New Tribal Administration Building
Groundbreaking Ceremony

Working Together Today to Build a Better Tomorrow
May/June 2017
Greetings Akwesashró:non,

Spring has sprung, or we thought it did, but Mother Nature had something else in mind. Oh well, I hope this finds you all in good health anyway. With tribal caucus just around the corner, followed by our annual elections, we remind everyone to have a valid Tribal ID card, update any name changes and correct mailing and/or physical address prior to Election Day.

Now, just a friendly reminder of some things to please keep in mind from our office.

When applying for membership these are the items you will need: original birth certificate with Mohawk parent(s), make sure the front and back of the application is all filled out with four generations of Akwesasne Mohawks, correct mailing and/or physical address, working phone number; if born in Canada, provide the long-form Canadian birth certificate that shows Mohawk parent(s) name on it. There is a processing fee of $20.00 that needs to be paid at time of submission. If something is missing your application will be returned to you, which will make the process longer. New applications can take four to eight weeks to be processed.

Should you need a new Tribal ID card, they are $10.00 and is good for five years. At this time, we will update your information and picture. If you live out of the territory, we have a renewal form we can send to you. We encourage people to update their file every five years when you renew your card.

In January, we implemented our on-call surveyors. There is a new packet we would like everyone doing a new deed to fill out. The cost to utilize this service is $100.00 and must be paid when you hand in your forms. Two (2) acres will be surveyed for residential parcels only, no commercial parcels will be surveyed. The cost includes your deed.

Kelly Smith, Social Security representative comes to the Tribal Clerk’s office every second Tuesday of the month. She now has new hours: 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. When coming in to either apply for a new card or a replacement, please have all your paperwork with you, such as: proper identification and original birth certificates. If you were born in Canada, you need to have your long-form birth certificate, as well as your Tribal ID card and a letter showing your blood quantum (50%). If you are filling out a form for a child 12-years of age and older, they need to be present. If you are changing your name you need to have supporting documentation showing the name change.

Jury Duty letters can only be done for those tribal members who reside on the territory.

Lastly, the Tribal Clerk’s Office pulled resources together to compile data to display the range of tribal members that reside across the United States, as well in Canada. As of March 31, 2017; our enrollment number is at 15,639. We do have some members in other countries, which may be incorporated in a future version of the map. The map is available for print by contacting Paul Doxtator at (518) 358-2272 ext. 2183 or e-mail at paul.doxtator@srmt-nsn.gov.

The staff all wish you good health and happiness.

Betty Roundpoint, Tribal Clerk
Summer Bero, Tribal Deputy Clerk
Terry Cree, Records Clerk
Paul Doxtator, GIS Technician
The Tribal Clerk's office pulled resources to display the range of Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal member residences across the U.S. and Canada. The numbers are limited to what is reported and subject to fluctuations over time.

The number of tribal members living in each state is displayed in the upper corner of each state or there's an arrow connecting the number to the state if space doesn't allow. Also included is census data on the number of all Native Americans living in each state displayed as smaller red text at the bottom of each state or with said connected arrow based on space.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne most likely have their own numbers, especially on the Canadian side. The map indicates the sense of Mohawk influence in other areas of the U.S. as all 50 are represented, as well as most of Canada. Florida leads the way outside of New York with 274 calling it home. Next is California at 223. Arizona, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Virginia and Michigan are the only ones that top over 100 members each. The total number known to date of SRMT members outside of New York is 2,132. There are members that even live in other countries of the world. That may be incorporated in a future version of the map.

The map is available for print or e-mail upon request. Contact the Tribal Clerk's office by phone, (518) 358-2272 ext. 2183 or by e-mail, paul.doxtator@srmt-nsn.gov.
Benefits of Gaming:
Community Partnership Fund Gives Back to Akwesasne

In 2004, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe established the Community Partnership Fund to distribute contributions from its gaming enterprises and Pepsi-Cola to support tribal member’s initiatives, organizations, events or other non-profit causes in the community. It has supported athletic programs and academic competitions, annual events and important community gatherings, Mohawk language and cultural programming, trainings and development, elder’s programs and services, and hardships and emergency expenses.

For the donation, recipients are required to give back to the community through community service with a local organization or event of their choosing. Individuals or groups can volunteer during the annual roadside cleanup, winter carnival, Generations Park, Ohero:kon – Rites of Passage, or at any of the elder care or recreation facilities located in the community’s northern portion, to name just a few.

Applications for the Akwesasne Community Partnership Fund are available at the main reception desk in the Community Building Lobby.

Below is a listing of community organizations that received contributions from the Tribe’s Community Partnership Fund on Onerahtókha/April 5, 2017:

Tribal Council provided its third annual donation of $20,000 to support this year’s Ohero:kon Rites of Passage. The contribution represents the Tribe’s ongoing efforts to help strengthen Mohawk culture and identity, which is a universal principle identified in its 10-Year Strategic Plan. Ohero:kon is a four-year traditional rites of passage ceremony that has been revived to help adolescents transition into adulthood by strengthening them spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically. Participating in the check presentation were (from left) fourth-year Ohero:kon participant Lucas Beeson (age 17), Tribal Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs, Tribal Sub-Chief Cheryl Jacobs, fourth-year Ohero:kon Lead Auntie Karakwino Tina Square and Ohero:kon Lead Uncle Tehawisoron Kenny Perkins.

A contribution of $24,580 was made for the Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department (HAVFD) to
purchase equipment and parts for a Hurst Hydraulic Rescue Tool (a.k.a. Jaws of Life). The donation represents the Tribe’s ongoing commitment to utilize proceeds from its gaming enterprises to assist the fire department in ensuring a healthy and safe community. Pictured above are (from left) HAVFD Fire Chief Clinton Jacobs, Tribal Sub-Chief Michael Conners, Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance, Tribal Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs, Tribal Chief Beverly Cook and Tribal Sub-Chief Cheryl Jacobs.

The volunteer committee for the Akwesasne Veterans Memorial Monument Fund (AVMMF) received $5,000 from the Community Partnership Fund for the project’s completion. The monument will be publicly unveiled at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 27th at Generations Park to commemorate all Akwesasne veterans that proudly served in any branch of the United States or Canadian Armed Services. Joining in the check presentation were (from left) American Legion Post #1479 Commander Michael Cook, Sons of the American Legion Treasurer Lawrence Swamp, Sub-Chief Michael Conners, Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance, Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Phillip Tarbell, Tribal Chief Beverly Cook and Sub-Chief and AVMMF Committee Chairperson Cheryl Jacobs.

Sewakatho; a safe and nurturing place for continued sobriety; received a $7,500 contribution from the Community Partnership Fund to support their Family Empowerment Camp being held from Ohiahirikó:wa/July 28th-30th. Located at 281 State Route 37 in Akwesasne, the facility welcomes individuals recovering from drugs or alcohol and provides them with a safe, sober and supportive environment. Pictured are (from left): Heather Jacobs, Sub-Chief Michael Conners, Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance, Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs, Debra Martin, Tribal Chief Beverly Cook and Sub-Chief Cheryl Jacobs.

Now in its seventh year, the annual Kids for Fishing continues to be a much-anticipated event that allows 50 Akwesasne youth each year to fish and learn alongside professional anglers. First envisioned by Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police (SRMTPD) Corporal P.J. Burns and Constable Norman King in 2011, youth between the ages of 10-17 years old are randomly selected to participate, with ten spots reserved each year for children with special needs. Pictured above during the presentation of $5,000 from the Community Partnership Fund are (from left) SRMTPD Corporal P.J. Burns, Sub-Chief Michael Conners, Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance, Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs, Tribal Chief Beverly Cook and Sub-Chief Cheryl Jacobs.
**Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP)**

At a community meeting held in March 2016, Ernie Thompson and Brent Herne gave a presentation on the transportation program, priority list, control schedule, and funding allocations for roads. At this meeting, they received comments and feedback from community members that was used to update the priority list, control schedule, and eventually the TTIP. Under 25 CFR 170.422 of the roads program, public involvement is required in the development of the TTIP.

The SRMT Planning and Infrastructure Department (P&I) announces the draft updates to TTIP for 2017. The TTIP is a prioritized list of transportation projects that the Tribe expects to undertake over the next three to five years based on the funding that it expects will be available during that time. SRMT’s allocation for 2017 is approximately $1.2M.

The current SRMT draft TTIP projects include River Road, Cook Farm Lane, Helena Road/Church Street, Frogtown Road, Tarbell Road, Beaver Meadow Road, Ransom Road and Pump House Road. SRMT remaining allocations will be used for road maintenance and construction of these roads.

A copy of the current draft TTIP can be obtained at the P&I Building located at 12 Gray Street, Akwesasne, NY 13655, former HAVFD fire station. Questions or comments on SRMT's draft TTIP can be submitted to the P&I Department at their building between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or by calling (518) 358-4205. Deadline to submit comments is Friday, May 12, 2017.

**TTIP is different from the Tribal Priority List, which contains all transportation projects the Tribe would like to complete if money were not a limiting factor.**

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**Mother Earth Eggs**

Available at: Akwesasne Mini Mart, all three Bear’s Den locations, both Twin Leafs stores, Speedway Convenience and Three Feathers Internet Cafe.

*Eggs from happy, healthy chickens cared for by Akwesasne youth.*

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

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**Connect with us...**

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The Growing Stronger Program is a national evidence-based, community exercise program that aims to help men and women, age 60 years and over, to improve their overall well-being. The program began in 2003 with the development of the StrongWomen Strength Training Program curriculum and StrongWomen workshops that trains women to become program leaders. In 2014, Cornell Cooperative Extension Franklin County gave the program a local name of Growing Stronger to help increase participation by both men and women.

Research indicates that strength-training programs, like Growing Stronger, are a safe and effective way to maintain the ability to do the things and remain independent. The benefits of muscle-strengthening activity extend beyond the muscles. Muscle-strengthening activities assist in maintaining balance, reducing the symptoms of arthritis, lower risk of many chronic diseases associated with aging, and help to strengthen bones. Other benefits include improved sleep quality, a healthy state of mind as indicated by less reported depression and improved self-confidence and self-esteem.

Growing Stronger includes progressive resistance training, balance training, and flexibility exercises. Classes typically have eight to twelve participants and last approximately 45-60 minutes. The curriculum includes two sets of resistance training routines, each with eight to ten exercises that can be used within the program. Both routines begin with a five to ten-minute warm up that may include walking, marching, or light calisthenics, e.g. toe touches. The resistance training exercises work all of the major muscles groups, utilizing a combination of dumbbells, adjustable ankle weights, and body weight. Classes conclude with a five to ten-minute cool-down that includes upper and lower flexibility exercises.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Franklin County and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Office for the Aging have partnered together to provide the Growing Stronger Program in Akwesasne. The first series held in Akwesasne was in 2014 from September through December. Given the program’s success, they are resuming the training session this year for enjoyment of adults ages 60 years and over.

The Growing Stronger Program classes meet twice a week, for 12 weeks. There is at least one day in between classes to allow for muscle recovery. All exercises are non-impact and can be modified to chair exercises. Light dumbbells, ankle weights, and exercise mats are supplied to every participant. All participants are encouraged to bring water, but are supplied with water when needed.

Classes begin May 2nd and continue until October 19th, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m., in the sunroom at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Office for the Aging. If you are interested in obtaining more information, please do not hesitate to contact Tewentahawih’tha Cole, Office for the Aging Health Promotion Programs Manager at (518) 358-2963 or email tewentahawihtha.cole@srmt-nsn.gov.
Akwesasne Business Feature: Akwesasne Tourism Project Hires Three New Employees

By Mary Lafrance, Economic Development Program Support Officer

The Akwesasne Tourism Working Group (ATWG) was established to facilitate cultural tourism efforts from community groups and organizations. The ATWG developed the Akwesasne Tourism Strategic Action Plan (ATSAP), which outlines the overall goals and intentions of an Akwesasne tourism industry. In November 2016, it was announced the ATWG would receive $2 Million over five years to promote tourism, employment opportunities and economic development in Akwesasne. The project is called Creating Akwesasne Tourism Industry Businesses & Jobs and has allowed for the creation of three new tourism positions within the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Office of Economic Development (OED).

“This initiative is about community development first,” explained Lindsay M. Tarbell, OED Economic Development Planner, Project Director, and Chair of the ATWG. “We will work under our guiding principles: ‘Akwesasne tourism respects, protects and preserves our natural environment for seven generations; We will work with Akwesashronon on tourism development that strengthens our quality of life, language, culture and heritage’.”

Penny Peters is the new Tourism Industry Development Manager and she will be responsible for developing an Akwesasne destination marketing plan and creating cultural tourism guidelines that are respectful of community and culture. In her previous employment with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne as the Economic Development Community Planner, she was responsible for completing the Comprehensive Community Plan.

Joining Ms. Peters as the Tourism Business Incubator Manager is LaToya Rourke. Ms. Rourke developed her previous role as Tourism Coordinator for the Experience Akwesasne Welcome Centre. Her knowledge and skills will be influential in her new role of supporting tourism businesses at all stages of development — from start-ups to expansions.

Gail McDonald completes the tourism team as the new Akwesasne Heritage Complex Project Developer. She has held the previous position as Executive Director of First Nations Government Center located in Ottawa, Ontario. Mrs. McDonald has also played a key role in past Akwesasne facility development projects, including: Kanonhkwar’sheri:io, Iakhihsoththa, Tsionkwanonhso:te, and the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Expansion Project. Her skills and expertise will be beneficial in her new role to provide oversight into the development of a new Akwesasne Heritage Complex and Art Park at the recently decommissioned Hogansburg Dam site.

Funding for the project is provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Native Americans, Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Strategies Program. The Akwesasne Tourism Office is located at the Akwesasne Business Center – Suite 101 (447 Frogtown Road) and can be reached by calling (518) 358-4238. ♦
The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Akwesasne Cultural Restoration (ACR) Program announced the latest recipients of settlement funds to support cultural projects in the Akwesasne Community. The Akwesasne Freedom School’s Language Nest, Akwesasne Cultural Center, and Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment will each receive $100,000 in Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Settlement monies to support their work through the end of 2018.

“I am pleased that deserving groups within our community have been awarded funding to help their efforts to restore and strengthen the Mohawk language and our cultural connection with the environment,” said Tribal Chief Eric Thompson, who also serves as the Tribal Council’s representative on the Akwesasne Cultural Restoration Commission. He noted, “Our language is intrinsically linked to the traditional teachings associated with many of our natural resources.”

On January 4th, a final community callout was made for cultural projects from existing institutions, programs, and individuals involved in Mohawk culture. Thirty-three proposals were received that pertained to various cultural practices; such as hunting, trapping, horticulture, traditional foods, medicine, plants, healing, fishing, river use, basketmaking, and language.

The proposals were ranked by five members of the ACR Commission; who include Dr. Taiaiake Alfred, SRMT Environment Division Director Ken Jock, and three members of the program’s administrative staff. They were ranked based on ten sets of criteria that examined their history, community reputation, record of success, community involvement, project goals, correlation to ACR goals, budget, time period, methods for evaluation, project benefits, support of NRDA mandates, transmission of knowledge to future generations, and promotion of Mohawk language.

“The overall goal of the ACR Program has been seeking opportunities to promote the restoration of cultural practices within the Akwesasne community, including the preservation of the Mohawk language and basketmaking,” said ACR Program Manager Barbara Tarbell. She emphasized, “The incorporation of Mohawk language is an overarching priority identified by the community and is applied to everything we do. I am pleased the three community groups awarded funding make language and cultural education a vital part of their work.”

In response to being announced as one of three community groups named a recipient of cultural restoration funds, Akwesasne Cultural Center – Museum Program Coordinator Sue Herne shared, “I’m excited to see the

The Akwesasne Cultural Center will implement a project to support Mohawk language and transmission of language to future generations through signage, brochures, and technology throughout Akwesasne. Signage will be used to educate the community and increase our shared Mohawk vocabulary about businesses, rivers, medicinal plants, trails, traditional foods, and many other local places of interest. Pictured are (from left) ACR Office Manager Amberdawn LaFrance, Akwesasne Cultural Center–Museum Program Coordinator Sue Herne and Akwesasne Cultural Center Director Glory Cole.
The three community groups will join three institutions previously awarded four-years of NRDA funding in 2013 to promote Mohawk language and traditional cultural teachings; which includes Thompson Island Youth Camp, Healthy Heart Raised Bed Garden Project, and Kana’stiohareke Mohawk Community. All six projects are funded through the end of 2018.

The Akwesasne Freedom School Language Nest will continue providing immersion daycare services that provide a safe, healthy, family oriented place that fosters Mohawk language and cultural education. They will provide children with Mohawk culture and values through activities, healthy eating, consistent routines, storytelling, singing, and interaction with other AFS students and elders. Pictured are: (back row, from left) Kanerabhtens, ACR Office Manager Amberdawn LaFrance, Emma Shenandoah, and Amalli Nalli. (front row, from left) Tekanohntaken, Iehahserenba, Kabnawakeniate, Kanerabhtenthe, Rowenrenkehteb.

The Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment will implement community workshops for maple teachings, sap collection, seed sharing, Haudenosaunee seed collection, starter plants, black ash tree workshops, basketmaking, fruit trees, orchard maintenance, apple workshops, and Mohawk language curriculum development.

Pictured are Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment Representative Tehawisoron Kenny Perkins and ACR Office Manager Amberdawn LaFrance.
The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s lobbying firm, Bolton-St. Johns (BSJ) has helped lobby New York State on several issues important to the Tribe; including land claim settlement, Hogansburg Triangle policing jurisdiction legislation, new NY Broadband Program funding proposal for Mohawk Networks and Native American pupil education funding legislation.

Bolton-St. Johns partner and chief Albany lobbyist Giorgio DeRosa and his team focused their efforts on the State’s Executive Chamber, Legislature, Gaming Commission and various state agencies on the following issues during the 2017 legislative session thus far:

• Organized land claim settlement negotiations between the New York State Gaming Commission, local Villages, Towns and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
• Met with Rachel Small, Deputy Secretary for Public Safety and Dan Moynihan, Assistant Counsel at New York State Police on possible legislation expanding state authority policing jurisdiction to tribal police
• Assisted, Mohawk Networks award of $5,996,010 in grant funding from Governor Cuomo’s New NY Broadband Program Round II. Awards went to 14 projects in the North Country. These awards will provide 12,349 homes and businesses with access to high-speed broadband for the first time, and leverage $8.4 million in private matching funds – bringing the total public-private investment in the North Country to $40 million in Round II
• Worked with Legislature to reintroduce in both houses, A. 1519 (Russell) /S. 3512 (Ranzenhofer) related to aid to school districts educating Native American pupils.
• Continuing to work with the Legislature to permanently expand the authority of the Saint Regis Police to include a specific area of Franklin County, outside of the state-recognized boundaries of the Saint Regis Indian Reservation to the area commonly referred to as the Bombay Triangle. ♦
SRMT Breaks Ground on New Administration Building

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

On Onerabtókhal/April 24, 2017; the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe held a formal groundbreaking of a new 54,700-square-foot Tribal Administration Building at 71 Business Park Road in Akwesasne, New York. When completed in September 2018; the three-story building will house tribal offices, provide parking for 225 vehicles, as well as serve as an Emergency Operations Center.

“This is an historic and much-anticipated moment for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, as well as for the community of Akwesasne,” stated Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance on behalf of the Tribal Council. He noted, “After four decades of growth in Akwesasne, we are proud that the new Tribal Administration Building will enhance our community’s infrastructure and strengthen our ability to be deliver essential services.”

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. As a result, deficiencies exist that prevent any further renovations without significantly disrupting tribal services to the community; such as inadequate heating and cooling systems, inefficient building insulation, limited access to natural light, and lack of sufficient egress, to name a few.

“As an employer, the Tribe has the responsibility to ensure the well-being of our workforce by providing a healthy and safe work environment,” said Executive Director Tsiorasa Barreiro. He added, “The existing building is nearing the end of its practical use and we are proud that the new Tribal Administration Building will help enhance the effectiveness of tribal government by improving the public’s access to tribal programs and government offices at one convenient location.”

The project site for the new Tribal Administration Building will be located on approximately seven-acres at Generations Park in Akwesasne; which is also the location of the Tribe’s Office for the Aging, Tribal Police Department, Tribal Court, Diabetes Center for Excellence, Travis Solomon Memorial Lacrosse Box, Tewathahitha Walking Trail, and several recreation and athletic fields. The site will be easily accessible for visitors, with a sidewalk connecting the walking trail to promote exercise and improve the overall health of tribal staff and guests.
Current Community Building Deficiencies

- Inadequate HVAC system
- Lack of sprinkler system
- Energy inefficiency
- Inadequate life safety egress
- High maintenance costs
- Lack of handicap accessibility, no elevators
- Inadequate parking and traffic congestion
- Difficult access to and from Route 37
- Inadequate fire separations

On Onerahtókha/April 24, 2017, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe held a formal groundbreaking of a new 54,700-square-foot Tribal Administration Building in Akwesasne, New York. Participating in the groundbreaking were (from left) Vice-President of Operations for Bette & Cring Construction Group Howard Cring, USDA Rural Development Acting-State Director Scott Collins and Northern Region Area Director Brian Murray, Tribal Chiefs Beverly Cook, Eric Thompson and Ron LaFrance, Beardsley Architects and Engineers Vice-President Barry Halperin and Executive Director Tsiorasa Barreiro.

Executive Director Tsiorasa Barreiro (right) explains the new building’s safety features and other improvements to Akwesasne TV correspondent Kevin Lazore and Indian Time Editor Marjorie Skidders.

Beardsley Architects and Engineers Vice-President Barry Halperin (right) looks on as USDA Rural Development Acting-State Director Scott Collins shared his pride in partnering with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe on another important infrastructure project for the community of Akwesasne.
Draft Probate Code

Questions & Comments

Submitted By the Office of General Council

In accordance with the 2013 Tribal Procedures Act, three informational meetings were recently held to discuss a draft probate code, which will establish a formal process for settling a deceased individual's estate in the Tribal Court system.

Representatives from the Tribal Court and the Office of the General Counsel provided copies of the Draft Probate Code and received feedback during informational meetings held in the Community Building Lobby on March 20th, April 3rd, and April 17th. They also made copies available at the main reception desk and on the website at www.srmt-nsn.gov.

Following the three informational meetings, the Tribal Council has 30 days to review and consider comments on the proposed ordinance, which includes providing responses in preparing a final draft. Set forth below are some “Frequently Asked Questions” that were provided at the community meetings:

Q-- What is a Probate Code?
A--It is a “law” (sometimes called a code, an ordinance or statute) that governs how a person's assets (land, personal property, money, etc.) are to be handled after they die.

Q-- Why is the Tribe proposing this new Code right now?
A--Right now, the way the Tribe has been handling these matters is a bit confusing. The Tribal Council has been approving or appointing administrators to a person's estate. And, at the same time, the Tribal Court has been also approving or appointing administrators and making decisions on the ultimate disposition of a person's estate.

The Tribe (Court and Council) want to standardize this practice by having all such matters go through tribal court.

Q-- Why does it take a 27-page document to do that? Can't you just have a TCR that says all “probate” cases must go to tribal court?
A--Good question. In addition to transferring all probate cases to tribal court, this Code also pulls together in one place all the “rules” and “procedures” that will apply to the probate of a person’s estate. Chapter 3 of the Draft Code sets forth the procedure to follow when a tribal member or non-member spouse dies without a Will. Chapter 4 contains the process for probating an estate when there is a Will. If you go to Section 4.4 (p. 19) there is a process for delivering the Will to the person named as “Executor” under the will and providing a copy to the Court. Thereafter there is a process for a petition to be filled.

Other Sections have rules that deal with handling “small estates”, inventory of assets, requirements for a valid Will, revocation of a Will, duties of an administrator and other matters.

Q-- Does the Code apply only to Tribal members?
A--It applies to tribal members but also applies in the case of a non-member spouse of a tribal member who happened to reside here and has personal assets located here.
Q-- Does that mean that a non-member can inherit reservation land?

A--No. Under the Code and under tribal law only tribal members can own reservation lands. If the non-member is surviving spouse of a member, he/she may get a “life estate” so they can live out the rest of their life on the reservation.

Q-- Does the Code apply New York State law? What about tribal law and customs?

A--It is not New York state law. What has been developed is a systematic process to ensure an orderly transfer of assets. There is a section that recognizes tribal law and the recognition of distribution through the traditional Longhouse laws.

Q-- Does a tribal member have to go through court to “probate” an estate? If my father dies can I just do it myself?

A--Technically there is no requirement under law that a person’s estate must be probated. However, if the estate is not probated and properly distributed, this will have consequences such as: issuance of a deed to the property, titled to the property and assets going to heirs, etc. This would impact a person’s ability to get a loan, a HUD home or even utility hook-ups, among other things. Therefore, it is recommended.

Q-- Are there time limits for probating an estate? If my father died 10 years ago and his estate has not been probated can I do it now?

A--There are no limits although it is recommended that it be done right away to avoid the issued identified in the preceding Answer.

Q-- Does this mean I need to have a Will? Am I better off with a Will? What if I do not have many assets? Just Life insurance?

A--It is always preferable to have a Last Will and Testament. That way you have control over who gets your property and assets after you die.

Q-- Why do people need to probate an estate?

A--Banks, DMV, insurance policies need a court order to turn decedent’s property over to the estate so it can be distributed to the heirs. The probate process also ensures that everyone has fair notice of the proceedings.

Q-- Who can be an administrator and what does an administrator do?

A--It can be a person the entire family agrees upon, someone who is willing to work with the court to ensure the estate is distributed. The administrator does an inventory of the estate and reports it to the court, works with the heirs and the court to develop a distribution plan, notifies court of any creditors and makes payments to creditors when ordered to do so by the court, and distributes the estate according to the court order.

Once the final draft is completed, it shall be submitted to the Tribal Clerk, who shall issue a final thirty (30) day notice to tribal membership that the ordinance is being presented for final action.
**Tribal Caucus Scheduled for May 6th**

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Election Board will be holding the annual Tribal Caucus on Saturday, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 6, 2017. There are three positions open: one Tribal Chief, one Tribal Sub-Chief and one Traffic Court Judge.

The caucus will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the lobby of the Tribal Community Building, where the floor will be opened for nominations for each respective position. Nominees can accept or refuse the nomination at the time of the Caucus, or by the close of business on Wednesday, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 10th.

The ‘un-official’ list of all nominees will be posted by Friday, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 12, 2017.

In accordance with the Election and Referendum Ordinance, nominators must be an eligible voter and must:

1. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age,
2. Be an enrolled member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe,
3. Reside in the United States or in the U.S. portion of Akwesasne for at least six months immediately prior to the election and,
4. Have their name on the most current eligible voters list.

For more information on tribal election procedures and candidate eligibility, please visit the Election Board page on the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s website, at www.srmt-nsn.gov/government/committees/election_board, to download the Election and Referendum Ordinance.

All nominees must sign a release authorizing a criminal background check and are responsible for taking a drug test within three business days of the Tribal Caucus. The Election Board is not responsible for any nominee’s failure to meet this requirement prior to posting the unofficial list of candidates.

The Tribal Election will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, Ohiarí:ha/June 3, 2017 in the Community Building Lobby.

To verify your eligibility to vote, request an absentee ballot, or for questions or concerns regarding the eligible voter’s list, please contact the Tribal Clerk’s Office at (518) 358-2272. ♦

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**Chipping Program Applications Now Available at Forestry Resources**

The Environment Division’s Forestry Resources Program is resuming its seasonal chipping program designed to assist community members with their spring clean-up. The chipping project will be taking sign-ups beginning on Wetentawén’kies/Monday, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 1, 2017 at their office located at 449 Frogtown Road in Akwesasne, New York.

Chipping is the removal of dead and down trees, limbs and branches. This eliminates the need to burn and provides a safe and convenient way to get yards in shape for the summer months.

Elders and disabled individuals have priority and will be served first, although anyone can sign up. Individuals unable to visit the Environment Office can schedule a home visit by calling the program at (518) 358-5937.

Anyone participating in the program will be required to sign an access waiver before work is done on their property. The Tribe reserves the right to refuse service in situations where land ownership is questionable, but will conduct service when issue is resolved.

In the past, the program has assisted local cemeteries with clean up and removal of trees and branches and will do so again this year. ♦
The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is pleased to announce it is offering a free Hazard Tree Assessment Program for 2017. The purpose of the program is to assist the elderly and disabled with an assessment for the possible removal of hazardous trees.

Hazardous trees are defined as a tree with structural defects likely to cause failure of all or part of the tree, which could strike a “target.” A target can be a vehicle, building, or a place where people gather; such as a park bench, picnic table, street or backyard. Hazardous tree removal requires specialized training and equipment to ensure the safety of people and to prevent damage to property.

The project is very limited and signing up does not guarantee that service will be provided. Priority will be given to trees that pose imminent danger for elders (60-years of age and older) and the disabled.

Each site will be inspected to assess that a hazardous tree is present. Ornamental pruning and trimming will not be performed through these services.

The assessment process that the program will follow is:

1. Applications are received through sign-ups
2. Sites are visited by the Forestry Technician and trees assessed for hazard
3. Site reports are provided to the Director and Assistant Director with the Technicians recommendations
4. Sites are ranked according to technical criteria for hazards, with imminent hazards receiving the highest priority. Trees not considered a hazard will be removed from the list.
5. Sites are estimated by the Tribe’s contractor for cost of removal
6. Hazard trees are removed within limits of program budget

Hazard trees not addressed in 2017 will be re-evaluated in following funding cycles. The contractor will only perform work as authorized under their contract. Landowners will be financially responsible for any additional work requested of the contractor. Work sites will only be serviced once each year. A waiver and permission form must be completed and signed BEFORE work is done.

The community is reminded to never attempt tree removal on their own, especially if the tree is near power lines or buildings. If a contractor is called in, they should ensure that they are qualified and insured and provide a written quote before proceeding.

Hazard tree services must be requested in person at the Environment Division Office located at 449 Frogtown Road, Akwesasne, New York. If an elder or disabled person is unable to visit our office, the Forestry Program will arrange a home visit. Applications will be received throughout the year beginning Onerahtobkó:wa/May 1, 2017. Contact the Environment Division for more information at (518) 358-5937. ♦
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.

**Diabetes Center for Excellence Provides Free Fitness Classes**

Did you know that no appointment is needed to access the fitness room at the Diabetes Center? It’s true and there are a number of other free services available to help improve your overall health and wellness.

Several community fitness classes do not require any type of pre-registration; such as Body Works, After Hours Fitness, Public Fitness, Club Circuit, Water Aerobics and Supervised Swim. These classes are free and open to community members who are 18-years of age and older.

Only two classes require an appointment or assessment before beginning; Move for Health and Youth Fitness programs. Move for Health requires an initial appointment with our Nurse Case Manager to ensure we are providing you with the best care possible. Participants in the Youth Fitness program (ages 8 to 17-years old) will need to complete a fitness assessment prior to starting.

Please see our monthly fitness calendar for class times or feel free to call the Let’s Get Healthy Program located at the Diabetes Center for Excellence at (518) 358-9667.

**Outreach Medical Transportation**

Outreach Chronic Care Transportation service is available for Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal members registered with SRMT Health Service and residing within the southern portion of Akwesasne for medical appointments only.

Appointments outside of the Saint Regis Mohawk Health facility (i.e. Burlington, Plattsburg, Syracuse) must be accompanied by a referral from a provider. Patients are responsible for picking up their own referrals prior to transport.

Medical transportation is available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except during tribal and/or federal holidays on a “first come, first serve” basis.

Please call at least one and one-half weeks in advance of your appointment to schedule your transport. Every effort will be made to accommodate your transportation request, however, there will be no guarantee as all requests are, again, on a “first come, first serve” basis. If you are in need of transportation services, please call Lynne Thompson, Transport Coordinator or Erin Barnes, Receptionist at (518) 358-4877, Ext. 7193 or 7130. If no one answers, please leave your name, phone number, date, time and location of appointment, someone will return your call to confirm your transport.

**Therapeutic Massage Services**

The number of patients requesting appointments for massage therapy has increased over the past few years and space is limited. Two therapists are currently available at the Medical Clinic. Natalie Gibson LMT provides treatment aimed at various medical diagnoses. Patients are encouraged to perform exercises to remain pain free and maintain mobility.

Cubby Jackson LMT’s Therapeutic technique calms the body to stimulate its natural healing process. The body is capable of many disease-fighting abilities with assistance from healing hands.

Patients are also offered healthy preventative lifestyle ideas during their visits. To see if massage therapy is right for you, ask your primary care physician or contact the SRMT Health Service Medical Clinic at (518) 358-3141.
If your financial situation has changed significantly, you may request a review of your child support order for a possible modification. Either parent may request a support order modification however, documentation must demonstrate that the order changed by fifteen percent (15%) or if the child’s place of residency has changed.

If ANY of the following apply, you may qualify:

• Loss of job OR you have unemployed for at least 30 days, with the expectation this it will continue another 90 days
• Change in employment/income
• Incarceration
• Continuous change in custody and or/parenting time
• One or more children have emancipated or has or will be reaching the age of majority (21)
• Change in child-related expenses (child care, medical costs)

If you currently have a case with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Child Support Enforcement Unit (CSEU), or if you currently have a case with Franklin County or St. Lawrence County, please bring all court documents and paperwork and we can provide you information on how to request a modification on your New York State Child Support Order.

Please remember, the Tribe’s CSEU can’t change your order, but we can provide you with information and assist with the steps associated with filing a modification petition to the court in the following respective jurisdictions:

• Franklin County - Franklin County Family Court in Malone, NY
• St. Lawrence County - St. Lawrence County Family Court in Canton, NY
• SRMT - SRMT Tribal Court in Akwesasne, NY

The CSEU is providing a free Modification Assistance Workshop on May 4th and May 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at their offices located in the lower level of the Community Building at 412 State Route 37 in Akwesasne, NY. All necessary forms for initiating a modification petition will be made available for your convenience.

Please come join us to learn more or feel free to contact our office with any questions at (518) 358-2272 Ext. 2410. ♦
SRMT Tech Tips
What is File Sharing?
By Austin Swamp, Computer User Support Specialist

File sharing involves using technology that allows internet users to share files that are housed on their individual computers. Peer-to-peer (P2P) applications, such as those used to share music files, are some of the most common forms of file-sharing technology. However, P2P applications introduce security risks that may put your information or your computer in jeopardy.

What risks does file-sharing technology introduce?

Installation of malicious code - When you use P2P applications, it is difficult, if not impossible, to verify that the source of the files is trustworthy. These applications are often used by attackers to transmit malicious code. Attackers may incorporate spyware, viruses, trojan horses, or worms into the files. When you download the files, your computer becomes infected to your computer or enable them to attack your computer by taking advantage of any vulnerabilities that may exist in the P2P application. There are some P2P applications that can modify and penetrate firewalls themselves, without your knowledge.

Denial of service - Downloading files causes a significant amount of traffic over the network. This activity may reduce the availability of certain programs on your computer or may limit your access to the internet.

Prosecution - Files shared through P2P applications may include pirated software, copyrighted material, or pornography. If you download these, even unknowingly, you may be faced with fines or other legal action. If your computer is on a company network and exposes customer information, both you and your company may be liable.

How can you minimize these risks?

The best way to eliminate these risks is to avoid using P2P applications. However, if you choose to use this technology, you can follow some good security practices to minimize your risk:

Use and maintain anti-virus software - Anti-virus software recognizes and protects your computer against most known viruses. However, attackers are continually writing new viruses, so it is important to keep your anti-virus software current.

Install or enable a firewall - Firewalls may be able to prevent some types of infection by blocking malicious traffic before it can enter your computer. Some operating systems actually include a firewall, but you need to make sure it is enabled.
Meetings, Meetings and More Meetings...

_By Angela Benedict, Environment- Air Quality Program Manager_

This year already, I have been in my fair share of meetings. The first meeting was our year-end meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency. The Air Program gets all of its funding from the EPA so this is important that we show them all the cool stuff we do in Akwesasne. The second meeting was a conference by the Indoor Air Quality Association (IAQA). Our Air Quality Technician, Marlene, also attended this meeting. The last meeting, I attended, was the National Tribal Air Association Executive Committee meeting.

The IAQA meeting was four solid days of indoor air quality. Very exhausting, but definitely worth it. I attended sessions on ventilation systems, hoarding, indoor air concerns with ice arenas (or more about Zamboni exhaust), building and much more. An all-day, pre-meeting training was on identifying issues with classrooms and schools. The following days were about how to identify odors, how to clean up after 150 cats are removed from a home, what type of filtration on ventilation works best in bad air quality areas, how to get the best samples taken in a home, regulations, or the lack of, when it comes to indoor arenas.

Marlene attended a pre-conference training on _Diagnostics in Buildings with Suspected Disease_ as well as healthy homes assessment, risk characterization in homes, mold assessments, odors, volatile organic compounds and particulate data.

The next meeting was in Washington DC with the NTAA Executive Committee. Normally, the heads of the EPA air offices meet with us and we talk about things happening that may affect Tribal communities. Well, this year we met with some but not others. At that time, new budget deadlines were given and the offices of the EPA were scrambling to get them in. So we met with other agencies like US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the American Lung Association and the National Association of Clean Air Agencies. Now don't get me wrong, we did meet with some of the head airheads at EPA as well as some of the Tribal coordinators but with all the uncertainty of the EPA, not much could be said.

Right now, the future of the EPA and our Air Quality Program is unknown; we are forging ahead as usual. I have written and submitted new grant proposals to try and get more monies into our program to keep us going for Akwesasne. But, certain people at the wheel don't believe in climate change and don't believe there is a threat to our air or water or our way of life. It is uncertain.

The other meeting attended was the SRMT’s Strategic Plan meeting. This plan lists out the goals and objectives of the programs of the Tribe. The implementation of the strategic plan brings everything together so that our minds are one.

Traveling, especially to the places that we have gone, comes at a cost. Not only are we away from our offices but flights, hotels, food and other expenses can be expensive. Just so you know, my travel is paid for out of the NTAA budget for attending any of their events. The other two meetings attended were paid for out of funding the SRMT gets from EPA exclusively for the Air Quality Program. Currently, the Air Program does not get any funds from the SRMT TGF budget. We have been lucky to have enough funding from the EPA.

We gained a lot of information to help out the community of Akwesasne on indoor air quality issues, so give us a call at (518) 358-5937. So for now and the next seven generations let us not forget the reasons we do what we do… ♦
Agenda

1. Review of Previous Action Items:
   a. Community member requested information on the future plans for the former IGA building. Ongoing.
   b. Community member requested information on the Tribal Council eligibility for office.
   c. Community member requested report from LLC Boards.
   d. Tribal Council to report on February Tribal Meeting motion from the floor:
      Monica Jacobs made the motion that Tribal Council provide quarterly financial reports on the Akwesasne Soybean LLC and the Mohawk Networks LLC; seconded by Ruth Bell.
      Votes: In favor - 19; Opposed - 0; Abstentions - 10. Carried.

5. Presentation on Sewakwatho
6. Presentation on Native Connections
7. Tribal Council Travel Report
   Close Up Program - USET
8. New Business
9. Review of Action Items
10. Adjournment

Donations

Community - $ 43,330    Funerals - $ 2,000
Sports - $ 3,500         Cultural - $ 20,500

Jobs

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe: www.srmt-nsn.gov
Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort: www.mohawkcasino.com
Akwesasne Employment Resource Center (AERC): www.myaerc.org
Calendar

Onerahthohkó:wa/May
6 - Tribal Election Caucus - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
9 - Social Security - 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office
10 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom
13 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
27 - Akwesasne Veteran's Memorial Monument Ceremony - 2:00 p.m. - Generations Park
29 - Memorial Day holiday - All Tribal programs closed

Obiari:ha/June
3 - Annual Tribal Election - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Lobby
10 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
13 - Social Security - 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office
14 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom

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

New Faces

Jamie Benedict          CFS - Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation  Administrative Assistant
Kristen S Caldwell     Tribal Police                    Dispatcher
Dale E Cole            CFS - Three Sisters                Program Manager
Elan Conger            Health Service - Medical Clinic  Registered Nurse
Javan F Cook           Health Service - A/CDP              Prevention Educator
Kinderly S Dafoe       Education - Early Childhood      Home Based Coordinator
Roweren Lazore         Tribal Gaming                    Operator
Cecelia M Mitchell     Grants & Contracts                Grants/Contracts Officer
Geraldine White        Health Service - Partridge House  Admission Officer / Registered Nurse
Natalie H Leaf         Health Service - Outreach          Outreach Driver
James R Lazore         Grants & Contracts                Grants and Contracts Manager
Gail L McDonald        Economic Development                Akwesasne Heritage Complex Project Developer
David Tracy            Tribal Police                     Dispatcher
Marlane Logan          Health Service - Outreach          Home Health Aide
Latoya Rourke          Econimic Development                Tourism Business Incubator Manager
Arlene R Jock          Health Service - Outreach          Home Health Aide
Warren D Thompson      Planning & Infrastructure          Clerk of Works
Penny K Peters         Economic Development                Tourism Industry Development Manager
Kayla N Point          Education - Early Childhood        ECDP Substitute
Katrina Herne          Social Services - Traditional Support  Traditional Support Worker
Elizabeth M Thompson   Health Service - Outreach          Home Health Aide
Melissa M Ransom       Education - Early Childhood        Teacher Assistant
Angela M Olson         Social Services - Akwesasne Group Home  Youth Worker
Lorelei B Smith Miller  Health Service - Administration  Attorney
Falon Thomas           Administration                        Administrative Floater
All are cordially invited to the formal unveiling & dedication of the

AKWESASNE VETERAN’S MEMORIAL MONUMENT

Honoring Akwesasne’s Past, Present & Future Service Men & Women

Two o’clock in the afternoon on Saturday, the twenty-seventh of Onerahtohkó:wa/May, Two thousand seventeen
Generations Park, 545 State Route 37, Akwesasne, New York

Please RSVP your attendance by contacting the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Communications Department at (518) 358-2272 by 5/19/2017.

On the Cover: On Onerahtohkó:wa/April 24, 2017; the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe held a formal groundbreaking of a new 54,700-square-foot Tribal Administration Building at 71 Business Park Road in Akwesasne, New York. When completed in September 2018; the three-story building will replace the Community Building, which has reached the end of its practical use as office space following several renovations and alterations to address deficiencies over the past 40 years.