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Kawenní:ios



Staff Appreciation Day



Good Words of Welcome



Shé:kon Sewakwekon,

I am grateful to be writing the opening for this edition of *Kawennì:ios* as it is my distinct honor to serve the Akwesasne community. As your Sub-Chief, I am privileged to have the opportunity to work closely with the Akwesasne Housing Authority (AHA) as their Tribal Liaison. In August, I joined members of the AHA Board and their Executive Director Retha Herne at the 13th Annual Bar Harbor Housing Symposium hosted by Housing Management and Development Consultant Rick Mitchell. Tribes from United South & Eastern Tribes (USET) and the Great Lakes Region were represented; along with representatives from Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Native American Programs, Indian Health Service (IHS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Amerind. The conference covered current industry information, program guidance and presentations that showcased collaborative efforts among the various agencies.

On the same day, other Tribal Council members attended a breakfast hosted by Administration to recognize milestone anniversaries of tribal employees. Congratulations to all the honorees and thank you for your years of service to the community of Akwesasne (full story can be seen on page 26-27).

I am proud to report the Akwesasne Housing Authority, along with the Board of Commissioners, continues their efforts to address the housing needs of Akwesasne residents through the following projects:

- Expansion of the Sunrise Acres Entryway: AHA, in collaboration with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, will be expanding the Sunrise Acres entryway to make the entrance safer for our seniors, visitors and staff.
- Solar Remote Net Metering Initiative: AHA is undertaking work with the financial assistance of several funding sources to leverage funds for a solar project that will benefit AHA and other tribal capital projects. A designated site will be identified to expand AHA's existing capacity for solar generation and reduce electrical costs.
- Supportive Housing Projects for Our Veterans and Seniors: Two additional low-rental supportive apartment buildings are being planned within the Sunrise Acres complex through a partnership between Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and AHA.

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AHA has three resources for eligible families:

- HUD Section 184 Home Loan Guarantee Program
- USDA 502/504 Programs
- Native American Direct Loan Program from Veteran's Affairs

These programs have proven successful in providing mortgage financing.

Collaborative planning and other efforts are currently underway between the AHA and tribal leadership. There have been many positive developments and our combined efforts are bringing projects to fruition for the benefit of our community.

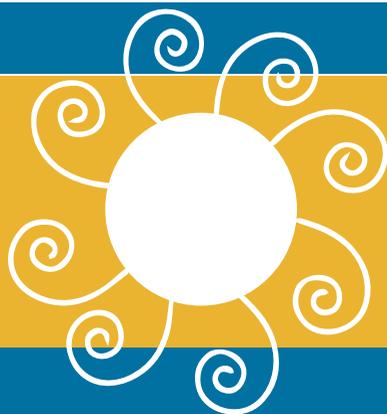
Lastly, please pay tribute to a worker on Labor Day - a holiday that reminds us that summer is over and a new school year begins. We ask all motorists to please be extra careful around the school buses when travelling as they hold our future generations.

Niá:wen,

Tribal Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs



Taylor Barnes (center) received financial assistance and a maple tree from the USDA Section 502 Direct Loan Program and became the first disabled Native American male to realize his dream of becoming a homeowner through the program. He also received assistance from USDA representatives in planting the tree at his new home on June 30, 2015.



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Akwesasne Business Feature: Big Boy's Gas & Tobacco

By Mary Lafrance, Economic Development Program Support Officer

Alex 'Big Boy' Garrow is no stranger when it comes to running a business. In fact, he has started several business ventures including a french fry stand that expanded into a restaurant, a clothing store called Big Boy's Streetwear and he also manages a series of rental units. But, for the past 18 years his main focus has been Big Boy's Gas & Tobacco located at 20 Raquette Point Road.

"We sell just about everything; a little convenience, a little cigarettes, all types of drinks from alcoholic to water," said Big Boy. Adding that his store only sells Native-made cigarettes because it supports local businesses and puts money back into the community. The store also features accessories; such as purses and sunglasses, fireworks and novelty gifts.

Big Boy attributes his keen business savvy to exceptional customer service.

"It can be challenging to keep the business moving forward and keeping up with the changes - new brands and new trends," says Big Boy. "That's where customer interaction comes in. If they ask, probably more want it."



Big Boy's Gas & Tobacco employees: (from left) Tyler Wilson and Angela Alaimo, stand with owner Alex 'Big Boy' Garrow in front of their wide selection of cigarette product.

"It's one of the only places that take credit cards and the prices are good!" said patron Scott Brown, a commercial compliance technician who stopped in at Big Boy's for tobacco products and gas. He said the customer service is good and would definitely recommend Big Boy's to others.

But, everything hasn't always been so cheerful. Two years ago, the business suffered a tremendous loss when a fire devastated the building. A loss that could have been greater if it wasn't for the outpouring of support from Big Boy's customers and employees that helped him relocate across the road and reopen within just an hour of the blaze.

For Big Boy, the reward is seeing customers come back happy and to see employees have a job that they like.

Big Boy's Gas & Tobacco is open 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., seven days a week. Look them up on Facebook or visit <http://www.AkwesasneBusinessDirectory.com>. ◇

Emergency Planning Hosts FEMA Disaster Training

By Sarah Lee Diabo, Emergency Planning Manager

On August 10-12, 2015, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) held a two-and-a-half day disaster assistance workshop and exercise at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort (AMCR). Hosted by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Emergency Planning Office, the session brought together key tribal staff; as well as federal, state and local emergency responders to discuss disaster response and recovery.

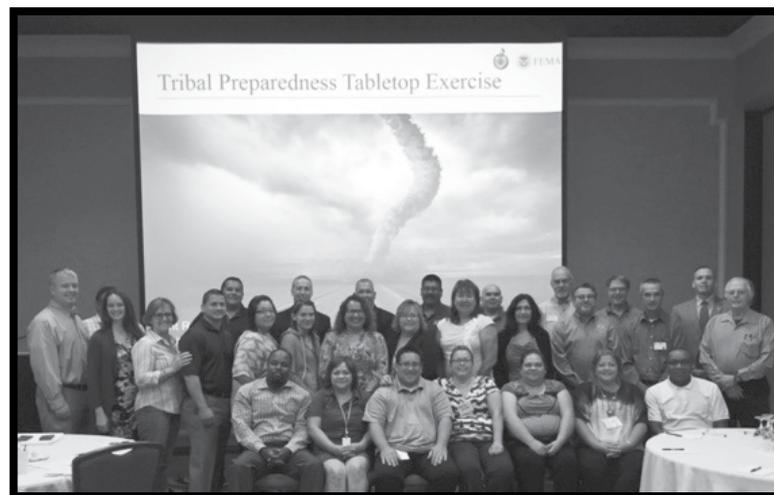
Newly-elected Tribal Sub-Chief Cheryl Jacobs participated in the workshop, along with representatives from the American Red Cross, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and New York State Office of Emergency Management. Together, they each took part in presentations and exercises on emergency preparedness.

The workshop included presentations from FEMA's Preparedness, Recovery, Mitigation & Grants Division. Participants were briefed on continuity of operations, individual and family preparedness and damage assessment, tribal declaration process, national disaster recovery framework and voluntary agency organizations, and donations management. FEMA representatives also gave presentations on the National Flood Insurance Program and Hazus, a model for estimating potential losses due to natural disasters.

One session was provided at the Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Station #1, where FEMA representatives discussed their Firefighters Grant Program. Attended by members of the HAVFD and the Bombay Fire Department, the session gave

an overview of three grants: Assistance to Firefighters Grants, Fire Prevention and Safety, and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response.

Tabletop exercises simulated a pandemic influenza to assist in the development of a continuity of operations plan, and the other focused on the impact of disasters and efforts to reduce loss of life and property.



Participants and instructors of the FEMA Disaster Training Workshop and Exercise hosted by SRMT's Emergency Planning.

The day's activities concluded with a tour of the Akwesasne Museum and Cultural Center. A boat tour was also provided by the Tribal Police and helped FEMA personnel to view the geographical and jurisdictional uniqueness of Akwesasne, which emphasized a cooperative response to emergencies that cross the international border to ensure the life, safety, health and welfare of the Akwesasne community.

Workshop organizers expressed appreciation to everyone involved in this important training session that helped identify essential functions of key stakeholders, emergency response plans and procedures, and the role in emergency management. Appreciation was also extended by FEMA Region II Administrator Jerome Hatfield to Rakwirahes Pembleton with the presentation of a Department of Homeland Security coin for his recital of the *Ohenton Karihwatekwen*.

Special appreciation was extended to Jeanine and Marshall Rourke for hosting a cookout with traditional cuisine at their pavilion following the boat tour. ◇

Program Update:

Three Sisters Program, Community & Family Services Division

By Carrie Marlow, Sexual Assault Advocate

When the Three Sisters Program is mentioned, some people think of a similar protective-services facility located on *Kawehno:ke* (Cornwall Island). This article was written to clarify and debunk such myths. We will discuss who we are, what we do and how to contact us.

Three Sisters oversees several programs; such as domestic violence, safe home and sexual assault advocacy for those who are in need of help while in and after a crisis.

Three Sisters also provides Safe Haven monitors for children to be transported and exchanged in a safe and non-confrontational environment. The court-mandated monitors give parents the ability to see their children in a supervised setting to support ongoing visitation.

Those who are in need of help and support can also receive services for any of the following situations: domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, harassment, human trafficking, exploitation, technology issues (social media and cell phones), work violence and Title IX.

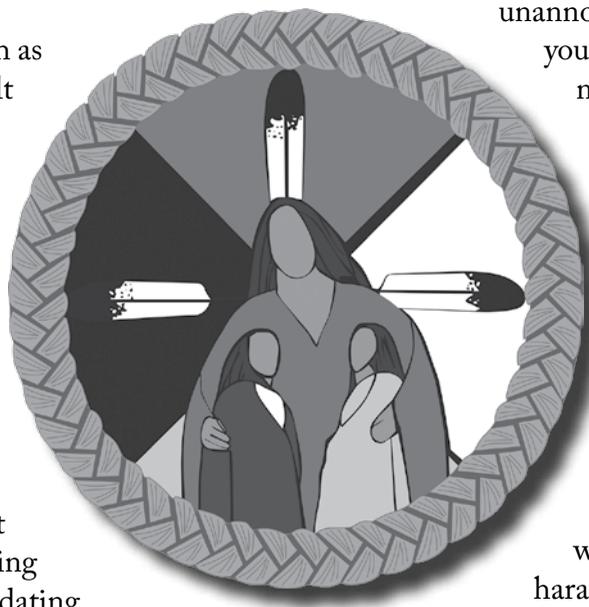
Let's define a few of these topics.

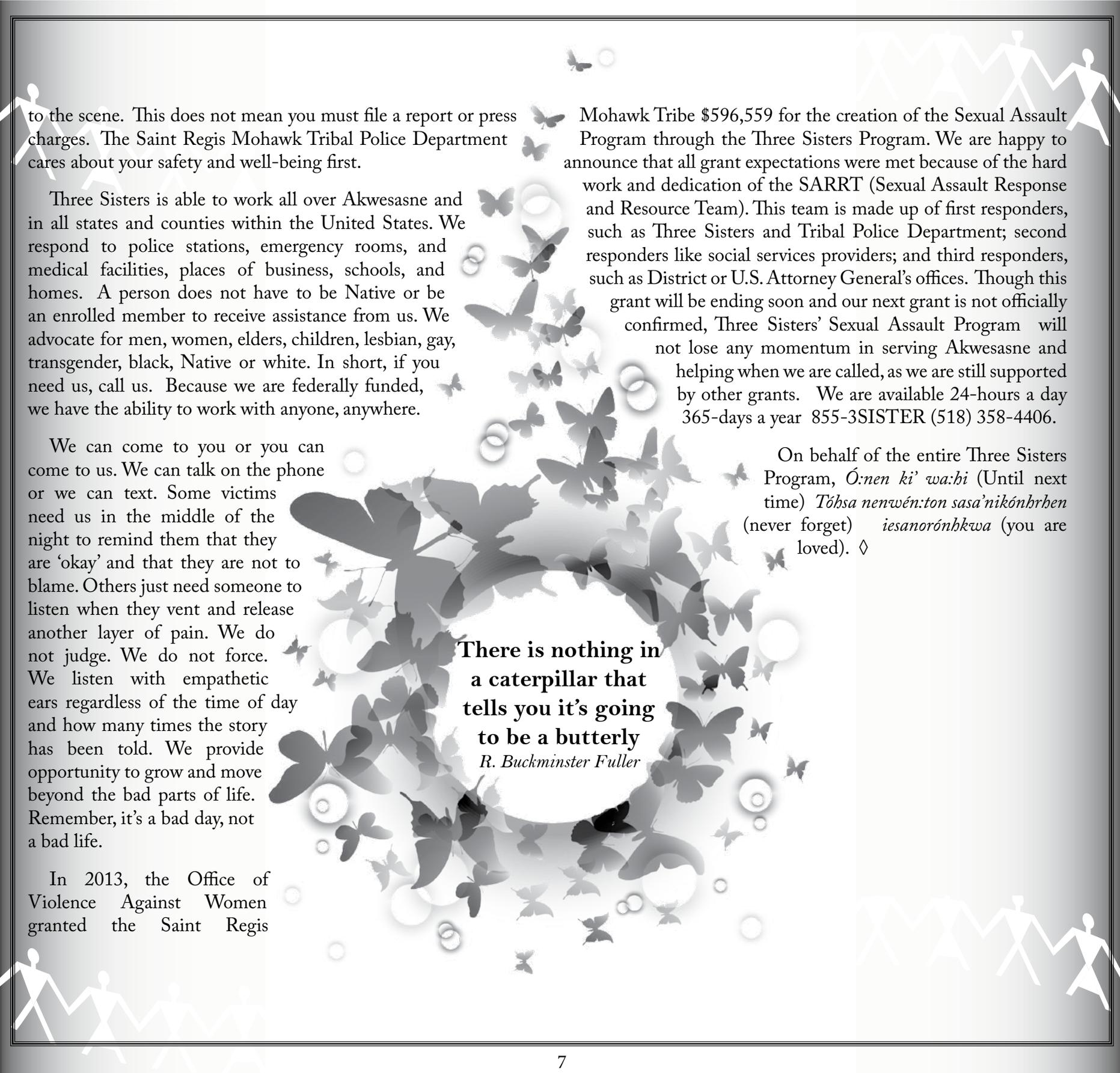
- *Domestic violence* is more than physical abuse. It is emotional, financial and isolation.
- *Sexual assault* is more than rape. It is unwanted touching or fondling and it can be by a spouse or significant other.
- *Dating violence* is more than arguing and disagreement between boyfriend and girlfriend. It is physical, mental, and

verbal abuse. Domestic and dating violence involve the same components, but dating is more short-term or involves teenage relationships.

- *Stalking and harassment* is not just showing up unannounced. It is knowing what you are doing as you do it; such as tracking your phone calls and making a person feel uncomfortable.
- *Human trafficking* is not just for illegal aliens trying to come in to America. It is using a friend or family member for financial or personal gain by threatening or manipulative actions.
- *Exploitation* is not just about little kids. It is using someone's trust and taking advantage of them for personal or financial gain.
- *Work violence* is not just for federal workers. It is anyone that is being bullied, harassed, or being treated poorly in their workplace.
- *Title IX* is not just about females and sports. It is about making sure that school is a safe place conducive for learning - regardless of sex.

Three Sisters provides 24-hour crisis response. Call us at 855-3SISTER or the Tribal Police at (518) 358-9200 any time during the day or night. This means that if you decide that you no longer care to tolerate the abusive behavior, call us and we will show you a path to safety. If you are involved in a sexual assault and need help, we will help you receive the care that you need. Because the Three Sisters Program is victim based, we are here on behalf of the victim. Specifically, this means you can reach a Three Sisters Program advocate through Tribal Police, or they can be dispatched





to the scene. This does not mean you must file a report or press charges. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department cares about your safety and well-being first.

Three Sisters is able to work all over Akwesasne and in all states and counties within the United States. We respond to police stations, emergency rooms, and medical facilities, places of business, schools, and homes. A person does not have to be Native or be an enrolled member to receive assistance from us. We advocate for men, women, elders, children, lesbian, gay, transgender, black, Native or white. In short, if you need us, call us. Because we are federally funded, we have the ability to work with anyone, anywhere.

We can come to you or you can come to us. We can talk on the phone or we can text. Some victims need us in the middle of the night to remind them that they are 'okay' and that they are not to blame. Others just need someone to listen when they vent and release another layer of pain. We do not judge. We do not force. We listen with empathetic ears regardless of the time of day and how many times the story has been told. We provide opportunity to grow and move beyond the bad parts of life. Remember, it's a bad day, not a bad life.

In 2013, the Office of Violence Against Women granted the Saint Regis

Mohawk Tribe \$596,559 for the creation of the Sexual Assault Program through the Three Sisters Program. We are happy to announce that all grant expectations were met because of the hard work and dedication of the SARRT (Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team). This team is made up of first responders, such as Three Sisters and Tribal Police Department; second responders like social services providers; and third responders, such as District or U.S. Attorney General's offices. Though this grant will be ending soon and our next grant is not officially confirmed, Three Sisters' Sexual Assault Program will not lose any momentum in serving Akwesasne and helping when we are called, as we are still supported by other grants. We are available 24-hours a day 365-days a year 855-3SISTER (518) 358-4406.

On behalf of the entire Three Sisters Program, *Ó:nen ki' wa:hi* (Until next time) *Tóhsa nenwén:ton sasa'nikónhrhen* (never forget) *iesanorónhkwa* (you are loved). ◇

**There is nothing in
a caterpillar that
tells you it's going
to be a butterfly**

R. Buckminster Fuller

Why Should I Care?

It Doesn't Affect Me and I Don't Affect it...or Do I?

By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager

This is a very personal article. It's about me and the way I think. I am hoping that sharing this information can open up some questions in you. I am not saying I am right or my way is the only way...I am just stating that this is the way I think.

I am part of an organization called the National Tribal Air Association and belonging to a group of people with the same interest is amazing, but I also hear a lot about other Tribal Nations and the things they go through. Our first priority is keeping our people and our communities safe and healthy.

Second, I believe in climate change and I believe we have done it to ourselves. Industries along with cars, trucks, planes and ships have released pollution that is changing weather, temperatures and even animal behaviors. I have friends who were born and raised in Alaska and some that were not born there, but still live there. Last winter, they barely had any snow. It was hotter there than it was here. With the ice melting and the warmer temperatures, traditional hunters and fishermen are falling through the ice that's supposed to be inches to feet thick and not surviving. In Alaska, they depend on the land and sea more than us because they don't have the conveniences we do.

I believe that education can be taught in a school, but can also be taught out in society. I feel education is key. I have read a lot of studies, been part of a lot of studies and listened to people talk about studies. Indoor air quality is very important in a person's life. Everything you do



has an impact on your life and others. If you smoke, you expose yourself to harmful toxins, but it doesn't stop there. You also expose other people around you to second-hand smoke and when you hug someone, the third hand smoke off your clothes or hands exposes them to toxins.

Don't get me wrong, I love my car and I love to travel, but these have consequences as well. I don't drive an electric car or a hybrid, but when I do look at vehicles I try to make sure the vehicle is green, both in color and in emissions.

Driving vehicles emit toxins from the tailpipe. Flying airplanes emit pollution from the engines. Cruising ships also emit from the exhaust stacks. Because of all of these emissions, I don't go anywhere. I stay home all the time and if you know me, that is a lie! I fly, I drive and I cruise. Making choices to travel in a way that reduces my carbon footprint is always on my mind - although I can't always do that. I am not going to give up what I love doing. I will still do them, but I know the consequences of it. Just so you know, to make up for the bad stuff I do; I recycle, I reuse, I reduce and I rethink (reconsider or recover). I am not perfect...far from it.

So for now, and for the next seven generations, let's be aware of our actions and do something, even if its small. Be sure that our generations to come have healthy lives and live in a healthy community. ◇

Tsi Tetewatkens Takes a Stand to Prevent Older Adult Falls

National Falls Prevention Awareness Day Brings Communities Together in Support of Healthy Aging

By Robin Thelen, Office for the Aging Intern, SUNY Potsdam Community Health Program

Fall is just around the corner, but falls shouldn't be just around the corner for older adults. That's why the *Tsi Tetewatkens* (SRMT's Office for the Aging) is joining forces with the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and the Falls Free® Coalition to celebrate Falls Prevention Awareness Day on September 23, 2015, the first day of Fall.

While falls are the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injury for people 65-years of age and older, they are not an inevitable part of aging. This year's Fall Prevention Awareness Day theme, *Take a Stand to Prevent Falls*, seeks to raise awareness about how to prevent fall-related injuries among older adults.

According to the New York State Department of Health, an average of 223 older adults are seen in emergency facilities each day due to falls; accounting for over \$1.8 billion dollars in medical costs annually. We can change this by bringing greater attention to the many preventive measures that can be easily employed to keep our seniors safe.

Studies show that a combination of behavior changes can significantly reduce falls among older adults. Experts recommend:

- Participating in a physical activity that includes balance, strength training and flexibility components
- Consulting with a health professional about getting a fall risk assessment
- Having medications reviewed periodically

- Getting eyes and ears checked annually
- Making sure the home environment is safe and supportive

The recent United States of Aging survey polled older adults to find out how they are preparing for their later years. It found that more than half of seniors questioned said they would be interested in the expansion of community-based health promotion programs, including falls prevention classes.

At senior centers and other community-based organizations across the United States, programs like Active Living Everyday®, Growing Stronger®, and Chair Yoga help older adults gain strength, improve balance, and build confidence to help them live healthier lives and preserve their independence.

In Akwesasne, seniors are invited to join us at *Tsi Tetewatkens* in raising awareness on falls prevention methods. On September 23rd, the center will host a Falls Prevention Awareness Day event in the dining hall from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Planned festivities include presentations and a Q&A session from knowledgeable speakers; a prescription take-back; vital sign and blood sugar tests; a *Matter of Balance* exercise demonstration; balance and stability assessments; and a fall response demonstration. Refreshments will be served. For more information or to register, contact Tewentahawih'tha' Cole or Robin Thelen by calling *Tsi Tetewatkens* at (518) 358-2963. ♦



Take a Stand to Prevent Falls

Division Update:

Community & Family Services Overview

By *W. James Bay, Director of Community & Family Services*

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Division of Community & Family Services was formed in July of 2011 in response to the growth of the existing Human Services Division. It has 102 staff providing community and family services through four tribal programs located at eight facilities in Akwesasne, as well as in Fort Covington. The programs are the Child Support Enforcement Unit, Three Sisters Program, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) Program, and the Family Support Program. The purposes for each of the programs are:

The **Child Support Enforcement Unit** (CSEU) is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Administration of Children and Families/Office of Child Support Enforcement. The Unit was established to improve the well-being of our community's children and families by supporting the emotional and financial responsibility of parents. With the assistance of a trained mediator, parents work together to provide the necessary support children need through a voluntary and cooperative process. *For information regarding child support, contact the Child Support Enforcement Unit at (518) 358-2275.*

The **Three Sisters Program** offers assistance to individuals and families experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, harassment, stalking, bullying, lateral violence, exploitation, human trafficking, sexting, and Title IX situations. It also provides a safe haven for the exchange of children between

parents, as well as 24-hour availability of a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocate. *For more information, call (518) 358-4406. For an emergency or crisis, please call their hotline at 1-855-3SISTER or 1-855-374-7837.*

The **Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program** assists Native Americans diagnosed with developmental disabilities find meaningful

careers or self-employment. Funded through the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration, the program began in 2001 and operates on a five-year grant funding cycle. Counselors and job development staff are specialized, experienced and well equipped to assist disabled community members find employment. *For more information, contact the Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program at (518) 358-2276.*

The **Family Support Program** offers an array of sub-programs, including two contracts—Family

Support and Individual Support Services. It also operates Supportive Apartments, Individualized Residential Alternative Program, HCBS Medicaid Waiver Program (Sweetflag Estate's Community Habilitation Project), Day Habilitation and Hourly Respite Services, "Footprints," and a Woodshop. The Program has a contract with the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities to also provide services to developmental disabled individuals who live with family. *For more information, contact the Family Support Program at (518) 358-4254. ◇*

DISABILITIES AWARENESS DAY



Annual event highlighting programs and resources available for those caring for or with disabilities.

Generations Park

September 4, 2015 (Raindate: September 11)

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Akwesasne Students Attend White House Unity Conference

By Ashley Cumming, Johnson O'Malley

The Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program was very busy this past July. We partnered with the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club (ABGC) to start staff training for summer programs with Steps to Success and Teen Programs open to all youth of the Akwesasne community. We also had two staff members accompany six youth to the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) held in Washington D.C. from July 10-15, 2015. These lucky students were Kanenishon Arquette (Grade 10, Salmon River), Fallon Benedict (Grade 9, Salmon River), Troi Benedict (Grade 11, Salmon River), Blayke Gibson (Grade 10, Massena), Maegan Mitchell (Grade 9, Salmon River), and Tyson Thomas (Grade 10, Salmon River). This was the 39th annual conference and had the largest turn out; with more than 1,800 in attendance.

The conference kicked off on July 10th with the UNITY Fire and opening remarks from several speakers, including the Executive Director of the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaskan Native Education Bill Mendoza. This year's theme was "Strengthening Self-Identity: Defining the "U" in UNITY" and included a sensational program to keep the youth moving and engaged. Youth listened to the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan speak and empower the youth to always keep pushing and challenging yourself to be a better person, "You can see beyond eyes and hear beyond ears when you are wide awake

spiritually. That's what your ancestors had and that is what you and I must attain again."

There was a day focused on physical development sponsored by Nike. Jackie Blackbird opened up the day sharing how she was great at basketball and made it her goal to someday work for Nike,

where she now leads Nike N7 work across the US and Canada. The youth then spent an hour working out with trainers to get pumped up for the remainder of the day through fun, yet challenging, ways. Nike graciously donated t-shirts for every youth who attended the conference.

Sunday was a day dedicated to spiritual development. Judge Leroy Not Afraid opened the day by sharing a story of his personal struggles and family tragedy of losing his teenage daughter from bullying. "When it comes to personal responsibility, there is no room for peer pressure," said Not Afraid. "You are who you hang

out with. If you hang out with people who don't believe in positive decision making, eventually they will pull you in." Acknowledging that suicide is an issue that impacts our nation's youth, the UNITY Executive Council announced that suicide prevention day is being renamed the "I Will Live" initiative. We also fit in some time to tour the National Treasury, White House, Washington Monument, National Museum of the American Indian, International Spy Museum and the Hard Rock Café. It was a nice balance of fun and learning! ◇



Akwesasne Youth taught the Duck Dance to the group.

From a Student's Perspective:

White House Tribal Youth Gathering

*By Brayden Sonny White, GEN-I National Native Youth Ambassador and
National Congress of American Indians Voting Member*

On May 19, 2015, I was invited by the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement, UNITY Inc., the Department of Justice's Today Leaders Program and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to attend the 2015 White House Tribal Youth Gathering in Washington, D.C. For any youth to be invited to such a respectable and prestigious event is an honor, but to actually attend was overwhelming.

On July 8th, I was introduced to several members of the Bureau of Indian Affairs including Assistant Secretary of the Interior Kevin Washburn. He was the first politician I met that has a genuine interest to help Native Americans retain their lands and protect their rights. This was followed by encouragement from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to attend a Senate Hearing.

After meeting Mr. Washburn, I rushed over to the Renaissance Hotel for early registration for the White House Tribal Youth Gathering. Just by the number of tribal youth that had shown up for early registration, I was thrilled to see what the following day would bring. I was encouraged by members of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to attend a Senate Hearing.

As it so happened, there was a Senate Hearing that day on the topic "Trust Modernization and Reform for Indian Lands". Following the hearing, I attended a reception hosted by the Center for Native American Youth, where youth had the opportunity to meet with Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK), Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MT) and other members of Congress. I also got the opportunity to meet other Natives such as Tuscarora from North Carolina and Maori from New Zealand.

The White House Tribal Youth Gathering was held on July 9th at the Renaissance Hotel. The significance of attending the inaugural Native American Tribal Youth Gathering was overwhelming as I was part of a voice to bring attention to Native issues, whether it be poverty, deprived health services or no voice in national media.

The conference room thundered as First Lady Michelle Obama was introduced by Hamilton Seymour, a 15-year-old Noonsack Native from Bellingham, Washington. The high point of her speech were her remarks on how the Iroquois shaped the United States of America. She noted, "One of your early democratic institutions, the Iroquois Confederacy, served as a model for the United States



Brayden Sonny White poses for a quick photo with First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House Tribal Youth Gathering.



government.” The recognition of my Confederacy’s importance in building the foundation of the United States was overwhelming. She also noted when her and Barack visited the Standing Rock Sioux Nation in North Dakota, she interacted with youth who told them of the troubles on the reservation such as substance abuse, suicide and homelessness. She also acknowledged how many Native American names have become part of mainstream society, yet, Native Americans are still being treated harshly.

I was placed into a group that looked at economic development, cultural revitalization, and numerous other issues that Native Americans continue to face every day. Much of the focus was to promote Nation members to get a college education, come back to the reservation and help spur Native economies. I found the ideas expressed from each Nation interesting as it helped find a larger solution to delayed economic development.

Following the group sessions, we returned to the main conference room for a “fire side chat” between cabinet members and interviewers. I found it significant, as it brought the issues to the attention of Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro.



Interior Secretary Sally Jewell speaks to Native youth telling them to embrace and take pride in their heritage. Jewell proposed reforms for the process on obtaining federal recognition for tribes. (Scripps Howard Foundation Wire photo by Jaelynn Grisso)

“ We have such an extraordinary group here today -- more than 1,000 young people representing 230 tribes from 42 states. We have the Mohawk, Seneca, and Onondaga Nations of the Northeast. We have the Crow, Comanche, and Spirit Lake Nations of the plains. We have the Navajo, Pueblo, and Hopi Nations of the Southwest. Everybody’s here! We have Native Hawaiians who are here, Alaska natives, including a young group of Inupiaq youth who traveled thousands of miles from the Native Village of Barrow, which is the northernmost city in the United States of America. And together, you represent so many rich cultures and such a proud heritage -- one that has shaped this country for centuries. ”

*-First Lady Michelle Obama
www.whitehouse.gov*

Later in the day, Nike hosted an N7 event featuring Notah Begay III, Jude Schimmel and Lyle Thompson. They spoke of the struggles of growing up on the reservation and the obstacles faced in professional and collegiate sports.

On July 10th, UNITY hosted a Grand Entry of Nations to kick off their five-day event. To see the large gathering under one roof was breathtaking, as they were all here for the betterment of Indian Country. After Grand Entry, I was invited by a group of Tuscarora to view the National Museum of the American Indian. Part of the tour was discussion on the numerous treaties signed between the U.S. Government and Native Americans, as well as the federal government’s forced relocation of Natives, like the *Trail Of Tears*.

On July 11th, I flew back into Burlington, Vermont and wrapped up my journey. I continue to keep in contact with the individuals I met while in Washington, D.C. I have even been contacted by an Alaskan Native, who currently resides in Lake Placid, N.Y., to have a meeting on a joint project.

I thank my sponsors for all the assistance with this historic event and your generous contributions aren’t going unrecognized. ◇

Tribal Employees Commended for Exceptional Service

Enrichment Awards Presented at Staff and Family Picnic

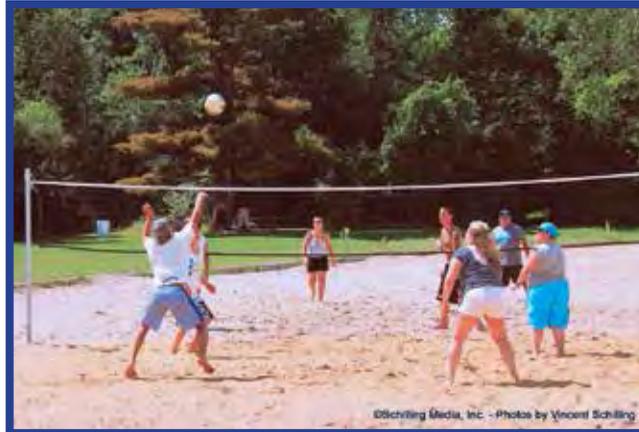
By Brendan White, Director of Communications

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe was proud to present its biannual Enrichment Awards during the Staff and Family Picnic on Ohiarihkó:wa/July 31, 2015. Held at the Massena Town Beach, the gathering provided an opportunity for the organization to express its appreciation to all tribal staff, as well as to recognize the exceptional performance of five staff members.

Coordinated by the Tribal Administration Office, the beach day featured several team competitions to encourage staff interaction and promote comradery; such as tug-of-war, beach volleyball, and a sand castle building contest for young family members. It also featured a 'winner take all' and door prize drawings, as well as a delicious cookout provided by Everett Lazore and helpers.

The highlight of the day's activities was a presentation made by Tribal Executive Director Tsiorasa Barreiro of the Employee Enrichment Awards. Conducted two times each year, the awards recognize five staff members for their ongoing efforts at "Enriching Our Workplace." Individuals were nominated by their co-workers for one of eight categories: Collaboration, Going Above and Beyond, Professionalism, Initiative, Promoting a Positive Image, Integrity, Positivity, and Provides a Helping Hand.

The following staff members received a pack basket made by Richard David and a small monetary gift along with their Enrichment Award; for their exceptional display of service to their fellow co-workers, community members and/or their team spirit and initiative to provide an enjoyable work environment:



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Enrichment Award Winners
(July 31, 2015)



Lora Lee La France

Office for the Aging

"She has a positive attitude and her door is always open. She gets the job done and smiles as she does it."



Kenny King

Facilities - Maintenance

"He is a quiet man; but always willing to lend a helping hand and go the extra mile to learn new skills."



Douglas Hamilton

Community & Family Services
- Family Support

"He is a sincere man and an employee who demonstrates not only professionalism, but sincere care for the clients and consumers he serves."



Heather Durant-Benedict

Community & Family Services -
Family Support

"She serves as a powerful advocate for people with disabilities and is able to handle situations with confidence and leadership."



Nicole Meacham

Health Services -
Lab

"She enriches the workplace by being a major force behind the daily successful efficient operations of her department."

Benefits of Gaming:

Mohawk Gaming Enterprises Hosts Student Internship and Scholarship Ceremony

By Sheila King, Human Resource Director, Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort

On August 11, 2015, the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort (AMCR) hosted its Annual Intern and Scholarship Ceremony sponsored by the Mohawk Gaming Enterprises, LLC. Mohawk Gaming encompasses the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's gaming operations and helps generate revenue to support a variety of tribal programs, including scholarships for recently-graduated high school seniors looking to pursue their education in the gaming industry.

Four students from the Salmon River Central School (SRCS), Massena Central School (MCS) and the Cornwall Collegiate and Vocational School (CCVS) were selected as recipients for the Mohawk Gaming Enterprises \$500 Scholarship for the 2015/2016 school year. The selected students will be attending a college or university during the upcoming academic year as they pursue a degree in a gaming-related field of study; such as Business, Finance, Accounting, Marketing, Computer Science, Culinary and Baking Arts, HVAC and other gaming-related courses.

Resort General Manager Emily Lauzon and members of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council were on hand to present the scholarships to:

- Taylor Peters (CCVS), Baking & Pastry Arts, Algonquin College
- Kyla Thompson (MCS), Business Law, Carleton University
- Quintana Hart (SRCS), Clarkson University
- Kentaratiron Francis Arquette (SRCS), Cyber Security & Computer Science, SUNY Canton

High school seniors for the 2015/2016 school year who are interested in being considered for next year's Mohawk Gaming

Enterprises Scholarship can pick up an application from their school guidance office beginning in January 2016. Applications are also available at the AMCR's Administration and Human Resources Building located at 921 State Route 37 in Akwesasne, NY.

Along with the scholarship presentation, the ceremony also acknowledged and provided a \$400 stipend to each of the seventeen interns that participated in the 2015 Native Internship Program. The internship program consisted of a ten-week summer placement of students currently attending a college or university in a position within the AMCR. Now in its 15th year, the internship program helps cultivate future casino employees by providing experienced guidance and mentorship as students gain valuable work experience and transferable skills within the gaming industry.

The ongoing success of the Native Internship Program has enabled some of the students to obtain professional careers at the AMCR in their respective degree areas, such as; Marketing, Information Technology (IT), Financial Planning, Benefits, Human Resources and Management. Marvin Phillips, a former-SUNY Morrisville student, participated in the internship program as a college student and has gone on to become the AMCR's IT Director.

Another example of the internship program's success this past summer has been the Culinary and Baking Internship, which allowed individuals to become an integral member of the casino's kitchen staff. Students were provided the opportunity to work beside professional chefs and project managers as they gained hands-on experience on menu preparation, recipe development, facilities management and



day-to-day operations. Their final test for the summer was to prepare and oversee the ceremony's meal, where culinary intern Sandra Bigtree stated she, "gained valuable experience and skills that she will use throughout her career."

College or university students interested in participating in the 2016 Native Internship Program can obtain an application through the AMCR's website, at www.mohawkasino.com, beginning in January 2016. For information on eligibility requirements or other questions, please contact the AMCR's Human Resources Office at (518) 358-2222.



Tribal Council with the 2015 Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort Interns: (L to R, front row) Tribal Chief Eric Thompson, Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance, Tribal Chief Beverly Cook, Tribal Sub-Chief Cheryl Jacobs and Tribal Sub-Chief Michael Connors.

2015 Native Internship Program Students

First Year Interns:

- Stevie Ray Adams (Slot Attendant), Business & Accounting, SUNY Plattsburgh
- Jaden Barnes-Sharrow (Housekeeping), General Arts & Sciences-Design, Algonquin College
- Sandra Bigtree (Baker), Culinary Arts Management, St. Lawrence College
- Leslee Loran (Hotel Front Desk), Mathematics, University of Albany
- Janelle Marshall (Culinary), Baking & Pastry Arts, Paul Smiths College
- River Phillips (Slot Attendant), Computer Science, SUNY Potsdam
- Tobilee Roundpoint (Hotel Front Desk), Business Administration, SUNY Potsdam
- Raymond Rourke Jr. (Security Officer), Sociology & Art, St. Lawrence University

- Harvey Smith (Warehouse) Accounting, University of Notre Dame

Returning Interns:

- Ivy Ashkewe (Spa), Criminal Justice, North Country Community College
- Kyle Cooke (Facilities), Business Administration, North Country Community College
- Jeffrey Cook (Bingo), Accounting, Syracuse University
- Hunter Francis (Facilities), Mechanical Engineering, Boston College
- Collin Jacobs (Facilities), Civil Engineering, Syracuse University
- Dillon Point (IT), Business Management, Syracuse University
- Hunter Williams (Facilities), Political Science, SUNY Plattsburgh
- Lindsay White (Banquet), Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management, SUNY Plattsburgh ♦

Community Engagement:

Akwesasne Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council has the responsibility to provide for the health, safety and well-being of tribal members, as well as for guests and other visitors to the Territory of Akwesasne. To assist them in fulfilling this duty, Tribal Council enlists the help of qualified and experienced tribal members who are appointed to assorted boards, commissions, committees and tribunals. Together, tribal committees provide independent oversight on a variety of important community matters; such as housing, elections, land disputes, gaming, law enforcement, and other key areas.

The Akwesasne Housing Authority strives to develop a comprehensive housing program that addresses the needs of all Mohawks living in and around Akwesasne. The organization also seeks to generate and promote community strength and prosperity through safe housing, supportive ventures, economic development, and program efficiency.

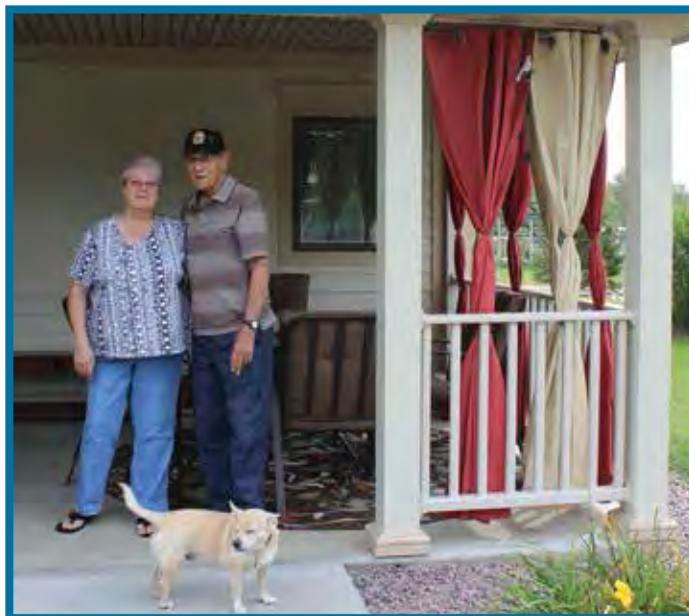
To help the organization in this endeavor, they are overseen and assisted by a seven-member Board of Commissioners that is appointed by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council. Combined, their goal is to meet the demand for safe and sanitary housing, as well as to develop initiatives that address specialized housing and community needs.

The current Board of Commissioners include Noah Ransom, Sr. (Chairperson), Barbara Lazore (Vice-President), Diane Boots (Secretary), Norman Tarbell, Ronald Cook, Kimberly Ransom Herne and Lois Terrance. They hold regular monthly meetings, as well as special meetings, if needed.

As Commissioners; they oversee the legal, financial, and operational matters of the Akwesasne Housing Authority through the following functions:

- Enter into agreements, contracts and understandings
 - lease, rent, sell, or enter into lease-purchase agreements
 - establish and revise rents or monthly payments
 - make rules and regulations concerning the selection of tenants or homebuyers
 - undertake and carry out studies and analyses of housing needs

For three decades, they have been supporting the development and adoption of policies that govern the Akwesasne Housing Authority. They have been an integral part of improving and meeting the housing needs of the Akwesasne community—either through home ownership or rental opportunities. ◇



Louis and Betty Jacobs enjoy the beautiful summer day from their porch in the Sunrise Acres complex.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2014

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe - Public Water Supply ID# 1617071

Introduction

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe provides an annual drinking water quality report to Akwesasne homes and businesses to comply with federal regulations. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and the need to protect and conserve our drinking water sources. Last year, your tap water met and/or exceeded drinking water health standards. We continue to assess and improve our operations to ensure that we continue to provide drinking water that meets and exceeds health-based standards. Details are provided below in the “Table of Regulated Detectable Contaminants” and in the “Notes” following the table.

What’s in the source water?

Your drinking water comes from the surface water of the St. Lawrence River. The sources of drinking water are surface waters such as streams, rivers, lakes or ground water from wells that tap underground aquifers. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. A Source Water Protection Plan has been developed to help establish a way to protect any source of contamination to the river from upstream sources.

How does the water get to my home?

Water is pumped from the St. Lawrence River to the water treatment plant on Garrow Road. The system currently supplies water to residents and visitors of Akwesasne. The treatment plant is a dual-sand filtration system and uses sodium hypochlorite, powdered activated carbon (PAC), ultraviolet (UV) for disinfection and poly aluminum chloride, a coagulant to remove organic material from raw water before it enters the treatment plant. The plant has

the capability of producing 1.4 million gallons of treated water per day. We presently have 1,000 connections and produce an average of 550,000 gallons of water per day with the highest production of water during July at 15,860,000 gallons. Total amount of water produced was 181,340,000 gallons.

The treated water is then stored in a clear well, pumped to the 500,000 gallon water tower on McGee Road where it is gravity fed to your faucets. It is also stored on State Route 37 for fire protection by way of booster pumps.

How can I get the chlorine taste and smell out of my water?

The water is treated with chlorine before it leaves the plant to protect public health and prevent microbiological organisms from growing. You can place a carbon filter (i.e. Brita) on your faucet to remove the chlorine taste or allow a pitcher to sit on the counter before refrigerating. The facility has undergone an upgrade to extend the raw water intake 112 ft. to provide water of greater quality and reduce chemical use.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency provides guidance and prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water systems.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the SRMT Environment Division or the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to certain contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as; persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Outreach Office at the clinic and at the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. SRMT is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/drink>.

Regulated Detected Chemical Parameters

Inorganics

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	No	4/21/14	.38	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	No	08/30/12	0.13	mg/L	4.0	MCL=2.2 NYSDOH standard	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium	No	08/30/12	.02	mg/l	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Lead ¹	No	October 2014	0.001 (.001-.0031)	mg/l	0	AL= .015 mg/l	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper ²	No	October 2014	0.11 (.0021-0.11)	mg/l	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Uranium*	No	2005	2.24	ug/l	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits

* Uranium determination was made by a radioactivity method. The last result was 1.5 pCi/L. The result was converted to mass (ug/l) by dividing 1.5 pCi/L by 0.67 = 2.24 ug/l.

Microbiological Contaminants

Total coliform	No	Monthly (10/mo)	0	Negative or positive	0	1 positive monthly allowed	Naturally present in environment
Fecal coliform and E.coli	No	Monthly (10/mo)	0	Negative or positive	0	None	Human and animal waste

Turbidity

Turbidity ³	No	2014	0.052 (average)	NTU	N/A	1 NTU maximum allowed	Soil runoff; stormwater
Turbidity ³	No	Daily July 2014	95%<0.3	NTU	N/A	0.3 - 95% of samples - TT	

Disinfection By-Products

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) ⁴ Water treatment plant - WTP	No	Quarterly See Note	41.75 30.75 27.75 47 12.5 - WTP	ug/L	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) ⁴ WTP	No	Quarterly See Note	21.5 15.9 18.4 29 9.1 -WTP	ug/L	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Other Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	Guideline
Semi-Volatile Organic Chemicals	Non-detect	mg/l	See Note #5

NOTES:

N/A - means not applicable

1 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 19 sites sampled. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead samples detected at your water system. There were no violations due to the 90th percentile being below the action level.

2 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 19 sites sampled. There were no violations due to the 90th percentile being below the action level.

3 - Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. We did not have any violations of turbidity in 2014.

4 - This level represents the local averages calculated from the data collected on a quarterly basis at five sites. Routine flushing and disinfection management and reduction in chlorine use has kept the by-products in check.

5 - Organic chemical sampling was done for our three-year requirement. EPA method 524.2 POC's, Vinyl Chloride, and MTBE was used.

DEFINITIONS:

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Action Level (AL): The level that, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Health Effects Language:

Turbidity - Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water. It has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity violation of standards for more than four hours may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

Total Coliform Bacteria - Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

Fecal coliform - Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

Lead - Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your homes plumbing. Additional information is available from the SRMT Health Services or the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Tribal Monthly Meetings

Obiarikhó:wa/July 11, 2015

Chairperson: Tribal Chief Eric Thompson

Agenda

1. Welcome - Chairperson
2. Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
3. Dialysis Center Update - Michael Cook, SRMHS Director
4. USDA 502 Loan Program Update - Retha Herne
5. Economic Development Project Update - Chris Thompson
6. New Business
7. Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
8. Adjournment

Follow-up on Action Items from Obiarí:ba/June Meeting

1. To look into the ditching issue on Andrew David Lane.
Ditches cannot be built into Andrew David Lane until the Department of Transportation ditches Cook Road in the area where the two roads meet. There is no place for the water to go once it reaches Cook Road and this would create flooding problems in that area. Ditching through fields to Tarbell Road is not an option due to funding restrictions and the usual land ownership issues. Tribal Council will follow up with DOT on the Cook Road ditching issues at their next meeting.
2. To have the Chiefs/Sub-Chiefs give updates at monthly meetings.
Monthly updates will be provided as handouts.
3. To keep the dialysis center on the agenda.
An update will be provided as an agenda item at the July monthly meeting.

Seskéba/August 1, 2015

Chairperson: Tribal Chief RonLaFrance

Agenda

1. Welcome - Chairperson
2. Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
3. Akwesasne TV Rollout
4. Medical Education Proposed Program - Stephanie Cook
5. New Business
6. Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
7. Adjournment

Follow-up on Action Items from Obiarikhó:wa /July Meeting

1. None

Actions Items from Seskéba/August Meeting

1. As per education contracts with Salmon River and Massena Central School, educational reports are required twice a year. Make documents available.
2. Present results of education survey to define what the students and parents want.
3. PCB issues at old GM site and to hold community wide public meetings on these issues. ◇

Jobs

All current positions with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe are posted on the Tribe's website at www.srmt-nsn.gov.

Positions with our gaming operations are posted on the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort's website at www.mohawkcasino.com.

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

Calendar

Seskehkó:wa/September 2015

- 4 - Disabilities Awareness Day - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. -
Generations Park
- 7 - Labor Day Holiday - All Tribal programs closed
- 8 - Social Security - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office
- 9 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom
- 12 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
- 15 - Salmon River Central School Board Elections - Noon to 8:00
p.m. - SRCS High School Auditorium
- 15 & 16 - Pesticides Forum - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. -
Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort
- 23 - Falls Prevention Awareness - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. - Senior Center

Kenténha/October 2015

- 3 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
- 3 & 4 - Áse Tsi Tewá:ton Experience - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. -
Akwesasne Freedom School, east State Route 37 site
- 13 - Social Security - 1:30 to 3:30 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

Alanna Thomas	Receptionist
Amanda M. Gardner	Registered Nurse
Andrew J. Sutter	Health Promotion Specialist
Brandon Benedict	Home Health Aide
Caralee Thompson	Home Health Aide
Cassandra Phillips	Advocate
Delilah Cunningham	Home Health Aide
Dylan Herne	Technician
Harley Chubb	General Laborer
Jaiden Mitchell	Receptionist
Janet Terrance	Medicaid Service Coord.
Jesalyn Hayes	Registered Nurse
Karley Cree	Dental Assistant
Kasey L. Thomas	Receptionist
Kelly M. Tarbell	Dental Assistant
Kimberly Baublitz	Pharmacist
Lola Arquette	Watchkeeper
Nelson E. White	Custodian Supervisor
Victoria J. Smoke	Administrative Assistant

Akwesasne Employment Resource
Health Services - Mental Health
Let's Get Healthy
Health Services - Outreach
Health Services - Outreach
Intensive Preventive Program
Health Services - Outreach
Environment
Administration
Administration
Community & Family Services
Health Services - Medical Clinic
Health Services - Dental Clinic
Home Improvement
Health Services - Dental Clinic
Health Services - Pharmacy
Johnson O'Malley
Facilities
TVR

Summer Students, Recreation Workers and Interns:

Abigail K. Kelly, Alexander Kormanyos, Alia Cook, Brittany L. Benedict, Brittany J. Rubado-Lavare, Dalton L. Thomas, David Tracy, Dawson George, Dennis P. Bero, Destin Thomas, Enigoonse Jock, Isaiah Gray, Kaylin A. Oakes, KC Storm Herne, Kobi Johnson, Kori Jackson, Kyle Green, Lance Lafrance, Marrietta Jock, Nathan Smoke, Olivia Lafrance, Otto Thomas, Ronatiio Perkins, Ronnie Phillip Boots, Serena Hall, Seven Green, Shane R. Tarbell, Skye Sunday, Skyler Cree, Steven Thompson, Storm T. Adams, Sunilaya Cole, Taylin David, Taylor M. Armstrong, Tewasherake Barnes, Theresa Oakes, Thomas J. Benedict, Thomas Jock, Tiffany Conners, Tina Square, Tori Gray, Travis Phillips, Travis Thompson, Trenton Tarbell, Turner A. Thomas, Vanna Thompson, Waylon Square, Zaagaate Jock, Zoe S. Thompson

Donations

Community Events - \$ 5,000
Community Development - \$ 1,000

Funerals - \$ 4,000
Fundraisers - \$ 6,500

Sports - \$ 3,200

A **Salmon River School Board Special Election** will be held for the Salmon River School District on Tuesday, Seskehkó:wa/September 15, 2015 from Noon to 8:00 p.m. in the Salmon River High School Auditorium. Voters will be asked to fill a vacant position by electing a board member to serve a term commencing on September 16, 2015 and expiring on June 30, 2017. Akwesasne resident Danielle Lazore-Thompson is vying for the vacancy to attain a majority Mohawk presence on the school board. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council is encouraging Akwesasne residents to participate in the election to provide balanced representation on the School Board. ◇



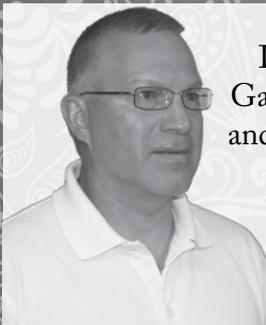
Join the SRMT Environment Division for a two-day **Pesticide Forum** on September 15-16, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort. Learn how to safely deal with pests and how to protect our pollinators! Discussions will include Integrated Pest Management Strategies and a Pollinator's Protection Plan.



The forum is free, but we encourage people to contact Wayne Samphier or Julia Jacobs to register. For more information call (518) 358-5937 or email: wayne.samphier@srmt-nsn.gov or julia.jacobs@srmt-nsn.gov. For more information, visit the Environment Division's website at: www.srmtenv.org. ◇



On August 19, 2015, **United States Congresswoman Elise Stefanik** (R-NY-21) followed up on an invitation extended by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council to visit the community of Akwesasne. It was her first visit to Akwesasne after assuming office in the 114th Congress on January 3, 2015; serving as a member on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. During her visit, she was provided a personal tour of the St. Regis Mohawk School by Principal Sharlee Thomas and Salmon River School District Superintendent Stanley Harper, where Tribal Chief Beverly Cook presented her with a Mohawk sweetgrass basket made by Akwesasne-elder Judy Cole. Pictured are (from left) Superintendent Harper, Tribal Sub-Chief Cheryl Jacobs, Mohawk School Principal Sharlee Thomas, Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance, Congresswoman Stefanik, Tribal Chief Cook, Tribal Chief Eric Thompson, and Tribal Sub-Chief Michael Connors. ◇



In May 2015, **Randy Hart** was appointed to serve a five-year term on the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Gaming Commission. As a member of the three-person Tribal Gaming Commission, he joins efforts to oversee and regulate gaming in accordance with the Tribal Gaming Ordinance.

Hart has a long history of being active in tribal government, including a term as Tribal Chief. He is a welcomed asset to the Tribal Gaming Commission that will serve to uphold and strengthen the integrity of the Tribe's gaming operations. ◇

Office for the Aging Hosts Senior Games

By *Katie Boots, Activity Coordinator*

On Friday August 21, 2015, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Office for the Aging celebrated their Annual Senior Picnic with approximately ninety attendees. The kitchen prepared the hot dogs, hamburgers and sausages; with many salads, desserts, snacks and drinks brought in by the seniors to complete the potluck.

The games started off with a life-size version of *Kerplunk*. In teams of three, the goal was to remove the sticks without letting the plastic balls fall into the bucket. It takes strategy and patience. Seniors played about six games and after every game the team who won was given a prize. They also played bean bag toss, horse shoes with Peter Back Sr., croquet and bingo.



Ben Kelly successfully pulls out a stick and none of the balls dropped in this large version of Kerplunk.

Seniors also enjoyed playing table games such as *1950's Name that Movie Fill-in-the-Blank* and *1960's Fad Word Scramble*. They equally enjoyed word search puzzles and other types of brain teasers.

After everyone had a chance to play, volunteer Debbie Solomon tallied results and awarded prizes. Seniors were given game prizes that included Walmart gift cards, dish towels, aprons, clocks, word search books, travel toiletries, lap blankets, pens and hand soaps.

It was a very fun afternoon with a lot of food, games and laughs.

Notice of Public Hearing

The Advisory Council and staff of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Office for the Aging invite you to attend their annual public hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to learn from elders what current needs exist within the community and what issues are important to them. The hearing will also discuss service plans for 2016 and a four-year plan used to determine support services until 2020.

The public hearing is scheduled for Monday, *Seskehkó:wal* September 28, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the *Tsi Tetewatkins* Seniors Center. If you are unable to attend the public hearing in person, we still want to hear from you. You can provide comments by:

- Mailing your written comments to Lora Lee La France, Director, SRMT Office for the Aging, 412 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655;
- Calling the center at (518) 358-2963;
- Emailing the Director at loraleelafrance@srmt-nsn.gov; or
- Contacting an Advisory Board Member.

A brief survey is being conducted beforehand for elders, caregivers and interested community members. You can stop at *Tsi Tetewatkins* to complete a survey in person, or call the center to complete a survey by phone. Surveys will also be available at the public hearing. ◇

Tribe Recognizes Employee Milestones

105 Tribal Staff Receive Service Awards

On August 13, 2015, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe celebrated the 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30-year anniversaries of Tribal employees. The morning began in the Casino's Autumn room with a breakfast buffet. Anthony Tillman, Human Resources Employee Relations Specialist emceed the event and began the ceremony by thanking all for their years of dedicated service and company loyalty. Anthony remarked, "Whether it is consecutive years of service or accumulated years of service, we understand that the growth and success of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is largely dependent on having strong and capable staff members, such as

yourself, and recognize the contributions you make in *Helping Build a Better Tomorrow*. We are hoping that you will remain with us for many years to come and offer our congratulations on this anniversary day."

Tribal Chiefs Beverly Cook, Ron LaFrance and Eric Thompson along with Tribal Sub-Chiefs Michael Connors and Cheryl Jacobs congratulated and thanked each recipient.

All of those recognized received a certificate for eight hours of administrative leave and a gift.

5-Year Awards - Sweet grass braid by Sheila Ransom

W. James Bay, Rhonda Tarbell, Holley Boots, Nolan Jacobs, Gidget Rafus-Rousell, Janet Terrance, Tiffany Thompson, Carlos Dishman, Nakkita Lazore, Abraham Back, Nathan A Billings, Sylvie Laughlin, Darren Cook, Theodore L. Cook, Jessica Hopps, Gary Gray, Rachel Jacobs, Neil S. Jock, Lori Jean Perry, April Seymour, Sherry L. Bowen, Todd Robinson, Kawisohkwaw



T. Sharrow, Taylor Smoke, Claudine Soucia, Albert Simon Tenasco, Gordon H. McDonald, Samantha Phillips, Kristin Post, Emily Gardner, Matthew V. Thompson, Mary Ann Van Buskirk, Randa Martin, Elizabeth A. McDonald, Elizabeth Belile, Breanne Herne, Angeline Green, Lyndie Brann, Barbara J. Buckshot-Jock, Edwina Fry, Julia L. Jacobs and Paul A. Lauzon.

10-Year Awards - Print by Jordan Thompson



Margie Tatlock, Aimee Vida, Ian Clute, Deborah Kampf, Brandon M. Smoke, Megan Bushey, Clarissa M. Chatland, Laurie Dufrane, Gerald R. Lauzon, Harmony J. Love, Timothy J. Basenfelder, Karen Connors-Oakes, Micaelee

Horn, Willis Paul Jr., Karonienhawi Thomas, Tewentahawihtha Cole, Thomas Jock, Thomas R. Lake, Nathaniel J. Olson, Dorieann Adel, Brenda L. Butchino, Tina M. Sunday, Kyla Taylor, John J. Cayea, Michelle Cook, Anne Emlaw, Elliott M. Lazore, Lawrence P. Thompson, Felicia Sunday, Jennifer L. Thompson, Joan A. Clark, Colleen Coe, Paul Doxtator, Kateri Jacobs and Alex F. LaFrance.

15-Year Awards - Print by Jordan Thompson

Peter J. Burns, Lillian B. Barton, Mera L. Faubert, Lorelee M. Lafrance, Terry P. Leaman, Todd L. Papineau, Paulette S. White, Amber H. McDonald, Tracy Billhardt, Susan Gale, Barbara Tarbell, Martin C. Jock and Glenn A. Hill.



20-Year Awards - Corn husk doll by Pam Brown & Gail General



Brian Barnes, Angela Benedict, R. Shawn Martin, Lawrence C. Swamp, Lynne Thompson, Barry Herne, Laurie Connors and Tracy A. George.

25-Year Awards - Sweetgrass baskets by various artists

Leslie K. Benedict, Denean L. King, Denise Jacobs, Theresa Gardner, Robert J. Cree and Angela George.



30-Year Award - Pendleton blanket



Vicky Jock

Áse Tsi Tewá:ton Experience

All are welcome to experience the Áse Tsi Tewá:ton Program's traditional foods cooking demonstrations, garden techniques, medicine making, hunting and trapping skills, and Kanien'keha language teachings.

Iahià:khaton/Saturday, Kenténha/October 3rd and
Tsiat'ahkhaton/Sunday, Kenténha/October 4th

Location: Akwesasne Freedom School
(State Route Route 37, east site)

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Call (518) 333-0222 for more information.



Presented by:
Akwesasne Cultural
Restoration Program

Iakhiénawá:se' Sénha Aioianerénhake ne Enióhrhen'ne - Helping Build A Better Tomorrow



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

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On the Cover: The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe expressed its appreciation to tribal staff with a beach day on Ohiarikhó:wa/July 31, 2015. Staff and family took part in friendly competitions, including a youth tug-of-war contest.