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Kawennì:ios

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Good Words of Welcome



Shé:kon Awé:kon,

It is my pleasure to bring the good words of welcome for this edition of *Karwenní:ios*. I am pleased to report that 2017 will bring to the community the unveiling of the Akwesasne Veteran's Memorial Monument (AVMM) at Generations Park, so please mark your calendars for Saturday, May 27, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. for this event.

This long and arduous process began in January 2013 when David 'Ed' Benedict, a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, submitted letters to all three Akwesasne Mohawk Councils with the vision of a monument that would recognize and honor ALL Akwesasne Veterans. Former-Chief Paul Thompson took up the idea and began working on the project's vision. The following year, in January 2014, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council passed TCR 2014-14 that established the SRMT Veteran's Memorial Monument Fund and Chief Thompson raised \$19,000 towards the project before the project was placed on hold for around eight months due to his illness. With his inspiration however, the Akwesasne Veterans Memorial Monument Committee was reactivated and has been meeting regularly since July 13, 2015.

The AVMM Working Group Chairperson and committee members have been working hard in their fundraising efforts to ensure the monument will be completed by this coming Memorial Day weekend. To date, the monies raised will purchase the three black, polished

granite panels with a base and cement for the foundation. We're proud that the monument's panels will be a depiction and reflection of all Akwesasne's veterans, with cultural elements imparted into them. To support our efforts, we have received a generous in-kind donation from CAA Management to assist with the foundation and an observation area where we can place memorial bricks commemorating individual *Akwesashró:non*'s service. Though we have not met our full fundraising goal, we are very close and are seeking local business sponsorships to purchase the granite benches. We estimate \$5,000 to \$7,000 is still needed prior to the unveiling ceremony to fully complete the project.

On Friday, February 10, 2017 I travelled to Graniteville, Vermont to visit the granite manufacturing plant *Rock of Ages*; who has been contracted to manufacture, deliver and install the monuments during the week of May 23, 2017. This was an awe-inspiring trip, as I reviewed the true-to-life scale drawings of the panels and made minor grammatical or design corrections. I was then provided a tour of the facility and the entire process was explained to me, from beginning to end. It was a long process and I intend on making one more trip to the manufacturing site to help record the monument's



Jeff Johnson (L) and Tribal Sub-Chief Cheryl Jacobs (R) with Jamie Sunday-Oddo, Grand Prize winner of the Akwesasne Veteran's Memorial Monument Raffle

design phase. The men are masters at their craft of sand blasting the design into the granite and I was absolutely astonished at the polishing of black granite in itself. I'm telling you this was a jaw dropping experience for me to see. Mr. Steve Benoit of *Rock of Ages*, the agent in charge of the project, was so hospitable in providing the tour.

There is still plenty of preparation work that needs to be completed to ensure the foundation is done correctly. We have assembled a team of tribal employees and CAA Management construction employees who will be working together over the next few weeks to ensure that we get the foundation and brick memorial site completed correctly.

We have also assembled a committee to begin the planning for the unveiling ceremony, which is a large team of tribal employees who were involved in last year's Congressional Medal Ceremony that honored our Akwesasne Mohawk Code Talkers. We are however, looking for community volunteers willing to join them in finalizing plans for the unveiling of the Akwesasne Veterans Memorial Monument and be a part of this historical event for our community. If you are interested in volunteering your time; please feel free to contact myself, Annie Bero, Lilly McDonald or Aimée Benedict at (518) 358-2272.

I am excited to see this project finally come to fruition. *Niawenkó:wa* to the AVMM Working Group committee members; Michael Cook, Commander American Legion Post 1479; Lornie Swamp, Sons of the American Legion Post 1479; Andy Cook, (Veteran); Phil Tarbell (Veteran); Colleen Thomas, Technical Advisor, SRMT Planning & Infrastructure; and Brendan White, SRMT Communications for your hard work and dedication to the project.

Of course, there are many more people that I want to thank and will do so in my next community radio update and through the *Kawenni:ios* newsletter.

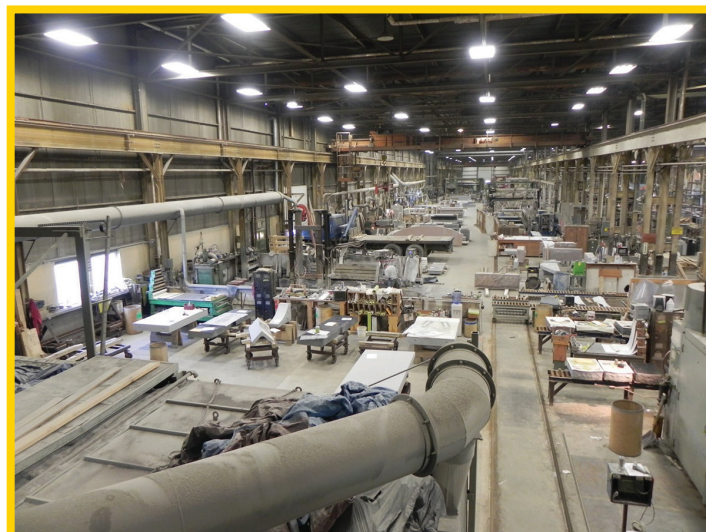
Niawenkó:wa,

Sub-Chief Cheryl Jacobs

Left Top: The Rock of Ages Quarry in Graniteville, Vermont

Center: A 'small' section of the factory

Bottom: Stone Carver laying out design on granite



Community Engagement:

SRMT Adopts 10-Year Strategic Plan

News Release

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has adopted a ten-year Strategic Plan, titled “*Working Together Today to Build a Better Tomorrow*,” through Tribal Council Resolution (2016-94). The Strategic Plan identifies the main areas of future direction to help the organization meet the increasing needs of the Akwesasne community for the next decade. It also serves as a tool for community members, external organizations and funding agencies to better understand the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe for what it is today. Effective January 1, 2017, the Strategic Plan is being utilized to better align and coordinate efforts across the entire tribal organization.

While formally adopted by Tribal Council Resolution on *Tsiothóhrhal* December 22, 2016, the TCR notes that the Strategic Plan was developed after “...receiving feedback from community focus groups, monthly meetings, and engagement with the management staff in the various tribal components.” Previous strategic planning efforts and the SRMT’s 2009 Comprehensive Community Development Plan also informed this process.

SRMT Vision Statement: *A healthy and prosperous Mohawk environment where every member has the opportunity to succeed at home and in the global community.*

SRMT Mission Statement: *The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is an accountable government and professional organization that benefits the community by:*

- *Building the path through which community development can be fully realized now and in the future;*

- *Exercising tribal sovereignty and all the tools of government;*
- *Developing capacity as a service delivery organization; and*
- *Engaging in collaborative partnerships that expand its impact.*

The Strategic Plan describes the SRMT in six component parts; the Tribal Council; Independent Officials [Chief Judge, Tribal Clerk, Ethics Officer], Program and Service Divisions, Oversight Bodies, Government Support Services and Tribal Enterprises.



SRMT Economic Development Planner Lindsay Tarbell and Business Support Specialist Ed Smoke took part in a presentation provided to tribal program managers on the plan’s implementation on February 3, 2017.

“The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has grown considerably in the past two decades and, as a result, we need to work together and better coordinate our efforts to ensure that we enhance our effectiveness as a tribal organization. Our approved Strategic Plan embodies our efforts to ensure the best use of funds, better collaboration between programs and alignment between the Tribe’s many components,” said Tribal Chief Beverly Cook.

This long term focus of the Tribe is further described in the five Core Strategic Directions that the Tribe will focus on over the next ten years:

- Enhancing the effectiveness of tribal government;
- Continuing to develop a professional program and service delivery organization;
- Planning program and service growth on our own terms;
- Supporting a sustainable revenue generation capacity; and
- Engaging in collaborative community development.

“Members don’t have to look far to see proof that the SRMT was already doing and continues to do very good work over the recent

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Strategic Plan 2017-2027

Working Together Today to Build a Better Tomorrow



past, such as the many new social services and tribal enterprises that did not exist even just a few years ago,” explained Chief Cook. “The Strategic Plan pulls it all together and puts everything into a written form to help us make sure we are all aware of where we are going and that we all continue pulling in the same direction,” she added.

The five core strategic directions are deliberately broad enough so that the diverse parts of the increasingly complex Tribal organization can be informed by and contribute to their achievement. As the Tribe works to carefully and consistently implement the Strategic Plan throughout the entire organization all of the various units that fall under the six components are developing more detailed, three, five and ten-year plans that will put action to the Tribe’s mission. The Tribal Council has committed to undertaking a comprehensive review and renewal of the Strategic Plan every three (years) to ensure the objectives identified in the strategic document are being met.

“As our entire tribal organization continues to learn from past practices and creates best practices our community benefits. Leadership at all levels of the tribal organization will turn to the Strategic Plan to assist them in making decisions over the next 10 years. Our limited tribal resources will be prioritized for projects and services that align with our five core strategic directions,” stated Executive Director Tsiorasa Barreiro.

The Tribe started rolling out the 2017-2027 SRMT Strategic Plan to the public in early *Tsiothorkó:wa*/January 7, 2017 by introducing it at its Monthly Tribal Meeting where bound copies were available to tribal members.

To learn more about *Working Together Today to Build a Better Tomorrow – SRMT Strategic Plan 2017-2027*, you may download the full Strategic Plan from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s website at www.srmt-nsn.gov. ♦

Connecting Seniors to Services

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Office for Aging is a central resource for accurate, up-to-date information on programs, services and benefits for seniors and caregivers. Older people and their families can get answers to questions about their special needs. The program offers books, pamphlets, magazines and videos that people can borrow to supply information that reinforces an individual's capacity for self-reliance through education, advocacy, collaborative planning and problem-solving.



The Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP) provides free, unbiased, confidential assistance with health care questions and concerns. They can provide general information on Medicare, Medicaid, patient's rights, veteran's benefits and other types of health insurance benefits. Assistance with long-term care insurance and planning is also available.



NY Connects can help seniors and their families learn and understand the options for in-home and assisted-living care. Some of the services include in-home or communal setting meals, nutrition counseling, shopping, transportation, SNAP (food stamps), HEAP, Social Security and veteran's benefits. NY Connects can connect to resources for reporting elder abuse or neglect whether at home, in a nursing home, adult home or an assisted living facility.

If you are interested in learning more about the many services and programs available to our elders and caregivers, please contact Alison Cooke or Tracy Holcomb at the Office for the Aging by calling (518) 358-2963 to discuss how they can help Akwesasne seniors connect to the services they need. ♦

Healthier Living Managing Ongoing Health Conditions

This workshop is a vital resource for practical tips, suggestions and strategies to build confidence in managing chronic illness and its symptoms. Chronic illnesses like: high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, arthritis, or breathing/lung problems. Our simple goal is to help you to live a productive, healthy life.

Topics include the following:

- How to develop individualized approaches to managing one or multiple chronic conditions
- How to deal with frustration, fatigue, pain, isolation, disability, shortness of breath and depression.

- How to communicate more effectively with family, friends, and health professionals.

Classes are held at the *Tsi Tetewatkins* Senior Center every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from April 5 to May 10 for six weeks. Open to *Akwesasne* age 60 & over. Call (518) 358-2963 to register and to find out how we can help you attend these classes. Lunch will be provided. ♦

Funding provided by NYSOFA and OAA Title III D and Title III C-1. This is a Chronic Disease Self-Management Program.



Social Services Division Earns Top Ranking for Child Placement

News Release

The community of Akwesasne has long been known for taking care of its own; whether it be supporting our elders, helping a family recover from a tragedy, dealing with the loss of a beloved one, or providing a welcoming home for a young child. Akwesasne is certainly one of the most caring and giving communities and figures released by the New York State's Office of Children and Family Services for 2015 can back up that claim—the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Social Services Division exceeded statewide rates for placing children in least restrictive home environments.

“This is a tremendous accomplishment that our community can take immense pride in serving the best interests of our children,” said Social Services Commissioner Jade White. “The unconditional willingness to open their doors to welcome a child in need into their home is true testament to our Relative and Certified Foster Parent's noble decisions to be involved with our child welfare system. We recognize that this honor would not have been made possible without the cooperation of our Preventive/Foster Care Unit and Foster Parents and we look forward to future collaborations.”

In a statewide-ranking of 60 county and tribal social services departments, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe ranked first in placing 100 percent of children into Relative Foster Care or Home-Based Care. The state average for placement in 2015 was 68.8 percent for Home-Based Care and a 28.08 percent for Relative Foster Care. Every child that was placed into the custody of the Tribe's Social

Services Division was welcomed into a safe, healthy and stable home environment in Akwesasne.

This is the first time in Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Social Services Division history that they have achieved the top ranking for placing children in Relative Foster Care or Home-Based Care. Much of the success in finding homes is due to the outreach they undertake throughout the year, which includes an Annual Foster Parent Recruitment Event in May during National Foster Care Awareness Month. They also participate in local events, such as the Annual Wellness Day that is attended by hundreds of community members where they encourage individuals to “Be a Super Hero” by choosing to be a foster parent to a deserving child.

“Foster parents and relatives play an essential role in providing temporary, safe, and nurturing homes to children when their parents are unable to care for them,” shared Preventive Foster Care Program Manager Ella Fuller. “The safety of the child is always a priority and considerable thought is given to finding the most suitable home environment, whether it be with other family members or foster parents who are looking to adopt. Our goal is to help bring families together.”

If you want to learn more or are interested in becoming a part of the Foster Care Program, please call the Social Services Division at (518) 358-2728. ♦



The Social Services Division's Preventive/Foster Care Unit successfully placed all children under their custody into Akwesasne homes in 2015

Earth Day Events

You know spring is on its way when planning begins for the annual Tree and Seed Giveaway and Roadside Cleanup. The SRMT Environment Division, MCA Environment Division and the Akwesasne Task Force are collaborating again this year to hold the events. Although all of the plans are not yet finalized, they have chosen a date, place and time.



Tree and Seed Day

Date: Saturday, April 22, 2017

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

Locations: Senior Center for Garden Seeds and Generations Park for Trees

Seeds: beets, squash, pumpkin, beans, onion sets, seed potatoes, radishes, peas, cucumber and corn.

Trees: Black Walnut, Burr Oak, Canada Plum, Sugar Maple, Shagbark Hickory, White Cedar, White Pine and White Spruce

Roadside Cleanup

Dates: Saturday April 29, 2017 - Rain date May 6, 2017

Start: 8:30 a.m.

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

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

Everyone is encouraged to help keep our territory clean. Every little bit helps, whether you plant the seeds and trees or clean up an area on your road. ♦

Join the Community Emergency Response Team

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's-Emergency Planning Office is offering certification classes for Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). CERT Basic Training is designed to prepare you to help yourself and others in the event of a catastrophic disaster. Because emergency services personnel may not be able to help everyone immediately, you can make a difference by using your CERT training to save lives and protect property. In order to be certified, attendees must attend all eight sessions.

Classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.: 3/13, 3/15, 3/20, 3/22, 3/27, 3/29, 4/3 and 4/5.

These classes are offered for 16 years and older and will be conducted at the Akwesasne Housing Authority Training at 378 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655.

For more information and to register, please call the SRMT Emergency Planning Office at (518) 358-2272 ext. 2210 or ext. 2230. Space limited to 20 attendees! ♦



Akwesasne Business Feature:

KSJ Designs

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

Small businesses come in different forms - from the most recognizable convenience store down the road to the less conspicuous home-based operation. No matter the size or location, local businesses in Akwesasne can find the support and assistance they need to thrive from contacting the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Office of Economic Development (OED). KSJ Designs is one of the home-based business specializing in ready-to-wear and custom traditional clothing for women, men, and children who utilized the services of the OED.

"I learned to sew in school while attending the Akwesasne Freedom School," explained Kawenniiosta Jock, owner KSJ Designs. "Dora Lazore and Elizabeth Perkins taught me the basics. I learned a lot of different things there like beading, basket making, working with leather, and so much more."

Kawenniiosta knew she wanted to create clothes since she was 13 years old. Her first clothing line was called 'J.A.K.I.L.', each letter representing a certain body type of one of her friends. J.A.K.I.L. By KSJ Designs was featured in the fashion show Nations Best Next Top Model in 2010, and many more since.

"My inspiration comes from all over the place," continued Kawenniiosta. "When I go to Kanonsehsne and see all the beautiful outfits. My Aunt Melerena Back inspires me as well with her amazing beadwork and her design techniques. Her and Rosebud Cook taught me how to make Jingle Dresses and I've been making them ever since."

For many small businesses starting out, or operating as one



person, success is defined on their own terms. For Kawenniiosta, being successful is being able to remain in operation for the past five years and being able to quit her full-time job to pursue her passion for 'KSJ Designs'.

"My biggest challenge right now is keeping up with the demand for my designs," exclaimed Kawenniiosta. "I work alone and I have a huge workload. I don't have employees to count on. There are so many aspects of a small business and it takes a lot to keep up with it all."

Part of being a small business owner is being proactive about learning what services are available. For example, Kawenniiosta has applied for funding to purchase new equipment and recently attended Social Media Training that was offered by the OED. She also plans to work with the new E-Commerce Advisor from the SUNY Canton Small Business Development Center.

"I am going to be expanding my online sales by launching a new e-commerce site where you can shop online," noted Kawenniiosta. "And, I have a lot planned for the future of KSJ Designs that I'd rather keep a surprise!"

No matter the size of your business there are resources available to help every step of the way. For information about 'KSJ Designs' visit [Facebook.com/KSJDesigns](https://www.facebook.com/KSJDesigns). For more information on upcoming business trainings, or e-commerce assistance, please contact the Office of Economic Development by calling (518) 358-2835 or by email at economic.development@srmt-nsn.gov. ♦



WOMEN'S BUSINESS



A panel of successful entrepreneurs will share their greatest challenges, success and advice on March 14, 2017 from 11:00

a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the SUNY Canton Campus Center.

The Bootcamp will include the popular MiniMarketplace, where participants can sell & share their products/services to others at the event.

Cost: \$35 per person includes luncheon, panel discussion and MiniMarketplace table on first-come, first-served basis. For further information, call (315) 386-7312 or email sbdc@canton.edu.

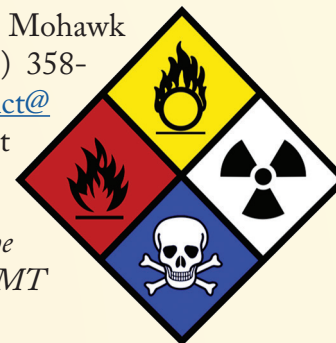
In cooperation with: Small Business Development Center New York, RehCenter for Entrepreneurship at Clarkson University, SUNY Canton and U.S. Small Business Administration

Hazardous Waste Site Worker Course (40-Hour HAZWOPER)

This training prepares workers to enter and work safely on a wide range of contaminated sites. The course satisfies the off-site training requirements for the general site worker outlined in the OSHA HAZWOPER Standard [29 CFR 1919.120(e)]. It will be held on Ohiar:ha/June 26-30, 2017 at the Akwesasne Housing Authority Training Center and Pavilion, 378 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655.

Register through Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division, (518) 358-5937 ext. 118, or e-mail, les.benedict@srmt-nsn.gov. The course is free but requires commitment to attend.

Held in partnership with the Alabama Fire College and SRMT Environment Division.



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

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Burn Permit Applications

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division will be accepting burn permit applications beginning April 3, 2017 at the Division offices, 449 Frogtown Road, Akwesasne. Burn pile inspections will begin the week of May 15th.

On May 4th, the Air Quality Program will be set up in the lobby of the Tribal Community Building to hand out permit applications, guideline brochures and a video to help educate on proper burning.

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

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



Employee Profile:

Introducing CFSD's Family Advocate Everett Lazore

By Brendan White, Communications Director

Everett Lazore (Snipe Clan) was born in Cornwall, Ontario and raised in the Territory of Akwesasne — where he attended the St. Regis Mohawk School and the Salmon River Central School before graduating in 1987.

Everett lived on State Road as a child and grew up working on his family's beef cattle farm. With his spare time, he volunteered to serve as a head coach for the Johnson O'Malley Program's Modified Lacrosse Team, from 1988 to 2001, which included coaching a team in 1995 at the North American Indigenous Games held in Minnesota.

In 1997, Everett's desire to keep helping our community's youth resulted in earning a Child and Youth Worker Diploma from St Lawrence College (Cornwall) through the Iohahio Education and Training Center. He was soon able to apply his educational training, from 1999-2002, during his employment as a Recreation and Education Enrichment Coordinator with the Johnson O'Malley Program for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.

Those familiar with Everett know that he is quick to roll up his sleeves and take on new challenges and opportunities. He worked from 2002-2005 for Mohawk Plumbing, where he applied his previous training in plumbing and heating maintenance and installations. For five years afterward, from 2005-2010, he became a renowned entrepreneur in the community when he owned and operated Big E's Den deli, where he specialized in barbeque chicken. He continues to receive and accommodates requests to cater community events and other functions.

The early years of his professional career combined with his strong desire to help provide a better future for Akwesasne's children and families led him back to the field of community service. As a result, he enrolled and attended the Personal Development and Employment Program offered through the Akwesasne Area Management Board, from November 2010 to March 2011. Upon completion, he was hired in June 2011 by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne as a Case Manager for the Akwesasne Child and Family Services Department.

In December 2016, Everett began working as the Family Advocate for the Community and Family Services Division at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. As the Family Advocate, he is proud to have the opportunity to continue helping families overcome trauma, as well as to assist those who may not meet the criteria of other tribal programs.

When needed, Everett is available to tailor services to address the specific needs of a family; which may entail navigating through federal agencies and tribal programs, such as Social Services, Health Services, law enforcement and criminal justice, among others. He is also there to provide support, education, appropriate referrals and coordination in establishing a cooperative relationship with all to ensure the best possible outcome for families.

To contact the Office of the Family Advocate, please call (518) 358-2272 extension 2402 during normal business hours. ♦



Benefits of Gaming:

Community Support Donates 297 Snowsuits to Akwesasne Students

By Brendan White, Communications Director

Nearly 300 Akwesasne students benefited this year from proceeds generated by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Mohawk Gaming Enterprises LLC, which is distributed back into Akwesasne through the Tribal Council's Community Support Fund. During the past several months, hundreds of snowsuits were distributed for the sixth year to local schools and child care centers to help keep Akwesasne youth warm this winter season.

Early this winter season, Tribal Council began distributing snowsuits, which included a winter jacket and ski pants, to our community's youth attending local child care centers and schools. Courtney King's Daycare, known as "Nooch's", and Small Steps Daycare received 37 snowsuits. Courtney and three of her young clients ventured out to the Community Building to receive their snowsuits, while Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance and Sub-Chiefs Michael Conners and Cheryl Jacobs made a personal delivery to Small Steps on White Road.

Tribal Chief Eric Thompson and Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs joined their fellow

*Tribal Council with Massena Central
Director of Curriculum, Instruction
and Assemmments, Stephanie Allen*



*Akwesasne Freedom School Students
Tehakenhatennies and Tharonhiokwas
accept donation for fellow students*



Council members and delivered 84 snowsuits to the SRMT Early Childhood Development Program, located behind the Akwesasne Library and Museum. They were invited to join Classroom #1 in handing out the jackets. That same afternoon, all three Sub-Chiefs visited Ista's Little Helpers Day Care, operated by Chrissy Jacobs, on State Road with 15 snowsuits in hand.

Tehakenhatennies and Tharonhiokwas from the Akwesasne Freedom School helped Tribal Council members shuttle 26 winter jackets and ski pants from the Community Building Lobby to a waiting vehicle for their fellow students. Following that afternoon, a representative from the Salmon River Central School picked up 24 snowsuits for students at the St. Regis Mohawk School and at the district's main campus.

Winter jackets were also distributed to Akwesasne youth attending our neighboring school district in Massena, with a dozen donated to students in high school. Akwesasne students attending middle school or elementary school received their donation in *Tsiiothohrkó:wa!* January; as 99 snowsuits were distributed to those at the Nightengale, Jefferson and Madison Elementary Schools and the J.W. Leary Middle School.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council is proud that it was able to provide 297 Akwesasne youths with a new jackets and ski pants for the winter season. They hope to enhance the program in the future so they can continue making this generous donation to our students.

The total amount of this year's annual snowsuit donation was over \$13,400. *Niawen:kówa* to all the education institutions staff and Tribal Council staff for their coordination and assistance, which has made the snowsuit donations a success this year. Tribal Council always looks forward to the annual snowsuit donations and will again begin preparations this September for the 2017-2018 winter season. ♦



Delivery to Small Steps Daycare with Rita, Rawistanawentha and Sloane



SRMT Early Childhood Development Program received 84 snowsuits

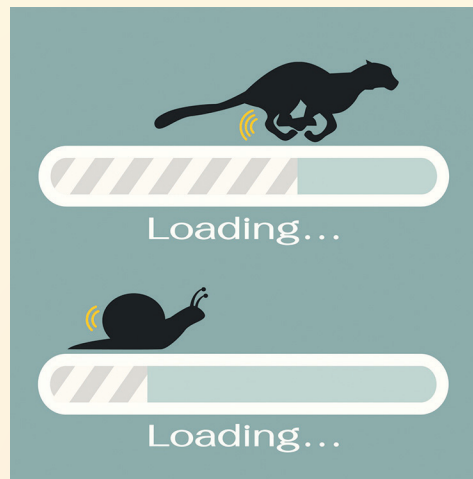
Tribal Council Community Support Annual Snowsuit Donations

Institution	Number of Students
Akwesasne Freedom School	26
Courtney King Daycare	18
Ista's Little Helpers Daycare	5
J.W. Leary	14
Jefferson Elementary	40
Madison Elementary	24
Massena Central School	12
Nightengale Elementary	21
Salmon River Central School	21
Small Steps Daycare	19
SRMT Early Childhood Development	84
St. Regis Mohawk School	3
Total Students	297
Total Donated	\$13,414.64

Tips from Tech Support *To Shut Down or Not To Shut Down?*

It is very important that you shut down your computer system properly. Simply turning the power off with the power switch can cause serious file system damage because many processes are running in the background all the time. You should always use the shutdown menu. Leaving those processes running continuously causes your system to bog down and run slowly.

Without a proper shutdown every night, important updates to programs, files and other software/hardware cannot happen. Updates are essential for proper computer function. They keep



your computer using the most current versions of your software to protect you, your files and your system.

In sleep mode, your computer enters a low-power state but all of the processes are still being held in the computer's memory. It does not provide the same benefits as a proper shutdown.

To Shut Down or Not to Shut Down, that is the question: We recommend you properly shut down your system every day. Maintaining a smooth running computer will ultimately save you time and money. ♦

The International Health Regulations (IHR) Program has been notified of rat exchange between the United States and Canada involving pet rats with confirmed Seoul virus infection. It poses a potential public health concern; as Seoul virus is a type of hantavirus that is transmitted from rats to people after exposure to aerosolized urine, droppings, or saliva of infected rodents or after exposure to dust from their nests or bedding. Transmission may also occur from rat bites or when contaminated materials are directly introduced into broken skin or onto mucous membranes. Seoul virus infection is not transmissible human-to-human.

Seoul Virus Outbreak *Associated with Pet Rats*



The incubation period is one to eight weeks; however, most individuals develop symptoms within one to two weeks after exposure. Initial symptoms begin suddenly and include fever, intense headaches, back and abdominal pain, chills, nausea, and blurred vision. Individuals may have flushing of the face, inflammation or redness of the eyes, or a rash. Symptoms can range from mild to severe.

If you have recently acquired a pet rat and suspect you may have symptoms, please contact your medical provider or the Saint Regis Mohawk Health Service at (518) 358-3141 for additional information. ♦

Program Snapshot:

Skakahra'ksen (Walleye): Guidelines for a Healthy Resource

By Tony David, Water Resources Program Manager, Environment Division

Walleye continue to provide year round fishing opportunities for tribal members and guests in Akwesasne, who possess a non-member fishing permit. While the walleye population continues to provide for many dinner tables, some activities of this fish makes them vulnerable to overfishing. This article is intended to provide some guidance on how anglers can ensure this natural resource continues for generations.

As the Mohawk name for walleye suggests, walleye are very sensitive to light. They typically only come into the shallows to spawn (spring time) or at night to feed. On bright sunny days, they are usually found in deeper water and hiding in vegetation. Their large eyes enable them to visually hunt prey in low light. For the most part, walleye eat smaller fish and will even eat other walleye.

Walleye spawn in early spring, soon after the ice goes out. They have a complex spawning ritual lasting for weeks, but their actual spawning activity only lasts 1 to 3 days and usually occurs at night.

Walleye spawning activities concentrate walleye in confined areas, which makes them vulnerable to large harvests. Harvesting walleye when they spawn, however, can have devastating consequences by reducing their spawning success for an entire year.

Walleye Facts:

Member of perch family including yellow perch, darters and log perch

Can grow over 32 inches (81 cm), weight over 12 lbs (5.5 kg)

Can live 20-25 years

Community survey: walleye #1 most popular fish to eat



There are some simple steps to keep in mind to voluntarily protect this important resource. Many states and provinces have implemented slot limits: allowing harvest between minimum and maximum sizes. For example, a slot limit of 15 inches (38 cm) to 20 inches (51 cm) will give younger fish a chance to grow and spawn in the future. Releasing the larger fish (that actually do most of the spawning) will have the greatest impact on spawning success.

In fisheries management, one of the guiding principles is preserving larger adults (like walleye over 22"). This is very important for a healthy fish population; as these older, wiser adults spawn when conditions are the best. A large ripe female can produce anywhere from 300,000 to as much as 600,000 eggs!

Future fish harvest depends on successful spawning, year after year, and making sure the larger females continue to spawn is an important part of this goal.

This article is just a starting point for a larger discussion in the community about fish management, so we welcome feedback.

It's up to us to manage our resources wisely, so that walleye can be consistent and dependable in future years. ♦

Health Service Update:

From the Health Administration Office

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Health Services strives to treat the body, mind, and spirit of its clients with respect, courtesy, confidentiality and professionalism. To support their efforts, Health Services Director Michael Cook has provided the following program highlights and responses to some commonly asked questions regarding the many programs and services they have available.

Q. Why is it taking a long time for appointments at the dental clinic?

We recently lost the services of a dentist and are operating with only Dr. Park at this time. We are recruiting for a replacement. In the mean time, we have to limit services to emergency only for the most part. Children continue to be a priority and will be seen when presented for immediate care.

Q. Is the Medical clinic open on the weekends?

Yes, along with the pharmacy, we have the medical clinic open on most Saturdays. Always good to call to ensure we are open. We open up appointments starting at 8:00 a.m. and will stop scheduling at 11:00. The pharmacy is open until 12:00 p.m.

Q. Is there a new doctor at the tribal clinic?

Yes, Dr. Brian Cole has been with us for about four months now. His specialty is internal medicine and will be working with our chronically ill patients.

Q. Does Fidelis Insurance cover services at the Partridge House?

Very limited. Our process is to have you "opt-out" of Fidelis and enroll in straight Medicaid. We have never denied admission to the Partridge House based on lack of insurance. Fidelis presents complexities for recipients in terms of services that are covered, we encourage everyone to enroll in straight Medicaid.

Q. Is my Medicaid/Medicare insurance at risk of being cut by the new presidential administration?

Possibly. Medicare has not been mentioned as being considered impacted so far. Medicaid eligibility may be impacted though. We are monitoring the situation and remain in contact with federal agencies for regular updates.

Q. If the current president cuts or reduces Medicaid what will be the impact on health care available to me?

We rely on Medicaid revenue to support our services both on site and off. You would never be denied on site care if you were to lose Medicaid. The level of care that you are referred out for services could be impacted at some point but nothing in the immediate future is expected.

Q. Why does it seem like no one answers their phone?

I hear the frustrations out there. We are very busy, the call volume at various times in the day exceeds the personnel that we have available to personally address each call as we receive. One option is to have a process where we will take your message versus sending you to an extension that is busy. I'm asking for your patience as we work out a system that will work. In the meantime, please continue to let us know if you encounter phone issues or lack of call backs.

Q. Will my visit to a hospital emergency department be automatically covered by our health program?

No. Our budget does not allow us to provide blanket coverage for emergency department usage. A determination must be made if that visit was warranted. We have a medical committee that reviews all emergency department reports. If it is determined that a "true" emergency did not exist and/or our operations were open, related bills will be your responsibility. In all denials, you have the ability to appeal the decision, guidance is on the denial letter.



Q. If I miss my lab appointment can I simply pop in at any time?

We ask that you reschedule. If you have been around the lab in the mornings, you would have seen the number of folks waiting for draws is large. Don't forget to sign in on the clip board, going through registration does not automatically get you on the "to be seen" list.

Q. If I don't hear anything on my blood test should I assume all is ok?

No. Our nurse should inform you the length of time we should get results and if you have not heard from us beyond that time, please call. A common experience of our staff is to give you a call but get the message of a non-working number or mail box is full or not set up. Silence is not golden when you are waiting for results. ♦



At the Enniska/February 4, 2017 Monthly Tribal Meeting discussion continued on proposed plans for the SRMT Health Services Expansion Project to address the increasing number of clients (currently 14,224 registered); need to increase Outreach and Mental Health counseling rooms; and address space constraints associated with the lab, pharmacy, and waiting and program staff rooms. The expansion will include an additional 17,700 square feet of space and use energy conservation measures; including ground-mounted solar photovoltaic arrays, and high efficiency lighting, room occupancy lighting sensors, recycled building materials and furniture, and construction waste management program.



Tribal Council Resolutions (TCRs)

Tsiorhohrkó:wa/January 1 to
Enníska/February 10, 2017

Submitted by Tribal Clerk's Office

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

TCR # 2017-01 Resolution of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to support application for funding to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Invasive and Noxious Weed Control Program to initiate "Planning and Tribal Capacity Development Initiative"

TCR # 2017-02 Resolution of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to apply to the Secretary of the Interior to place land into trust status pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 465 and to proclaim such land reservation pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 467

TCR # 2017-03 Resolution of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to apply to the Secretary of the Interior to place land into trust status pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 465 and to proclaim such land reservation pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 467

TCR # 2017-04 Resolution of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to renew membership in the National Indian Gaming Association for 2017

TCR # 2017-05 Resolution of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to renew membership with the National Congress of American Indians for 2017-2018

TCR # 2017-06 Resolution of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to appoint an administrator to the estate of a community member

TCR # 2017-07 Resolution of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to adopt Tribal Communication Interoperability Plan

TCR 2017-08 Resolution of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to the application of the Akwesasne Housing Authority to apply for Department of Energy funding opportunity Announcement Number DE-FOA-0001660: Deployment of Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy on Indian Lands – 2017

TCR 2017-09 Resolution of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to delegate signing authority for checks, grant awards, funding agreements, modifications, amendments and contracts

TCR 2017-10 Resolution of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to appoint an administrator to the estate of a community member

TCR 2017-11 Resolution of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to appoint an administrator to the estate of a community member ♦

Division Update:

Education Division Hosts 'Hope for the Wounded' Seminar

By *Stepahnie Cook, Director of Education*

On Friday, *Tsiiothorhkó:wa*/January 13, 2017 more than 200 professionals and community members attended the "Hope for the Wounded: Regaining Consciousness in Education" seminar held at the former-First Americans IGA in Akwesasne. This trauma-informed care training was brought to the community through a collaboration between the Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Education Division. Two sessions were held — one for professionals/educators and one for the community.

The morning session began with the *Ohenton Kariwatekwén*, recited by Rakiwarahes Pembleton, son of Pamela and Rasennes Pembleton. Rakiwarahes is 12-years old and is in the 7th grade at the Salmon River Central School.

Guest speakers included Tribal Chief Beverly Cook, who began the discussion speaking about the ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Study and generational trauma. Her words touched the heart of everyone in attendance. Chief Cook is a staunch advocate for trauma-informed care practices. She supports the Tribe in providing advocacy and leadership, as well as meaningful dialogue on how we can implement these practices into our programs and services.

The main presenter Dr. Joe Hendershott, of Hope 4 the Wounded, LLC. works towards developing an understanding when working with wounded students; such as the effects of trauma on learning and behavior, emotional literacy, empathy, esteem, inclusive communities, combating compassion fatigue, and other topics relevant to today's educational climate. Joe shared heartfelt family stories about why trauma-informed care became his passion. As a foster/adoptive parent, he saw trauma within his own children. His emotional stories about his family kept the audience enthralled, as we learned how his work became his life's calling. Joe spoke about how to make a

difference in the lives of young people and how as educators we can develop a new level of understanding that helps us effectively work with the children that we encounter who have already experienced "wounds" from traumatic experiences. Joe also gave us hope —for the future and for our children.

*"Offering Freedom
to the Hurting
Student"*



"Many of our young children have experienced various forms of trauma and carry the wounds with them every day. It is up to every single person that comes into contact with that individual to treat them in a manner that demonstrates care and compassion. As educators, it is absolutely critical to possess an understanding of what trauma looks like in children and how we can help. This seminar helped to begin the conversation about this topic and will prove to be a catalyst for our schools to work towards becoming trauma-informed learning environments," said Director of Education Stephanie Cook.

The Education Division is truly appreciative for the various presenters that came to the two sessions. They are grateful for the time, information and talents each of them shared with guests.

Some comments that were shared from the seminar include:

"You have inspired us. Children are at the top of our daily priority as educators and we must never lose that vision," said a proud principal of an elementary school in the northern portion of Akwesasne.

"I found both presentations wonderful for our community. It is needed to bring a wonderful large group of people who all work with our future, to be on the same page. I applaud your programs for allowing us to be vulnerable and aware as our communities work toward healing," shared one attendee.

It is our hope to continue this conversation, as we all work towards becoming more trauma informed — our children and our future depend on it! ♦



Tribal Monthly Meetings

Tsiothohrkó:wa/January 7, 2017
Chairperson: Tribal Chief Eric Thompson

Agenda

1. Review of previous action items (December 10th):
 - Request for statistics on average age of life expectancy of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal community. **Complete** Report from Tribal Clerk.
 - Following motion was carried: The nine (9) members of the Senior's Benefit Committee responsible for bringing forward the Elder Benefit Referendum becomes the Selection Committee to select members for the Elders Benefit working group and will work in unity with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council to get the process moving.
2. Presentation on Family Support Program, Continuation of Disabilities Services
3. Presentation on SRMT 2017-2027 Strategic Plan
4. Presentation on Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club by Jessica Cree-Jock
5. New Business
6. Next Monthly Meeting: Enniska/February 4, 2017 with Chief Ron LaFrance as Chairperson.
7. Review of Action Items
8. Adjournment

Following handouts are available:

- Elders Benefit Working Group Callout
- Tribal Police November Calls Received & Triangle Report

Enniska/February 4, 2017
Chairperson: Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance

Agenda

1. Review of previous action items (January 7th):
 - a. Community member requested information on the future plans for the former IGA building. **Ongoing**
 - b. Community member requested that the concerns voiced at the January 2017 Tribal monthly meeting regarding the Partridge House be looked into. **Complete** Report from Michael Cook.
 - c. Community member requested information regarding Fidelis Insurance coverage for Partridge House. **Complete** Report from Michael Cook.
 - d. Community member requested the requirements for all volunteer groups. **Complete** Handout provided.
2. 10:15 a.m. | Presentation from Community Member
3. 10:30 a.m. | Update from Compliance
4. 10:45 a.m. | Update on 9-1-1 from Emergency Planning
5. 11:00 a.m. | Presentation on Expansion of Tribal Clinic Building
6. 11:30 a.m. | New Business
 - Clarification on statement made at the January Monthly Meeting that \$55 million dollars was missing from the Casino in 2013. As previously explained, per the MGE 2013 Income Statement, all net income for 2013 was accounted for and distributed out through equity transfers.

Continued



7. Next Monthly Meeting: Enniskó:wa/March 4, 2017 with Chief Beverly Cook as Chairperson.
8. Review of Action Items
9. Adjournment

Following handouts are available:

- Requirements for Tribal Enterprise and Tribal Council Boards, Commissions, Committees
- January 7th Tribal Council Update: Referendum Question on a Seniors Benefit
- January 2017 EMS Run Report
- December 2016 Tribal Police Calls Received & Triangle Report

Action Items from February Meeting:

1. Community member requested report from LLC Boards.
2. Community member requested the Election Board attend the March Tribal Meeting to address the eligibility for office.

Motion from the Floor

Monica Jacobs made the Motion that Tribal Council provide quarterly financial reports on the Akwesasne Soybean LLC and the Mohawk Networks LLC.

2nd by: Ruth Bell

In Favor – 19

Opposed - 0

Abstentions – 10

2013 Tribal Procedures Act

SECTION VII. MONTHLY TRIBAL MEETINGS

D. Motions from the Floor

1. With the exception of personal and/or personnel matters, Members may make motions at a Monthly meeting to request the Council to take any action that is within the Council's authority provided that there is a quorum present and the motion is seconded by a Member.
2. The motion must be presented in a form that clearly states the action being requested of Council.
3. The motion will pass upon a majority vote of Members, at the meeting.
4. If the motion passes, the Council will place that issue on its Agenda for the next scheduled Work Session and report back to the Community at the next Monthly Meeting on what, if any action was taken.
5. In response to such motions, it is the responsibility of Council to consider each motion and make an independent decision whether acting upon the motion is in the best interests of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, as a whole, and, if so, to take official action upon the motion.
6. In the event that the Council determines not to take action upon a motion from the floor, the Member has the option of utilizing the Petition/Initiative process to require a referendum on the matter.

MOTION FORM

Please clearly and concisely write your motion and submit to the Tribal Clerk, for accuracy and time saving purposes.



Calendar

Enniskó:wa/ March 2017

4 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
8 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom
14 - Social Security - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office

Wednesdays - Tribal Council Work Session - 9:00 a.m. - Executive Boardroom, Community Building

Onerahtókha/April 2017

1 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
11 - Social Security - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office
12 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom
22 - Tree & Seed Giveaway - 9:00 a.m. - Generations Park & Office for the Aging, *Tsi Tetewatahkens* Senior Center
29 - Roadside Cleanup - 8:30 a.m. - Generations Park & Office for the Aging, *Tsi Tetewatahkens* Senior Center

New Faces

Chanel D. Cook

Kimberly Cook

Jenna David

Elizabeth M. Eggleston

Chatnie E. Herne

Trent McDonald

Richard Mulverhill

Eileen Rourke

Skasenneo Shenandoah

Bettina Whitebean

Indigenous Grant Coordinator

Administrative Assistant

Patrol Officer

School Based Mental Health

Special Projects

Patrol Officer

Medicaid Service Coordinator

Assistant Business Office Supervisor

Acting Program Accountant

Counselor

Health Service, Mental Health

Health Service, A/CDP

Tribal Police

Health Service, Mental Health

Office of the CFO

Tribal Police

Community & Family Services

Health Service, Business Office

Accounting

Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation

Donations

Community Activities - \$ 25,000

Funerals - \$ 10,000

Sports - \$ 1,500

Cultural Development - \$ 3,850

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.mohawkasino.com.

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

Like a fish out of water...

By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager, Environment Division

Have you seen a fish try to breath when it's out of the water? They gasp as they are not used to being out of the water. Well, that's how one kid explained what it feels like when you have an asthma attack. For the past 15 years, I have dealt with this on a personal level. My daughter has asthma and the past few months have been crazy. Every day I have heard "I can't breathe" or "my chest hurts." It's hard for parents to know your child is hurting and there's nothing you can do. Or is there?

The Air Quality Program of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environment Division has been working with the American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest (ALAUM) on helping homes that have children suffering from asthma. This 14-month partnership was initiated from training that was offered by ALAUM in Akwesasne on indoor air quality triggers for children with asthma. As a result of this new partnership, our community has already received nearly \$10,000 in supplies and products to improve the health of asthmatic children by making improvements to the home itself.

When dealing with a health issue that is serious as asthma lots of things can affect the child. One

thing that can affect a child with asthma is the change in weather, called seasonal asthma. I know this type very well, as my daughter has this asthma and winters, like we had this past year, do not help.

We, as parents or guardians, can't control the weather, but the one thing we can do is control the child's environment. This is also sometimes hard to do, but not impossible.

Our partnership with ALAUM has brought some relief to homes with asthmatic children. One of the first things that was looked at in a home was the flooring. We all know that carpet is big culprit for inducing asthma attacks. Of the 12 homes visited and assessed, we replaced carpet in three homes with laminate flooring and one home with linoleum.

On average, each home got \$540 in products to help improve indoor air quality.

We are still working with parents of children with asthma, so if you know anyone that could use help in understanding how the home can affect a child or children with asthma, please give us a call at (518) 358-5937 and ask for Taylor at extension 115.

Programs like this don't come around too often. Let's keep these kids healthy and minimize the effects of asthma. ♦



<i>Under the ALAUM program, 12 homes have been supplied with:</i>	# Items	\$ Amount
Flooring	4	2,500
Carbon Monoxide Detectors/Smoke Detectors	13	480
Pillow and Bed Encasements: Allergy Covers	44	1,350
Cleaning supplies: Dusting cloths & mops	24	540
Ventilation: Bedroom Fans & Stove/Kitchen Vents	4	290
Other: Fire extinguishers (7) Construction supplies/sheetrock (2) Kitchen Stove (1) HEPA Vacuum (1)	11	1,280

Callout for Akwesasne Military Service Information

The Communications Department is requesting assistance to commemorate all veterans during the unveiling of the Akwesasne Veterans Memorial Monument scheduled for this year's Memorial Day Weekend.

The department is in the process of compiling names of all *Akwesashe* who have served, or are currently serving, in the United States or Canadian Armed Forces. At this time, they want to identify the individual's branch of military service and, if applicable, any notable combat action. They would appreciate living veteran's current mailing address and phone number. For deceased veterans, a phone number to contact a descendant. This information can be provided to the Communications Department by

emailing communications@srmt-nsn.gov or calling (518) 358-2272.

The Communications Department is also working in conjunction with Jeffrey Whelan to document the past and ongoing history of our community's military service. If you have any documents, pictures or other printed materials you would like included in this comprehensive collection, please contact Jeffrey Whelan at jcw784@yahoo.com or call (315) 769-1700.

They appreciate your assistance in helping to record and preserve the proud military history of our community members who have and continue to honorably serve in the Armed Forces. ♦



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
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On the Cover: Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Sub-Chief Cheryl Jacobs joined Sub-Chiefs Michael Conners and Shelley Jacobs as they personally delivered snowsuits to Kayden David-Cook, daughter of Amber Cook and Greg David, and her fellow students at Ista's Little Helpers daycare on Tsiothóhrha/December 2, 2016. Tribal Council donated winter jackets and ski pants through Community Support to nearly 300 Akwesasne students attending local schools and daycares.