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Kawennì:ios



Recognizing Tomorrow's Leaders



Helping Families Work Together:

Child Support Program Provides 'Family-Centered' Approach

By Sandy Rourke, CSP Director

The staff at the SRMT Child Support Program (CSP) understands that the child support process can be confusing, stressful and a conflict ridden process which can feel very overwhelming. However, the CSP strives to help custodial parents and non-custodial parents come together and form an agreement that will benefit the child or children. The CSP is seeking both new and transfer child support cases.

CSP staff is here to help both parents throughout the child support process or with modifying existing orders that are currently in the New York State system to ensure you have a fair order. We strongly believe a fair order is necessary to ensure you have a better relationship with your child. The Tribe's CSP is also proud to be able to bridge other Tribal services with families who will benefit from access.

The Tribe's Child Support Program is a prime example of reclaiming our jurisdiction. We have the ability to take care of our own community members better than anyone else. Please let us serve you and your family, and consider having your case transferred to our program.

The SRMT CSP is conveniently located here in Akwesasne so if your case was transferred from a county court the need to travel to Malone or Canton would be eliminated and you would be able to access culturally sensitive services. The CSP is proud to offer clients face to face interactions without the need for appointments or having to call a 1-800 phone line to speak with a child support case worker.

Unlike our neighboring counties, our child support orders can include non-cash support or "in kind" services if parent is unable to make a monetary contribution, so long as both parties agree. Under federal law, the CSP has the same authority as a state. However, the CSP has less restrictive regulations than the counties or states and so they are afforded more flexibility in putting our families first. The SRMT CSP

does not charge interest on back payments, interest is always charged on arrears in any NYS Child Support case.

The SRMT CSP offers mediation to families. Mediation is a tool for both parents in an attempt to eliminate the need for a court session. If parents can reach an agreement during the mediation session they will not need to proceed to court unless there is a fault in payment. The setting of mediation is relaxed and not as formal as a court proceeding.

If both parties cannot come to an agreement, then the case will proceed to the SRMT Tribal Court. Once the case is before the Tribal Court Judge, he/she has the authority to issue an order that is in the best interest of the child(ren).

The Tribal Child Support Program offers families these basic services: intake of a child support application; locating a non-custodial parent; establishment of paternity; establishment and enforcement of support obligation; collection and distribution of child support. In order to be eligible for our services, at least one involved party must be enrolled with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe or be eligible to become enrolled.

To learn more about the CSP, community members are encouraged to join us on Family Day on August 23, 2018 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Generations Park. Our staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about our program and unique services.

If you wish to discuss a new or possible case transfer with a case manager, please contact the SRMT CSP at (518) 358-2272 ext. 2410. Also, please feel free to drop by the office located in the lower level of the Community Building at 412 State Route 37. You can also contact your County Child Support Case Worker or Unit to obtain guidance on how to request a transfer. ♦



Good Words of Welcome



Shé:kon Wa'tkwanonhweráton,

This year's tribal election has concluded with the re-election of Chief Eric Thompson and incoming Sub-Chief Benjamin Herne and new Tribal Clerk Summer Bero. I take this opportunity to welcome each of you and offer my sincere congratulations. I also extend our acknowledgment and appreciation to the individuals who put forth the time and effort to campaign for the open seats.

While an abundance of attention is given to the election process, the important business of running the Tribe continues. The infrastructure improvements that are currently underway are nearing completion. It's satisfying to see the new Administration building and the Business Park Road (soon to be Margaret Terrance Memorial Way) that connects Route 37 to McGee Road becoming a reality. It's also exciting for many of us to see the sidewalks taking form and soon you'll see the new street lights set in place that will illuminate the area. Hopefully, you will begin to see street lights appear around the territory as well. Finally, the much needed expansion of the Health Services building will soon begin. The former IGA building will be undergoing renovations in order to accommodate several Tribal programs who are currently renting space. Long awaited road improvements are also in the planning stages as we listen and respond to the community concerns along with the advice of our Planning and Infrastructure team.

The Senior Benefit Pilot Project for those who are 68 and older, will be launched this summer. As we access new revenue streams, we'll be evaluating whether these new sources of revenue are sustainable and how the process of engaging and enrolling seniors is working. Currently, we have 365 seniors who have signed up which about the number we anticipated. This means, we will need to raise \$438,000 for this year's disbursements for June and December. Next year the total amount we will have to raise is approximately \$950,000 as 31 additional elders will turn 68.

Environmental issues are always at the top of our priority list as we can't separate the health of our waters and land from the health of our people. Please help us keep an eye on the Grasse River remediation process and participate in the public meetings that are held periodically in Massena and in Akwesasne. Notices of these meetings are posted on our website and FB page.

I'm happy to report more of our programs that deal with families and children are integrating Trauma Informed Approaches along with resiliency building in their work. This approach is key to the healing process for those who have suffered grief, trauma and devastating loss. Simply recognizing that we have experienced something overwhelming and acknowledging that others are going through a frightening or traumatizing event is an important first step. Unconditional, personal regard gives the individual a feeling of being noticed and worthy of respect. At the very least, this approach avoids re-traumatizing the individual. Asking what happened to you, without judgment, can turn the tide for a child or an adult towards recovery from overwhelming sadness and hurt feelings. Asking what happened to you and how has this affected your life is essential for relationship building. Having people in your life that can buffer the pain and hurt you are feeling can make all the difference in how resilient you are. That kind of caring put into action is what makes Akwesasne a special place. No matter how big the tragedy, crisis or loss, our friends and families band together and work tirelessly to help ease the burden of the ones who are hurt. Niawen:kowa to you all for your generous spirits.

Skén:nén,

Chief Beverly Cook



Top left: Mohawk laborer Pat Chubb was brought onboard to help with the building's finish work.

Middle left: Mohawk mason Darren George and son Dawson helped install the building's beautiful masonry.

Bottom left: Aaron White is one of Native workers employed to install building's flashing.

Top right: Tyler Buckshot helps paint the mason work installed around and within the building.

Bottom right: Andrew Bomberry was hired by sub-contractor JSpart to help install electrical conduit.



Native Workers Contribute to New Administration Building

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is pleased to announce that construction of the new 54,700-square-foot Tribal Administration Building at 71 Business Park Road is finally coming to completion. When it is done in September 2018; the three-story building will house 18 tribal offices, provide parking for 225 vehicles, as well as serve as an Emergency Operations Center.

Designed by Beardsley Architects and Engineers of Malone, New York; the new Tribal Administration Building will incorporate elements of energy conservation and unique building features. In addition to improved office space; the facility will include several meeting rooms and classrooms, ample storage and will be entirely handicap accessible. It will also be energy efficient with the usage of alternative energy sources; such as solar panels and a geothermal heating and cooling system.

The new Tribal Administration Building will replace the Community Building located at 412 State Route 37, which has housed the ever-expanding organization since it first opened in 1977. Since that time, the building has undergone several renovations and alterations to accommodate a growing workforce, as it was never intended to be utilized as office space.

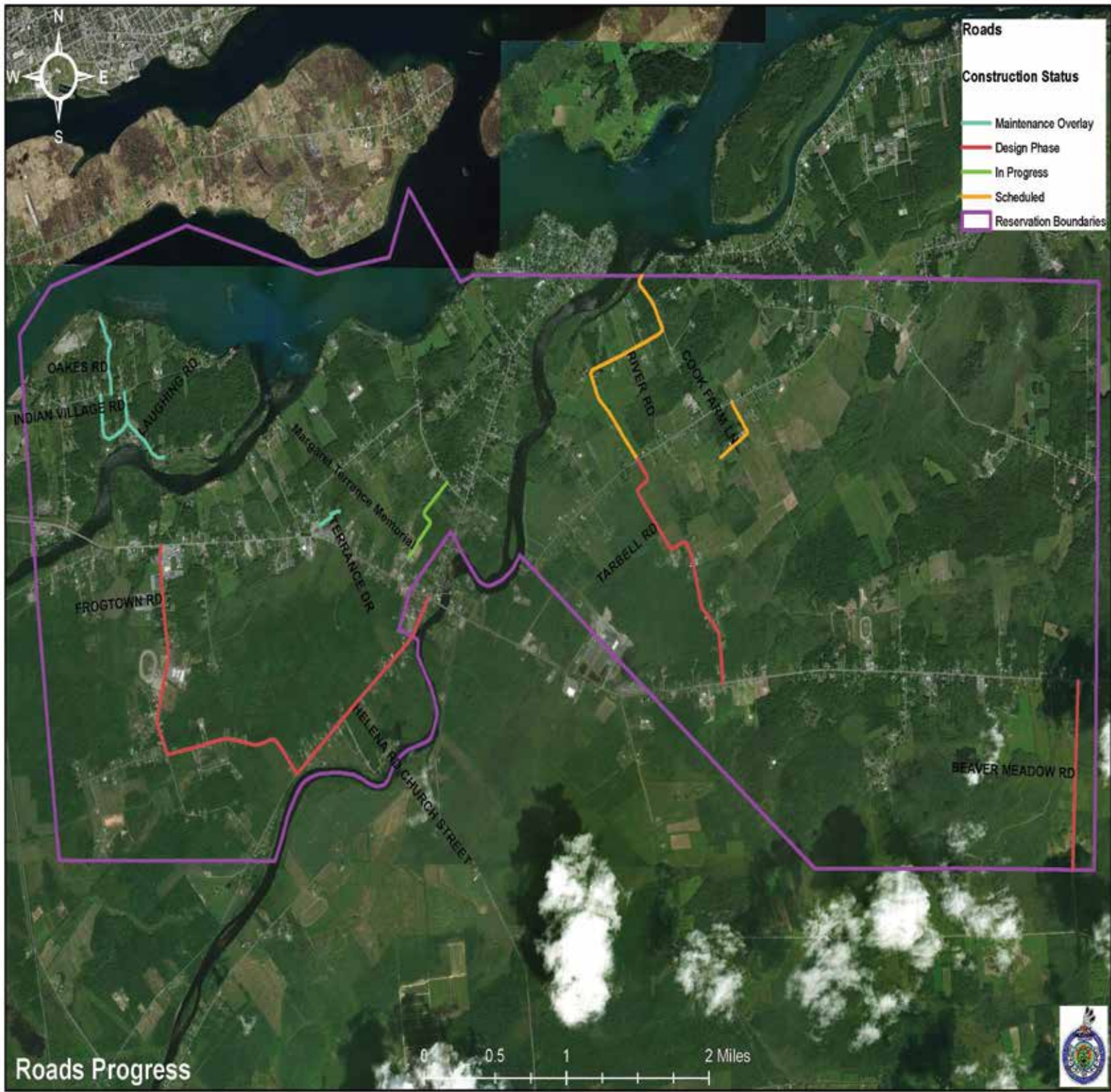
The Tribe is committed to providing a safe working environment for tribal staff and community members, as well as the utilization of Native workers. To that extent, a Native Preference Policy was implemented to ensure that local contractors and laborers took part in this historic achievement for our community. We would like to take this moment to recognize just a few Native workers that have contributed to this important milestone.



Executive Director Tsiorasa Barreiro congratulated Local 440 Ironworkers Gordie King and Danny Oakes for connecting the last piece to complete the steel structure for the new Administration Building.



Dewey Thompson was hired as 'Clerk of the Works' to ensure the project is completed in accordance with approved plans.



Division Update: On the Road(s) Again

Update on Summer Road Projects

By Jacey Rourke, Communications Specialist

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Planning and Infrastructure Department continues to make roads safe for travelers by making necessary repairs and improvements to roadways throughout the Akwesasne community. The roads program is very busy this construction season as they are installing streetlights and expanding Business Park Road.

In an effort to keep our roads safe, Cook Farm Road and River Road will be undergoing construction this summer. Travelers are being asked keep this work in mind and to exercise caution when approaching these work areas. As the road projects move into their construction phase, Planning and Infrastructure will provide notices of anticipated closures and delays for traffic and any inconvenience it may pose for homeowners in those areas.

As part of the redesign process, Atlantic Testing Laboratories (ATL) used their geoprobe to bore rods into roads to take six-foot deep samples from the pavement and soil and the findings were generated in to a report. Samples were taken from River Road, Cook Farm Road, Helena Road, Frogtown Road, Tarbell Road, Beaver Meadow Road, Ransom Road and Pumphouse Road. In the next few years, all the aforementioned roads will be redesigned and reconstructed as funding becomes available. These design reports are compiled for the engineer's drawings as they are essential in order to access BIA funding for these projects.

Each project requires approximately two years of funding from the BIA. The Tribal General Fund currently allocates \$50,000 annually for road maintenance only. The SRMT Roads program has applied for additional funding from an alternate source for the construction of Frogtown Road and they are awaiting a response. If the funding is denied, Frogtown Road from Conners Road to State Route 37 will be given new overlays in an effort to maintain the roads until construction can be completed. Tarbell Road and Beaver Meadow Road are still in the design phase. In the past year, Laughing Road, Oakes Road and Indian Village Road have been overlaid.

The Tribe continues efforts to improve and enhance public safety through assorted community infrastructure projects. The most recent project is the result of concerns expressed by community members at tribal monthly meetings and other venues for improved street lighting. The proposed plan to expand street lighting throughout the southern portion of Akwesasne has been shared with community members. To further public safety in the Tribe's jurisdiction, 22 streetlights are in the final stage of being installed at the east end of Akwesasne from Beaver Meadow Road to Tarbell Road. In that area, the poles around three intersections must be further inspected before the remaining streetlights can be installed. The cost of the installed lighting is approximated to be about \$4,000 annually and will likely be paid out of the Tribal General Fund.

Many exciting improvements are coming to the newly constructed Business Park Road including the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Business Park Road and State Route 37. Sidewalks, crosswalks and bicycle lanes will also be installed along Business Park Road from the intersection on State Route 37 all the way through to McGee Road. Sidewalks and bicycle lanes will provide an enormous benefit to the health and safety of community members as they are able to safely be more physically active when making the choice to walk or bike rather than drive.

A sidewalk was installed as part of an emergency route between the rear of St. Regis Mohawk School and alongside Roadblock Billy's so students can safely evacuate to Generations Park in the event of an emergency. This route of sidewalks may be fully extended from the St. Regis Mohawk School to Generations Park pending approval of the landowners in that area. Currently, the sidewalks on St. Regis Road leading to State Route 37 are slated to be repaired. A sidewalk feasibility study is also in the preliminary stages and will soon be seeking community input.

Cultural Restoration:

Trapping Traditions in Akwesasne

By *Iaontaná:wen Vaughn Adams, ACR Master Trapping Teacher*

My uncles, Joe Peters and Peter Adams, started teaching me to trap when I was eight years old. I grew up in the wetlands of Sugar Bush Island located in the St. Lawrence River basin where we had plenty of opportunities to hunt, trap and fish.

For the past four years, I have been a mentor and teacher to three adult trapping apprentices who were new to trapping. We worked together every day to learn about traditional Mohawk trapping techniques, the lands and habitat in and around Akwesasne, the Kanien'keha (Mohawk) language associated with trapping, and also about the fur trade. Together, we gave presentations to schools and other community groups to teach them about the importance of trapping, trap safety and being respectful to the environment.

We specialized in tracking, trapping, skinning, fleshing, and cooking muskrat and beaver. Muskrat and beaver meat has historically been a staple meal for families in Akwesasne, back before our environment was contaminated and when these animals were abundant. When we prepare meals for our community, our elders get excited and remember eating this way when they were younger. These days, in Akwesasne, there are not many people trapping anymore, but our environment is improving and with following proper harvesting techniques and advisories, we can begin trapping again.

My most memorable experience in the field was when I took



Traditional knowledge being shared generation to generation.



Freedom School students happy with their catch.

my apprentices out into the marsh and they trapped their first animal. They have come a long way since that first day. I know my apprentices will be successful trappers and teachers because I remember when we took a group of kids from the Akwesasne Freedom School into the marsh to check their traps. The kids were so excited and my apprentices did a great job at teaching them how to check the traps safely. I'll never forget the expressions on their faces.

One of my proudest moments was when the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne had a mural produced for a project titled, *Sharing through the Generations*. The mural highlights the cultural richness and diversity of Akwesasne and showed how traditional knowledge can be passed from generation to generation. The Mural depicted my father, myself, my son and my grandson; four generations of Mohawk trappers checking a beaver trap on the frozen marsh of Sugar Bush Island.

The best part about being a trapping teacher is knowing that this knowledge is getting passed down to the younger generations. That's how I was taught and that's how I taught them. Trapping is important to not only our culture, but to the history of

Canada and the U.S. as it created the first economy that brought people here. Today, we are continuing the practice of trapping and promoting a healthier environment in the hopes that the younger generations will become more interested and want to learn and practice trapping again. ♦

Experience Akwesasne:

The Wild Center Partnership - Ways of Knowing

By Jacey Rourke, Communications Specialist

Ways of Knowing is a new and exciting partnership between The Wild Center in Tupper Lake, NY and the Akwesasne Cultural Center in Akwesasne, the Six Nations Indian Museum in Onchiota and the Native North American Travelling College on Kawehno:ke or Cornwall Island. *Ways of Knowing* is centered on bringing Indigenous knowledge, prospective and experiences into focus through one permanent exhibit at The Wild Center and three traveling exhibits.

Ways of Knowing features one permanent exhibit at The Wild Center. David Kanietakeon Fadden, local artist and Director of the Six Nations Indian Museum, envisioned the Thanksgiving Address to reinterpret the Oxbow a living wetland exhibit. Through the intersection of original art created by Fadden and storytelling videos, this new experience honors the ways of knowing our northern landscape.

There are also three traveling exhibits associated with the *Ways of Knowing* partnership.

1. *We Are From Akwesasne*, an interactive exhibit of Mohawk art, artifacts, songs, stories and beliefs and craftsmanship curated by Sue Ellen Herne from the Akwesasne Cultural Center.
2. *Roots of Wisdom: Native Knowledge. Shared Science.* highlights the experiences of four Indigenous communities as brought to life through the voices of elders and youth community members. This interactive exhibit immerses students in the story of how native peoples are using a collaborative approach to encourage sustainable solutions to real world challenges. This exhibit features the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla

Indian Reservation, Native Hawaiians, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and Tulalip Tribes.

3. *Sacred Foods*, an exhibit that showcases the resilience and survival of traditional Haudenosaunee food was curated by the Native North American Travelling College. *Sacred Foods* provides an intimate look into the past -- from traditional gardening, the tools used for gathering, and real live plants to get a better understanding of Haudenosaunee food systems.

Gail McDonald, Akwesasne Heritage Complex Project Developer for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, who has assisted the Akwesasne Cultural Center in this project development said, "this will help raise awareness of the authentic cultural attractions in Akwesasne available just down the road from The Wild Center and add to the momentum for sustainable economic development in our community."

Visit The Wild Center to celebrate *Ways of Knowing* on Saturday, *Ohiarikhó:wa*/July 7, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Please join

us for a social dance with the Native North American Travelling College, storytelling with David Fadden, a sweetgrass bookmark making workshop with weaver Robin Lazore and a booth from the Akwesasne Cultural Center Museum. Akwesasne artisan vendors will be displaying authentic crafts all day.

Through this partnership The Wild Center is offering free entry upon presentation of valid Tribal ID or status card until *Seskehkó:wa*/September 2018. Experience *Ways of Knowing* in four exhibits at The Wild Center that explore traditional ecological knowledge and invite us to consider different perspectives of nature. ♦



Honoring Missing Native American Women: Three Sisters Program Hosts Commemoration Event

By Ryan King, Three Sisters Program Manager

On Friday, *Onerahtohkó:wa*/May 25, 2018, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Three Sisters Program, in collaboration with the Seven Dancers Coalition, held its annual Missing & Murdered Native American Women (MMNAW) event. The MMNAW event honors and acknowledges all the Native American Women who have been murdered or are still missing to this day.

Both programs provided information to attendees about the various programs and services available to the community. This year's event included a presentation by Sarah Konwahahawi Rourke, who is the Ontario Community Liaison for the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls. Mrs. Rourke spoke on what the National Inquiry entails, what type of work is being done on the national level for missing and murdered Native American women, and what successes have been achieved.

Lunch from Three Feathers Internet Café was provided courtesy of the Saint Regis

Mohawk Tribe, which was followed by a women's self-defense demonstration, provided by Sheldon Cole, owner and operator of the American Killer Bees Muay Thai Gym.



Trainees Johnny Burwell and Ryan King demonstrated self-defense techniques



Event Organizers from SRMT Three Sisters Program and Seven Dancer Coalition

"The organizing group felt it was important to incorporate a self-defense aspect to this year's event," said Ryan King, Program Manager for the Three Sisters Program. "In an ideal world, our women wouldn't be being kidnapped off the streets, being stolen from their homes, or lured away from their groups at parties or events. In this day and age, it's important for a Native American woman to know how to defend herself. It could be a matter of life and death these days."

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe formally recognized the National Day of Awareness with TCR 2017-23 signed last year in *Onerahtókha*/April 2017. In addition to the event, tribal employees were encouraged to wear red to commemorate the victims.

For more information on the Three Sisters Program, please call (518) 358-4406. The Seven Dancers Coalition can be contacted at (518) 358-2916. ♦

Akwesasne Wellness Week 2018

28th Annual Event

By *Kim McElwain, Registered Dietician/Nutrition Program Manager*




Akwesasne Wellness Week is July 9-13, 2018. Please join our events for free week long health and wellness activities. At each event you will receive entries for the grand prize drawings.

Hunt for the Medallion - Can you figure out the riddles? If you can, then you might be \$500 richer. Listen to CKON every morning during Wellness Week and watch our Facebook page for clue to where the medallion may be hidden. Find it bring it to us and you'll be \$500 richer. Donated by TWINLEAF Stores.

July 12th will be our smaller version of the Wellness Day health fair with tables from SRMT Health Services. Stop by get your blood

pressure and blood sugar checked along with other health and fitness information. Wonder if your child's car seat is installed correctly? Stop by and have it checked by a certified Car Seat Technician.

At each event you will fill out a ticket for the grand prizes that will be drawn on Friday at the *Ready Set Kick* event. Individual events may also have promotional items and/or door prizes. The more events you attend the more chances you have to win. Grand Prizes are; kayak, grill, family Calypso passes and an essential oil starter kit. All events are rain or shine unless otherwise advertised and there are no drop offs. ♦

Monday 7/9	Tuesday 7/10	Wednesday 7/11	Thursday 7/12	Friday 7/13
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Drop In Surveys SRMT Health Services 5:30 p.m. Adult Only Kayaking Launch from St. Regis Rec. Must be 18 and have your own kayak. 	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Drop In Surveys SRMT Health Services 10:00 -11:00 a.m. Family Yoga St Regis Rec Pavilion 12:30 -2:30 p.m. Spin Smart Smoking Cessation activity and Sun Safety Dress-Up Relay Race St Regis Rec 1:00 -3:00 p.m. Bench-Fit Workout Demos Bring comfortable clothes and sneakers 5:30 p.m. Painting Class with Tammy King. 14 +. Register with Cullen Jacobs, (613) 575-2341.	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Drop In Surveys SRMT Health Services 2:00 p.m. Essential Oils Presentation with Lisa Jock Office for the Aging Sunroom 5:00 p.m. Scavenger Hunt Obstacle Course Snye Recreation Center. 	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Two-day Youth Mental Health First Aid AHA Training Center 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Health Fair HAVFD Station 4:00 p.m. Life is a Beach-Family Games. Mohawk School. 5:30 p.m. Family Canoeing. Register with Cullen Jacobs, (613) 575-2341 	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Two-day Youth Mental Health First Aid AHA Training Center 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Tai Chi and Self Care with Shannon Hall St Regis Rec Pavilion 4:00 p.m. Ready Set Kick , kickball and other activities with local law enforcement. Safe Kid Cards will be onsite. 5:30 p.m. Grand Prize Drawings

Federal Lobbying Report

Tsiothohrkó:wa/January 2018 - Ohiarikhkó:wa/June 2018

By Kayla Gebeck, Holland & Knight

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) has continued to engage the 115th Congress and Trump Administration to advance its legislative priorities. These priorities extend from work during the 114th Congress including: (1) Mohawk Network LLC's efforts to expand its broadband services to neighboring communities; (2) environmental concerns regarding contamination from the General Motors, Alcoa, Reynolds and other sites; and (3) the right of Mohawks to cross the border at Akwesasne in accordance with Jay Treaty rights. The Tribe has also been pushing back against (4) Department of Health and Human Service's decision to reclassify Native Americans as a racial group and impose state work requirements to receive Medicaid benefits; and (5) the backlash by Congress in response to the Tribe's patent deal with Allergan.

United Southern and Eastern Tribes 2018 Impact Week

During the week of February 5th, Chief Beverly Cook and Chief Eric Thompson attended the United Southern and Eastern Tribes 2018 Impact Week. Between sessions and updates from members of Congress and federal agencies, Chiefs Cook and Thompson met with five members of Congress to discuss Mohawk Networks, LLC and North Country Broadband; two Mohawk-owned enterprises deploying broadband on territory and off-territory.

The Tribe's meetings come in response to the White House's efforts to roll out a comprehensive infrastructure package, which would include resources for the deployment of "5G," the next-generation of wireless data service. Chiefs Cook and Thompson met with Senators Gillibrand (D-NY), Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Jon Tester (D-MT), and Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (R-NY) to highlight the Tribe's success and provide recommendations on how to overcome the many challenges of deploying broadband on tribal lands and in rural areas including, cumbersome grant requirements; grant awards being received as reimbursements rather than direct funding; inconsistent use of tribal bidding incentives in the Connect America Fund; and a lack of understanding of the capabilities of a tribal telecom enterprises.

Senator Tester's office had requested that the Government Accountability Office (GAO), a non-partisan agency that conducts research and provides recommendations to Congress, conduct a study on the strengths and weaknesses of the Federal Communications Commission in ensuring broadband is adequately deployed on tribal lands. His office also submitted a recommendation that GAO work with our community to gain more information on the current processes and obtain recommendations on legislative steps needed to overcome challenges.



National Congress of the American Indians Winter Session

During the week of February 12th; Chief Eric Thompson, Chief Michael Conners, and Mohawk Networks Interim CEO Allyson Doctor attended the National Congress of American Indians 2018 Winter Session. Between sessions, SRMT met with five congressional members who serve on the House Transportation Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee to discuss the need for a tribal 5G demonstration program and provided solutions to overcoming obstacles that Tribes face in deploying successful broadband programs. The Tribe shared lessons learned on how to form partnerships with local counties and build-off existing infrastructure. These meetings included Congressmen Todd Rokita (R-IN), Jason Lewis (R-MN), Don Young (R-AK), John Katko (R-NY), and Chris Collins (R-NY). SRMT also met with Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Jerry Moran (R-KS), who both serve on the Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee. SRMT also convened a meeting with representatives from the Seneca Nation and Gila River to discuss working together to ensure that any broadband resources in upcoming infrastructure packages benefit Indian Country.

The Tribe was informed by GAO that it has been selected to participate in its study on the accuracy of data regarding broadband availability on tribal lands, the success and makeup of tribal broadband partnerships, and the ability to use spectrum on tribal lands. On April 5th, the Chiefs and Mohawk Networks Interim CEO Allyson Doctor met with representatives from GAO to discuss these topics. We are proud to report that this is the second GAO report that the Mohawk people have participated in during the 115th Congress, which is an indication that we are steadily becoming a recognized force in ensuring federal policies match and support tribal goals.

In partnership with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, SRMT convened a Northern Tribal Border Alliance meeting on February 23rd with representatives of the Seneca, Lummi, Blackfeet, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to discuss border crossing concerns. The group discussed the need to educate border agents on handling ceremonial items; need for shared law enforcement training with tribal, local, federal, and international law enforcement and customs and border agents; the need to reaffirm a desire of the federal government and tribes to work collaboratively on issues regarding tribal identification cards; ensuring that funding appropriated to improve border security

and technology addresses the needs of Indian Country; how to address drug trafficking at the border; and to ensure safety at ports of entry without diminishing tribal sovereignty or intimidating tribal members.

National Republican Congressional Committee Annual Dinner

On March 20th, Chief Conners and Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs attended the 2018 National Republican Congressional Committee Annual Dinner and met with Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), a religious man interested in Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Chief Conners provided him a book written by Mohawk historian Darren Bonaparte that details the history of Tekakwitha's life.


Palm Springs DCCC Tribal Summit

On March 9th-10th, Chief Michael Conners and Sub-Chief Agnes Jacobs attended the DCCC Tribal Summit at the Agua Caliente Resort & Spa and met with twelve members of Congress to discuss the important issues facing Indian Country. These meetings included Congressman Raul Ruiz (D-CA), Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Jared Huffman (D-CA), Gwen Moore (D-WI), Richard Neal (D-MA), Janet Napolitano (D-AZ), Lucille Roybal Allard (D-CA), Mark Takano (D-CA), and Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ).

Northern Tribal Border Alliance Second Summit

On May 1st, in partnership with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, SRMT held the Second Northern Tribal Border Alliance at the Akwesanse Mohawk Casino Resort. Building from the August 2017 Summit at the Mystic Lake Casino & Hotel; it continued discussions on how tribes and First Nations can work together to address border crossing issues and build relationships with U.S. and Canadian border officials.

Approximately thirty participants attended the Second Summit; including representatives from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security and Canada Border Services Agency. Attendees shared border crossing difficulties and contributing factors; such as the unwillingness of border agents to accept tribal government-issued identification documents, excessive interrogation and harassment, denial of entry for minor offenses, and the improper handling of sacred cultural items. Speakers discussed the need for



border security agents and lawmakers to work with border tribes on practical solutions that respect the right of Indigenous people to travel within their ancestral territories in accordance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

SRMT is continuing to work with Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (R-NY) to reintroduce legislation to amend language in Section 289 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and recognize tribal identification cards in accordance with our Jay Treaty rights. The amendment modernizes the 1950s termination-era language that requires us to prove we are “50 percent or more blood of the American Indian race.” The previous language is offensive; an infringement on our right to determine our membership requirements as a self-governing nation; inconsistent with federal Indian law; and, more importantly, creates unnecessary tension between our tribal members and border security agents. The bill was first introduced in the 114th Congress by Congresswomen Stefanik (R-NY), Congresswomen Suzan DelBene (D-WA) and Congressman Derek Kilmer (D-WA).

Tribal Labor Sovereignty

On April 24th, Chief Beverly Cook joined leaders from the Seneca Nation, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Forest County Potawatomi, Gila River Indian Community, Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, and Puyallup Tribe in a meeting with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) to discuss why he, and some of his Democratic colleagues, voted against Indian Country in the Senate’s floor vote on the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act. Senator Schumer requested input from tribal leaders on how to better handle similar situations in the future.

Chief Cook expressed her concerns that the actions of many Senate Democrats to disregard and actively vote against tribal sovereignty has dangerous implications, as it further endorses the misperception that tribal governments are not like other governments and therefore should not be treated the same under federal law. It also suggests that Senate Democrats support a decision by the Trump Administration to reclassify Native Americans as a racial group and subject tribes to state work requirements for purposes of receiving Medicaid benefits, and that Congress is failing to treat tribal governments on par with state governments and state universities regarding patent ownership.

Additional Efforts – Medicaid Work Requirements

Chief Beverly Cook, as Chief and as the National Indian Health Board’s Nashville Representative, is garnering congressional support in opposing a decision to reclassify Native Americans as a racial group and subject tribes to state work requirements for Medicaid. In 2017, SRMT provided healthcare services to 14,456 tribal patients and collected \$1.3 million in Medicaid to supplement SRMT’s chronically underfunded Health Services. The loss of this revenue would force the Tribe to choose between providing priority-level Purchased Referred Care referrals and other important services or diverting revenue away from other tribal efforts; such as increasing employment opportunities, developing needed infrastructure, and mitigating the impacts of Superfund Sites located upstream from where the Tribe draws its drinking water. On May 15th, 56 House members joined Indian Country in calling for the reversal of this harmful decision.

Additional Efforts – Patent Ownership

The Tribe’s Office of Technology, Research and Patents continues to help diversify tribal investments and explore innovative economic development and revenue sources; which includes the Tribe’s acquisition of patents for the dry eye medication known as Restasis from Allergan Pharmaceutical Corporation in shielding the patents from a flawed process known as Inter-Partes Review before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. The Tribe has vigorously defended its sovereign right to engage in this form of commerce in the same manner as other sovereign entities, such as state universities. Several Congressional Committees launched investigations or inquiries into the transaction, including the introduction of two bills that would abrogate tribal immunity for tribes engaging in the same conduct as states. The Tribe is continuing to fight these efforts and has engaged Congressional offices to ensure that tribal sovereignty is not infringed or limited in a manner inconsistent with the sovereignty currently being utilized for the benefit of states and state institutions. ◇

Employee Spotlight:

Angela George, Procurement Specialist

(28 Years, 10 Months)

By Jacey Rourke, Communications Specialist

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is proud to highlight the long-term service of Angela George and share all the exceptional work she is doing on behalf of the Akwesasne community.

Angela George has worked for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe for nearly three decades and currently works as a Procurement Specialist for the Finance Division in the Accounting Department. She is just one person on a growing list of tribal employees who have devoted the majority of their professional careers to working for their fellow community members.

In 1989, Angela was hired by the Tribe as an Accounts Receivable Clerk within the Accounting Department; where she processed waterline billings, accepted payments and dispersed receipts. As Angela recalls back in those days, the entire Accounting Department had a small staff and was located in the Tribal Clerk's Office. She also remembers that pay roll at that time was processed by hand and checks were manually distributed to all tribal employees—no direct deposits.

A few years later in 1996, Angela made the move to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Health Services billing department and processed insurance billing. Then in 2010, she returned to the Accounting Department, but this time as an Accounts Payable Clerk. Soon after her transition, the Accounting Department split into two programs and Angela branched off to the procurement-side of the organization, where she has remained ever since.



Looking back on her lengthy career with the Tribe, Angela reflected that one of her greatest achievements has been approaching her 30-year mark of employment with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. She shared that what helped her accomplish this milestone is the pride she feels and the enjoyment she receives when she comes to work every day.

"I enjoy coming into work every day and providing all the necessities Procurement offers to our employees," remarked Angela.

When asked about her most memorable moment, Angela was quick to share her cherished memories of working alongside former-Director of Procurement Dan Bero, who has since passed on. Like most tribal employees who knew Dan, she recounted all the laughter they had shared together. People like Dan continue to make the Tribe an enjoyable place to work.

Angela shared, "My favorite part of my job is that I get to interact with the majority of the tribal employees on a daily or weekly basis. Through our interactions with all the different tribal programs, I get to know our employees — it is a privilege getting to put a face to a name."

Niawen:kówa, Angela for your many years of service! We are so proud to have you as part of our work family and truly appreciate your dedication. ♦

Tribe Recognizes Outstanding Student Achievements

By Jacey Rourke, Communications Specialist

Twenty-two students were presented with Outstanding Student Achievement Awards at the *Obiari:ba*/June 2018 Tribal Meeting. Students were celebrated for their academic, athletic and extracurricular successes, and community volunteerism. Each student was presented with a gift card and certificate of recognition.

Sydney Mitchell attends Northfield Mount Hermon and is involved in clubs like Girl Affect and Circle of Sisters, and two varsity sports; field hockey and lacrosse. Sidney is going to be attending Syracuse University and will study Environmental Engineering in the fall.

Sophia Mitchell is on High Honor Roll with an average up to 99. She is a member of the robotics team and plays varsity volleyball and lacrosse. Recently posting the fastest timed mile for females at her school.

Wentanoron Ariana Roundpoint has co-authored a published children's book *Sila and the Land* that discusses the topic of global warming. She belongs to the Taking It Global Organization. Her artwork was featured in the Mile End Gallery in Montreal.

AnnaBelle Mitchell serves as Secretary on the Student Council. She has participated in the Akwesasne Youth Entrepreneur Program. AnnaBelle is passionate about playing lacrosse. She has set her sights on a career in the medical field.

Talynn Wylie is a member of the National Honor Society and has a 101 average. She is a part of the Salmon River band and chorus. Talynn is the center for the girls varsity hockey team and a pitcher for the girls varsity softball team.

Talon Jacobs is a humble volunteer. Before the passing of his great-grandmother, he would often mow her yard as a surprise and is involved in caring for his ailing grandfather. He has been a volunteer at the Snye Recreation Center since he was five years old.

Mckenzee Lazore has been on the high honor roll throughout her high school career. She was captain of the varsity volleyball team and received many awards. Her extracurricular activities include Link Crew, member of prom committee and student council. She will be attending Niagara University this fall to study Hospitality and Event Planning.



Trysten Burns is a member of the National Honor Society and will be graduating with honors. Trysten excels in soccer, field lacrosse, box lacrosse and hockey.

Skylar Mason maintains a B+ average in all school subjects. He plays lacrosse, broomball, volleyball and is most passionate about soccer. In August, Skylar will travel to Hawaii for 12 days to play soccer in the NIFA 2018 Tournament with team Saskatchewan.

Amanda Rourke serves as president of Mohawk Club, secretary of band and Student Council Vice President. She is in the Spanish National Honor Society, National Honor Society, and Link Crew leader. Amanda has been a member of the pep band, the percussion ensemble, all-county and NYSSMA music festivals. Amanda is set to attend Nazareth College this fall to study Biochemistry.

Peter Thais is consistently on the Principal's List, a member of the Model UN at Hofstra University and the STEM Scholar

program at Saint Dominic High School. Peter is on the varsity swim and soccer teams.

Keely Thompson-Cook maintains a 93.65 average and is ranked 18th in her class. She is a member of the Mohawk Club, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, music department and prom committee. She is on the varsity swim team and swims for the Cornwall Sea Lions.

Lauren Martin has played ten varsity sports throughout her career at Salmon River and was captain of three sports. She also managed to maintain high honors and is a member of National Honor Society. She served on Student Council as President then Vice President. She participated in NYSMMA, a music festival. Recently, Lauren earned first place in a local art show.

Wahsontiio Connors played soccer, basketball and lacrosse. Her poem *Blue* was published in the Accolades book of poems. She has completed four years of Oherokon, Rites of Passage.

Kahnekahawi Connors maintained a spot on the Principal's List throughout high school. All of her classes are AP and honors courses. She is in the pep band, played soccer, basketball and softball. She completed four years of Oherokon (rites of passage).

Blayke Gibson is taking some international baccalaureate classes and has a 100 average and a 96 overall average this year. She runs track and plays lacrosse. She is on the Tribal Youth Council and a member of the Kateri Circle. Blayke will be attending Syracuse University in the fall.

Nakaia Connors is a member of the National Honor Society and has been selected to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum in Medicine as well as the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. This summer, she will attend a cultural exchange program in Spain. Her next internship is with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service.

Colin Benedict studied Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University this past year. He intends to go to law school. He was elected by his peers to lead the student organization Native American Students at Cornell as Co-chair. He enjoys playing hockey and running. Colin was awarded the Native American Students at Cornell Leadership Award.

James Pierce Jr. played lacrosse for University of Montana and scored 51 goals and 10 assists. His team went undefeated in their division and went on to the regional championship.

Timmy John Rourke is a senior at Salmon River High School. He was diagnosed with Autism at age 7 but doesn't let that limit him. He attended his senior prom with his childhood best friend and was crowned prom king. He was awarded the Physical Education Student Leadership Award for the Northern Zone.

Colonie Gray is the valedictorian of the Salmon River Central Class of 2018. She is known to help her peers and has joined many groups and clubs. She recently played the role of Scar in Disney's *Lion King*. She earned a full scholarship to Hamilton College.

London Lazore plays lacrosse and hockey. For the last four years, London has donated over 30 hats and gloves to the Tsi Snaihne School for kids who may have forgotten theirs at home. She also enjoyed being a part of the St. Regis Dance Club.

Recognition ceremonies for Outstanding Student Achievements are held twice a year. The Tribe is encouraging parents, relatives, siblings and community members to nominate a student deserving of recognition. If you know of someone who deserves to be recognized for volunteerism, academic or athletic achievement, or personal success in any capacity – then we want to hear from you! Please include the following with your nomination: student's name, age, grade, school they attend, contact information, and why they deserve to be recognized. Please email your nomination, with the subject line 'Student Nomination' to education@srmt-nsn.gov. ◇



Our New Places Need New Names

Green Space Near St. Regis River

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is currently seeking naming suggestions for a public green space. The public space or green space is located along the St. Regis River near the former Hogansburg Dam.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe cleared the land adjacent to the former Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department's Station #1 in 2017 to help restore the location to green space; with picnic tables and benches for community members to oversee the St. Regis River. The old fire station also served as a location for the Tribe's Planning and Infrastructure Division for 13 years before relocating to a new facility on State Route 95.



New Tribal Complex at Former First America's IGA

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is currently seeking name suggestions for the new Tribal complex to be located at the former First American's IGA located on State Route 37 directly across from the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort.

The new Tribal complex will be home to Tribal Courts, Food Distribution, Environment, Compliance, Home Improvement, Social Services, Community and Family Services, Economic Development and Education. The building will require extensive renovations including adding a second floor and is expected to open in fall 2019. IGA officially closed its doors back in 2012 and has since been used for a variety of community events and is an impressive 50,000 square feet.



*Have an idea? Submit your suggested name(s) and why that name should be chosen via email to:
SRMT Communications Department, communications@srmt-nsn.gov
by Wednesday, Ohiarikhó:wa/July 13th at 4:00 p.m. for consideration. ◇*

Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Program Update

By Samantha Phillips, JOM Program Manager

SRC Native Film Production

JOM and the SRC Native Film class partnered for a day-long shoot on Cornwall Island in early *Onerahtohkó:wa/May*. The students filmed multiple scenes from the script they wrote for their final film production, a modern version of *How the Bear Clan Got the Medicines*. During production, each student was given the opportunity to perform the tasks of directing, audio recording and filming. They are now in post-production editing their final project.

Massena Central Students Attend Iroquois Indian Museum Exhibit Opening

By Nicole Smoke, JOM Intern

On *Onerahtohkó:wa/May* 18 and 19, 2018 the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's JOM Program, in collaboration with Massena Central School District Title VI, hosted an overnight trip to the Iroquois Indian Museum in Howe's Cave, NY. The museum exhibit, "Tonto, Teepees and Totem poles: Considering Native American Stereotypes in the 21st Century" was created to spark discussions about identity, culture, and stereotypes amongst other topics. A group of nine Massena Central High School students from Akwesasne submitted portraits that were selected to be shown in the exhibit. The message conveyed through



the portrait sparked an important conversation about stereotypes that they have encountered. They intended on creating a discussion about their own identity, and how they are not the Native American stereotypes and narratives thrown at them by people outside of their own community. The portrait was hung up towards the middle of the exhibit, and had a lot of positive feedback.

Along with the Iroquois Indian Museum, students and staff had the chance to visit one of the very few live mineral caves in the country; Howe Caverns. The tour started with a brief introduction to how the cave was discovered, and proceeded with an elevator ride 156 feet below ground, a walk, as well as a boat tour.



Students filming How the Bear Clan Got the Medicines

JOM Parent Committee Call-Out

JOM is calling for parents from the Salmon River and Massena Central School Districts to form a joint parent committee. Parents with students from ages three to Grade 12 are eligible to be part of meaningful discussion and planning for your children's future goals. JOM offers the following services and needs parental guidance for corrective studies, educational enrichment, cultural enrichment and recreation.

For more information, please contact Samantha Phillips, JOM Program Manager at (518) 358-9721 or samantha.phillips@srmt-nsn.gov. ♦

Wetlands and their Role in Shoreline Stabilization

By James Costello, Environmental Technician

Wetlands are where land and water meet and they play an essential role in maintaining clean water and healthy fish and wildlife populations. Throughout our community, the majority of wetland habitat exists along the shores of the Raquette, St. Regis, and St. Lawrence Rivers. It is within these areas where wetlands perform their most important functions: bank stabilization and erosion control, fish and wildlife habitat and filtering out pollution. Wetlands accomplish these benefits and can regulate water temperature, improve water clarity, reduce nutrients and other contaminants, while providing critical habitat for a variety of fish turtles, shorebirds and waterfowl, just to name a few. Therefore, any changes or disruptions to the natural conditions of the shoreline can negatively affect the ability of wetlands to perform these functions properly.

Erosion can also have a negative effect on the natural contours of the shoreline, which can lead to structural and property damage, negatively affect water quality and habitat. Some of these factors include the natural process of wind, frost, gravity, precipitation, wave actions, and ice formation. However, human activities such as clearing shoreline vegetation, construction and/or development uphill and/or upstream from the shoreline, and agricultural practices will often contribute to (and in some cases accelerate) the natural shoreline erosion process. For example, when the natural vegetation along the shoreline is removed, the root systems that provide the basis for proper shoreline stabilization are destroyed. Also, construction and/or development uphill and/or upstream from the shoreline can increase the amount of stormwater runoff and sediment loads that

enter the rivers. Finally, agricultural practices have a tendency to change the rate of erosion and increase the levels of nutrients into the rivers, especially during the spring season when snow melt is occurring and when soil saturation and water runoff is at its peak.



For many years, traditional shoreline stabilization methods have revolved around using “hard” construction approaches such as vertical break-walls made out of concrete, metal, or wood, stone-filled wire baskets called gabions, and loose rocks and/or stones called rip rap. The problem with these methods is that hard vertical structures tend to reflect wave energy rather than absorb it, which in turn worsens turbulence and increases erosion in front of, under, and adjacent to the structure. Turbulence and erosion are not as severe with using rip rap since some of the energy from the moving water is absorbed through the rocks and stones. Still, as with all solid structures, this method greatly reduces vegetated habitat and does not allow the shoreline to fully regulate the water quality of the river.

The preferred method for shoreline stabilization would be to use a more natural or “soft” approach, which is widely recognized as more structurally sound, economically feasible, and ecologically sustainable. The most common example would be to plant deep-rooted native vegetation along the shoreline, such as low-growing species that will not block waterfront views, or other species of common shrubs that extend deep into the soil and help keep the shoreline intact. In addition, shoreline stabilization can also include not mowing the grass or cutting down the trees and shrubs that

grow along the shoreline. Regardless of which approach is taken, the proposed stabilization method should follow the natural contours of the shoreline and seek to restore the hydrological and ecological balance of the wetland habitat.

When severe turbulence and erosive forces do exist, a “soft” approach may not be structurally effective, and in those instances using a “hard” construction approach is required. In any event, steps should still be taken to minimize any possible adverse effects by limiting the project area to the smallest footprint possible, protecting the base of any vertical structures with rip rap or stone, incorporating passage corridors (if necessary) to allow movement of wildlife to and from the river, and as always follow the natural contours of the shoreline to the greatest extent possible. In addition, rip rap stabilization designs should include an appropriate bank slope and rock size to counter the effects of wave energy, turbulence, and erosion. A slope ratio of at least 1:2 (vertical to horizontal) is recommended, however a more stable 1:3 slope should be used wherever possible.

To learn more about the benefits of using a natural or “soft” method of shoreline stabilization as an alternative to using a “hard” construction approach, or to learn more about the application process for obtaining a Wetland Dredge/Fill permit; a requirement of all community members when using a “hard” construction approach, contact the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe-Environment Division Water Resources Program (WRP) at (518)358-5937 and ask for either James Costello, Environmental Science and Protection Specialist (james.costello@srmt-nsn.gov) or Tony David, WRP Program Manager (tony.david@srmt-nsn.gov).

References:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). 2018. *Shoreline Stabilization: Ecological Importance of Natural Shorelines and Proper Shoreline Stabilization*. Albany, NY. (https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/permits_ej_operations_pdf/shorestabil.pdf)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). 1990. *Water Quality Standards for Wetlands: National Guidance*. (EPA/440/S-90-011). Washington, DC. ♦



Health Services Update:

From the Health Administration Office

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Health Services strives to treat the body, mind, and spirit of its clients with respect, courtesy, confidentiality and professionalism. To support their efforts, Health Services Director Michael Cook has provided the following program highlights and responses to some commonly asked questions regarding the many programs and services they have available.

How do I get a referral for services not available at our facility?

You must be eligible for Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) services. PRC is not an entitlement program and not everyone is eligible. Know your eligibility status before you obtain health care services. You must have Contract Health Services (CHS) & Direct status to be eligible for PRC services. If you have Direct only status, you can only access services within Health Services and you are or eligible for payment of PRC health care services. You will be 100% financially responsible for all referrals.

You may contact Patient Registration to verify your eligibility status.

What is the Purchased/Referred Care program?

Our physicians write medical/dental referrals when patients need health care that is not available at Health Services. You must schedule an appointment with your primary care provider at Health Services to request your referral.

A referral is not guarantee that services will be paid. A patient must meet eligibility criteria. The requested services must fall within our medical priorities (Medical Priority 1 and Medical Priority 2), and the patient must comply with the Indian Health Service Alternate Resource policy. All Medical Priority 2 referrals will be pending until you comply Alternate Resource policy.

Referrals are required for every visit you make to the hospital or doctor's office. You will be 100% financially responsible if you proceed to the hospital or doctor's office without a referral.

It is the patient's responsibility to present a copy of your referral, along with your insurance card and demographic information to the hospital or doctor's office at the time of your visit for proper billing.

The hospital or doctor's office must bill your insurance(s) first in which you will receive an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) from your insurance company. You must bring the EOB to the Billing Department as soon as you receive it.

You may contact the Referrals Department to inquire about the status of your referral and contact the Billing Department to inquire about your bill.

Can I assume that my bills related to an emergency department visit will be covered?

Again, PRC coverage is not automatic. If you have an emergency situation that requires you to obtain health care at a walk-in clinic, hospital or doctor's office and we are not open, you (or a family member) are required to notify the Referrals Department within 72 hours of the beginning of treatment or admission to a health care facility

If you have an emergency situation that requires you to obtain health care services and we are open, please contact Health Services immediately and ask to speak to a nurse for an appointment or consultation prior to proceeding directly to a walk-in clinic, hospital or doctor's office.

You should contact the Referrals Department to report your visit.

Is a visit to an emergency room automatically considered an emergency?

No. Our medical team reviews all emergency visit reports and it is possible your visit could be classified as a non-emergency and you could end up responsible for related bills.

Contact the Medical Clinic to schedule an appointment with your primary care provider if you need a referral or to speak to a nurse.

I understand in order to have a referral issued, I am required to make application for alternate resources if I don't have insurance coverage. What is the Alternate Resource Policy?

Indian Health Service PRC is only payer of last resort. Alternate Resources are any federal/state/local/private source of coverage for which a patient is eligible (ie. Medicaid, Medicare A and B, Medicare, Child Health Plus, Essential Plan, Private Insurance, etc.).

All patients without insurance coverage are required to apply once every 12 months. All non-emergent referrals will be pended until you comply with Indian Health Service Alternate Resource Policy.

You may contact Patient Registration to schedule an appointment with an on-site enroller at Health Services.

I received a letter of denial for bills from a recent visit to an emergency department. Why would I have received a denial?

Payment for health care services can be denied for several reasons, including:

1. Not within medical priority.
2. Emergency service was not reported within 72 hours.
3. Ineligible for services.
4. No referral (prior approval) for health care services.
5. Clinic was open.
6. Not a covered service.
7. Do not reside within the U.S. portion of the reservation, or Franklin/Saint Lawrence Counties (Contract Health Service Delivery Area).
8. Failure to comply with Alternate Resource Policy.

You will receive a denial from Health Services in the mail. Appeals must be made within 30 days of receipt to the attention of the Health Director at 404 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655.

Contact Us

To reach the Referrals Department, please call (518) 358-3141, ext. 7141, 7185, 7244 or 7181. They are open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Billing Department can be reached by calling (518) 358-3141. They are open from Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Patient Registration can be reached by calling (518) 358-3141 ext. 7129 or 7102. They are also open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Medical Clinic has the same main number, (518) 358-3141 ext. 2004. Their hours are Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to noon. ♦

SRMT Health Services Parking and Construction Reminder

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is notifying the community of the new parking lot configuration and improvements being made as we grow to serve Akwesasne. The Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services (SRMHS) clinic expansion project requires a traffic lane alteration. This alteration will require everyone's cooperation.

The main parking lot entrance is reserved for community members, visitors and employees with mobility impaired permits only. All other employees will be required to park in the back and side parking lots.

We ask that you be patient and please do not park in non-parking areas. We need to keep the fire lanes around the buildings free. To avoid confusion, we have installed barriers and clearly marked where the parking lanes end. We are enforcing the parking rules to ensure the safety of our employees and all those using our facilities.

If you have any questions contact Adrian McDonald, Safety Officer at (518) 358-2272 ext. 2292 ♦

The Sniffles of Summer

By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager

Those living with respiratory issues can have an escalation in breathing issues during the summer. Environmental allergies to grass, pollen, trees and weeds can make your summer miserable. Another trigger is air pollution; the introduction of particulates, biological molecules, or other harmful materials into the Earth's atmosphere. Air pollution can result from both human and natural actions.

Natural events that pollute the air include forest fires, volcanic eruptions, wind erosion, pollen dispersal, evaporation of organic compounds and natural radioactivity. Pollution from natural occurrences is not very common.

Man-made air pollution can come from burning fossil fuel, vehicle exhaust, mining, industry and others. One of the sources of air pollution is also one of the prettiest: fireworks.



I love holidays! We just had memorial day, now the 4th of Ohiarikhkó:wa/July is coming up. Woohoo! Family, BBQ, fireworks and fun. Oh snaps, did you say fireworks? As with anything, if it burns and has beautiful colors, it means that heavy metals are involved. Fireworks contain heavy metals, lead, mercury aluminum, cadmium—after all they must be colorful—which means it releases toxic dust. When burned “different chemical elements, heated

to high temperatures, get rid of energy by emitting very different wavelengths of light,” says John Conkling, a chemist at Washington College. If you want a very nice blue flame color, copper oxide is a good choice, Conkling says. Strontium chloride will give you a good red. And calcium nitrate “makes a nice yellow-orange.” John A. Conkling, wrote the book on fiery displays “BOOM!” (What an awesome name for a book). Also, if you get any type of color changing packets for your bonfire, they have heavy metals in it. To be exact: 65% cupric sulfate, 23% cupric chloride and 12% polyvinyl chloride. With these ingredients, please do not cook marshmallows or other foods over the fire once you put the packets in. Also, try not to stand in the path of the smoke.



Wildfires

Only approximately 10% of all wildfires are caused naturally usually by lightning strikes or dry conditions with high temperatures. I think we all know Smokey Bear. He was created because nine out of 10 wildfires were caused by humans. Some causes are campfires left unattended, the burning of debris, negligently discarded cigarettes, and intentional acts of arson. What I didn't know was that Smokey Bear was actually created in 1944 and is now 74 years old.

Wildfires create some of the most dangerous air pollutants: smoke. Smoke is composed primarily of carbon dioxide, water vapor, carbon

monoxide, particulate matter, hydrocarbons and other organic chemicals, nitrogen oxides, trace minerals and several thousand other compounds. Particulate matter is the principal pollutant of concern from wildfire smoke for the relatively short-term exposures (hours to weeks) typically experienced by the public. Particulate matter is a generic term for particles suspended in the air, typically as a mixture of both solid particles and liquid droplets. Particles from smoke tend to be very small - less than one micrometer in diameter.

Volcanoes

These are some of the headlines coming out of the news about Hawaii's big island volcano, Kilauea. I don't know about you, but I would love to go to Hawaii so I made plans for a family trip for 2019. Guess where I picked? Yep, Hilo right next to Volcano National Park. So now guess where the Kilauea volcano is. Yep, you guessed it, right next to Hilo (about 45 minutes away). So now, you might ask what's so bad about that? Well, it's a pretty good distance but do you know what comes out of volcanoes? Well, it's not just lava. Volcanoes emit Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) which is a greenhouse gas. Greenhouse gases are responsible for global warming. Volcanoes also emit Sulfur Dioxide, which in the atmosphere comes mostly from manmade sources and is heavily regulated when it comes to industry or vehicle emissions. When this toxic acidic gas comes from a volcano, there is no way to reduce it. People being exposed to it, especially if they have respiratory issues, feel the worst symptoms (shortness of breath, coughing wheezing) in 10-15 minutes after breathing it in.

Soot and ash from the eruption can travel many, many miles and cover houses and cars and the smaller particles can get deep into your lungs causing respiratory problems. Oh, I'm still going but our plans may change to a different part of the island, although I think it would still be cool to see.

Wow, that's a lot of information. So for now and for the next seven generations: "Only YOU can prevent forest fires!" and remember your ABC's: Always **Be** Careful with fire. If you start a fire, put it out when you are done. ◇



"Toxic cloud caused by Hawaii volcano emerges over ocean..."

"Hawaii volcano in a chain of 169 volcanoes, 50 are ready to blow..."



Tribal Council Resolutions (TCRs)

Onerahtohkó:wa/May 1 to Ohiari:ha/June 13, 2018

Editor's Note: Tribal Council Resolutions are the recorded decisions of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council on matters requiring a formal expression of such decisions. Some examples include; but are not limited to; adoption and amendment of tribal ordinances or laws that do not require referendum vote, approval of grant applications, appointment of Administrators of estates and conduct of day-to-day tribal business operations requiring a written record of Tribal Council approval. (Source: Tribal Procedures Act, adopted by referendum, Ohiari:ha/June 1, 2013.)

TCR # 2018-20 Adopt the Tribally Determined Prevailing Wage Rates of the Akwesasne Housing Authority

TCR # 2018-21 Amend TCR 2017-60 to Grant Right of Way to Bureau of Indian Affairs for a Term of Fifty (50) Years

TCR # 2018-22 To Approve Revenue Sources for Elders Benefit Pilot Program

TCR # 2018-23 Reappoint Penny Coleman to the Judicial Oversight Commission

TCR #2018-24 Amend Guidelines of the Community Partnership Fund

TCR # 2018-25 To Request Funding from the National Park Service Tribal Heritage Grant Program for the Akwesasne Stories Project

TCR # 2018-26 To Authorize Indian Health Services to Enter into a PL 93-638 Title V Construction Agreement to Administer Sanitation Facilities. Project # NS-18-HI5

TCR # 2018-27 To Authorize the Tribal Police Department and Emergency Planning to Seek Funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Grant Programs Directorate

TCR # 2018-28 To Appoint Matthew R. Benedict to the Te Wá Tha Hón:ni Corporation Board of Directors ♦

Engraved Bricks Honoring Akwesasne Veterans

Help remember and honor a loved one's military service by purchasing an engraved brick or plaque at the Akwesasne Veteran's Memorial Monument.

For \$50 (USD), the veteran's rank, name, branch of service and years served will be recognized and permanently memorialized as an Akwesasne veteran who honorably served in the United States or Canadian Armed Forces. Additional veteran's name are only \$25 each.

The order form can be downloaded from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's website, at www.srmt-nsn.gov, Facebook page, or can be picked up at the Community Building's main reception desk.

Payment needs to be in the form of a check or money order, made payable to "Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe," and can be dropped off or mailed. For more information, please contact the Tribe's Communications Department by calling (518) 358-2272 or email communications@srmt-nsn.gov. ♦



Tribal Monthly Meetings

Onerahtohkó:wa/May 12, 2018

Chairperson: Tribal Chief Michael Conners

Agenda

1. Review of previous action items:

- Tribal Council to report on March Tribal meeting motion from the floor for “Tribal Council to enact in investigation (fact finding) and evaluation of the correlation and relationship between the original Elders Benefit Group and the anonymous propaganda, which is an indirect contradiction to the benefit [to] Elders.” *Work in Progress. Investigation is currently in the information gathering and analysis stage.*
- Request for analysis of the correlation of Native board members on the Salmon River Central School District Board of Education and the quality of education our students receive. *After an extensive review of the SRCSD Report Cards for the past 10 years, identifying individuals who have held a Board of Education seat, speaking with the current Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, there appears to be a correlation between having Native board members on the SRCSD Board of Education and the quality of education our students receive. It is imperative that items such as: school leadership, grant opportunities/collaborations, direction to a more trauma informed environment, support for mindfulness practices and overall work towards improving the school climate, are all critical factors in the quality of education our students are receiving. We have seen more recently, a rise in efforts to increase the support in these significant areas to promote and support the well-being of the students and staff of the SRCSD. Academically, it has been identified that the SRCSD has recently been making slight gains in the overall academic performance of its students. This is attributed to many factors, with parental involvement being the most significant. The SRCSD continuously looks for ways to improve the academic performance of the students through grant opportunities, programming/initiatives, hiring of key personnel and an emphasis on the social emotional well-being of it students and families. The members of the Board of Education play a role in supporting the Superintendent in pursuing, identifying and implementing programs and personnel that will help meet the overall goals for the Board each year.*
- Request for Tribal Council to meet with Director of Education to discuss representation on the Massena Central School District Board of Education. **Work in Progress.** *Education and Tribal Council will continue to work on this as a priority for the upcoming School Board election.*
- Request to look into NYS Department of Transportation monies are allocated for the roads on the reservation. Administration to follow-up with Planning and Infrastructure and a response will be provided at June Tribal Meeting. **Work in Progress.** *NYS Region 7 DOT representative has informed SRMT P&I Dept. that the average yearly allocation for road repairs on the reservation is \$20k –\$30k, but not a firm allocation and is based on need. A meeting between Region 7 DOT and NYS DOT representatives is scheduled for mid-June. Our Region 7 representative has agreed to make further inquiries as to reservation roads funding at that meeting and report back to P&I staff. Additionally, Tribal Council is working with their NYS lobbyist to gather additional information regarding road funding allocation formulas and how they affect the SRMT.*
- Request to know how many more miles the Tribe will gain when the land claims are settled. **Work in Progress.** *Additional miles cannot be calculated accurately until the Land Claim is settled. This process will involve discussions and negotiating agreements between the Tribe, Counties and Towns. Legal, Administration, and Planning and Infrastructure will follow-up when there is more concrete information.*
- Request for Tribe to research Franklin County tax on vehicle registration renewal. **Work in Progress.** *Legal is working on this and has a tentative meeting on June 11th with the Department of Motor Vehicles.*

The Salmon River School District will implement to the fullest extent possible the New York State Common Core Modules in ELA and Mathematics as the District’s curriculum.

The Superintendent and administrators will provide the Board and School Community with regular updates on the status of the construction phase of the capital project. The Board of Education supports the teachers, staff, administration and superintendent to inspire students to become college and career ready for their placement in the 21st century workforce.



- Request to know the purpose of the huge pile of tires located at a residence on St. Regis Road.

Compliance obtained an information sheet that the community member submitted regarding the tire pile at the location in question on Saint Regis Road. The community member wants to set up a recycling center for the tires. At this time, Environment has no environmental assessment or solid waste facility permit from the member allowing operation of this facility.

The community member met with Compliance and Environment, where it was explained that the requirements for getting a facility off the ground for recycling tires. The member has committed to cleaning up the site and arranging his tires neater and draining the water from them and getting them covered up so rain can't sit in them anymore. The site's clean up progress will be monitored.

In the meantime, Compliance contacted the local tire shops and asked them to send tires elsewhere for the time being. The local shops have started utilizing the transfer station for tire disposal. Compliance will keep Tribal Council updated on the situation.

- Request to incorporate visual aid to monthly tribal meetings, to address request from community members who may not be able to attend attend because they live out of town or ill. *Communications is reviewing options.*
- 2. 10:10 a.m. | Update on JOM and NJOMA by Samantha Phillips
- 3. 10:25 a.m. | Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club Presentation by Jessica Cree-Jock
- 4. 10:40 a.m. | SRC School Board Candidates P.J. Burns, Agnes Jacobs and Curtis White
- 5. 10:50 a.m. | Patent Update by Owen Herne
- 6. 11:05 a.m. | Residency Survey Update by Brendan White
- 7. 11:10 a.m. | Land Claim Update by Tribal Chiefs
- 8. 11:20 a.m. | Announcements

Obiari:ba/June 9, 2018

Chairperson: Tribal Chief Beverly Cook

Agenda

1. Review of previous action items:
 - Tribal Council to report on March 2017 Tribal meeting motion from the floor for "Tribal Council to enact an investigation (fact finding) and evaluation of the correlation and relationship between the original Elders Benefit Group and the anonymous propaganda, which is an indirect contradiction to the benefit [to] Elders." ***Work in Progress.*** *Investigation is currently in the information gathering and analysis stage.*
 - Request for Tribal Council to meet with Director of Education to discuss representation on the Massena Central School District Board of Education. ***Completed.*** *Education and Tribal Council will continue to work on this as a priority for the upcoming School Board election.*
 - Request to look into NYS Department of Transportation monies are allocated for the roads on the reservation. ***Completed.*** *NYS Region 7 DOT representative has informed the Tribe that the average yearly allocation for road repairs on the reservation is \$20-30,000, but is not a firm allocation and is based on need. A meeting between DOT Region 7 and NYS DOT representatives is scheduled for mid-June. Our Region 7 representative has agreed to make further inquiries as to Reservation roads funding at that meeting and report back to Planning and Infrastructure staff. Tribe's NYS lobbyist gathered additional information regarding road funding allocation formula and is looking into how it affects the Tribe.*
 - Request to know how many more miles the Tribe will gain when the land claims are settled. ***Completed.*** *Additional miles cannot be calculated accurately until the claim is settled. This process will involve discussions and negotiating agreements between the Tribe, Counties and Towns. Legal, Administration, and Planning and Infrastructure will follow-up when there is information that is more concrete.*
 - Request for Tribe to research Franklin County tax on vehicle registration renewal. ***Work in Progress.*** *Legal is working on*



this and has a tentative meeting set with the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance.

- Request to incorporate visual aid to monthly tribal meetings, to address request from community members who may not be able to attend because they live out of town or ill. **Work in Progress.** *Communications is reviewing options.*
 - Request to develop a landlord/tenant ordinance. **Completed.** *Legal has drafted an ordinance and is awaiting comments from the Akwesasne Housing Authority. Thereafter, the proposed ordinance will go through the process as stated in Tribal Procedures Act, Section X. Tribal Laws, Acts, and Ordinances.*
2. 10:10 a.m. | Outstanding Student Achievement Awards by Stephanie Cook and Tribal Council
 3. 10:35 a.m. | Announcement of SRCS Board Special Election Candidacy by Jordan Lauzon
 4. 10:45 a.m. | Kanien'kéha Language Certification Program Presentation by Starr Thomas, Stephanie Cook and Arnold Printup
 5. 11:05 a.m. | Elders Benefit Pilot Program Update by Elliott Lazore
 6. 11:15 a.m. | Land Claim Update by Council
 7. 11:30 a.m. | Standing the Trees Back Up (Men's Program) Presentation by Amie Barnes, Harvey Herne and Karatoten Pray Lazore
 8. 11:40 a.m. | New Business

2018 Tribal Election Results

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Election Board has certified the results from the tribal election held on *Ohiarí:ha*/ June 2, 2018 for the positions of one Tribal Chief, one Tribal Sub-Chief and one Tribal Clerk.

Pursuant to the Tribal Election and Referendum Ordinance, five business days were provided for written appeals to be provided, which concluded on *Ohiarí:ha*/June 8, 2018.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Election Board received several appeals regarding the 2018 Tribal Election. It determined one appeal had merit and found just cause for a recount. After the recount, the Election Board has determined the margin of error is not significant enough to demand any further action. Therefore, the Election Board hereby certifies the June 2nd Election.

With the decision final and signed by each Election Board member, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe will welcome re-elected Chief Eric Thompson, newly elected Sub-Chief Benjamin Herne, and newly elected Tribal Clerk Summer Bero. Each will begin their three-year term after the completion of the Swearing-In Ceremony on Sunday, *Ohiaríhkó:wa*/July 1, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. inside the former IGA store across from the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort on State Route 37, Akwesasne.

The official tally sheet is available for download at https://www.srmt-nsn.gov/uploads/site_files/Certified-Results-2018.pdf.



Tips from Tech Support - What are firewalls and what do they do?

By Austin Swamp, Technical Support

Firewalls provide protection against outside attackers by shielding your computer or network from malicious or unnecessary network traffic and preventing harmful software from accessing the network. Firewalls can be configured to block data from certain locations or applications while allowing relevant and necessary data through.

What types of firewalls are there?

There are several types of firewalls. Each of them have a unique roll to protect you and your network from attacks.

Hardware – Typically called network firewalls, these external devices are positioned between your computer and the internet (or other network connection). Many vendors and some internet service providers (ISPs) offer integrated small office/home office routers that also include firewall features. Hardware-based firewalls are particularly useful for protecting multiple computers and control the network activity that attempts to pass through them. The advantage of hardware-based firewalls is that they are separate devices running their own operating systems, so they provide an additional line of defense against attacks when compared to system or host-level protections.

Software – Most operating systems include a built-in firewall feature that should be enabled for added protection even if you have an external firewall. Firewall software can also be obtained as separate software from your local computer store, software vendor or ISP. If you download firewall software from the internet, make sure it is from a reputable vendor or provider and offered via a secure site. The advantage of software firewalls is their ability to control the specific network behavior of individual applications on a system. Relying on a software firewall alone does provide some protection. However, realize that having the firewall on the same computer as the information you're trying to protect may hinder the firewall's ability to detect and stop malicious activity. This is especially true if your computer is already compromised by malware. ♦

disABILITY Awareness Day

The Community and Family Services Division, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program will once again host the 19th Annual Disability Awareness Day on August 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the former First American's IGA.

The event highlights the programs and resources available to people with disabilities. TVR's main objective is to help people with disabilities integrate into the workforce provided the disability causes barriers and impediments to employment.

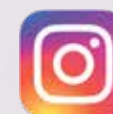
Browse informational booths, listen to guest speakers and receive promotional items. Lunch will be served from noon to 1:00 p.m. ♦



Kawennì:ios "Good Words" is published bi-monthly. Subscriptions are available in print or digital versions.

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Connect with us...



Brendan White, Director/Editor
Aimée Benedict, Publications Manager
Alyson Thompson, Production Assistant
Jacey Rourke, Communications Specialist

Calendar

Ohiarikhó:wa/July

- 1 - Swearing-In Ceremony - 11:00 a.m. - Former IGA
- 4 - Independence Day holiday - All Tribal offices closed
- 7 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
- 10 - Social Security - 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office
- 11 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom
- 26 - *Ohkwátherkó:wa*, Our Big Basket Event - 5:00 p.m. - Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort
- 27 - Staff Appreciation Beach Day - All Tribal offices closed

Seskéha/August

- 3 - 2nd Annual Great Akwesasne River Cleanup
- 4 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
- 8 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom
- 14 - Social Security - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office
- 23 - Child Support Program Family Day - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. - Generations Park
- 24 - Disabilities Awareness Day - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Former IGA
- Wednesdays - Tribal Council Work Session - 9:00 a.m. - Executive Boardroom

New Faces

Dylan JM Adams

Joshua Bunker

Rosebud Cook

Bryan J Garrow

Emily S King

Tyler C Laffin

Jaimee VL Lazore

Mose M McDonald

Waverlie B Thompson

Seana R Villeneuve

Career Intern

EHR and Billing

Grants and Contracts Officer

Bus Driver

Administrative Assistant

Intern

Tourism Researcher

Intern

Teacher Aide

Intern

Social Services

Family Support

Grants and Contracts

Early Childhood Development

Education

Environment

Economic Development

Higher Education

Early Childhood Education

Health Services Business Office

Jobs

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 Resort's website at www.mohawkcasino.com.

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

Donations

Community Events - \$ 5,000

Community Development - \$ 4,250

Funerals - \$ 9,000

Cultural - \$ 20,000

Sports - \$ 9,500

Fundraisers - \$3,500

Elders - \$ 5,000

2018 Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Swearing-In Celebration

All are cordially invited to attend the
Swearing-In Celebration for
Tribal Chief Eric Thompson
Tribal Sub-Chief Benjamin Herne
and Tribal Clerk Summer Bero
on Sunday, *Ohiarikhó:wa*/ July 1, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.
Lunch to be served.

Former First American's IGA
850 State Route 37, Akwesasne

*Ska'tne ionkwaio'te ón:wa wenhniserá:te
ne sén:ha aioianerénhake ne enióhrhen'ne*



Working Together Today to Build
a Better Tomorrow



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On the Cover: Twenty-two tribal youth were recognized with Outstanding Student Achievement Awards at the June Tribal Meeting. The Tribal Council honored Sydney Mitchell, Sophia Mitchell, Karonhienhawí Roundpoint, AnnaBelle Mitchell, Talynn Wylie, Talon Jacobs Tekaronhiokewe, Mckenzee Lazore, Trysten Mary Burns, Skylar Mason, Amanda Rourke, Iotenara'taten:ion Thais, Keely Thompson-Cook, Lauren E. Martin, Wahsontiiio Conners, Kahnekahawí Conners, Blayke Gibson, Nakaia Conners, Colin Benedict, James Pierce Sr., Timmy John Rourke, Colonie M. Gray, and London Lazore for their achievements in the areas of academic, athletic or community service.