

Featured Programs

Johnson  
O'Malley

Emergency  
Planning

Supportive  
Apartments

Partridge  
House

# Kawennì:ios



Cook and Jacobs  
Take Office



# Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort Hosts Luncheon

*By Benjamin Herne, Interim Editor*

The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort Education and Recruitment Department held a Scholarship Luncheon on August 5, 2013. This recognition ceremony sited current summer interns and four scholarship recipients who will be entering college this fall.

Patrick Bassney, General Manager of Mohawk Gaming Enterprises, LLC pronounced, "I have high regards to this program. It's a great opportunity for young adults from Akwesasne to explore their options while getting hands on training in an exciting gaming industry."

With 25 current college students integrated into the casino work life, there is an optimistic view on our future. "The goal is to cultivate future managers and leaders to continue moving the casino forward and growing for many years to come," concluded Mr. Bassney.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort also awarded four high school students with scholarships as they enter their first year in college. The following recipients were awarded \$1,000 to further their education in the field they chose to study: Amber Arquette of Massena Central, Dawson David and Dillion Point from Salmon River Central School and Shyla Oakes, Cornwall Collegiate Vocational School.

## 2013 Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort Interns



Cory Bigtree-Thompson - Valet - Onondaga Community College, Nicole Burk - Finance - SUNY Canton, Hunter Cooke - Retail Clerk - SUNY Morrisonville, Kyle Cooke - Grounds Keeper - Elmira College, Dale George-Conners - Slot Attendant - Niagara College, Brennan Gordon - Finance Analyst - McGill University, Skye Herne - Hotel Front Desk - Iohahiio Adult Education, Marlee King-Jacobs - HR Clerical - SUNY Plattsburgh, Randy Jereo - Housekeeper - Algonquin College, Logan Francis-Mitchell - Valet - Loyalist College, Teesha Mitchell - HR Clerical - SUNY Plattsburgh, Tia Mitchell - Food & Beverage - Clerical - SUNY Canton, Emma Phillips - Compliance - St. Lawrence University, Diane Ransom - Security - Iohahiio Adult Education, Jamie Ransom - Food & Beverage - Mohawk Valley College, Skasenniiio Shenandoah - Warehouse Clerical - St. Lawrence College, Kolby Smoke - Grounds Keeper - Lincoln Tech College, Mahlon Smoke - Kitchen Utility - SUNY Canton, Jaime Terrance - Marketing Clerical - St. Lawrence College, Tammy Terrance - Marketing Clerical - Iohahiio Adult Education, Alicia Thompson - Guest Service - Iohahiio Adult Education, Corey Thompson - Guest Service - Lasalle College ◇



# Good Words of Welcome



*Shé:kon,*

It is my great pleasure to greet each and every one of you this month, here in *Kawennì:ios*. I am appreciative of the community's patience and the work of staff as I settle into my role as Tribal Chief.

Speaking of good words, sometimes our simplest gestures can be healing. I'm thinking of the friends and families of those relatives in our community who have left us recently to journey on to the Creators' land. Some passed on after long, full lives and others left too soon, after waging hard-fought battles. Some of the losses allowed us to exhale with some sort of reluctant relief while others took our breath away as we heard the sad news. We've lost devoted mothers, passionate daughters, culture bearers, brilliant minds, community builders, heads of families, poets, artists, mentors, teachers, leaders and beautiful voices.

We suffer these losses together as a community. What affects some of us, affects us all. We grieve our own loss, but also empathize with our co-workers, neighbors or friends who are experiencing a loss as well. I'm aware of the connections and relationships

we have with one another and how important these are to the future of our people. The cycle of life continues. Gradually we'll be able to see and hear clearly. Soon our voices will return and we will once again speak with confidence and conviction. In the meantime, kind words -- good words -- are medicine we can offer to each other to help get there.

As we are able to return our attention back to the present and continue our work for the growth and stability of Akwesasne, a different kind of struggle emerges: the one against ourselves. We know all too well how to oppose each other. That is a battle nobody wins. My hope is that we stay focused on the better, higher goals of sustainable economic growth, housing, safety, health, wellness and prosperity for our children's sake. In the long term, our efforts need to support self-sufficiency and improved self-governance.

We can achieve great things if we remember that we are more alike than different, that we are stronger together than apart. It's a challenge that I'm looking forward to.

Beverly Cook, Tribal Chief

## ***On the Cover:***

*Chief Beverly Cook and Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs at the Inauguration Celebration.*

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# Johnson O'Malley

## Education Program Feature

*By Becky Smoke, Director*



*RIT Imagine Science Trip*



*Chemistry of Mayhem Show*



*Clarkson Robotics*

This year the Johnson O'Malley program provided unique services and trips, as well as staying focused on the educational needs for our students who attend the Salmon River Central School District and the Massena Central School District. Programming offered consists of tutorial services during school hours, after school, one-on-one tutoring and other learning opportunities such as study skills, time management, test preparation, SAT/ACT preparation, career and college preparation and college visits. Incentive trips, after school food parties and goody bag giveaways were held throughout the school year for students who achieved honor roll, showed significant improvement, students who met reading goals and for students who achieved the 21 day attendance challenge.

The JOM/Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club Second Annual *Steps for Success Summer Program* was a huge success. Through our combined services we were able to provide 170 children, ages 6 to 12, with an amazing experience that they will never forget. This summer we focused on enhancing literacy, creativity and science through exploration and hands-on projects. Children had the opportunity to participate in high quality programs that inspired them to learn, explore their world and express their creativity. We focused on providing opportunities for socialization and learning to care for themselves and others. Students were able to take part in the following activities:

- 4-H Program activities
- Daily reading programming made possible by the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club
- The SRMT'S Alcohol & Chemical Dependency and Let's Get Healthy Program
- MCA's Wholistic Wellness Program with a mini – Race Against Drugs Program
- Clarkson University's 2-week Robotics Program
- Title VII 2-week Cultural Programming
- Three week band camp for students interested in learning and maintaining their instrumental skills



- Chemistry of Mayhem Show with Dr. James Peptoski from Clarkson University
- Special Guest Speakers from the Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department, MCA's Ambulance Unit, Akwesasne Mohawk Police Services, Mike Thompson for being our Lacrosse Hero and Brett Hart for being our Mixed Martial Arts Hero
- Beach days, movie and bowling field trip days, an end of the summer student and parent appreciation luncheon and our talent and newspaper fashion shows that are always a huge hit



*PI Day Celebration at Clarkson*

The JOM Program thanks all the guest speakers and organizations who made this summer a huge success. The summer program would not have been possible without the amazing summer staff, the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club, the St. Regis Mohawk School for letting our programs utilize their building, the Indian Welfare Program for supplies and the generous donation of bags and school supplies from the SRMT Social Service Division.



*Wilson Bickford Painting*

On August 5-16, 2013, the JOM Program, Title VII, BTOP Public Computer Center and the Akwesasne Museum worked together to offer a two-week Film Fundamental Youth Video Workshop at the Salmon River Central School. This program was open to nine youth ages 13 to 18 where students were able to gain hands-on training in filmmaking. New students were placed with experienced Salmon River Native Film Students. Students learned how to do storyboarding, filming, editing and DVD authoring. Students produced a five-minute edited culture/history clip from one of the guest lecturers at the *Teaching Through Haudenosaunee Eyes Conference*. During this program students worked collaboratively to produce three music videos of local musician original songs. ♦



*Me and My Guy Dance*

# Child Passenger Safety Week

From September 15 to 21, 2013

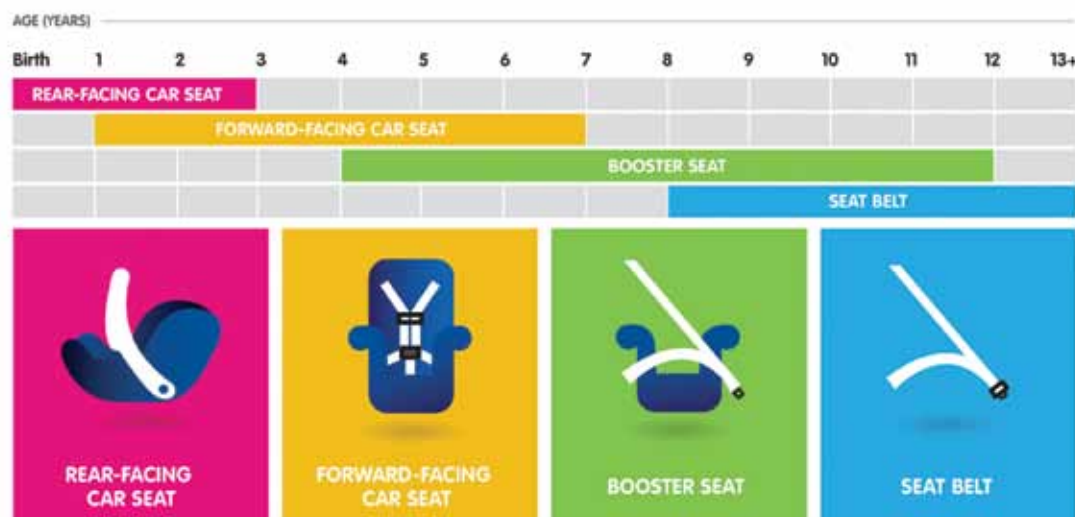
By Erin Barnes, Child Passenger Safety Technician

Car crashes are a leading cause of death in children 1 to 12 years of age in the United States. The best way to protect them in the car is to put them in the right seat, at the right time, and use it the right way. Three out of four car seats are not used correctly in a vehicle. Parents, grandparents and even new parents, do you need your child's car seat checked or has your child out grown their current car seat? All are welcome to participate in a free car seat check on September 16, 2013 at the Massena Fire Station from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

## Car Seat Safety and Installation Tips:

- On all seats the chest clip should always be at arm pit level.
- Rear Facing Mode: Harness straps should be at or below shoulder level and fit snug to the child's body.
- Do not add anything that did not come with the seat (i.e. toys and additional cushions)
- A child must remain rear-facing until he/she reaches one year of age and weighs 20 pounds or more; however, it is highly recommended by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that children stay rear facing up to the age of two years old.
- In forward facing mode, the harness straps should be at or above shoulder level and fit snug to the child's body.

- A child must be in a harnessed seat until they are 40 lbs. or whatever the weight limit is on the seat. Always read the labels on the seat.
- The tether strap must be used on all forward facing seats and hooked to the vehicle tether hook. Read your vehicle owner's manual to find tether hook locations.
- Under New York State Law: **A Child Must Remain In A Car Seat Until Their 8th Birthday.**



Car seats reduce the risk of an infant (under 1 year old) being killed by



Car seats reduce the risk of a toddler (1 to 4 years old) being killed by



Car crashes are the **number 1 killer of children** ages 1 to 13.

Be aware of the expiration date on your child's car seat, on average a seat is good up to six years.

If the car seat moves more than one inch side to side

or front to back the seat is not tight enough.

On any car seat use either the seat belt OR latch hooks, not both.

If you have questions or would like to make an appointment with one of our Child Passenger Safety Technicians please call the Outreach Nursing Office at (518) 358-3141 ext. 130.

Other car seat program locations in the surrounding areas are by appointment only: contact Colin Haverstock from Seaway Valley Ambulance at (315) 764-9133 or John Holmes from the Massena Police Station at (315) 769-3577. ♦



# Emergency Planning

## Administration Program Feature

*By Sarah Lee Diabo, Program Manager*

The SRMT Emergency Planning Office provides leadership, education and support to reduce the loss of life and protect Akwesasne, with coordination of MCA Emergency Measures, from all types of hazards through a risk-based emergency management program.

The emergency management team directs and coordinates the Emergency Operations Center, with support from tribes, local, state and federal organizations during times of emergency. The Office of Emergency Planning provides countywide planning, training and exercise programs in order to be prepared for natural, technological and/or man-made emergencies.

The SRMT Emergency Planning Office is managed by two ladies, Sarah Diabo, Manager and Katrina Jacobs, Training and Development Coordinator. Sarah began her emergency management career working with MCA Emergency Measures in 1996. In 2000, she began the Tribe's new Emergency Planning office. Sarah has been through various trainings and sits on local and outside committees. She has had experience working in various emergencies that Akwesasne has encountered, such as the ice storm of 1998, the bridge closure on Cornwall Island and Operation Sandy.

Katrina Jacobs began working at the SRMT Emergency Planning Office in 2003 and just recently received her 10 years of service award. Her primary responsibility is to promote community awareness of public safety. Katrina assists in the development of a SRMT stockpiling materials inventory listing, aids the Akwesasne Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and evaluates training materials. She also contributes to the development of emergency preparedness related training needs and scheduling,

maintains records, evaluates training and program effectiveness and schedules classes. Katrina also sits on the LEPC and must assume the duties and responsibilities of the Emergency Planner in her absence.

Teaching citizens how to prepare themselves for disasters is critical to the resilience of Akwesasne. Emergency Planning along with the MCA Emergency Measures, Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance and the Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department provide training to interested community members about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact our area. The training also provides participants with basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned

in the classroom and during exercises, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

The Emergency Planning Office has upcoming training this month for a 40-hour HazWoper Confined Space and Asbestos Handler course. If community members are interested in taking these courses, please contact Katrina at 518-358-2272 ext. 210.

The Emergency Planning Office is located at the Tribal Community Building in the basement level and is available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ♦



# 11th Annual Ironworkers Festival

*By Benjamin Herne, Interim Director of Communications*

The 11th Annual Ironworkers Festival was hosted at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort and once again proved to be quite the attraction for local community members. Various events and competition, coupled with beautiful weather made this year's event one of the best to date.

Former Business Manager Mike Swamp recalled the competition over the past few years and expressed gratitude, not only to the competitors travelling to come and participate but also to the casino. "This event gets bigger each year and we need to recognize the casino and its staff for a wonderful event and beautiful hotel," stated Mr. Swamp.

Keynote speakers for this year's festivities included active LOCAL 440 member Bill Sears, LOCAL 440 Business Manager Robert Cole, Director of Casino Floor Services Darlene Dilcox and an opening address delivered by Loran Thompson. Each speaker wished the competitors luck as well as thanking them for the brotherhood and their sportsmanship.

Once registered, the competitors participated in each event and were timed on their completion, indicated on their score card. Each event tailored to a specific skill set, the men and women forged on with a hope of becoming crowned *The Ultimate Ironworker* as well as claiming



*2013 Ultimate Ironworker  
Henry Berk*

the top prize of \$1,000 cash.

"This event is so popular in our community for so many reasons. It has roots in each and every household and our men and women express a tremendous amount of pride in being an Ironworker," stated Director of Floor Services Darlene Dilcox.

Of the Ironworker Festival's 11 events, seven were directly related to the day to day work of an Ironworker. They included the beam walk, rod tying, knot tying, bolt toss, rivet toss, spud throw and of course, the ever popular column climb. Women's Packing, Watermelon Eating and Best Chicken Wing contests rounded out the day's festivities.

Leanne Jacobs took home the Women's Packing Competition, Eric Costa won the Watermelon Eating Contest for the second consecutive year and Spinner's Pizzeria was crowned the Best Chicken Wing winner.

Of the seven events, a winner was determined and received special recognition at the awards ceremony hosted under the large tent adjacent to the casino. Over the

past nine years, only two

Ironworkers held the title but this year, a new Ultimate Ironworker was crowned in Henry Berk, LOCAL 401 of Philadelphia, P.A. ♦



*Watermelon Eating Contestants*



# Recycling Updates

*By Larry Thompson, Recycling Coordinator*

The Environment Division's Solid Waste Program strives to find ways to prevent waste and provide easy access recycling options to community members. A recent addition to these efforts includes recycling batteries to help eliminate waste in landfills. Last year alone, an estimated 150,000 tons of batteries ended up in landfills.

With this initiative the program is providing "drop buckets" in various locations to make recycling batteries easily accessible to community members. Drop buckets can be found in the communal areas of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) Community Building, the SRMT Health Services and the SRMT Office for the Aging Senior Center. Each building will house two buckets, one for Alkaline batteries and a second for all other batteries.

The Tribe's Transfer Station will now accept every day, single use and rechargeable AAA, AA,

C, D and 9V batteries. The types of acceptable batteries include rechargeable dry cell batteries (nickel cadmium-NiCad, nickel metal hydride – NiMH, lithium ion - li-ion), dry cell batteries (Absolyte, alkaline, mercury, zinc air with mercury, lithium primary, lithium thionyl chloride, button cells, lead acid gel), and wet cell batteries (zinc air, zinc air with mercury, nickel iron, nickel cadmium)

Community members can dispose of acceptable batteries during their visits to each facility. Each container will be labeled with instructions. If you have a leaking battery just throw it away, they cannot be accepted.

For a complete list of items that can be recycled, services offered by the Transfer Station or any questions please contact Larry Thompson, Recycling Coordinator at 358-4529, 358-4632 or [larry.thompson@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:larry.thompson@srmt-nsn.gov).



*Don't Flush Your Drugs!*



*Accepting unused or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medicines*

## *Akwesashtó:non Are Invited to the* **St. Lawrence County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event**

536 South Main Street, Massena, NY. The former village Department of Public Works site, behind old Agway

Saturday, September 14, 2013

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Accepting: Residential Household Hazardous Waste, Electronics and Pharmaceutical/Controlled Substances Collection

St. Lawrence County Solid Waste 315-764-7432. ◇

# Classic Car Show at Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort

*By Benjamin Herne, Interim Director of Communications*

The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort hosted the 2nd Annual Classic Car Show on Saturday, July 27, 2013 and again, the event proved to be crowd favorite. To see the competition first hand, excited car show enthusiasts visited from Canada, Vermont and across New York State.

Dozens of competitors joined in hopes of claiming **Best in Show** as well as a \$500 cash prize. Each participant was asked to pre-register online at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort website or pay \$20 registration fee the day of.

The categories for the 2nd Annual Classic Car Show included Vintage, Retro, Muscle GM, Muscle FORD, Muscle MOPAR, Special Interest, New 1990-Present, Truck Pre- 1970's and Truck Post - 1970's. Each category placed winners from first to third.

In addition to the vehicles, food and merchandise vendors were also lined along the back of the tent for refreshing beverages and to shop for items.

## Vintage

- 1st - John Alexander, 1909 Motor Buggy Model K
- 2nd - Kathy Engstrom, 1928 Chevy Truck
- 3rd - Vern Acres, Packard

## Retro

- 1st - Mike Lauzon, 1956 Chevy Corvette
- 2nd - Robert Morin, 1955 Chevy Belair
- 3rd - Carl Smith, Chevy Impala

## Muscle GM

- 1st - Terry Gosselin, 1970 olds 442 Convertible
- 2nd - Laryssa Jock, 1967 Pontiac Firebird
- 3rd - Matt Benedict, 1970 Chevy Chevell SS

## Muscle Ford

- 1st - Steve Brazee, 1969 Ford
- 2nd - Ray Vaillancourt
- 3rd - Steve Shourette, 1938 Ford

## Muscle MOPAR

- 1st - Chris Hutchinson Corky's, 1969 Plymouth Barracuda
- 2nd - Dee Badlam, 1968 Dodge Charger



**Best in Show :** Terry Gosselin with his 1970 Oldsmobile

- 3rd - Todd Kirkwood, Dodge Polara

## Special Interest

- 1st - Tracy Sheesley, 1984 Excalibur
- 2nd - Jim Dawson, 1961 Austin
- 3rd - Leo Hebert, 1978 T-Bird

## New 1990-Present

- 1st - John Lazore, 2000 Dodge Viper

- 2nd - Noah Ransom, 2010 Ford Mustang
- 3rd - Doug Dilcox, 1998 Corvette

## Truck Pre-1970's

- 1st - Walley Jock, Chevy
- 2nd - Neal MacIntosh, 1954 Ford
- 3rd - Gary Stiles, 1967 International

## Truck Post-1970's

- 1st - Roy Phillips, 1971 Chevy
- 2nd - Jerome King, 2004 Nissan ♦



# How was Your Summer?

*By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager*

**M**ine was very busy. Busy doing what you ask? One of my grants is about Climate Change Adaptation Planning. We held a workshop for teenagers, after all, they are the ones that are going to have to deal with all the upcoming climate changes. We held this special event at the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club (ABGC) from Ohiarhko:wa/July 8-11, 2013.

On the first day, we discussed climate change and why it is important for us to be informed. We went to the community garden located just past Beaver Meadow Road. The youth enjoyed fresh picked green beans and walking around the area. Tuesday, the Akwesasne Housing Authority gave us a tour of the "green" neighborhood they built. Wednesday, the kids took a trip to the Solid Waste transfer station and recycling depot. Larry showed them how to reduce waste by recycling and composting.

We wanted to give them some tools to be self-sustaining. We had demonstrations by Tony David and Mary LaFrance from Environment and Heather Pontius from Let's Get Healthy. Tony filleted a walleye and a bass then Heather and Mary cooked it on the grill. It was served with fresh vegetables and even kids that said they don't normally eat fish, came back for seconds.

The youth canned tomatoes and made plantain slave. One thing that really shocked me was that the boys especially loved canning and were very proud of it. They got to take their tomatoes home with them. The kids went into the yard and picked the plantain, they washed it and Julia prepared the salve. For safety reasons, we didn't have the kids do the prep but they

each took home a jar.

We also had guest speakers. Seth Moore came in from Grand Portage of Chippewa in Minnesota. They have been dealing with some climate change issues like "Trout Lake" having no trout and their moose population down to one. Seth talked about their issues and what is being done to help mitigate them. On the final day, Les Benedict presented on Black Ash trees and Setanta O'Ceillaigh talked about historical climate change and trees.

Participants received garden seeds, medicinal herb seeds, *Smencils*, key chains with lights and first aid kits all in a very nice backpack. *Niáwen*/Thank you to all who made the event a success.

## *Climate Change Adaptation Plan*

A Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Akwesasne was also created from this grant. Over the past few years at community events, I have been talking to people about their concerns when it came to climate change. From this information and traditional teachings, the plan has been created. It is available to the community for comments,

electronically or hard copy. Please contact Angela or Julia at the Environment Division at 518-358-5937 or by email [angela.benedict@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:angela.benedict@srmt-nsn.gov) or [julia.jacobs@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:julia.jacobs@srmt-nsn.gov).

The plan is based on the Thanksgiving Address and I feel it really covers what we have and the importance of protecting it. So for now, and the next seven generations, let's do our part to be sure our children and their children and their children's children have what we have. ♦



*Ainsley Thompson, Julia Jacobs, Morgan Arquette and Jasmine Dunn*

# Verizon Tax Exemption for Tribal Members

*By Benjamin Herne, Interim Director of Communications*

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe reminds tribal members that forms are available to file state tax exemption in partnership with Verizon for telephone services in Akwesasne. The exemption is for home telephones located in Akwesasne and is initiated by completing and submitting a New York State exemption form (DTF 801) to Verizon.

For a Tribal community member to receive tax exemption, the following apply:

1. The name on your Verizon telephone bill must be an enrolled member of one of the nine exempt Indian Nations listed on the form DTF-801.
2. Your telephone service must be located on one of the 10 qualified reservations in New York State.

Tribal members must complete a NYS form **DTF-801 Certification of Indian Exemption for Certain Property or Services Delivered on a Reservation**. The form is available at the following locations:

- Tribal Clerk's office at the Community Building.
- New York State Taxation website: [http://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current\\_forms/st/dtf801.pdf](http://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/st/dtf801.pdf).
- Tribe's website: <http://www.srmt-nsn.gov/>. Select Publications, then select Forms.

The full Verizon vendor name, Verizon New York Inc., must be used on the certificate. A document made

out only to Verizon will not be accepted and will cause delay in receiving your exemption. If you subscribe to more than one service from Verizon, you may see more than one Verizon name on your telephone bill. If so, please provide one certificate for each Verizon vendor name on your bill. Additionally, please provide the billing telephone number(s) to which the exemption certificate applies, either written on the form or provided in an attached letter with contact information of how you can be reached, preferably a fax or email address.

The completed DTF-801 and a copy of the Verizon bill can be mailed to: Verizon at 1 Verizon Way, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 or faxed to 1-888-576-8599.

- The exemption form applies for New York State tax exemption only. There are currently no exemptions from Federal taxes for Tribal members.

- Once the form is received, anticipate 1-2 billing cycles after submission to see reduction. If the reduction does not occur, please contact Verizon at 1-800-837-4966 to ensure the paperwork was received.

- The following link provides an explanation of the exemption:

<http://www.22.verizon.com/pages/taxexempt/>.

Tribal members can use this same form for goods and services from other vendors provided the product or service is delivered or received on the Saint Regis Mohawk Territory. ◇



# Annual Inauguration Celebration

## Chief Beverly Cook Inspires

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe hosted its annual Inauguration Celebration on Friday, August 16, 2013. The long awaited event was held under a tent at the IGA parking lot. Approximately 275 people welcomed newly elected Chief Beverly Cook, Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs, Chief Judge PJ Herne and Traffic Court Judges Lois Terrance and Steven B. Cook with cheers and applause throughout the ceremony.

Chief Cook took the podium in grand fashion as she rose, only to meet a standing ovation from all in attendance. "It's empowering for me and it's a boost of confidence," she claimed. Chief Cook went on to thank all of her family for their support and the community for participating in the election process. "In many communities across the world, people aren't given the opportunity to have a voice, to elect people based on their merits and their visions for the community. So I'm glad that we have that process," she concluded.

Incumbent Shelley Jacobs noted change as being part of life. "Change can be difficult, but if you stop and think about it, there is nothing more constant than change. It's happening all around us, every day, all the time," she notes. Serving her second consecutive term in office, she looks forward

to working with new Chief Beverly Cook and the other Tribal Council members.

Chief Judge PJ Herne expressed gratitude for this year's election. He states "During this last election cycle we had close to 1,000 of our community show up to vote for the Chief Judge position. Clearly that's a confirmation from our own community about the direction we want to go in with the involvement of the Tribal Court."



*Group Performs Women's Dance Song*



*Chief Cook's Passionate Speech Brought Many Listeners to Tears*

Traffic Court Judge Lois Terrance thanked the community again for her elected position while Steven B. Cook spoke of his fifth consecutive term in office. "I am now serving my fifth consecutive three-year term in office. That's the equivalent of a fifteen year sentence with 12 years served." He also made reference to hosting our own television show in the future, joking that we can put Judge Judy to shame with our version of REZ TV.

Services for the celebration were provided by Fosters Tent Rental, Smoke Girls Catering, Greta's Cake Shop, Cook's Greenery and Sanitation Solutions.

With the Inauguration celebration now concluded for 2013, all elected officials look forward to working with the community of Akwesasne. ◇

# Tribe Recognizes Years of Service

*By Benjamin Herne, Interim Director of Communications*

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe hosted an employee recognition ceremony at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort on Friday, July 26, 2013 with over 65 associates in attendance. The ceremony, hosted in the new banquet center at the casino, provided an elegant setting in addition to an upscale brunch.

The employee recognition ceremony occurs annually and cites associates who have worked under the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Divisions or Programs for a minimum of five years. The longest tenure celebrated this year was shared with Brian Herne, Facilities Department, who started at the Tribe in 1979.

Chief Ron LaFrance, Jr. spoke briefly on the efforts and importance of staff dedication. He stated, "The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe depends on the staff to ensure this organization is here for the people and

today we commemorate their efforts and congratulate them on years of service."

Anthony Tillman, Employee Relations Specialist, emceed the event and announced each staff member and personally thanked each for the hard work and dedication they've provided over the years.

In addition to citing names and departments worked, each associate received a gift on behalf of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. Five year associates received a mug, ten year recipients received a Jordan Thompson art rendering, fifteen years also received a rendering from Thompson and twenty year received a Phyl Tahy designed clock. Each recipient received time off as well as their gift.

The 25 and 30 year recipients received authentic sweetgrass baskets while the 35 year recipient, veteran Brian Herne, was given a large splint pack basket.

## Five Year



Amanda M. Adams, Compliance  
Henry J. Arquette, Home Improvement Program  
Barbara Barish, Finance  
Barbara Benedict, Social Services  
Chandra Caldwell, Individual Residential Alternatives  
Hailey E. Cartier, Intensive Preventive Program  
Clarissa M. Chatland, Division of Social Services  
Faron Cole, Tribal Police  
Donald W. Comins, Maintenance  
James Costello, Environment  
Wayne M. Francis, Three Sisters  
Amanda Garrow, Health Services – Partridge House  
Dana L. Gibson, Individual Residential Alternatives  
Barbara A. Gray, Tribal Courts  
Frank CD Hill, Tribal Gaming  
Marlee Jock, Tribal Gaming  
Racine Johnson, Intensive Preventive Program  
Reva M. Kelley, Individual Residential Alternatives

Kim Lauzon McElwain, Health Services - Nutrition  
Jerome McDonald, Tribal Gaming  
Lawrence Martin, Health Services – Partridge House  
Rebecca Martin, IHS – Outreach Nursing  
Diane M. Miller, Medical Clinic  
Kimberly A. Moffitt, Early Childhood Development  
Amber Montour, Social Services - Administration  
John Murphy, Health Services - Partridge House  
Setanta O'Ceallaigh, Environment  
Heather Pontius, Let's Get Healthy  
Bobby Rubado, Office for the Aging  
Anez Smith, Individual Residential Alternatives  
Robert D. Sunday, Tribal Police  
Jory Tarbell, Tribal Gaming  
Peter J. Terrance, Health Services – Partridge House  
Joseph J. Thompson, Planning & Infrastructure  
Rosemary L. Thompson, IRA



### 10 Year

Daniel Benedict, Environment  
Anthony David, Environment  
Michele D. Grant-Barnes, IPP  
Dana Henhawk, Mental Health  
Robert Henhawk, Planning & Infrastructure  
Lorene Herne, Tribal Gaming  
Derrick King, Grants & Contracts  
Katrina Jacobs, Emergency Planning  
Rosemarie Jacobs, IHS Business Office  
Wanda Jacobs, Early Childhood Development  
Jessica L. Jock, Environment  
Arthur S. Monacelli, Maintenance  
Nancy Oakes, Intensive Preventive Program



Robert Paquin, Individual Residential Alternatives  
Teresa M. Pryce, Footprints Respite Autism  
Darline Phelps, Footprints Respite Autism  
Adam Z. Stoyer, Individual Residential Alternatives  
Cassidi J. Thompson, Child Protective Services

### 15 Years

Hattie A. Bashaw, Finance  
Walter Bero, Planning & Infrastructure  
Melissa Conners, Mental Health  
Mark H. Garrow, Tribal Gaming  
Kelly F. Jackson, Let's Get Healthy  
Alexander Jock, Tribal Police  
Gilbert Lazare, Tribal Police  
Nicole Meacham, IHS Laboratory  
Betty J. Roundpoint, Tribal Admin  
Matthew Rourke, Tribal Police  
James Snyder, Environment



### 20 Years

Aimée Benedict, Public Info  
Marie Benedict, Maintenance  
Rod A Cook, Higher Education  
Heather Durant, Family Support  
Catherine K. Gray, Tribal Gaming  
Louise Ingle, Outreach Nursing  
Barbara Kelly, Finance  
Agatha Thompson, Social Services  
Carol R. Whelan, A/CDP  
Vicki Wood, Finance



### 25 Years

Doris Thomas, Office for the Aging  
Gloria Herne, Finance  
April Jacobs, IHS Business Office

### 30 Years

Sharon Thompson, Food Distribution  
Florence I. Cook, IHS Business Office

### 35 Years

Brian Herne, Maintenance ◇



# General Assistance Programs

## Environment Division Program Feature

**Web Designer By Daniel Benedict**  
*Improvements to website*

For over 10 years, the Environment Division has had its own web site. In 2005 the website received a new look but all the original content was still on the web site dating back to when it was first created. Today the website is now in need of more improvements.

To ensure these improvements are made, meetings will be set up with the program managers to discuss any future updates. Their updates will be sent to the web designer who will then post the announcement or article to the home page to give the viewer the opportunity to see what are the current announcements and projects.

The old content will be archived but still accessible on the site. When events are no longer current they will be placed in the archive. Before the end of this year there will be an archive link on the home page for patrons to access older material as new events and articles continue to be posted every month.

It is a joint effort between all the environment staff and the web designer to keep the website current and useful to the public. Check out our website at the following link. Please send your comments to daniel.benedict@srmt-nsn.gov .

### *Past and Future Audio / Video Projects*

Recently, the computer equipment has been updated to a computer more suited for video projects. Current projects are now edited on a new Macintosh Computer that allows better output. The most recent completed

project was an audio program series titled, "Life without Trash Removal." These five shows were produced for our Solid Waste Program.

The series is available to the public by going to the "Solid Waste Discontinuity Planning" webpage. [http://www.srmtenv.org/index.php?spec=swm\\_dp\\_lwtr\\_table](http://www.srmtenv.org/index.php?spec=swm_dp_lwtr_table)

In the past we created DVD's for these projects, but in the future we are looking at the option of putting some of our videos on the internet.



*Daniel Benedict Filming at one of the Many Environment Division Events*

Some other titles include: "Fluoride Poisoning" and "Bad Air is All Around Us" for the Air Quality Program, "To Recycle or not Recycle" and "Before There was Another Way" for the Solid Waste Program, and "Cultural Impact Assessment" for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Program.

### ***Environmental Review By Matthew Thompson***

The Environmental Review process including environmental assessments was developed in order to keep our tradition of looking seven generations ahead in making decisions that affect

the community. As we all know, our resources are limited and dwindle down each year. Subsequently we as a community must protect and manage them to the best of our ability.

Implemented through the Environment Division, the environmental review process adheres to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, which subjects all projects utilizing federal funding to prepare environmental assessments (EAs) or environmental impact statements (EISs). EAs and EISs contain statements and documents that detail the environmental



effects of all proposed actions in a project and the best management practices to minimize the project's effect on the environment.

Any commercial or large-scale development in the community is subject to an Environmental Review to protect our resources. A thorough environmental review protects the people and the environment, and ensures that no proposed development will cause significant environmental degradation and harm. In the event a project may cause environmental damage the project is presented with alternatives and mitigation measures to protect all interests.



*Matthew Reviews Construction  
Site Blueprints*

The SRMT Environment Division is here to help advance any proposed development through the Environmental Review and assist you throughout the process. Applications for an environmental assessment are available at our office; 449 Frogtown Rd, Akwesasne. The EA Coordinator Matthew V. Thompson is always available to assist community members with determining the appropriate environmental review for any proposed development.

Additional information and environmental forms can be found online at [www.srmtenv.org](http://www.srmtenv.org). ♦

## Welcome

The Public Information was pleased to welcome Meghan Smith as our summer intern. She is the daughter of Gwendolyn Smith of Ft. Covington. Meghan will begin her senior year at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY in the fall majoring in Sociology with a minor in education and history.

During her summer internship, she will be scanning and entering thousands of newspaper clippings and old press releases into our archive software called OnBase. Having these documents in the database will make searching for information take minutes instead of hours or days. She is also helping out proofing the the newsletter and any other PIO projects that turn up.

Meghan's future plans include law school and is using this as an opportunity to improve her communication skills.

## 'Like' Us

Would you like to be up to date on upcoming tribal events like Disabilities Awareness Day, Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, Hunters Safety Courses and OSHA Trainings? The Tribe hosts many events during the month but we don't always have confirmed dates by the time this newsletter is sent to print.

We will also keep you in the know of current job postings, animal control listings, closures and application deadlines.

Be sure to visit the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's web page at [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov) and LIKE us on Facebook.





# Monthly Tribal Meeting

*Seskéha / August 10, 2013 - Chaired by Sub-Chief Michael Conners*

## **Agenda**

1. Introductions:
  - Welcome
  - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
2. Program Spotlight: Chronic Care/Outreach - Debbie Martin/Theresa Gardner
3. Broadband Quarterly Update - Jason Hall
4. Land Claims Update - Michele Mitchell
5. TGF Financial Report to June 30, 2013
6. New Business
  - Executive Director of Education by Sub-Chief Jacobs
7. Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
8. Adjournment

## **Action Items from October Meeting**

1. To have a synopsis of the gaming compact including the 2005 amendments available for September's monthly meeting
2. To have Ernie Thompson give an update on the sewer line extensions
3. To look into having NYS DOH pharmacy card funding increase from \$278,000 to over a million dollars
4. To look into the eligibility of the people utilizing our health services
5. To look into additional space for the Outreach Department
6. To look into the status of the St. Patrick's Church property
7. To look into removing National Grid from the territory and having Massena Electric as an option for services
8. To have Lindsay Tarbell give an update on the Natural Gas discussions for September's monthly meeting

## **Follow-up on Action Items from September Meeting**

1. To look into limiting commercial traffic on Route 37 from Friday to Sunday  
*The Planning & Infrastructure Department has*

*reported that the only occasion that this could be done would be if bridges were deficient and could not handle heavy loads. A truck route would need to be set up rerouting traffic. The only restriction on this highway is for heavy loads during the above period (i.e. wind mill parts, large generators, etc.)*

2. To look into offering something for the children at the Casino

*The management of the Mohawk Gaming Enterprises, LLC has provided a report outlining current activities for children and services being considered for the future. The report is available as a handout.*

3. To look into the promotional coupons given out by the Casino (Class 2 vs. Class 3)

*The management of the Mohawk Gaming Enterprises, LLC has provided a report which compares the promotional coupons given for Class II and Class III patrons. The report is available as a handout.*

4. To look into having valet parking expand to second entrance

*The management of the Mohawk Gaming Enterprises, LLC has provided a report describing the cost issues and safety concerns with adding a second valet area. The report is available as a handout.*

5. To have a financial report from April to the present since the Bingo palace moved to the Casino available at next month's tribal meeting

*The management of the Mohawk Gaming Enterprises, LLC has provided a financial report for April, May and June. The report is available as a handout.*

6. To look into having incentives for honor roll students

*The staff of the Education Department has provided a report outlining the current incentives and incentives planned for 2014. The report is available as a handout.*

7. A request for a written report from Economic Development on the efforts put forth to create jobs  
*The Director of Economic Development has provided a report outlining the department's activities regarding job creation. The report is available as a handout. ◇*





# Calendar

*Seskehko:wa / September 2013*

2 - **Labor Day Holiday** - Tribal offices, Health Services and Transfer Station closed

7 - **Tribal Monthly Meeting** - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building Lobby

10 - **Social Security Administration** - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's office

14 - **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day** - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Massena, behind old Agway

27 - **Disabilities Awareness Day** - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Former First Americans IGA building

Tuesdays - Tribal Council Work Sessions - 9:00 a.m. - Tribal Council Boardroom

## New Faces

Courtney Armstrong

Jake Arquette

Joni Cole

Dannielle Coryea

Ernest Cree

Kawisohkwas T. Sharrow

Chance L. Tarbell

HIP Laborer

Maintenance Laborer

Preventive Supervisor

Registered Nurse

HIP Laborer

Youth Worker

Maintenance

Home Improvement

Maintenance

Social Services

IHS-Medical Clinic

Home Improvement

Group Home

Laborer Maintenance

### Summer Students:

Workforce Investment

Elijah Benedict, Trent Arquette, Joseph Clute, Johl Benedict, Charles Thomas, Blake Square, Jonas Gray, Isacc Gray, Cordy Cole

Johnson O'Malley

Annie R. Jacobs, Kenkiokwine Barnes, Sierra Rourke, Brayden White, Jacy Chubb, Miranda Conners, Anna Kelly, John L. Bonaparte, Karyss Terrance, Brandon Gambill, Robbi Cook, Zoe Thompson, Collin Tehorahkose Jacobs, Lola Arquette, Nathan Smoke, Mikayla Francis, Cody Jock, Chloe White, Savannah Thompson, Jenna David

Public Information

Meghan Smith

## Donations

Sports - \$4,500

Funerals - \$9,000

Miscellaneous - \$750

Community Events - \$3,500

Cultural Programming - \$5,500

Golf Sponsorship - \$2,000

Training & Development - \$500

## Jobs

**Traditional Healer /Liaison** - IHS Mental Health

**Parent Advocate** - Social Services, Intensive Preventive

**Assistant Residence Manager** - Community & Family Services, Individual Residential Alternatives

Current tribal job postings at [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov)

Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort positions are posted at [www.mohawkcasino.com](http://www.mohawkcasino.com)

Akwesasne and surrounding area positions are posted at [www.myaerc.org](http://www.myaerc.org)

# Partridge House

## Health Services Program Feature

*By Valerie Staats, CASAC-G, Clinical Director*

The Partridge House is a 16-bed, 56-day co-ed inpatient rehabilitation program offering a journey of hope and healing to American Indians seeking recovery from addiction. Although the focus is on the Akwesasne community, the program accepts referrals from service providers located throughout areas east of the Mississippi River.

### *Addiction*

Addiction is a progressive, chronic, and, if untreated, often fatal disease. It is a brain disorder that alters perceptions, feelings, attitudes, thinking, judgment and behavior. Denial becomes so entrenched one is unable to see how chaotic and destructive their lifestyle has become. The internal and environmental changes necessary to support healing and sustain recovery are difficult to accept. There may be false starts and relapse. Too often, the consequences of addiction reach tragic proportions before there is motivation to change. Partridge House staff works to provide the smoothest possible transitions into care and back into their communities. Discharge plans are comprehensive and include access to a variety of supports - sober peers, aftercare services, safe housing, primary healthcare and linkage to cultural and spiritual supports and activities.

### *Addiction & Trauma-Informed Approach*

Addiction is a primary disease influenced by a number of factors - genetics, early use of alcohol and drugs (including nicotine), peer pressure, lack of sober role models and exposure to childhood trauma and neglect. The use of substances provides an illusionary sense of power to those with unresolved feelings of despair, hopelessness, shame and grief. The search for

power becomes more desperate as losses related to addictive behavior increase. The sense of powerlessness becomes pervasive.

The prevalence of trauma in behavioral health services in general is high and in Indian Country even higher, especially when viewed in context of historic trauma. Trauma and addiction must be considered within context of a whole person approach to wellness and wellbeing.

Looking only at the numbers in Indian Country, we could get lost in despair - the rates of addiction, domestic violence, suicide, child welfare problems, childhood trauma, homelessness, crime, sexual abuse and assault, accidental death, FASD and more. There are other disturbing numbers as well-rates of heart disease, obesity, diabetes, arthritis, early death and more. Could there be a connection among all these problems that could help us more fully understand how to help? Emerging science and old wisdom say there is. Do we not owe it to our

children, our families, our community and the coming generations to understand these problems, collaborate to find meaningful solutions and build a healthier, safer and brighter future?

Our program helps individuals understand their use of substances to numb emotional pain and, in some cases, inappropriately vent their emotional pain (e.g., violence). Partridge House staff understands how it is that hurt people go on to hurt other people. To break the cycles of trauma and addiction, we provide a safe, supportive and respectful environment grounded in the ancient values of gratitude, responsibility, accountability and *Good Mind*.



*Partridge House Staff*



### *Wisdom So Old, It Seems New*

Emerging science now supports ancient indigenous wisdom and concepts of healing, recovery and wellness – essentially that all things are interconnected and that wellness is about balance and harmony– within self and among all our relations the Creator, Mother Earth, family and community. Partridge House blends emerging science and ancient wisdom in its education, activities, programming and healing work.

### *Core Program Components*

Addiction impacts all life areas – physical, emotional, mental, spiritual and social. Once an individual begins substance abuse their developmental growth is slowed. This explains why a 32-year-old struggling with addiction since their teens may have the attitude and behavior of a teenager. Breaking the cycle of addiction involves education, individual and group therapy, experiential groups, recreational activities, meditation and relaxation and 12-Step meetings. For those experiencing both a substance related and gambling addiction, Partridge House has counselors with gambling specialty certification.

The heart of our program is a holistic Red Road approach that includes culture and spirituality components including teachings (e.g., traditional Haudenosaunee, Medicine Wheel, Red Road), activities (e.g., drumming, songs) and ceremonies (e.g., smudging, sweat lodge). The spiritual journey is a transformative path of self-discovery, visioning and action. Sober coping and living habits, including how to give back to the community through volunteer activities, are learned and practiced. An individual must know who they are, have a vision of their sacred path, and feel connected to their community in a good way; otherwise they risk a return to destructive ways of coping.

### *Family Education Program*

Our Family Education Program shares knowledge, resources and support to those wanting to understand addiction, relapse and recovery. Family members learn

about the impact of addiction on relationships (e.g., parenting, marital, social and employment) and how to take care of themselves while being supportive of their loved one. The program meets every Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and is open to any Akwesasne community member interested in learning more.

### *Annual Reunion & Day of Sharing*

Graduates of Partridge House, their families and friends, and others in recovery are welcome to participate in our Annual Day of Sharing held on the second Saturday in July. Bring a dish to pass around and join us under the big tent to share stories, songs and good times! Almost 80 people participated in this year's gathering!

### *Accessing Partridge House Services*

Eligibility requirements include being a member of a federally recognized Tribe/Indian Nation, 21 years of age or over and intact insurance or IHS/CHS (non-local referrals only). Akwesasne members most likely receive direct services. A screening/referral is offered to Akwesasne community members concerned about their use of alcohol and other drugs. Referrals are accepted

from detoxification programs, outpatient programs, courts, jails, hospitals and health clinics, among others.

Providing 24-hour oversight is a multi-disciplinary team consisting of certified

alcohol and drug abuse counselors, a registered nurse, a recreation specialist, cultural teachers, a family nurse practitioner and a medical director. Partridge House, operated by the Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services, is funded by Indian Health Services (IHS) and licensed by the NYS-Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (NYS-OASAS).

The Partridge House is a tobacco-free program and hosts a Narcotics Anonymous meeting every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. For additional information, or to just talk with someone about recovery, please call (518) 358-2224. ♦



# Environmental Sites Toured

## *Taping to Air on Mountain Lake PBS*

*By Benjamin Herne, Interim Editor*

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division hosted the 17th Annual EPA - Indian Nation Leaders meeting July 23-25, 2013 at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort. Seven nations had an opportunity to meet with EPA leaders to discuss environment issues within their specific area. One week later, long time television correspondent Jack LaDuke for Mountain Lake PBS had a behind the scenes look into Akwesasne's environmental issues as he was given a site tour with Ken Jock, Environment Division Director and Craig Arquette, Environment Specialist for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.

LaDuke is no stranger to environmental concerns relating to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. In fact, he recalls instances when the issues faced were not deemed serious enough to report on. Fast forward 25 to 30 years later and the community of Akwesasne is still facing dangerous repercussions from contaminants and pollutants dumped over the span of many years in the mighty St. Lawrence and its tributaries.

Craig Arquette, who has worked within the Environment Division for over a decade, stated, "The pollution we've uncovered is not something that can be seen but does affect different species of fish and wildlife for miles."

"The tour we are giving (Jack LaDuke) today is the same we gave EPA leaders. Although EPA is aware of the situation, we need to make sure they

can do even more. The pollution will not go away on its own," concluded Mr. Arquette.

Within the Akwesasne territory there are five rivers that flow into the St. Lawrence River, including a meandering waterway named the Grasse River. The Grasse River is currently a point in which the Environment Division watches closely due to the fact that is considered the "most polluted water source in our area," according to Ken Jock.

The remedial process is in the beginning state of the Remedial Design Phase. The overall plan is to utilize nearshore dredging and main channel capping. When asked if this is sufficient, Mr. Jock stated, "Unfortunately, these solutions are not enough. Capping a contaminant source is not a permanent solution due to erosion and weather. We are still susceptible to pollution in the future."

As the tour continued, Jack was able to interview both Mr. Jock and Mr. Arquette on environmental

concerns the community may be unaware of. "We work very hard to make our rivers as safe as possible and that a level of awareness is brought to not only Akwesasne, but its surrounding neighbors. Pollution knows no boundary," concluded Mr. Jock.

The taping of the tour will be airing on Mountain Lake PBS and given to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe for distribution on the website and Facebook pages. ♦



*Jack LaDuke Interviews Craig Arquette Near General Motors Site*



# Supportive Apartments

## Community & Family Services Program Feature

*By Heather Durant, Benefit Services Manager*

Located at Sweetflag Estates, the Supportive Apartment Program currently has three certified apartments that provide services to individuals who have developmental disabilities and demonstrate appropriate skills to live independently. The program fosters supportive interpersonal relationships, offers supervision to ensure health and safety and provides assistance in learning activities that are a part of daily living.

Supportive Apartments are designed to provide a home environment where each individual can receive up to 20 hours of staff support a week. The staff provides a setting where inhabitants can acquire the skills necessary to continue to live as independently as possible. Staff are onsite and available on a daily basis to provide the specific support needs of an individual. The program also serves as the individuals' Representative Payee and assists with transportation, recreation, bill paying, grocery shopping, meal preparation, house keeping, laundry, personal hygiene, medication management, one-on-one assistance and advocacy for all health related appointments.

In addition to the Supportive Apartments Program, we also have our Sweetflag Estates Supervised Apartments which provide 24-hour supervision. This is a newly established residential program designed to meet the housing needs of our developmentally disabled individuals. The program has individualized apartments

in which supervision is based on the person's needs.

Participants receive Residential Habilitation services that provide personally tailored support to assist with skills related to living in the community. This support includes adaptive skill development; assistance with activities of daily living (hands-on); community inclusion

and relationship building; training and support for independence in travel; transportation; adult educational supports; development of social skills, leisure skills, self-advocacy and informed choice skills; and appropriate behavior development to help the individual access their community. Residential Habilitation also may include program

related personal care, health care and protective oversight and supervision. The program currently operates with six habilitation aides, an apartment supervisor and an RN to provide nursing oversight 24/7.

To be eligible for these programs an individual must meet all requirements through Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). Assistance with filing for eligibility can

be completed through the Family Support Office. For more information, please contact Heather Durant, Family Support Benefit Services Mgr. at 518-358-9481 or Sheryl Thomas, Apartment Supervisor at 315-705-4792. ♦



*Lowell, Louise, Mary and Tony (above) and Betty (below)  
Enjoy Living Independently*



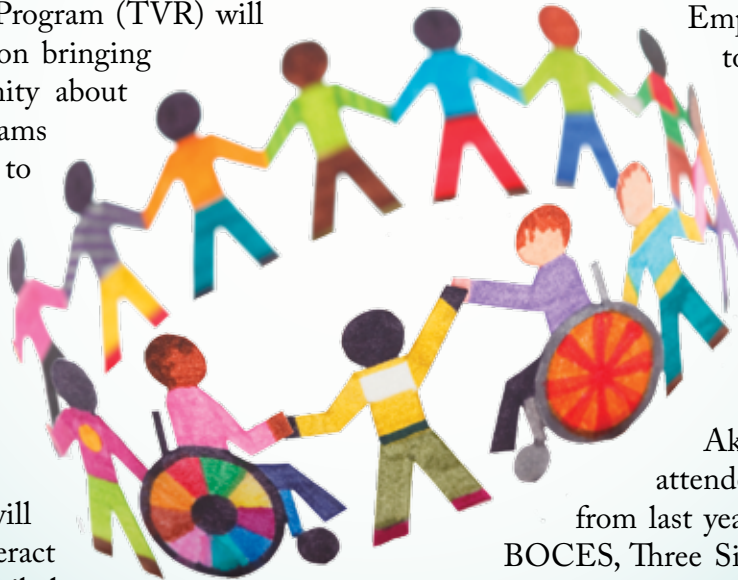
# disABILITY Awareness Day

*By Cody Terrance, TVR Administrative Assistant*

*A*kwesasné:non are invited to attend the 11th Annual Disability Awareness Day on *Seskehkó:wal* September 27, 2013. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Vocational Rehabilitation Program (TVR) will host the day that focuses on bringing awareness to the community about the different types of programs and services available to eligible members. This year, the event will be headed over to the former First Americans IGA building, 850 State Route 37, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Community members will have an opportunity to interact with providers about tribal government resources, curriculum, services and initiatives to support individuals including, but not limited to, those with disabilities. Informative

booths will include providers from around Akwesasne, New York State and Canada. This year TVR will also partner with the Akwesasne Employment Resource Center to host a mini career fair.



Each booth will provide useful information ranging from eligibility requirements to the services and programs throughout the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Some program attendees we hope will be back from last year are: SRMT Police Dept., BOCES, Three Sisters, Traditional Medicine, Alcoholism/Chemical Dependency Prevention, Mental Health and more. Refreshments will be available along with various craft vendors. Community members are encouraged and welcomed to attend. ♦



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