

## Features

*Traditional Ecological  
Knowledge Spawns  
Sturgeon Resurgence*

*Emerald Ash Borer  
Survey Results*

*Kanien'keha Language  
Program Proving  
Successful*

*Prom and Graduation  
Safety Tips*

# Kawennì:ios



## Agriculture Program Helps Food Sovereignty Take Root

# Akwesasne Business Feature:

## Pathfinders Consulting Provides Leadership Skills Training

*By Mary LaFrance, Office of Economic Development Program Support Officer*

What is leadership? Some say it is a title given to those designated to make decisions — others say it is a character trait that you either have or you do not. Shannon Hall defines leadership as having confidence in your decision-making abilities and to lead without a title. The good news is that anyone can improve their leadership skills with education and training, which is why she started Pathfinders Consulting in 2007.

Shannon has a diverse educational background that makes her well equipped to handle the daily demands of leadership development. These include an Associate Degree in General Arts and Sciences and Law and Security Administration. She also has a Bachelor's Degree of Arts in Sociology, with a minor in Political Science, and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. Shannon's education is complemented with professional certifications in Health and Wellness Coaching, Personality Dimensions and Tai Chi Easy.

"I am a huge proponent of formal education," states Shannon. "I also believe that the knowledge we receive with support from the community, should come back to the community."

Understanding that formal education is not an option for everyone, Shannon tailors her consulting services to provide

leadership trainings for individuals, groups and organizations. She is currently instructing a leadership series at Iohahiio Adult Education and is working with Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Health Department to facilitate a career exploration course for previously incarcerated women.

"Everyone has gifts," encourages Shannon. "And, those gifts are meant to be shared."

Pathfinders Consulting incorporates wellness into 12 focus areas including; work, life purpose, health, environment, stress mastery, communication, finances, play, exercise, relationships, nutrition and spirituality/culture. Popular training topics include workplace wellness, team building, stress mastery and Tai Chi Easy.

"The training had an immediate improvement in relationships between staff and management," shared members of the Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance Unit of their team building experience. "With the tools and techniques, Shannon showed our team we are now able to work together for the

benefit of all."

To schedule a complimentary one-hour consultation on how Pathfinders Consulting can assist you, your business, or organization, contact Shannon Hall at (315) 842-2610 or email [pathfinders.consulting15@gmail.com](mailto:pathfinders.consulting15@gmail.com). ♦



# Good Words of Welcome



*Shé:kon* Akwesasne,

It is my pleasure to extend this edition's words of welcome that features the team behind the Agriculture Program — a group of resourceful and committed individuals who have grown our pilot project into a permanent program. We are so fortunate to have the talent associated with the program; they have embraced the original vision and created a reality for the benefit of Akwesasne.

Recently, I appeared with Wally Ransom and Ken Jock to speak about the program, and I think that it's worth retelling in Kawennios. During my first term on council as Sub-Chief for Chief Paul Thompson, we had a conversation about agriculture and the fact that the community once had many families who plied their livelihood growing crops and feeding their families. While there are other factors that contributed to the decline of agriculture within the community, environmental pollution and degradation were, in my opinion, among the most detrimental factors that led us to the abandonment of our agricultural roots. We spoke at length about how agriculture contributes to the most basic building block of society — the family. The lessons involved in learning how to plant, care, harvest and preserve crops out of the garden was the primary focus of our discussion.

Initially, the idea of a community garden was the inception of what became the Agriculture Program. During my first term, Chief Thompson and I sought out land (only to find other programs had dibs on the plot) and we discovered the complexities of tribal bureaucracy, as it relates to grant funding and use of assets, such as tractors from other programs. The idea languished, but never vanished.

During this time, I was introduced to the larger initiative of food sovereignty and participated in a summit with Kenny Perkins that was hosted by the Oneidas of Wisconsin. This conference highlighted other nations that had ventured into food sovereignty, self-sufficiency, economic development, Nation-to-Nation trade and commerce, and commercial success through their own traditional food sources and practices.

During my first term as Chief, I prioritized our agricultural pilot program, and after a trial period, we attracted the attention of a Cornell University graduate with the requisite background who this program seemed tailor made for — Wally Ransom. Gratefully, he led and assembled a team, initiated the Mother Earth Egg Project, tilled small gardens for community members and began a ditching program to assist local farmers in opening up their lands that had been unusable due to flooding.

Akwesasne saw potential and our program became permanent. Inside you will read about the initiatives of the program, the team members and their success. I have a great deal of pride in our team and the program they have developed.

*Niá:wén,*

Chief Eric Thompson



# Best. Rakeni. Ever.

*We Celebrate You!*

*By Jen Brown, CSEU Office Manager*

The SRMT Child Support Program honors and celebrates fathers this coming Father's Day on *Ohiari:ha*/June 16, 2019. The SRMT Child Support Program knows the importance of dads and the great contributions that fathers bring to strengthening their families and communities. Every hug you give, every joke you share, every moment that you listen patiently, every time you take a deep breath and see things from your child's perspective, every time you are a role model for your child on how to show up with integrity, you're shaping your child into a person who will make you proud.

In *Onerahtókha*/April 2019, we conducted a photo search of Rakeni's with their children. These are just a small sample of the great images we received. The photos will be used in our Father's Day campaign to recognize the important roles that fathers play in their children's lives. These amazing photos will be used for future print publications to show positive male role models in children's lives. ◇



# Kanien'keha Language Program Proving Successful

On Thursday, *Onerahtókha*/April 18th; the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe was proud to hear the results of ongoing efforts to expand and strengthen *Kanien'keha* (Mohawk language). Gathered before an audience of family and friends, Tribal Chiefs and other supporters; students of the Tribe's language program shared their personal introductions and responses to questions in *Kanien'keha*. It was an opportunity for each of the 12 students to express their own efforts towards becoming fluent language speakers.

"We've become a model for other Nations on preserving and strengthening the language," said SRMT Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Darren Bonaparte as he welcomed everyone to the class presentations held at the *Ionkwakiohkwaró:ron* Tribal Administration Building. Speaking on recent improvements made to the language program, Bonaparte added, "Many of our instructors are retired, so teaching is another layer of knowledge and the next level that we are taking the language program."

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office has been offering free language instruction since 2005, but participation was minimal. To improve upon participation, an online survey was conducted in the fall of 2016 to receive feedback on ways to provide additional opportunities to learn *Kanien'keha*. As a result, programmatic changes were made; such class hours and location, as well as to focus more on

everyday conversation to increase language usage and fluency.

The result has been impressive, as each student provided personalized introductions; which included their name, clan, residency, parent's and children's names, as well as additional information that student's felt comfortable sharing. Afterward, language program instructor Edith McDonald asked each student to share what he or she did the previous day. There were many thoughtful and well-articulated

responses, with studying *Kanien'keha* in advance of their presentations being the most popular.

Following the presentations, Tribal Chief Beverly Cook offered words of appreciation to the students, stating, "The Tribal Council is very proud of all your accomplishments and is honored to find ways to make the language program happen. From where we were a few years ago to where we are today is truly impressive."

Tribal Chief Michael Conners echoed Tribal Council's sentiment and shared enthusiasm for the program's future, commenting, "I am happy to see a crowd of future fluent language speakers. We need more and we [Tribal Council] are committed to this going forward."

On behalf of the Tribe, *Ioianareskó:wa* (very good job) to all the students, instructors, supporters and others for helping to keep our proud language strong and alive. ◇



*Back row, left to right: Chief Beverly Cook, Denise Homer, Brandi King, Margaret Lafrance, Terry Terrance, Noonie Thomas, Chanel Cook, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Darren Bonaparte and Chief Michael Conners.*

*Front row: Donnie White, Ceci King, Pam McDonald-LaChance, Instructors Edith McDonald, Andrea Cooke and Ernestine Oakes.*

# Akwesasne Emerald Ash Borer Delimitation Survey Update

*By Les Benedict, Environment Division Assistant Director*

During the months of *Tsiot'hórkó:wa*/January 2019 through *Enniská*/February 2019, the Environment Division's Forestry Resources Program, in partnership with the US Forest Service (USFS) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), removed more than 200 ash trees from across the Akwesasne community. Identified in 2018 as "sentinel trees," they contributed to an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) delimitation survey, with the goal of determining the extent and distribution of EAB infestation to inform future management decisions and mitigate its impacts to the community.

Following the harvesting of the ash trees, a team comprised of tribal, USFS, USDA and natural resource agency personnel from across New England; as well as State, County and local staff; pitched in to debark the trees to search for and count the EAB larvae (immature stage) found in sections of the trees. The count helped determine the severity of EAB in trees throughout the Akwesasne Territory.

The EAB completes one generation every one to two years. Eggs are laid from mid-June and well into August. The eggs hatch in approximately two weeks after a female EAB has laid her eggs between the layers of the outer bark and cracks and crevices of the trunk of an ash tree. The larvae then tunnel through the bark to the thin layer of tissue beneath the outer bark that is rich in sugars and other nutrients. The larvae continue to feed, cutting "galleries" or tunnels, in the outer sapwood underneath

the bark. The larvae will reach a fully-grown stage and spend the winter in a pupal cell waiting for warm weather to continue their development to pupation, transforming into an adult. A week or two after pupation the adult will chew and emerge from the ash tree to begin another reproductive cycle. They will start mating about one week after emergence.

The larvae are several millimeters long and appear worm-like, have ten abdominal segments with the last three or four segments resembling bells that are nested one upon the other. They are pale in color, with the exception of the head that is a dark brown color.



***Sentinel Tree Cutting Crew (L-R):*** Tom Colarusso, Greg Bjork, Joe Bither, Elizabeth Spinney, Jevonnah Foster, John Payton, Les Benedict, Bill Davidson, Nate Siegert, Angello Johnson, Wayne Samphier, Matt Nolan

The debarking process was tedious and required trained eyes and hands to ensure that no larvae were damaged or missed. Larvae were recorded in number and by tree number before being tabulated for analysis by Forest Entomologist Nathan (Nate) Siegert, Ph.D., USFS. Debarking efforts concluded on *Enniskó:wa*/March 1, 2019 with data analysis taking place several weeks later.

The results of the delimitation survey were:

- The delimitation survey was successful at identifying several low-density EAB infestations at Akwesasne that annual trapping efforts were not capable of achieving.
- The assessment indicates the infestations are in the early stages, with no old galleries being present.
- The infestation appears to be progressing from the Northwest

corner of the reservation, with several outlier populations identified farther east (see map).

The delimitation survey will provide the Tribe with valuable information, with which to develop management recommendations for the Tribe's forest resources. Possible actions include:

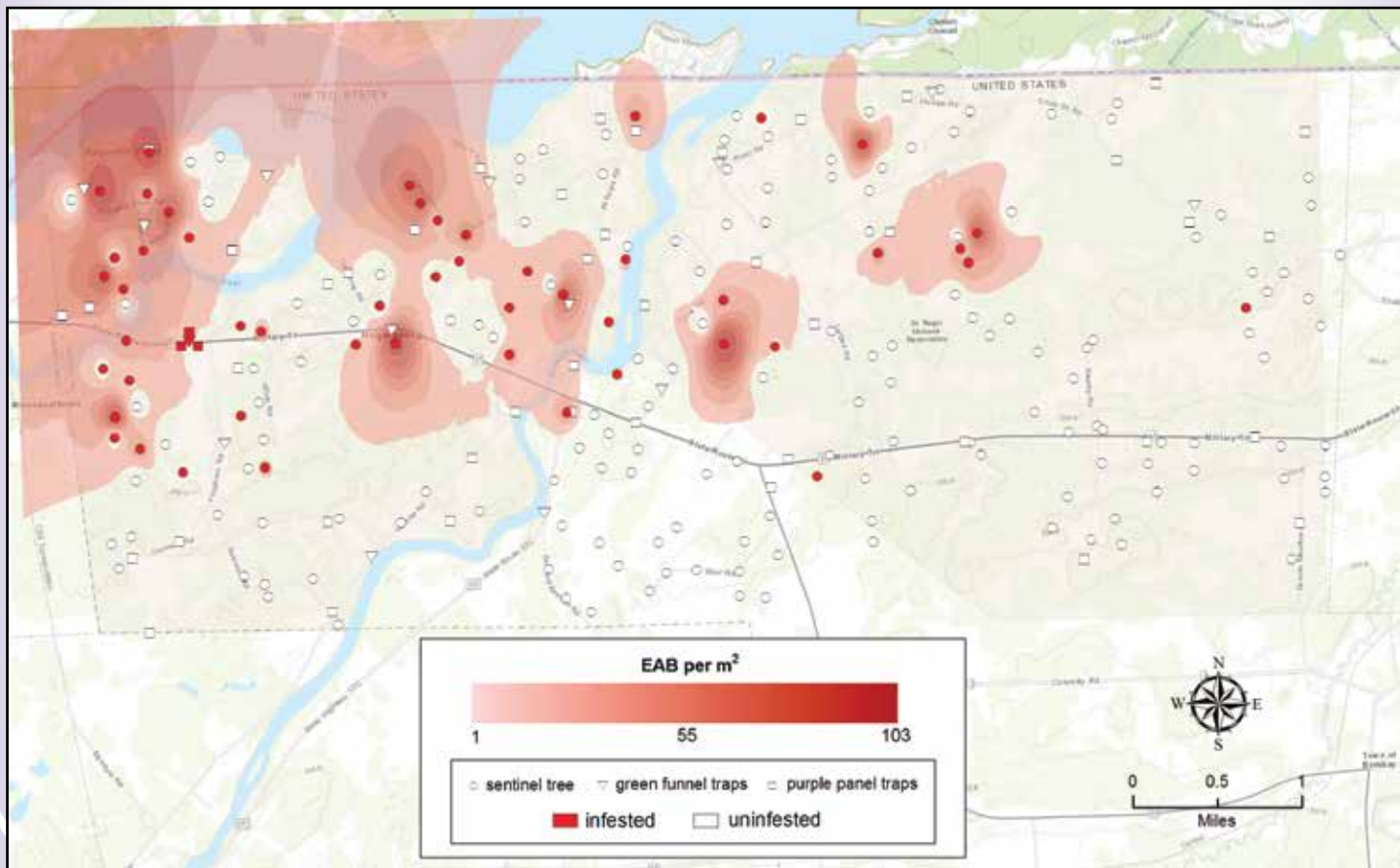
- The use of parasitoid wasps to manage EAB.
- Forest-stand management to limit the spread and the impacts of EAB.
- Management of black ash stands to provide basket-making logs to basket makers.
- Furthering efforts to revitalize historical use of various basket-making materials.

At the time of this publication, tribal staff will be attending the workshop "Towards Preservation of a Cultural Keystone Species: Assessing the Future of Black Ash Following Emerald Ash Borer Invasion", being held on *Onerahtohkó:wa*/May 7-8, 2019 at the

Hilton – Lake Champlain located in Burlington, VT. Tribal staff, along with tribal representatives from across the Great Lakes region and the Northeast, will be joining USFS and USDA forest managers to address the impacts to black ash basketry from EAB. The goal is to bring together the collective minds and thoughts to address the effects of EAB on tribal communities — as it pertains to culture, ecology, and forest management.

The Tribe expresses its gratitude for its partners in the US Forest Service and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; as well as to the many state, federal and county volunteers who assisted with tree cutting and debarking during the frigid weeks of *Tsiiothohrkó:wa*/January and *Enníska*/February. The Tribe was fortunate to receive the assistance of the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission and the Northeastern Interagency Coordination Center for deployment of personnel through their agencies to assist with tree cutting and debarking.

*Niá:wen*/Thank You to the more than 200 *Akwesashró:non* who contributed an ash tree for this important project. ◇



# Caring for Someone with Alzheimer's Disease

*By Nancy Vobrinsk, Office for the Aging Caregiver Coordinator*

Did you know the Alzheimer's Association provides services right here in Akwesasne? Whether one-on-one or in a group setting, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's (SRMT) Office for the Aging (*Tsi Tetewatatkens*) offers various resources for those affected by Alzheimer's.

A progressive disease, Alzheimer's worsens over time. Dementia and other symptoms gradually intensify over a number of years. In its early stages, memory loss is mild, but with late-stage Alzheimer's, individuals lose the ability to respond to their environment, compromising safety.

To diagnose Alzheimer's, doctors assess impairments to memory and thinking and identify behavioral changes. They also perform a series of tests to rule out other possible causes of impairment. An accurate diagnosis of Alzheimer's Dementia is an important first step to ensure you and your loved ones have appropriate treatment, family education and plans for your future.

Once a month, a representative from the Alzheimer's Association visits both the SRMT Health Clinic and the Office for the Aging to provide services directly to those with Alzheimer's and their family members. The representative is available to answer any questions and provide educational materials.

There are also opportunities to have personalized sessions, called care consultation. At a care consultation, an Alzheimer's Association representative will address your family's unique circumstances and safety needs to develop an individualized action plan for your family.

The Office for the Aging also organizes an Alzheimer's Support Group that meets to provide peer support, while learning about the disease. The support group is a great opportunity to share experiences and discuss strategies for those affected by Alzheimer's Disease.

Routine educational programs are also available on a variety of topics, which provide practical tips for understanding and caring for persons with Alzheimer's Disease. Simply call the Office for the Aging if you would like to know the specific topic for any month.

What many people do not know is that the Alzheimer Association has a toll-free Helpline available 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week. The number is (800) 272-3900 and is for any questions on issues related to Alzheimer's. It is a great resource when you have a concern and need to talk to someone outside of normal business hours.

Alzheimer's currently has no cure, but treatments for symptoms are available as research continues. The Office for the Aging is happy to provide support for those living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers, as we work together to improve the quality of life for all.

If you would like to learn more about Alzheimer's Support Services, please contact Nancy Vosbrink at the Office for the Aging at (518) 358-2963 or email [nancy.vosbrink@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:nancy.vosbrink@srmt-nsn.gov). ♦



# Employee Spotlight:

## *Introducing Deputy Tribal Clerk Derrick King*

*By Brendan White, Communications Director*

If you visited the Office of the Tribal Clerk during the past few months you may have seen a familiar face, but did you know that his role has changed? Pursuant to Tribal Council Resolution 2018-55, Derrick King now serves in the position of Deputy Tribal Clerk to assist with the myriad of duties and responsibilities of the Tribal Clerk.

Following 14 years as the Tribe's Grants & Contracts Officer, Derrick first started as an emergency hire in August 2017 as a GIS Technician within the Tribal Clerk's Office. As a GIS Technician, he helped render assorted land maps that assisted with resolving boundary disputes and facilitating land transactions. His brief time in this position however, revealed the larger need for a new position to be created for a Land & Estates Officer, which he assumed in April 2018.

During his time as a Land & Estates Officer, Derrick worked diligently to help community members with many numerous issues associated with land transfers; such as title searches, land surveys, and drafting Right to Use and Occupancy Deeds. He quickly became responsible for overseeing all the processes associated with land transactions, which included providing testimony and research to the Tribal Courts on land dispute and probate matters.

Although he still helps with facilitating land transfers and resolving land disputes, Derrick's responsibilities have now expanded to also provide administrative support to the Tribal Clerk in accordance with the 2013 Tribal Procedures Act. As the Deputy Tribal Clerk, he assists with the tribal enrollment process, elections and referendums, recording tribal monthly meetings and work sessions, and fulfills other responsibilities in the Tribal Clerk's absence.



*Deputy Tribal Clerk Derrick King*

Derrick's knowledge of land transfers and experience helping resolve land disputes continues to be utilized however, as he shares this responsibility while a new staff member completes training. So, if you see Derrick in the Tribal Clerk's Office, please congratulate him on his new role as Deputy Tribal Clerk.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Tribal Clerk's Office at (518) 358-2272 or stop their offices located on the first floor of the *Ionkwakiohkwaróron* Tribal Administration Building at 71 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way in Akwesasne, NY. Their offices are open between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, but closed on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. for staff development. ♦

# Prom and Graduation Safety Tips

*By Tameka Thompson, Alcohol/Chemical Dependency Prevention Educator*

Prom and graduation season can be one of the most memorable occasions for parents and students. In order to ensure that the festivities are not only memorable, but also safe, here are some tips for parents and guardians:

**Set curfews.** Teen car crashes and deaths increase later at night.

**Be awake when they come home.** This will ensure you that your teen has returned home safely.

**Clearly communicate your expectations.** You may feel that you have talked to your teen many times about your expectations for healthy choices and the consequences of breaking the rules, but prom and graduation season is an important time to repeat this message. Talk about the dangers of drinking and driving or getting in a car with someone who has been drinking or drugging. Research shows that parents who discuss possible scenarios and seek their teens knowledge about what to do helps increase the chances of their teen making safe decisions.

**Ask details.** Who, what, where, when and how they are traveling. When parents monitor, supervise and set boundaries their teens are at a lowered risk for using drugs and alcohol.

**Encourage your teen to consider their future.** Research indicates the brain continues to develop into the mid-twenties. Alcohol use can have a detrimental effect on the developing brain; affecting judgement, emotions, self-control, decision-making, balance and coordination. Arrests or convictions can affect

the college application process or a job interview in the future.

**Be a good role model.** Research shows that most teens consume alcohol in their own home. Monitor how much alcohol you have in the house and where you keep it.

**Celebrate alcohol-free.** Offer alcohol-free games and activities to keep teens busy and safe during these important occasions.

**Remind them.** Encourage your teen to call home if there are any changes to their plans. Let them know that if they run into trouble, you will pick them up, regardless of the time.

**The most important thing is to communicate with your teen.** Sitting down for the big talk about alcohol can be intimidating; but try talking in the car, during dinner or while watching television together. Having lots of little talks takes the pressure off trying to get all

the information out in one lengthy discussion. Nearly 52 percent of New York State students in grades 7-12 reported their parents had never talked to them about the dangers of underage drinking. Alcohol remains the most commonly used and abused substance among youth in the United States.

***Don't let your teen become another statistic. Talk. They will listen.***

For more information on how to have this conversation with your teen, please contact the Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services A/CDP Prevention Program at (518) 358-2967 or visit <https://talk2prevent.ny.gov/parents>. ◇



**76%**

of students in Grades 8-12 at  
Salmon River Central School  
**DID NOT DRINK ALCOHOL**  
in the past 30 days

# Sturgeon Resurgence!

## Massena/Akwesasne Area of Concern Outlook for Lake Sturgeon and Fisheries

By Denita Ireland, Communications Specialist

Pound for pound, Sturgeon are the most valuable fish on the planet. Once thriving in waters from Canada to Alabama, Lake Sturgeon population was slaughtered after the mid-1800's for their prized caviar and flesh. This activity is now illegal in New York State (NYS), and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) St. Lawrence River Area of Concern (AOC) Program is collaborating with federal, state, county and provincial agencies to restore Lake Sturgeon in the AOC and further, the Great Lakes.

*Teiokién:taron*, Lake Sturgeon, have long been an important part of cultural identity for *Akwesashró:non* (People of Akwesasne). Lake Sturgeon are respected as elder fish as they have been here since the time of the dinosaurs. Traditionally, male sturgeon can live 55 years while females may live up to 150, weighing up to 240 lbs!

On *Ennískó:wa*/March 21, 2019, SRMT Environment Division staff joined at least 16 different organizations in an interactive discussion, further developing a common vision for Lake Sturgeon habitat and population restoration. Along with government agencies, the monumental workshop welcomed knowledge from university, Arconic, New York Power Authority and Ontario Power Generation representatives.

Following a traditional *Kanienke'ha* (Mohawk Language) Thanksgiving Address by SRMT's Angello Johnson, representatives shared lessons learned in addressing fish-related beneficial use impairments (BUIs) in the St. Clair River AOC and Detroit River AOC. Robin DeBruyne, University of Toledo/United States Geological Survey (USGS) shared, "When enough of the groups get together, you can work on the same goals together".

For thousands of years, our ancestors have acquired knowledge through direct contact with the environment. Scientists formally appreciate these protected traditional teachings as TEK: Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Although TEK has long been a part of the hands-on studies of biology, an increasing number of environmentalists and Native people believe that western science, known as Scientific Ecological Knowledge (SEK), and the coveted teachings of TEK, are complementary.

Lake Sturgeon resurgence is complex due partly to their reproductive process. Female sturgeon often do not reproduce until they are 24 to 26 years old. Every four to nine years, females will travel hundreds of miles to spawn in the shallow, rushing waters where they were born. Although she will produce millions of eggs in her lifetime, only a handful will survive. Commonly, the tributaries where grown sturgeon thrive are often blocked with spawning shoals destroyed by silt.

Trial and error narratives included accounts of reef building and re-design to prevent siltation. Outreach and organizational structures were also discussed. "We need clear, concrete goals," Tom Langen of Clarkson University noted, "that way more progress will be made."

If you see a Lake Sturgeon leaping into the air, remember that this prehistoric species has inspired ancient traditions including; songs, dances and prayers of gratitude. With a language heavily intertwined with cultural practices, traditional use of Lake Sturgeon helps *Kanienke'ha* in a resurgence of Mohawk culture alongside the restoration of this respected fish. ♦



# Agriculture Team Takes Back Control of Food Systems

*By Wally Ransom, Agriculture Program Manager*

The Agriculture Program started with an idea of “Food Sovereignty”, which is a fancy way to say that people who grow and consume their own food should be in control of the policies that govern their food production and distribution, rather than the big corporations. It includes the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. The Tribe saw this idea growing popularity across Indian Country. It considered the health of indigenous peoples, included a return to traditional foods, and helped to renew a sense of pride. They wanted to see an effort to investigate the development of our own food sovereignty. In March of 2016, the Agriculture Program began. We are a team of people with varying strengths and experiences that are working together to gain back control of our food.

Ida Thompson, “Akat”, keeps us organized and maintains our schedule of activities. She handles our purchases and makes sure we stay on budget. Her experience in manufacturing and retail sales within our community have helped her to make common sense decisions on how we operate.

Riccardo Najar is from the Lakota people. He’s made his home in Akwesasne for the last ten years. Mother Earth Eggs is what keeps him busy. He oversees the washing, candling, and packaging of all we produce. When he’s not handling the eggs, he picks up feed supplies and delivers our hogs for processing.

Tasha Guatney is from Washington State. She studied Horticulture at University level where she began a concentration on bees as natural pollinators. She cares for our pigs and chickens and will begin gardening efforts to supply the casino with fresh produce. Carrying five gallon pails through the snow all winter was a job she handled well.

Ahtkwiroton Skidders came to us with a background in residential construction. His talents have proven valuable with our building projects. He’s made chicken coops, pig pens, and will be building a barn for us this summer. New to the process is that he will use rough lumber from trees that were cut in Akwesasne and milled locally.



*On Kenténhkó:wa /November 3, 2016, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Agriculture Program and the Office of Economic Development held a press conference to announce the Mother Earth Egg Pilot Project that involves Akwesasne's newest and youngest entrepreneurs. Students participating in the new venture to produce eggs for sale to local businesses and other consumers included (from left, first row); Levi Herne, Bailey Rourke, Tisha Benedict, Mose McDonald and Tristan Cook-Hasty; (from left, second row) Clinton Atkins, Ethan Pervais, Daniel Thompson and Jheri White.*

I grew up on a dairy farm on Tarbell road. I studied Agriculture and worked on several farms in New York State. One observation I've made over the years is that there are many ways to do something. The way you choose to do it will define who you are, what you believe in and what you stand for. The decisions we make on how we feed ourselves will define who we are. It will influence our health, affect our local economy, and contribute to our overall wellbeing.

Our plan is to establish a working farm that will begin to supply our food needs. Our soil will feed the crops that feed us and the livestock we keep. The livestock will feed us, their manure along with the organic waste we produce will make compost that will in turn feed the soil. We will be a part of our food system again.

A group of 10 students from our community were the first to put Mother Earth Eggs on the shelves of local convenient stores back in December of 2016. They learned the basics of egg production in a classroom setting and participated in the construction of their own chicken coops. They were given 80 chickens each and cared for them in their own back yards. Just over \$13,000.00 was raised and shared among the students during this first phase of our egg program. Currently, our 750 chickens are housed in two chicken coops located at the Agriculture Program's home on Blair Road. Eggs are now sold in all of our local convenient stores. We produce more eggs than we can sell at the moment, so we've been using them to barter for goods and services that we need. They've gotten our straw cut and baled, our corn planted, equipment rented, and traded for heirloom seeds of our three sisters. Our eggs have even made their way to the dinner tables in Onondaga and Tuscarora.

Last June, we started raising pigs on pasture. We saw this as an opportunity to clear brush and produce meat at the same time. Shelters on skids and movable fence panels are the homes for Mother Earth Pigs. Since November of last year, we've sent 60 pigs to Tri-Town Packing and processed over 10,000 pounds of pork. Community members have been buying half pigs for \$95.00 and paying the processing fees to Tri-Town Packing. This May, we will see our first two litters of pigs born on the farm. Eventually, we would like to offer piglets to community members so they can produce their own pork products.

Compost is an important part of any organic farming operation. It's the natural way to feed the soil and ensure healthy crop growth.



*Nation to Nation - The Agriculture Program visited the Onondaga Nation where they were fed venison stew, cranberry bean sandwiches and sassafras tea. Their facility contained hundreds of heirloom seeds; the seeds of our ancestors. Each person chose corn, bean and squash varieties to grow this year in exchange for boxes of Mother Earth eggs.*

We collect food waste from the Casino, grass clippings from Generations park, woodchips from the town of Massena, shredded paper from Tribal offices and mix them with our animal manures to make our own compost. In 2018, we produced over 100 cubic yards, that's over six dump truck loads. We spread it on the land and till it in before planting. This year, we will be planting several types of corn, beans and squash along with winter rye, buckwheat and numerous vegetables. Six acres is what we plan to work up and grow on.

Each year, we perform two services for our community; the tilling of home vegetable gardens and the cleaning of existing farm ditches. We till over 70 gardens each spring and have cleaned over five miles of ditch since we started. We support and encourage all farm related efforts in our community and hope to expand on the services we provide.

As our farm begins to grow, we hope to pass on what we have learned to the community. Having control of our food and our health is something that deserves to be shared. You can be a part of this process by trying Mother Earth Products and choosing how you want to feed yourself and your family. ◇

# Federal Lobbying Report

*Tsiothohrkó:wa/January - Enniskó:wa/March 2019*

*By Kayla Gebeck, Holland & Knight*

With the beginning of a new Congressional session, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe continues to engage Congress and Trump Administration to advance legislative priorities. Some of these priorities extend from work conducted during the 114th and 115th congressional sessions including: Mohawk Networks LLC's efforts to expand its broadband services to neighboring communities, environmental contamination concerns from Superfund sites and Jay Treaty rights.

The Tribal Chiefs also voiced a number of issues impacting the health and well-being of the Tribe including: Advanced funding from Indian Health Service (IHS) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to combat the impacts of government shutdowns, full funding and five-year extension of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, formula-based funding for Hepatitis (HCV) screening and prevention initiatives; parity for IHS with Veterans Affairs (VA) in appropriations for HCV treatment and requiring state Medicaid agencies to match their coverage and eligibility requirements to accepted national guidelines. Below is a summary of the meetings SRMT has had year-to-date.

## ***National Congress of American Indians Winter Session:***

During the week of February 10th; Tribal Chiefs joined other tribal leaders in traveling to Washington, D.C. for the National Congress of American Indian's 2019 Winter Session. SRMT met with the offices of Congresswoman Deb Haaland (D-MN), an enrolled member of Laguna Pueblo; and Congresswoman Sharice Davids (D-KS), an enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation; in addition to the new House Natural Resources Subcommittee Chairman on Indigenous Peoples of the United States Ruben Gallego (D-AZ), Raul Ruiz (D-CA), Elise Stefanik (R-NY), Derek Kilmer (D-WA) and Kevin Cramer (R-ND).

## ***Superfund Sites:***

In their meeting with Congressman Ruiz's office, the Tribal Chiefs followed up on 2017 testimony provided to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) regarding a Superfund Site adjacent to the Akwesasne community and two sites of concern also located directly upwind and upriver. The GAO's report will be released this year and Congressman Ruiz's office is looking to hold a hearing and introduce legislation that would address some of the environmental challenges facing the Tribe. The Tribe was also informed that several bills might be introduced regarding increased funding for mitigating Superfund Sites and promoting environmental justice.

## ***Broadband:***

In every meeting, the Chiefs highlighted the success of Mohawk Networks and continued to advocate for more flexible grant reporting requirements, funding that pays tribal telecom entities up-front rather than being reimbursed, funding that can be used to develop broadband infrastructure both on territory and off-territory, and to incentivize partnerships with tribal telecom entities.

## ***United Southern and Eastern Tribes***

## ***Impact Week:***

During the week of March 4th; Tribal Chiefs participated in the United Southern and Eastern Tribes Impact Week in Washington, D.C. Between important updates from the administration and tribal organizations, the Tribal Chiefs met with several congressional offices to discuss the Tribe's legislative priorities.



*Tribal Council with Congressman Gallego (D-AZ),  
Chairman of the House Natural Resource Subcommittee On  
Indigenous Peoples.*

### ***Federal Lobbying Report (continued)***

On March 5th, Tribal Council met with office of Congressman Hakeem Jefferies (D-NY) to discuss the Tribe's efforts to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act and were pleased with Jefferies' understanding of the unnecessary tension the current law creates.

The amendment will allow Mohawk people to cross the U.S.-Canadian border without having to prove they are "50 percent blood of the American Indian race".

Following this meeting, Tribal Chiefs met with the office of Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) where they discussed land claims, healthcare, broadband and the border crossing amendment. Senator Schumer's office agreed to work with SRMT to encourage New York State to resolve the land claim. His office also requested a meeting with the Tribe's new environmental director, Tony David, to incorporate Mohawk climate change priorities and considerations in any climate change efforts the Senator pushes.

Closing out the day, Tribal Chiefs met with the office of Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK) to thank him for co-sponsorship of a legislation to the House Homeland Security Bill that prohibit funds from being used by Customs and Border Protection agents to force tribal members to prove their blood quantum. The Tribe requested his continued support and filed an appropriations request to include similar language in the FY 2020 House Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

On March 6th, the Tribal Chiefs met with Congresswoman Anne Kuster (NH-D), who is a recent addition to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The Congresswoman does not have any federally recognized tribes in her district, but has expressed her desire to work more closely with Indian Country. The Congresswoman's staff was provided background on issues concerning broadband and IHS funding. Tribal Chief Cook requested support for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and Justice for Native Survivors of Sexual Violence Act.

The Tribal Chiefs also met with the office of Senator Corey Booker (D-NJ) to provide background on the Superfund Sites and discuss opportunities for partnership. The Tribal Chiefs learned that Senator Booker will be introducing related legislation that makes tribal governments eligible for mitigation funding. The Senator is working in collaboration with Congressman Raul Ruiz (D-CA) in securing the GAO report, "Superfund: EPA Should Improve the Reliability of Data on National Priorities List Sites Affecting Indian Tribes." ◇

### ***Proposed Route 37 Speed Limit Reduction Survey***

The safety of local residents and the traveling public remains a priority for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. To help fulfill this responsibility the Tribe has sought community input on assorted improvements to public safety that include the placement of streetlights, removal of unsafe structures and proposed sidewalks along Akwesasne's roadways. More recently, pursuant to an action item provided at the February 2019 Monthly Tribal Meeting, the Tribal Council is now seeking community feedback on possibly reducing the speed limit from 55 mph for the easterly portion of Route 37—from the location of the old ball field going east. To assist in this decision-making process, we are asking local residents to take a few moments to answer four questions. To take the online survey, go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P38KDW9> before noon on Friday, May 10th.

### ***Request for Proposals No. 19-0066: Grant Writing Services***

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is soliciting proposals from qualified consultants to provide grant writing services for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, located at 71 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way, Akwesasne, New York.

Proposals will be received until Thursday, May 16, 2019, 3:30 p.m. (local time). Questions concerning this *Request for Proposals* are to be directed in writing five (5) days prior to the closing date and time.

The following preferences apply to this solicitation: Native Preference, Women Business Enterprises & Veteran with Disabilities Business Enterprises and Minority Business Enterprises and Veterans Business Enterprises.

Please contact the Grants and Contracts Office at (518) 358-2272 or by e-mail at [grants.contracts@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:grants.contracts@srmt-nsn.gov) to receive a copy of the *Request for Proposals*.

# WTF ?

*By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager*

Do you know? I say this to myself all the time. A little different context but you know what? It can mean anything like, what the flip or what the flop. Here it means: “What’s The Field or Frequency?” The Air Quality Program (AQP) has been receiving many phone calls lately about electromagnetic fields (EMFs) in homes. EMFs have long been talked about as bad for your health. All of us at the AQP really don’t know if they are good or bad. We do know that they are out there and some people are sensitive to them. People have complained about an inability to sleep, mood swings and headaches.

Homes these days have tons of electronics and that’s where these EMFs come from. So what are EMFs? They are invisible areas of energy, often referred to as radiation associated with electrical power. There are natural forms of EMFs such as in sunlight. This is a much simplified version of a very complicated subject, but what I do know is, they are all around us.

With that said, the AQP has recently purchased a meter that checks the amount of EMFs in a home. The TriField EMF Meter Model TF2 is an AC gaussmeter, AC electric field meter, and radio power density meter in a single unit that combines all the features needed for fast, accurate measurements of EMFs.

If you are worried about EMFs, there are products you can buy that help reduce the amount you

are exposed to in your home. You can always get a tin foil hat like Zazzles, but other than looking awesome, I don’t think it provides much protection.

There is a lot of information out there on this topic and as I said before, I don’t know a lot about it. I also found a website that has covers for your electronics at home. You can do a search and see all the products out there from blankets to router covers. <https://www.defendershield.com/>. Of course instead of buying covers you could also go back to the good 'ole days where a house had one TV, no microwave, no Wi-Fi, no computer and percolated coffee on the stove. That would totally reduce most of the EMFs.

I have heard that the smart meters from the electric company are adding to the EMFs in a home but when we checked, not much came from it. It is probably because a smart meter from your electric power company only pulses about once a minute. It also turns out that a smart meter from the gas company pulses much less frequently, only once a day.

To schedule an appointment to have your house checked with our new meter, please call the Air Quality Program at (518) 358-5937.

So for now and the next seven generations, let’s be aware of the amount of EMFs we are exposed to and consider reducing our exposure until we know how they affect us. ♦



*No animals were harmed in the shooting of the photo.  
Zazzles was not happy and not harmed.*

EMF Source	mG at 4"	mG at 3'
Blender	50-220	0.3-3
Clothes Washer	8-200	0.1-4
Coffee Maker	6-29	0.1
Computer	4-20	2-5
Fluorescent Lamp	400-4,000	0.1-5
Hair Dryer	60-20,000	0.1-6
Microwave Oven	100-500	1-25
Television	5-100	0.1-6
Vacuum Cleaner	230-1,300	3-40

# Protecting Your Yard from Invasive Species

*By Jessica Raspitha, Environmental Specialist/Environmental Resource Coordinator*

Spring is here and that means all the vibrant greens of our natural world have returned however, have you noticed one plant that seems to be growing much quicker than the rest? If you have, you may have spotted invasive phragmites, also known as common reed.

Invasive phragmites is a wetland grass species that grows and spreads rapidly. It is one of the most aggressive non-native plants impacting the Great Lakes Basin. Phragmites can grow up to 20-feet tall and is supported by a dense root system that allows the plant to grow back each year, even when the visible parts of the plant are cut. It grows so quickly that it often forms a monoculture by outcompeting native plant species for nutrients and water. While it is a wetland species that prefers wetter environments, phragmites has been found in many different soil types.

Since this species is so resilient it has a number of negative effects on the local ecosystem, which include the loss of native-plant species; the destruction of habitat for birds, reptiles and amphibians; and the degradation of wetlands. It is also a hazard to the community since it's tall stalks obstruct views along roads and waterways.

In 2018, the SRMT Environment Division conducted a survey and found the invasive species in more than 550 sites throughout the southern portion of Akwesasne. Once this plant has established itself in an area it is very difficult to remove, so it is important that we take steps to prevent its spread.



You can protect your property from an infestation by:

- Avoiding soil disruption since invasive species are quicker to recolonize on exposed soil than native plants.
- Reseed or replant exposed soils as soon as possible.
- Make sure you are getting soil from a clean source during construction and landscaping projects.

- Removing mud and seeds from clothing, vehicles, pets, lawn tools, and equipment before moving from one location to another.

- Avoid off-trail traveling while hiking or using ATVs as this can spread seeds.

- Plant only native plants in your yard and garden.
- Monitor your property for invasive species, especially along fences, hedges, tree lines and trails.

One of the best things we can do to combat this invasive plant is to prevent its spread, which we can do by taking these precautions around our own homes. We all benefit from the health of our local ecosystem, and we appreciate the community's support in defending our resources.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jessica Raspitha at (518) 358-5927, or by emailing [jessica.raspitha@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:jessica.raspitha@srmt-nsn.gov). ◇

***Introducing Real Choice TV from  
Mohawk Networks:***  
**Designed for the way you watch TV now**



Entertainment is evolving and Mohawk Networks is connecting you to the latest trends in video services. Real Choice TV by Mohawk Networks allows our customers to stream TV to any device in your home; with access to On-Demand, DVR, and 24-hour catch up — all in High Definition and designed for the way you watch TV now.

Why? We're listening to our customers. When we first brought video services to our customers in 2015, the best option at that time was Pure HD. Today, it serves more than 300 homes and brings culture and language programming by Akwesasne TV into your home.

There are pros with Pure HD, including the fact that you can use your own traditional TV remote and local channels are available, as well as movie channels at no additional cost. But, our service has been limited, and we understand the lack of an interactive guide is frustrating for some customers.

We are now bringing you a new option that is designed to meet current demand for streaming. Real Choice TV offers local channels; including ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox, plus we have premium movie packages available.

Real Choice TV follows the cutting the cord trend -- you will be streaming your favorite TV show over Mohawk Network's broadband service. Unlike other streaming services, Mohawk Networks has a private connection with Real Choice TV to control the picture quality and it is compatible with any television that has an HDMI port for a Roku Stick.

Our team is excited to roll out Real Choice TV! Stop by our office for a demo and pick up our channel lineup, call us at (518) 358-2105, or visit us at [www.Mohawk-Networks.com](http://www.Mohawk-Networks.com). ♦

***National Small Business Week –  
Let's Celebrate!***

**Akwesasne Small Business Incubator Open House**

Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Akwesasne Business Center, Suite 201

*One-on-one business support, brainstorming sessions, business planning, marketing planning and market readiness.*

**Akwesasne Revolving Loan Fund**

Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Akwesasne Business Center, Suite 204

*The loan can be used to purchase equipment, acquire real property, construction and renovations.*

**National Small Business Week Google Livestream Webinar**

Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*Ionkwakiohkwaró:ron*, SRMT Education Classroom

*Join us in watching a live broadcast by Google on how to get your business 'in front' of your customers online.*

**AERC Open House**

Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. & 4:00–6:00 p.m.

18 Eagle Drive (across from Heart to Heart Fitness Center)

*Find out how the AERC can assist with the recruitment of ready, willing, and qualified Native workers.*

**SUNY Canton Small Business Development Center**

Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Akwesasne Business Center, Suite 201

*Learn about the services SUNY Canton SBDC provides to small businesses from start-up through growth.*

**Akwesasne Cultural Tourism Open House**

Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Akwesasne Business Center, Suite 201

*Find out how you can be involved in development of a cultural tourism industry in Akwesasne.*

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Mary LaFrance, SRMT Office of Economic Development, Program Support Officer at (518) 358-2835. ♦



# Tribal Caucus Scheduled for Onerahtohkó:wa/May 4, 2019

By Summer Bero, Tribal Clerk

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Election Board will hold the annual Tribal caucus on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at the *Ionkwakiokwaró:ron* Tribal Administration Building.

The purpose of the caucus will be to receive nominations for the following: Tribal Chief for one three-year term, Tribal Sub-Chief for one three-year term, Chief Judge for one three-year term and Traffic Court Judge #1 for one three-year term. At 10:00 a.m. sharp, the Election Board will open the floor to nominations for each respective position.

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

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Be an enrolled member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe;
- Reside in the United States or in the U.S. portion of Akwesasne for at least six months immediately prior to the election, and
- Have their name on the most current Eligible Voters List.

All nominees for all elected positions must be present to accept or refuse the nomination at the time of the caucus and are responsible for submitting their required documents and drug testing by the close of business on Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

The unofficial list of all nominees will be posted by Friday, May 10, 2019.

The Tribal Election will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, *Obiari:ha*/June 1, 2019 with Early Voting conducted on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 and Wednesday, May 29, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the *Ionkwakiokwaró:ron* Tribal Administration Building Lobby.

In order to vote in the Tribal Elections, you must be on the Eligible Voter's List and prove your identity. This includes valid photo identification issued by a government entity including, for example, a Tribal ID, a Driver's License, a Passport or Status Card. On the day of the Election or Referendum, EXPIRED photo identification, even an expired Tribal ID, will not be accepted as proof of identity.

Home voting will take place on Friday, May 31, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, please contact Cathy Mitchell, Administrative Assistant to Commissions/Boards, at (518) 358-2272 by end of business day on Wednesday, May 29, 2019.

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





# Tribal Monthly Meetings

**Enniskó:wa/ March 2, 2019**

**Chairperson: Tribal Chief Beverly Cook**

*a meeting with the Governor's Deputy Secretary of Transportation. Tribal Council will provide an update when available*

## Agenda

1. Review of previous action items:
  - a. Request to look into student reportedly disciplined for speaking Kanienkeha at Salmon River. **Complete** Tribal Council and the Director of Education met with the Superintendent of Salmon River to discuss the action item among other items. The Superintendent stated students are welcomed to speak Mohawk and that they use it as teachable moments, by explaining to non-speakers what they are saying. If any parents have any concerns or complaints, the Superintendent requested they submit details such as the teacher's name, student name, date of incident, and specific details of what transpired.
  - b. Look into the CAN 8 Mohawk Language software program, to be utilized in the Salmon River and Massena schools. **Complete.** Massena Central School uses the CAN 8 in the high school, as Robin Logan teaches cultural education courses. CAN 8 is also available for students in the Native American Resource Room. Salmon River does not utilize the Can8 Program. However, Salmon River has a language program from Pre-K- 12. Tribal Council discussed the CAN 8 Mohawk Language software at recent meeting with the Superintendent and were told they used to have the software, but have moved to focusing on more conversational methods. Teachers use a language app that students can access at home, using their own voices to pronounce vocabulary and there are quizzes where students compete with the class/teachers.
  - c. Request to look into charging businesses for water. **In Progress** Planning and Infrastructure and Compliance are reviewing information and will provide an update when available.
  - d. How much of NYS Department of Transportation money was spent to maintain reservation roads. **In Progress.** The Tribe looked into similar action item in June 2018. In 2018, the NYS Region 7 DOT representative informed the Tribe that the average yearly allocation for road repairs on the reservation is \$20,000 to \$30,000 and is based on need. The Tribal Council's NYS lobbyist is working to coordinate
- e. Request to see what we do to reduce the 55mph speed limit on State Road. **In Progress.** The Communications Department is developing a survey to obtain input from residents in the area. The results of a survey will determine the next steps.
- f. Request to have a contest to name the new building. **Removed.** Tribal Council has considered this request and determined the building name will remain "Ionkwakiohkwaró:ron Tribal Administration Building." In the future, the Tribe will strive to obtain community input when naming new buildings and areas of community use.
- g. Request to look at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino & Resort disposal asset policy. **Complete.** The Tribe shared the SRMT asset disposal process and the Mohawk Gaming Enterprise Board of Managers and AMCR staff are reviewing the request.
- h. Request for update on land claims. **Complete.** Tribal Council sent correspondence to NYS Representative and cc'd Governor Cuomo, Senator Betty Little, and Assemblyman Billy Jones with message for the State to immediately send previously requested information that is needed to continue productive negotiations. Tribal Council requested a meeting in March, and plans to meet with the Director of State Policy and Agency Management, who oversees the NYS negotiator, if the state fails to complete its action item(s).
9. 10:20 a.m. | NYS School Report Card Presentation by Stephanie Cook
10. 10:45 a.m. | Ohero:kon Presentation by Louise McDonald and Chelsea Sunday
11. 11:10 a.m. | Cultural Tourism Presentation by Gail McDonald, Penny Peters, and Latoya Rourke
12. 11:50 a.m. | Announcements:
  - a. Community Meeting on Draft Residency Ordinance at 1:00 p.m. today in the lobby
  - b. 2018 Annual Report Photo Contest
  - c. Deadline to submit order to the Mother Earth Pig Project is March 25th





**Onerahtó:kha/April 6, 2019**  
**Chairperson: Tribal Chief Eric Thompson**

**Agenda**

1. Review of previous action items:
    - a. Request to look into charging businesses for water. **In Progress.** *Planning and Infrastructure briefed Tribal Council on metering, treatment capacity for water and septic, technology, and enforcement in regards to charging businesses for water. Internal review will take place to determine whether such a program would be revenue positive or negative, in part based on what the definition of “business” would be. A public presentation by Planning and Infrastructure will be scheduled in the future and an announcement will be made.*
    - b. How much of NYS Department of Transportation money was spent to maintain reservation roads. **In Progress.** *There is an inventory of roads, where the Tribe and Bombay have responsibilities to maintain. The inventory list shows that the primary problem roads are under Bombay’s responsibility. Planning and Infrastructure is reviewing information from Legal and will be in contact with the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT). A conference call will be scheduled with the DOT and Tribal Council will provide an update when available.*
    - c. Request to see what we can do to reduce the 55mph speed limit on State Road. **In Progress.** *The Communications Department developed a survey for residents in the area and is canvassing homes with tentative completion date of April 12th. Thereafter the survey information will be processed and interpreted. The results of the survey will determine the next steps.*
    - d. Request to look at labeling of the room occupancy fee at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort. **Complete.** *Casino management looked into this. All signs referencing the Elders Benefit Program will be removed and hotel invoices/receipts will label the Room Occupancy fee as a “Resort Fee.”*
    - e. Request to look into allowing Tribal Police to have jurisdiction to assist the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service. **Complete.** *The Chief of Police, Police Commission and Legal department have reviewed the request. Tribal Police attempting to exercise police authority within MCA districts in an official capacity would jeopardize the police authority of officers within New York State and raise serious liability issues. Tribal Police will continue to work with AMPS in all feasible ways to promote community safety and order.*
  - f. Tribal Council to report on motion for the Election Board and Police Commission to be elected positions voted in by the community. *At the March 13th Work Session, Tribal Council spoke with the community member who made the motion. It was clarified that the focus of the motion was mainly on the Election Board. Tribal Council maintains that if there are any requests or concerns regarding the Boards or Commissions, community members may contact the Board’s Chairperson directly or the Administrative Assistant to the Commissions. Tribal Council abides by the 2013 Tribal Procedures Act, which was passed by a community referendum. Tribal Council’s responsibilities per Section IV.C. 4. include to charter subordinate organizations, including boards and commissions and to delegate certain power to any such boards and commissions.*
  - g. Tribal Council to report on motion to remove the boulder in front of the Tribe; it was seconded by Ronald Garrow, Sr. Barbara Lazore made a motion to amend the original motion to add the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe name or logo to the top of the boulder that sits out front of the new building. *Renderings are provided in the agenda package.*
2. 10:20 a.m. | Family Support Program Presentation by Jamie Bay and Douglas Hamilton
  3. 10:40 a.m. | Introduction of Tony David, Director of Environment
  4. 10:55 a.m. | Introduction of Rita Curran, Tribal Member and St. Lawrence County Legislator
  5. 11:10 a.m. | Introduction of Road Weight Limits by Elliott Lazore
  6. 11:25 a.m. | Health Services Needs Assessment presentation by Mike Cook, Matthew Thompson, and Kim McElwain
  7. 11:45 a.m. | Announcements
    - a. Community Meeting on Residency on Wednesday, April 24th at 5:00 p.m. in the lobby.
    - b. Ionkwakiohkwaró:ron Tribal Administration Building Grand Opening on Friday, June 7th at 10:30 a.m. ◇

## ***Tribal Council Resolutions (TCRs)*** ***Enniska/February 27 to*** ***Onerahthkó:wa/April 17, 2019***

*Editor's Note: 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 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 # 2019-08: Authorize Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Courts and Three Sisters Program to Seek Funds from the U.S. Dept. of Justice - Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation

TCR # 2019-09: Referendum on Tribal Residency Ordinance

TCR # 2019-10: Approve the Addition of Mandatory Training for Intervention Procedures under the Authority Delegated to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Compliance Dept.

TCR # 2019-11: Authorize the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Akwesasne Cultural Restoration Program and Education Department to Seek Funds from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services - Administration for Native Americans ◇

## ***Small Business Lunch & Learn Series***

Bring your lunch and join us every second Wednesday of the month and learn new ways to improve your small business. Webinars are presented by SCORE and Google's Get Your Business Online. Viewings will start at noon in the Education Division classroom at *Ionkwakiohkwaró:ron*, first floor, at 71 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way. Space is limited. Please RSVP at least three days prior to date of webinar. For more information, and to RSVP, please contact Mary LaFrance by calling (518) 358-2835 or emailing [mulafrance@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:mulafrance@srmt-nsn.gov).

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| May 8  | GYBO: Small Business Week Livestream   |
| Jun 12 | Intellectual Property 101: What You Need to Know for Starting and Growing a Business |
| Jul 10 | Everything You Need to Know About Small Business Insurance                           |

## ***Employment Opportunities***

- **Bus Driver** - Education, ECDP (OUF)
- **Career Pathways Summer Program Coordinator and Mentors** - Education (5/8)
- **College & High School Summer Interns** - Education (5/8)
- **Direct Support Professional** - Community and Family Services, Family Support (OUF)
- **General Practitioner** - Health Services (OUF)
- **Head Start Teacher** - Education, ECDP (OUF)
- **Internist** - Health Services (OUF)
- **Program Accountant** - Finance (OUF)
- **Senior Financial Analyst** - Finance (OUF)
- **Summer Youth Program Assistant** - Education (5/8)
- **Transportation Coordinator** - Education, Early Childhood Development (OUF)

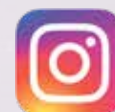
Complete job descriptions and application instructions are available online at: [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov) or [www.myaerc.org](http://www.myaerc.org).  
The deadline for postings is Wednesdays at 11:59 p.m.

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

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Communications Department  
71 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way  
Akwesasne, NY 13655  
(518) 358-2272

[communications@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:communications@srmt-nsn.gov)  
[www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov)

*Connect with us...*



Brendan White, Director/Editor  
Aimée Benedict, Publications Manager  
Alyson Thompson, Communications Officer  
Denita Ireland, Communications Specialist

# Calendar

## *Onerahtohkó:wa/May*

- 4 - Tribal Annual Caucus - - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
- 8 - Diabetes Day 2019 - 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. - Diabetes Center for Excellence
- 11- Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
- 14 - Social Security - 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office
- 27 - Memorial Day - All Tribal offices closed

## *Ohiairi:ha/June*

- 1 - Annual Tribal Election - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Lobby
- 7 - *Ionkwakiohkwaró:ron* Grand Opening - 11:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- 8 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
- 11 - Social Security - 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office
- Wednesdays - Tribal Council Work Session - 9:00 a.m. - Executive Boardroom

# New Faces

Dawn M Mitchell  
Chantelle C White  
Leah A Shenandoah  
Braxtyn K Dumas  
Nanette D Oakes  
Jessica DF Connors  
Trysten Burns  
Tammy A Terrance  
Viktoria A White  
Francine A Thomas  
Jared M Gray  
Carl Bero  
Jake D Whitecrow  
Hattie Edwards  
Angela M Deragon  
Harold J Square  
Mitchell Skidders  
Raven I Oakes  
Joseph Jacobs, Jr  
Jim A Lanthier  
Elwood C Laughing  
Stacy L Charlton  
Angus Lamora  
Tanya L Square

Procurement Clerk  
Receptionist  
Direct Support Professional  
Direct Support Professional  
Safe Home Advocate  
ECDP Substitute  
ECDP Substitute  
Receptionist  
ECDP Substitute  
Higher Education Specialist  
Custodians  
Custodians  
Custodians  
Administrative Assistant  
Resident Aide  
Resident Aide  
Resident Aide  
Pharmacy Clerk  
Inspector  
Dispatcher  
Custodians  
HDM Driver  
Operator  
Land & Estates Officer

Finance - Accounting  
Akwasasne Employment Resource Center  
CFS - Conners Road  
CFS - HS Frogtown  
CFS - Three Sisters  
Early Childhood Development  
Early Childhood Development  
Early Childhood Development  
Early Childhood Development  
Education  
Facilities  
Facilities  
Facilities  
Grants and Contracts  
Partridge House  
Partridge House  
Partridge House  
Pharmacy  
Tribal Gaming  
Tribal Police  
Facilities  
Office for the Aging  
Tribal Gaming - Surveillance  
Tribal Clerks

# Donations

Community Events - \$ 1,000

Funerals - \$ 10,000

Sports - \$ 3,000

Community Development - \$ 2,500

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO CELEBRATE THE

*Grand Opening*

*Ionkwakiohkwaró:ron* (Gathering Place of the People)  
Tribal Administration Building  
71 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way, Akwesasne, NY 13655



*Dedication*

*Meal*

*Open House*



Friday, *Ohiari:ha*/June 7, 2019  
from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



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

ECRWSS  
PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MAILED FROM  
ZIP CODE 13655  
PERMIT NO. 26

POSTAL PATRON

*On the Cover:*

*The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Agriculture Program continues to make strides in helping the Akwesasne community return to traditional foods thanks to the efforts of agricultural team members (from right) Ahtkwiroton Skidders, Wally Ransom, Tasha Gutney, Ida 'Akát' Thompson and (kneeling) Ricardo Najar.*