

Features

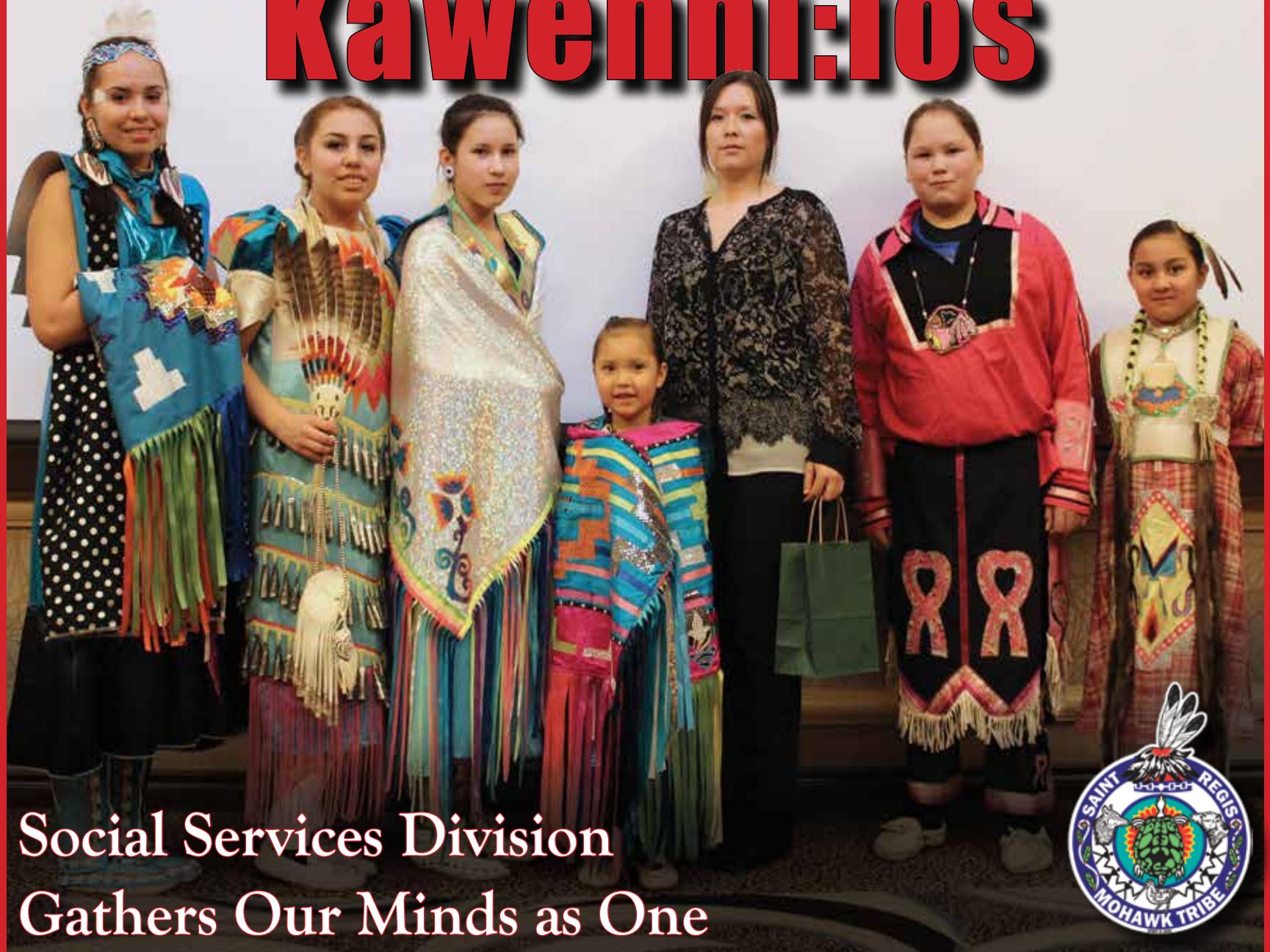
Institutions Benefit
from NRD Funds

Police Commission:
Protecting Safety

Halfway House
Consultation Meeting

Salmon River School
Board Candidates

Kawennì:ios



Social Services Division
Gathers Our Minds as One



Good Words of Welcome



Shé:kon Akwesasne,

Spring is here, which means our youth will soon be on the lacrosse fields. It also means the school year is almost done and high schools and colleges will be having graduations. Of course, it also means the local race season will soon be upon us.

As I do in each opening of Kaweni:ios, I would like to update you on the political outreach that Tribal Council has done during recent trips. I am pleased to report that Tribal Chief Beverly Cook, Tribal Sub-Chief Eric Thompson, and I have spent needed time in Washington D.C. meeting with U.S. Senators, Congressmen/women, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, as well as attended important events to voice our concerns and initiatives on behalf of Akwesasne. These legislative priorities include:

American Indian Teacher Loan Forgiveness Act

This bill was introduced in the House of Representatives with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe listed as a supporter. If passed, this will allow Native American teachers from federally recognized tribes, who teach in school districts with a large Native student population (more than 20 percent), to receive up to \$17,500 in federal student loan forgiveness.

RACER Remediation Funding for Clean Up and Restoration of GM Superfund site

We have been pushing for the release of additional funds in order to completely remove the toxic dump located on the former General Motors property that borders Akwesasne.

Support Cross Border Travel for Mohawk People

With Mohawks and many other Natives living on both sides of the international boundary line, some have become subject to further inspection when crossing the border. They have also been instructed to produce documentation showing they have at least 50 percent blood quantum.

The Jay Treaty of 1794 guarantees that Indians can freely pass and repass the international borders. Unfortunately, Section 289 of the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) provides that the right of American Indians born in Canada to enter the United States “shall extend only to persons who possess at least 50 per centum of blood of the American Indian race.” Under the statute, Natives residing in Canada not only need to provide proof of tribal enrollment with a U.S. federally recognized tribe, but they must also demonstrate that they possess 50 percent Native blood when they wish to cross the border to work, live, or visit family.

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The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's identification card does not state blood quantum percentage. This is what we have been explaining in Washington, as well as the fact that Mohawks are Mohawks and not a percentage thereof. We have also been explaining that there are Mohawks in Akwesasne who are not tribally enrolled members, but are still Mohawks.

We have proposed a legislative fix to this issue that would amend the INA to state: "Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to affect the right of American Indians born in Canada to pass the borders of the United States, but such right shall extend only to those persons who are members of, or eligible for membership in, any federally recognized Indian tribe, or who possess at least 50 per centum of blood of the American Indian race." What this means is that Mohawks who are eligible for membership, but lack a tribal identification card, will continue to have free access to cross the border.

Land Claim Resolution

As our land claim resolution inches along, we will need both the Senate and the House of Representatives to approve legislation after the New York State Legislature approves the settlement. Federal legislation will be the major work and we have been "planting the seed" in Washington, DC for almost two years. This will prove beneficial when our legislation is before them; as they will know who we are, what our issue is, and that it will not cost the federal government any money to approve it.

There are also several major initiatives that Tribal Council is proud of, such as:

Leonard Peltier Support TCR

At the National Congress of American Indians Conference last fall, Tribal Chief Cook, Tribal Sub-Chief Thompson and I participated in an "I Will" support video, along with many other tribal leaders. When asked if we will support Mr. Peltier's request for clemency, we all stated "We Will!" on video. This was backed up

when Tribal Council received a request for a letter of support from Mr. Peltier's family, which resulted in a Tribal Council Resolution sent to his family in support of their request for clemency.

Senior Electric Pilot Program

Tribal Council has approved a pilot project to provide three months of electric/rental assistance for seniors, age 70 and over. I am proud to report that numbers provided from our Compliance Department show that the program has helped 213 seniors!

Boys and Girls Club Champion's Council

We were invited to participate in the Native American Boys and Girls Club Champion's Council meeting held in Santa Fe, NM at the Buffalo Thunder Resort. In attendance were five Champion's Council members: Leo Nolan (Mohawk), who is a consultant; Gregory Mendoza, former-President of the Gila River Nation; Ernie Stevens, Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association; and Larry Blythe, Vice-Chairman of the Cherokee Nation.

It was the Champions Council's second meeting; with the first held in October 2014 during the NCAI Conference held in Atlanta, GA. It was a very productive discussion, as everyone contributed and explored ways to help Native clubs that do not receive much support. The group was amazed at the level of support that the Tribe provides to the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club. Our next meeting will take place during the Boys and Girls Club's National Conference to be held from May 13 to 15, 2015 in Chicago, IL.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge Patrick Bassney for his six years of service to Akwesasne as the General Manager of the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort. Bassney has moved on, but is staying within Indian Country in the gaming industry. He has contributed immensely to the growth and success of gaming in Akwesasne, as well as to the growth for many of our Mohawk gaming professionals. The Tribal Council extends its appreciation to Patrick and wish him continued success.

Niawen:kówa,

Tribal Sub-Chief Michael Conners

Program Snapshot:

Air Quality Program, Environment Division

By Angela Benedict, Program Manager

It's been a year since I wrote about the air quality program and here are the highlights. We continue monitoring the air quality in Akwesasne, collecting precipitation samples through the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP), sampling for fluoride in local forage and helping the community with Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) issues.

The indoor air quality project called "Breathing Living and Learning in the Akwesasne Community: Tools to Improve Indoor Air Quality in the Home" just finished. The project, which monitored about 40 homes, really showed the participants that your indoor air quality can be affected by anything brought into the home and by your actions in the home. Simple things like turning on a fan when cooking or taking a shower can really make a difference. From this project, the Air Quality Program created a handbook that helps define some of the issues of IAQ, as well as what can be done to make things better. Because so much time is spent indoors, it is important to create a clean air environment to maintain healthy lives. All homes contain sources that can contaminate their air. Learning how to minimize these sources is the key to preventing unhealthy exposures to family and friends.



Acid Rain Collection Site Goes Solar



Second Collector with Wind Protection

The NADP site is new and improved. Not only did we move our site but we improved it by adding solar power. At the previous site, it was connected to National Grid. It now has its own solar panel to provide the small amount of electricity it needs to run some of the components of the collection.

For the upcoming year, the air quality program is looking at another project dealing with indoor air but in a different way. Starting in Ohiari:ha/June 2015, the program will begin a study on household dust. This study will collect dust samples from inside homes to see if there are any PCBs, dioxin and dioxin-like compounds. The air program will be looking for at least 85 homes located in Akwesasne to sample. This study will also be providing employment for one individual for a year and a half. The job announcement will be out in early Onerahtohko:wa/May 2015.

So, for now and the next seven generations, let's improve our indoor air for our health and well-being. ◇



Monthly Tribal Meeting

Tsiothohrkó:wa / March , 2015

Chairperson: Tribal Chief Beverly Cook

Agenda

1. Athlete Recognition Ceremony
2. Introduction
 - Chairperson
 - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
3. Program Spotlight: Alcohol/Chemical Dependency Program
4. Trip Reports
5. Land Claims Update
6. Cash Flow Projection Presentation
7. New Business
8. Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
9. Adjournment

Onerahók:ba/April 4, 2015

Chairperson: Tribal Sub-Chief Eric Thompson

Agenda

1. Welcome - Chairperson
 - Reading of Action Items ~ Tribal Clerk
2. ACR Year End Report - Barbara Tarbell
3. Department of Agriculture Update
4. Program Spotlight - Akwesasne TV
5. New Business
6. Reading of Action Items ~ Tribal Clerk
7. Adjournment

Status of Monthly Meeting Action Items (Outstanding):

1. To look into charging a nominal fee for non-members to work here in Akwesasne.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has reviewed this proposition and does not have enough information to proceed at this time. Such a proposition appears, on its face, to be discriminatory in nature and could have a negative impact on some Tribal Programs' funding sources. The Economic Development Office is currently conducting a comprehensive study on the local work force. This study should provide us with information necessary to develop a comprehensive plan for revenue generation.

Follow-up on Action Items from February Meeting

1. None. *Note: Incorrect actions items were listed in March/April Kawennì:ios.*
-

Actions Items from March Meeting

1. None
-

Action Items from April Meeting

1. To look into the possibility of housing an ambulance on the US side for medical emergencies.
2. To give an update on the strategic plan at May's monthly meeting. ◇

Calendar

Onerah̄tohkó:wa/May 2015

- 2 - Annual Tribal Election Caucus - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
- 9 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
ATFE Roadside Cleanup - 8:30 a.m. - SRMT Seniors Center
- 12 - Social Security - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office
- 13 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom
- 19 - SRCS School Board Elections - Salmon River Auditorium
- 25 - Memorial Day Holiday - All Tribal programs closed

Obiari:ba/June 2015

- 6 - Annual Tribal Election - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building Lobby
- 9 - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office
- 10 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom, Community Building
- Wednesdays - Tribal Council Work Session - 9:00 a.m. - Executive Boardroom, Community Building

New Faces

Aaron J. Barrigar
Gena M. Chiasson
Rebecca Diabo
Margaret A. Diagostino
Courtney Jacobs
Kimberly M. Jeffords
Sarah Ann Kearns
Judy Laffin
Jennifer Leaf
Samantha A. Peters
Kakwitene Stacey
Lee Tarbell
Olivia J. Terrance

Forestry Technician
Resident Aide
Home Health Aide
Receptionist
Administrative Floater
Pharmacy Assistant
Administrative Assistant
Sales Representative
Accountant
Custodian
Administrative Floater
Custodian
Resident Aide

Environment
Health Services - Partridge House
Health Services - Outreach
Health Services - A/CDP
Administration
Health Services - Pharmacy
Grants & Contracts
Broadband
Finance
Maintenance
Administration
Maintenance
Partridge House

Donations

Community Activities - \$3,500
Funerals - \$5,000
Sports - \$2,100

SRC Latchkey Program, *Kanikonhr'i:io I:wa ne Ona:ke* Kayak and Canoe Club, Akwesasne Minor Lacrosse Registrations, WOW Team, Soccer Sponsorship, Little NHL Atoms Sniper Team

Jobs

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

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

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

Students Attend Promising Futures

By Rebecca Smoke, Johnson O'Malley Director

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Program attended the American Indian Program (AIP) Promising Futures Conference on Friday and Saturday, Enniskó:wa/March 20 and 21, 2015 at Cornell University located in Ithaca, New York. JOM Education Specialists, Anna Thompson and Brandi Benedict, brought two students from J.W. Leary Junior High School in grade eight and five students from Massena Central High School in grades 10 and 11. The conference was for students, parents and counselors who may be interested in a Cornell education. Throughout the conference, various speakers addressed the following area(s) of interest:

- Cornell, Ivy League, Tier-One Institution
- Costs & Financial Aid Opportunities
- Application Strategies & Tips
- Why Cornell – Admissions & Applying
- Student Support

Students were also given an opportunity to stay overnight on the Cornell campus at the *Akwe:kon* Residence Hall and

interact with Native university students. *Akwe:kon* is situated on Cornell's North Campus and houses 35 residents, which provides a dynamic and supportive living experience for both Native and non-Native students. On Friday, Akwesasne students enjoyed delicious traditional Native foods prepared by Cornell University for our welcoming dinner. After dinner, students were able to participate in 15-minute speed meetings with faculty from Cornell's seven colleges. Students were then invited to a neon dance party, along with movies and snacks for the remainder of the evening at *Akwe:kon*.



On Saturday, students heard from the admissions office on tips and strategies for applying to Cornell, along with the Financial Aid Office on costs and qualifying for scholarships. Students also heard from Samantha Phillips from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Education Division on exercising their education rights under the Jay Treaty of 1794. Students participated in a mini college fair and received a guided campus tour of Cornell. Lastly, students received information from AIP representatives and Cornell students on student support. ◇

2015 Tribal Election

Ohiari:ha / June 6, 2015

By Election Board

Tribal Election

Eligible voters are encouraged to vote on Ohiaari:ha/ June 6, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Community Building.

Voters must sign in and present their Tribal Enrollment card or valid photo identification prior to receiving their ballots and must put their enrollment number next to their name.

This year, the Election Board will accept ballots for one Tribal Chief, one Tribal Sub-Chief and a Tribal Clerk. Each elected position serves a three (3) year term

Absentee ballots will be available once the candidates are certified and can be obtained by contacting the Tribal Clerk's Office. Walk-in voting will take place on Monday, Ohiaari:ha/June 1 and Wednesday, Ohiaari:ha/June 3, 2015 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

In-home voting will take place on Friday, Ohiaari:ha/June 5, 2015 for home-bound eligible voters. Voters requiring this service can contact the Election Board at (518) 358-2272.

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

About the Election Board

Election Board members are appointed by Tribal Council for a term of three years. To serve on the Election Board, members must meet the criteria of an eligible voter (see below). The current Election Board Members are Wendy Adams, Kim McElwain, Stacy Skidders and Katrina Jacobs.

The Election Board members ensure, direct and manage the security and integrity of the tribal caucus, elections and referendums in accordance with the Election and Referendum Ordinance. The Election Ordinance can be viewed online at the Tribe's website at www.srmt-nsn.gov/publications/. A printed copy is also available to pick up free-of-charge in the Tribal Clerk's Office.

NOTE: All caucus and voting results will be made available on the Tribe's website and facebook page, as well as in the local newspaper and on the local radio station. ◇

Election Workers Needed

The SRMT Election Board is seeking six workers to assist with this year's annual election. Individuals must be available the two scheduled days of walk-in voting and Saturday's election. To be an election worker, individuals must be:

- Enrolled members of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.
- Must be 18 years of age or older.

Interested individuals can submit their letter of interest to the attention of the Election Board at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, 412 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655.



Eligibility of Voters

At the time of voting, an eligible voter must:

- A. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- B. Be an enrolled member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.
- C. Reside in the United States for at least six months immediately prior to the election.
- D. Have their name on the most current eligible voters list. It is the responsibility of all Tribal members to ensure they are on the eligible voters list.

Ahkwesahsne Animal Wellness Clinic Expands with Help From Tribe

By Mary LaFrance, Program Support Officer

The Ahkwesahsne Animal Wellness Clinic is pleased to announce an expansion adding Fluffy Tails Pet Supply. This expansion of the clinic was made possible with assistance from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Office of Economic Development (OED).

The Ahkwesahsne Animal Wellness Clinic was started by Dr. Mary Arquette, DVM, PhD, and Jenna Herne, LVT. Together, they are able to provide much needed animal wellness and preventative services; such as vaccines, disease testing, heart worm preventative medications, nail trims, ear cleaning, and referrals for more serious pet health problems.

"I started because I was having people stop by my house saying can you look at my dog... People were wanting help and I felt bad I couldn't help them more," said Dr. Arquette, who attended Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

"There is a community need," added Herne, who is a New York State Licensed Veterinary Technician and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biology. About a year and a half ago, Herne opened a second business within the Animal Wellness Clinic, Fluffy Tails Pet Supply, which features interactive toys designed for specific animal behavioral issues. Herne has done all the research on the products that she offers and everything comes recommended by veterinarians.

"When you visit my pet supply store you get quality products and veterinary advice," said Herne, who gave the example that some pets need more stimulating activities, while owners are away in order to prevent unwanted chewing on furniture or shoes.

After going through the process of starting the Clinic and being funded through family members and out of pocket, Herne approached the Office of Economic Development to learn about programs and services available to support the local business community.

"When people start a business they do not make a check the first day, it's a process," said Herne of her experience. "It's a long process, they definitely need a business plan."

Through the Office of Economic Development, Herne worked with SUNY Canton's Small Business Development Center to create a business plan that has helped her access the Akwesasne Revolving Loan Fund—a loan program administered by the OED that supports new or expanding businesses. With the loan, Herne hopes to enhance her education into animal behavioral studies and further expand services to include boarding and grooming.

"We are happy to provide a much needed service to the community and the money stays in the community," said Dr. Arquette.

For more information about the Office of Economic Development's programs and services, please contact Mary LaFrance at (518) 358-2835 or email mలాfrance@srmt-nsn.gov.

To make an appointment with the Ahkwesahsne Animal Wellness Clinic call (518) 651-4879 or visit the Fluffy Tails Pet Supply located at 147 Beaver Meadow Road. ◇



Jenna Holds a Pet Toy that can be Filled with Treats to Keep your Dog Entertained.

Second Year of Funding for Akwesasne Institutions

By Amberdawn LaFrance, Akwesasne Cultural Restoration (ACR) Program Office Manager

On March 20, 2015, a second disbursement of the \$8.4 million ALCOA/Reynolds settlement funds was made to support Mohawk cultural practices, an apprenticeship program, Mohawk language, traditional teachings, cultural institutions, youth outdoor education and horticultural programs.

Four projects were selected for incorporating an Indigenous teaching model in their apprenticeship program and the extent that they addressed cultural harm. They will be receiving funds over a five-year period, which began in 2014. They are:

The Akwesasne Freedom School: Tsi Niiohahò:ten “Choosing Our Path” and Owira’ne’ha “Language Nest” Projects received \$128,333 to support the continuation of Mohawk language and culture in Akwesasne. The funding supports the extension of their curriculum beyond grade eight and implementation of a Language Nest Program for preschool-aged children.

The Akwesasne *Ionkwa’nikonri:io* Cultural Youth Camp on

Thompson Island received \$110,740 to help provide opportunities for Akwesasne youth to receive culturally based educational experience outdoors. The funding will improve access for guests, provide additional camp staff, and help upgrade facilities.

The Kana’tsiohare:ke Mohawk community received \$20,000 to assist their commitment to preserving Mohawk language, traditions, culture, and beliefs. The funding will enable them to continue hosting their annual Strawberry Festival; as well as many workshops that include storytelling, wampum teachings, and medicine plant teachings that benefit Akwesasne.

The Healthy Heart Raised Bed Garden Project received \$4,519 to provide materials, plants and nutritional information for raised bed gardens to community members. The funding will allow them to hold various workshops, such as canning garden vegetables and incorporating traditional knowledge into planting.



*Amberdawn LaFrance from the NRD Program Presents the Second Donation to the Akwesasne Ionkwa’nikonri:io Cultural Youth Camp.
(L-R) Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) Director of Tehotienawakon Jim Ransom, Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance, Tribal Sub-Chief Eric Thompson, Amberdawn, Tribal Chief Beverly Cook, Tribal Sub-Chief Michael Connors and MCA Tsi Snaihne District Chiefs April Adams-Phillips and Joe Lazore.*

In March 2013, the Tribe announced a \$19.4 million settlement with Alcoa Inc. and Reynolds Metals Company for injuries to

*Amberdawn, Emma Shenandoah,
Language Nest and Kanerabhtens,
Akwasasne Freedom School*



natural resources, recreational fishing, and Mohawk culture. Alcoa Inc. (Alcoa West), Reynolds Metals Company (now Alcoa East) and the former GM Central Foundry plant are located in Massena, NY, adjacent to the Akwasasne community, and released polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), aluminum, fluoride and cyanide into the St. Lawrence River since the 1950s. These releases have adversely impacted natural resources within the surrounding environment and contaminated the Mohawk community of Akwasasne, degrading natural resources used for traditional cultural practices. \$18.5 million was combined with \$1.8 million in restoration funds

from a 2011 General Motors (GM) bankruptcy settlement, and is being used for restoration of the St. Lawrence River area. \$20.3 million is the total intended for restoration efforts.

With two more funding periods remaining, it is hoped that the cultural restoration projects can help address the disruption caused by environmental contamination on our traditional practices. Their work, and those of future projects to be funded by the Natural Resources Damage Settlement, will allow for the continuation of our Mohawk way of life. ◇



*Amberdawn and Theresa "Bear" Fox on Behalf of
Kana'tsiohareke*



*Amberdawn and Heather Garrow, Let's Get Healthy
Program Coordinator*



Akwe:kon Enska Entetewahwenonni (We Gather Our Minds As One)

By Brendan White, Communications Director

 On March 26, 2016, the Saint Regis Mohawks Tribe's Social Services Division hosted a gathering for the North Country Social Service agencies. The event brought together Social Service Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and Staff Development Coordinators from six social service agencies located in Northern New York Counties—Lewis, Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton and Essex.

The day-long event was facilitated by the Tribe's Social Services Division Director Karonienhawi Thomas with the intended purpose of providing cultural awareness training. It was an opportunity to create new relationships with social service agencies and to strengthen existing ones by fostering an understanding of our community's experiences and cultural practices. To assist this effort, presentations and information was provided to help social workers respond to cases involving *Akwesashró:non* and other clients.

"We want to share with you not only our community's uniqueness, but where there is common ground for us," stated Thomas during her welcoming remarks. She emphasized the importance of social agencies working together, yet at the same time to be mindful of

the client's ethnic background and cultural teachings. This often results in situations where, as Thomas noted "We don't step into each other's boat. We don't step on each other's toes."

The gathering opened with a performance by members of the Social Services Division staff: Racine Johnson, Jean Square and Chantelle Beason (Intensive Preventive Program); and Angie Mitchell-Green (Akwesasne Group Home). The gathering listened intently to their beautiful voices as they sang in unison, which helped set the tone for the day's first presentation.

With the assistance of two young men from the Mohawk Nation, Louise McDonald explained and conducted the Woods Edge Protocol to greet invited guests to the community. She acknowledged all of creation and helped clear everyone's mind for good thoughts and good words to be shared. Deputy Commissioner Rich Holcomb (Clinton County) was enlisted to help. McDonald used with an eagle's plume to clear his ears and to wipe his eyes so they may be used to their full capacity. This was followed by a drink of pure water and an exchange of welcoming handshakes between community members and guests.

Louise McDonald continued her morning's presentation by enlightening the gathering on the community of Akwesasne being a matrilineal society and the important role of women. She noted the difficult history that the community endured and families having their children taken away at a young age to attend Indian residential schools. This resulted in generational trauma, as Mohawk children often did not return until they were young adults—without their culture, language or knowledge of how to interact with family members.

“History was lived by two different people, but only told from one point of view,” stated McDonald. “Today is an opportunity for us to share our perspective.” After reading a declaration from the 2010 Women's Gathering held at *Tsiionkwanontio* that reasserted “Mother's Law,” she concluded her presentation by stating that “Today the healing begins.”

Tribal Chief Beverly Cook followed with a shared desire to work together in creating solutions for cases involving Mohawk families. She shared information on the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study that looks at the impact of early-childhood experiences in shaping an individual's well-being into adulthood. The presentation strengthened the understanding of historical events that individuals witnessed at an early age, even as a fetus, and how it can greatly influence a child's behavior.

“A child's demeanor is shaped while they are still inside the mother. If they sense danger or abuse, they will go into survival mode,” stated Chief Cook. Noting that it takes as many as three generations to resolve the abuse inflicted from residential schools, she encouraged social agencies to coordinate and ensure that “Indian children need to be placed in the best homes possible to help break the cycle of abuse we experience today.”

Betsy Horsman, United States Attorney for the North District of New York State, echoed the sentiment that shared responsibility is critical in safeguarding the well-being of a child. She reiterated the need for the assembled agencies to collaborate in the absence of clearly defined policies and regulations.

“There are a lot of problems that we can solve together, rather than relying on federal statutes,” remarked Horsman.

The event provided a new perspective to social workers that attended, with many indicating that they have never attended a training where they have learned so much and been so profoundly affected. They expressed their appreciation for learning many things that they would have never been aware of, with an increased understanding of the generational trauma that took place.

The gathering concluded with Thomas feeling the event unified everyone's shared desire to work cooperatively, as “The purpose of today's meeting was to come together with one mind, one thought and common ground to love our kids.” ◇



Akwesasne Joins Regional Child Advocacy Center

In February 2015, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Division of Social Services became a satellite for New York State's first Regional Child Advocacy Center (CAC) located in Clinton County. The Tribe's CAC provides a less traumatic response to child victims and their non-offending family members; which improves outcomes, promotes safety, and supports the well-being of children and their families. Pictured above is the agreement signing for the Tribe's Satellite Child Advocacy Center.

Summertime Skin Care

By Verda Lyons, RN Clinic Coordinator

With the summer sun shining and the warm weather upon us, it's important to remember to protect ourselves from the skin cancer that is caused by damage from the sun's ultraviolet radiation rays. (UV)

Vitamin D is made by the skin from sunlight. Skin needs just a brief exposure of face, arms and hands to the sun. It only takes about 15 minutes a day, three days a week to be sufficient.

There are many risk factors for people. Anyone with any skin color can develop skin cancer and the risk for skin cancer increases with age. Therefore, risk reduction and early detection are quite important.

Risk Reduction & Early Detection:

- Avoid the sun, especially between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Don't use sun lamps or tanning beds.
- Always use sunscreen and lip balm with UVB and UVA protection with SPF 30 or more, even on cloudy days.
- Apply an ounce of sunscreen 20 minutes before going out into the sun and reapply every two hours if staying in the sun.
- Dress for protection. Wear sunglasses that have been treated to absorb UV radiation, a wide

What's Your Best Sunscreen?

Ask yourself these eight questions to help make a perfect match.

1. ***Are you sporty?*** *Go for a gel. They'll stick with you while you move and sweat.*
2. ***Do you break out?*** *You'll want an oil-free sunscreen.*
3. ***Do you have dry skin?*** *Use a creamy sunscreen.*
4. ***Do you have sensitive skin or rosacea?*** *Choose sunscreens made with zinc oxide or titanium dioxide, which sit on the skin's surface.*
5. ***Are you shopping for your kids?*** *Look for a stick sunscreen. The waxy material won't drip into their eyes.*
6. ***Do you have a baby or toddler?*** *Opt for a sunscreen made with zinc oxide or titanium dioxide that may be less irritating to the skin. Babies under six months old, should be kept out of the sun.*
7. ***Are you bald?*** *It doesn't matter what kind of sunscreen you use, as long as you slather it all over your head. Or better yet, wear a hat. Even better? Do both.*
8. ***Are you hairy?*** *Then choose a spray or gel. They don't take forever to rub in, clinging to hairs like creams do.*

brim hat and clothing made of tightly woven material with long sleeves.

- Protect children from the sun. Childhood sunburns may increase the risk of melanoma later in life.
- Look at your skin once a month. Let your healthcare professional know about any changes.
- After the age of 50, have your skin checked once a year.

Symptoms of Skin Cancer:

- A sore that doesn't heal
- A mole or other growth you haven't noticed before
- Change in the border of a spot, spread of color or redness or swelling around the areas
- A small, smooth, shiny pale or waxy lump that may bleed
- Large areas with oozing or crust
- A flat red spot or a lump that is scaly or crusty
- Itchiness, tenderness or pain from a mole or elsewhere on your skin
- A brown or black colored spot with uneven edges

If you have any symptoms of skin cancer, you should speak with your healthcare professional. Most skin cancers found at an early stage can be treated successfully. Treatment depends on the type of skin cancer. For more information about skin cancer, visit www.PreventCancer.org. ♦

Community Engagement

Police Commission: Protecting Public and Personal Safety

By Brendan White, Communications Director

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council has the responsibility to provide for the health and safety of tribal members, as well as for guests and other visitors to the territory. To assist them in this duty, they enlist the help of tribal members that are appointed to boards, commissions, committees and tribunals. Together, they provide independent oversight on important community matters; such as housing, elections, land disputes, gaming, law enforcement, and other key areas.

The Police Commission was established to provide supervision of the Chief-of-Police and oversight of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department. In doing so, the five member committee makes recommendations and approves all police department policies and procedures, as well as oversees complaints and disciplinary actions of police personnel.

The Commission receives its authority from the Police Commission Act of 2014 and is currently comprised of four members; that include John Ransom (chair), Andy Cook, Rowena General and Rudy Hart; each of whom serves for a period of five-years. The fifth position was vacated in December of 2014, with the remaining commissioners hopeful to have an appointment made in the next few months.

The Police Commission hears and is actively engaged in answering the concerns of and about the police department, as well as important developments in the community. They meet with Tribal Council each month to receive reports from the Chief-of-Police and to give input on the department's activities; such as officer recruitment and interviews, and suggestions for improvements.

They are continually seeking opportunities for the full department complement of 30 officers and civilian employees.

The Police Commission also holds a community meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. in Tribal Council's Boardroom to hear any community complaints. As tribal members, they strive to ensure that any community issues are heard and responded to with integrity and confidentiality. They will also schedule private meetings with community members, if necessary.

The Commissioners realize there are circumstances where public and personal safety can be enhanced with the presence of a police officer. As a result, an arrangement has been developed for any organization or individual to utilize the services of the police department for funeral processions, parades, performance of work orders, or other activities to ensure public safety.

In performing additional assignments, the Police Commission continues to make sure police officers follow department policy and procedures, as well as enforce all applicable federal,

state and tribal laws and ordinances. Their primary responsibility is to maintain peace in the community, the protection of lives, and the preservation of property—similar to the role of many police departments across the country.

The Police Commission is currently working toward full New York State accreditation for the police department, which will complement individual designations. When completed, the accreditation will provide formal recognition of the department's quality of law enforcement services. ◇



Police Commissioners Andy Cook, John Ransom and Rowena General Provide Oversight and Guidance to Chief of Police Chief Matt Rourke.

Classroom Visits

On Onerahtokha/April 22, 2015 the SRMT Air Quality Program along with several volunteers delivered Earth Day gifts to all the students at the St. Regis Mohawk School, Salmon River Central and the Early Childhood Development Program. The Akwesasne Cultural Restoration (ACR) Program delivered a similar presentation and gifts to the students of the Akwesasne Freedom School.

Over 1,700 students were given a little flower pot with Zinnia flower seeds, a key chain made from recycled tires and a seeded button. The Freedom School presentation included education on the four R's, cleaning up Mother Earth, composting, buying natural products and using real items as opposed to one-use items, all presented in the Mohawk language.

Niá:wen to all of the staff at the schools we visited for your help and for allowing us to come in and educate the students on Earth Day.

Reuse, Compost

The Solid Waste Management Program's Recycling Coordinator, Larry Thompson, hosted three events celebrating Earth Day: Reuse training, a Community Swap Meet and composting workshops. The reuse training was attended by local business and tribal government officials to learn how to reduce waste by reusing items. Fourteen Swap Meet vendors

EarthDay

By Environment Division Staff



Head Start Students Hear About the 4Rs: Reducing, Reusing, Recycling and Respecting Mother Earth.



Attendees Enjoyed Browsing Informational Tables

took advantage of the opportunity to sell, barter or exchange goods with hundreds of shoppers.

The basic backyard composting workshop was attended by over a dozen participants. The events were possible with help from the Northeast Recycling Council and funded in part by a grant from the USDA Rural Utilities Program.

Tree & Seed Giveaway

The SRMT Environment Division and Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment co-hosted the event on Saturday, Onerahtó:kha/April 25, 2015 at the Office for the Aging in Akwesasne.

Thousands of trees and seeds were distributed to community members. There were also many informational tables such as Angela Benedict from SRMT Air Quality, James Costello from SRMT Water Department, Julie Jacobs with both Brownfields and Pesticides, and Emily Decker from USDA Farm Service Agency who was giving away sweet grass and two types of trees. Also attending was Rachel Davidson with information on toxic chemicals in your everyday products. Sewatis John was also available to share his seeds with the community.

We had two guest speakers: Lynn Braband from Cornell Cooperative Extension talking about Integrated Pest Management and Steve McComber from Kanawake, who spoke about seed saving. ◇

Division Update:

Health Services: From the Director's Office

Take note of possible schedule changes in our health operations. The advent of warm weather historically tells us your use and need for services decreases. We are considering reducing Saturday hours for the summer period; going to alternating weekends. We have reviewed the number of users and feel this change will not impact your access to our quality services. This change also includes the Pharmacy. Specific changes will be announced at the May 2015 Tribal Meeting. – Michael Cook, Director

Wellness Day

By Lauren Smith Staff Nutritionist and WIC Coordinator



Wellness Day was quite a success in 2014 with over 400 community members attending the event. Wellness Day 2015 is just around the corner! On July 23, 2015 the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Committee will host the 25th Annual Wellness Day Event. Doors will open at 11:00 a.m. to the public. Please come join us to learn more about the programs and organizations available to you. Local teams and organizations will be selling healthy food items throughout the day for your enjoyment. If your organization or program would like to reserve a table for this year's event, please contact myself, Leigh-Ann Mitchell, or Dana Henhawk at (518) 358-3141. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

Wellness Day Committee Seeks Food Vendors

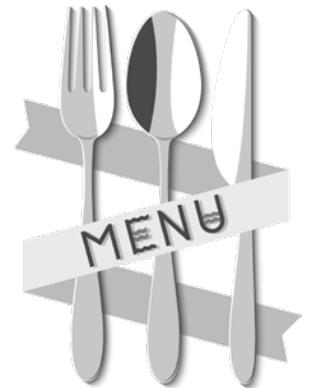
By Randa Martin, HPDP

The Wellness Day Committee is seeking local sports programs interested in being food vendors for this summer's event, which is scheduled for Ohiarikhó:wa/July 23, 2015. Proceeds from sales will go to the sports program to benefit their teams. If you are interested, please contact Committee Member Randa Martin at the Saint Regis Mohawk Indian Health Services at (518) 358-3141 x109 or by email at randa@regis.nashville.ihs.gov. The Committee will need to know the type of food you are interested in selling.

Little Chef Creations Nutrition Program

By Lauren Smith Staff Nutritionist and WIC Coordinator

The Nutrition and WIC Department will be holding a series of cooking classes for families starting in May. Each family will have the opportunity to take five classes, where they will learn how to prepare healthy meals and snacks. Learn tips on how to get your whole family involved, from shopping, preparing to cooking! Each family will graduate from the program with a recipe book created in the classes, some kitchen utensils, and knowledge on what foods are best for your family. Multiple dates and times are available. For more information please contact my office at (518) 358-3141 ext 131.



School Physicals and Vaccinations

By Danielle Coryea, Registered Nurse

September comes quickly and clinic appointments fill up fast. Call today and get scheduled early for the next school year. A vaccination clinic will be held at the Health Services Medical Clinic for children up to 18 years old on May 22, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please bring vaccination records and all children must be accompanied by a legal adult or guardian.



It's Not Too Late to Stay Fit with Let's Get Healthy

By Heather Garrow, Tsitewatakari:tat Coordinator

I thank the 99 participants who joined us at the Tewathahita Walking Trail for National Walking Day on Wednesday April 1st. The Let's Get Healthy Program is committed to providing excellence in diabetes care and prevention by targeting healthy weight, regular physical activity, nutrition, blood sugar control, lipid control and stress management. We offer various fitness classes and flexible appointment times. Stop in at the Diabetes Center to pick up a monthly newsletter and fitness calendar for healthy tips, ideas and classes offered. For more information or to make an appointment, please call 518-358-9667.

Get Your Smile Ready for Fall

By Dr. Joe Park, Staff Dentist

Summer break is just around the corner, but looking to the fall, what is the most common cause for children to miss school? Hint; it's not asthma. Toothaches have been shown to be the most frequent cause for missing school and studies have shown that it affects children's performance in school by lowering grades.

We can prevent toothaches by:

1. Brushing twice a day for two minutes with fluoride toothpaste and daily flossing.
2. Limiting sugary drinks and snacks (soda, kool-aid, chips, candy...).
3. Regular dental checkups with fluoride varnish application and dental sealants.

Surveys of American Indian children, without fail, show much higher dental decay rates than the general U.S. population. Dental sealants and fluoride varnish treatment are a well-established standard in preventive dental care. They are an effective measure to significantly lower dental decay rates and are a cost effective preventive dental treatment strategy.

We were successful in receiving a \$20,000 grant from Indian Health Services to fund a portable sealant and fluoride varnish program. We now have the capability to apply sealants, fluoride varnish and patient education at the St. Regis Mohawk School and Salmon River School. We are asking all parents to please return their child's permission slip so we can offer these valuable preventive services.

We will be offering screenings, fluoride varnish and patient education for children at the upcoming Wellness Day on Thursday July 23, 2015.



Alcohol/Chemical Dependency Program Prevention

By Melerena Back, Prevention Supervisor

As prom and graduation season get closer, A/CDP Prevention, along with Salmon River Health Club students, remind and encourage community members to be part of the solution. **Project Sticker Shock** helps spread education and awareness to the public about the dangers of underage drinking. On April 30th, another successful **Project Sticker Shock** was held with red stickers stating the penalties and consequences of purchasing alcohol for minors placed on alcohol products throughout local stores in Akwesasne. Niawenkó:wa to our local retailers for your support in this important prevention initiative.

Limiting youth access to alcohol is essential if we are to reduce underage drinking. Secure and monitor alcohol in your home and remember, 21 is the legal age to drink for good reason- youth who begin drinking before the age of 15 are five times more likely to develop addiction problems than those who wait until 21.

We are busy preparing for the All Night Graduation Party at Salmon River! The purpose of the party is to provide an evening of activities and fun in an enjoyable and safe environment and is offered as an alternative to house parties where all too often alcohol is included as an accepted beverage to teens. Parents are always



welcomed and encouraged to join the committee. The Salmon River All Night Grad Party Committee is hosting a Golf Tournament Fundraiser on June 13, 2015 at Highland Greens Golf Course located on Route 11B in Brushton, New York. For more information, please call Megan Bushey at (518) 358-2967.

Alcohol/Chemical

Dependency Program Outpatient

By Valarie Barse, Coordinator

It's spring in Akwesasne! Spring is a time for new growth. Here at A/CDP Outpatient, we see new growth occur throughout all of the seasons in the recovery of individuals affected by addiction in Akwesasne.

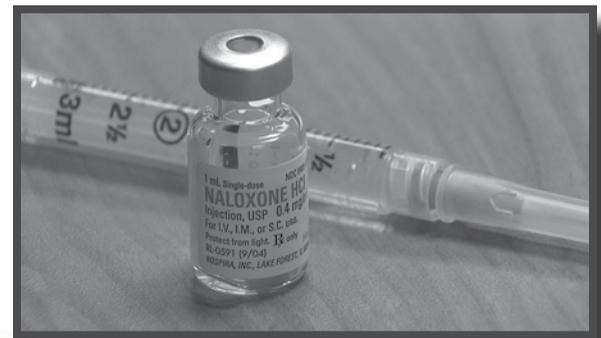
It is the mission of the A/CDP Outpatient is to provide quality services for the treatment of substance abuse to the community of Akwesasne and to offer those affected by addiction a place to turn for help.

Opioid abuse and addiction is having an impact in our community. What should we know about this issue? New York State has recognized the increased prevalence of prescription opioid abuse and heroin addiction and have responded by initiating the #CombatHeroin and Prescription Drug Abuse Campaign. This is a statewide campaign launched in September 2014 to raise awareness about the risks of heroin and prescription opioid use, the warning signs of addiction, and treatment options available throughout the state.

The New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services has established the #CombatHeroin website where individuals can access information regarding the prevention, treatment, and recovery from opioid and other substance abuse. For more information visit www.combatheroin.ny.gov. Individuals can also access such information by contacting the New York State HOPEline at 1-877-846-7369.

Recently, A/CDP Outpatient worked with Dr. Sally White from the St. Lawrence Addiction Treatment Center to bring the Drug Overdose Prevention and Education Project to Akwesasne. In October and December of 2014, three sessions were held in Akwesasne to provide training to professionals and community members on the use of *Narcan* to treat opioid overdose and prevent fatalities from opioid overdose. This project has resulted in the certification of 77 individuals in the community of Akwesasne in the administration of *Narcan*. There will be additional sessions hosted by A/CDP Outpatient in the future to provide more individuals with this valuable training.

Addiction can happen to anyone, at any stage of life, for a number of reasons. It is a disease that will progress if not treated and can be fatal. For more information about services available in Akwesasne, please contact the Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services A/CDP Outpatient at (518) 358-3141 extension 160. ♦



Addiction is a Disease That Often Leaves Those Affected and Their Families Feeling Hopeless, Helpless and Defeated.

2015 Akwesasne Business Directory

Economic Development: The 2015 Akwesasne Business Directory was recently completed in collaboration between the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Offices of Economic Development, Now in its eighth edition, the directory features a complete listing and contact information for nearly 300 Akwesasne businesses. Printed copies are available free-of-charge and can be picked up at the Tribe's Economic Development Office, located at the Akwesasne Business Center, or at the Tribe's Community Building lobby. You can also locate Akwesasne businesses using an online map at www.akwesasnebusinessdirectory.com.

Support Akwesasne Businesses: Buy Local!



Free Broadband Installation Deadline: May 15, 2015

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Broadband Initiative is notifying local homeowners and business owners of the May 15, 2015 deadline to install a broadband connection at no cost. After May 15th, there will be a charge to install the line for broadband service, including internet and future television service. The free installation entails running a fiber optic cable from the pole to the household or business. Depending on your situation, it may entail either an overhead or underground installation.

To take advantage of the free installation of broadband, please contact the Tribe's Broadband Initiative at (518) 358-2105 prior to May 15th.

Note: Having broadband line installed does not require the purchase of broadband service.

Summer Positions Available

Education Division: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program is seeking students for summer positions within the various departments and programs of the Tribe. Terms will last eight weeks and students will work 30-40 hours per week.

Applications will be accepted from tribally enrolled high school and college students. Applicants between the ages of 14 to 17 should be in the process of obtaining a New York State Working Permit.

Employment applications are available in the WIOA office located in the Community Building at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.

The deadline to apply is Onerahtohkó:wa/
May 15, 2015.

Health Services Explores Halfway House

By Brendan White, Communications Director

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Health Services Division held its quarterly planning session with community members on Enniskó:wa/March 25, 2015. Held at the Diabetes Center for Excellence, the gathering provided follow-up on an action item presented at a previous tribal meeting—the feasibility of implementing a halfway house in the community of Akwesasne.

The Enniskó:wa/March 25th event was open to the public and was hosted by Health Service's Director Michael Cook, who was joined by staff from the Tribe's A/CDP Prevention and Outreach Programs, as well as the Partridge House. Several community members were also in attendance to support the discussions and provide important feedback.

The discussion looked at common types of halfway houses that could possibly operate in the community—transitional housing for recently released inmates, marginal housing for individuals with nowhere else to turn too, a halfway house for women, and an out-patient treatment facility for individuals recovering from alcohol and substance abuse. The planning session helped narrow down services to be provided, with much of the discussion focusing on an addiction recovery facility.

The availability of a halfway house to help individuals recover from addictions would be an important service for community members however, funding for its development and ongoing operation would be difficult to secure. Indian Health Services currently only provides funding for in-patient services and not for rehabilitation services that would be provided by a halfway house, with the cost per patient being as much as \$1,000/month.



Health Service's Quarterly Community Consultation Meeting Discussed the Possibility of a Halfway House in Akwesasne.

Some of the discussion also looked at the possibility for duplication of services. The Partridge House, already in operation on St. Regis Road, is an in-patient addiction program tailored for Native clients. It is a facility where individuals suffering from addictions can recover in a healthy and caring environment. It utilizes a holistic approach for treatment that enables clients to safely reintegrate into their families and the community, with a reduced risk of relapses.

The meeting concluded with a recommendation to conduct outreach with Potsdam College's new Department of Community Health. It is hoped that an internship arrangement can be developed for conducting a community needs assessment, which will further determine the feasibility for a halfway house in Akwesasne. ◇

Meet the Candidates

Salmon River School Board Election:

Onerahtohkó:wa/May 19, 2015

By Brendan White, Communications Director

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Education Committee is encouraging community members to vote in the Salmon River School Board Election on May 19, 2015. The community's support is needed to ensure our Mohawk students continue to be properly represented in the Salmon River School District.

Jason McDonald and Emily Lauzon are both seeking to be re-elected for five-year terms on the School Board. Your vote ensures that Mohawk tradition, culture and language continue

to be preserved and promoted in our local school system. It also supports our student's educational and athletic achievements in an environment that promotes equality and respects diversity.

To vote in the School Board election individuals need to be at least 18 years old and reside in the Salmon River School District. Individuals are eligible to vote even if they do not have children attending school within the district.

The School Board Election will be from Noon to 8:00 p.m. in Salmon River's High School Auditorium.



**Vote for Our Future.
Salmon River Central
School Board
05/19/2015**



Jason McDonald is seeking re-election on the school board for a five-year term. He learned a lot during the previous year as a board member and feels there is a lot of work left to do; capital projects and the welcoming of a new superintendent. With three children in the school system, this past year's experience has inspired him to continue representing our community's youth in their education.

Jason wants our children to utilize the education offered in our school district to develop career plans following graduation. He wants to continue helping students pursue their career goals by connecting them to educational resources at vocational and technical training centers, as well as colleges and universities.

Jason was born and raised in Akwesasne. He is the son of Edith and the late-Dave McDonald. Jason graduated from Salmon River in 1993. He formerly served as the Director of Community and Family Services for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, working with our Akwesasne community members with physical and developmental disabilities. He is currently employed as a sales associate at Adirondak Powersports in Malone, NY. Jason has been an active member of the Hogsburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department for 20 years, currently serving as the Department's Treasurer.



Emily Lauzon has fifteen years of experience as a board member for the Salmon River Central School District. She currently serves as the Board Vice-President and is seeking re-election for a five-year term. Emily believes in the importance of having Native representation on the Board of Education to ensure our children and family's voices are part of decisions made on behalf of our district. She strongly emphasizes the importance of strengthening the relationship between the Board of Education and the Mohawk Education Committee and has worked diligently to bring more collaboration between these two entities.

Emily is an enrolled member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and taxpayer in the town of Bombay. She is a grandmother to six grandsons whom attend or will be attending Salmon River Central School District. She has a vested interest in the education of, not only her grandchildren, but all children in the school district. Emily believes in creating partnerships which provide opportunities for the students. She currently sits on the FEH BOCES Board, SUNY Potsdam Foundation Board, a former member of the Perkins Advisory Board, North Country Community College Advisory Board and Workplace Investment Board. Through her involvement with the various committees and boards, Emily has been able to help students achieve educational opportunities such as internships, developing scholarships for students and researching ways to access grants for training. Emily has worked with the high school students in conducting mock interviews and reviewing resumes during Clarkson University's Annual Gateways to Careers. She is a graduate of SUNY Potsdam and currently serves as the Interim General Manager for the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort. ◇





Another Journey Begins

Daniel J. 'Boone' Bero

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is deeply saddened by the loss of a long-standing and much-adored employee—Dan “Boone” Bero. First joining the Tribe on January 27, 1980; Dan was a devoted tribal staff member for much of his life. Over a span of 35 years, he worked in several tribal departments, most recently for the Finance Division as a Purchasing Agent. He also worked for the Tribe and the Akwesasne community as a Dispatcher for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department and a Purchasing Officer for Health Services.

Out of respect for the many lives he touched at the Tribe and in the community, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Administration office authorized the early closure of tribal offices on Wednesday, April 15th to allow staff members to attend Dan’s funeral services. The Finance Division, Accounting, Travel and Procurement offices also closed early on Tuesday, April 14th to allow Dan’s co-workers to attend his wake and observe the loss of one of their cherished team members.

On behalf of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, thank you Dan “Boone” Bero for 35 years of exceptional service to the Akwesasne community. You will be missed. ◇



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
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Akwesasne, NY 13655

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POSTAL PATRON

On the Cover: (from left) Traditional dancers Marcella Thomas, Star Mason, Jadie Burns, Konwawennarahkwa Jock, instructor Kawenniosta Jock (SRMT Traditional Support Program), Cortland Sunday, and Noelani Laughing performed at the cultural awareness training session hosted by the Tribe’s Social Services Division.