

Featured Programs

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Kawennì:ìos



2nd Annual Job Fair Successful



Lacrosse

The First National Game of North America

By Arnold Printup, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Before the NBA, NFL, MLB, or even the NHL, we had Lacrosse, the first true national sport of North America. Lacrosse and its many variations were played by just about every Native nation east of the Mississippi, as far north as the Great Lakes and as far south as Florida. Each of these nations had unique languages, laws and customs. What they all had in common was a version of the game of stick and ball. In the Mohawk language it's called *Teioontsikwaeks*,

events in village history: the rising of a chief or to solidify trade agreements with another native nation. Other times the game was played simply to lift the spirits of the people and entertain them, a healing ceremony in its own right. The only equipment needed was a netted stick or two depending on what nation was playing and leather ball. The warriors who played needed to be strong, nimble and show endurance -- all characteristics admired by early native societies.



Ojibwas know it as *Baggattaway*, and Seminoles knew it as *A-ne-jo-di*.

Native versions of the game Lacrosse had its basis in realm of ceremony and were rarely played for recreation. Used as alternative to war, the game was used to settle disagreements, determine nation boundaries, hunting areas and to prepare the young men to be warriors. Sometimes the game was held to celebrate important

Through time the stick ball game began to evolve into the sport we are now familiar with, Lacrosse. The traditional wooden stick has been replaced with lighter and more modern materials. The players are all padded and protected and rules were formalized so that all played the game the same. Players come from all races and creeds and play the sport with as much energy and fervor as warriors of the past. ♦

Good Words of Welcome



She:kon sewakwe:kon Akwesashró:non.

I am covering a few items for this month's newsletter opening: trip reports, Winter Carnival and *Tsi tewate'nikonbrakwata:ko*.

Trip Report – From January 24-26, I attended the “Tribal Finance Manager Certificate Program” at the Arizona State University campus in Phoenix. This program covered several Tribal Financial topics such as Tribal financial accounting, accounting systems, tribal enterprises, tribal financial statements, tribal audits, indirect costs and indirect cost proposals, and Fed/State/Tribal income taxation.

After spending the eleven and a half years in gaming, I needed to become more up to date on the tribal financial side and this was a great course that provided the basics and a better understanding of several terms that we hear on a daily basis.

From March 4-6, I attended the 2nd annual “iGaming North America Conference” in Las Vegas. This conference covered the current and on-coming legalization of internet gaming and internet poker. We do not want to be left behind in this emerging industry. It is an already established global industry, and will soon be opened up in Indian Country.

Winter Carnival -All members of our Tribal Council express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all members of the Coalition for Community Empowerment, who pulled together and arranged an awesome Winter Carnival. Sponsors were: Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, the Akwesasne Convenience Store Association, Twin

Leaf Convenience/Fresh Express. Special thanks to Snye Recreation, CKON, Cross Fit, St. Regis Mohawk School, SRMT Seniors Center, Dunkin’ Donuts, Kateri Hall, Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department and the Akwesasne Ambulance Unit. *Niawen:kowa*

I had the opportunity to work Saturday at the Golf Glass-Breaking competition, and I had a great time there. I brought along my three youngest kids to be the golf ball “go-getters,” and they had a good time also.

Tsi tewate'nikonbrakwata:ko- This is the home detox program located in Snye. It is a “grass roots” effort organized by community members where our troubled Akwesasronon have a place to detox from substances in a home environment, while receiving support from recovering addicts and others who have been through the detox program, in a warm, caring, learning environment. Their family members are also eligible to receive support services offered.

They are truly doing an unbelievably great job detoxing our troubled *Akwesashró:non*, one person at a time. Their program is so effective that they constantly have a waiting list for their services, as our troubled *Akwesashró:non* are seeking the program for help with their detox process. It is not a rehab program, but they are working with several rehab programs for referrals. Again, they are cleaning up Akwesasne one person at a time.

Michael Conners, Sub-Chief

Kawenni:ios “Good Words” is published monthly by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Public Information Office, 412 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655 (518) 358-2272 public.information@srmt-nsn.gov www.srmt-nsn.gov

David Trout Staddon, Editor
Aimée Benedict-Debo, Publications Manager
Alyson Cole - Production Assistant

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By Amie Barnes, Sexual Assault Case Manager and Educator

What is consent?

Consent is permission for something to happen or agreement to do something. When sex is consensual, it means everyone involved has agreed to what they are doing and has given their permission. Non-consensual sex, or sex without someone's agreement or permission, is sexual assault. Some important things to know about consent:

Drugs and alcohol blur consent

Drugs and alcohol impact decision making. When drugs and alcohol are involved, clear consent cannot be obtained. In many states, an intoxicated person cannot legally give consent.

Consent needs to be clear

Consent is more than not hearing the word "no." A partner saying nothing is not the same as a partner saying "yes." Don't rely on body language, past sexual interactions or any other non-verbal cues. Never assume you have consent. Always be sure you have consent.

Consent can be fun

Consent does not have to be something that "ruins the mood." In fact, clear and enthusiastic consent can actually enhance sexual interactions. Not only does it allow one to know that their partner is comfortable with the interaction, it lets both partners clearly express what they want.

Consent can be initially given and later withdrawn.

Establishing consent

Ask for consent

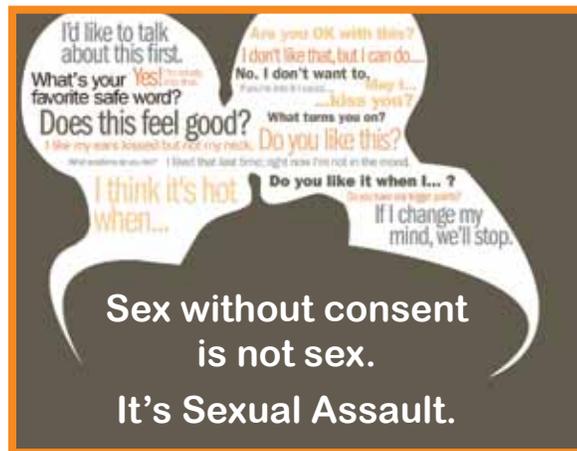
Don't assume a partner is OK with what you want to do, always ask them. Be direct. If you are unsure that you have their consent, ask again.

Communicate

Don't be afraid to talk about sex and communicate your boundaries, wants and needs. Encourage your partner to do the same.

Don't mix drugs and/or alcohol with sex

Intoxication impairs decision making and can make it impossible to gain someone's legal consent. Mixing drugs and/or alcohol with sex can lead to risky behavior such as unsafe sex.



Make it fun

Consent does not have to be something that interrupts sex; it can be a part of sex. Checking in with your partner throughout sexual experiences can be a great way to build intimacy and understand your partner's needs. It can help partners create a healthy and satisfying sex life.

For more information on what the difference is between consent and assault or any other domestic violence concern, please call the Three Sisters Program at 518-358-4406 or by emailing us at threesisters@srmt-nsn.gov. ♦

New General Manager at Mohawk Bingo Palace

Press Release

Emily Lauzon was recently promoted to General Manager of the Mohawk Bingo Palace. “We’re happy to see Emily take this responsibility,” said Mark Garrow, Tribal Chief. “She’s been with the Mohawk gaming industry since the very beginning and knows the business inside and out.”

Emily began her gaming career with Akwesasne Mohawk Casino the day the doors opened for business in April 1999. Her first position was as Employee Relations Manager. “This gave me the opportunity to work with all the casino staff,” she said. “This was either through personnel matters, associate activities, questions on benefits or training programs. I was able to provide support to both management and staff members.” Emily became Director of Human Resources in 2001. She worked with staff and management to develop policies and procedures, insurance benefits and other employee benefits.

In 2003 she ran for Sub-Chief, was elected for a three year term where she assisted the Chiefs on community related issues. When she returned to gaming in 2006, she served as Director of Education and Recruitment. The main initiative was to employ as many community members as possible in the gaming industry. “In 2006, the percentage of Native employees was at 24 percent. I developed a Native Internship Program, a Management Training Program and on-the-job training programs,” she added. These efforts helped to increase the number of Native employees to 209 and to 29 percent of the workforce. Tribal Chief Randy Hart noted, “Emily has a track record of success in the gaming industry. This is a great example of how a local person can achieve greater accomplishments.”

Emily also worked to provide scholarships for Native students in high school. The Education and Recruitment

department participated in job fairs, career fairs and was involved with creating partnerships with local colleges and universities. As a result, they were able to provide on-site college classes. She also played an important role in the start-up of Akwesasne Toastmaster’s Club, now in its second year with 18 members.

“I am looking forward to the opportunity of working with the staff at Mohawk Bingo Palace and learning about the bingo and video gaming business,” said Emily. “One of my managerial aspirations is to provide people with the tools they need to do the best job possible.”

A life-long resident of and around Akwesasne, she comes from a family of 13. She resides with her husband in the land claim area in of Bombay. Her immediate family all reside in the area. Emily serves on the following boards and committees: Salmon River Central School District, as Vice-President of the Mohawk Education Committee, the North Country Advisory Board Committee and on SUNY Canton – Perkins Advisory Board. “An important aspect of Emily’s career is that she contributes much to the community beyond her traditional job duties,” remarked Tribal Chief

Ron LaFrance. “I know that she’ll be able to apply her creativity to her new area of management. We congratulate her and wish her every success in her new role.”

She graduated from SUNY Potsdam with Bachelor’s degree in Labor Relations with a minor in Business Economics. Emily also has an Associates Degree from Algonquin College in Recreational Management as well as a certificate from University of Nevada Las Vegas in Executive Leadership Program in Gaming. She began her new duties as General Manager on February 20, 2012. ♦



Mohawk Casino Construction Project Emphasizes Safety

Accident Prevention is Good Business

The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino expansion project, along with the construction of a new hotel has a strong safety component. Encompass LLC, the design and construction firm building the project, has issued a comprehensive set of policies and procedures to ensure on the job safety at the construction site. “Management is responsible for providing the safest possible workplace for employees,” remarked Colleen Thomas, Tribal Construction Manager. “And we take that responsibility very seriously.”

The policies and procedures provide specific guidelines for every conceivable situation. It requires employees to make timely reports of any injuries, incidents or possible unsafe working conditions. “It’s important to provide everybody with specific actions to take in any given situation,” added Thomas. “This safety manual does exactly that.” The manual provides procedures for general emergencies, fire safety, medical emergencies, severe weather and evacuations. It also requires periodic inspections to ensure the implementation of safety policies and procedures as they relate to employees, contractors and vendors. Encompass’ Safety Officer Rob Parker stated: “Encompass is firmly committed to the safety of our employees. We will do everything possible to prevent workplace accidents and we are committed to providing a safe working environment for all employees.”

Other sections of the safety manual address issues such as proper use of equipment, power and hand tools,

ladders, crane safety, operation of heavy equipment, scaffold safety, forklift safety, welding and safe spray painting procedures. Each one of the sections lists comprehensive steps to operate and use equipment in the safest possible manner.

In addition to proper use of equipment, the manual also emphasizes employee health and safety. These include prevention measures such as heat-related and cold weather-related conditions, respiratory protection, use of personal protective equipment and blood borne pathogens. Employees are required to review applicable and appropriate safety rules before beginning special work or new assignments. “No employee is ever required to perform work that he or she believes is unsafe, or that he or she thinks is likely to cause injury or a health risk to themselves or others,” said Parker.

“We believe that the safety manual is an important management tool to prevent accidents and injuries,” said Thomas. “Of course, our goal is for an incident free project. For that to happen it’s important for managers, supervisors and employees to read and understand the safety policies and procedures.” All contractors on this project are given an orientation package which includes the Encompass Safety Manual. Before they are allowed to begin work each contractor is required to sign an acknowledgement form confirming that they have read and understand the safety policies and procedures in the manual and agree to comply with them. ♦



New Doctor Comes on Board with Tribe's Health Services

By David Staddon, Editor

Dr. Michael Lynch began working with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Health Services in December 2011. He is a board-certified pediatrician and attended medical school at the University of Wisconsin. While at the University of Wisconsin, he also received a PhD for research he conducted on epilepsy and seizures in early life. He was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois.

He completed his training in pediatrics at the Montreal Children's Hospital, which is where he first became interested in working with Native Americans. Dr. Lynch spent a month working with the Inuit population in Iqaluit on Baffin Island in northern Canada, which sparked his interest in working with Natives. After his training he also worked in a clinic for Alaska Natives (mostly Tlingit and Haida) in Juneau, which was a great experience. "Our community has been in need of a full time Pediatrician and we are very fortunate to have Dr. Lynch on our medical team," said Deb Martin, Director of the Tribe's Health Services.



Dr. Lynch and his wife, Lynn Hebert, who is from Quebec, ultimately decided to settle closer to home. They now have a house in Quebec along with their two sons, Noah Hebert-Lynch and Henri Hebert-Lynch. Noah and Henri are six years of age and two years of age, respectively.

He applied to work as a pediatrician at the Saint Regis Mohawk Clinic when he saw the position mentioned in the Indian Health Service newsletter.

“I plan to do my part to help ensure that the children of Akwesasne are well-cared for.”

He has been happy with his work at the tribe's Health Services facility. "I've been very impressed with the quality of care provided by everyone here," Dr. Lynch remarked. "I plan to do my part to help ensure that the children of Akwesasne are well-cared for."

Dr. Lynch is in the clinic all day Monday through Thursday, plus Friday mornings. ♦

Humidity is Key!

By Angela Benedict, Air Program Manager

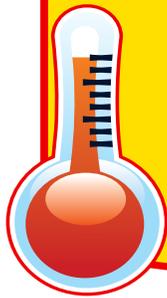
Relative, that is. We have a lot of problems in this area with mold and every time a home inspection is done the air program checks the relative humidity (RH), the temperature, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. Most of the time we can tell what is going on in the home by the relative humidity.

Relative humidity is affected by temperatures inside and outside as well as the moisture. It is given in a percentage for the amount of moisture in the air. Have you ever been walking around and reach for the door handle and ZAP!? Well, that is static electricity. If the air is real dry, as in “low humidity,” then static electricity is prominent. Some people possess an affinity to getting

Excessively high or low relative humidity can produce discomfort. High relative humidity can promote the growth of mold and mildew, and low relative humidity can accelerate the release of spores into the air.

I have said before that I have a very wet basement and there is minimal mold growth. I have a dehumidifier that came with the house when I bought it. I know why too because it was shut off by someone and I noticed right away that the air in the house felt damp and almost kind of musty. I keep my house between 38-44 percent RH as long as the dehumidifier is on otherwise it can go up to 70 percent. I think between 40 to -50 percent is good.

Recommended Ranges of Temperature and Relative Humidity



Relative Humidity	Winter Temperature	Summer Temperature
30%	68.5° F - 75.5° F	74.0° F - 80.0° F
40%	68.0° F - 75.0° F	73.5° F - 80.0° F
50%	68.0° F - 74.5° F	73.0° F - 79.0° F
60%	67.5° F - 74.0° F	73.0° F - 78.5° F



“shocked” or shocking people as they touch. One of the air techs has a problem with this -- it seems like she gets shocked every time she gets close to anything metal. So I decided to order some meters to give out to people when we do a home investigation and found out that the office the air techs are in is about 16 percent relative humidity. That is low -- real low. As you can see by the chart in this article, the lowest RH should be around 30 percent with the highest around 60 percent. Some people have osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis or fibromyalgia and they say that weather including pressure and relative humidity can affect how they feel. The higher the pressure and relative humidity, the more it hurts.

Another person in the office was thinking their home was a little dry because their skin was dry. Winter is a bad time to judge, but when the meter was taken home and was checked, it was low so the person went out and bought a humidifier and is now comfortable at 50 percent RH.

We have more meters and if you schedule a home inspection or investigation by the SRMT Air Quality Program you will get one. Call us at 518-358-5937 or email angela.benedict@srmt-nsn.gov or [Marlene at marlene.thompson@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:Marlene.thompson@srmt-nsn.gov).

So for now and for the next seven generations, let's get the relative humidity in our homes at a good percentage. ♦

Tribe to Convert to Metric Time

By Loof Lirpa

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council recently passed a Tribal Council Resolution that will convert the southern portion of the Akwesasne Territory to Metric Time. "This will be a great step forward," remarked Tribal Chief Mark Garrow. "We need to get away from that old Indian Time where everybody was always late for stuff all the time."

Under the new system there would be 100 seconds to the minute, 100 minutes to the hour, and 20-hour days. "We plan on getting more productivity out of our employees, although the work-day will still be eight hours, it will be eight metric hours instead," noted Tribal Chief Randy Hart. Furthermore, seconds would become milli-days, minutes become centi-days, and hours become deci-days.



"This will help us be more in tune with Canada, which adopted the metric system many years ago. As soon as we can figure out how many kilometers per hour that equals fifty miles per hour, we should be able to figure out how many metric hours equals 10 hours," said Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance. "Then we'll be ahead of the game."

It's not clear how the new Metric Time will affect speed limits, since the standards for kilometers per hour will have to re-calibrated. In the meantime, drivers can go as fast as they want.

Everybody will be required to purchase metric clocks, since the old standard clocks cannot be converted to metric time.

APRIL FOOL! ♦

Safer Foods

*By Julia Jacobs,
Environmental Outreach
Coordinator*

Warm weather makes you think about fresh produce, so while perusing the news I came upon this article called: EWG's Shopper's Guide to Pesticides in Produce produced by Environmental Working Group (EWG) from Washington, DC. This is a guide to help you the consumer determine which fruits and vegetables have the most pesticides residues and sometimes why you should buy organic. To make things short and to the point, they list the produce by the 15 with lowest pesticide residue and the 12 worst produce which they recommend to buy organic. Today we will look at the produce with least pesticide residue. The website is posted so you may view it yourself. <http://www.ewg.org/foodnews/>.

The cleanest types of produce with least pesticide residue are: 1) onions, 2) sweet corn, 3) pineapples, 4) avocado, 5) asparagus, 6) sweet peas, 7) mangos, 8) eggplant, 9) cantaloupe, 10) kiwi, 11) cabbage, 12) watermelon 13) sweet potatoes, 14) grapefruit and 15) mushrooms.

Next month we will look at the worst produce with lots of pesticide residue.

Contact: Julia Jacobs: Environmental Outreach, 518-358-5937. ♦





From the Office of Tribal Council

Tribal Council and Salmon River Schools

As Tribal Council works towards finalizing the draft contract language to be included in both the Salmon River School District and the St. Regis Mohawk School agreements, we wish to extend our thanks and gratitude to the many community educators who have taken the time to provide valuable input into this important issue. We have been engaged in the review and consideration of the proposed Education contract between the St. Regis Mohawk School and the State and we are committed to ensuring the best education available is provided to our children. To this end, we've attended meetings with State education officials and most importantly with our own education community.

We also take this opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the important work that many of our very own people have done so they can provide our children with an education. They first worked to educate themselves in achieving many distinguished honors and then chose to use their education for the betterment of our community and that in itself is to be commended. Their dedication to their profession and our children is unparalleled and greatly appreciated. As a result of the insightful discussion we had with our local educators and community members, we would like to inform you (the community), that we intend to continue the dialogue we've begun with both the Salmon River School District and the State Education Department. At the same time, we are committed to resolving these contract matters as soon as possible.

We, as Tribal Council, believe the language we are looking to include is necessary to protect and solidify the good working relationship that both the Mohawk Education Committee and our Mohawk educators and administrators have strived to achieve over the past several years. Many of the clauses deal with things

that already occur on a regular basis at the Mohawk School and, to a certain extent, at the Salmon River Campus. We are simply asking that these matters be memorized in the contracts. In fact, the attorney for the school district has already responded with proposed resolutions to several of the issues raised by us. We will put forward alternative language in the contract that addresses our concern that the new contract clearly outlines the rights, roles and responsibilities of the School District, the State Education Department and the Tribe and outlines the performance objectives of the contract.



In closing, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe acknowledges that, in order to improve the education of our Mohawk children, additional investment of Tribal resources, as well as State resources may be necessary. We've already demonstrated our commitment by funding a school resource officer at the Salmon River School, providing financial support for other educational opportunities including JOM, the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club (which is open to Mohawk as well as non-Mohawk families), administering the Headstart and Higher Education programs and last but not least, committing to the development and implementation of a Tribal Department of Education, with a full time Director.

On a final note, we take this opportunity to thank all the past and current teachers who have dedicated and who are still dedicating their lives to the education and inspiration of our children. Your role as educators is even more important than you might imagine. You have the power to help our children achieve their dreams academically. It is through you and your teachings that you help our children develop their greatest abilities and become capable of what they are capable of becoming. For this we thank you. *Niawen:kowa.*

RES2012

RESERVATION ECONOMIC SUMMIT & AMERICAN INDIAN BUSINESS TRADE FAIR

*Economic Summit, Las Vegas, Nevada
by Sub-Chief Stacy Skidders*

From February 27- 29, 2012 I attended RES2012, which is the premier American Indian economic and business development conference in the nation. Attendees include American Indian and Indigenous entrepreneurs, tribal economic and business development decision-makers, tribal leaders, government and corporate executives and buyers seeking Indian suppliers and contractors. At the summit I networked with a number of consultants, CEOs, Indian Nations, Native 8(a) companies, contractors, government agencies and business/project development groups. Also in attendance at the summit, was the SRMT Economic Development staff. We planned a strategy on how best to network with over 3,000 attendees, 400 vendors and many education workshops. I personally met with no less than 17 different representatives from the diverse attendees during my two full days at the summit. I networked with many others. I also attended the reception on the first evening and was enlightened by words from the two keynote speakers: Jessie Jackson, Jr. and Gary David (Litefoot). The Economic Development staff and I will be meeting to put our networking contacts together and provide diverse possibilities to Tribal Council. I am hoping to bring some of these opportunities for our community.

March 2012

Dear Akwesasne
Coalition for Community
Empowerment,

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council and Tribal Administration are writing to express our sincere appreciation for all your time, energy and creativity in putting on the 2012 Winter Carnival. We know that this involved a tremendous amount of hard work and planning. Not only do we appreciate your involvement in the event, but we are sure that many individuals, families and the community in general enjoyed the festivities.

Oftentimes, we hear about the importance of family activities to reinforce family values and to provide healthy, positive activities for the community. Activities of this type are what help to keep Akwesasne strong. In this case, your committee took up the challenge to actively "make it happen." Such commitment deserves appropriate recognition and thanks.

The event was a huge success. Traditionally, winter-time activities have been important to the Mohawks and other Native Tribes. The Winter Carnival certainly carries on this tradition in a very successful manner.

Volunteerism is vital to our community, and really, to every community. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has and maintains a strong tradition of volunteerism and you are proof of its effectiveness. From sports teams, to fund-raising, to boards and committees, to mention a few, volunteers are often the catalyst for getting things done.

Many thanks for your efforts. In the future, many people will have fond memories of the events and activities that took place during the Winter Carnival, as they remember the things that they did and the time they spent with their families and friends. This event emphasizes the many positive aspects of our community, members and we value it highly.

Niawen:kowa,

Mark Garrow Randy Hart Ron LaFrance
Mark Garrow Tribal Chief Randy Hart Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance Tribal Chief ♦



Program Feature

Environment

N*natural Resource Damage Assessment*

By *Barbara Tarbell, Natural Resource Damage Assessment Program Manager*

What is “natural resource damage assessment?” The Comprehensive Environment Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund) defines it as the process of collecting, compiling, and analyzing information, statistics, or data through prescribed methodologies to determine damages for injuries to natural resources.

What are “natural resources?” The CERCLA definition is “land, fish, wildlife, biota, air, water, groundwater, drinking water supplies, and other such resources appertaining to or managed by the United States, any state or local government and foreign government, or any Indian Tribe”.

Who is responsible for natural resource restoration? The parties responsible for release of hazardous materials into the environment and causing injury to the natural resources are liable under CERCLA to provide compensation to restore the natural resources. The St. Lawrence environment has three major industrial facilities owned by Alcoa and General Motors.

The St. Lawrence Environmental Trustee Council. The Natural Resource Damage Assessment Program was established in the early 1990’s to identify and restore the natural resources damaged as a direct result of contamination from industrial facilities. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed in 1991 by the St. Lawrence Environmental Trustees Council, comprised of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation,

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Department of Interior. The MOA is to pursue a Natural Resource Damages Assessment (NRD) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, and Compensation and Liability Act of 1980.

Cultural Restoration. With the cooperation of the responsible parties and support from the community, the NRD program conducted research to identify how the injured natural resources has affected the traditional lifestyle of the Mohawks of Akwesasne. It identified how the injured natural resources have affected the Akwesasne Mohawks’ traditional lifestyle. Dr. Taiiiake Alfred was selected as the principle investigator and established a community based research team.



Akwesasne youth getting lesson on Teiokientaron (Sturgeon)

Dr. Alfred and his team developed a report, “The Effects of Environmental Contamination on the Mohawks of Akwesasne.” The people of Akwesasne have experienced the harms of environmental contamination in many different ways. The overall effect has been a disruption of traditional practices that allow for the continuation of a Mohawk way of life. The conclusions indicate that the main resource-based practices that have been harmed by contamination include: fishing, gardening, basket-making, medicine, hunting and trapping.

Akwesasne’s approach to cultural restoration seeks to promote the restoration of land-based practices and traditional economic activities. One way to accomplish this is by establishing and directly supporting a long-term master-apprentice relationship in all the areas of traditional cultural practice that were harmed by the release of hazardous contaminants.

Mentoring and personal relationships promoting experiential learning over a sustained period of interaction on the land is the basis of Indigenous learning-teaching models. As many as possible of the existing knowledge holders within Akwesasne will be recruited to serve as teachers of skills, traditional practices and language. These “masters” will be equipped as necessary with tools, supplies and support and connected with an appropriate number of “apprentices” drawn from an established pool of younger Akwesasne individuals who have expressed interest and demonstrated commitment to learning cultural practices under this teaching model. If you are interested in more information on this pending Cultural Apprenticeship program please contact the SRMT Environment Division at 518-358-5937: Jari Thompson, Cultural Researcher, Amberdawn LaFrance, Database Administrator or Barbara Tarbell, Program Manager.

Environmental Review

By Matthew Thompson, Environmental Assessment Coordinator

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.

The environmental review process implemented through the Environment Division also 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). These 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 or harm. In the event a project may cause environmental damage, the project is presented with alternatives and mitigation measures to protect all interests.

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 at 449 Frogtown Rd, Akwesasne. The EA Coordinator Matthew V. Thompson will assist community members with determining the appropriate environmental review for the proposed development. Additional information and environmental forms can be found online at: srmtenv.org.



Matthew Thompson Conducts An Environmental Review



Storm Damaged Trees are Blocked Up and Distributed to Community Members

Forestry Resources

By Setanta O'Ceallaigh, Forestry Technician

Forestry Resources is a part of the Environment Division and serves the community with forest health concerns. The most popular service provided is the annual chipping project. This is a service where a mobile crew cleans up storm damage and branch piles. Each year our crew chips or otherwise cleans up 45 to 60 tons of wood chips or firewood. The wood is transported to a collection area behind the Transfer Station and is then available to any community member who wants it. To get an idea how much wood that is, 60 tons is equal to 120,000 pounds. The chipping project will be starting up again in a few months.

Forestry Resources is also responsible for inventorying and mapping forest cover in Akwesasne. The inventory is part of a long term monitoring of the overall health of forestland in Akwesasne. Forestry Resources tracks changes in cover type/species composition over time from natural succession, insect or other disturbances or harvesting. Recently, the inventory has been combined with the Wildlife Management program as a natural resource assessment, that not only inventories and maps tree species, but the types of wildlife that make use of those tree species.

We are also involved in monitoring for new threats to the local ecology such as invasive insects, noxious weeds, or tree pathogens. This includes keeping the community abreast of new threats emerging in the region and working with USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to deploy the purple box traps to monitor for the Emerald Ash Borer.

If you have any forest health concerns contact Setanta O'Ceallaigh at (518)-358-5937 ext 137, or look for our table at the upcoming tree and seed give-away on Earth Day.

Information Systems

By Tom Lake, Information Systems Administrator

SRMT Environment Division's Information System (IS) program has created an extensive library of documents online for use by the Tribal Community. Over three thousand documents, reports, studies, and articles are cataloged in the SRMT library. The EHC project continues to assign catalog numbers and create descriptions of each document for on-site access by community members. The Information Systems program employs a Data Entry Technician to scan the documents into digital format. The digital documents are stored and backed up on-site and at another secure Tribal location.



*Loretta David, Data Entry Technician
Scans*

In addition to the archiving project, Information Systems also provides document copying services to the community and has provided GIS mapping services to the Tribal Council, Tribal Police Department and other departments by providing maps and other aids to help in various tasks. GIS is also used to map areas of pollution, flood plains and sites that need cleanup.

The IS program provides database programming and support services to other Environment programs such as Brownfields, Air Quality and Water Quality. The databases are used to track and monitor cleanup progress and analyze input from remote water and air sensors as well as serving as an index to the thousands of documents in our library. Information Systems is also a resource for other Tribes in their mission to begin flowing environment data to the EPA. ♦

Mohawk WWII Code Talkers

Mohawk Language used in Allied Invasion of Europe

The Navajo code talkers were the largest group of Native Americans in World War II to use their language skills to confuse the enemy. Widely recognized in literature and film, they have become famous for their exploits. But many other tribes used their traditional languages to develop virtually unbreakable codes for battlefield communications. The Mohawk Tribe is one of these tribes and is seeking recognition from the federal government for their contributions to the war effort in the 1940s. The Mohawks performed this duty during the invasion of Europe during World War II. They worked with General George Patton's Third Army. It was thought that a German professor, called back to active duty in the German Army, could possibly understand Navajo. Therefore a different Native American language was used: Mohawk.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council has sent a letter of request to the United States Mint to develop a Code Talkers Congressional Medal for Mohawk Code Talkers. "Those Mohawk Veterans of World War II who used the Mohawk Language to help the Allied Forces

win victory demands Tribal and U.S. Government distinction as true heroes," the letter stated.

The tribal council has appointed Jeffrey C. Whelan to serve as the Mohawk Tribe's official liaison to assist the United States Mint in the design of the medal. Whelan, a veteran of the Vietnam conflict, is also the Commissioner of the tribe's Division of Social Services and the Vice Chair for the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. Veterans Affairs Committee. He will serve as the Tribal Veterans Representative and develop a Veterans Program.

In addition to developing a list of all Mohawk World War II veterans, he is also developing a list of veterans from any time period. "I have no problem developing a list that goes back to the Revolutionary War," he remarked. "If veterans or relatives of veterans would like to have somebody on that list, please contact me." The list of veterans will help to determine the level of benefits that veterans receive and allow the tribe's health clinic to collaborate with the Veteran's Administration to provide funding for medical services to veterans.



Twenty-nine Navajo Code Talkers Received Medals in 2001

Identifying Mohawk Code Talkers

By Jeff Whelan, Tribal Veteran's Liaison

I have been appointed by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council to assist the United States Mint in the design of a Congressional Medal for Akwesasne Mohawk Code Talkers of World War II. This is a big honor for me and I need help from the community to ensure these heroes receive the gratitude they so deserve.

The following names have been provided as Mohawk Code Talkers during World War II. I am asking the families of these men to contact me so I can be sure to include them in this great honor; Angus Cook, Charlie Lazore, Wilson Lazore, Joe King, Joe Pyke, Abe Ransom, Louie King, Mitchell Sunday and Albert Tarbell.

I need to know the unit they were in during the war along with the duties that they performed (i.e., radioman, infantry, tanks, motor-pool, etc.). If there are any records, pictures or documents in the possession of the family or if there are any award presents, I would like to see them. All this will help to validate the integrity of the recipient and the medal.

I am also establishing a general list of veterans from Akwesasne, from any time period. If any community member wants to add a name to the list, please contact me at 518-358-2209. ♦

Program Feature

Planning & Infrastructure - Construction Services

By Ernie Thompson, Director of Planning & Infrastructure

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure's mission is to provide coordinated expertise and services in areas of strategic planning, construction project management, inspection services, procurement, roads maintenance, infrastructure and transportation planning. The department also operates and maintains the Tribal water and sewer systems.

The department has been in existence since 2000. It is largely funded through grants from the United States Environment Protection Agency (USEPA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Indian Health Service (IHS), Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Also, the Tribal General Fund (TGF) allocates funding for road maintenance, the in-house operation and maintenance of the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Planning and Infrastructure (P&I) also completes all permit requirements: wetlands, EPA discharge, environmental assessments and daily reports for the Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The department consults and complies with New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) regulations for projects in or around state highways. We continue to cultivate a professional, courteous relationship with DOT personnel.

The Department consists of two programs: Construction Services and Public Works. Construction employs a staff of four people to plan, initiate, manage and monitor all construction projects related to transportation, roads, water line extensions, sewer line extensions, buildings and individual water and sewer connections on the Saint Regis Mohawk Reservation.



Inside Pipe Gallery and Pumps

Key construction staff are responsible for obtaining funding, managing engineering services, design and plan review, evaluating engineering proposals, construction administration and management, completing project reports, daily inspection reports, preparing payment applications for SRMT Finance and project closeouts.

Construction Services also completes and submits required Environmental Assessments (EA) or requests exclusions to SRMT Environment Division for all construction projects initiated. Larger projects such as water line extensions, sewer line extensions, road construction and buildings are conducted using the competitive bidding process with our Grants and Contracts office.

Construction Services also employs a crew of four who undertake construction of water line and sewer main connections and install septic systems for community members. This crew also maintains 16 tribal roads. This work involves ditching, grading, gravelling and plowing and sanding during winter months. Construction Services staff include, Colleen Thomas, Construction

Manager, Rob Henhawk, Field Superintendent, Julie Light, Admin Assistant, Walter Bero, Force Account Crew/Laborer, Theodore Square, Force Account Crew/Heavy Equipment Operator, Abraham Back Force Account Crew/ Heavy Equipment Operator, CDL, Joseph Thompson, Force Account Crew/Laborer and Construction Inspector (vacant). The Construction Inspector is employed on a project-by-project basis.

2012 Construction Projects

McNeil Road Water Line Extension (Indian Health Service): 3200 feet of eight inch water main to be extended from Helena Road to nine homes in the McNeil Road area. Project has been put out to bid and now waiting for contract to begin construction. Projected start date: May 1, 2012.

Mill Street Water Line Extension (Indian Health Service): 1700 feet of eight inch water main to be extended from Route 37 to eight homes in the Mill and Pearl Street area of Hogansburg. Project has been put out to bid and now waiting for contract for construction. A May 1, 2012 start date is anticipated.

Central Pump Station Replacement (Akwasasne Casino Expansion): This project is presently in construction. Project is located on St. Regis Road near the entrance of St. Joseph Cemetery in Akwasasne

(Hogansburg). This project should be finished by April 1, 2012. This project is necessary because of increased flows anticipated because of casino expansion.

Diabetes Center (HUD, AHA, DOE, SRMT, USDA, Community Fundraising): This project went out to bid for construction. The bids were due on March 22, 2012. The project is construct a 13,000 square foot facility to house the “Lets Get Healthy Program” of the SRMT Health Services. The total budget for this project is \$3.2 million dollars funded by the entities listed above. If bids are favorable, construction will start by mid-May 2012.

2012 Scattered Sites (water connections and septic systems): We are presently awaiting our 2012 allocation from Indian Health Service. The 2011 allocation was \$700,000, but expecting substantial cuts from Indian Health Service. Applications are taken on an ongoing basis.

Roads Maintenance: Our 2012 allocation from BIA is approximately \$106,000. The 2011 allocation was \$178,000. Budget cuts are also being made in this area. The new office is located at 12 Gray Street in Akwasasne (Hogansburg) at the old firehall building. Phone number is 518-358-4205. ♦



Rear View of Pump Station on St. Regis Road



Front View of New Pump Station on St. Regis Road

Calendar

Onerahtókha / April 2012

5th - Burn Permit Applications - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Community Building lobby

7th - Monthly Tribal Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building lobby

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

Onerahtokó:wa / May

1st - Broadband Initiative Public Computer Centers Grand Opening - 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Seniors

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

New Faces

Summer Bero	A/CDP	Prevention Educator
Lindsay Jacobs	Early Childhood Development	Teacher Aide
Andrew J. White	SRM Health Services - Medical Clinic	Registered Nurse
Charlene White	Intensive Preventive Program	Parent Advocate

Giving Back

Community Events - \$ 5,000

Funerals - \$ 1,000

Jobs

Fisheries Technician - Environment

Solid Waste Laborers - Environment

Summer Student Interns - Environment

Program Accountant - Finance

Youth Workers - Akwesasne Group Home

Forestry Laborers - Environment

Preventive Caseworker - Division of Social Services

Current postings and complete job descriptions are available online at: www.srmt-nsn.gov

Monthly Tribal Meeting

Enniskó:wa / March 3, 2012
Chaired by Chief Mark Garrow

Agenda

1. Introductions:
 - Welcome
 - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
2. Administration Presentation Update
 - Dawn Thompson
3. Ethics Officer
 - Peter Garrow
4. MCA Voter's List for Easterbrook Settlement
5. New Business
6. Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
7. Adjournment

Follow-up on Action Items from January Meeting

1. Arrange a special meeting with Sharlee Thomas and staff and PJ Herne Re: Education.

Follow-up: The Public Meeting was held on February 29th at 5 p.m. in the lobby pf SRMT

2. To look into a fair development of a policy regarding certain pain medications.

Follow-up: A copy of the existing policy (from 2007) will be available and SRMHS will be providing a memo reaffirmiung the policy.

3. To give update on construction safety of the casino expansion project

Follow-up: Colleen Thomas will present a report on the safety program at the March Tribal Meeting.

Action Items from March Meeting

- Set Up Meeting with Debbie Martin to discuss concerns regarding Detox
- Add to next month's agenda: Trade between Nations and seizures on manufacturing products

Are You A Responsible Pet Owner?

By Jennifer Herne, Animal Control Officer

Last month we learned about the feral cat problem and the fact that humans are its cause. When I was trying to decide what to write about for the month of April, I responded to a call that gave me inspiration the article. The call was about a stray dog bothering some kids in the school yard. This dog usually plays with them, but was kind of nipping at them.

The teachers and staff were worried about the children getting bit. I immediately responded and found the dog wandering on the side of the road near the school. I stopped my vehicle and called the dog to me. He looked scared but wanted some attention. In my career I have learned that it is usually the scared dogs that bite. The dog wanted to run away, but when he saw that I had a can of food he was very interested. Usually homeless dogs will try to overcome their fear to get some food.

I spent about 10 minutes trying to get him to come to me, but he was stubborn. Two men from the school decided to help me; they could see the difficulty when trying to catch a dog by yourself. After about an hour we did manage to catch the dog. We had to use two catch poles on him. He was so terrified that he flipped around, rolling over as if in a crocodile death roll, all the while biting at the poles. This all had to be done in a way that would not terrify the children in thinking we were hurting him when we were HELPING him by catching him. The dog was exhausted and we were covered in mud, water and feces.

As I was taking the dog to the holding kennel, it made me think, where did this dog come from? He obviously wasn't owned by anyone because he was so very scared of humans. Was he a dog that someone just dropped off and left him to fend on his own? Where is their compassion? How long has he been on his own? And

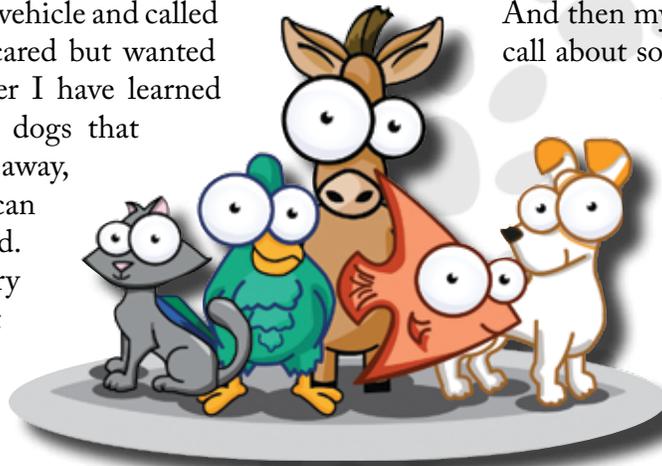
then I became angry; why do people get dogs if they aren't going to take care of them properly? I wonder if they even know that this dog is suffering. Do they care? Do they realize the impact their irresponsibility has on the rest of the community? What if a child was mauled by this dog? What if it was YOUR child?

As you can see, my mind fills with all these questions on a daily basis when I respond to different situations involving dogs and cats in Akwesasne. I do not get answers to these questions, but still I ask them. And then my phone rings, with yet another call about someone's dog that was attacked

in her own yard. The dog that was attacked is the dog of a RESPONSIBLE pet owner. This owner vaccinated, spayed, de-wormed and got her dog the invisible fencing so she wouldn't leave her yard. She registered her dog with the SRMT Animal Control Program and made sure she did everything a responsible pet owner should do. Yet her dog gets attacked by some

irresponsible pet owner's dog. I ask, "How unfair is it that the responsible pet owners have to pay the consequences for irresponsible pet owners?" Once again I don't get answers. I don't dwell on these questions because they will drive me crazy. Besides I don't have time because the phone is ringing again with someone reporting that there are about 15 cats living in an abandoned house and what can be done about it? So, this leads me back to the title of this article; are you a responsible pet owner?

If you need advice on being a responsible pet owner or information on what your pet needs, please contact the Animal Control Program, 358-2272. We have a lot of information available to you, free of charge. ♦



Irresponsible Pet Owner's Make Their Neglected Pets the Community's Problem

Tribe, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 4-H and Schools Collaborate on Mentoring Program

By David Staddon, Editor

This collaboration includes St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties for a tribal youth peer mentoring program. A goal is to identify 60 native youth ages 10-17 who exhibit signs of at-risk behavior. They will be matched with a suitable mentor. The mentor will be a positive role model and alternate support system.

The objectives are: improve academics, social skills, provide opportunities to explore additional interests and direct attention away from drugs and crime. Long-term goals are to decrease high school dropout rates, tribal youth suicide rates and juvenile delinquency. The program seeks to strengthen family bonds through six family outings. Three will be preparing a nutritious meal together, two will be team building and one will be an outdoor activity.

In anticipation in finding suitable mentors, the program will partner with the Akwesasne Intensive Prevention Program (IPP) and the Tribal Youth and Family Services department. The goal is to maintain a 1:2 or 1:3 mentor/mentee ratio.

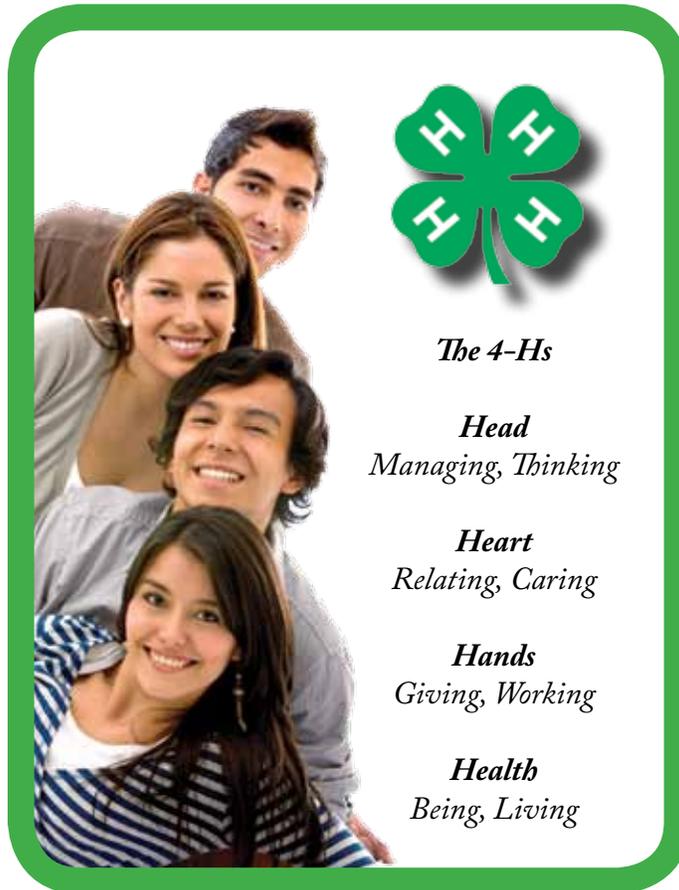
Progress will measure by academic and behavioral records by pre- and post-program involvement. The

program also includes an observational analysis of the participants' interactions with mentors, peers and family. Results will be reported quarterly.

The immediate hire of a site coordinator is essential to the program's success. Program managers will work with the tribe to hire a suitable coordinator with community ties, knowledge of native culture and Akwesasne. The site coordinator will attend the National Grantee Training and Orientation conference. The site coordinator and 4-H program staff will work with the Salmon River Central and Massena Central schools to identify native youth who exhibit risky behaviors.

All program participants will be invited to attend all county-wide 4-H events including, Fun Food & Fitness, Achievement Night, Horse and Dairy Camp,

Shooting Sports, County Fair, 5A Teen Retreat, and 4-H Summer Camp. Six unique family events will be offered exclusively to the native participants of this program. For more information, contact Connie Gerow, 4-H Program Assistant at 518-483-7403 or by email at cjg246@cornell.edu. ♦



The 4-Hs

*Head
Managing, Thinking*

*Heart
Relating, Caring*

*Hands
Giving, Working*

*Health
Being, Living*

Business Feature

Native Connections – Home Detox Center

By Steven B. Cook, Director of Economic Development

The mission of the Native Connections Home Detox Center is to help our cousins' families through the difficult detoxification process and offer a safe place for support and healing to the community to embrace positive life choices.

The Home Detox Center opened November 2011 when Emmy Mitchell responded to the community's plea for help. After the unfortunate deaths of Landon Day and her nephew Resis (Shako) Lazore, Emmy began to work with individuals and their addiction to Oxycontin. Now she dedicates her work to their memory.

Word spread quickly throughout the community. This prompted other community members to ask her to help them and their family members through detoxification. She opened up her home to four more clients or "Cousins" as she refers to them. She quickly found herself with a waiting list. "Those who have completed the program are called 'Cousins,' as they become part of a bigger family who supports the recovery of one another," Mitchell said.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne declared a "State of Crises" in December 2011 due to the number

of individuals with addictions unable to obtain treatment. Obstacles exist for many seeking treatment in surrounding centers with waiting periods of six to eight weeks. Some of our Native people are unable to provide the proper documentation required.



Tsi Tewate'nikohrakwata:ko
Let's mend our mind, body and spirit

"The majority of our Cousins are addicted to Oxycontin", Mitchell stated. "This drug is highly addictive, sometimes after only one pill." We have seen addicts ages 14 to 54." The Detox Center houses four Cousins for seven to 10 days. "Since its opening, 37 Cousins have gone through detoxification and we presently have five more in treatment. Our detox methods are all natural and do not use other drugs or narcotics to detox them," noted Mitchell. The Detox Center is open 24/7 . Staff provides extended services and support to Cousins and family members.

Detox is the first step. They are now looking to open a Safe Haven House to be located in Akwesasne-Hogansburg. It will accommodate eight "Cousins" for a two to four week period while they wait to be admitted into a rehabilitation center. Staff will assist Cousins make their appointments and complete the paperwork



Infrared Sauna Therapy Encourages Detoxification Through Sweat



for a rehabilitation center. Some will go to the local Partridge House while others may go to other centers. A safe house is needed because there are other “Cousins” suffering while waiting to enter the detox facility. For those who have completed detox must seek a safe place while waiting for acceptance into rehabilitation.

The costs of providing the required services are substantial. This includes the Detox Center, Safe Haven House, continuing traditional teachings, ceremonies, talking circles and various forms of treatments. Not only are the “Cousins” provided services, but also their immediate family members.

The Detox Center received support from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and Ganienkeh Mohawk Territory, as well as local and neighboring businesses, organizations and through fund raising efforts.

Wholistic Healing



ENVIRONMENT Medicines



A Sweat Lodge is Available to Detoxify the Body and Mind

Native Connections Detox Center seeks a continuous source of funding so that they may continue to battle the drug epidemic in our community. It is destroying families and creating other social, domestic, legal and other challenges to our community. The waiting list keeps growing as more people realize that help is now available.

When a person with addictions makes a decision to seek help – the community has a moral obligation to help them and their families in their life-saving decision that affects not only the person with addictions, but their children, grandchildren, loved ones, neighbors and the community. To provide financial assistance, please contact:

Native Connections Home Detox Center, 247 School Road, Akwesasne, Quebec HOM 1A1
Telephone: 613-575-2862
Email: nativeconnectionhomedetox@gmail.com ♦





Kids For Fishing

For Youth ages 10 to 17

Saturday, May 12, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
at Fountains Woods Campsite

*Come learn different styles of fishing along with boating safety in
and around the waters of Akwesasne.*

Learn

Boating Safety

How Drugs Affect Akwesasne

Different Species of Fish

Rods & Reels, Lines & Lures

Big Bass Competition for the youth

Sign up early. 20 spots available plus 10 Spots for
youths with Special Needs

This event is brought to you by a combined
effort from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police,
Akwesasne Mohawk Police Services, Lake Fork Trophy
Lures, G-Loomis, Shimano and Venom Lures.

Featuring

Captain Nate Laskiewicz - Host of Lakes Region Fishing
National TV show

Captain P.J. Burns - SRMT Tribal Police and Professional
Fisherman with Pro Bass Canada and Renegade Bass Tour

Norman King - Akwesasne Mohawk Police Services and
professional fisherman with Pro Bass Canada

Renegade Bass Tour Special Guests

T.J. Kennedy: FLW - Bass Tour

To sign-up or for more information, please contact
PJ Burns at 518-521-7278 or email [pjburns33@
yahoo.com](mailto:pjburns33@yahoo.com).



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Akwesasne, NY 13655

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