

Featured Programs

Health Services

A/CDP
Outpatient

Tribal Gaming
Commission

Finance

Kawennì:ios

Winter
Cultural
Youth Camp



2014 Hazard Tree Assessment Program

By Les Benedict, Assistant Director, Environment Division

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is pleased to announce that it is offering a free Hazard Tree Assessment Program for 2014. The purpose of the program is to assist the elderly and disabled with the assessment and possible removal of hazard trees. Hazardous trees are defined as a tree with structural defects likely to cause failure of all or part of the tree, which could strike a "target." A target can be a vehicle, building, or a place where people gather such as a park bench, picnic table, street, or backyard. Hazardous tree removal requires specialized training and equipment to ensure the safety of people and to prevent damage to property. The project is very limited and therefore signing up does not guarantee that service will be provided. Priority is given to the elderly and the disabled. Each site will be inspected to assess that a hazardous tree is present. Priority will be given to trees that pose imminent danger. Ornamental pruning and trimming will not be performed through these services.

The assessment process that the program will follow is:

1. Applications are received
2. Sites are visited by the Forestry Technician and trees assessed for hazard
3. Site reports are provided to the Director and Assistant Director with the Technician's recommendations
4. Sites are ranked according to technical criteria for hazards, with imminent hazards receiving the highest priority

5. Sites are estimated by the Tribe's contractor for cost of removal
6. Hazard trees are removed within limits of program budget

Hazard trees not addressed in 2014 will be re-evaluated in the 2015 funding cycle. The contractor will only perform work as authorized under their contract. Landowners will be financially responsible for any additional work requested of the contractor. Work sites will only be serviced once in a year. A waiver and permission form must be completed and signed BEFORE work is done.

Hazard Tree services must be requested in person at the Environment Division Office, 449 Frogtown Road, Akwesasne.

Applications will be received throughout the year beginning Ennisko:wa/March 31, 2014. Contact the Environment Division for more information (518) 358-5937. The community is reminded to never attempt tree removal on their own, especially if the tree is

near power lines or buildings. If a contractor is called in, please ensure they are qualified, insured and provide a written quote before proceeding. ◇

Guidelines Used by Foresters/Arborists in Assessing Hazard Trees

1. *Dead trees of any species*
2. *Dying tree*
 - a. *Foliage transparency 40% + (thin crown, off-color or dwarfed foliage)*
 - b. *Borer attacks obvious and abundant - the presence of insect activity, such as bark beetles or Ips, may indicate that a tree has been weakened by other agents.*
3. *Trees likely to be wind thrown after removal of adjacent dead and dying trees. (Removal of more than 1/3 of a stand's basal area increases risk of wind throw to remaining trees.)*
4. *Trees with significant defects:*
 - a. *Canker rots*
 - b. *Root rots*
 - c. *Trunk injuries (mechanical damage, stem decay, etc.)*
 - d. *Crown defects (broken or damaged branches, forked tops, dead tops, etc.)*



Good Words of Welcome



Shé:kon,

The New Year brings us new perspective and a reminder of what is most important in our lives, family. For us, our community is our extended family. Akwesasne is home. We are all connected to this land and to each other. What we say and what we do impacts everyone around us. I believe as Chief my purpose is to lead our people, advocate for our rights, our needs and our land. Akwesasne is growing. Our responsibility is to think ahead to the next generation of *Akwesasné:non*.

Throughout the past several months, we've managed to resurrect the 2005 land claims settlement and continue to fight for what we need most, a future for our grandchildren, a home and access to resources like higher education and a job to come home to. We are responsible for enriching the lives of our youth. Our education is the foundation for our kids. When we settle with the state and our surrounding counties, we solidify access to SUNY education for all Mohawks of Akwesasne.

From Head Start to Higher Education, we cannot afford to take our eye off of our young ones. This spring, we will ask you to stand up for our kids and participate in the Salmon River Board of Education elections.

We are a driving force in the local economy. Finding partnerships through Economic Development and Tribal Gaming Funds are strengthening how we provide for our families. We have a long way to go, but we have made a lot of progress.

With great pride in the strides our community has taken to fight diabetes, we announce the Grand Opening of the Diabetes Center For Excellence on February 12, 2014. The Center will be open to the community and our employees on Monday February 10 for tours, and we will be serving a traditional meal. The opening of the Diabetes Center is a great step in addressing the health concerns of our community in maintaining good health and in being provided the tools and knowledge of living with and preventing this condition that is so pervasive in our community. This project stands as a great example of what can be achieved when the Tribe, our community and individuals work collaboratively to achieve a common goal.

On the horizon, I would very much like to see the Tribe work towards establishing a dialysis center. Currently, there are elders who need this essential service. I feel that this is a service that the Tribe should provide under the health and welfare component of our mandate.

In closing, I extend my greetings to Akwesasne, and look forward to serving the community in the coming year!

Chief Paul O. Thompson

On the Cover:

Kayden Jackson-Cook, Miles Beeson and Kash Oakes Learn to Mash Corn Taught by Dave Arquette.

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Health Services Director Retires

Debbie Martin Retires After 33 Years Serving Akwesasne

Press Release

In 1973, a young nurse built the foundation for her career through experience, but in her retirement, reflects the most important lessons learned came from our Elders in her early years. Debbie Martin has dedicated thirty-three years to caring for the people's health of Akwesasne. Her first years of nursing were spent in the community, checking on our elders. The first thing she learned was the bonds she formed were rooted in relationships, family history and the art of listening. Debbie reflects on those visits with a firm commitment to the values she was taught; patience, respect and compassion. She spent hours talking to elders, and subsequently learned to use her intuition to enhance the skills she was taught in nursing school. "My patient's vital signs may have been ok, but I knew our elders wanted to be 'good patients', so I had to learn to find ways to make sure they were safe without pushing the envelope".

The importance of family in our culture is the most critical aspect of our approach to healthcare. Debbie's wisdom as an elder is woven in the first question she was always asked when she entered a patient's home, which is now the first question she asks of patients;


"How is your family?." In modern healthcare, we spend more money, we have more doctors and nurses and the complexity of medicine and extensive diagnostic tools we have cannot compensate for communication between the nurse and the patient. Communication was of utmost importance then, and it remains the core of effective care-giving. Debbie makes a strong life-long observation that language = trust. She remembers a native speaking nurse who translated for a physician and recalls the power of the trust she witnessed in those visits.

Her love for her team is apparent in her actions as she shares her mantra, "community means everything." Crisis in our community has deep roots; Debbie and her team have a culture of being there for our people, regardless of the time or day. One memorable employee came in on a Saturday to care for a patient. She held the woman's hand and assured her she would be there for as long as she needed her. This approach to crisis and hardship is not found just anywhere, but it's in Akwesasne and it is in the hearts of the Health Services team.



The Tribe is thankful to Debbie for her many years of dedicated service. We wish her well in her retirement.

*– Tsiorasa Barreiro,
Executive Director*




Debbie is a very caring individual. She always emphasizes that patients are the priority, that is why we are here. Debbie has innovative ideas and goes after what she thinks will benefit the entire community, i.e. Diabetes Center of Excellence, Centering for Pregnancy, Chronic Care Program Transportation Program, School Based Health, After-Hours Care, and Trauma Informed Care training. Debbie is always thinking outside the box and once an idea is formed, she comes to us to see how we can accomplish this mission. As a team, we work together to accomplish this and when we run into barriers, Debbie is always there to remove the barriers. Our team respects Debbie as our leader. She always looks out for all staff and always has the best interest of the staff in mind.

-Health Services Administrative Team



Debbie is excited to transition to retirement, but will forever hold her team of 115 working in thirteen divisions, in the highest of regards. "It is a privilege to be in my position, as I've had the latitude to bring visions and innovations to our community, such as Centering for Pregnancy, Trauma Informed Care and Trauma Incident Reduction. On the cusp of her retirement, Debbie has the honor of welcoming our community and guests to the Grand Opening of the Diabetes Center For Excellence, her "greatest joy" born of a vision, a community commitment and a need for our fight against the debilitating chronic disease that plagues so many Mohawks, young and old.

Debbie will be transitioning her reins on February 7, 2014. Of the next leader of her team, she asks for an understanding of our people, the importance of our language and a sense of humor. Healthcare is a tough business; Debbie smiles and reflects on her professional journey and credits the early years of caring for elders for her success: "Through it all, they taught me to laugh; it was a special time to be a nurse." ♦



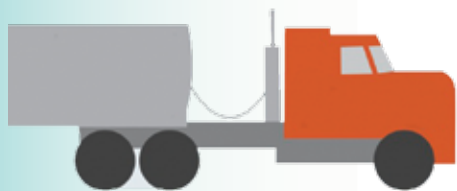
It has been my greatest pleasure to work alongside our Health Director Debra Martin. She made it possible, for those of us who desired it, to enhance the type of care we provided at our Health Facility to include various healing practices and innovative services in addition to the already existing conventional medical care in the clinic and the Traditional Medicine Program in the Mental Health Dept. Her vision is always guided by genuine love for the community and her desire for us all to not only be physically well but to always have the opportunity for true healing. We will miss her greatly at Health Services though I know she won't be far away, extending a caring hand to those who need it.

- Chief Beverly Cook



What the Frack is Going On?

By *Angela Benedict,*
Air Quality Program Manager



We have all heard it in the headlines: "Fracking is Bad" or "Fracking contaminated drinking water wells". I am not here to say yay or nay on the fracking debate, I just want to give some information on some of the issues. Fracking involves pumping a mixture of water, sand and chemicals into shale rock formations deep underground at high pressure, which causes the rock to crack and release natural gas. This seems to be a water issue as water is used for fracturing but as we all know water touches air. Affect one, affect all. The industry is saying that the chemicals are safe but are unwilling to disclose what the chemicals are because they say it is proprietary. It is also said that 20-85% of the fracking fluids remain underground.

Some of these wells are hitting brine reservoirs that have been underground for thousands of years sometimes millions of years. The thing about this is that it could contain other ingredients besides high salt. It could contain radioactive materials such as barium or radium. But through all the research, I have not had this completely confirmed.

Other sources of pollution from fracking are the noise and emissions from exhaust. Drilling is not quiet and disturbs the area around fracking by not just noise we can hear but noise we can feel. The noise we hear might be low frequency noise but longterm

exposure has been seen to cause major health effects. Longterm low frequency exposure to noise is just being studied now so it not confirmed what the effects might be. Emissions are another concern for residents around the fracking site. There are several trucks and vehicles coming and going from the sites. Also emissions from stationary engines play a part in contributing to the air emissions.

So are there benefits from fracking? Yes. Having a supply of natural gas and oil. It reduces our reliance on foreign fuel, which is good right? It also produces lots of jobs and increases the economy of the cities/towns where fracking is taking place.

I can't tell you to feel one way or another about fracking, I can just give you the information known about it. So for now and the next generations look at the pros and cons of decisions made that will affect our people. ◇

There are approx. 500,000 active gas wells in the U.S. Each well can be fracked 18 times using about 8 million gallons of water. This equals 72 trillion gallons of water and 360 billion gallons of chemicals.

Only 20-85% of the fracturing fluid is recovered. The rest is left in the ground and is not biodegradable.

The recovered fluids are left in open air pits to evaporate releasing harmful VOCs (volatile organic compounds) into the atmosphere, creating contaminated air, acid rain and ground level ozone.

A/CDP Outpatient Clinical Director Named

By Allyson Doctor, Director of Communications

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has a new Clinical Director of the Alcohol/Chemical Dependency Program (A/CDP), Connie Thompson. Connie brings twenty-eight years of experience with A/CDP Outpatient to the Health Services leadership team. Connie considers herself fortunate to have had the opportunity to work for leadership who has helped her pave the way to the Clinical Director position; among them, Connie credits her predecessor, Dan Jacobs, for his mentorship. She was appointed as Acting Director when Mr. Jacobs retired in September of 2013, and was the successful candidate for the Clinical Director position. Since 1992, Connie was the Outpatient Coordinator and a New York State Certified Alcohol Substance Abuse Counselor. In 2007, she added a Specialty in Gambling to her credential. The A/CDP is the only Native American outpatient program licensed by the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (OASAS) and is supported by three NYS certified counselors, along with a secretary and an office manager who is shared with the Mental Health Program. Connie started as a program secretary in 1985, which is evidence of perseverance, commitment and passion for her work. Chief Beverly Cook shares the following about Connie and the program, "The A/CDP Outpatient clinic and Prevention Programs provide stellar services to our families that grow from their collective heart. Their programs are further enhanced by their years of experience in the field of addiction. Connie Thompson is a dedicated mentor and leader whose work ethic reflects her devotion to our community members and her belief that each one of us deserves recovery and healing on all levels. She is important to the program and to many of us as a co-worker, collaborator and personal friend."



Connie's been involved in the Franklin County Adult Drug Treatment Court for the past ten years, and the Franklin County Family Court for the past three years. She credits this experience with being able "to help in the development and implementation of the Saint Regis Mohawk Healing to Wellness Court, under the direction of Judge Peter J. Herne." Her work has evolved around helping clients with their healing process, evidenced by her involvement in the development of programs such as the Mind/Body Program, the Centering Pregnancy Program and Trauma Incident Reduction Training within the Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services. Connie sits on several committees, coalitions and boards both in and around our community, providing insight and education on how the disease of addiction affects our people. "I am very dedicated and committed to promoting wellness in our community along with introducing new and innovative opportunities for our people to access care for themselves. I have had great mentors and supportive administrators that have encouraged me to think out of the box."

A/CDP consists of the Outpatient Program, which is now coordinated by Carol Whelan, and the Prevention Program, which is coordinated by Melerena Back. The programs are funded by Indian Health Services with supplements from OASAS and the Tribal Gaming Fund. The Outpatient program provides assessments/evaluations for alcohol, drugs and/or gambling and subsequently can offer services such as outpatient treatment or referral to inpatient treatment. The prevention component participates in our local schools by implementing model program curriculums with various grades, and through their work with the Akwesasne Coalition for Community Empowerment, are very active in many community events. ♦

Winter Cultural Youth Camp

By Ian Clute & Kawenniiosta Jock, SRMT Traditional Support Program

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Traditional Support Program teamed up with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Family Wellness Program and Akwesasne Community Justice Program to host a Winter Cultural Youth Camp. The Winter Cultural Youth Camp was held at Iohahi:io Adult Education Centre from December 27-30, 2013. Thirty-two youth from Akwesasne between the ages of 11-17 attended the camp over the four days.

A holistic approach was taken in scheduling the workshops for the Winter Cultural Youth Camp. The organizing committee kept in mind the spiritual, emotional, physical and mental health and development of our youth.

In addressing the spiritual component, a tobacco burning was held by Aronhiaies Herne from the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Traditional Medicine Program. The ohenton karihwatekwen (thanksgiving address) was also incorporated into the agenda to start and end each day of the camp. The Kanienkehaka Ratirennenhawi singers also attended each day to work with the youth teaching them dances to prepare them for the New Year's Eve socials. The songs and dances included the more advanced steps like raccoon and shake the bush.

The emotional aspect of the camp included presentations on basket making with Linda

Jackson. The participants were taught the difference between the various functions of baskets, primarily between the pack baskets and fancy baskets. Linda Jackson assisted the youth in making their own fancy basket, a sweet grass bookmark or a sweet grass turtle.

Louise McDonald presented on the creation story, explaining the various lessons that are passed on through this oral tradition. Bringing this track back to the primary focus of promoting a positive cultural identity, Aronhiaies Herne spoke to the youth about cultural identity.

Gary Gray worked all of the days of the camp with the youth, taking them in the field to learn about trapping. This started the track of the camp dealing with the physical development, which also included learning about skinning a deer and ways of processing the deer hides with Roger Jock.

PJ Burns worked with the youth to make their own ice fishing tip-up kits. The topic of fishing was extended throughout the day with Everett Lazore teaching the youth how to clean and prepare the fish for cooking. Thomas Francis from the HAVFD provided presentations to the youth on ice safety, and Mary LaFrance with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environment Division presented on development of the Akwesasne fish advisory.



Looming with Artificial Wampum – Taylor Mitchell, MCA Conservation Program



Trapping – Gary Gray, Community Member



Making Tobacco Pouches, Fan Making – Ian Clute & Kawenniiosta Jock, SRMT Traditional Support Program

The final component was developing workshops to address the mental aspects of our cultural identity – this track of learning started with Aronhiaies Herne relating methods of fire making and the cultural relevance of fire and family. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Conservation Officer Taylor Mitchell worked with participants to learn how to loom wampum belts using artificial beads, while relaying to them the history and impact of various belts that were made in the past.

The organizing committee extends its appreciation to the parents of the youth who participated for bringing their children to the camp each day, and to all of the presenters and individuals who contributed to this project.



Tobacco Burning, Methods of Fire Making, Cultural Identity – Aronhiaies Herne, MCA Traditional Medicine Program

Other presenters and topics not pictured:

- Basket Making – Linda Jackson, Community Member
- Tree Identification – Cynthia Lazore, MCA Environment Program
- Social Dancing and Singing – Kanienkehaka Ratirennenhawi
- Ice Fishing and Tip Up Making – PJ Burns, Kids 4 Fishing
- Ohenton Karihwatekwen, Winter Stories – Kawennahente Cook, Community Member
- Wild Game Cooking – Everett Lazore, MCA Akwesasne Child and Family Services
- Ice Safety – Tom Francis, Hogsburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department
- Fish Advisory – Mary Lafrance, SRMT Environment Division
- Creation Story – Louise McDonald, Community Member
- Healthy Living – Kim McElwain, MCA Department of Health
- Healthy Cooking – Sweets Jacobs, MCA Department of Health
- Quilting – Ruth Seymour, Community Member & Kawenniiosta Jock, SRMT Traditional Support Program ♦



Deer Hide Skinning and Tanning – Roger Jock, Community Member

News from the Tribal Gaming Commission

By Todd L. Papineau, Executive Director

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Gaming Commission extends a Happy New Year to everyone.

I take this opportunity to share with the community some of the accomplishments of our staff in 2013. The Commission welcomes the newest member of our team, Keldon Herne. I thank all of our employees who donated generously to the Mountain of Toys drive, and specifically those who donated their time in ensuring it was a success: Jerome McDonald, Jeremy Thompson, Laurie Dumas and our own jailbird, Amber McDonald.

2013 brought the appointment of our newest Gaming Commissioners, D. Darlene

Francis and Brandon Smoke. They both bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Commission and join Vaughn Aldrich in providing leadership of the Commission for the future. I have enjoyed working with them and we now have a full complement of Commissioners.

Other staff news during 2013 include Jory Tarbell's graduation from firefighting school. I congratulate him on his accomplishment and truly appreciate his commitment in protecting and serving Akwesasne. David Benedict has a new position as a Fighter Inspector with the Athletic Commission. He has received training with the Mohegan Athletic Commission and I hear he is performing his duties with distinction. Randy Jock

was recognized by the National Tribal Gaming Commissioners/Regulators association for the sacrifice he made for his country by serving in the military. He received an exquisite medal and he has thanked Jenny Thompson for submitting his name for recognition.



PJ Burns "Arrests" Amber McDonald To Raise Bail Money for the Mountain of Toys

It has been a busy 2013 with the expansion of the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort. We are looking forward to 2014 to be just as rewarding. We will continue to be diligent in maintaining the integrity of the gaming enterprises of the Tribe. ♦

Finance: Managing Our Money

By Barbara Montour, Chief Financial Officer

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Finance Department provides Accounting, Procurement and Travel services to twenty-three Tribal departments consisting of 153 federal and state programs. Finance is responsible for fiscal management of the Tribal General Fund; we are privileged, and our team takes pride, in administering these funds. Our accounting, procurement and travel professionals are dedicated to protecting the Tribe's assets. Our staff of eighteen tribal employees has an impressive 210 years of collective experience (service) to the Tribe. In 2013, four employees received years of service recognition, Vicki Wood – 20 years, Barbara Kelly – 20 years, Hattie Bashaw – 15 years and Barbara Barish – 5 years.

SRMT budget to be presented to the community by November 15, followed by three community meetings. Tribal Council approved our 2014 SRMT budget on December 30, 2013. The 2014 budget includes 83.5 million dollars in revenues and expenses, projected governmental grants of \$27.8 million dollars, \$29.7 million dollars in Tribal General funds and an estimated \$26 million dollars in exclusivity payments.

The 2014 TGF projected revenues are comprised of 79% from the Tribes gaming enterprise and 21% of revenues from tribal licensing fees, investment income, tribal clerk fees and the Solid Waste Transfer Station. The TGF will supplement 14 of the 23 department



In 2013 we played a major role in managing the governmental sequester cuts and were able to save the Tribe \$70,000 in direct costs by preparing governmental reports in-house rather than contracting with CPA firms. For the first time, our accounting staff prepared external financial statements. We are one of very few Tribes in the country who prepare their own financial statements. The procurement staff actively monitored purchases and found cost cutting opportunities saving us over \$125,000.

The Procedures Act passed in 2013 requires the

budgets and fund the remaining nine departments at 100%. The TGF projects 10% of revenues (\$2.9 million) to be spent on community support projects such as fuel supplements, the Hogsburg Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department and the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club.

The finance department is located at the SRMT administration building. We are funded through indirect revenue and the Tribal General Fund. Questions or concerns may be forwarded to Barbara Montour, Chief Financial Officer. ♦

Monthly Tribal Meeting

Tsiothohrkó:wa / January 4, 2014

Chaired by Sub-Chief Eric Thompson

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
2. Broadband Quarterly Update
 - Jason Hall
3. Education
 - Stephanie Cook
4. Police Commission
 - Wendy Adams
5. New Business
6. Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
7. Adjournment
8. To have an update on the GM cleanup (the depth they went into the ground and how far its saturate)
9. To look into non-natives residing on the territory

Follow-up on Action Items from December Meeting

1. Look into having our own Tribal motor vehicle department.
Tribal Council and the Legal Department continue to research this issue and will report back to the community when more information is available.
2. Provide a presentation/update on a traffic light at Cook Rd/Route 37.

Planning and Infrastructure has asked the NYSDOT to address the Cook Rd and State Route 37 intersection to which they were informed that a study would be conducted after the Casino light had been installed. DOT anticipates the casino light sequencing as addressing the congestion problems but cannot be sure until a study is conducted. The study will include a traffic count and number of accidents, which may well indicate an additional light is needed however the DOT will not act without the study to justify putting the light at the intersection. ◇

Action Items from January Meeting

1. To have a report of money received from the NRD Settlement and how it's being spent (available for next month's meeting)
2. To have the names of the NRD committee members available for next month's meeting
3. To add environment to next month's meeting agenda to give us more information on the American eel
4. To look into setting guidelines for outside authority in Akwesasne
5. To discuss the location of future SRMT monthly meetings
6. To have an update on the waterline to Salmon River
7. To have an update from the advocate of National Grid

Calendar

Enniska / February 2014

- 8 - **Tribal Monthly Meeting** - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building Lobby
10 - **Diabetes Center for Excellence Community Open House** - 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
11 - **Social Security Administration** - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's office
14, 15 & 16 - **21st Annual Akwesasne Winter Carnival** - Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center
14 - **Akwesasne International Job Fair 2014** - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Kawehnoke Recreation Center
Tuesdays - Tribal Council Work Sessions - 9:00 a.m. - Tribal Council Boardroom

New Faces

Alicia Cook	Master Teacher	Environment - Cultural Restoration Program
Brittany M. Blais	Registered Nurse	Health Services - Medical Clinic
Corey Oakes	Forestry Laborer	Environment
Dorothy A. Lazore	Master Teacher	Environment - Cultural Restoration Program
Harvey Thompson	Master Teacher	Environment - Cultural Restoration Program
Keldon Herne	Surveillance Operator	Surveillance Dept
Kenny Perkins	Master Teacher	Environment - Cultural Restoration Program
Laura A. Maneilly	Safe Home Advocate	Three Sisters
Roger Thomas	Master Teacher	Environment - Cultural Restoration Program

Donations

Funerals - \$1,000

Jobs

Female Youth Worker - Akwesasne Group Home
Registered Dietitian - Office for the Aging
Habilitation Aide - Family Support
Custodian - Facilities
Transfer Station Per Diem - Environment
Apprentices: Fishing & River Use, Hunting & Trapping, Medicines & Healing, and Horticulture & Basketmaking - Akwesasne Cultural Restoration Program

Dispatcher - Tribal Police

Current tribal job postings at www.srmt-nsn.gov
Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort positions are posted at www.mohawkcasino.com

Akwesasne and surrounding area positions are posted at www.myaerc.org

Adult & Child Protective Services (ACPS)

Social Services Division Program Feature

By ACPS Staff

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe implemented Child Protection Services in 2005 when an amendment was made to the existing New York State/Tribal agreement to provide social services on Akwesasne Territory. Child Protection cases are generated through the State Central Registry, more commonly known as the Child Abuse Hotline.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Child Protective Unit has a dedicated staff of five. Marla Light is the Program Manager of Adult and Child Protective Services (ACPS). Dorothy Stowell, our Senior Child Protective Caseworker has eight years of experience in the Child Welfare field, including three years serving Akwesasne families. In 2012, April Seymour and Tai Bannon, who are both enrolled members of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, joined the team as Child Protective Caseworkers. Jodele Currier is the most recently hired Caseworker, bringing experience from her work at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Early Childhood Development Program and Akwesasne families.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Child Protective Services (CPS) encourages more complete reporting of child abuse and maltreatment. CPS is required to investigate child abuse and maltreatment reports and protect children from further abuse and maltreatment. We refer and connect children, parents and family

members involved in the report to rehabilitative services. CPS focuses on the safety of the children in the context of the family and recognizes the value of the family to the children. Removing a child from the home is a last resort and used only when less drastic means of protection have failed or have been otherwise deemed unsuitable. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Child Protective Services Unit is geared toward services to preserve the family.

If you suspect a child to be abused or maltreated please contact the Child Abuse Hotline number 1-800-342-3720, 1-800-635-1522 or if you are calling from Canada 1-518-474-4685.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe implemented Adult Protection Services (APS) in 2006, when an amendment was made to the existing NYS/Tribal agreement to provide social services on Akwesasne

Territory. Since that time, the Adult Protection unit has been accepting referrals regarding vulnerable adults in Akwesasne. The referrals come from multiple sources, including concerned family and community members, local hospitals, Tribal Police and Office for the Aging. The Adult Protection Unit consists of three workers; Marla Light, Kristin Post, a Senior APS Caseworker who manages referrals and assists Marla in overseeing daily activity of the unit, and Lori Michaud, an APS Caseworker who receives and responds to referrals,



specializing in the younger population of vulnerable adults who are referred to the program.

The Adult Protective Services program is available to enrolled members of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe who live in Akwesasne, are 18 years of age or older and are at risk of abuse or neglect. These individuals must have a mental or physical disability and no person or agency able to assist them responsibly. Criteria must be met in order to be eligible to receive Adult Protective Services. Services include arranging for medical and mental health assessments, applying for benefits such as HEAP and SNAP (previously known as NYS's Food

the obligation of Adult Protection Services to support their decision. This can be difficult for family members and community members to understand, however, the Adult Protective program will offer services and try to convince the adult to accept help. If there are questions about the adult's mental capacity, a mental health evaluation will be pursued to determine if court-ordered interventions should be provided.

For more information on Adult Protective Services of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, please contact this program at (518) 358-9659, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Adult & Child Protective Services Staff

Stamp Program), coordination with law enforcement and other agencies, assisting in finding alternative living arrangements and informal personal financial management counseling and crisis intervention.

Competent adults have the right to exercise free choice in deciding whether to accept services. If an adult appears to be capable of understanding risk and chooses to stay in an abusive or neglectful situation, it is

Our Administrative Assistant, Joanne McDonald is an invaluable member of the Adult and Child Protective Services (ACPS) team. Joanne provides excellent organization and stability in our workplace.

ACPS works within the community to help guide generations of families with health and safety concerns. Our goal is to make our community stronger and provide hope, healing and opportunities. ♦

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Cordially Invites You to Attend Our

Community Open House for the



Diabetes Center for Excellence

Monday, February 10, 2014 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

66 Business Park Road, Akwesasne

Facility Tours & Light Meal

Let's Get Healthy Program, 518-358-9667



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, NY 13655

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