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Kawenñi:ios

ACR Program Made Tradition & Culture New Again



SRMT Employee Population Report

Have you ever wondered about employees at the SRMT? Questions often arise as to who works here from our community, who spends program monies or who is caring for *Akwesashró:non* in programs like Health Services and the Childcare Program. The report below summarizes some statistics tracked by the Human Resources Department.

Native American	529	78.48%
Caucasian	130	19.28%
Other	15	2.24%

The Native American count is usually over 80% but due to the closing of the ACR Apprenticeship Program and the 33 open positions right now, it has temporarily dropped.

Out of the 528 Natives who work at the Tribe, 444 (83.93%) reside on the territory. Natives who reside off the territory is 85 or 16.06%.

The average salary is \$20.57. Tribal minimum wage is currently \$11.48 per hour and 140 employees (20.77%) make that amount per hour.

The average age of our employees is 44.16 years. Our youngest is 19 and oldest is 73.

Traditionalists (Born Before 1945)	– 0.44%
Baby Boomers (Born 1945 – 1964)	– 26.80%
Generation X (Born 1965 – 1980)	– 38.59%
Millennials (1981 to 1994)	– 31.96%
Generation Z (1995 to 2010)	– 2.21%

More females work for the Tribe than males:

Male:	254	37.68%
Female:	420	62.32%

There are 141 management positions. Management positions are defined as a person having subordinate employees reporting to them:

Female: 76 (53.91%)	Male: 65 (46.09%)
Native: 112 (79.43%)	Non-native: 29 (20.56%)

Our employees stick around. The average tenure is 7.2 years broken down as follows:

Under 1 Year	– 13.7%
1-2 Years	– 11.34%
2-3 Years	– 12.81%
3-5 Years	– 14.58%
5-10 Years	– 22.68%
10-15 Years	– 11.49%
Over 15 Years	– 13.4%

As you can see, the vast majority of Tribal employees are community members who are “working together today to build a better tomorrow.” As a team, we see the need for strong leadership, efficient labor and practical use of the department resources for which we individually work. Although these statistics do change monthly with current trends, the SRMT employee consensus is that we will continue to do our best to provide services to the community of Akwesasne, our friends and our family. ♦

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Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Communications Department
412 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655
(518) 358-2272
communications@srmt-nsn.gov
www.srmt-nsn.gov

Connect with us...



Brendan White, Director
Aimée Benedict, Publications Manager
Alyson Thompson, Editor/Production Assistant

Good Words of Welcome

Shé:kon Akwesasne,

With pride, we feature our Akwesasne Cultural Restoration Program on the cover of this edition. This program was initiated under a settlement with Alcoa and was designed to address the loss of knowledge we've experienced as a direct result of the pollutants in our water, air and land caused by the major industrial activities upstream from Akwesasne. Decades of the degradation to our environment has led to a devastating diminishment of traditional knowledge. We refuse to risk losing this knowledge forever. Under this program, the graduates learned directly from people who carry these traditions and are skilled in hunting, fishing, planting, seed preservation, and fluency in our language. Council congratulates the students that have completed the four-year course and extends our appreciation to the teachers who have shared their time and passed on their knowledge.

Our Agriculture Program has transitioned from a two-year pilot program to a permanent program designed to educate, encourage and promote the importance of agriculture within our community. This program's highlights thus far include; The Mother Earth Egg Pilot Project, garden tilling and a ditching project that opened up previously flooded or water inundated areas to be used and developed by affected landowners. This component of the program will continue in collaboration with the Tribe's Planning and Infrastructure Department. We look forward to the future initiatives of the program that will include projects that utilize existing lands for agricultural-related projects for the benefit the community.

The retrospective we share in this edition highlights the Tribe's investments in community development over the past five years. The expansion of Generations Park is a fine example of our pursuit of continuous improvement and strengthening of community, through recreation, wellness and community events. We have a central place to bring our children to connect and grow. The future development of the park is slated to include a softball field, an amphitheatre for performing arts, as well as a track and field. We proudly had local ironworkers on the construction crews, who generously donated their time and skills to build the cover over our lacrosse box. We also had local ironworkers work on the new Tribal Administration Building; where our employees will have a new, safe, state-of-the-art place to continue caring for our community members.

Through an exercise of our sovereignty, the Tribe created a significant revenue stream entering into the patent arena. Under the terms of an initial agreement with Allergan, the Tribe received \$8.25 million. The Tribe will be eligible to receive \$9 million in annual royalties for the life of the patents that will, of course, be used to invest in our community. This exertion of sovereignty represents an advancement and potential game changer for Indian Country.

In follow up to a referendum held in 2016, giving Tribal Council support to research the feasibility and regulatory requirements of cannabis as an enterprise, we anticipate holding a second referendum regarding medical marijuana and industrial hemp this summer. The cannabis plant has medical benefits that researchers throughout the world have determined helps treat pain, nausea, loss of appetite and, particularly, for patients who suffer from chronic illness, including epilepsy, Parkinson's Disease and cancer. It is my belief that our community should have access to the regulated cannabis market, both for patient care and as an enterprise. Industrial hemp also represents great opportunities in the sheer diversity of the products that can be manufactured from the plant. Industrial hemp production opens the door to an international market that would drive additional enterprises, moving us closer to self-sustainability and diversification of revenue streams.

The future and our vision for Akwesasne is one of a prosperous, healthy, balanced and vibrant community. *Niawen:kówa* to our teachers, elders and youth who are so committed to contributing and sharing their knowledge - we learn from one another and we are all the better and stronger for it.

Niawen:kówa to members of the Unified Command for their role in keeping our community safe during the February 2018 flooding of the St. Regis River. I also say *Niawen:kówa* to our tribal programs, state and county emergency response agencies, as well as neighboring fire departments for their assistance in responding to 35 homes and 100 residents that were displaced by the high water level. Inside this issue is a complete listing of agencies that responded and/or provided resources to help our community members safe.

Skén:nen Chief Eric Thompson



Evolving Native Government to Serve the People

Growth & Development at the SRMT

By Tsiorasa Barreiro, Executive Director

As a community government, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) is responsible for the health, safety, welfare and education of our tribal members. Today, the SRMT represents a substantial effort by many dedicated Mohawk people working in diverse departments committed to improving the life potentials of all the members of our community.

Over the past five years, we have seen positive strides in the continued development of our tribal government. Experienced and knowledgeable staff, encouraged to improve technical and human skills, are showing this to be the case.

Our Strategic Plan helps us understand a key question- What is the SRMT today, and where are we heading?

The SRMT is many things to many people. For some the Tribe is the Three Chiefs. For others, the Tribe is the place where they receive services from one of our more than 200 tribal programs. To some, the Tribe is considered a foreign and imposed structure, perhaps not even a Mohawk institution.

The reality today is that the Tribe is a dynamic vehicle -- run and operated by Mohawk people -- in the service of all *Akwesashró:non*. It is an institution fully committed to positive development and change in our community. The Tribal government will continue

to evolve as the tribal membership sees fit, as it has over the past 25 years -- through the welcome input and participation of the membership and through the process of referendum.

Examples of our referendum process leading to governmental change include our tribal membership voting to create staggered terms for Council in 2004, voting to create a Tribal Court in 2005, directing land disputes to be decided by the Tribal Court in 2009 and voting to increase governmental transparency and accountability through passage of the 2013 Tribal Procedures Act.

With these decisions, the community demonstrated that positive change to our tribal government comes from the people themselves, the way it should be. These examples demonstrate the opportunities we have as tribal relatives to guide and further develop our community governance.

In the past five years our elected leadership, our management team and staff have deepened our commitments and skills in a maturing process of leadership and service in response to these mandates.

A Healthy and Prosperous Mohawk environment where every member has the opportunity to succeed at home and in the global community



Mohawk ironworkers 'top off' construction for the brand new Tribal Administration Building.

Above is our vision statement, central to the SRMT Strategic Plan. The past five years have witnessed substantial achievements in this direction, continually aligning our daily reality to this important vision. Through the commitment and hard work of tribal staff and key contributions and feedback from our membership, notable improvements are being made.

Community Infrastructure

We continue to focus on the development of community infrastructure as the SRMT seeks to improve health and safety within Akwesasne.

The Travis Solomon Memorial Lacrosse Box at Generations Park has been a visible and rewarding project for the community. Our national sport is a great way to bring our community out in healthy activity, and to cheer on our youth, who are the basis of our unity as a people.

In early 2013, the following four critical infrastructure projects were prioritized:

- Waterline upgrades on State Route 37
- A new office building for the Planning & Infrastructure Division
- Expansion of Business Park Road to McGee Road
- A modern, safe and healthy Tribal Administration Building

By the end of 2018, all of these projects will be complete. Community feedback and dialogue were essential in shaping these priority projects.

The next infrastructure projects on the horizon include the Health Services building expansion, renovation of the former-IGA building for tribal programs and their clients, a new building for the Tribal Police Department and a new building and location for the Partridge House.

In addition to these building projects, the Generations Park Master Plan is coming along to add additional fields, an amphitheater, splash pad, volleyball courts and other recreational amenities. The Agriculture Program is developing a tribal farm at the end of Blair Road. Street lights and sidewalks are in the planning stages and the SRMT is working with the Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club to develop a new building for our kids within the expanded park.

Program Expansion

The Tribe operates many programs and departments to assist our people, assuming ongoing responsibility to perform needed tasks in the areas of governance, health, education, economic and infrastructure development and public safety.

We have created and expanded services to the community over the past five years:

- The Agriculture Program is tilling gardens, promoting egg production with students and improving water drainage for community farmers and residents. This important program is based on the goal of tribal food sovereignty, and grounded in the experience of our farming families and our ancient connection to the land.

- The Family Advocate, and as of this year a new Victim Advocate are both positions funded by the Tribal General Fund (TGF) to assist our people with all manner of hardships and with navigating through state and federal programs and processes.

- A new, larger Individualized Residential Alternative (IRA) home built in Frogtown in 2016 to bring developmentally disabled relatives closer to family and program services.

- Tribal Emergency Medical Service created to double first responder ambulance services available to community members in need.



Sports and community events have been enjoyed by all at the ever expanding Generations Park. More is yet to come!

- The Child Advocacy Center, established in 2016, now serves as a resource for families, law enforcement and social services in attending to the needs of abused children.
- The Diabetes Center for Excellence established in 2013, and has offered a host of health programming opportunities for the community; including early-hours wellness programs that kicked off this winter.
- Generations Park has increased its activities with offerings in yoga, pilates, archery and many youth sports programs that make use of the park grounds. We can't emphasize enough the importance of Generations Park, and its role as a common ground for community well-being.
- Expanded Elder Services. Tribal Council has continued winter fuel assistance programs, created a home electric utility financial assistance program, as well as expanded snow plow services for our elders. A financial assistance benefit program for elders will also begin as a pilot program later this year.
- Expanded student services including the Career Intern & Youth program, College & Career Readiness programs, Close-Up, Graduate Student Scholarships.
- Akwesasne Cultural Restoration Program expanded understanding and knowledge of traditional Mohawk language, horticulture, medicines, hunting and fishing practices. Twelve trained apprentices graduated the program in December; many have joined other community initiatives to enhance language programs and cultural practices.
- The SRMT Mohawk Language instruction offerings were revamped to better serve community members with additional times and locations.

Importance of Good Governance

The elders of my family always stressed the importance of good-minded relations. They also taught that unity of mind among the people is the most important community building goal.

This personal orientation makes my work easier and even more whole, as this goal is the main focus of our chiefs and is increasingly represented in the work of our more than 1650 employees. Unity of mind among the people means working toward a good common understanding of our values and responsibilities to our families and our many relatives in our Mohawk community.

I suggest that our tribal government culture, how we treat each other and how we connect and interact with our community members, is in constant improvement. Good working and service relations uplift our spirits and lead us to be more empathic with others; it also makes us more efficient; more capable; more productive.

As a tribal government, I hope we will never intend to represent the spirituality of the Mohawk People, but as Mohawks we proudly apply as we can, the ancient teachings that come to us through our common ancestors. Respect, appreciation, reciprocity, balance, good mindedness, practicality -- we embrace and increasingly work from these concepts and principles. We will not always succeed, but this is the direction, and it has resulted in good movement.

A major step in improvement in tribal governance took place in 2013 when membership approved the Tribal Procedures Act. The Procedures Act outlines various duties and responsibilities of the Tribal Chiefs, Sub-Chiefs and Tribal Clerk, including financial disclosures to community through presentations of the annual fiscal audit, public meetings for community input to the annual tribal government budget, referendum processes and many



The 2018 Close Up Program in Washington, DC offered Mohawk Youth the opportunity to network with and learn about Tribal government advocacy.

other essential duties and responsibilities. The Act has significantly increased transparency and accountability to the tribal membership.

Another significant development is the adoption of a 10-Year Strategic Plan, entitled “Working Together Today to Build a Better Tomorrow.” The Strategic Plan sets the vision and mission of the SRMT and clearly identifies key principles of the organization, such as: 1) pursuing continuous improvement; 2) strengthening our Mohawk culture and identity; and 3) embracing the diversity in our staff and in our community. These strategic objectives have been key to setting a good path forward for all tribal operations.

The SRMT Economic Development arms, as represented by our Tewathahon:ni Corporation and its subsidiaries, have grown considerably in the past five years. The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino & Resort, and our professional staff who run it, continue to fuel the growth in programs and services within the SRMT. While this fact is significant for Akwesasne, leaders across Indian Country have recognized the importance of economic diversification for tribal communities and governments.

Mohawk Networks represents our largest diversification effort. In the past twelve months, this endeavor has been awarded two significant grants from New York State to improve and greatly expand its services to the underserved population in the North Country. Most of us recall when Akwesasne was a dial-up community and the hardships that the lack of high-speed internet placed on our community, particularly businesses and students.

Akwesasne TV draws on the tradition of Akwesasne as a beacon of communications, by and among indigenous peoples, allowing our community to better describe itself and share our language, history and current events.

Mohawk Networks, Akwesasne TV, Mohawk Soy and the Tribe’s recent bold move into the Patent/Intellectual Property

space represent well-considered economic diversification and have spurred employment and new revenues.

These developments would not be possible without great effort, forethought and collaboration by tribal leadership and our professional tribal staff, and without input from our people.

For those who wonder, just what is the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe?

We say this: the full SRMT organization is over 1,650 employees, “*Akwe:kon/All of Us*”, working towards a common vision for a healthy and prosperous community today, and for the generations to come.



The Travis Solomon Memorial Lacrosse Box has hosted many community events including the Congressional Medal Ceremony honoring our Mohawk Code Talkers.

We continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of our people. Tribal members have the power to stir the changes they see fit, through dialogue and through the referendum process. New York State and the Federal Government no longer exert the influence they once did on our government structure; how we choose to organize ourselves politically. Sovereign-minded Mohawk people manage and operate the tribal government. It is up to all our people to make our collective vision for Akwesasne a reality, now and to the future.

I propose that the past five years have provided our working teams with a new direction and deeper experience of service to the community. Many dedicated Mohawk people and others from different cultures work behind the scenes every day. Each and every one of them is critical to reaching our goals - in infrastructure, programs and governance - where dialogue and ideas become reality.

We are committed to sustaining an initiative for a deeper, always productive experience of service to our community. The next five years we commit to continuing on the path of good transformation in our quest for harmony, well-being, and unity of mind among the Akwesasne Mohawk people. ♦

SRMT Jobs are Now on USA Jobs & US.jobsNY

The Tribe has discovered a new process to post open positions on a state and national level. Previously, in order to post a job with the New York State Job Bank, a multiple page form had to be filled out and faxed to the job bank. Several days later, a listing would appear. With their new system, after a new job is posted on our website, US.jobs indexes the page and creates a link from our site to theirs. All of this is done at no charge and with no extra work. Job seekers can search for positions within a certain distance from Akwesasne or Hogansburg. They will be taken directly to the job listing on our web site. This is essentially the same process used by all high-level Internet search engines.

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Human Resources uses various job networks and publications for posting positions. A minimum two-week posting to Indian Time and CKON 97.3 FM are required for all of the Tribe's open positions. All positions are also posted on the Akwesasne Employment Resource Center website at www.myaerc.org. Other regional options may be used depending on how difficult the position is to fill and if the program has funds to pay for the advertisement. Free Trader, North Country Now, Massena Courier Observer and Malone Telegram are some of the ones commonly used. If the position is very hard to fill, some advertising may be done state-wide in Watertown, Syracuse, Albany, Buffalo and nationally. NativeAmericanJobs.com is another cost-effective option to reach a national Native audience.

The Human Resources and Communications Departments are working together to get the most qualified and skilled employees who can provide outstanding service to our community. ♦

2018 Tribal Caucus

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Election Board will be holding the annual Tribal caucus on Saturday, *Onerahtohkó:wa*/May 5, 2018. There are three positions open: one Tribal Chief, one Tribal Sub-Chief and one Tribal Clerk.

The caucus begins at 10:00 a.m. sharp in the lobby of the Tribal Community Building when the floor will be opened for nominations for each respective position. All nominees are responsible for submitting their required documents and drug testing by the close of business on Wednesday, *Onerahtohkó:wa*/May 9th. The unofficial list of all nominees will be posted by Friday, *Onerahtohkó:wa*/May 11th.

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. Nominees for all elected positions must be present to accept or refuse the nomination at the time of the caucus,
4. Reside in the United States or in the U.S. portion of Akwesasne for at least six months immediately prior to the election, and
5. 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.

The Tribal Election will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, *Obiari:ha*/June 2, 2018 with early voting conducted on Tuesday May 29th and Wednesday May 30th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Community Building Lobby.

Home voting will take place on Friday, June 1st, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, please contact the Tribal Clerk's Office by end of business day, Wednesday, May 30, 2018.

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. ♦

Tribal Clerk's Office Updates

By Betty Roundpoint, Tribal Clerk

The overall purpose of the Tribal Clerk's office is to assist tribal members with tribal enrollment, tribal identification cards, lands & estates and records management.

Land Deeds: Our office has implemented a new program which requires land owners to obtain a certified land survey, prior to processing a "Right to Use and Occupancy Deed" for their property. We have contracted with two surveyors who have agreed to a reduced, flat fee of \$100 for a parcel up to two acres. The \$100.00 fee includes the deed and must be paid prior to the deed being processed. If you already have a certified land survey for your property, the fee for processing a deed is \$50. The contact information for the certified land surveyors participating in this pilot project is available at the Tribal Clerk's Office.

As of August 16, 2017, land disputes are now handled by Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Court in accordance to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Probate Law of 2017. The documents relating to land laws and disputes are on the Tribal Court pages at www.srmt-nsn.gov/tribal-court. Questions can be directed to them by calling (518) 358-6300.

Membership: In preparation for a referendum on residency, surveys will be mailed out to all tribal members over the age of 18. Please make sure membership information is updated: physical and mailing addresses, any name changes, marriage, divorce, births and deaths.

Notary Publics: We now have two Notary Publics on staff. A Notary Public is a public officer who executes acknowledgements of deeds or writings in order to render them available as evidence,

administer oaths and affirmation as to the truth of statements. No appointment is needed, although you may want to call first to make sure at least one of the notaries is in. There is no charge for this service.

Tax Exemptions: While some stores will accept a tribal ID for tax exempt purchases, many require the products be delivered to Akwesasne. Online shopping sites such as Amazon, satellite television providers, cell phone providers and utility companies can be exempt from New York State tax if certain conditions are met. The product or service must be delivered to Akwesasne to

an enrolled tribal member. A New York State Tax exemption form (DTF-801, Certificate of Indian Exemption for Certain Property or Services Delivered on a Reservation) will need to be filed with the provider. The forms are available at the Tribal Clerk's Office and online at the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance website (https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/st/801.pdf) You will need to have your account numbers. Stacy Skidders, Community Liaison for National Grid, is available to help community members file an exemption for National Grid and other providers. Her office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can reach her by calling (518) 391-5842.



Top L-R: Summer Bero - Deputy Tribal Clerk, Derrick King - GIS Technician, Arlene LaFrance - Records Management Assistant, Terry Cree - Records Clerk, Lillian Benedict-Barton - Records Management Officer, and Betty Roundpoint - Tribal Clerk

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Tribal Clerk's Office at (518) 358-2272 or stop by between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. We are closed on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. for staff development. ♦

Experience Akwesasne:

Cultural Tourism and You!

By Penny Peters, Tourism Industry Development Manager

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Office of Economic Development – Cultural Tourism Office continues to move forward with cultural tourism initiatives in Akwesasne under its five-year grant from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) 2016-2021 entitled *Creating Akwesasne Tourism Industry Business & Jobs*.

A cultural tourism business is a locally owned business, product or service that authentically reflects a past or present indigenous culture or aspects of the culture that include lifestyle, heritage, food, music, dance, art, craft, architecture and spiritual beliefs. Cultural tourism, when organized and successfully planned, can bring many benefits to the community. Cultural tourism helps to celebrate our environment, heritage and language, as well as promote the history of our people and preserve local traditions, customs and culture. It can enhance our sense of community and pride in being *Akwesashe:non* and contribute to teaching our youth about our history and heritage. While sharing our culture, history and heritage with the world, we get the opportunity to tell *our* story and help to decrease myths and stereotypes. Cultural tourism generates positive economic impacts not only for the community but for the surrounding region. It creates jobs and opportunities for new and existing businesses, and helps to develop management and entrepreneurship skills for our community members. Cultural tourism can lead to exciting new and mutually beneficial partnerships with neighboring tourism destinations.

The Cultural Tourism Business Incubator will provide a physical workspace, computers, programs and access, as well

as an array of business support services including training, coaching and networking. The overall goal of the incubator is to produce successful and sustainable cultural tourism businesses. Entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to turn their ideas into reality with assistance customized to their needs, coupled with training, mentoring, and evaluation. Some of the trainings and presentations include business plan writing, marketing and branding, bookkeeping, pricing your art, intellectual property rights and presentation skills. A business incubator increases the likelihood that a startup business will stay in business for long term and create jobs within the community. If you have a passion for our culture here in Akwesasne and have thought about the possibility of turning it into a business, or have an interest in helping to preserve our unique culture and heritage, we encourage you to contact us here at the Tourism office to discuss the possibilities. Our Tourism Business Incubator Manager, Latoya Rourke, is currently out on maternity leave so we would like to introduce Leona Francis to our team as the interim Incubator Manager. Leona brings with her abundant experience in project coordination, planning and small business development skills as well as a background in Hospitality Management.

Leona has already reached out and met with several enthusiastic entrepreneurs and is working to assist each with specific plans and training to start or further develop their cultural tourism business.

The Tourism office is located at the Akwesasne Business Center, 447 Frogtown Road in Suite 101 and we can be reached at (518) 358-4238 or email tourism@srmt-nsn.gov. We look forward to hearing from you! ♦



*Leona Francis,
Interim Business Incubator Manager*

Benefits of Gaming:

Tribal Support of Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club Surpasses \$3.5 Million

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

The beginning of a new year marks the conclusion of another decade of financial support provided by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club. Since January 8, 2008 the Tribe has provided \$3,505,419.60 to support the youth facility's operating costs. It represents a significant investment by the Tribe in providing a positive place and future for Akwesasne youth.

"Tribal Council has been proud to support our youth, who are our future, with investments in the Akwesasne Boy's and Girl's Club," said Tribal Chief Michael Conners. He noted, "We have heard the level of support that other nations, towns, and cities provide to their Boys and Girls Club and remain proud that Akwesasne is committed to maintain this support for our youth."

Though there have been previous contributions, 2008 marks the year that the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe made an annual financial commitment of \$350,000; which is used to support after-school programs, educational opportunities and programming for youth, as well as the GED Program for adults, youth summer program for over 150 children, food service and hot meal programs, and back-pack programs.

"Our most important asset is our children and grandchildren," shared Tribal Chief Eric Thompson. He added, "As our future, the youth that we are investing in will become our future Mohawk doctors, attorneys, accountants, teachers, first responders, sports coaches, and community leaders, to name just a few possibilities."

Over the years, the Tribe has provided additional contributions throughout the year that raised the total annual contribution to the Boys and Girls Club to \$450,000. Two extra contributions are made for \$50,000 each to help support the Club's Teen Summer Program, which is attended each year by 60 teens, as well as a Mohawk School Support Unit that services 100 youth.



"When people ask 'How does the casino benefit us', this is one of the many ways that gaming revenue is investing in Akwesasne's future," shared Tribal Chief Beverly Cook. She concluded, "The Boys and Girls Club continues to be at the forefront in helping prepare youth with the skills and confidence to succeed in their personal pursuits—academically and professionally."

More recently, the Tribe has also made contributions to the Boys and Girls Club's annual golf tournament and their "Be Great Gala." Both contributions are for \$2,500 to support the Club's fundraising efforts and, as a result, has now increased the Tribe's annual support to \$460,000.

In addition, the Tribe also provides numerous "in-kind" services to the Boys and Girls Club; such as lawn care, snow removal, and youth initiatives in partnership with tribal departments and program's that include Environment Division, Let's Get Healthy Program, Alcohol/Chemical Dependency Program, Mental Health Department, Family Support Program, and more. ♦

Community Engagement:

Akwesasne Cultural Restoration: A New Beginning

By Barbara Tarbell, ACR Program Manager and Amberdawn LaFrance, ACR Office Manager

The Akwesasne Cultural Restoration Program (ACR) was established by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe in 2013 as a result of the St. Lawrence Environment Natural Resources Damage Assessment Settlement. The settlement is the outcome of decades of assessment and evaluation of the devastating effects that contamination has had on Akwesasne. This harm caused a severance to our relationship with the land, a connection integral to who we are as *Onhkwéhónwe*. We used these settlement funds received for something so harmful and turned it into a positive action with many profound and immeasurable benefits to our community.

The name of the program in Kanien'keha is *Á:se tsi Tewá:ton* which means "make it new again". These words and their meaning describe what the ACR Program is doing for Mohawk culture and language; bringing new life to traditions and cultural practices while strengthening the connection of people to the land. The main component of *Á:se Tsi Tewá:ton* is the cultural apprenticeship program.



Fishing & River Use

L-R: Kawisenénhtha, Tewa'keráhkwa, Ratsikó:ia'ks, and Nikanerahtá:sa (Teacher)



Horticulture & Traditional Foods

Iotenerahtaténion (Teacher), Konwarihonnién:ni, Tehahonkohtha, and Tekonwakwenni

Apprentices were hired to work with masters of traditional knowledge for a four-year apprenticeship based on the traditional land-based and cultural practices of fishing & river use, horticulture & traditional foods, medicine plants & healing, hunting & trapping.

The ACR program set out to bring specific cultural activities, some at the brink of being lost, back to Akwesasne. The areas of learning exceeded the hands on experimental learning as ACR worked to include a holistic approach with Haudenosaunee values that generate long term thinking, sustainability and leadership qualities. In measuring success of our efforts, one needs to consider how the community has been affected in positive ways by the ACR program. Altogether as a program, ACR has provided over 120 workshops in and around Akwesasne since 2014. Workshops on numerous topics such as skinning muskrats, fire cider, handmade boats, and preparation of traditional foods were intended to share knowledge with the community through demonstrations and hands on

participation while using the language. There are also unquantifiable 'seeds' that have been planted. The ACR program has inspired the next generation of language teachers, trappers, medicine healers, and fishermen, but also influenced our current knowledge holders to share their teachings with others to ensure the continuation of our Haudenosaunee life practices.

The first group of apprentices graduated after four years of intensive study, on December 22, 2018. Friends and families of the 13 graduating apprentices gathered at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation to celebrate this amazing accomplishment. Master Teachers and Language Teachers presented their students with certificates, gifts, and words of appreciation and encouragement. In turn, apprentices expressed their appreciation through beautiful speeches given in *Kanien'keha*. We have now returned into the community 13 individuals to start a new journey. They have been nurtured and encouraged to be leaders in their own way, while making positive contributions for a stronger and more resilient Akwesasne.

Currently, the ACR Program administrative staff and teachers are in a planning and program evaluation phase. The ACR Teachers are compiling data and curriculum from the past four years as well as strategic planning for the next phase of the program. Administrative staff will remain in the office throughout 2018 finalizing program evaluations and writing grants to secure additional funding required for the continuation and a new beginning for ACR, potentially in 2019. If any other programs or organizations are interested in partnering with the ACR program on a grant, please contact our office at (518) 333-0222. ♦



Hunting & Trapping

L-R: Iaontaná:wen (Teacher), Tehawenhniserátthe, Ranekénhteron, and Teiohontsiakwénhte



Medicine Plants & Healing

L-R: Konwahonwíhshon (Teacher), Shonó:rise, Takatsi'tsionkie, Sateiokwen, Tsioneráhtase, and Kahentakè:ron (Teacher)

Photos by MJKS

Tribal Programs Support Unified Response to St. Regis River Flood

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's divisions and programs have become accustomed to 'working together to help build a better tomorrow' for the community of Akwesasne. The overall health, education, welfare and, in particular, the safety of all community members is a responsibility that is taken very seriously. To do so effectively and efficiently entails taking a coordinated approach, often in cooperation with other local organizations and agencies, such as the Unified Incident Command, in responding to the St. Regis River flood in February 2018.

The conditions that contributed to the river's flooding in February began on January 16, 2018 when the Tribe's Emergency Planning Office, Tribal Police Department and the Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department (HAVFD) issued a flood watch. For the next week, the three agencies worked in coordination with numerous tribal programs to prepare and assist local residents with rising water levels.

A planning team was assembled to help monitor rising water levels and respond to requests for assistance from local residents. Daily briefings were held by the Emergency Planning Office that were attended by the Tribe's Safety Officer, Communications Department, Community and Family Services Division, Assistant Director, Chief of Police, Water Resources Manager, Family Advocate, Housing Improvement Program, Water Treatment Plant Manager, Division of Social Services and a representative from the HAVFD.

The Communications Department issued daily advisories and developed flood preparedness brochures that were delivered door-to-door by members of the Emergency Planning Office, Family Advocate and the Compliance Department, with the assistance of Tribal Sub-Chiefs Agnes Jacobs and Cheryl Jacobs. The Housing

Improvement Program helped pump flooded basements and the Maintenance Department worked alongside community members who volunteered to fill sandbags for residents in the flood prone area. The Water Resources Manager monitored water levels due to ice jams and the Social Services Division prepared to open shelters, which included the Office for the Aging, during a brief power outage.

On January 24, 2018, the Emergency Planning Office downgraded the flood watch to an Area of Concern due to receding water levels however, the ice jam located along Gray Street

in Hogansburg remained in place. As a result, home assessments continued and the Emergency Planning Office encouraged homeowners in the flood area to plan and prepare for any changes to the river's conditions.

One month later on February 21st, the National Weather Service in Burlington, VT once again notified local residents of an impending flood. The Emergency Planning Office resumed its encouragement for community members to be aware of changes



As the river overflowed on to Church Street, a moat was created around the St. Regis Mohawk School.

to the water levels and to follow instructions provided in the flood preparedness brochure. Ice jams that continued to disrupt the river's flow for the past month contributed to rising water levels, which resulted in the Tribal Council issuing a precautionary evacuation order for the flood areas.

To support a coordinated response; a Unified Command Post was established comprised of the Emergency Planning Office, Tribal Police Department and HAVFD. The Unified Incident Commanders identified objectives for operational periods that were relayed to response teams and the Public Information Officer continued to share daily updates and notifications on CKON 97.3FM, Akwesasne TV and on social media channels and websites.

Due to severe flooding, the Tribal Council issued a State of Emergency on February 22, 2018 to ensure public safety and render all available tribal resources to assist 35 homes impacted by the flooding. State and county emergency services and fire departments responded with additional resources and the Division of Social Services activated Memorandums of Agreement with local hotels to accommodate 100 displaced residents. Caring Hearts of Akwesasne also contributed with a pot-luck dinner for evacuees staying at the Comfort Inn on Saturday, February 24, 2018.

For the ongoing safety of the displaced residents due to continued



The ice jammed up nearly reaching the bridge, caused the precautionary closing of the road on two separate days.



Community volunteers, first responders and inmates joined the effort by filling hundreds of sandbags.

flooding, the Division of Social Services extended the hotel stays until Monday, February 26, 2018 at the Comfort Inn in Akwesasne and the Quality Inn located in Massena. During this time, the Emergency Planning Office activated the Akwesasne Community Emergency Response Team to assist with response efforts.

Water levels began receding on Sunday February 25, 2018 and the Compliance Department and Environment Division started home assessments. Working in coordination with the Emergency Planning Office, they coordinated repairs to heating systems and home utilities.

On Monday, February 26, 2018 the Incident Command Post that served as a base of operation for the Unified Command was deactivated and returned to the HAVFD. Many of the displaced residents have returned to their homes, with the exception of five homes that were determined to have major water damages. Three of the homes are currently under repair by the Housing Improvement Program with help from local contractors, as well as the Division of Social Services and Family Advocate who are coordinating the replacement of damaged furniture and appliances.

Despite the hardships faced by local residents, the preparedness efforts that began in January 2018 contributed to an efficient and prompt evacuation of the flood area

the following month. The cooperation of community members enabled emergency response personnel to focus on the incident for the safe return of residents to their homes.

The St. Regis River flood in February 2018 was a good example of tribal programs, first responders, community organizations and others working together to build a 'safer' tomorrow. ♦



The unfortunate residents of St. Regis Road had to be evacuated as water filled their basements & first floors and ice piled up on their lawns.



The strong force of the ice moved garages, sheds, lawn fixtures & even vehicles.

St. Regis River Flood Responders

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe:

Emergency Planning Office
Communications Department
Executive Director's Office
Community and Family Services Division: Family Advocate
Housing Improvement Program
Division of Social Services
Maintenance and Facilities
Planning & Infrastructure: Water Treatment Plant
Environment Division: Water Resources
Tribal Police Department
Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department

Franklin County:

Bombay Fire Department
Moir Fire Department
Dickinson Fire Department
St. Regis Fall Fire Department
Paul Smiths Gabriels Fire Department
Tupper Lake Fire Department
Westville Fire Department
Bangor Fire Department
Brushton Fire Department
Malone Call Firemen
Owls Head Mountain View Fire Department
Duane Fire Department
Constable Fire Department
Burke Fire Department
Chateaugay Fire Department
Franklin County Emergency Services
Franklin County Public Health

St. Lawrence County:

Helena Fire Department

New York State:

NYS Department of Transportation
NYS Forest Rangers,
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

United States:

Department of Homeland Security Emergency Services
U.S. Border Patrol Marine and Air Division

Business Feature: Wild Bill's One Stop

By Mary Lafrance, Economic Development Program Support Officer

Wild Bill's One Stop represents so much more than just another convenience store. Not only are you sure to find last minute grocery and gift items, you will also find a strong sense of community.

Owner Jerry Cook, grew up working in grocery stores like A&P and TOPS while attending College in Buffalo, NY. After being recruited in to the Air Force at 21, he found himself on a T-38 Instrument Trainer and instructing pilots at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, TX, and working in the One-Stop grocery on base. He returned home after four years and worked in various management and finance positions across the North Country, including: Alcoa, Agway and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Unhappy with his work schedule and working for others, he decided to open his own business.

At the time, it was very difficult to acquire start-up capital for businesses on territory because banks were not offering business loans on reserve. With some luck and support from the community, Mr. Cook was able to secure \$50,000 in personal loans to open Wild Bill's One Stop in July 1987, right in the heart of Akwesasne.

"I feel proud of my dad for all his hard work and accomplishments he has done for his family," said Michele Cook, Jerry's daughter. "He has sacrificed a lot to make this business be successful not only to provide for his family but for the community as well."

Wild Bill's One Stop thrived in those early years – they were open 24/7 with a total of 15 employees working two on a shift. There was a snack bar in the back and a clothing section. Over time, more convenience stores and restaurants opened up along Route 37 and Jerry had to adapt the store to better meet his customers' needs. Today, the store focuses on convenience items, cigarettes, odds &

ends, handmade Native arts & crafts and unique gifts. The back of the store is being rented out by a local pizzeria.

"I like the wide variety," said regular customer Leslie Benedict. "You are almost sure you can find what you need with friendly service."

In 2016, Wild Bill's One Stop was nominated for an Akwesasne Business Excellence Award (ABEA) for Customer Service. This was Wild Bill's One Stop first nomination which were created as a way to

recognize Akwesasne's businesses and future leaders. Wild Bill's One Stop was again nominated in 2017 for Community Choice, and this time they won.

"When I won, I was stunned," remembered Jerry. "It's a nice feeling to be here so long and still be respected, people still appreciate you."

Jerry has never forgotten the support he has received from the community. He always tries to make everyone feel welcome and keep the store stocked with specific items requested by his faithful customers. The walls are covered with pictures of youth softball and hockey teams that he used to coach, and family and friends who have influenced the store. Thanks to the Akwesasne Area Management Board Beautify Akwesasne pilot project, the front porch is once again a place for social gatherings.

Wild Bill's One Stop is located at 564 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY. You can also find Wild Bill's One Stop on Facebook, where they share store products, just arrived gifts, and memories with their customers. For more information on business services, please contact the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Office of Economic Development at (518) 358-2835 or email economic.development@srmt-nsn.gov. ♦



*Michele Cook and Jerry Cook, ABEAs 2017.
Photo by Jessica Sargent of Ink & Paper Photo.*

Spring Environment Events

Burn Permit Applications

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division will be accepting burn permit applications beginning April 3, 2018 at the Division offices, 449 Frogtown Road, Akwesasne.

On May 3rd, the Air Quality Program will be set up in the lobby of the Tribal Community Building from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to hand out permit applications, guideline brochures and a video to help educate on proper burning. Burn pile inspections will begin the week of May 15th.

A burn permit is not required for outdoor cooking, fires for warmth or ceremonial fires. A complete list of the exceptions is in the guideline brochure.

If you have any questions, or would like to get a burn permit application, please contact the Environment Division at (518) 358-5937.



Community Ash Tree Survey Project Workshop

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Forestry Resources Program collaboration with the US Forest Service and USDA-Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) is providing a community work shop to explain the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) community volunteer program.

Date: May 3, 2018

Time: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Akwesasne Housing Authority, Training Room, 378 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655.

For more information contact the Environment Division at (518) 358-5937.



The SRMT Environment Division, MCA Environment Division and the Akwesasne Task Force are collaborating to hold the annual earth day events.

Tree & Seed Giveaway

Date: Saturday, April 21, 2018

Start: 9:00 a.m. - until supplies last

Locations: Seniors Center for garden seeds and Generations Park for trees

- Seeds: beets, squash, pumpkin, beans, onion sets, seed potatoes, radishes, peas, cucumber and corn.
- Trees: Black Walnut, Bur Oak, White Cedar, White Spruce, White Pine, Red Oak and Butternut Hickory.

Roadside Cleanup

Dates: Saturday April 28, 2018 - Rain date May 5, 2018

Start: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Senior Center - Register and get bags and gloves. Lunch provided at noon at Generations Park.

For additional information, contact Craig Arquette at the SRMT Environment Division, (518) 358-5937. Individuals and organizations can receive volunteer hours.

Bi-Annual Spring Cleanup

The Tribe's Solid Waste Management Program will be offering curbside collection of materials from May 7 to June 8, 2018. This special collection services does not include your regular household garbage. Only bulky items, electronics, white goods and scrap metal will be collected.

The pickup dates for each area will be published in the next May/June newsletter, in Indian Time, on our website and posted on Facebook. For questions, please call the Transfer Station at (518) 358-4632. ♦

Future Mohawk Leaders Awards

By Stephanie Cook, Education Division Executive Director

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Higher Education Division has selected the 10 recipients of the 2017 Future Mohawk Leaders Scholarships. For the tenth year in a row, an anonymous donor has provided financial support for Mohawk students' educational endeavors in undergraduate and graduate studies. The \$30,000 donation allowed eight undergraduates and two graduates to receive \$3,000 each.

The selection committee, made up of Education Division, Child Protective Services and Legal staff, selected the recipients from 58 submissions consisting of an essay explaining their educational goals, aspirations and financial need.



***Lillian Benedict
Barton***
History
Southern New
Hampshire University



Jarrett Edwards
Energy Skills
Engineering Program
Iohahio Adult
Education



Kristen Pyke
Graduate
PhD in Clinical
Psychology
University of
Montana



***Kaeliana
Katsitsianentha
Windy Smoke***
Forensic Science -
Biology
University of Toronto
- Mississauga
Campus



Jacob Bero
Engineering Science
SUNY Canton



Serena Hall
Fitness and Wellness
Leadership
SUNY Plattsburgh



Kason Tarbell
Development
Sociology
Cornell University



Waylon Cook
Kanien'kéha
Ratiwennahní:rats
Adult Language
Immersion
Kahnawá:ke



KC Herne
Health and Medicine
Norwich University



Teresa Van Dunk
Graduate
Master's in
Educational
Leadership
Canisius College ♦

Tribal Monthly Meetings

Tsiothohrkó:wa/January 6, 2018
Chairperson: Tribal Chief Eric Thompson

Enníska/February 3, 2018
Chairperson: Tribal Chief Michael Connors

Agenda

1. Review of Previous Action Items:
 - a. Tribal Council to report on March Tribal Meeting motion from the floor for “Tribal Council to enact in investigation (fact finding) and evaluation of the correlation and relationship between the original Elders Benefit Group and the anonymous propaganda, which is an indirect contradiction to the benefit [to] Elders.” *Investigation is currently in the information gathering and analysis stage.*
 - b. Request to look into developing a volunteer program. *A specific request to review potential community member use of tribal property (i.e. snow truck/snowplow) was made at the December Tribal Meeting. The specific concern was snow removal for elders. The SRMT Office for the Aging had been working on expansion of their current plow services and an announcement regarding the expanded service will be made today.*
 - c. Request to look at zoning laws/regulations. *The community members who brought this issue up were asked to speak with the Akwesasne Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.*
4. 10:05 a.m. | Year in Review: Agriculture Program by Ken Jock and Wally Ransom
5. 10:35 a.m. | Year in Review: Home Improvement Program by Jamie Bay
6. 11:05 a.m. | Update SRMT Elders Benefit Working Group Report by Jim Ransom
7. 11:35 a.m. | Announcements
 - Office for the Aging - Expansion of Snow Removal Services
 - Wednesday, January 17, 2018 Community Conversations with SRCSD Superintendent, Dr. Stanley Harper on NYS Testing for Grade 3-8 at St. Regis Mohawk School from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
8. 11:45 a.m. | New Business
9. Review of Action Items

Agenda

1. Review of Previous Action Items:
 - a. Tribal Council to report on March Tribal meeting motion from the floor for “Tribal Council to enact in investigation (fact finding) and evaluation of the correlation and relationship between the original Elders Benefit Group and the anonymous propaganda, which is an indirect contradiction to the benefit [to] Elders.” *Investigation is currently in the information gathering and analysis stage.*
 - b. Request for Council to provide a time frame for the implementation of the Elders Benefit Working Group’s recommendation to fund an Elders Program. *Topic is on today’s agenda.*
 - c. Request for CFO to report on the 2016 Tewáthahón:ni Audit at next month’s meeting. *Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs to provide response.*
 - d. Request for Compliance to report on the process wholesalers use to distribute the tax exempt national brand cigarette allocation and check on issues with Capital Candy. *Press Release is provided in attached documents.*
5. 10:05 a.m. | Community Recognition Awards by Sub-Chief Agnes Jacobs
6. 10:25 a.m. | Street Light Project Presentation by Sub-Chief Agnes Jacobs and Brent Herne
7. 11:55 a.m. | Elders Benefit Implementation
8. New Business
 - Staff Recognition: Water Department by Tsiorasa Barreiro
 - Residency Referendum Timeline Update by Dale White and Brendan White
 - Empire State Development Phase 3 Broadband Grant Award to Mohawk Networks by Allyson DoctorNew Business
9. Review of Action Items- none ♦

Calendar

Onerabtokha/April

7 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
 10 - Social Security - 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office
 11 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom

21 - Annual Tree & Seed Giveaway - 9:00 a.m. - Generations Park
 28 - Annual Roadside Cleanup - 8:30 a.m. - Senior's Center
 Wednesdays - Tribal Council Work Session - 9:00 a.m. - Executive Boardroom, Community Building

New Faces

Raeann A Adams	Planner	Economic Development
Stephen J Buddenhagen	Pharmacist	Health Services - Pharmacy
Derek B Comins	Emergency Planner	Executive Director's Office
Julius J Cook	Custodian	Facilities - Maintenance
Michael P Cook	Carpenter	Home Improvement
Nathan F Lazore	Agricultural Labor	Environment - Agriculture
Kristen A Mckeel	Pharmacist	Health Services - Pharmacy
David Kyle Oakes	Custodians	Facilities - Maintenance
Lacey S Pierce	Receptionist	Education - Early Childhood Development
Karen A Plante-Lanthier	Program Accountant	Finance - Accounting
Yvonne E Roe	Teacher Aide	Education - Early Childhood Development
Larry Roundpoint	Carpenter	Home Improvement
Ciele Samuel	SRCS Education Specialist	Education - Johnson O'Malley
Crystal G Stehlin	Procurement Clerk	Procurement
Haylee F Sunday	Administrative Assistant	Community & Family Services - Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation
Chance L Tarbell	Custodian	Facilities - Maintenance
Victoria M Taylor	Sexual Assault Advocate	Community & Family Services - Three Sisters
Krista Tressa	Pharmacist - Per Diem	Health Services - Pharmacy
Kirby W Watson Jr	Inspector	Tribal Gaming

Donations

Community Events- \$ 27,500 Funerals - \$ 14,000 Sports - \$ 9,750 Community Development - \$ 2,566.50

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.

Tips from Tech Support - What If My Identity is Stolen?

Here are a few steps to get started if your identity is ever stolen:



Contact and Monitor All Credit Cards/Bank Cards -

Place a fraud alert on your credit. Identity thieves will try open/use stolen bank or credit card information.

Report acts of stolen identity to one of the three credit reporting agencies. (Experian, Equifax, or TransUnion) and monitor your credit reports.

Contact the Right Authorities - Contact your local police to report the incident. It is also a good idea to contact the Federal Trade Commission (toll free from any phone 1-877-ID THEFT) to help them solve the crimes associated with identity theft.

Your Social Security Number - Your number is unique to you and can be used to purchase property or open new financial accounts. It could also be sold to criminals who may commit crimes under your alias. Report a stolen or missing card to the Social Security Administration 1-800-269-0271 and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 1-800-829-0433.

Contact the Post Office- Identity thieves can go to great lengths to steal your identity. Making the post office aware can stop the thieves from changing your address to apply for loans, new credit cards or make other purchases. Fraudulent changing of an address is a federal offense.

Getting your identity back can be a long and complicated process. You can take steps to prevent identity theft. Always practice good safety using online forms and know who you're giving your information to. ♦

Tribal Council Resolutions (TCRs) *Submitted by the Tribal Clerk's Office*

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

TCR 2018-11: Authorization to Request Funding from the Mohawks of Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust

TCR 2018-10: Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

TCR 2018-09: To Amend the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Traffic Law

TCR 2018-08: Declaration of a State of Emergency

TCR 2018-07: To Declare a 72-Hour Precautionary Evacuation

TCR 2018-06: To Certify Public Involvement for the Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan

TCR 2018-05: To Establish a Street Light District with National Grid

TCR 2018-04: Apply to the Secretary of the Interior to Place Land Into Trust Status Pursuant to 25 USC § 465 and to Proclaim Such Land Reservation Pursuant to 25 USC § 467

TCR 2018-03: To Amend the Authority Delegated to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Tobacco Alcohol and Petroleum Regulatory Department

TCR 2018-02: To Declare an Area of Concern

TCR 2018-01: To Amend Native American Preference Policy ♦

Charge It!

By Angela Benedict, Environment- Air Quality Program Manager

How many things do you charge in a day? Your phone, your Kindle/tablet, your headphones, your meal, your groceries? How many of you can say you charge your car?

I took the plunge and yeah, I didn't go half way. I went all the way. Yeah, sure I could've got a hybrid like a Prius or an Ionic or even a Tesla, but nooo, I have to have a Kia Soul. Not just because the hamsters are cute but I like the vehicle and now it comes in an all-electric model. The real kicker to people who know me is, it's not GREEN. After I got it someone asked me how I liked it and I said "It's blue!" I'm still trying to get over the fact that I have a blue car and that it runs only on electric.

Last year in the *Ohiarikhó:wal/ July/Seskeha/August* edition of *Kawennì:ios*, I wrote about the VW settlement and the amount of money available to do very specific projects on Federally Recognized Tribal lands. Well, as I was driving home from picking up the car, I noticed there are no charging stations between Plattsburgh and Massena. And Massena only has one, right downtown. I also found out that Tesla charging stations ONLY charge Teslas. So, I thought why not get some charging stations here? Maybe then people would be willing to buy electric vehicles. Would you consider buying and electric car or a plug in hybrid if there were more charging stations?

Think about this; you have an appointment at the clinic and you are there for about an hour. Wouldn't it be nice to replenish your charge. Then, you take your kids to Generations Park and they have chargers there or at new Administration Building. Charge it up again. I've noticed that if I have to charge at certain spots it gets me moving more because I have to walk to the different places and I stay there for a longer time. It may also bring in more people with the electric cars to visit our casino/hotel. It would definitely be a selling point just like the RV parking.

Now don't get me wrong, I am not promoting one car over another but if you stay local wouldn't it be nice not to have to buy a lot of gas. I still have a gas powered vehicle for those long trips to places like Ottawa or Syracuse. If I took my electric car, it would take four hours more because I would have to stop and charge somewhere; and hope and pray my car would make it to the next charging station. There are pros and cons with every kind of car you buy, you just have to weigh them and see what's right for you.

And just so you know, there are various options when it comes to hybrids or full electric cars. I never knew there were so many from sports cars to utility vehicles and trucks to vans: Hyundai Ioniq Electric; Hyundai Ioniq Hybrid; Volkswagen e-Golf; Chevy Bolt; Chevy Volt; Nissan Leaf; Tesla Model 3, S or X; BMW i3; Workhorse Trucks; Via Motors; Toyota Prius Prime. You are probably asking yourself, but how much do they cost? Actually, they are pretty reasonable. Most are between \$27,500-\$40,000. Sure, you can spend more than that but that's

pretty average, even the Tesla Model 3 is around \$35,000.

Yeah, I'm still not real sure about the whole electric thing but for now, I know that my footprint is almost nothing when I'm driving it and I might get used to it being blue, we'll see. Please let me know if you would consider an electric or plug-in hybrid if there were charging stations around here. I will see if we can get some through the VW settlement funds. Email angela.benedict@srmt-nsn.gov or phone (518) 358-5937 ext. 129.

So, for now and for the next seven generations, let's think about our carbon footprint and how we can minimize it for cleaner air. ♦



EAB 'Bingo' Players Needed!



The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Forestry Resource Program is requesting property owners assistance in tracking the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Volunteer a tree on your property to be used as sentinel trap tree. Following an inspection, Forestry Resources will girdle the tree this spring and cut it down in the fall. Property owners will be entered in a drawing for a new yard tree that will be planted and cared for by the program for two years. Only one tree is needed in each square so be the first to volunteer. Contact the Forestry Resources Program at (518) 358-5937 to play EAB Bingo. ♦

 Taken



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

ECRWSS
PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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ZIP CODE 13655
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POSTAL PATRON

On the Cover: Each week, one of the ACR apprentices was required to teach a traditional skill to the others in the program. Tekonwakwenni with the Horticulture & Traditional Foods group chose to teach corn husk twining or weaving. The corn husks are twined to create fans, baskets, hats, shoes and clothing. The Traditional Workshop Series classes offered to the community over the past several years were based on the skills learned in these apprentice learning sessions.