Benefits of Gaming:
Room Occupancy Fee Continues to Benefit Akwesasne

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

In Soró:hask/August 2013, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council signed TCR #2013-14 and in the process implemented the Room Occupancy Fee Ordinance to provide revenue for services that ensure the health, safety, education and welfare of tribal members. In doing so, the ordinance imposed an assessment of $10 per room for each day of occupancy at facilities that offer accommodations within the jurisdiction of the Tribe.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort’s 150-room hotel began collecting the fee the following month in Soró:haskil/Seskehkó:wa/September 2013, while the Comfort Inn & Suites joined in the spring of 2014. Combined, both establishments remitted an average of $63,000 each month during the past two years to help fund the increasing need for recreational services and educational programming.

Since that time, some of the usages of the Room Occupancy Fee includes providing funds for the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club to purchase a new van to safely transport youth and the Early Childhood Development Program in helping to purchase three new buses, which allowed their two former Head Start buses to be donated to the Mohawk Indian Housing Corporation and the American Legion Post #1479.

The Room Occupancy Fee also supported the establishment of a two-year welding program in collaboration with BOCES at Salmon River Central School, ongoing improvements at Generations Park and the Travis Solomon Memorial Lacrosse Box, annual cultural exchange between the Salmon River Mohawk Club and the Santa Fe Indian School, summer internships for local students, a Mohawk language immersion program and other educational initiatives.

To help diversify the community’s economy through tourism, the Tribal Council amended the initial uses of the Room Occupancy Fee with the signing of TCR #2016-88 in Kenterhkó:wa/November 2016. The amendment supports the Creating Akwesasne Tourism Industry Businesses and Jobs Initiative aimed at providing employment opportunities and economic development through an Akwesasne tourism industry.

The most recent beneficiary of the Room Occupancy Fee is the St. Regis Mohawk School’s Parent-Teacher Organization, which received a donation of $20,000 in Onenklóktóhakóh/December 2017. Formed in Tsiothohrakó:wa/January 2009 to enhance the partnership between the local elementary school and Akwesasne families, the donation was used to support PTO-sponsored activities with the goal of increasing parent involvement and the connection between family, school and community.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is proud to have provided financial support to a number of community stakeholders through the Room Occupancy Fee and looks forward to providing future updates.

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<th>Mohawk Higher Education</th>
<th>Johnson O’Malley</th>
<th>Generations Park</th>
<th>Summer Internships</th>
<th>Cultural Tourism</th>
<th>St. Regis Mohawk School PTO</th>
<th>Adult Mohawk Language Immersion</th>
<th>Salmon River Mohawk Club</th>
<th>Akwesasne Boys &amp; Girls Club</th>
<th>Close-Up Student Program</th>
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*As of 6/30/2017

Note: Amounts have been rounded off
Shé:kon Sewakwé:kon Akwesashró:non, including those living in Akwesasne, surrounding communities and far away,

To say that the past few weeks has been an intense time would be an understatement. I thank all of our Mohawks; voting or non-voting; living on, near or away from Akwesasne for being part of our community. I also thank all family members, whether they are Mohawk or not, for contributing to the families of Akwesasne. Everyone contributes in some way to the success of our community and for that I say Niawen:kówa.

There were ten candidates running for the positions of Tribal Chief and Tribal Sub-Chief this year, which is a great turnout of people who all have the same good intentions. There were many common and some differing ideas, but everyone had the same ultimate plan — to contribute to our community with their positive ideas. All of the candidates treated each other with fairness and respect; which resulted in a campaign season that stayed clean, positive and respectful. Niawen:kówa to all candidates for your professionalism and for your willingness to be an elected leader; as it takes a lot of courage to walk up to a stranger’s home and open yourself and your family to public scrutiny.

I have truly enjoyed and greatly appreciated my time serving as your Tribal Sub-Chief for the past six years, but there comes a time to take the natural progression and go from Sub-Chief to Tribal Chief. There was a plan when the community first elected me as Tribal Sub-Chief that we could have changed, but I was elected to follow that plan and have not detracted from it.

There were no promises made during the campaign, but I make one now — to do the best job I can every day for the community of Akwesasne. What I do will be good enough for some Akwesashró:non and might not good enough for others, but it will be done for the best interest of the entire community. I promise to assist our community in the best way possible through the teamwork of Tribal Council; Chiefs and Sub-Chiefs, along with support staff.

With that promise, there are commitments. Commitments to our community moving forward include:

1. To adhere to the Tribe’s 10-Year Strategic Plan and ensure all decisions/TCR’s are based on at least one of the five core directions

2. To further our relations with the Seneca Nation of Indians and expand the depth of our joint initiatives to include other sovereign nations throughout Indian Country

3. To continue to educate, advocate and represent Akwesasne and the rights of all sovereign nations in dealings with federal and state representatives regarding gaming, economics, education and the power of all tribal nations working together to develop infrastructure; while protecting our environment and our people

4. To continue empowering our community members who serve on the Tewathahon:ni Board of Directors and the tribally owned LLC’s — Mohawk Gaming Enterprise, Mohawk Networks, and Akwesasne TV — in economic decisions that will benefit our entire community and our future generations

In closing, please join me in thanking Tribal Chief Ron Lafrance Jr. for his 12 years of community service to Akwesasne. Ron has volunteered countless hours at community events and tribal functions, selflessly sharing his and his family’s time with our community. Niawen:kówa Ron for serving our community as our Tribal Chief and Tribal Sub-Chief.

Tribal Chief Michael Conners
The construction of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s new Administration Building got underway on March 10, 2017 and provides opportunities for Mohawk companies and local laborers to contribute towards improving our community’s infrastructure. Located beyond the Tewathahitha Walking Trail at Generations Park in Akwesasne, the new building serves as the latest example of the Tribe’s 10-Year Strategic Plan being implemented by enhancing the effectiveness of tribal government and continuing to develop its capacity as a service delivery organization.

The new Administration Building will be a 54,700-square-foot facility that will serve as the central operation for the tribal government’s programs and services, including the Tribal Clerk’s Office. With the assistance of local subcontractors and Mohawk workers, it will include energy efficient features that tribal staff and community members will enjoy when it’s completed in September 2018. It will replace the existing Community Building, which will be demolished due to numerous deficiencies and safety concerns to make room for the future expansion of the Tribe’s Health Services and to improve parking and access to Route 37.

Designed by Beardsley Architects and Engineers of Malone, New York; the new facility incorporates alternative energy sources and energy conservation measures to help reduce electrical consumption and overall operational costs; such as geothermal heating and cooling systems, as well as the usage of solar panels. To incorporate these energy saving measures into the building’s construction; Bette & Cring of Watertown, New York was selected as the project’s General Contractor after submitting a successful bid that demonstrated appropriate experience on projects of similar scope and agreeing to comply with the Tribe’s Native Preference Policy.

Pursuant to TCR #2012-35, the General Contractor is obligated to incorporate at least forty percent (40%) skilled Mohawk workers in the project’s workforce, which includes utilizing qualified Mohawk Sub-Contractors. To ensure the Mohawk employment threshold is met, the Tribe’s Compliance Department visits the project site on a weekly basis to verify the number of Mohawks through visual observation and periodic audit of payroll records. Tribal member Dewey Thompson was also hired as “Clerk-of-the-Works,” or the Tribe’s daily on-site supervisor,
to ensure the project is completed in accordance with approved drawings, specifications, budget and schedule; Tribal Safety Officer Adrian McDonald conducting random safety checks and attending Bette & Cring’s weekly safety meetings.

The first three months of the building’s construction began with development of the project site with the help of Mohawk subcontractor—Lazore’s Construction. Lazore’s crew devoted eight weeks clearing the wooded lot and excavating the grounds in preparation for future phases of the construction project. They worked through wet conditions; as the local company removed soil, boulders, and other debris to expose the natural bedrock for work to begin on the building’s foundation. Lazore’s also assisted in making the project site safe for workers and patrons of the Walking Trail by placing an orange construction fence around the site’s perimeter.

With the help of Mohawk workers, the next step entailed the placement of steel rebar in preparation of concrete being poured for the foundation’s footers. That footers were completed in May 2017, which also included construction of the concrete stairwell and concrete walls for the fire-proof room that will contain tribal records. These are two initial structures that community members were able to observe rising from the construction site at the beginning of the summer.

In July 2017, Mohawk ironworkers will be employed from Iron Workers Local 440 to begin the placement of exterior steel framing for the building’s structure. Local 440 is one of the most recognized and respected iron worker unions due to the large number of Mohawks that comprise their ranks. Members of their union previously helped erect the steel at the Travis Solomon Memorial Lacrosse Box, also located at Generations Park. When the structure is completed, a “Topping Off Ceremony” will be held following the installation of the building’s last piece of steel to recognize their contribution.

The building’s shell will be completed during the fall of 2017 to keep out the elements and for work to commence on the inside. This phase of the project will provide additional employment for Mohawk workers, tradespeople and other contracting opportunities for local subcontractors; including utilizing Mohawk Networks, LLC to install network cables and provide internet technology.

To date, seven Mohawk laborers have been employed to work on the new building, with the project anticipated to last until fall 2018. Additional opportunities for individual laborers and companies may be found by visiting the Akwesasne Employment Resource Center at the corner of St. Regis Road and State Route 37, or check out their website at www.myaerc.org.

The Tribe looks forward to providing more updates as the project continues, as well as to share opportunities to collaborate with Mohawk companies on further development of our community. ♦

This aerial view above Generations Park shows the new Administration Building in its early stages of construction, with the concrete structures that will serve as the building’s elevator and tribal records room visible. When completed in late-2018, the 54,700-square foot building will house the main offices for tribal administration, Tribal Council, and other tribal divisions and programs, as well as serve as an Emergency Operations Center.
Recent fish sampling at the General Motors (Central Foundry Division) Superfund site (GM) has shown that there continue to be elevated levels of PCBs in fish. As a result, the EPA is developing a multi-phased approach to evaluate the current environmental conditions in the St. Lawrence River adjacent to the GM site. The first step in the process was a diver-assisted inspection of the underwater stone and gravel cap which was placed in one area of the St. Lawrence River system and is designed to isolate residual contaminated sediment that could not be dredged from the river.

**When and how will the inspection be performed?**

On Monday, June 19, the EPA mobilized a boat and divers to the St. Lawrence River near the GM site. The inspection team included the EPA and U.S. Fish & Wildlife experts and skilled divers. Diving began late on Monday and continued through the end of the week. Divers followed north - south transects, set 25 feet apart to view the entire 300-foot x 250-foot cap.

**What is the focus of the inspections?**

The main focus of the inspection was to evaluate the integrity of the multilayer sediment cap in the St. Lawrence River. The divers looked for any deficiencies in the armor stone of the cap, areas of sediment accumulation, and generally observed habitat and underwater plant and wildlife populations.

**Will any additional sampling or studies be performed?**

This cap inspection will be followed by additional sampling, including fish sampling, in late summer in the waters adjacent to the GM site, as well as downstream in Tribal waters.

**Is it safe to eat fish from the St. Lawrence River and other nearby waterways?**

The EPA recommends that all residents be aware of and follow the fish consumption advisories established by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). More information about the NYSDOH fish advisories for the St. Lawrence Valley Region is available at [https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/regional/st_lawrence.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/regional/st_lawrence.htm).


Contact for more information:

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Environment Division
518-358-5937 ext. 119
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Environment Division Receives National Award

By Aimée Benedict, Publications Manager/WebMaster

In Onerahtobkó:wa/May 2017, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Environment Division was recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) based on three achievements from Exchange Network grants received since 2002: first tribal agency to join the ranks of Exchange Network partners with nodes on the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (2002); first tribal agency to establish a node and submit Air Quality System data (2015); and first agency to submit air quality data via the cloud, which improved upon the former system by having the EPA pull data from a staging area (2017).

“Being a member of the Exchange Network Program has allowed the Tribe to strengthen our government-to-government relationship with the EPA by providing tribal air quality data that contributes toward better decision on environmental and health issues,” shared Environment Division Assistant Director Les Benedict. He added, “Along with the national award, the Environment Division recognizes the efforts of Tom Lake, Aimée Benedict and Marlene Thompson for their exceptional work in establishing a node on the National Environmental Information Exchange Network and providing timely environmental data.”

The Exchange Network is revolutionizing the exchange of environmental information and is a new approach that is providing instant access to higher quality data while saving time, resources, and money for partnering agencies. The Network is continually looking for ways to improve decision-making processes by obtaining and providing better environmental and health data.

Matt Leopard, Director for the EPA’s Office of Information Management, commended the Environment Division on their achievements in recognizing Division Director Ken Jock, stating “Ken Jock, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Environment Division Director for 29 years, has been the guiding hand behind the Tribe’s involvement with the Exchange Network (EN) since their first grant proposal in 2002. This early commitment to the EN helped define the business case for tribal engagement with the Network and led to the SRMT being the first entity in the country to implement an Air Quality System (AQS) data flow via the Exchange Network. Ken’s well-informed and calm engagement with Region 2 has helped us here develop a respect for the Tribe and the Mohawk tradition of being of good mind.”

The Environment Division’s Network/GIS Administrator Tom Lake (right, bottom) traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to accept EPA’s recognition award.
Section 502 Partnership Delivers New Homes to Tribal Members

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

On Ohiari:ha/June 9, 2017 the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Rural Development once again celebrated their joint effort to provide new homes in the Akwesasne community, with the planting of maple trees for three new homeowners: Cynthia Jacobs, Brittany Martin and Mitchell Jacobs. It was the latest result of a partnership agreement between the Tribe, the Akwesasne Housing Authority (AHA), and the USDA to provide low-income financing through the Section 502 Direct Single Family Home Ownership Loan Program.

“This all started with the joint efforts of USDA representatives, Brian Murray and Jennifer Jackson, who began a dialogue with Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Human Services employee, Heather Durant, who sought to assist a client with his dream of owning his own home. As conversations advanced, AHA was brought into the picture, and on July 27, 2011, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Officials and the US Department of Agriculture’s State Director, Jill Harvey, was signed,” shared Tribal Sub Chief Shelley Jacobs. “On June 20, 2015, Heather’s client’s dream came true, which was the spark needed to ignite the dream in others. Since that time, nine homebuyers have been assisted with their USDA 502 loans.”

In 2015, the AHA expanded their services and brought on former USDA employee, Mary Keenan, part time to provide assistance to community members with their Section 502 applications. As a result, the AHA sought training, and was approved as an official USDA 502 packaging agent. “This further made secured lending possible here in Akwesasne; it has helped members of our community secure housing loans which are difficult to obtain here as our lands do not typically qualify as collateral. Thanks to this collaborative effort homeownership opportunities are available and individual dreams of homeownership has become a frequent reality,” remarked Shelley.

Following the June 9th tree plantings, USDA’s Regional Area Director Brian Murray commended the Tribe and AHA for their efforts in helping tribal members become homeowners, stating, “It is wonderful to see the new homeowners and their families wearing such happy faces. It is especially gratifying knowing that the partnership between the Tribe, the Akwesasne Housing Authority, and USDA RD has made such a positive impact on their lives.”

Tribal Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs, USDA Acting-State Director, Scott Collins, the AHA, and members of the mortgage processing team were on hand for the event and participated in the tree
Cynthia Jacobs (center in blue) and her dog Chopper; with (from right) Akwesasne Housing Authority Housing Loan/Resource Specialist Mary Keenan, USDA Rural Development Area Director Brian Murry, USDA Acting-State Director Scott Collins and USDA representatives.

Danielle Tarbell and Mitchell Jacobs.

plantings, which has been conducted for the past two years to welcome homeowners and celebrate the completion of another new home in Akwesasne. Also joining in the tree plantings were three new homeowners who each shared their own excitement and appreciation in owning their own home.

“I couldn’t have done it by myself,” shared Cynthia Jacobs as a tree was planted at her home, as her dog Chopper sat by her side. “Mary at Housing and Amanda at USDA were very helpful. It was a lot of work, but it has finally paid off and I’m [moved] in and very happy.”

The Akwesasne Housing Authority directly works with applicants in completing their application, so when financing is forwarded to USDA’s Rural Development Program, everything is in order and it can be processed quickly. The AHA is a certified USDA 502 Direct Loan packager and have become an instrumental part in helping community members to get into their homes sooner.

The Section 502 Direct Single Family Housing Loan Program assists low and very low income applicants in obtaining decent, safe and sanitary housing. For more information on the application process, please email Mary Keen at MKeenan@aha-nsn.gov or call (518) 358-9020 extension 124.
Division Update:
Planning & Infrastructure Reports ‘Big Four’ Projects
Nearing Completion

By Tsiorasa Barreiro, Executive Director

At the Enniska/February 2015 Tribal meeting, members of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Planning & Infrastructure Division and the Executive Director’s Office provided a presentation on four community infrastructure projects that needed improvements, including financing options and projected timelines. The projects were prioritized due their impact on the overall health and safety of community members, tribal staff and the general public.

In the subsequent months, extensive planning and dialogue took place between the Planning & Infrastructure team and other management staff as the projects commenced, with some being completed. The following is being shared as an update on each:

1. Waterline Replacement Project: Entailed replacement of approximately 21,000-linear feet of 8” community water main along State Route 37 from Wild Bill’s Convenience Store in Hogansburg to Sweet Flag and Mohawk River in Rooseveltown. This project was undertaken from Ohiarí:ha/June–Seskehó:wa/September 2016 and replaced an aging and failing infrastructure, as well as added forty-three (43) additional fire hydrants to meet current safety standards and the increased number of community households and businesses. Total cost of the project was $1,682,000.

2. Planning & Infrastructure Building Project: Construction began in Seskehó:wa/August 2016 and was completed in Ohiarí:ha/June 2017 through a BIA grant and a USDA low-interest loan. The new 11,600-square-foot building provides modern, safe and healthy work space for the P&I staff, including two large garage bay areas for construction equipment and repairs. As part of the project, the former P&I building on Gray Street will be demolished and returned to an open grass lot. This lot will become a public access point for the St. Regis River and a picnic area. Total cost of the project was $2.6 million.

3. Tribal Administration Building Project: (please see ‘Strategic Plan Update’ also contained in this issue.) This project is currently underway and will provide modern, efficient and safe working and meeting space for Tribal Programs and visiting community members. Full details of the project can be found in the Onerahtohkó:wa/May 2017 edition of the Kawenni:ios newsletter. Following the completion of this project in Seskehó:wa/September 2018, the current Tribal Community Building will be demolished for a proposed expansion of Health Services Building and parking lot. Total cost of this project is $14.5 million, which is financed in a 30-year fixed-rate, low-interest mortgage.

Pictured are (from left) P&I Construction Manager Brent Herne who gave an overview of the road extension project to tribal member and NYSDOT-worker Vernon “Pooch” White during the December 15th public meeting.
4. **Business Park Road Expansion Project**: In conjunction with the new Tribal Administration Building Project, Business Park Road (the road to the Seniors’ Center and Tewathah:ita Walking Trail) will be extended from its current end point at the Diabetes Center for Excellence to McGee Road. The new road will be named ‘Margaret Terrance Memorial Drive’ to recognize her generosity in donating the land for the creation of Generations Park and other Tribal facilities. It will include a six-foot-wide sidewalk, a shared-use bicycle lane, solar street lights, cross walks and a traffic-actuated light at the State Route 37 intersection. This project will be sent to bid in fall of 2017, with an expected construction start date of late-spring 2018. The road project was presented to the community at Monthly Tribal meetings on Enniska/February 6, 2016 and Seskehórwal/September 10, 2016. A special community meeting was held on Tsiothóhrha/December 15, 2016; where the project engineer and Planning & Infrastructure personnel shared the details of this project and solicited feedback from the community. The SRMT Environment Division posted a 30-day public comment period for the Environmental Assessment on Ohiaríha/June 6, 2017.

For further information on the above projects, please contact the Planning & Infrastructure Office at (518) 358-4205 or look for updates to be provided at upcoming Monthly Tribal meetings, on the tribal website at www.srmt-nsn.gov or follow the Tribe on Facebook.
Cyberbullying refers to using technology to harass or bully someone. Computers and cell phones are the most current tools used to conduct cyberbullying through email, instant messaging, web pages and digital photos.

Forms can range in severity from cruel or embarrassing, rumors to threats, harassment or stalking. It can affect any age group; however, teenagers and young adults are common victims. Cyberbullying is a growing problem in schools.

Why has cyberbullying become such a problem?

The relative anonymity of the internet is appealing for bullies because it makes tracing the activity more difficult. Some bullies also find it easier to be more vicious because there is no personal contact. Information or pictures posted online or forwarded in mass emails can reach a larger audience faster causing more damage to the victims.

Cyberbullying may also indicate a tendency toward more serious behavior. While bullying has always been an unfortunate reality, most bullies grow out of it. There is evidence that it may be an early warning for more violent behavior.

How can you protect yourself or your children?

• *Teach your children good online habits* - Explain the risks of technology and teach children how to be responsible online. Reduce their risk of becoming cyberbullies by setting guidelines for and monitoring their use of the internet and other electronic media.

• *Keep lines of communication open* - Regularly talk to your children about their online activities so that they feel comfortable telling you if they are being victimized.

• *Watch for warning signs* - If you notice changes in your child’s behavior, try to identify the cause as soon as possible. If cyberbullying is involved, acting early can limit the damage.

• *Limit availability of personal information* - Limiting the number of people who have access to contact information or details about interests, habits or employment reduces exposure to bullies that you or your child do not know. This may limit the risk of becoming a victim and may make it easier to identify the bully if you or your child are victimized.

• *Avoid escalating the situation* - Responding with hostility is likely to provoke a bully and escalate the situation. Depending on the circumstances, consider ignoring the issue. Often, bullies thrive on the reaction of their victims. Other options include subtle actions. For example, you may be able to block the messages on social networking sites or stop unwanted emails by changing the email address. If you continue to get messages at the new email address, you may have a stronger case for legal action.

• *Document the activity* - Keep a record of any online activity (emails, web pages, instant messages, etc.), including dates and times. In addition to archiving an electronic version, consider printing a copy.

• *Report cyberbullying to the appropriate authorities* - If you or your child are being harassed or threatened, report the activity. Many schools have instituted bullying programs, so school officials may have established policies for dealing with activity that involves students. If necessary, contact your local law enforcement. Law enforcement agencies have different policies, but your local police department or FBI branch are good starting points.

By Austin Swamp, Computer User Support Specialist
Kawennì:ios Newsletter Celebrates 100th Edition!

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

Wá'tkwanyohneraton,

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Communications Department is proud to announce that this edition of Kawennì:ios (Good Words) marks our 100th edition of the tribal newsletter. True to its name, our department continues to take honor in sharing with readers all of the wonderful work that the Tribal Council, divisions, programs and individual employees are doing on behalf of the Akwesasne community.

Though its look has changed over the years, we continue to strive and include in each issue regular departments and articles of interest from throughout the entire tribal organization. In doing so, every issue contains a comprehensive reporting to help readers learn how we are all “Working Together Today to Build a Better Tomorrow.”

We take great effort to include in each issue of Kawennì:ios something of interest for all — from examples of collaborative community development with the involvement of tribal members on community oversight committees to spotlighting individual employee efforts to enhance the effectiveness of governmental services.

We are proud that the newsletter continues to provide an opportunity for the tribal organization to share our communal efforts to ensure that every tribal member is provided the opportunity to enjoy a healthy and prosperous future. With that, we hope to publish many many more…

On behalf of the Communications Department, we extend our appreciation to those who have helped produce Kawennì:ios over the years — including its previous Editors: Leslie Logan, David Staddon, Benjamin Herne, and Allyson Doctor; Publications Manager: Aimee Benedict; Production Assistants: Adrianne Jacobs, Kyrie Ransom, Breanne Herne and Alyson Thompson; and Student Interns: Meghan Smith, Thomas Jock Jr., Laurie Thompson and Montana Adams.

Niawen:kówa,

Brendan F. White
Director of Communications/Editor ♦

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

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Brendan White, Director/Editor Aimée Benedict, Publications Manager Alyson Thompson, Production Assistant Montana Adams - College Career Intern
Program Snapshot:
ECDP Bus Fleet Received Perfect Grade from NYSDOT

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP) is committed to the safety of our children—whether they are students in their facility or as passengers on their buses. As a result of this commitment, the program takes immense pride and determination to ensure the best services are provided—including transportation.

In accordance with New York State’s Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Regulations, a licensed mechanic must perform maintenance and repair defects every 30 days to meet their strict standards for buses. To verify their performance, the NYSDOT sends an inspector to the Salmon River Central School District every six months to perform an inspection.

The inspector grades each bus on a point system and give a passing or failing grade at the end of the inspection. If a bus does not meet the NYSDOT requirements the bus may be taken off the road and red flagged. When this happens, it removes a mode of transportation that parents and students depend on every day until the necessary repair is made, which is an added cost to the program’s overall operational costs.

Around the month of March, NYSDOT sends a report card to every bus operator in the State with their passing and/or failing performance history. Each operator required to maintain their buses and receive a passing grade of at least 90 percent. A failure rate of 25 or higher means strict penalties for the bus operator.

The ECDP is proud to announce it has received a passing grade of 100 percent for each of its four (4) buses. This shows a strong commitment to excellence by SRMT Mechanic Gordon McDonald and ECDP Transportation Coordinator Robert Tatro. Collaboratively, these two men strive to ensure our buses are in tip-top shape at all times to transport our community’s most precious cargo to Head Start every day.

“To achieve a 100% pass rate for our buses is a remarkable achievement. Even though we maintain a small fleet of buses, we take immense pride in the great work that is demonstrated by our employees,” shared Stephanie Cook, SRMT Director of Education.

ECDP continues to show a commitment to safety and excellence for their students. You can rest assured that children are riding on a bus that is safe and well-maintained.

Congratulations Gordon, Robert and our bus transportation staff on a job well done!
On Onerahtohkó:wa/May 25, 2017, a select group of junior high students from the Salmon River and Massena School Central Districts visited the New York Power Authority in Massena, NY. The visit was part of a two-day workshop offered through a collaboration between the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Johnson O'Malley Program and NYPA aimed at spurring a student’s interest in energy-related fields.

Students were welcomed by Kaela Mainsah, Manager of NYPA’s Environmental Justice and Sustainability Program, and Sarah Lorya, Education Outreach Manager. The group started with an ice-breaking session as they enjoyed refreshments. Afterward, they began taking part in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) workshop as they learned about the transfer of energy, which required students to partner in conducting five different experiments.

The workshop’s afternoon session wrapped up with students exploring NYPA’s Hawkins Point Visitors Center — taking in the various displays and learning about Queen Elizabeth II’s 1959 visit during the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

On Onerahtohkó:wa/May 26th, the students returned to work on experiments at the newly renovated Robert Moses Nature Center, renamed the Judge Eugene L. Nicandri Nature Center. Students worked on larger projects that offered an introduction to renewable energy, wind turbines and solar power.

One project entailed students creating their own wind turbine designs and testing them to see which one generated the most power. They also created their own batteries using household items — proving that many materials, including fruit, hold various amounts of energy.

During lunch; Akwesasne local Noah Bero, NYPA Electrical Planner, dropped in to talk about his career and how he was able to find work right out of college. Kaela also offered her story about how she came to work for NYPA and the hard work it took to become the professional that she is today.

In the afternoon; students had an opportunity to create their own solar cars, which despite overcast, they were still able to test with the aid of a heat lamp. They found that various angles and proximity to the car’s solar panel caused them to go faster, slower, and even in reverse!

The student’s visit to the New York Power Authority concluded with a group-selfie for NYPA’s twitter page (@NYPAenergy) and taking took home many experiences, but most importantly, a sense of what being an engineer is like.

The Johnson O’Malley Program thanks the NYPA facilitators for their time and hopes to continue its collaboration in hopes of encouraging more students to learn pursue a career in an energy-related field.

The New York Power Authority recently held a two-day Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) workshop for students from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Johnson O’Malley Program to help spur interest in energy-related fields.
Honor an Akwesasne Veteran with an Engraved Memorial

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

With the public unveiling of the Akwesasne Veteran’s Memorial Monument at Generations Park on Onerahtoká:wá/May 27, 2017; the project is now transitioning into “Phase 2” of its completion. The project’s next stage allows individuals to purchase an engraved brick or a plaque in memory of an Akwesasne veteran.

For $50 (U.S.), 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. The engraved memorial provides an opportunity to have a veteran’s name forever enshrined at the Akwesasne Veteran’s Memorial Monument, with additional veteran’s name costing $25 each.

The number of orders will determine if the memorial will consist of an engraved brick or plaque however, individuals are being encouraged to order now and reserve space. 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 to Courtney Jacobs in the Office of the Executive Director. A completed order form and payment can also be mailed to:

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
C/O Akwesasne Veteran’s Memorial Monument
412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, NY 13655

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 more information, please contact the Tribe’s Communications Department by calling (518) 358-2272 or email communications@srmt-nsn.gov.

Members of the Sons of the American Legion Post #1479 assisted with the unveiling of the Akwesasne Veteran’s Memorial Monument; as legionnaires helped recognize past, present and future Akwesasne veterans as they served as color guards.
Tribal Sub-Chief Cheryl Jacobs spearheaded a community effort to build an veteran’s memorial that was appreciated with a salute from veterans in attendance on May 27th.

Akwesasne Mohawk Legion Post #1479 Commander Mike “Goon” Cook introduced military veterans, including Akwesasne Mohawk Code Talker Levi Oakes (WWII), to help place a wreath at the veteran’s memorial during its unveiling.

Tribal Chief Eric Thompson shared words of his uncle former-Chief Paul Thompson being approached by David “Ed” Benedict to create a memorial to commemorate Akwesasne veterans; including Barney Rourke and Jack Leaf who also placed a wreath with the assistance of legionnaires Curtis White and Randy Conners.

Photos courtesy of Akwesasne TV
If you have been to the Akwesasne Veteran’s Memorial Monument at Generations Park, you may have noticed some coins lining the slabs. If you haven't gotten around to googling it, here is what they mean.

Leaving coins on the headstones of those who served in the Military, especially those who died in combat, dates back at least as far as the Roman Empire.

The practice became especially popular in the United States during the Vietnam War because of the political climate throughout the 1960's & 1970's. Friends of those who died in combat left coins to let family members know that someone had visited the gravesite. Leaving a coin on the headstone was more practical than contacting the family & risk becoming involved in a discussion about the war. This practice has more recently been adopted at memorials and monuments.

Generally speaking, a visitor who did not know the deceased well enough to be considered a friend might leave a penny. Someone who went through boot camp or a training class with the deceased might leave a nickel. A friend who served in another platoon within the same company might leave a dime. A buddy who served in the same outfit, or was the deceased when he died, might leave a quarter.

Some Vietnam Veterans left coins as a “down-payment” to purchase a beer or play a hand of poker when he was eventually re-united with his deceased buddy.

No matter what the original intention of the coin-leaver may be, it seems clear that a coin left on a headstone or memorial is a symbol of remembrance and respect.

The coins left on the memorial will be collected by park staff from time to time and used to maintain the grounds.
Das Auto-Volkswagen

By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager

The VW scandal erupted in 2015 when Volkswagen admitted that it had installed “cheat devices” on diesel-powered cars from 2009 through 2015. The devices enabled the vehicles’ engines to emit substantially fewer pollutants during emissions tests than during normal road use.

The uproar involved nearly 600,000 cars in the United States, including about 71,000 in California, and 11 million Volkswagen vehicles worldwide.

The automaker also has a website, vwcourtsettlement.com, with details about the settlement and instructions for people who own or lease affected cars. Terms of the settlement and a list of the vehicles involved also are available at on the court’s website.

The settlement “is an important milestone in our journey to make things right in the United States,” Hinrich Woebcken, Chief Executive of Volkswagen Group of America Inc., said in a statement.

Owners of certain 2-liter diesel cars made by Volkswagen in the model years 2009 through 2015 will receive $12,500 to $44,000 from the automaker to buy back their cars, depending on the model. Leases of those vehicles may be terminated without penalty, and leaseholders also may seek cash payments.

Drivers who want to keep their cars can have VW modify their vehicles to meet emissions standards — once that method is approved by the California Air Resources Board and the Environmental Protection Agency. Federal officials said such a modification does not yet exist, although the company is working on a fix.

Regardless of whether they choose the buyback or modification, owners will receive a cash payment of at least $5,100 and as much as $10,000, depending on the model.

An allocation of over $50 million has been set aside for all tribes to use for eligible mitigation projects. This is the first time federally recognized tribal governments have been specifically included in a major nationwide class action settlement.

Ok, so what does this mean for Akwesasne? Well, we can tap into these funds. There are very specific things you can do though. This settlement is meant to reduce the impact to communities from Nitrogen Oxides from heavy duty diesel sources. This can be large trucks that make deliveries, school or transit buses and can also include charging infrastructure for zero emissions passenger vehicles. There is a list of eligible mitigation actions.

NOx pollution contributes to the formation of harmful smog and soot, exposure to which is linked to a number of respiratory- and cardiovascular-related health effects as well as premature death. Children, older adults, people who are active outdoors (including outdoor workers), and people with heart or lung disease are particularly at risk for health effects related to smog or soot exposure. Nitrogen dioxide formed by NOx emissions can aggravate respiratory diseases, particularly asthma, and may also contribute to asthma development in children.

The National Tribal Air Association (NTAA) has a workgroup that specifically disseminates information on this settlement.

If you have any ideas on what we can do with these funds, please contact me and we can discuss. The Tribe’s Legal Department has also been part of this workgroup so that we can tap into these funds to reduce the exposure from these harmful pollutants to make the community of Akwesasne cleaner for the next seven generations.
Tribal Council Resolutions (TCRs)
Enníska/February - Ohiari:ha/June 2017

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 2017-12 To Nominate Tribal Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs to the HUD Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee

TCR 2017-13 To Apply to The Secretary of the Interior to Place Land Into Trust Status Pursuant to 25 US 465 and to Proclaim Such Land Reservation Pursuant To 25 USC 467

TCR 2017-14 To Approve the SRMT Court to Seek Funds from the Dept. of Justice Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation

TCR 2017-15 To Re-Appoint Brandon Michael Smoke as Tribal Gaming Commissioner

TCR 2017-16 To Grant an Easement of Right of Way for River Road, Cook Farm Land, Frogtown Road, Helena Road and Church Street.

TCR 2017-17 To Update the Indian Reservation Roads Inventory and Long Range Transportation Plan

TCR 2017-18 To Approve the Elders Benefit Working Group Terms of Reference and to Appoint Group Members

TCR 2017-19 In Support of Environment Division to Accept Funding from the BIA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

TCR 2017-20 To Appoint Additional Members to the Elders Benefit Working Group

TCR 2017-21 To Delegate Signing Authority for Checks, Grants, Awards, Funding Agreement, Modification, Amendments and Contracts

TCR 2017-22 To Appoint Election Board Member (Theresa Connors)

TCR 2017-23 To Support the Designation of the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls

TCR 2017-24 To Adopt Undated Ambient Air Standards on the SRMT Reservation

TCR 2017-25 To Adopt the Prevailing Wage Rates of the Akwesasne Housing Authority

TCR 2017-26 To Authorize the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Dept. to Seek Funds from the BIA Indian Highway Safety Program for FY2018

TCR 2017-27 To Certify Public Involvement for the Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan

TCR 2017-28 To Reappoint Martha Montour to the Judicial Oversight Commission

TCR 2017-29 Ambient Air Standards on the Saint Regis Mohawk Indian Reservation-Amended

TCR 2017-30 In Support of Application to the Indian Community Development Block Grant

TCR 2017-31 To Adopt a Non-Member Exclusion Policy

TCR 2017-32 To Support Economic Development Seek Funding from NBRC Regional Commission Development of Construction Document to Build the Akwesasne Heritage Complex & Art Park

TCR 2017-33 To Authorize Participation in the Nationwide Elder Maltreatment Survey

TCR 2017-34 To Submit an Evaluation Application to LCF Incorporation LLC Administration for Community Living Administration on Aging Title VI Programs for 2017-2020 Funding.

TCR 2017-35 To Delegate Signing Authority for Checks, Grant Awards, Funding Agreements, Modifications, Amendments and Contracts ♦
1. Review of previous action items:
   1) Community member requested information on the future plans for the former IGA building. Ongoing
   2) Community member requested Tribal Council to check into the 1990 Cold Cases in Akwesasne. Ongoing Tribal Council will be meeting the New York State Police Senior Investigator later this month.
   3) Tribal Council to report on March Tribal Meeting motion from the floor: Karonienhawi Thomas moved that Tribal Council enacts 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. There are signs of the propaganda, is to be exploitive to all Akwesasne Elders and their needs. Exploitation of Elders is an assault to all Akwesasne Members. The Seniors Benefit is a great idea. Tactics by members should [be] dealt with lawfully and respectful. Moving forward such meetings [should] supply community meeting minutes; it was seconded by Kanerahtenhawe Jackson. Vote: In favor – 31; Opposed - 1; Abstained - 14. CARRIED
   4) Community member requested the Tribe work with National Grid to get a better rate. Ongoing Tribal Council has set a meeting in July with National Grid.
   5) Community member requested the Tribal Council find out where all the money is going to New York State from the Casino and exploring the Compact.

2. 10:05 am | Presentation | Heating Assistance Program
3. 10:15am | Presentation | Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department
4. 10:30 am | Presentation | Akwesasne Youth Council
5. 10:45am | Update | Elders Benefit Working Group
6. New Business
7. Review of Action Items
Seeding Share the Care™ in Your Community Training

We invite you to attend a full day Share The Care™ training for: health professionals; community leaders; faith based organizations; aging service providers; and social service providers to learn how to introduce the Share The Care™ model to your patients, caregivers and their concerned friends.

Share The Care™ guides ordinary people on how to create and maintain a “caregiving family” to help someone they know who needs assistance. You will discover how a group benefits everyone including the patient, the family caregiver, as well as the individual group members. The evidence-informed model can help regardless of the circumstance—whether someone is suffering from a long-term or terminal illness, disability, or facing the difficulties associated with aging. It’s all about community at its best!

Total Control for Home Care Instructor Training

Are your clients:
Always rushing to the bathroom?
Leaking when they laugh, cough, or sneeze?
Having difficulty sleeping through the night without rushing to the bathroom?

The Total Control Program is an evidence-based fitness and education program for pelvic health and bladder control. You will learn to teach behavioral and nutritional tips on how to reduce urinary frequency and urgency. You will also learn pelvic floor exercises that are important for regaining and maintaining bladder control. Total Control for Home Care is a 12-lesson program instructors can use one-on-one or in small group settings.

Potential instructors must have experience either as a fitness instructor, health care provider (i.e. occupational or physical therapist, nurse or nurse assistant, etc.), professional caregiver, or activity director at an adult residential or community center.

To receive instructor certification, the training participant must satisfactorily complete:
• Two (2) pre-course training modules
• Attend the entire instructor training session
• Demonstrate competency in teaching
• Satisfactorily complete a written exam.

Being held Thursday, July 27, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the SRMT Senior Center. Registration Deadline July 10, 2017. Call (518) 358-2963 ext. 3303 or email: tewentahawihtha.coled@srmt-nsn.gov.

Sheila Warnock, President of ShareTheCaregiving Inc. and co-author of Share The Care will arm you with the information and tools you need to empower people to take control of their own caregiving needs and reduce dependency on insurance and government programs. (see: www.sharethecare.org)

Join us on Thursday, August 24, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the SRMT Senior Center. Call (518) 358-2963 ext. 3303 or email: tewentahawihtha.coled@srmt-nsn.gov. Registration deadline is August 10, 2017.

Continuing Nursing Education Activity – 6.25 hrs.

This continuing nursing education activity was approved by the Northeast Multistate Division (NE-NSD), an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

To receive certificate, Nurses must attend the entire training and complete all required paperwork including a pass a quiz and complete required evaluation of the training.
**Calendar**

**Ohiaribkó:wa/July 2017**
1 - Annual Swearing-In Ceremony - 11:30 a.m. - Generations Park  
4 - Independence Day holiday - All tribal offices closed, AERC open  
5 - Blue bag pickup due to Tuesday holiday  
7 to 10 - Wellness Week Events  
8 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby  
11 - Social Security - 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. - Tribal Clerk’s Office  
12 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom  
- General Business Ordinance Meeting #3 - 5:00 p.m. - Lobby  
28 - Employee Appreciation Staff Picnic - All tribal offices closed, AERC open

**Seskéha/August 2017**
5 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby  
8 - Social Security - 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. - Tribal Clerk’s Office  
9 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom  

**Wednesdays -** Tribal Council Work Session - 9:00 a.m. - Executive Boardroom, Community Building

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**New Faces**

- Brianna L Tarbell  Human Resources  Human Resource Assistant  
- Michael Lazore  Individual Residential Alternative Habilitation Aide  
- Laura L Lazore  Education  Career Intern  
- Mary K Taillon  Health Service - Dental  Dental Hygienist  
- Karoniote S Fox  Health Service - Outreach  Home Health Aide  
- Katelynn K Delormier  Health Service- Business Office  Business Office Clerk  
- Amy F Smart  Accounting  Accounts Receivable Clerk  
- Owen Green  Tribal Gaming  Inspector  
- Linda M Benedict  Administration - Procurement  Travel Coordinator  
- Skye Gould  Intensive Preventive Program  Youth Advocate  
- Leland Herne  Health Service - Outreach  Outreach Driver  
- Mahlon Smoke  Health Service - Partridge House  Administrative Assistant  
- Meghan Smith  Health Service - Group Home  Youth Worker  
- Madelayne O Brown  Health Service - Outreach  Registered Nurse  
- Stefan Kuppek  Accounting  Budget Analyst  
- Lindsay A Day  Administration  Receptionist  
- Victoria Ransom  Education - Higher Education  Educational Specialist

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**Donations**

- Community - $ 17,000  
- Funerals - $ 5,000  
- Sports - $ 8,250  
- Education - $ 3,710
**Akwesasne Wellness Week - July 10 to 14**

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<th>Monday</th>
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<td>MCA &amp; SRMT Employee</td>
<td>Akwesasne Boys &amp; Girls Club Obstacle Course</td>
<td>Registration Community</td>
<td>Tai Chi &amp; Self Care</td>
<td>Canoe Safety for Kids 12-18</td>
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<td>Activity</td>
<td>Generations Park</td>
<td>Healthy Steps Walk</td>
<td>Generations Park</td>
<td>Sitting Bull</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Family Kickball</td>
<td>Heart Healthy Bingo for Seniors</td>
<td>Yoga in the Park</td>
<td>Tota &amp; Me Horseshoes &amp; Games</td>
<td>Blood Drive &amp; Outreach Activities</td>
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<td>Tournament</td>
<td>Office for the Aging</td>
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<td>Senior Center</td>
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<td>Generations Park</td>
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<td>information, mental health info and</td>
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<td>presentation at noon.</td>
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<td>4:00 p.m. Color Run</td>
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<td>10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. Pathway to Health</td>
<td>2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Family Yoga</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Families Relay Races</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m. Youth Fitness Bootcamp</td>
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**On the Cover:** Previous editions of Kawennì:ios adorn the cover of this newsletter as the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe celebrates its 100th edition to be published. Consistent with its name, the tribal newsletter continues to take honor in sharing with readers all of the good work that tribal leaders, divisions, programs and individual employees are doing on behalf of the Akwesasne community.