

Featured Programs

Office for the
Aging

Economic
Development

Foster
Care

Mental
Health

Kawennì:ios



HAVFD Annual Banquet



All About Footprints (Tsi tekaiano;ni)

Community & Family Services Program Feature

By Cherrie Lazore, ABA Coordinator

The Footprints Respite Autism program operates under the Community and Family Services Division. The program started in 2011 and we have a big job to do. A child is diagnosed with autism once every twenty minutes. Our program is housed in a natural country surrounding. It is a restored wonderful old farm house and has a very calm and relaxing atmosphere.

Our yard is fenced in with a beautiful play set for the children to play on. We have a beautiful garden every year that consists of corn, beans, squash, berries and various herbs. We also have hills of pumpkins. The children are very involved in the garden with the watering and weeding daily. The children also pick the fruits and vegetables when they are ready. We do pickling with our vegetables from the garden and we dry our herbs to make spices. We also do various crafts, wood-working projects, bowling, movies, arcade, sledding, fishing and other activities. We also play games, bake, sew, listen to music, do art projects and have Mohawk culture sessions. Sensory input, unique modes of communication and learning to be friends with others are all important learning tools for children with autism. We work on these basic strategies, using the natural world on a daily basis for children to learn through hands-on experience. For those families who may prefer a more structured clinical approach to help their children, we provide daily

ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) drills in our small ABA rooms. Applied Behavior Analysis drills consist of learning letters, numbers, colors, shapes, tying their shoes, manners and more. We work on gross motor skills, fine motor skills and potty training. We do a lot of sensory things with shaving cream, finger painting and the water table. Our children have learned to tie their shoes, write their names, and be completely potty trained along with learning all their colors, letters, shapes and numbers. Our program runs daily Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and we run year round through the summer. We have four staff: Tiann White, Teresa Pryce, Darline Phelps and Cherrie Lazore. In order to get into our program, a child must meet eligibility guidelines under OMRDD. Children can be diagnosed as early as four to six months old.

Here are just a few autism characteristics: poor eye contact, odd body posture, delay or lack of expressive language skills, unusual pitch or tone, repetitive or peculiar speech patterns (echolalia speech). It has been said that children with autism leave footprints on your heart. We believe this to be true.

For more information about autism or the Footprints program call 518-358-4254. ◇



Good Words of Welcome



She:kon Sewakwe:kon,

I hope everyone is well and finally enjoying the changing of the seasons. Although this hasn't been a winter I remembered as a kid, it was long enough and I am truly grateful that the robins have returned and wake me up every morning with their beautiful music.

With all the things that have been taking place in Akwesasne lately, I will take this time to focus on two really important issues that will be coming up at the June election. The first being the referendum question dealing with the Tribal Council Procedures Act of 1994 Amended. This ordinance allows for more Tribal membership participation in the Tribal Government, makes it less burdensome for membership to initiate petitions to enact laws, reject laws and place questions before the community in a referendum process. It also make Tribal Council more transparent and open by requiring Council to conduct its business through regular meetings open to the public.

The other question being proposed at the June election will ask the community to vote on the Tribe moving forward with the building of a community recreation center. I truly believe the community has

been waiting for and needing this for a long time. Our children's future is counting on the passage of this referendum. This community recreation center will be a state-of-the-art facility that will encompass athletics, arts and education. We are envisioning a regulation-size soccer field that can be used for football, lacrosse and any other activity that requires space. It will also have a track around the field for walking in the wintertime and for the area high schools to train for track and field. It will also house an indoor rink for box lacrosse and other activities. This facility will also house a 350 seat theatre for musicals, theatre productions and a place to go for kids who want to learn more about the arts. It will also be home to class rooms dedicated for tutoring and helping our kids succeed with education. It's basically everything all rolled up into one beautiful building.

I encourage everyone to have your voice heard and your vote counted. Don't let others decide your future for you, get out and make your voice count.

Chief Ron LaFrance

On the Cover: Fire Chief Derek Comins and Treasurer Jason McDonald co-host annual Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department Annual Dinner.

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HCBS Waiver

Community & Family Services Division Program Feature

By Mary Terrance, HCBS Waiver Supervisor

HCBS Waiver is better known in our community as simply “Family Support.” HCBS Waiver is an umbrella program that houses a number of smaller programs all designed to help individuals with developmental disabilities to live richer and meaningful lives. Family Support programs target a number of goals including developing social skills, accessing community resources, continuing education and managing personal affairs. It serves a diverse clientele including adults, adolescents, elders, families and children in a variety of settings. Among the programs that fall under the HCBS Waiver umbrella are: Group Day Habilitation (including Adult Recreation and Leisure and Kids’ Recreation), Community Habilitation and two respite programs.

Habilitation is a fancy word for “helping.” Our staff helps people with developmental disabilities to cultivate the skills they need to live as independently as possible. We provide a variety of recreation opportunities to help our guys develop social skills and maintain meaningful relationships in the community. We host a number of cooking groups, go bowling every Friday, plan special field trips and facilitate trips to the spa, ceramics studio and various malls including Canada, Watertown and Plattsburgh. This past year we were able to plan and execute special field trips to WWF Wrestling in Montreal, trips to Water Safari in Old Forge, Super Dirt Week in Syracuse and Ottawa to view the traveling Van Gogh Exhibit.

In addition to facilitating recreation activities, we also help people complete their personal errands and various daily living skills. This mostly takes place through our Community Habilitation Program. Through this program, staff helps people accomplish

such tasks as paying bills, grocery shopping and running personal errands. This program also makes it possible to have workers come directly to individuals’ homes to help them with things like house cleaning and cooking.

Kids’ Recreation is a specialized after-school program designed to meet the needs of children with developmental disabilities. Family Support has two Kids’ Recreation Programs at this time: Kids’ Rec. at the Family Support building and Footprints over in Frogtown. Kids’ Recreation is geared towards helping kids with special needs get out and have fun and make friends while at the same time work on such skills as communication, etiquette, self-help and community safety awareness skills. The Footprints program does all this but also supplements their program with Applied



Fish Bowl Toss at the Family Support Carnival

Behavior Analysis (ABA) Programming. Footprints is a specialized after-school program designed to meet the specific needs of children on the Autism Spectrum.

Family Support also has two respite programs: Family Support Respite and Hourly Respite. Family Support Respite allows families to find appropriate supervision for their family member with special needs so they can

have a little relief now and again. Families hire their own chosen, qualified individuals and Family Support Respite pays those people a fixed rate and a fixed number of hours per month. Family Support Hourly Respite is when our staff are the ones watching and caring for those family members.

Ultimately, all of our programs have the same goal. And that is: to assist and support individuals with developmental disabilities to develop the self-determination to live as independently as possible and to participate as vital and contributing members of the Akwesasne Community. ♦

Advice & Assistance

Office for the Aging Program Feature

By Lora Lee LaFrance, Information Coordinator

Everyone has questions. Finding the answers can be difficult. Trying to sort through applications, eligibility requirements and documentation can be overwhelming. The Office for the Aging can offer assistance with finding programs and services that meet your needs.

The Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP) is the place for seniors and disabled individuals to get help and information about health insurance. We specialize in helping people get and use Medicare benefits, but we can also help with Medicaid, EPIC, retiree and employer insurances.

The purpose of NY Connects is to link clients with services that help to keep them healthy, independent and living in the community. Our clients are mainly seniors and disabled people, but caregivers and professionals can also benefit from the program. Children specific, consumer and caregiver supports, facility based services, health and wellness, home modification and repairs, insurance benefits information, legal services, mental health, support groups, nutrition, personal finance, tax assistance and residential housing options are some of the areas where we help to find answers.

Are you providing unpaid assistance to a spouse, relative, or friend who is ill, disabled, or needs help with basic activities of daily living? If you provide services like these, whether or not you live with the person you

are helping, you are a caregiver. Our caregivers program provides information about available services and gaining access to those services, respite care and help coordinating services, benefits and entitlements. The

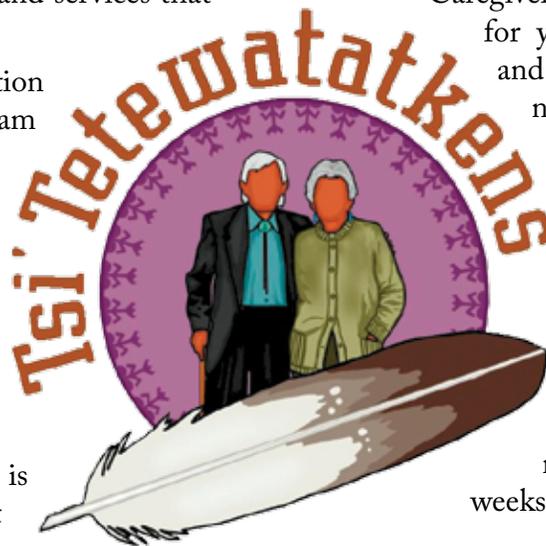
Caregivers Support group is an opportunity for you to meet with other caregivers and share your experience and learn new ways of addressing caregiver needs. Counseling is also offered to caregivers needing more individualized support and guidance.

Living with Loss is a grief and bereavement support group. The group is led by Daniel Hernandez, who is a grief specialist. They meet every other week for six weeks. Anyone who has experienced or is

experiencing a significant loss is welcome to attend. Examples of loss include the passing of a loved one, loss of independence due to illness, or other situations which are causing anxiety and depression. Meetings are a place to share and support one another.

In addition to individual services, the Office for the Aging also schedules public presentations. Some of recent topics include: food and medication interactions, dementia

care, and Laughter as Medicine. Stop in to the Seniors Center and see what other services we have to offer. Don't forget to ask about our daily lunch and center activities. You can reach us at (518) 358-2963 or stop in and see us. We are located behind the Tribal Police Station. ◇



Finding Answers and Providing Solutions

Economic Development

Program Feature

By Steven B. Cook, Director, Office of Economic Development

In the wake of the current national recession, the SRMT Office of Economic Development has been working diligently to support our local business community by offering training, technical support and financing. Through workshops we have been able to bring the business community together and work through many challenges which prevent our business community from accessing capital.

The goal of the SRMT Office of Economic Development (OED) is to create a vibrant, sustainable, diversified economy. To accomplish this it is necessary to network and build partnerships with your neighbors and your competition. Great things are possible when people work together. It takes vision and a willingness to adapt to change to survive in today's tough competitive market.

In 2012 – we hosted/sponsored 17 workshops which were attended by 408 people from our business community (both new and existing businesses). We offered the courses in response to surveys we conducted with our local business community.

Employment is an important factor in any community's economy and we assisted in the creation of the Akwesasne Employment Resource Center (AERC) and have supported it since its creation four years ago.

In 2012 we co-sponsored several events including the Akwesasne International

Job Fair, the *Iohabiiio* Career Fair and the Union Recruitment fair. A total of 2,698 people have attended our training, workshops and events in 2012.

In 2012, our business consultants provided specialized technical assistance to 38 local businesses to assist them with development or expansion of their businesses. Many are in the process of completing their business plans which are required to apply for our Akwesasne Revolving Loan Fund (ARLF).

We publish the Annual Akwesasne Business Directory which is distributed within the territory and to surrounding Chambers of Commerce to help publicize and promote our many local businesses here in Akwesasne.

While people might argue that you cannot predict the future – one thing is certain – our current projects and initiatives are creating it. The leadership and staff of the SRMT are working together to “Help Build a Better Tomorrow.”

If you are interested in starting or expanding your business, feel free to contact or visit our office which is located at the Akwesasne Business Center, Second Floor, Rooms 201 and 203. or give us a call at 518-358-2835. ♦



Over 700 Job Seekers Attended the 2013 Akwesasne International Job Fair



Over 40 Employers from the U.S. and Canada Set Up Informational Displays at the Former First Americans IGA Building

Foster Care

Social Services Division Program Feature

By Breanne Herne, Caseworker

The Saint Regis Mohawk Division of Social Services' Preventive Unit has been in operation for approximately 19 years. Our department is dedicated "To strengthen, support and protect Akwesasne Families in all stages of life for seven generations." By providing services to our Akwesasne families in a respectful and mindful way, we empower our community members with the opportunity to assist their relatives in need.

The Preventive/Foster Care Unit provides case management services to assist families when a child is at risk of entering the foster care system or to hasten the return of a child in foster care to their family home. The Preventive/Foster Care Unit consists of a Case Supervisor, four Case Workers, one Home Finder, a LAN Administrator and an Administrative Assistant.

Families may come to the Preventive Unit to request services on a voluntary basis. This is a common procedure for parents having difficulties with their children and who would like to receive advocacy services through the Intensive Preventive Program. The Preventive Unit also assists in court-mandated cases. This is an involuntary procedure through Person In Need of Supervision (PINS), Juvenile Delinquency (JD) or ordered through the Family Court System initiated by a removal or order of protection through an investigation by Child Protection Services (CPS). The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Preventive/Foster Care

unit has seen many changes in its 19 years of operation. Most recent changes include the appointment of a new Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, a new location and new caseworkers. The Commissioner of Social Services is now Amber Montour and the Deputy Commissioner of Social Services is Clarissa Terrance-Chatland. The Caseworkers are Stacey Loran, Chloe Cebek, Breanne Herne and Ella Fuller. Mallory Godreau is the newest edition to the Department and she will be serving as the Home Finder Caseworker. If you stop by the office, you will be greeted by Krystal Phillips, Administrative Assistant. Cassidy Thompson keeps everybody and their computers in working condition as the LAN Administrator. Our new office will be at 382 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655 (the old police station). We hope to be moved in by early this summer. Hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

We take our responsibilities seriously and are dedicated to meeting needs of our *Onkwe:honwe* families through the resources that best fit their needs. Safety, well-being and permanency are what we strive for the children we assist, through a collaborative effort with all Akwesasne Programs.

Our preventive staff is dedicated in supporting and assisting families in times of need or crisis. For further information regarding services and eligibility please do not hesitate to contact our office at 518-358-4516. ♦



Caseworkers Chloe (above) and Ella (below) Assisting Families



Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department (HAVFD) Annual Banquet

By David Staddon, Director of Public Information

On Saturday March 30, 2013, members of the Hogansburg Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department, their spouses, guests from area fire departments, community members and Tribal Chief Randy Hart gathered at the Brass Horse to celebrate and honor fire fighters. Jason McDonald, Fire Department Treasurer and Derek Comins, Fire Chief, served as masters of ceremonies for the event. It was an evening filled with laughs, camaraderie, good food and music.

Tribal Chief Randy Hart was on hand on behalf of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council to express their appreciation for the job that the fire department does in protecting the community. "When I think of the fire department, I think of three words: community, volunteers and heroes," he remarked. "Because, in many ways, they put their lives on the line to protect this community."

After dinner, Comins and McDonald conducted the annual awards ceremony to recognize the outstanding members of the volunteer fire department. Jacob Martin received the Rookie of the Year award due to his willingness to learn, his attendance at training and his response rate. The Firefighter of the year was Kevin "Cubs" Lazore



because he has been a top responder since joining the department, participates in trainings and responds to calls in all districts. The Special Appreciation Award went to Richard "The Prez" Phillips for his past and current dedication to the department.

The fire department recognized Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance with the Special Appreciation Award to a non-member Ron LaFrance Jr. He has been instrumental in securing major funding for the fire department to purchase new equipment and upgrade equipment. Additionally he always helps out with the chicken barbeques...even when it isn't election year!

Officer of the Year went to Matt Lazore who has been the lieutenant of station three for many years, has always been a top responder and is always available at training and willing to teach the new guys.

The Captain's Award for Station #1 was presented to Jerome "Moochie" McDonald. For Station #2 and #3, the awards went to Tom Francis and Sheila Adams, respectively. Arnold Printup, Ryan McDonald, and Jacob Martin received the Team Award for traveling to NYC to assist with the damage from Hurricane Sandy.



*Chief Randy Hart
Expresses Appreciation*



Team Award Winners for Hurricane Sandy Response

A couple of joke awards brought much fun and laughter. The "Chainsaw Operator of the Year" award went to Adrian McDonald. Over the summer he had taught a chainsaw operator course to a class of ten or 12 guys. On the final week, he dropped a tree on some electrical wires. At the banquet he claimed, "I gave them a demonstration of what not to do!" Anyway, that's the story he's sticking with.

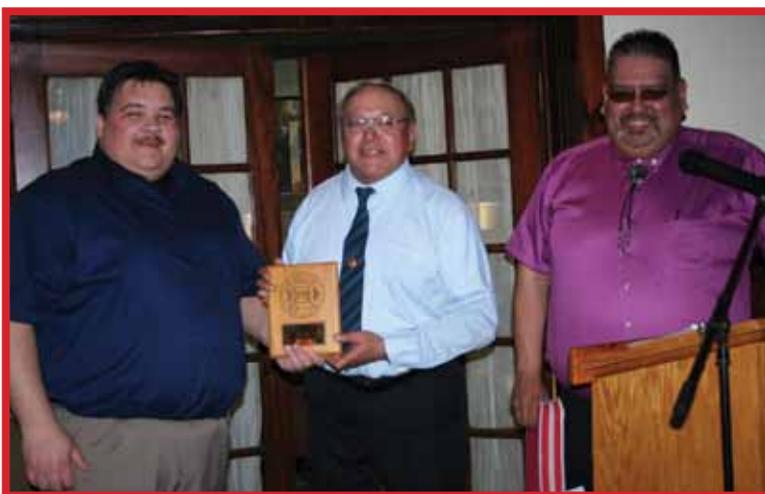
The "Hose Layers of the Year" went to Ryan McDonald, Ryan Jacobs, who, among other antics, laid 800 feet of 2½ inch hose perfectly straight in preparation for the mutual aid house fire. Only thing was that the fire that was four miles down the road. A gift certificate from Jock's Towing went to Derek Comins so he knows he'll have a bed to sleep on that can hold him instead of one of those flimsy cots! ◇



Captain Lazore Presents the Captain's Award for Station #3 to Sheila Adams



Jacob Martin Named Rookie of the Year



Richard "The Prez" Phillips Received Special Appreciation Award

Free Yard Tree Service Available

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division is offering community members an opportunity to assess their yard trees at no cost to them. As part of the Tribe's Urban and Community Forestry project the Environment Division will be assessing trees throughout the US side of the reservation by identifying yard trees, their health and numbers. This is the first step toward developing a community wide tree planting program for homes and businesses to promote air and water quality, increase the energy efficiency of buildings and to design community plantings that reflect cultural values.

Community members who would like to participate in this project can call the Environment Division to become part of the project. Participants will receive a tree assessment report including a tree selection and planting guide, literature on the benefits of trees for homes and buildings and be placed on a list for future planting efforts.

The project is limited to six weeks this year so don't delay, get signed on now to reserve your place in the list. Please call the Environment Division at (518) 358-5937 to have your name added to a list, providing name, street address and phone number. The deadline for sign up is May 31, 2013.

Tree Debris Removal Services

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Forestry Resources program will be starting its dead and down tree woody debris removal project very soon with plans to start work the first week of June 2013. The Environment Division will be accepting work orders in the form of Permission/Waiver forms at their office on 449 Frogtown Road, Akwesasne. The program will operate for six weeks only as resources are very limited. No services will be provided without a signed form from the landowner.

The services are to remove downed limbs and branches from winter storms. Elders and disabled will be given priority. Downed branches and limbs will be removed by the Tribe's contractor. The contractor will only perform work as authorized under their contract. Landowners will be financially responsible for any additional work requested of the contractor. Work sites will only be serviced once this year. A waiver and permission form must be completed and signed BEFORE work is done. Trees will not be cut down as part of this service. Ornamental pruning and trimming will not be performed through these services.

Please contact Les Benedict at the Environment Division at (518) 358-5937, X-118 or stop by the Environment Division office located at 449 Frogtown Road to sign up for services. Sign up is limited so please complete and submit waivers by the deadline. The deadline for sign up is May 31, 2013.

Attention Fishermen

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) St. Lawrence River AOC (Area of Concern) program is asking community members to submit fish showing signs of external anomalies (tumors, lesions, ulcers, etc...) to the division for analysis. These fish samples will be used to determine if fish tumors are a significant impairment to the beneficial use of the waters of the St. Lawrence River AOC at Massena/Akwesasne.

To submit a fish, please keep in a live well or on ice – do not freeze, until fish can be delivered to the Environment Division, 449 Frogtown Road, Akwesasne.

For more information, visit our website: srmtenv.org or contact Mary LaFrance and Matthew Thompson at the Environment Division at (518) 358-5937. Niá:wen

Mental Health

Health Services Program Feature

By Christine Venery, LCSW, Mental Health Director

By age 24, three-quarters of Americans will have shown signs for a mental disorder, such as depression or generalized anxiety disorder, according to a recent Harvard Medical School study. These disorders are not something that must be with you for the rest of your life. If you think that you or a loved one is showing signs of what may be a mental health issue there is help.

Mental illness often develops early in life. Half of all cases start by age 14, and many cases begin with mild symptoms such as persistent shyness or low-level anxiousness. About 46 percent of people involved in the study had experienced a mental illness at some point in their lives, 26 percent within the past year.

According to the study, most Americans wait years before they seek treatment and many don't seek treatment at all. An untreated emotional health disorder in children can lead to a more severe, more difficult-to-treat illness and may affect performance in school and relationships with friends and family. This is unfortunate because the earlier a disorder is diagnosed and treated, the

better quality of life an individual can enjoy. Early recognition is the key. Some warning signs of youth emotional health problems are: feelings of extreme sadness, hopelessness, and worthlessness; angry most of the time; crying a lot; extreme anxiety, worry, and/or fearfulness; overly concerned about physical problems – such as stomach aches and headaches; a drop in grades; a change in eating or sleeping habits; wanting to be alone all the time; or talk about suicide

Saint Regis Mohawk Mental Health Services offers Early Recognition and Screening at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Headstart program and at pre-kindergarten and kindergarten screenings in the Salmon River Central School District. We also offer

an anonymous online screening tool if you are worried about a youth's emotional health at www.mentalhealthscreening.org/screening/STREGIS. Please call or come in to the Saint Regis Mohawk Mental Health Services if you are concerned about your child's emotional health. We are available 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information call (518)358-3141 ext. 160. ◇

May is Children's Mental Health Awareness Month

Majority Of Emotional Health Disorders Develop Early In Life

Saint Regis Mohawk Mental Health Early Recognition and Screening Program can improve outcomes



Monthly Tribal Meeting

Onerahókha/April 6, 2013
Chaired by Chief Randy Hart

Agenda

1. Introductions:
 - Welcome
 - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
2. Introduction of the Executive Director of Education
 - Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs
3. NRD Settlement
 - Barbara Tarbell/Ken Jock
4. Sequestration and the Impact to the Tribe
 - Tsiorasa Barreiro/Barbara Montour
5. New Business
 - Signed Amended Election and Referendum Ordinance
 - June 1, 2013 Referendum Announcements: 94 Procedures Act Amended/Field House
6. Reading of Action Items
 - Tribal Clerk
7. Adjournment

Action Items from April Meeting

1. To report on the status of the generator at next month's meeting
2. To look into the policies restricting employees with businesses who would like to offer services to the tribal programs
3. To follow up with the heating issue at the new location of the bingo palace
4. To look into developing a landlord/ tenant policy

Follow-up on Action Items from March Meeting

1. A presentation from the water department on the water system.
This will tentatively be set as an agenda item for the May Monthly Meeting.
2. A more in-depth/informational educational report from the higher education department. (Ex. Why are students are dropping out or withdrawing, how many are attending a 2 year/4 year, how many females/males...)
A report will be distributed at the April Monthly Meeting.
3. A copy of the Roger Thomas decision and how much it's costing.
The decision is a public document that can be requested from the courts. The Legal cost associated with the Tribe's involvement is \$12,243 from The Tribal General Fund.
4. An explanation of what happened to the licensing of the pharmacy.
A report will be distributed at the April Monthly Meeting. ◇

Calendar

Onerabthkó:wa / May 2013

- 4 - Election Caucus and Monthly Tribal Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building lobby
- 5 - Hotel Resort Community Open House - 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Akwesasne Mohawk Casino
- 11 - Kids for Fishing - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Cooks Campground & Fountains Woods Campsite
- 14 - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's office
- 27 - Memorial Day holiday - Tribal offices and transfer station closed
- Tuesdays - Tribal Tribal Council Work Session - 9:00 a.m. - Tribal Council Executive Boardroom

New Faces

Calandra K. Curleyhead
Kaniehtawaks Francis
Louise A. Herne
Michelle Hissam
Julie Smoke

Health Promotions Mentor
Program Manager
Family Community Specialist
Habilitation Aide
Dispatcher

IHS - Let's Get Healthy
Three Sisters Program
IHS - Partridge House
Family Support
Tribal Police

Higher Ed

St. Lawrence University is offering a graduate course May 22, 2013 –June 19, 2013. The class will be held at the Tribal Community Building in the upstairs boardroom at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Dr. Peter Ladd will be teaching the course.

EDPS 538. Learning Disabilities - 3 semester hours.
The course is designed to increase understanding of the various etiologies of learning disabilities and to develop skills in differential diagnosis and educational remediation. The practicum will involve the student in

individual diagnosis, program design, remediation and consultation with teachers. This course in some respects is a sequel to EDPS 536. Check with instructor for prerequisites and permission.

Have you begun to take care of the next academic year? Is your FAFSA done, or your applications for funding started yet. Remember July 15, 2013 is the deadline. If you are graduating or not returning, please let us know. Any questions, contact Rod Cook 518-358-2272 x 247. ♦

Jobs

HIP Laborer - Home Improvement Program
Summer Recreation Director - Johnson O'Malley
Summer Recreation Workers - Johnson O'Malley
Medical Liaison - Family Support

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's website at:
www.mohawkcasino.com.

Air Quality Program

Environment Division Program Feature

By Angela Benedict, Program Manager

The Air Quality Program staff consists of three employees. I am the Program Manager. I've been with the Tribe for over 17 years in various disciplines: water quality, environmental health, solid waste and air quality. Marlene Thompson is an Air Technician. She has been employed with the tribe for over seven years in a couple of positions: data entry and air quality.

The first change was the retirement of Jeri Jacobs, the air technician who handled the criteria pollutant monitoring. Dallas Caldwell was hired in Seskehko:wa/September 2012 and is plugging away at learning everything about the air quality measuring instruments. He previously worked seasonally as a forestry technician.

The other change was adding an ozone instrument for monitoring. The air program now has two ozone instruments monitoring our air for ground level ozone. This is important because it allows us to recommend our own designation for meeting air quality standards. This is important because it shows our sovereignty. It shows the state and the federal government that we can monitor and interpret the results and make decisions on our own. Also, designating the area as attainment or non-attainment comes into effect when you want to develop in the area. If Akwesasne is in non-attainment then if we were to bring in an industry that released pollutants we would have to be sure to minimize that more because the air is more polluted to begin with.

The air program monitors for heavy metals, ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, acid rain and fluoride. Data is housed at the environment division. Special projects are always on our minds. What can we do to make indoor and outdoor air quality better for our people? Every year we apply for grants and most are not approved. In the past we have applied

for grants to incorporate truck stop electrification, to remove toxics from households that have small children, to monitor for indoor air pollutants and others. We are currently waiting on a decision from an indoor air quality grant and may be applying for another.

Air program staff and two others have been working on climate change; Julia Jacobs, Environmental Outreach Coordinator and Loretta David, Data Entry Clerk. Julia is getting feedback and knowledge from the community and Loretta has been researching and writing the actual Adaptation Plan. This project is time-consuming but the education we are all getting is priceless.

Marlene is working on the emissions inventory for Akwesasne. This takes a lot of time accounting for all cars, boats, lawnmowers paints and anything else that emits pollutants. She is also helping Dallas learn the ins and outs of the instruments. Marlene also does home visits to help community members identify any indoor air quality problems.

Dallas has been learning the instruments. He has completed the first set of trainings at the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals located at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. Dallas will be traveling more this summer to get training at the facility that makes the monitoring instruments so he will better understand their operation as well as some troubleshooting tips.

If you have any questions about the SRMT Air Quality Program or would like to schedule an indoor air quality visit please contact us at the SRMT Environment Division office at 518-358-5937. ♦



Dallas With the Pollutant Monitoring Equipment

Home Improvement Program

Program Feature

By Rod Garow, Program Manager

The HIP program mission, funded by the Tribal General Fund (TGF), is to provide tribal members with assistance for emergency home repairs. Typical service repairs include roof replacement, window and door replacement, plumbing, electrical, and furnace repair. In addition, the HIP program has the capacity to re-insulate homes and install handicapped ramps and handicapped-accessible bathrooms. Currently, the HIP crew is finishing up all 2012 projects and will begin on 2013 projects soon. Beginning in June, applications will be accepted for the 2014 construction season.

In order to be eligible for HIP repair Emergency Assistance Program services, applicants must adhere to the guidelines set forth in the application. The requirements are:

- Be an enrolled member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Reside on the Southern portion of the reservation
- Provide income verification for all adults in the household
- Provide proof of land ownership
- Provide a doctor's certificate, for persons with a handicap or who are disabled
- Must own and live in the house that repairs are requested. No rentals.
- HUD home applicants must show proof that they don't have the required equity to repair their home on their own

Applications that meet the base criteria move to the scoring stage. Scoring criteria is based on income guidelines created by the Tribe. In previous years guidelines set by the Bureau of Indian Affairs were

used but the new Tribal guidelines expand eligibility allowing for more households to be selected for assistance. However, a submitted application does not guarantee assistance selection. Emergency applications can be made at any time.

Each year the HIP program provides assistance to approximately 30 to 40 households. The yearly budget is based on the needs of the successful applicants. The budget is approved in January of each year and the work begins in the same year. The program operates all year long.

Priority is given to seniors (55 and over), families with children and individuals with a disability. The money allotted to each project is based on the necessary repairs and renovations to bring the home up to standard. Projects are prioritized by needed repairs affecting the life, health and safety of the homeowner. Examples of these types of repairs include

replacing a leaky roof to prevent moisture damage, repairing faulty wiring and repairing an unsafe furnace. The HIP Emergency Home Repair Assistance Program will only make the necessary repairs to make a house habitable and will not make aesthetic improvements.

The HIP program has eight employees: Program Manager, Rod Garow, a foreman and six carpenters. We are adding two new positions to the program: a new carpenter and an assistant

to the Program Manager. The program is mourning the loss of a valued co-worker, Kenneth Boots. Kenny gave 24 years of service to the Tribe as a skilled carpenter. Our condolences go out to his wife, Gina and his daughter, Morgan. Kenneth will be missed by all his friends and co-workers. ♦



The HIP-est Painting Crew



Kenneth Boots

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Solid Waste Program Presents

Solid Waste Day

Saturday, Onerahtokó:wa / May 4, 2013

Do you have any unwanted fridges, freezers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers or water coolers? Bring these items to the Transfer Station for free disposal. That's right! We will waive the fee to dispose of these items. It's just our way of saying *Niá:wen / Thank You*.

Benefits of Attending Solid Waste Day:

- Meet Kwis and Tiio
- Facility tours
- Recycling and composting demonstrations
- Door prizes



- Raise awareness about benefits of recycling and resources available to our community about what and where to recycle

- Encourage others to recycle more frequently

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the SRMT Transfer Station, 179 Country Route 43, Ft. Covington, NY. For more information, call the Transfer Station at (518) 358-4632 or the Recycling Coordinator at (518)358-4529. ◇



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

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