

Featured Programs

Early
Intervention
Services

Food
Distribution

Indian Child
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(ICWA)

A/CDP
Outpatient

Kawennì:ios



Akwesasne Basket Drive & Mountain of Toys



Business Feature

Native Creations and Tahy's Fine Art & Designs

By Randa Martin and Filfred Tahy

Native Creations opened in August 2010 and is now located at 155 State Route 37 in *Kaniekehaka* Plaza. The outlet started small with just over ten vendors and has grown over two years to sixty-five crafters and every week it gets larger. This outlet allows local artist of all ages and craftsmanship to have their beautiful works put on display to be seen, sold and ordered. Our consignment agreement allows artists to take their work on the road to shows, galleries and contests and in their down time at Native Creations to have the opportunity to be sold rather than going back into storage.

The outlet carries products of all sorts from baskets big and small, feather fans, sage and sweet grass candles, moccasins,

paintings, ribbon shirts, dresses, beadwork, blankets, wall hangings, rattles, drums, dream catchers, music and more. This store represents "made in Akwesasne." It is what Akwesasne makes it. We are very proud of our artists and craftsmen and craftswoman.



Chessie Thomas Displays Beautiful Craft Items

Niawen to our artists, supporters and anyone who has donated items to help us succeed. Niawen to the library especially -- they have helped us with donations, recommendations and invited some of our local artists to teach classes in their facility. When you are looking for the perfect gift to suit your occasion

keep it native, shop at Native Creations. *Onenki wahe*, Randa Katsitsokwas Martin - (518) 651-0477.

Tahy's Fine Art & Designs

This native-owned and -operated business by Filfred *Dine'* and Shirelle *Kanienkehaka* Tahy specializes in graphic designing and logos from concept to production and marketing. They pursue creative and original graphics and designs to help their customers effectively communicate their business ventures. After a season of traveling to various powwows along the east coast, their business settled into a store location alongside with Native Creations where they continue working with local businesses and organizations. Many of their designs can also be

found on merchandise items such coffee mugs, mouse pads, towels, coasters and blankets. In spring 2013, they will be offering complete powwow and smoke dance



Filfred With Some of his Designs

regalia personalized to their local and regional customers' expectations. In addition to graphic designs, they also create original acrylic paintings, beadwork, sculptures, corn husks dolls and fan making. Throughout the seasons, they offer various workshops in Akwesasne and across

Turtle Island. Contact Tahy's Fine Art & Design by calling (518) 651-1153. ♦

Good Words of Welcome



Ohseráse!

It is the time of the New Year and time to rekindle the fires of our hearths for the coming year. It's a time to reflect upon the past year and prepare for the work of the New Year.

To begin, I extend my gratitude towards the community for placing their confidence in me and bestowing the honor of representing the community as a sub-chief. I also extend my gratitude to the Standing Arrow Singers for singing an Honor Song at the inauguration this past summer. I am truly humbled by this honor and intend to represent Akwesasne to the very best of my abilities.

While my tenure on council is at a relatively early juncture, I have had the distinct honor of representing our community at several key meetings along with Chiefs Paul Thompson and Ron LaFrance Jr. Among those meetings was what I regard as one the most important thus far -- a meeting held with representatives of the Department of Interior and the Department of Justice to discuss a matter of vital importance to us: assertive support on our land rights issues. This meeting was important and resulted in strong support from federal authorities through the filing of briefs in support of our land claim case.

I also had the privilege to conduct the *Ohén:ton Karihwatéhkwen* (Thanksgiving Address) to open up the community meetings for community comment on the proposed EPA clean-up of the Grasse River held at the Seniors Center here in Akwesasne. I was very

proud hearing the people of this community speak with one voice and one mind on a matter that cuts through to the very core of *Akwesashró:non*: our health and its relation to the environment and the impact on our family, lives and culture. The common thread throughout all comments was that the proposed clean-up plan is woefully inadequate and unsatisfactory to the Akwesasne community, all of which are now part of the Record.

I also had the pleasure of participating in a scholarship committee for enrolled community members, both under-graduate and graduate students. I was very impressed by the quantity and quality of applicants that made the decision process very difficult. It also made me very hopeful as to the future of Akwesasne with such bright young people setting and accomplishing great goals for themselves and, by extension, Akwesasne as a whole! Congratulations to our graduate and undergraduate students.

As stated at the outset of my greetings, it is time to rekindle our hearths and make ready for the challenges that we will face during the coming year, to face them with fortitude, a good mind and with solidarity of purpose. In this spirit I send my greetings of the New Year to you and your family!

Niawen:kówa!

Eric Thompson, Sub-Chief

On the Cover: Mountain of toys towers over children attending event. The 2012 Akwesasne Basket Drive & Mountain of Toys raised over \$35,000 for needy families.

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David Trout Staddon, Editor
Aimée Benedict-Debo, Publications Manager
Alyson Cole - Production Assistant

Higher Education

By Rod Cook

The New Year is upon us and it is time to begin to prepare for the next 2013-2014 academic year. The FAFSA has to be done on an annual basis, so remember your pin numbers and passwords. This is the important one because it will qualify for a whole lot of other things, such as TAP, SEOG, college work study and student loans. The school determines your financial aid package with the FAFSA.

Have you gotten your grades and schedules in to your other funding sources, such the Higher Education Program, AMBE and NYS Indian Aid? Without your grades from the fall semester, we cannot continue awarding you money for the spring semester. If you came up short financially, start looking for other scholarship sources, such as www.fredonia.edu/na. This website has many scholarship listings to look into. If you are not going to return for the spring please notify the school and let them know.

St. Lawrence University is offering a graduate level Conflict Resolution course, beginning January 23, 2013. This is a study of and an involvement of class members in the resolution of conflict on at least four levels: (1) interpersonal, (2) one-to-one (as in marriage), (3) small-group (as in negotiations) and (4) large group (as in national conflicts, revolutions, riots, etc.). The course will be offered from 4:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., Wednesdays. Peter Ladd, Ph.D. will be teaching the course in the upstairs boardroom of the Tribal Community Building. For any questions, please call Rod Cook at 518-358-2272 x 215.

2012 Scholarship Recipients

This past August the tribe received word that we were to again receive a financial gift from an anonymous donor who has given awards to the Higher Education Department in the previous three years. This is the fourth year that enrolled Mohawk higher education students were recipients of this generous donation. The first year was an \$18,000

gift, the second year was \$35,000, the third year was \$42,000 and this year was \$32,000. The good words were put out via the tribe's monthly newsletter, *Kawennì:ios*.

The awards were given to selected college students based on a written essay, explaining their goals, aspirations and financial needs as a college student. Each essay was reviewed by a committee of three readers, Sub-Chief Eric Thompson, David Staddon and Rod Cook and scored accordingly.

We selected the following eleven students from twenty-six essays. Both undergraduate and graduate students received awards of \$3,000 each.

Graduate Students

- Jade White: Education Leadership at St. Lawrence University
- Trina Terrance: General Studies at St. Lawrence University

Undergraduate Students

- Phillip Barreiro: Political Science at American University, Senior
- Deneen Cole: Biology Chemistry at SUNY Potsdam, Junior
- Autumn Cook: Childhood Education at SUNY Potsdam, Junior
- Alison Cooke: Sociology at SUNY Plattsburgh, Senior
- Tyler Hayes: Public Relations at Utica College, Senior
- Anna Kelly: Undecided at Middlebury, Freshman
- Janet Terrance: Psychology at SUNY Potsdam, Senior
- Kayla Thompson: Studio Art at SUNY Potsdam, Sophomore
- Zachary Woodley White: Psychology at SUNY Canton, Sophomore ♦

Early Intervention Services

Community & Family Services Program Feature



By Heather Durant, Benefit Services Manager



Early Intervention refers to therapeutic educational and medical services provided to children from birth to three years of age. Early Intervention is intended for children who are identified as having or being at-risk of developing a disability. Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) is the Federal law that provides funding for Early Intervention Services. Early Intervention incorporates many different services that infants and toddlers with disabilities need in order to reach their potential. These services may include speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, educational services and transportation that allow families access to service locations.

Evaluation - Each child must receive extensive evaluation for developmental delays. These assessments are scheduled and monitored by a service coordinator. The service coordinator may be involved in the actual assessment or she may simply schedule other professionals to assist in this process. The results of the evaluation help the Individualized Family Service Plan team identify the areas for which services are needed.

Natural Environment - The core philosophy of early intervention is the provision of services in the child's natural environment. This means that various therapeutic services take place in the child's home, daycare, or in neighborhood facilities whenever possible. Coordination of these services requires planning, scheduling and helping families access the services.

Service Coordinator - The primary duties of the Early Intervention Service Coordinator are to plan, organize and oversee the implementation of early intervention services needed by families. In addition, the coordinator

must maintain the required paperwork for early intervention clients. The coordinator then monitors and evaluates the services provided and adjusts them according to families' needs.

Individualized Family Service Plan - IDEA requires the development of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) for each early intervention client. A team of professionals work with the family to determine which services are needed for the child. Goals are developed for each service area. The IFSP is the binding contract between the service professionals and the client family that outlines the services and goals for the child. The IFSP states specifically the dates on which the services will begin, how often the services will be provided, and which professionals are responsible for each service.

Monitoring - The Early Intervention Service Coordinator is responsible for monitoring the services provided to the client family. This may involve communication with the family and service professionals, gathering data concerning the child's progress, and troubleshooting scheduling for the family and professionals. As services are implemented, the service coordinator may need to make changes to the IFSP with the assistance of the team and family in order to best meet the needs of the child. The monitoring process includes ongoing evaluation of services and the progress of the individual child.

The Benefit Services Manager works in conjunction with Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties in providing service coordination services. For more information or any questions pertaining to Early Intervention Services, please contact Heather Durant at Family Support, 518-358-9481. ♦



Lighten Up!

By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Manager

Who remembers this catchy tune -- "Sunshine on my shoulders makes me happy"? Well, you know it's a very true statement. Sunshine is great! It provides warmth and light. The light that it provides actually changes something in us humans. Have you ever noticed people are happier when it is bright and sunny and a little grumpier when it's rainy or cloudy? This has to do with hormones. At night our bodies produce a hormone called melatonin which makes us sleepy. Melatonin is produced from a lack of sunlight. Now the opposite of that is serotonin. This hormone is produced by bright light. It only takes a few hours of bright light to produce more serotonin which means more energy creating a better mood. They also say that it decreases your carbohydrate cravings. Wow, if that's true I need to move to Alaska when the sun shines 24/7.

So light is good, but how much light and does it matter whether it's natural or artificial? The more light the better, kind of. If it's natural light then they say 1,000 to 50,000 lux or 92.9 to 4,645 foot candles. Natural light is the best but artificial will suffice is that's all that's available.

This is true for a lot of living things; plants for example. They use light as a source of energy. They can also use artificial light but it doesn't compare to natural light. If you use artificial light, incandescent are most common, but are hot on plants. Make sure you put the light far enough away as to not damage the plant. Also, if you place your plant on a light-colored, reflective surface it maximizes the amount of light whether it's natural or artificial.

The lack of sunlight can decrease your vitamin D and if your vitamin D is low it can cause some people to get depressed. There are several things you can do if you think your vitamin D levels are low. You can take a vitamin D supplement, get a sunlight lamp which is specifically for vitamin D or get more sunlight. In the

winter months Kentenhkó:wa/November to Enniska/February it is hard to get enough sunlight in our area. If you think you may have a deficient amount of vitamin D ask your doctor if they think supplement or a lamp may help or if they can test your levels.

Incandescence is the emission of light (visible electromagnetic radiation) from a hot body as a result of its temperature. The term derives from the Latin verb *incandescere*, to glow white

A **fluorescent lamp** or **tube** is a gas-discharge lamp that uses electricity to excite mercury vapor. The excited mercury atoms produce short-wave ultraviolet light that causes a phosphor to fluoresce (shine), producing visible light. A fluorescent lamp converts electrical power into useful light more efficiently than an incandescent lamp. Lower energy cost typically offsets the higher initial cost of the lamp.

While larger fluorescent lamps have been mostly used in commercial or institutional buildings, the **compact fluorescent lamp** is now available in the same popular sizes as incandescent bulbs and is used as an energy-saving alternative in homes.

Because they contain mercury, many fluorescent lamps are classified as hazardous waste. The United States Environmental Protection Agency recommends that fluorescent lamps be segregated from general waste for recycling or safe disposal.

A **light-emitting diode (LED)** is a semiconductor light source. LEDs are used as indicator lamps in many devices and are increasingly used for other lighting. Appearing as practical electronic components in 1962, early LEDs emitted low-intensity red light, but modern versions are available across the visible, ultraviolet and infrared wavelengths, with very high brightness.

So remember for now and for the next seven generation let the sun shine in! ◇



Food Distribution

Program Feature

By Sharon Thompson, Director

The Food Distribution Program has come a long way since 1983 with improvements to the monthly food packages. These improvements are geared toward a healthier way of life through a reduction in the

sodium and sugar in the fruits and vegetables. This has been an important step in improving people's lives. The following is a list of commodity foods offered through the program:

Dairy Products

Cheese Block
Instant Milk
Sliced Cheese

Fruits

Apple Juice
Applesauce
Apricots
Cranberry Juice
Cranberry Sauce
Fruit & Nut Mix
Grapefruit
Grape Juice
Mixed Fruit
Orange Juice
Peaches
Pears
Plums
Raisins

Grains

AP Flour
Corn Cereal
Corn Flakes
Cornmeal
Egg Noodle
Farina
Macaroni
Mac & Cheese
Oat Cereal
Rice
Oatmeal
Rice Cereal
Spaghetti
Wheat

Oils

Butter
Vegetable oil



Protein

Beef Roast
Beef Stew
Canned Beef
Chicken
Cream of Chicken Soup
Egg Mix
Frozen Beef
Frozen Chicken
Frozen Ham
Great Northern Beans
Kidney Beans
Peanuts
Peanut Butter
Salmon
Turkey Breast
Vege Beans

Vegetables

Carrots
Cream Corn
Cream of Mushroom Soup
Green Beans
Hominy Corn
Instant Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables
Peas
Pumpkin
Sliced Potatoes
Spaghetti Sauce
Spinach
Tomatoes
Tomato Sauce
Tomato Soup
Vegetable Soup
Whole Kernel Corn

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) Net Monthly Income Standards (Effective October 1, 2012)

The net monthly income standard for each household size is the sum of the applicable Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) net monthly income standard and the applicable SNAP standard deduction.

Household Size	SNAP Net Monthly Income Standard		SNAP Standard Deduction		FDPIR Net Monthly Income Standard
1	\$931	+	\$ 149	=	\$1,080
2	\$1,261	+	\$ 149	=	\$1,410
3	\$1,591	+	\$ 149	=	\$1,740
4	\$1,921	+	\$ 160	=	\$2,081
5	\$2,251	+	\$ 187	=	\$2,438
6	\$2,581	+	\$ 214	=	\$2,795
7	\$2,911	+	\$ 214	=	\$3,125
8	\$3,241	+	\$ 214	=	\$3,455
each additional member				+	\$330

The Food Distribution office is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Call Lucy or Sharon at 518-358-2272 ext. 212 for more information. ♦

Indian Child Welfare Act

Social Services Division Program Feature

*By Clarissa Terrance Chatland, ICWA Coordinator and
Tsiawente Jackson, Administrative Assistant*

What is ICWA?

ICWA is a federal law that was established in 1978 because of all the inappropriate removals of Native American children throughout the United States in years past.

What is the Law?

ICWA ensures that agencies throughout the United States, when removing a native child from their home, look first for family members. If none are available or willing they will secondly look for another Native American foster home within that child's tribe or a neighboring tribe or nation. Lastly, if there is still no Native foster home available, they look for family friends.

What do we do?

The tribe's ICWA program will go to court and advocate for the family to keep them together for as long as possible. ICWA will ensure that agencies are taking care of the clients and doing what is best for the families. ICWA will open foster homes and will assist on adoptions and make every effort to keep Mohawk families together. ICWA can assist with families looking for services on the reservation or services available when they reside off the reservation. ICWA also does some family preservation prevention with the Akwesasne Coalition and has participated for years with many different activities in the community. Some of those activities are:

- **Girls Night Out** which focuses on nine- to twelve-year olds who spend the night with the coalition and look at self-esteem and healthy relationships and any pre-teen problems.

- **Diva Dinner** is for 13 to 19 year olds where we have a formal dinner and teach the girls proper etiquette and dress. We talk again about their changing bodies and healthy relationships.
- **All Night Grad Party** keeps our graduates off the roads on graduation night and gives them a drug-free and alcohol-free party with their graduating classmates and friends.



- **Red Ribbon Week** features dress activities in the school and promotes drug-free and alcohol-free lifestyles. This year's highlight was a Zombie Obstacle Course Run.

- **Akwesasne Winter Carnival** has many activities and this year we hosted our first one with the coalition in many years and it was a huge success.

- **Akwesasne Wellness Day** helps us promote ICWA and give great promotional items away at this event.

- **Foster Care Appreciation BBQ** hosts our foster parents with a free BBQ with all the fixings. We recruit other potential foster homes and our current foster parents are there to answer questions.
- **Memorial Day Parade** float promotes healthy lifestyles. This year featured the Lorax and promoted the preservation of trees and being kind to all.

ICWA has been a service of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe since about 1987. The ICWA law is very important to our Tribe but this law is being jeopardized in South Carolina with a case called "Baby Veronica." Terry Cross (Seneca) is the Executive Director of the



Victims (I mean students) get ready to enter Zombie Walk



For real! Don't!

National Indian Child Welfare Association and has written this statement on their website, nicwa.org:

“The ICWA ensures that nobody — birth parents, foster parents or adoptive parents alike — may infringe on a child's right to access the benefits of being a tribal citizen, including tribal services, participation in voting in tribal matters, holding public office, owning property, inheritance of tribal customary rights, participation in tribal ceremonies and cultural activities, and living with the secure notion of belonging.”

This is a strong message about the ICWA law and we here at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe believe that this is a much-needed law.

The ICWA office is located in the Community Building. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Phone: 518-358-2272. In case of an emergency, please contact the Tribal Police at 518-358-9200 ♦

“Mission: To insure that all child agencies within and outside New York State are complying with the ICWA Federal Law of 1978 when dealing with enrolled or eligible to be enrolled Mohawk children”



The wooded path contained run through, climb under and jump over obstacles. One of the 'run from' obstacles was this zombie bride, a.k.a. Clarissa Terrance Chatland, ICWA Coordinator.

Monthly Tribal Meeting

Kentenhkó:wa / November 3, 2012
Chaired by Chief Ron LaFrance

Agenda

1. Introductions:

- Welcome
- Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk

1. TGF Quarterly Presentation

- Michael Conners

2. Update on Meeting with the Governor's Office

- Ron LaFrance

3. Casino Expansion Update

- Elliott Lazore / Colleen Thomas

4. New Business

- Election Ordinance Amendments

5. Reading of Action Items

- Tribal Clerk

6. Adjournment

Follow-up on Action Items from November Meeting

1. To contact the DA to find out their position and/or process on removing non-natives from our territory.

Follow-up: The General Counsel has scheduled a meeting with the District Attorney to follow up on this issue.

2. For Tribal Council to attend a Convenience Store Association meeting to discuss the price break on gasoline.

Follow-up: Justin Tarbell will be presenting at the December monthly meeting on this issue.

3. To look into posting "No Littering" signs

Follow-up: Planning and Infrastructure is currently considering 50 signs, 14 for Route 37 and the remainder for the side roads. Legal and Environment are working to draft a littering ordinance. ◇

Action Items from December Meeting

1. Tribal Clerk's office to provide number of members living in the Massena area.
2. Look into the years of service/x-mas bonus to the AMC employees.
3. Public notification of the AMC GM's bonus
4. Status of the IGA building
5. Monthly payment amounts to the Casino Expansion loan.

Calendar

Tsiothohrkó:wa / January

- 1 - New Year's Day holiday - Tribal offices and transfer station closed, no blue bag pick up
- 2 - Blue bags picked up
- 5- Monthly Tribal Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building lobby
- 8 - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's office
- 21 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Tribal offices and transfer station closed

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

New Faces

Tai A. Bannon	Social Services	Caseworker
Ella Fuller	Social Services	Caseworker
Heather Garrow	IHS - Let's Get Healthy	Health Evaluation Specialist
Erica LeGrow	IHS - Medical Clinic	Licensed Practical Nurse
Randa Martin	IHS - Medical Clinic	Receptionist

Jobs

Sexual Assault Advocate - Three Sisters Program,
Social Services Division

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

www.srmt-nsn.gov

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

www.mohawkcasino.com

Applying for a Gaming License

It is Worth the Time and Effort

*By Todd L. Papineau, Executive Director,
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Gaming Commission*

All positions at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino and Mohawk Bingo Palace require either a Gaming License or a Tribal Work Permit. It all depends on the position.

A common misconception is that you cannot work in the Gaming Enterprises of the Tribe if you have ever been arrested.

This is simply untrue. Just because you have an arrest record, it should not deter you from applying for a Gaming License or Work Permit. Not all arrests or all convictions will prevent you from working in the Tribe's gaming facilities. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Gaming Commission will look at each applicant's criminal record, on a case-by-case basis, before making any determination as there are many mitigating factors that will allow a person to receive a license or permit.

Therefore, please do not exclude yourself from any of the job postings at the gaming facilities because you are worried about your background. Please gather as much information you can on any arrest or conviction you may have



Current Postings:

*Black Jack Dealer
Dealer School Certification
Poker Dealers
Valet Attendant
Food Court Attendant
Cascades Lounge Lead Bartender
Cascades Lounge Supervisor*

*Check www.mohawkcasino.com,
About Us, Employment for the
most current postings.*



and come to the Commission Office so we may help you with your application.

The Gaming Commission was created when Tribal Council passed Resolution 93-102. The commission is required to provide primary regulatory oversight of the gaming operations of the Tribe. There are three Gaming Commissioners that are appointed by Tribal Council, one being the Chairman. The commissioners are part-time positions, meeting monthly with Tribal Council and when formal hearings are held. An Executive Director oversees the day to day operation of the five departments within the commission: inspectors, surveillance, audit, licensing and gaming networks.

The Tribal Gaming Commission can be reached by phone at 518-358-2222, ext. 2020. The office is newly located inside the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino complex. ♦

Alcoholism/Chemical Dependency - Outpatient

IHS Program Feature

By Dan Jacobs, Clinical Director

The Alcoholism/Chemical Dependency Outpatient Program (A/CDP) Outpatient Program has been in existence since 1986 and is licensed by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services.

The goal of the A/CDP is to provide a safe and therapeutic environment for the treatment of alcoholism/chemical dependency and compulsive

gambling. A holistic approach to treating the disease is used, addressing the mental, physical, emotional, spiritual and cultural aspects of the client's life. Recovery from the disease is measured in long term abstinence from mood altering substances and one's life becoming manageable again. The Outpatient Program provides a variety of treatment opportunities for Native American adults and adolescents.



Current Staffing L-R: Anastasia Benedict - Office Manager, L. Daniel Jacobs CASAC-G - Clinical Director, Connie Thompson CASAC-G - Outpatient Program Coordinator, Carol Whelan CASAC, Valerie Barse CASAC and Brad Haywood, CASAC-T.

Services provided:

- Drug & alcohol information materials
- Drug & alcohol, DWI and compulsive gambling assessments
- Outpatient treatment – 4 to 6 months
- Aftercare services – 4 to 6 months
- Codependency treatment for family members
- Relapse prevention treatment – 3 to 4 months
- Referrals to inpatient and other outpatient programs

- Treatment includes both individual and group counseling
- Lectures on Native American Spirituality

The A/CDP Outpatient Program is located in the Tribal Health Services building and our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. To schedule an appointment or for further information, call (518) 358-3141 ext. 160. ♦

Swanton Sector Celebrates Native American Heritage

By Melissa Izaguerre, Swanton Sector Public Information Officer

Swanton Sector Border Patrol agents and Customs and Border Protection Officers (CBPOs) commemorated Native American Heritage Month on November 28, 2012. Ms. Della Adams, representative for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Holistic Health Department was the event's keynote speaker. Holistic Health assists the Mohawk community with several health and wellness services including home care and support for the elderly. In attendance were

Dennis O'Neill, who welcomed guests and thanked the proprietors of the Kateri Hall for allowing the program to be held in such a special location. The Mohawk Immersion class teachers followed by introducing the group of 50 students who began the performance, in customary Mohawk tradition, by thanking mother earth for the gifts provided to all on that day. The students performed several Native songs and concluded the presentation with a Native dance.



personnel from the Swanton Sector, agents from the Massena, Champlain and Burke stations, CBPOs from the Massena Port of Entry and members of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police.

The program included a song and dance performance by the students from the Skawatsira (*Scuwuh jeela*) Mohawk Immersion class, Akwesasne Freedom School and a Native American pot luck meal.

The event was held at the Kateri Hall, which is located in Akwesasne, New York. This venue is unique as it is named after the Lily of the Mohawks, Kateri Tekakwitha, whom was recently canonized as a Saint in Rome, Italy by Pope Benedict XVI on October 21, 2012 and is the first Native to become a Saint.

Opening remarks were made by Massena Border Patrol Station Deputy Patrol Agent In Charge (DPAIC)



Guests were subsequently provided with the history of the Akwesasne Mohawk, their challenges, culture, symbols and information on ceremonial medications by Ms. Della Adams. Ms. Adams provided extensive information regarding the Native American culture along with an in-depth interactive presentation.

DPAIC O'Neill closed the program by stating, "If we can better understand the culture and rituals of the Akwesasne Mohawk community, we can begin to influence each other's culture."

The purpose of this event was to strengthen the relationship between the Mohawk community and CBP. Through this cultural awareness, agents, personnel and officers are able to better understand the perspective of the Mohawk community and gain knowledge in the diverse cultures found within the CBP workforce. ◇

2013 Tuscarora Migration

By Bryan Printup, Tuscarora Environment



The Tuscarora Environment Program (TEP), a subsidiary of the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force (HETF), have been preparing, researching, and organizing a HETF Youth Corps project called "Migration 2013." The project seeks to build outdoor leadership skills in the youth by backpacking, running, walking, bicycling and canoeing from North Carolina to Tuscarora. This is to commemorate the 300th-year remembrance of the well-documented Tuscarora exodus from their Carolina homeland following the Tuscarora Wars (1711-1714).

Migration 2013 also seeks to bring awareness of climate change. It serves as a teaching tool for how plants and animals migrate in response to climate change. The trip provides students with a historical experience to move across a path used by their ancestors from a Carolinian, semi-coastal environment to the northern forests of New York and one likely to be used by future plant and animal species. By documenting and understanding ecosystems along this migration corridor, students can literally experience the historical migration of their ancestors and the contemporary migration of plants and animals due to climate change.

Since not everyone will be able to make the full trip in 2013, TEP has created a migration program that will allow participants to make the trip from their home and workplace: the "Moving About" program. In conjunction with *Migration 2013*, "Moving About" will give participants the opportunity to "move" alongside others on the 900-mile *Migration 2013* next year. For every 30 miles a person "moves about" under their own power, they receive one representative wampum

bead. The wampum will be beaded onto a strand of *ruskhye:ne*, also known as dogbane or Indian hemp. This plant is particularly important to the *skaru:re* people because it is where they derive the meaning of their name, "people of the hemp." In the end, those who collect all 900 miles will receive a complete strand of real wampum beads. Over the coming months we will be hosting opportunities to add additional miles to a "personal migration" total.

A Call Out To All Haudenosaunee Youths

We are currently looking for youth participation, from 9th grade and up, for *Migration 2013*. We are interested in youth who are comfortable with running, biking, hiking or canoeing, and don't mind traveling.

We will also provide food and shelter during each day you are on the trip, and in addition, we will have six stipends available per day along the migration, at the rate of \$200/week. The 84-day migration is spilt up into smaller trips, and each trip will be from three to 10 days long. The migration is close to three months away and there are still preparations to be made.

More information on trip applications, schedules, events and how

you can get involved will be posted as we near our starting date, Sunday, March 24, 2013. If you are interested in participating and would like more information, please forward your contact information and email or mailing address to our Tuscarora Environment Office, so we can include you in our mailing list of potential participants. Visit the website at www.tuscaroramigration.org or call our office at (716) 990-0146, or email Bryan Printup, bprintup@hetf.org. You can also follow our 'Tuscarora Environment' page on Facebook. ♦



The Haudenosaunee Environmental Youth Corps (HEYC) on the Tuscarora Trail in Pennsylvania in May to prepare for the 2013 Migration

'Tis the Season for Giving

by Alyson Cole, PIO Assistant



This year the Social Services Division received overwhelming community support for their Angel Tree campaign to provide gifts for the 122 children, newborns to age 18, under their services. The tribe's Human Resources and Tech Support Departments (*top - right*) held a coin drive in memory of Lucy Ward and a breakfast burrito sale that netted \$911.00 for the Tree. The employees of the Tarbell Management Group (*top -*



left) purchased gifts for all the children. Carey Terrance and Twin Leaf Stores (*bottom*) also joined the efforts by donating gifts for all the children. Donations were also received from from the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino and the Mountain of Toys. John Francis donated the use of this cube truck to move and store the gifts. Social Services thanks all those who helped out this holiday season to make a child's wish come true. ◇



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