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Akwesasne Business Feature:

Shop Small, Shop Akwesasne on Small Business Saturday

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

Small Business Saturday is *Kentenbkó:wa*/November 25, 2017 and is part of a national event started by American Express to promote small businesses across the country. Small businesses represent the unique character of their local communities and are vital to sustaining a community's economy.

On average, small businesses employ more than half of the local population and make the largest contributions that support local community causes. Shopping at small businesses is fun and offers an opportunity to find unique items that can only be found locally. Plus, it feels good knowing your money is going back into the community.

Last year, the Office of Economic Development and the Akwesasne Chamber of Commerce co-sponsored Small Business Saturday with a prize giveaway and free tote bags. It was the first year of the event and ten local businesses participated.

To share information on last year's success, I interviewed community member Pamela Pembleton about her Small Business Saturday experience:

How did you hear about last year's Small Business Saturday?

Social media; friends and family.

What was your plan for the day, and did you bring anybody with you?

My plan was to check out participating local businesses, I think our idea was to ride around Akwesasne and see what we could find. I took my two sons along for the ride.

Where was your first stop?

Our first stop was Fluffy Tails Grooming. I believe that was the main location to start. I knew they were giving out shopping bags and there was a door prize or some cool incentive to stop there first.

Did you find any unique items/promotions?

I think the sales at Akwesasne Sports were the best finds. I don't necessarily think I found anything unique, as we do shop locally as much as we can. So I think I have a good sense of what can be found. But I am always looking!

Did you stop anywhere else?

After Fluffy Tails, we went to Three Feathers Café for our favorite breakfast sandwiches and coffee, and then we went to Akwesasne Sports. I think that was all we were interested in at the time.

How does shopping locally make you feel?

I love shopping locally. I appreciate not having to go far for certain items, and value the importance of putting our money back into our community. Instilling those values in my sons is also important.

What do you want others to know about this coming Small Business Saturday (November 25, 2017)?

It's a good time for you to slow down and cruise Akwesasne, see what there is to see and discover new things. Show your support for your community, and be proud. We have so many family-run businesses, not only are we putting money back into our community but helping our friends and community members as we do it.

Additional information about Small Business Saturday will be posted on the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Facebook page and website at www.srmt-nsn.gov, so be sure to "Like" our page to ensure you don't miss this exciting event on November 25th. ♦



Good Words of Welcome



Shé:kon Sewakwé:kon,

As we move closer to the end of this calendar year, it's a good time to review what has been accomplished and how much work is left to be done. We can look at the advances we've made in our community's infrastructure; such as an updated water line, the freeing of the St. Regis River, the new Planning and Infrastructure building, a new administration building and more to come. Still, to me, the best measure of how we are doing is how we are responding to the needs of our youngest members and our steadfast commitment to ensure the health and safety of our children.

A few days ago, I heard a boy express himself by offering a song on behalf of his grieving relatives, as they sat deep in thought. Not everyone could hear him, but those of us who did were moved — many to tears. We were deeply connected by our sadness, but also by our love for the boy who sang. We were fortunate to bear witness to that tender moment because in another home this child might have been ignored, or shamed for asking to sing. But, because this boy was appreciated, his request was honored, his intention was announced and space was made for him to sing what his heart told him.

These kinds of family interactions are the fertile soil that grows confident children who are fortunate to feel love and are then able to express love freely. Loving, respectful connections are the antidote to our shared traumas; whether it's a tragic loss, addiction, violence, broken families, or the loss of our language and land. Connectedness requires compassion and empathy; there is no place for shame or judgment.

Fortunately, we are living in a time where community groups and government programs are coming together to provide support and create the necessary spaces where the bystander attitude is no longer acceptable, secrets are no longer kept and, most of all, we are learning that one kind gesture can make an important difference in someone's life, especially for a child.

I personally express my heartfelt appreciation and *Niaṛwen:kówa* to all the individuals, organizations and programs who helped coordinate, sponsor and assisted in the following events that created the safe spaces where healing begins: Cancer Walk, Suicide Prevention Workshop & Walk, Hope Changes Everything, Families in Spirit Celebration, Sexual Assault Awareness Walk, Citizen Advocate's Crisis & Recovery Center Grand Opening, Wellness Day, Hope 4 Change, Child Trafficking Prevention, Family Empowerment Camp, Share the Care, and countless other events that have been and continue to be held in Akwesasne and elsewhere.

I continue to feel very fortunate to belong to a community where the undying desire and selfless efforts of so many are continuing to make Akwesasne a better place for our younger and future generations.

Skén:nen,

Tribal Chief Beverly Cook

Akwesasne Community Forest Project Update

By Aaron Barrigar, Forest Conservation Technician

The Akwesasne Community Forest Planning Committee (ACFPC) has been meeting monthly to create a Community Forest Management Plan. Currently, the planning committee has created a vision and a strategic plan; which includes goals, objectives and actions based on answers from the Akwesasne Community Forest Survey. As a result, the committee has come up with a vision statement for the management plan based on the community's feedback:

We, as humans were given the ability to speak, so it is our responsibility to speak for all life the earth sustains. It is our duty to protect, preserve, and care for our strong, resilient and vulnerable life sustaining trees and forests. Trees are such a valuable resource. Their importance is beyond monetary. They are such an important part of Onkwéhonwe culture. They represent pieces of who we are and are essential to the preservation of language and culture. They provide clean oxygen, food, shelter, shade, heat, traditional medicines, and life teachings. Trees connect us with the past, to inform our present and guide us toward our future. We seek to increase canopy cover, biodiversity and maintain existing green infrastructure through culturally grounded education and action. As Akwesashró:non, trees represent something much more, they are necessary for the health and survival of our culture and play an invaluable role in the preservation of future generations.

From the community survey, the most important aspects of the plan should focus on improving air quality, reducing greenhouse gasses, addressing climate change and increasing the benefits provided by trees, such as food and shelter for people and wildlife. The areas that need improvements are public areas, streets and residential areas.

It was found that a majority of the community supports the development of a management plan to improve the urban forest and some are willing to volunteer to help plant and maintain trees on their property. The survey also showed how important trees are to *Akwesashró:non* on a personal level, with some responses illustrating the connection people have to trees — both physically and spiritually.

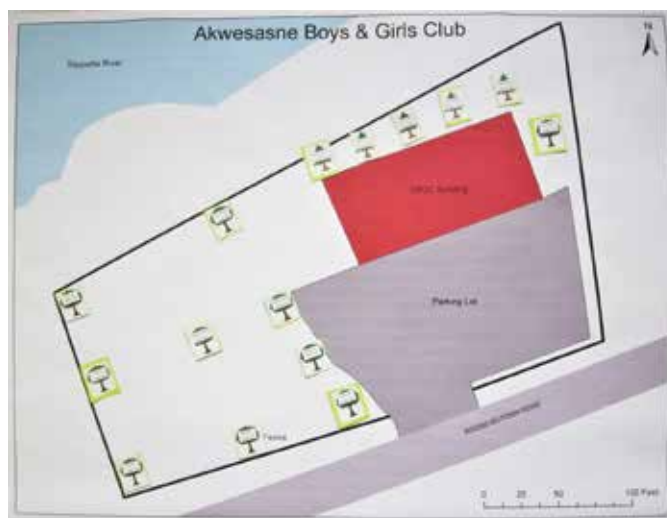
"Trees are important to me because I have basket makers in my family. I have fishermen in my family. Gardeners, as I am a gardener myself, and trees provide benefits to all of those things in so many ways. Trees provide clean oxygen and water for our bodies, and we need them in all realms of life." – community member.

"Trees are such a valuable resource. Their importance is beyond monetary gain. They are such an important part of our culture. They represent pieces of who we are and are essential to the preservation of language and culture. It is our responsibility to care for them." – community member.

Along with the development of the management plan; outreach and education have also been important goals. The Forestry Resources Program worked with the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club's summer students to demonstrate the benefits of energy efficient landscaping. Some of the techniques include planting

trees and shrubs near buildings to provide shade and protect the walls from winds.

The Akwesasne Community Forest Committee hopes to bring more awareness to the value of trees in our community. As *Akwesashró:non*, trees are necessary for the health and survival of our culture and play a vital role for future generations. ♦



ABGC students placed trees in areas that are not only beneficial to the trees, but also to the building.

Crisis & Recovery Center Offers Mental Health and Addiction Services

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

On *Seskéha*/August 28th, Tribal Chief Beverly Cook attended the grand opening of the Citizen Advocate's Crisis & Recovery Center in Malone, New York. During the event, she presented three John Thomas paintings on behalf of the Tribe to provide a welcoming environment for Akwesasne clients seeking addiction treatment and mental health services. It is the latest effort by Tribal Council to secure resources and develop partnerships to help community members suffering from addictions.

Last year, concerns expressed by community members led to the convening of three public meetings to solicit feedback on the issue of drug addictions. The open discussion called for the development of plans to help those who are most impacted, including access to comprehensive treatment services. As a result, Tribal Council and the Tribe's Health Services have been working to secure treatment services in and around Akwesasne.

One important need voiced by community members was the availability of longer term treatment and extended after care. It was noted that the continuum of care is a critical part of an individual's successful path to a full recovery—beyond prevention and treatment services that are currently provided. However, to identify funding and develop a 24-hour treatment facility in Akwesasne equipped with trained staff takes time.

In response, the Tribe has undertaken a cooperative approach to address the impact of addictions on community members. It has reached out to treatment facilities located in neighboring communities; such as the Canton-Potsdam Hospital in Potsdam, NY and, more recently, Malone's Crisis & Recovery Center located at the former Alice Hyde Nursing Home.



Tribal Chief Beverly Cook presents Citizen Advocates CEO Dean Johnston and Director of Behavioral Health Services Beth Lawyer with a painting by John Thomas.

Photo by Josh Davis, The Malone Telegram

The services provided by the Crisis & Recovery Center are an alternative to traditional emergency care for individuals experiencing a mental health or addiction crisis. It is an extension of Citizen Advocate's outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic and offers access to prompt, effective and recovery-focused services in a respectful, home-like environment.

The Center offers 24-hour access to 13 beds for respite stays ranging from a few hours to seven days and is staffed by 20 physicians, psychiatrists, registered nurses, and licensed behavioral health professionals. Services are available on a voluntary basis and referrals are not required.

For more information on Citizen Advocate's Crisis & Recovery Center, please call (518) 481-8160 or their 24-Hour Crisis Line at (518) 483-3261 or (518) 891-5535. Walk-ins can access their facility at 15 Fourth Street in Malone, NY. ♦

SRMT Office for the Aging

Public Hearing Presentation

By Lora Lee Lafrance, Director

On *Kentén:ha*/October 10, 2017 the SRMT Office for the Aging held their first public hearing session to get input from elders and community members on service plans for 2018. Attendees at the public hearing received a plan abstract. The Office for the Aging is publishing this abstract to provide more time for public input.

The mission of the SRMT Office for the Aging is to provide excellent service to seniors by promoting health, happiness, an active lifestyle, engagement, independence and long life.

The Office for the Aging offers 27 services and programs. The following were served for the period *Onerahtókhal*/April 1, 2016 to *Enniskó:wa*/March 31, 2017:

- Congregate Meals Served: 7,204
- Home Delivered Meals Served: 9,636
- Nutrition Education Units: 915
- Transportation (includes daily bus runs, shopping trips, day trips, and unassisted client transport): 5,900
- Assisted Transportation (staffed during duration of trip): 134
- Legal Assistance Hours: 183
- Home Care Housekeeping Hours: 689
- Home Care Personal Care Hours: 1,373
- Consumer Directed Care Hours: 719
- Case Management Hours (assessment and care planning): 195
- Personal Emergency Response System Units: 513
- Health Promotion Units: 916
- Recreation and Education Units: 218
- Caregivers Services Units: 67
- Other Services (including lawn care, snow removal, home repair): 6,838

New Initiatives for 2018:

We received a grant from Title VI to implement an Elder Abuse Prevention Multi-Disciplinary Team. We will be hiring a coordinator

to bring together Tribal programs to discuss and development plans to address elder abuse issues. To kick off this initiative, we will be conducting an Elder Maltreatment Survey. We will be looking for 100 elders age 50 or older to complete the survey. The survey is anonymous and completely confidential. You will meet with a staff member face-to-face to complete the survey. Our responses will be added to other tribal nations and will be used to advocate for more funding and training on elder abuse issues.

We are bringing more services to the Rooseveltown area. Our NY Connects staff is currently partnering with Maximizing Independence Living Choices (MILC) to assist elders and disabled individuals in the area, apply for and understand how to use available benefits. MILC has expertise with what programs and series are available in St. Lawrence County. We are also working on providing home delivered meals and transportation services to that area.

Caregiver Services will be getting a new coordinator. We have seen an increase in the demand for caregiver services. We feel a coordinator will help the program become more efficient and ensure that caregivers know about and receive all the services available to them. The change will also improve our reporting and help us develop more programming and provide more resources.

We are still accepting comments until *Kenténhkó:wa*/November 30, 2017, and want to hear from you. You can provide comments by:

- Mailing your written comments to:
Lora Lee Lafrance, Director
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Office for the Aging
412 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655
- Calling the center at (518) 358-2963
- Emailing the Director at loraleelafrance@srmt-nsn.gov
- Contacting an Advisory Council Member
- Stopping by the office and picking up a public hearing questionnaire. ♦



Division Update:

Community and Family Service's Awarded \$600,000 to Rehabilitate Low-Income Households

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Division of Community and Family Services is pleased to announce that it has received a \$600,000 grant to help community members with assorted home rehabilitation projects. The grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Indian Community Development Block Grant Program and will support the Division's Home Improvement Program (HIP) in completing home repairs and improvements.

Earlier this year, the Home Improvement Program submitted a grant application to rehabilitate 95 housing units in Akwesasne that are occupied by low-to-moderate income residents. The Program sought to assist eligible homeowners with ensuring safe and efficient households. Some of their proposed initiatives include improving the safety and health of residences, reducing energy consumption and long-term maintenance costs for low-income households.

The Home Improvement Program previously adopted rehabilitation policies aimed at providing a safe home environment that performs all of the home's intended design functions, adequate living space that respects the privacy for all household members and incorporates energy efficiency and energy conservation measures. To help in this regard, the grant will assist with covering an average of \$6,300 (up to a maximum of \$35,000) in rehabilitation costs for each eligible housing unit.

The Program currently maintains a list of over 70 households that

are in need of critical assistance and 156 needing moderate repairs. The list has been rated based on health, safety and level of need; with 95 housing units receiving priority status. As a result, these low-income households will receive repairs and services that range from heating unit replacements and foundation repairs to improved ventilation to reduce contributing factors that cause asthma and other health concerns.

Following the completion of the rehabilitation projects, home

owners will receive instruction on the efficient operation of any new equipment and maintenance procedures, as well as financial literacy training through the Tribe's homeownership program. The project will empower and give homeowners the capability and knowledge to keep their homes safe and healthy for all of its occupants, which is consistent with the identified objectives of HIP's Strategic Plan.

Each qualifying home repair will take one week up to one month to complete—depending on the scope of

the home project. Construction will commence with the homeowner's approval and its completion will end with their satisfaction. The Program intends to undertake and complete all work in 2018.

The Low-Income Rehabilitation Project will be supplemented with a \$200,000 match from the Tribal General Fund; for an overall budget of \$800,000.

For more information on the Tribe's Home Improvement Program, please call (518) 358-2272 or stop by their office in the lower level of the Community Building. ♦



Carpenter Ron Lazore getting siding ready to fit an eligible household in 2016.

Future Mohawk Leaders Award

The Higher Education Program has once again received a very generous donation from an anonymous donor. This donation will allow scholarships to be awarded to eight undergraduate and two graduate students. The scholarships are nonrenewable. This scholarship is open to all Mohawk students who are enrolled with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, regardless of where they attend college.

To apply for the Future Mohawk Leaders Award, applicants must submit an original essay outlining the following criteria:

- Career aspirations
- Specific financial need
- Expenses that the scholarship will meet
- Application form available on the Education Division webpage: www.srmt-nsn.gov/education



Last year's recipients are not eligible for this year's scholarship program, except if an undergraduate student who received the scholarship last year is now applying as a graduate student. All applicants must be currently matriculated as a college student.

Scholarship checks will be distributed to recipients in early December 2017. Essays must be submitted via email as a Microsoft Word document along with supporting documents to education@srmt-nsn.gov by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 17, 2017. Applications will not be taken in person or via the U.S. Postal Service. Applications submitted after 4:00 p.m. on November 17, 2017 will not be considered for the 2017-2018 Future Mohawk Leaders Award.

For questions, please contact Stephanie Cook or Rod Cook at (518) 358-9721. ♦

Akwesasne Holiday Helpers

Applications and Raffle Tickets Available Now

The Akwesasne Holiday Helpers now have the 2018 Food/Holiday Basket Applications available at the following locations:

- Mohawk Indian Housing Corporation, 188 McGee Rd, Akwesasne
- Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Child and Family Service Office
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Building reception

The Akwesasne Holiday Helpers are working to secure dates and locations for application sign ups, as we have done in the past. This information will be available soon.

The Akwesasne Holiday Helpers gives a huge *Niawen ko:wa* to all who purchased the \$20,000 Cash Raffle Tickets so far. We are working hard to get all the tickets sold. Tickets can be

purchased at the following locations:

- Truck Stop #9
- BMO Bank of Montreal on Cornwall Island
- Mohawk Indian Housing Corporation
- Akwesasne MiniMart
- SRMT Tribal Building Reception
- Any Holiday Helper and look out for our ticket tables at community events.

The drawing will take place as soon all the tickets are sold or at our Annual Fundraising event at the HAVFD Station #1 on December 8th, whichever comes first.

Please come out and support this worthy cause. Last year, with your help and the generosity of our many donors, we were able to assist 1,305 homes which translates to 3,709 children, adults and elders of our community. ♦



Solid Waste Management

Submitted by Solid Waste and Recycling Programs

The Solid Waste Program started in 1996 with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It was followed with the opening of the Transfer Station in 2005 from funding provided by the Tribal General Fund, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—through Indian Health Services — the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Solid Waste Program may occasionally receive special project grants for the collection of tires and household hazardous waste, but, other than the TGF contribution, the Program no longer receives state or federal funding and is close to being financially self-sufficient.

Utilizing the services of the Transfer Station, the Solid Waste Program provides waste management, waste collection and waste disposal services for the community of Akwesasne. It strives to ensure that all waste generated in the community ends up at a permitted landfill.

The program also prepares materials for recycling and provides recycling services for the community at little or no charge. Unlike most solid waste programs and landfills, the tribal program serves both residential and commercial users. Below is an explanation of the services offered to the community.

The **Bi-Annual Spring Cleanup** is where residents can place bulky items and white goods at their roadside for pickup. The Tribal

General Fund provides the \$54,000 required to operate this special project. If funded, the next spring cleanup is scheduled for Spring 2018.

Waste Containers are available for homeowners and businesses that can be ordered in sizes of 10, 20 or 30-yards for large projects.

The fee for pick-up and delivery is \$65, plus the weight of the waste. This service is available any time during the year. To find out if your location is within the delivery area, please call the Transfer Station at (518) 358-4632.

Program personnel are able to meet with homeowners and businesses to provide **Waste and Recycling Education Sessions**. They also attend programs at area schools. If you want help figuring out what is or isn't recyclable, and to reduce the amount of garbage produced in your home or business, please call.

If you have attended a tribal event in recent years, you may have noticed containers for a **Solid Waste Garbage Collection Areas**. This is a *Zero Waste Initiative* designed to reduce the amount of waste produced at large gatherings. Program personnel would be happy to help any businesses

interested in starting this program.

The **Recycling Program** has two options for turning in your recyclables — the recycling depot on State Route 37 near the Tribal



Above: Riccardo Najjar, Refuse Route Driver, assists a resident with her recycling.

Below: The land where the Transfer Station is located was returned to the Tribe last year in a successful Land-to-Trust application.



Police Station and at the Transfer Station located at 179 County Route 43. All material at the depot is collected together. Material separation is no longer required by our local recycling center, however, the collection bins at depot were purchased when material separation was required. The collection bins at the Transfer Station do not require recyclables to be sorted or separated. The Transfer Station bins can only be accessed during their business hours.

Smile, you're on camera! You really are. The recycling depot has a security camera set up and when an issue is found, they can go through the photos and find out who is responsible. This has resulted in tickets being issued.

The Tribe has contracted with St. Lawrence County for removal of our recyclables. St. Lawrence County has contracted with Casella and then they are taken to a MRF (materials recovery facility) in the Syracuse area. It costs the Tribe \$40 per ton and the \$7,500 per year fees are paid by Tribal Council.

Pay-As-You-Throw (a.k.a. blue bag pickup) provides curbside collection service to those wanting to reduce waste by recycling and composting to achieve a low cost trash removal. The bags come in packages of 4 for \$20. They are available at many local stores, the Tribal Community Building and the Environment Division offices. The bags are picked up on Tuesdays. If you have missed the curbside collection or have too much and just want to get rid of it, you can take the bag to the Transfer Station during regular business hours.

Acceptable materials for recycling at the depot or Transfer Station:

- **Mixed Paper:** newspaper & inserts; junk mail & circulars; magazines & catalogs; phone & paperback books; brown grocery bags; computer & office paper; clean & dry corrugated cardboard. No: hard cover books, napkins, paper plates, tissue paper, foil-faced, wax or plastic coated products.
- **Plastics:** codes 1-7 accepted; containers - jugs, jars, bottles & tubes; cartons - juice, milk, soy, broth & soap; plastic food trays.

No: plastic bags or films, toys, styrofoam, motor oil bottles, furniture, clothes hangers or hard-brittle plastics.

- **Metals:** tin food cans, aluminum food & beverage cans, deposit cans, aluminum foil, plates & trays; empty aerosol cans. No: metal - cardboard containers (cocoa & motor oil), silverware or small appliances
- **Glass:** green, amber & clear containers; canning jars; deposit bottles; liquor & wine bottles; food & beverage containers. No: broken glass, drinking glasses, ovenware or ceramics, dishes, mirrors, window glass or light bulbs.

The Transfer Station can accept the following waste items.

- **Free:** mixed recyclables; electronic waste; all battery types; scrap metal and Freon containing appliances such as refrigerators, water coolers, freezers, dehumidifiers, air conditioners.



The Recycling Depot is centrally located on State Route 37 near the Tribal Police Station.

- **Small Fee:** fluorescent bulbs and tires.

- **\$120 per ton:** municipal solid waste; household garbage; construction waste; wood waste; furniture; organic yard waste.

The Solid Waste Program staff are:

- Matthew Thompson, Program Manager
- Russell Phillips, Operations Supervisor
- Teiothorake Seymour, Scale House Operator
- Riccardo Najar, Refuse Route Driver
- Larry Thompson, Recycling Coordinator
- Corey Oakes, Refuse Route Driver (part-time)
- Rolland Morris, Scale House Operator (part-time)
- Teres Seymour, Billing Clerk (part-time)

The SRMT Solid Waste Program Transfer Station is located at 179 County Route 43 in Fort Covington, NY and is open Monday through Saturday, from 7:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. They can be reached by calling them directly at (518) 358-4632. ♦

Community Engagement:

Two Tribal Members Appointed to Election Board

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council has the responsibility to provide for the health, safety and general welfare 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 members that are appointed to boards, commissions, committees and tribunals. Together, they provide independent oversight on important community matters; such as to ensure, direct and manage the security and integrity of a tribal caucus, elections and referendums.

On *Kenténha*/October 27, 2017; Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Clerk Betty Roundpoint presided over a swearing-in ceremony for two incoming Tribal Election Board Members — Angela George and Konwahontsiawi. The ceremony was held in the Community Building Lobby before a small gathering of family, friends and co-workers.

The appointment of the two Election Board Members follows last year's adoption of TCR 2016-77 that expanded the Board to no less than five (5) members. It is intended to ensure a uniform and consistent oversight of all tribal elections and referendums however, to have sufficient interest from individuals to join the Election Board, a previous restriction was lifted through TCR 2017-59 to allow tribal staff, such as Angela George, to be now considered.

To serve on the Election Board, the two members had to possess the same criteria of an eligible tribal voter, as well as pass a drug test and meet the criminal background requirements for candidates. Following their individual appointments, each of them will assist the Board in overseeing a tribal caucus, elections and referendums in accordance with the Election and Referendum Ordinance.



*Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Election Board (from left):
Joseph Bowen-Brewer, Sheila Loran, Angela George,
Konwahontsiawi and Hope Wheelock.*

Angela George and Konwahontsiawi fill two positions that were recently vacated and join Joseph Bowen-Brewer, Sheila Loran and Hope Wheelock on the five-member Election Board.

Individuals may download the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Election and Referendum Ordinance, as amended by TCR 2017-59, on the Tribe's website at <http://www.srmt-nsn.gov> underneath "Oversight Bodies" and the "Election Board."

As a reminder, Tribal Clerk Betty Roundpoint asks all tribal members to verify their eligibility to nominate candidates at a caucus or to vote in elections and referendums. Please provide any name changes and corrections to mailing and/or physical addresses for the eligible voters list by calling the Tribal Clerk's Office at (518) 358-2272. ♦

Onkwátherékó:wa – Our Big Basket

By Gail Mc Donald, Heritage Complex Project Developer

The The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Cultural Tourism Office coordinated an exciting event held during the 17th Akwesasne International Pow Wow on *Seskehkó:wa*/September 9-10, 2017 that resulted in the creation of a big Akwesasne Mohawk fancy basket — *Onkwátherékó:wa* (meaning "Our Big Basket"). An open invitation was extended to experienced Akwesasne basketmakers to participate in creating this wonderful piece of art that shares the importance of their trade in our community and serves as a proud representation of our culture.

The result of basketmakers working together over the two-day event, the basket's creation provided an opportunity for our local artisans to showcase their unique basketmaking skills. When completed, their collective piece of art will be proudly displayed in various locations across our community along with the story of basketmaking and the individual basketmakers that contributed to its creation. The final resting spot for *Onkwátherékó:wa* will be at the Akwesasne Heritage Complex that is being planned.

The vision for this project was to get as many experienced Mohawk



basketmakers involved as possible; each contributing a row or two on the basket with their signature weave style. Basketmakers Sheila Ransom, Debbie Cook-Jacobs, Nanci Ransom and Gary White provided their skillful assistance in undertaking the laborious tasks in preparing the splints, calculating and assembling the base of the basket with the goal to facilitate the basketmaker's participation at the Pow Wow. The Akwesasne Tourism Working Group, along with family and friends, assisted with acquiring the splints, picking and braiding the sweetgrass, dyeing the splints, assisting the basketmakers and ensuring the basket was assembled with tight rows and hydrated splints.

The event was a success! We had 21 basketmakers of all ages stop by to contribute their time and skills. Each basketmaker provided a bit of background on themselves to tell their story; such as who taught them the skill, how long they have been making baskets, as well as to have their photo taken to document their part in the creation of *Onkwátherékó:wa*.

It was a fun experience that was viewed by many visitors to the Experience Akwesasne booth.



Visitors were amazed by the project and asked many questions. We had visitors from local communities and internationally from France, England, Germany and Scotland. They were very excited to learn of our Akwesasne tourism initiatives and the importance of basketmaking in our community. Several guests inquired about the impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer and what that means for the availability of Black Ash for our basketmakers. They share our community's concerns about the invasive species and echoed the sentiments and worry of our local basketmakers on its impact on their livelihood and craft.

Onkwátherékó:wa was not finished at this year's annual pow wow, as there are some remaining steps to complete; such as the basket's rim, cover, footing and to embellish with additional design elements. We are pleased that several basketmakers have expressed interest in assisting us with these remaining tasks. We will soon be reaching out to them and providing further updates as *Onkwátherékó:wa* nears completion.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact LaToya, Penny or Gail at (518) 358-4238 or email them at tourism@srmt-nsn.gov. ♦



Tips from Tech Support - The Internet of Things (IoT)

By Austin Swamp, Technical Support

The Internet of Things refers to any object or device that sends and/or receives data automatically via the Internet. This rapidly-expanding set of “things” includes tags (also known as labels or chips that automatically track objects), sensors, and devices that interact with people and share information machine to machine.

Why Should We Care?

- Cars, appliances, wearables, lighting, healthcare, and home security all contain sensing devices that can talk to another machine and trigger other actions. Examples include: devices that direct your car to an open spot in a parking lot; mechanisms that control energy use in your home; and other tools that track your eating, sleeping, and exercise habits.
- This technology provides a level of convenience to our lives, but it requires that we share more information than ever. The security of this information, and the security of these devices, is not always guaranteed.

- Though many security and resilience risks are not new, the scale of interconnectedness created by the IoT increases the consequences of known risks and creates new ones.

Simple Tips

Without a doubt, the Internet of Things makes our lives easier and has many benefits; but we can only reap these benefits if our Internet-enabled devices are secure and trusted. Here are some tips to increase the security of your Internet-enabled devices:

1. Keep a clean machine. Like your smartphone or PC, keep any device that connects to the Internet free from viruses and malware. Update the software regularly on the device itself as well as the apps you use to control the device.
2. Think twice about your device. Have a solid understanding of how a device works, the nature of its connection to the Internet, and the type of information it stores and transmits.
3. Secure your network. Properly secure the wireless network you use to connect Internet enabled devices. ♦

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Connect with us...



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Hat & Mitten Drive

Donations of new winter hats and mittens in adult's and children's sizes are being collected until

Kentenhkó:wa/November 13th at the SRMT Community Building lobby, Mohawk Indian Housing Corporation Office and Akwesasne Housing Authority.

The items collected will be distributed to needy families throughout the community of Akwesasne.

For any questions, please contact Family Advocate Everett Lazore by calling (518) 358-2272 ext. 2402.

Warm Heads, Warm Hands, Warm Hearts.



Sixth Annual Sturgeon Release

By Jessica L. Jock, Program Manager, St. Lawrence River AOC

On *Kenténha*/October 18, 2017 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and SRMT Environment Division collaborated on another successful lake sturgeon stocking and education event with Salmon River Central School students on the Salmon River in Fort Covington, NY. Thirty-two students from the 8th Grade Living Environment and High School AP Biology class participated in the activities. Presentations on Mohawk cultural uses and fish life history details were shared by SRMT's Akwesasne Cultural Restoration Fishing and River Use staff. Scott Schlueter, USFWS demonstrated fish measurements and coded wire tag detections, and details about the annual NYS stocking program was presented by Neal McCarthy, NYSDEC.

Students learned about lake sturgeon anatomy, historical threats (i.e. overharvesting, habitat fragmentation, pollution), and details about sturgeon life history (i.e. reproduction ages and cycles). These contributed to student's awareness as to why lake sturgeon is a threatened species in New York and why it is difficult to conserve an abundance this dinosaur-like and majestic fish. All the kids present had their first debut seeing and touching a lake sturgeon. "They are so cute" was expressed on numerous occasions by the kids throughout the day. Kids' awareness, appreciation, and connection with the fish is important for long-term future conservation efforts.

Ten thousand five hundred four-month old lake sturgeon fingerlings were stocked all over New York waters during the week of October 16th. All of these young fish came from adult lake sturgeon eggs collected downstream of the Moses-Saunders

Hydro dam on the St. Lawrence River, and raised in either the USFWS Genoa National Fish hatchery in Wisconsin or NYSDEC Oneida Fish Hatchery in New York. The young sturgeon stocked in Fort Covington have traveled many road miles to come back home to the St. Lawrence River watershed, where it is hoped they will someday swim many more river miles as a long-lived reproducing adult.

The Salmon River tributary is part of the Lower St. Lawrence River Management Unit, as defined by the New York State Draft Lake Sturgeon Recovery Plan. This unit includes the St. Lawrence River downstream from the Moses-Saunders Dam and includes the Grasse, Raquette, St. Regis and Salmon Rivers. This is the sixth consecutive year the Salmon River has been stocked with lake sturgeon (500-1,000/year).

The NYSDEC Draft Lake Sturgeon Recovery Plan is available for public comment until *Kenténhkó:wa*/November 25, 2017 and can be viewed at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/111557.html> ♦



Lake sturgeon fingerlings acclimating to their new waters immediately after release.



ACR Fishing and River Use staff teaching the students about cultural uses and sturgeon anatomy.

Families In Spirit

Event Helps Cope with the Loss of a Loved One

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

On Kenténha/October 5, 2017; members of the Akwesasne community gathered at Generations Park to support families and individuals grieving from a loss. Themed “Families in Spirit,” the event was held in the Travis Solomon Memorial Lacrosse Box and featured speakers, singers, dancers and activities for children.

The evening event was open for all community members to join in celebrating and honoring the lives of loved ones. In helping individuals overcome their loss of someone special, several speakers offered healing words and the local singing group *Kontiwennenhawí* (Akwesasne Women Singers) shared traditional songs.

For a number of years, the Akwesasne community has been holding vigils to raise awareness

about the tragic loss of individuals, which included the annual event “Walking with our Sisters” to raise awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. It also included initiatives to help community members in dealing with the loss of a young person due to youth suicide.

There is often heart wrenching pain that families must endure as they make their way on the path to healing. The event was designed to acknowledge their grief and to provide them with the support needed to overcome their heartache.

Niawen:kówa to community groups and individuals for their role in coordinating “Families in Spirit” and for hosting other events and initiatives that are helping our families heal. ♦



Program Snapshot:

Environmental Brownfields Project

By Julia Jacobs, Brownfields Redevelopment Specialist/Outreach

The SRMT Environmental Brownfields Project has been very busy collecting information on potential sites. The project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for tribal governments to help locate, assess, and clean areas within their communities that may be complicated by the presence of a pollutant or contaminant. Potential Brownfield sites that could be found in Akwesasne include abandoned gas stations, old family dumps, buried fuel tanks, buildings with asbestos, where large amounts of a contaminant spilled, or where a pollutant could harm our natural resources.

Abandoned Structures

Last year, ten community members gave us permission to complete Phase I evaluations on abandoned structures on their property. A Phase I investigation starts with an interview with the property owner. The investigator will search historical databases for any information on the particular site. It also entails a site visit to observe and to determine if it may qualify to be a Brownfields site. A written report is issued documenting the site visit and paper work. In the report would be information about site location and description of the property, topography, geology and hydrogeology, historical aerial photographs, historical topographic maps and detailed historical town/county maps.

The Phase I report will also include information such as: wetlands; hazardous materials; under- or above-ground storage tanks; drums and containers; PCB containing equipment; solid waste; drains and pumps; wastewater and groundwater wells; pits, ponds and lagoons; potable water supply; water intrusion; and mold growth.

One of the last informational items in a Phase I report are federal and state database reviews, radon and a search of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Planning and Conservation website.

This year, some limited soil and water testing and deconstruction to some of the abandoned structures will be completed. The materials will be recycled as much as possible to avoid the added cost of sending to landfills.

Petroleum

Last year, a three-year petroleum grant was submitted and received which will allow both Phase I and Phase II testing on former petroleum sites such as abandoned gas stations. Phase II testing is any additional investigation required after issues were noticed in the Phase I investigation. These issues can include possible spills or leaks indicating possible contamination to soil or groundwater. Phase I evaluations have just begun at several abandoned gas stations.

Cleanup

Phase I and II testing and investigation have been completed on one Brownfields site in the community. Meetings will soon be scheduled to determine what the final cleanup and redevelopment will be.

The work of the Phase I and II investigations has been contracted to a firm in Albany. Tribal environmental employees are continuing their education in the field with the aim to conduct future investigations in-house.

If you are interested in learning more about Brownfields or suspect you may have a site on your property, please check our kiosk located at Environment Division Offices at 449 Frogtown Road, go to our website at www.srmtenv.org or call Julia Jacobs at (518) 358-5937 or email julia.jacobs@srmt-nsn.gov. ♦



Health Services 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.

Welcome Dr. Beach

Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services announces a new partnership with Dr. Jonathan Beach, DO, P.L.L.C. Dr. Beach and his medical team are providing diabetes management specialty services in a team approach with your current Saint Regis Mohawk Health Service primary care providers, including the diabetes nurse educators and dietitian of the Let's Get Healthy Program.

Dr. Beach brings 10 years of expertise in the diabetes care world to offer our community a variety of options and approaches for persons with diabetes and those with pre-diabetes.

Dr. Beach is accepting new patients and transfers from other providers. If you are a person with diabetes or pre-diabetes, please contact Elan Conger, R.N., at the Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services for details to establish an initial consultation with Mara Russell, FNP, Beach Diabetes Services at (518) 358-3141, ext. 7474.

Saint Regis Mohawk Health Service continues to strive for excellence in diabetes care and management. We're excited to offer this wonderful partnership and hoping to schedule many of you very soon.

Kentenhkó:wa/November is American Diabetes Month

Please join the Let's Get Healthy Program to learn about holistic modalities and their benefits to achieving mind - body wellness at our holistic health event.

There will be presentations, demonstrations, screenings and educational booths by local healers, practitioners, instructors and

vendors that provide a variety of holistic services to the community. If you are not familiar with holistic health this would be a great opportunity to meet new people and learn what is available.

Holistic health is an approach to life. Rather than focusing on illness or specific parts of the body, this ancient approach to health considers the whole person and how he or she interacts with his or her environment. It emphasizes the connection of mind, body and spirit. The goal is to achieve maximum well-being. With holistic health, people accept responsibility for their own level of well-being, and everyday choices are used to take charge of one's own health.

This free community event will be held at the Diabetes Center for Excellence on Wednesday, November 29th from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information, please call (518) 358-9667.

World Aids Day

Wear **RED** on December 1st to show your support and solidarity for the millions living with *Human Immunodeficiency Virus* (HIV). HIV is a virus which attacks the immune system—the body's defense against diseases. It stays in the body for life, but treatment can keep the virus under control and the immune system healthy. Without medication, people with HIV can develop AIDS. AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is the most advanced stage of an HIV infection, when the immune system can no longer fight infections.

Getting tested is the only way to know whether you have HIV. If you are diagnosed early, effective treatment can keep you healthy and can also help protect your partner from HIV. If HIV is diagnosed late, you are more likely to become seriously ill and treatment may be less effective. The test can be as simple as a finger-prick, saliva sample or involves taking a sample of blood and sending it off to a lab. Get tested today by contacting SRMT Health Services (518) 358-3141 or MCA Community Health (613) 575-2341. Show your awareness on December 1st. ♦

Employee Profile:

William Arquette, Facilities & Maintenance

(Years of Service: 28 years and 11 months)

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is proud to highlight William Arquette as this month's long-term service employee and share all the exceptional work he is doing on behalf of the Akwesasne community.

There are unsung heroes in every organization. They are typically the ones working behind the scenes — taking care of the facilities and ensuring that they are well-maintained. More importantly, they are an integral part in making sure accidents and injuries to co-workers and visitors are avoided at all times. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is proud to have a number of these unsung heroes on staff, which includes Bill Arquette, who for the last thirty years has worked different positions in helping make the Tribe what it is today.

Bill was first introduced to the Tribe in 1979, while he was still attending the Upward Bound Program in Canton, NY. Marie (Cree) Benedict, who started working for the Tribe just two years' prior, was overseeing the Tribal Council's CETA Program and was in need of someone to run the program's recreational program. It was a seasonal position, but Bill took on the position and it peaked his interest to seek other employment opportunities with the Tribe.

His next job came with the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) that was administered by the Tribe to provide summer work for Akwesasne teens. Joined by other local youth; Bill helped clear brush, made minor construction repairs and attended to other work projects. The position was only for six months, but it provided him with valuable work experience and exposure to other job openings with tribal programs.

For a period of nearly five years, Bill worked part-time for the Tribe's Weatherization Assistance Program. The Program helped property owners make their homes more energy efficient through

various weatherization measures; such as caulking windows and doors, installing insulation and making repairs to their home heating system. It was a personally rewarding experience.

"It was a great learning experience," said Bill as he reflected back on those initial years with the Tribe. He added, "My favorite part was the challenge — it was never the same thing, so I never got bored."

With the experience of making home repairs and improvements, Bill soon joined the team at the Tribe's Home Improvement Program (HIP). He enjoyed the opportunity to continue helping community members with making home emergency repairs under the guidance of Brian Herne and Michael Conners, Sr. He quickly became known as someone to call when you knew stuff had to get done.



"The people are great, as are the skills we learn and the work we do for the Tribe," remarked Bill about his time as a tribal employee.

Determined to keep doing the work that he loves, Bill kept looking for opportunities to join the Tribe full-time. That chance came in the late-1990s, when after a temporary six-week position with the Facilities and Maintenance Department he was asked to join them as a full-time employee. It was an opportunity he was waiting for and one that he continues to occupy and enjoy to this day.

"I never thought I would have this job for so long," Bill said about his years with Facilities and Maintenance. Perhaps it is the personal satisfaction of projects being completed, the comradery of his co-workers, or the ability to keep expanding his skills and certifications; but his enthusiasm is strong today as it was nearly thirty years ago.

It is great due to having great employees like you Bill.

Niawen:kówa for all your years of hard work. ♦

Tribal Council Resolutions (TCRs)

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 2017-49 To Authorize Indian Health Services to enter into P193-638 Title V Construction Agreement to Administer Sanitation Facilities Project No. STRE-HZ6

TCR 2017-50 To Approve the FY 2017 Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act Referenced Funding Agreement

TCR 2017-51 To Support the Environment Division in its Application for Funding Assistance to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for Programs under the Tribal Wildlife Grant For FY 2018

TCR 2017-52 To Adopt the SRMT Probate Law

TCR 2017-53 To Amend the Tobacco Ordinance to Add Definition to Appendix A

TCR 2017-54 To Repeal Tribal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Ordinance

TCR 2017-55 To Seek Funding under the LHEAP

TCR 2017-56 Resolution of The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to Adopt and Approve and Support Public Law 102-477 Plan To Commence January 1, 2018

TCR 2017-57 To Reappoint Commissioners to the Akwesasne Housing Authority Commission

TCR 2017-58 Approving and Authorizing Execution of Documents Related to the 2017 Intellectual Property

Project and Related Matters

TCR 2017-59 To Amend the Election and Referendum Ordinance

TCR 2017-60 To Amend TCR 2017-16 Grant an Easement of Right of Way for River Road, Frogtown Road and Helena Road

TCR 2017-61 To Reappoint a Member to the Election Board

TCR 2017-62 To Amend the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Court and Judiciary Code

TCR 2017-63 To Approve the Akwesasne Housing Authority 2018 Indian Housing Plan

TCR 2017-64 To Amend TCR 2016-97 Capital Project Fund Guideline

TCR 2017-65 To Authorize Renewal of National Congress of American Indians Membership for 2017-2018

TCR 2017-66 To Appoint Election Board Members

Work Sessions

Tribal Council Work Sessions are held every Wednesday beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Executive Boardroom at the Community Building. The sessions are open to community members for observance purposes. Tribal Council conducts business including:

- Notification of approvals/documents signed outside of Work Session
- Documents requiring approval/signatures
- Grant applications, Contracts/Amendments Review
- Tribal Council Resolutions
- New and unfinished business
- Tribal Monthly meeting action items
- Tribal Council Updates ♦



Tribal Monthly Meetings

Seskehkó:wa/September 9, 2017
Chairperson: Tribal Chief Beverly Cook

Agenda

1. Review of previous action items:
 - Tribal Council to report on March Tribal meeting motion from the floor for “Tribal Council to enact in investigation (fact finding) and evaluation of the correlation and relationship between the original Elders Benefit Group and the anonymous propaganda, which is an indirect contradiction to the benefit [to] Elders.” *In Progress.*
 - Community member requested the Tribe work with National Grid to get a better rate. Tribal Council met with National Grid on July 10th. *Compliance is working with National Grid to provide information on subsidy program.*
 - To reach out to Mohawk Council of Akwesasne to see if they are willing to share in the cost of road upgrades. *Completed. Subject of roads was discussed at the August Akwesasne Leadership meeting.*
2. 10:05 a.m. | Emerald Ash Borer Presentation by Aaron Barrigar
3. 10:25 a.m. | Education Division 2017 Summer Employment Presentation by Stephanie Cook
4. 10:45 a.m. | Tribal Heating Assistance Update by Elliott Lazore
5. 11:00 a.m. | SRMT Elders Benefit Working Group Update
6. Tribal Council Update
7. New Business
8. Announcement: Residency Law Questionnaire Updated and Available.

Kenténha/October 14, 2017
Chairperson: Tribal Chief Eric Thompson

Agenda

1. Review of previous action items:
 - Tribal Council to report on March Tribal meeting motion from the floor for “Tribal Council to enact in investigation (fact finding) and evaluation of the correlation and relationship between the original Elders Benefit Group and the anonymous propaganda, which is an indirect contradiction to the benefit [to] Elders.” *In Progress. Investigation is currently in the information gathering and analysis stage.*
 - Request for a handout on a summary of NYS report cards of Salmon River Central and Massena Central School.
 - Request to look into funding available for students who attend prep schools and what the average cost is to attend a prep school.
 - Acknowledgement/breakdown of all the financial aid offered to college students.
 - Look at fuel assistance allocations for tribal members on a fixed income, i.e. the disabled.
2. 10:05 a.m. | Update: Northern Tribal Border Summit by Chief Thompson
3. 10:25 a.m. | Update: Patent Project by Dale White
4. SRMT Elders Benefit Working Group Update
5. New Business

Calendar

November 2017

4 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
10 - Veteran's Day - All Tribal offices and programs closed
14 - Social Security - 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office
17 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom
23 - Thanksgiving - All Tribal offices and programs closed
24 - American Indian Heritage Day - All Tribal offices and programs closed

December 2017

2 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby
12 - Social Security - 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office
13 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom
25 - Christmas Day - All Tribal offices and programs closed
Wednesdays - Tribal Council Work Session - 9:00 a.m. - Executive Boardroom, Community Building

New Faces

Kenneth Roy Arquette
Takarakoten Burns
Fayla JM Coons
Frank J David
Misty Garrow
Rachel J Garrow
Julie M Jacobs
Owen Leaf
Sabrina D Lord
Nihawennah McComber

Carpenter
Sexual Assault Advocate
Therapist
Electrician
Home Health Aide
Teacher Assistant
Case Manager
Construction Laborer
Therapist
Custodian

Home Improvement Program
Three Sisters Program
Health Services, Mental Health
Administration
Individual Residential Alternatives
Early Childhood Development
Child Support Enforcement Unit
Home Improvement Program
Health Services, Mental Health
Maintenance

Donations

Community Events - \$ 1,750 Funerals - \$ 18,000 Sports - \$ 8,300 Elders \$ 1,000

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.

Comfort You Can Feel

By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager, Environment Division

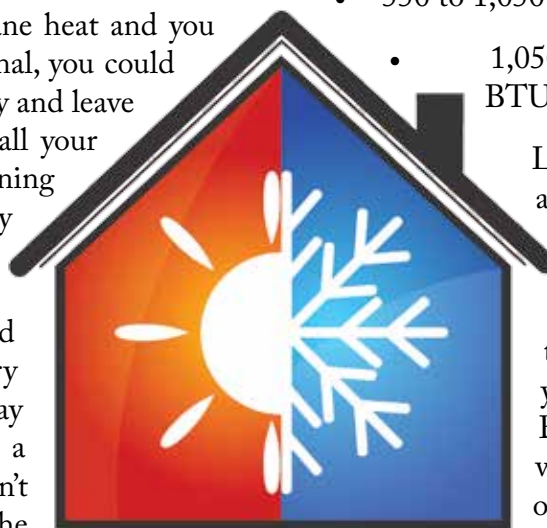
Heating, ventilation and air conditioning; I like all of these. Heating in the winter makes everything *soo* cozy. Air conditioning in the summer time is *soo* cool. And ventilation is always *soo* refreshing. Okay, enough with the cheesiness. All of these are very important to your comfort.

Let's start with **heat**. I am sure most of us have had some heat on for about a month now. But when it first came on did you notice any funny smells? Did dust come flying out of your vents? There are some smells that you really shouldn't ignore when it comes to heating. If you have natural gas or propane heat and you smell rotten eggs, skunk spray or a dead animal, you could have a leak or a dead animal! Grab the family and leave the area. If you can, shut off the gas and call your gas supplier. If you have a metallic or burning electrical smell the blower on your furnace may be going or gone. I had this on my furnace and, yeah, it smells pretty bad. Mine was a belt that was slipping. I replaced the belt and good as new. Now this last one can be very serious. If you smell a chemical aroma, it may indicate a cracked heat exchanger which is a carbon monoxide issue. If you smell this, don't take any chances. Get your family out of the house and have it checked out before returning. Remember, *Kentenhkó:wa*/November 5th was turn back time day so change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, too. If they are older, over five to seven years, replace them.

Most everyone's **air conditioning (AC)** units are put away right now or turned off and covered if you have central air. But the one thing to remember when you put away that window unit, first you should clean or change out the filter. That way, when you get it out for summertime, it's good to go. You should replace your unit if

it's making a funny noise or it's 15 years old or just not doing the job anymore. Make sure you get a unit that's right for the area you want to keep cool. There is a lot of information online about what BTU (British Thermal Unit) you need for your space when you have window AC units.

- 150 to 350 sq ft: look for a 5,000 to 8,000 BTU unit
- 350 to 550 sq ft: look for an 8,000 to 12,000 BTU unit
- 550 to 1,050 sq ft: look for a 12,000 to 18,500 BTU unit
- 1,050 to 1,600 sq ft: look for an 18,500 to 25,000 BTU unit



*Home Sweet Home.
Keeping it comfortable all year long.*

Lastly, **ventilation** is key to making sure fresh air comes and in stale air goes out. This is especially true in the winter as our houses are more closed up. You should always keep a window cracked on both sides of the house to allow the fresh air to stream through. If you have a HRV (Heat recovery ventilator) or ERV (energy recovery ventilator) make sure it's working properly. Replace the filter, unblock outside hoods and screens, clean the energy recovery core and clean condensation drains and pans. You can also check to see if the company who installed it can do this maintenance and to check and make sure it's working properly.

If you have any air-related questions, please give the Air Quality Program a call at (518) 358-5937.

So for now and for the next seven generations, remember to distinguish odd smells from your furnace, clean or change filters in furnaces, air conditioners and ventilation units to be comfortable in your home. ♦



Toy Swap

6th Annual Akwesasne Recycling Day

Former First American's IGA
850 State Route 37, Akwesasne

A toy swap or exchange is a great way to get rid of some of those gently used toys while picking up some "new" ones to be enjoyed at no cost. It also teaches kids to recycle, reduce and reuse to help the environment.

Donation drop-off at former IGA:

Monday, 11/27: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 11/28: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Toys must be fully operating and clean, with all components. Sorry, no stuffed animals or baby equipment can be accepted.

The Event, Wednesday, 11/29:

For toy donors: 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

For general public: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Bring a tote bag, laundry bin or box to carry home your "new" toys. See our recycling and composting demonstrations, and stop by the information table to receive promotional items.

For more information please call Larry Thompson, Recycling Coordinator at (518) 358-4529 or email: larry.thompson@srmt-nsn.gov.



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

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POSTAL PATRON

On the Cover: Basket making volunteers Debbie Cook-Jacobs, Nanci Ransom and Sheila Ransom continue working on what may be, the world's largest fancy basket. Gary White is splint clearing and preparing the rims. Once the rim and cover are completed, other basketmakers will be invited to the tourism office to add some finishing decorative touches.