site also has a 10 meter meteorological station that has probes for temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, wind direction, barometric pressure and precipitation.

In September 2008, the air program went online through a program called Tribal Environmental Exchange Network or TREX. Right now the online data consists of local temperature, wind speed and direction, precipitation, barometric pressure and particulate matter. The whole network includes 12 other tribal air programs, mostly from tribes in the west. The link to the site is: <http://wxweb.meteostar.com/tribal/>. Check it out. It also gives information on air quality conditions following the EPA's Air Quality Index (AQI) for people with asthma and/or respiratory disorders. The AQI is a color coded system to warn individuals when the air quality outside may affect their health.

For more information on the AQI, go to the EPA's website <http://airnow.gov/> or visit the air quality program at environment division. For any questions about our air shed and the monitoring contact Jeri at extension 359-5937 ext. 111.

The air program is continually looking for more opportunities to help the community strive for clean air. For any general air quality questions, indoor or outdoor, my extension is 129. ♦

# Natural Resource Assessment

*By Les Benedict*



The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division is conducting an area wide natural resource assessment and needs your help.

To conduct the assessment properly the Environment Division needs the cooperation of landowners in allowing the Division's trained staff to access property. The assessment will consist of several visits to property to measure wildlife habitat like how much plants have been eaten by deer, animal sign (tracks), measurement of the numbers of trees, their type and health. Cooperators will be asked to verify landownership and sign a permission form.

If you wish to participate in the program you will receive a FREE, \$20.00 Gander Mountain gift card and be placed in a drawing for a \$200.00 Gander Mountain gift card.

In addition to a gift card and a chance to win a Grand Prize gift card participants will receive a summary analysis of natural resources and trees on their property.

Contact the Environment division and ask to speak with Nolan Jacobs or Setanta O'Ceillaigh, 518-358-5937 for further details. ♦



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
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Akwesasne, NY 13655



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