

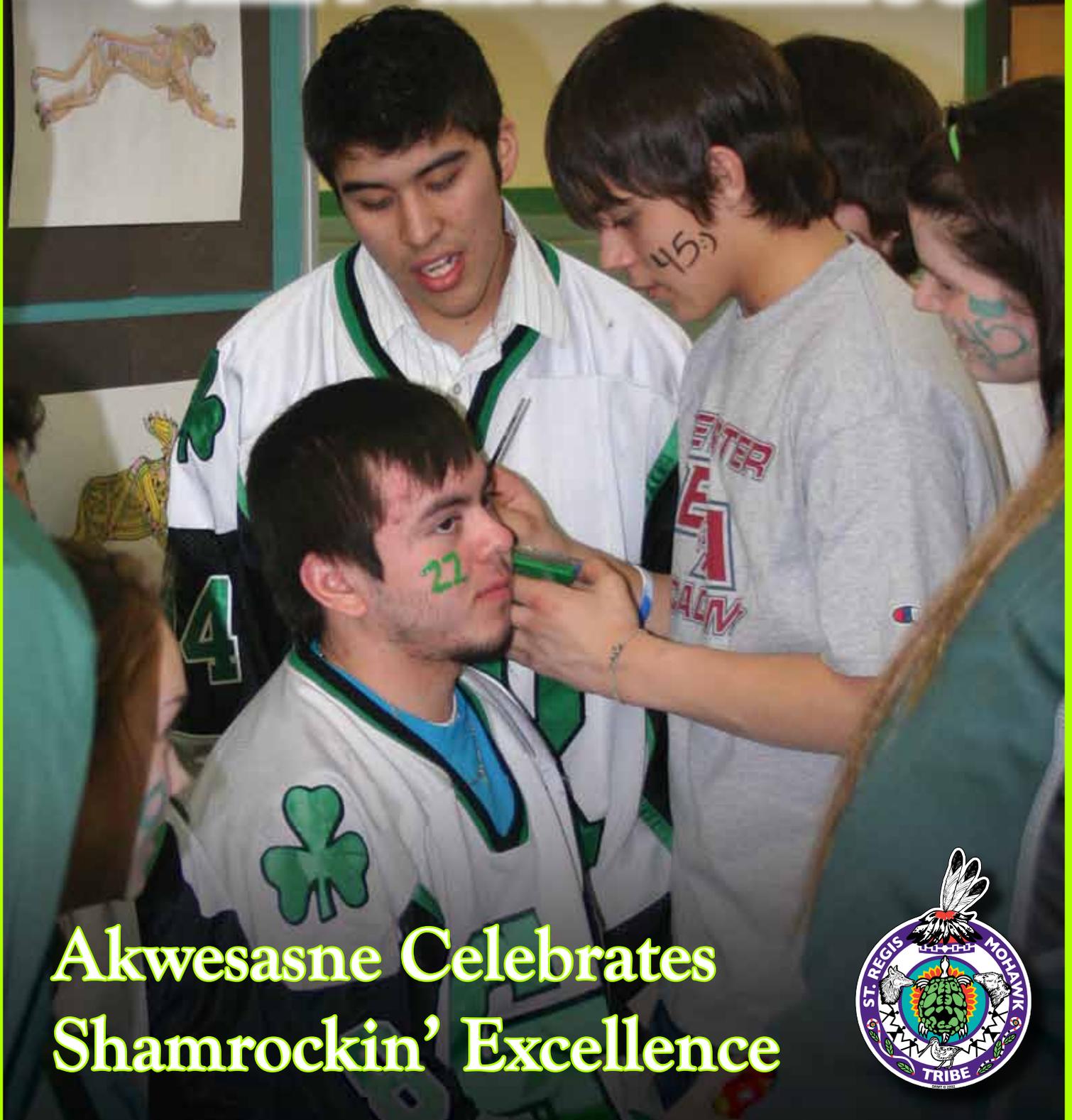
Akwesasne  
Medical Lab

Scholarship  
Recipients

Emerald  
Ash Borer in  
Akwesasne?

Pet Photo  
Contest  
Winners

# SRMT Kawennì:ios



Akwesasne Celebrates  
Shamrockin' Excellence





# Business Feature

## *Akwesasne Medical Lab On-Site Testing*

*By Steven B. Cook,  
Director of Economic Development*

In today's competitive business world, many employers require pre-employment drug testing of potential employees and random drug testing of existing employees as a condition of their employment. Agencies may require drug testing for post accident, reasonable suspicion, return to work, follow-up or conflict of interest. *Akwesasne Medical Lab On-site Testing* is CAN/AM insured, provides a Medical Review Officer's expertise and confidentiality.

Alicia Cook, LPN saw the need for a local on-site testing lab and created her own local business called *Akwesasne Medical Lab On-site Testing* which is a member of the Drug and Alcohol Testing Industry Association (DATIA) and provides professional services by meeting the regulations of the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Chain of Custody procedures.

*Akwesasne Medical Lab On-site Testing* works with the Department of Health and Human Services and CAP/AACC certified toxicology laboratories who aid in

providing high quality laboratory services to medical centers, clinics and companies on a national scale. "We offer hair testing, urinalysis, breathalyzer (RBT IV) testing and DNA testing for paternity, maternity, immigration and forensics," said Alicia.

"We treat each individual with professional services, dignity and respect. Each certified collector is expected to provide strict collection and testing procedures as well as maintain a good working relationship with our clientele and their employees. You can be reassured that all records are confidential," said Alicia.



*Akwesasne Medical Lab On-site Testing* also offers drug testing supplies for business, commercial, employment and institutions. They provide services to the Akwesasne Territory, Franklin County, St. Lawrence County and Cornwall, Ontario.

The SRMT Office of Economic Development congratulates them on a successful opening and welcomes them to our business community. ♦

*For more information, please contact Alicia Cook, LPN at:*

*Akwesasne Medical Lab On-site Testing*

*935 State Route 37, Lot 1, Behind Speedway Plaza*

*Akwesasne Territory, NY 13655*

*518-358-2442 / 315-600-7175, Fax: 800-358-7531*

*Email: [onsitecollector@wildblue.net](mailto:onsitecollector@wildblue.net)*

*Hours of Operation – Mon – Fri 9:00 am-4:00 pm and by appointment*



# Good Words of Welcome



Greetings to all Akwesashrónon,

I'd like to acknowledge the spectacular athletes from our community on a job well done!

Salmon River Boys' Varsity Hockey team won the Section X Division II title, ended their season with an 18-5-1 record and were ranked 5th in the State. Congratulations to Head Coach Tim Cook, Assistant Coach Ted Cook and the boys.

Salmon River Girls' Varsity Basketball team won the Section X Class B title, ended their regular season with an 18-0 record, and achieved their first appearance in the Class B State Playoffs in school history. Head Coach Karen Francis was named Coach of the Year, congratulations to Head Coach Francis, Assistant Coach Jocelyn Kelly and the girls!

In the younger ranks of Akwesasne athletics, both of the St. Lawrence Thunder U12 girls' and boys' hockey teams won their State Championships. The girls' side represented Akwesasne in Anaheim, California playing in the U.S. National Championships, while the boys traveled to their US National Championships in San Jose, California.

The North Franklin Squirt hockey team also had a phenomenal showing this season by being the first

team to advance to the State Championship in 15 years. Congratulations to Coaches Owen Benedict, John Jacobs, Heather Cook and the North Franklin Squirt hockey team!

Last, but not least, congratulations to Coaches Karson Herne, Mark Terrance and the players on the Akwesasne Minor Hockey Pee Wee Team. At the time of publication, they were in the Lower St. Lawrence Division Championship Playoffs following an undefeated season.

Akwesasne talent is not limited to the athletic arena and acknowledgement needs to be given to the scholastic achievements, too. Included in this edition is a list of scholarship recipients of our Akwesasne students who are working hard at furthering their education. Congratulations to all the recipients!

History is in the making here in Akwesasne and it is exciting to see our youth adding to the history books of our community. I apologize if any other teams or organizations have been overlooked, there are so many great things happening in Akwesasne it will keep our archives facility busy trying to keep track of all the treasure rising to the surface.

Keep up the outstanding work Akwesasne!

Sub-Chief Stacy Skidders

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*On the Cover: SRCS Hockey players Evan Thompson, Jacob Swamp and Storm Adams get ready for Parade of Champions*

*SRMT Kawennì: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

David Trout Staddon, Editor  
Aimée Benedict-Debo, Publications Manager  
Kyrie A. Ransom - Administrative Assistant/Photographer

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[www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov)

# Let the Spring Cleaning Begin!



*By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager*

So Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow! How could he, with the blizzard that swept through that day? The good news is spring is on its way: early spring --WooHoo! Oh, wait a minute! That means that all the flowers, trees, leaves and grass will be blooming even earlier. Guess it's time for me to go into hibernation, just kidding. Although he doesn't have that great a record, let's hope he is correct this year.

Spring cleaning to some is a four letter word while to others it is a fresh new start, with the windows now open and everything brighter because the sun is shining. I can almost smell the fresh spring air as I am writing this even though it is only 12°F outside. So now that it has warmed up, go ahead and open those windows and let the fresh air in.

Another good reason to let the fresh air in is if you are using cleaners like Lysol, Pine-sol, Comet, ammonia or bleach because these products have toxic fumes. Sure, some of them can smell good but just because your bleach smells like flowers doesn't mean it isn't toxic. And I always say, if you can smell it you are being exposed to it. Also make sure your children aren't

around it. It is proven that the younger you are the more breaths you take.

Average respiratory rates, by age:

- Newborns: Average 44 breaths per minute
- Infants: 40-60 breaths per minute
- Preschool children: 20-30 breaths per minute
- Older children: 16-25 breaths per minute
- Adults: 12-20 breaths per minute

Something else we have to keep in mind is that fact that we got a lot of snow -- I mean a lot. Kinda like the good ole days. But when this white stuff starts thawing - look out. More moisture means that homes like mine, with a wet basement, will have more problems. The one thing to be sure though is that anything that can hold moisture and grow mold should be removed or moved to higher ground. If it does get wet it needs to be dried out or thrown out.

So for the breaths that we take, let the sunshine and fresh air in for now and for the next seven generations.



# Does Fluffy Have a Boo-Boo?

## April is Pet First Aid Awareness Month

By Jennifer Herne, Animal Control Officer

Do you know what to do in the event your pet needs first aid? Preparing for a medical emergency involving your pet is always best accomplished before the event takes place. Before an emergency strikes, be sure you know how your veterinarian handles emergencies or where you should go if you have a pet emergency. Some veterinarians do not handle emergencies during regular business hours and some do not handle emergencies at all. Some veterinarians have someone on call. You should have the phone number handy once you find out how your veterinarian handles emergencies. You can also stay safely prepared for emergencies by putting together a pet first aid kit. The following are guidelines, the basics you need for giving first aid care to your pet.

**First aid supplies.** Veterinarian's phone number, animal poison control center (888-4ANI-HELP). Put together a pet first aid kit using the following: gauze, nonstick bandages or towels. (do not use human adhesive bandages on pets), digital thermometer ("fever" thermometer, normal thermometers do not go high enough for pets), eye dropper, muzzle (if your pet is vomiting DO NOT muzzle it), a leash (if your pet is capable of walking). If not, you can use a stretcher, board, floor mat or blanket.

**How to handle an injured pet.** Knowing how to comfort an injured pet can help minimize your pet's anxiety and also protect you and your family from injury.

**Basic pet first aid procedures.** There are many courses available online to help you learn pet first aid. Try a Google search for "pet first aid courses."

**“Animals are such agreeable friends – they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms”**



***Always remember that any first aid administered to your pet should be followed by immediate veterinary care. First aid care is NOT a substitute for veterinary care, but it may save your pet's life until it receives veterinary treatment.***

**First aid when traveling with your pet.** A few simple steps can better prepare you to help your pet. Remember, emergencies don't just happen at home.

**Pets and disaster.** Whether it's a hurricane or house fire, you need to be prepared to take care of your animals. Knowing if your local emergency shelter will accept pets in the event of an emergency will help you plan accordingly. Think of developing a pre-determined disaster plan, this will help you remain calm and think clearly.

This information was gathered to get you thinking. It is up to you, the responsible pet owner, to prepare your own emergency plan and pet first aid kit. You can purchase a pet first aid kit from the ASPCA website for about \$50.00. It is also a good idea to keep all of your pet's paperwork, vaccination records or record of any surgeries and pet medication in one place so in the event of an emergency you can grab the information and go quickly. Plan ahead, you will be glad you did.

Some information provided by AVMA and HealthyPet.com. ♦

# Alcoholism / Chemical Dependency Prevention

By Tiffany Leabo, A/CDP Prevention Educator

April is National Alcohol Awareness Month and the focus is on underage drinking. Alcohol is the drug most frequently used by high school seniors and its use is increasing. Boys usually try alcohol for the first time when 11 years old, while the average age for girls' first drink is 13. Underage drinking is a factor in nearly half of all teen automobile crashes and contributes to youth suicides, homicides and fatal injuries. Additionally, alcohol abuse is linked to as many as two-thirds of all sexual assaults and date rapes of teens and college students. It is a major factor in unprotected sex among youth, increasing their risk of contracting HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases.

The issue of underage drinking is a complex problem and can only be solved through a sustained and cooperative effort between parents, schools, community leaders and youth themselves. There are three areas which have proven to be effective in prevention of underage drinking: curtailing the availability of alcohol, consistent enforcement of existing laws and regulations and changing cultural misconceptions and behaviors through education.

Be part of the solution. Talk to youth about the risks of underage drinking. Your words can have an effect -- you can make a difference.

## *Dealing With Problem Gambling*

People who experience problem gambling can find help – regardless of how long they have been gambling or how many financial or legal problems their addiction has caused. The Saint Regis Mohawk Health



Services Alcoholism/ Chemical Dependency Outpatient Program offers confidential services for those who have problems with gambling. One of the first steps is to recognize the warning signs of a problem gambler. They include:

- Gambling for a longer time and/or more money than intended
- Gambling in an effort to try to win back what you've lost
- Lying to loved ones about the amount of time or money spent gambling

It can affect men or women of any age, race or religion, regardless of social status. As more Americans are gambling than ever before, families and communities are finding the importance of being aware of the consequences of problem gambling.

Opportunities to gamble have been more widely available or heavily promoted. Most computer users are just a click away from high-stakes, high-speed and high-risk gambling.

If you think you or someone you know might have a problem, the Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services Alcoholism/ Chemical Dependency Outpatient Program may be able to help. A problem gambler does not need to wait to “hit bottom” before asking for help. And because so many addicted gamblers are in denial, support for the family is offered as well. To learn more or find help call 518-358-3141.

For more information contact the Saint Regis Mohawk Alcoholism/ Chemical Dependency Prevention Program at 518-358-2967. ♦

*“Life is not a game of chance”*



# Tribe vs MCA



*By Kyrie Ransom, PIO  
Administrative Assistant*

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal employees faced off against the employees of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne in the Battle Royale. The Battle Royale is an annual challenge that is part of the Akwesasne Winter Carnival which celebrated 20 years this past February. Twenty-seven employees from each organization registered to compete for their respective employers.

The first set of events kicked off at the same time. They were the broomball game, a puzzling contest with both small and large puzzles and a horseshoe competition with three teams.

The broomball game was played with three periods in windy conditions causing minor disruptions throughout the game. Both sides aggressively battled each other with the SRMT team coming out the winner with a tremendous lead.

The puzzling contest lasted most of the afternoon as team SRMT lost the small puzzle, but blew past MCA on the large puzzle challenge.

The horseshoe tournament had three separate teams – all male, all female and a co-ed team. After a last

minute decision to extend the playing time of the games, team MCA advanced past the SRMT in both the women's and co-ed division. By the end of the first round of events both teams were tied at six points each.

The second part of the Battle Royale began with the Buddy Walker Relay Race. A disqualification for the SRMT team gave MCA the lead for a brief moment. MCA's lead was quickly countered by SRMT domination of the Tug-of-War.

The last event of the day ended up breaking the tie between the two teams, and that event was the Minute-To-Win-It Challenge. The last challenge of the day was to see who could hold a cafeteria tray in one hand, while stacking five bolts on top of it using a pencil. The team that completed this task by three separate people won the game.

Team SRMT gave a strong effort in this last challenge however they did not finish the task in time. The crowd eagerly watched as both sides fumbled through the last challenge, but MCA finished first putting them ahead 10-8. ♦



# Commission Report

## *Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Police Commission*

*By Kyrie Ransom  
PIO Administrative Assistant*

“When I joined the Police Commission I was trying to find a way to give back to my community,” explained Jim McDonald, Chair of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Police Commission. He has served eight years on the commission. The Police Commission is comprised of five community members living in the southern portion of Akwesasne. All are enrolled members and have a clear criminal background check. This commission meets on a monthly basis in order to hear and respond to reports from the Chief of Police concerning the activities of the force and community issues that may have developed.

“If a community member has any problems with policing we don’t want them to be afraid to contact us, we are a neutral third party who handles complaints,” added McDonald. Community members having problems with policing service can file a formal written complaint with the Police Commission who will then



begin an investigation into the incident in a timely manner. “The benefit to the community is that they have another place to turn to in order to address problems in the system.”

There is also a benefit to the Police Officers who serve within the SRMT Detachment. “We try and make at least one session each year to allow officers to bring up issues that they see on the job, as well as make recommendations on how to improve services to the community. This is a great process because all of their input is kept confidential, which allows officers to share without any fear of repercussions,” noted McDonald who has also gone into the field with officers in order to gain a better understanding of what the day to day duties and responsibilities are. The other members on the Police Commission are Glen Lazore, Edith McDonald, Rita Swamp and Diane Connors. ♦

# Immunization Clinic

*By Erin Barnes, Outreach*

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Health Services Outreach program will be holding an immunization clinic to celebrate Infant Care and National Immunization Week on Wednesday, April 20, 2011. It will be held in the lobby of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Health Services building from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

We welcome all expectant moms, new parents and infant caregivers for a fun filled day of education topics

on immunizations, SIDS, breast-feeding, WIC, second and third hand smoke, infant dental health, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and nutrition. Information will also be offered on the Women’s Reproductive Health Study, the Women’s Centering Pregnancy Group and Early Intervention Program. Don’t forget to sign up for door prizes. Any questions, you can call the Outreach Office at 518-358-3141 ext 130. ♦

# Chipping Project for 2011

*By Setanta O'Ceallaigh, Forestry Technician*

It's close to that time of year again, soon the grass will be green, the buds open on trees and the many scattered branches and fallen trees from the inevitable winter weather will need to be cleaned up. Whether it's a pile of small branches, or a wind-thrown tree in the yard, forestry resources will once again have a mobile crew ready to chip this material.

Last year the professional crew had chipped or otherwise cleaned up 60 tons of small branches and downed trees from over 40 individual sites. The piles of wood chips were taken to a collection area to naturally decompose. This avoids discharging particulate matter produced by burning. The material cleaned up had been stored at the transfer station and given away as firewood (from larger pieces) or landscape mulch (from chips) to community members on a first-come first-serve basis (there are still a lot of chips). It is my hope to at least meet this productivity this year, if not exceed it.

The chipping project is a free service to community members. To participate you will need to fill out the permission to enter property and waiver form. Priority will be given to the elderly and disabled, then on a first-come first-serve basis. The form can be picked up at the Environment Division at 449 Frogtown Road. Note that the form will need to be filled out completely, incomplete forms may prevent your site from being chipped.

## *Materials that can be chipped include:*

- Branches that had fallen from trees
- Branches and small stems cut and piled from yard work or land clearing
- Trees that had fallen prior to the crew working on site, such as wind-thrown trees

## *Material that will not be accepted:*

- Branch piles containing wire or other debris/rubbish
- Bulldozed material with rocks and soil mixed in, or roots
- Ornamental pruning will not be done
- Removal of live standing trees
- Material that is in an unsafe location or poses a hazard to the field crew



*Clinton Deon Loading the Chipper*

This chipping project does not include brush clearing as in the Wildlife Urban Interface program.

If you would like to participate in the 2011 chipping project please fill out the permission form. If you have any questions regarding the chipping project or any other forestry activity please contact Setanta O'Ceallaigh at 358-5937 ext 137 or Les Benedict at ext 118. ♦

# How Are We Doing It?

## *Sustaining in Tough Economic Times - Part 3*

*By Laura J. Weber, Solid Waste Program Manager*

I'm continuing my series on sustaining in tough economic times. In the previous two months, I've introduced the definition for sustainability (do you remember what it is?), shared our sustainable model, and gave you an "Action to Sustainability Challenge." How did you do with last month's challenge? Were you able to make some changes with your buying habits that led to more sustainable choices? If yes, congratulations you incorporated the principle of sustainability into your life.

You may remember from last month that our solid waste sustainable model consists of five components. We are going to be taking a closer look at these components in the next five months beginning with the solid waste management code, hereinafter the "Code." A copy of the Code is available at: [http://www.srmtenv.org/pdf\\_files/swcode.pdf](http://www.srmtenv.org/pdf_files/swcode.pdf).

In the mid 90's, the solid waste disposal practices were not in good harmony with Mother Earth. Open dumping and burning was widespread throughout the community. The continuation of these practices would have had an adverse affect on future generations and the land. The Code was developed to protect the health and safety of Tribal members and all other persons within the Mohawk territory, and the environment from the negative impacts associated with the improper disposal of solid wastes.

Major highlights of the Code include:

1. Tribe's Environment Division is the lead department to ensure the proper management of solid wastes;
2. All solid wastes are to be disposed properly at management facilities located off Mohawk lands;
3. Open dumping is prohibited;
4. Burning of solid waste is done in accordance with the open burn regulations established by the Environment Division's Clean Air Program;
5. Haulers must obtain a permit to collect solid wastes and fulfill annual reporting requirements in order to continue providing services to the community; and
6. Any facility used for the management of solid wastes must obtain a permit to operate and be subject to inspections and reporting requirements.

The Code along with the other components of the solid waste sustainable model has been successful in reducing open dumping. A 2009 study conducted by the Environment Division showed that open dumping was reduced by 40% among residents and 25% among businesses since 1995. ♦



### *Action to Sustainability Challenge*

*Are you still using open dumping & burning as a method for disposing of your solid wastes? If so, please educate yourself about the negative impacts associated with these practices by visiting this website: <http://www.srmtenv.org/index.php?spec=srmtswkt>. Review each link provided and especially Kwis & Tio Tip Sheet 7 – Health & Env. Problems Associated with Open Dumping & Burning.*

# Calendar

## *Onerabtókba / April*

- 2nd - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 am - Community Building
- 5th - Friends of the SRMT Animal Control Program - 4:30 pm - Community Building Upstairs Boardroom
- 7th - Burn Permit Applications - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm - Community Building Lobby
- 12th - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 pm - Tribal Clerk's office
- 14th - Brownfields Meeting - 6:00 pm - Community Building Lobby
- 18th - Animal Control Kennel Open House - 3:00 to 5:00 pm
- 20th - Immunization Clinic - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm - Health Services Lobby
- 23rd - Annual Earth Day Celebration / Tree & Seed Giveaway- 9:00 am to 1:00 pm - Wolfclan

# New Faces

Heather Garrow

Azia Hart

Donna Martin

Lori I. White

IHS - Let's Get Healthy

JOM

Administration - Maintenance

Tribal Police

Fitness Specialist

Remedial Tutor

Custodian

Dispatcher

# Giving Back

Funerals - \$ 1,000

# Jobs

**Registered Nurse** - Indian Health Service Medical Clinic

**Fitness Health Promotion Specialist** - Let's Get Healthy - Diabetes Grant

*Current postings and complete job descriptions are available online at: [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov)*

# Urban and Community Forest Inventory

*By Setanta O’Ceallaigh, Forestry Technician*

The SRMT Environment Division Forestry Resources is planning an Urban and Community Forest Inventory Onerahtokha/April 6. We will partner with SUNY’s College of Environmental Science and Forestry ESF Ranger School students. This inventory will collect data on trees close to roads and businesses.

An urban forest is trees and shrubs in towns, cities and villages. Though hard to imagine Akwesasne having an “urban” forest, it does exist. It is the trees along roadways, in yards, around parking lots, or even shrubs. The urban forest is gray infrastructure (buildings, roads) and green infrastructure (trees and other plants).

Trees close to buildings influence heating and cooling by providing shade, wind breaks and heat sinks. U.S. Forestry Service (USFS) studies show larger shade trees can create an ambient reduction of summer air temperatures of two degrees. Trees also improve air quality. As trees grow, they absorb particulate matter and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Trees absorb automobile emissions, gasoline vapors, sulfur and vapors from chemical solvents and reduce concentrations around homes. As a tree grows, it acts as a sink for carbon, removing it from the atmosphere. Trees reduce long-term health concerns, like asthma, by removing particulate matter and VOCs.

Positive aspects of urban trees balance with negative aspects. Yard and street trees can be damaged by storms or nails or clothes lines. Unlike damaged forest trees, an urban tree can fall on a house, a road, a power line, or a playground.

The inventory will record species, size and general

health. These trees are located within sample plots along several roads and yards in Akwesasne. The information will assess the overall health of street trees in Akwesasne. It will determine how trees affect the community, their value to heating and cooling and measure the particulate matter removed from the atmosphere. Inventories will be conducted within properties that have agreed to participate. We request the community’s cooperation and ask for volunteers.

The tree species data is useful to identify common trouble trees. Trees like box alder and quaking aspen are prone to specific problems. Knowing the population of high-risk trees can be used to predict risk. The size of trees will be recorded. This information is useful to determine the potential risk a tree poses. A large tree that falls can cause more damage than a small one.

The general health of trees will be recorded, such as if a tree has a large cavity making it susceptible to breaking, or large dead branches that could fall. Dead trees will be recorded.

This inventory will help anticipate tree health (EAB, gypsy moths, etc.), understand the potential impact and prevention steps to limit forest health problems. The inventory will also be useful to determine the impact of trees in Akwesasne: how trees affect energy use, air quality, storm water runoff and carbon dioxide reduction. The inventory can determine the extent of possible future tree plantings.

If you would like to participate, please contact Setanta O’Ceallaigh, Forestry Technician at 358-5937 ext. 137, or email [setanta.oceallaigh@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:setanta.oceallaigh@srmt-nsn.gov). ♦



*Crew Conducts Urban Inventory*

# The Tribe's Treasures

By Lillian Benedict Barton, Records Management

How important are records to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, or should I say, to the “Community of Akwesasne?” The records and archives department at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe strives to ensure Tribal government accountability to the future, protect the rights of *Kanienkeha:ka* and preserve the past to share with generations to come.

The most important responsibility in this position is to ensure the preservation of all records created in each department governed by the Tribe. History is in the making here at the Tribe and not everyone is aware of it. When the Tribe signs TCR's, acquires a grant, works on major projects like environmental remediation efforts or the broadband initiative or even enrolling a member of the Tribe, we are creating history. If it's important enough to make history and has legal value, protects health, safety, property and rights of community members, then we have to ensure its preservation for our future leaders and community members.

A newsletter written in 1958 by Therodore LaFrance, Tribal Clerk, is one of the many documents in the Tribe's possession, found tucked away in a box; it states, “This will be the second year when our women of this tribe will take part in nominations and to vote for their favorite candidates.” Therodore had no idea how important this would be to us today because it documents when Tribal women became an important

and integral part of tribal elections.

So...what may be lurking in your attics, old trunks and boxes? Take a look before you toss things out because you will be surprised at what you might find. Items your parents or grandparents left behind could have meaning, could answer questions about your life or even have legal standing. If you find things that may have meaning for others, then pass them on and they will be forever grateful.



Information on This Sign Ends in the Late 70s

working on a project called “Tribal Leadership History” in which I will be gathering information relating to the establishment of Tribal Council, the Chiefs, and Sub-Chiefs as well as identify our past Administrators and Tribal Clerks. I believe this information once collected will provide our youngest members with a vivid picture of Tribal Council history and maybe identify some ancestors as well. If you find some important documents, take measures to preserve them or find someone who will because our great-great-great grandchildren will say *Nia:wen:kowa* for the decisions we made today for their history tomorrow. ♦

The records/archives department is always looking for important history of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. If you or someone you know has any information you would like to share, please call me at the Tribe. (Any information can and will be returned if requested). Currently I am

# Spring Clean-up

## *No Spring Clean-up Program This Year*

*By David Staddon, Editor*

The Annual Spring Clean-up, conducted by the Tribe's Solid Waste Program will now be held on a bi-annual basis. This means that the Tribe will **NOT BE CONDUCTING A SPRING CLEAN-UP** this year, spring of 2011. The program is scheduled to resume in April, 2012. Community members are reminded to **NOT** put out unwanted items by the side

of the road this year. Community members can still take their unwanted items to the Solid Waste Transfer station, but will have to pay the standard disposal fee. If anybody has any questions, please contact the Tribal Operations at 358-2272. ♦

# Brownfields

## *Information Session Scheduled*

*By Julia Jacobs,  
Environmental Outreach*

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environment Division has entered into a cooperative agreement with the USEPA for a program called Brownfields. The program is designed to assist the Tribe with developing its Brownfields response capacity with the first priority given to the development of a community-wide Brownfield inventory. We are currently seeking the community's assistance in this process.

The definition of Brownfields is "real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a pollutant or contaminant. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties protects the environment, reduces blight, and takes development pressures off green spaces and working lands."

During the month of March, Brownfields personnel reached out to the community on the CKON Talk Show *Tetewahtabren* and held a meeting at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Senior Center on March 21st, to educate the community on the program and receive any information that would help with building the inventory.

An additional community meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2011, at 6:00 pm in lobby of the Community Building. We hope community members with questions and information on potential sites will join us for the meeting. At meetings regarding Brownfields, community members will be able to learn how to access EPA Brownfields web sites with the assistance of SRMT Brownfields personnel.

Also in April, the Brownfields team will travel to Philadelphia, PA for training at the 2011 Brownfields Conference. The two-day conference will provide information the team will need to successfully complete the inventory!

For more information, please feel free to visit the Environment's website at [srmtenv.org](http://srmtenv.org) or the Environmental Protection Agency's Tribal Brownfield website at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/state_tribal/tribe_progs.htm). [http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/state\\_tribal/tribe\\_progs.htm](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/state_tribal/tribe_progs.htm), [http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/state\\_tribal/pubs.htm#tri](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/state_tribal/pubs.htm#tri).

If you have any questions regarding Brownfields and would like to speak with someone, please contact Julia or Jessica at the Environment Division 518-358-5937. ♦

# Tribal Monthly Meeting

1. Introductions:
  - Welcome
  - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
2. Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Expansion
3. Sub-Chiefs Directive
4. Fishing Regulations for Non-Natives
5. Ethics Ordinance - Alison Benedict
6. New Business
7. Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
8. Adjournment

*Enniskó:wa / March 5, 2011*  
*Chaired by Chief Randy Hart*

## ***Action Items from March meeting:***

- Hold a special meeting on the proposed casino expansion on Saturday, March 12, 2011 at the Community Building at 10 a.m. Have Casino and Bingo Palace financial statements available that include a breakdown on expenditures not just balances. Also, include accounting for the \$70 million dollar loan from the previous casino expansion.
- Meet with New York State to update regulations on the qualifications for a gaming license. Specifically look at reducing the number of years one has to wait after a felony conviction.
- Chief Hart to look into the demolition work of the former General Motors Plant to see if they are hiring on union workers.
- Minnie Garrow requested that Ken Kappliemier have a special meeting to present his information on land claims and taxation.
- Have copies of the current Tribal Council oaths available as handouts at the next Tribal meeting.

## ***Follow-up from February Action Items:***

1. Have the Police Commission meet with Mark Light to resolve his issue.

*Follow-up:* The Chairman of the Police Commission spoke with Mr. Light after the Tribal meeting. The Police Commission is preparing a letter to Mr. Light addressing the issue.

2. Provide a history of the common lands.

*Follow-up:* Research is begin conducted in the common lands and the information will be presented when the research is complete.

3. Council reach out to the former Mohawk Anti-Tax Steering Committee to hold a community meeting.

*Follow-up:* Currently, research about the Mohawk Anti-Tax Steering Committee is being done to gather information on the committee and to determine what the original mandate of the committee was for.

4. Provide information finance statement on the restricted Fund.

*Follow-up:* A financial statement will be available as a handout at the March 5, 2011 meeting.

## ***Motions from the Floor:***

- The Tribe fund Let's Get Healthy gym memberships. Moved by Ron Lafrance and seconded by Minnie Garrow. Vote: Yes-10, No-9, Abstain-9.

*Follow-up:* The Director of the Let's Get Healthy Program is currently compiling statistics to put together a proposal on gym memberships.

- The Tribe to allow the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne to have one-acre of common land to expand their health facility parking lot. Moved by Gary Cole and seconded by Patrick Phillips. Vote: Yes-26, No-8, Abstain-4.

*Follow-up:* Tribal Council is preparing information on the common land to present to Tribal members regarding this request. ♦

# Annual Scholarship Awards

*By Rod Cook, Director of Higher Education*

This past November the tribe received word that we were to again receive a financial gift from an anonymous donor who has given awards to the Higher Education Department in the previous two years. This is the third year that enrolled Mohawk higher education students were recipients of this generous donation. The first year was an \$18,000 gift, the second year was \$35,000 gift and this year it was \$42,000. The good words were put out via the tribe's monthly newsletter, *Kawenni:ios*.

The awards were given to selected college students based on a written essay, explaining their goals, aspirations and financial needs as a college student. Each essay was reviewed by a committee of three readers, Jamie Bay, David Staddon and Rod Cook and scored accordingly.

The first year we gave six awards from sixty essays. The second year, we gave twelve awards from eighteen essays and this year, we selected fourteen from twenty-two essays. Both undergraduate and graduate students received awards.



*Julie White*

Julie is working on her Master's degree in Mental Health Counseling at Saint Lawrence University and hopes to complete it in the spring of 2012. She is the daughter of Mike and Charlene Thomas.



*Lindsay Tarbell*

Lindsay is working on her Master of Business Administration at Clarkson University.



*Ashley Nicole Phillips*

Ashley is working on her degree in Nursing at North Country Community College.



*Tewentahawih'tha' Cole*

Tewentahawih'tha' is near completion of her degree in Community Health at SUNY Potsdam.



*Savannah Thompson*

Savannah is majoring in Exercise and Sports Science at the University of North Carolina.



*Vanessa Cooke*

Vanessa is working on her degree in Business Administration at SUNY Plattsburgh. She is the daughter of Adrian Cooke and granddaughter of John Cook.



*April Seymour*

April is pursuing her bachelor's degree in Communications at SUNY Potsdam.



*Dylan Herne*

Dylan is working his bachelor's degree in Geology at SUNY Potsdam. He is the son of Thomas and Retha Herne.



*Hannah LaFrance*

Hannah is enrolled at the University of Ottawa in the Nursing program. She is the daughter of Bill and Hilary LaFrance.



*SueAnn Swamp*

SueAnn is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Psychology at the University of Ottawa. She is the daughter of Ronnie and JoAnn Swamp.



*Nicole Hayes*

Nicole is working on her Master's degree in Clinical Social Work at Boston College. She is the daughter of Timothy and Rachelle Hayes.



*Keena-Marie Herne*

Keena-Marie is pursuing her master's degree in School Psychology at the SUNY Oswego. She is the daughter of Belson and Theresia Herne.



*Ciera Jacobs*

Ciera is in her senior year, majoring in Community Health at SUNY Potsdam. She is the daughter of Cynthia Cook and Alex Jacobs.



*Heather Garrow*

Heather is majoring in Community Health at SUNY Potsdam. She is the daughter of Holly Loran and Terry Garrow. ♦

# Caseworker to Combat Sexual Assault

*By Amie Barnes, Sexual Assault Caseworker*

While violence against women is not our tradition, Native women are victimized at rates higher than any other population in the United States. It is estimated that in their lifetime one of three Native women will be raped and six of ten will be physically assaulted. If these statistics were true for any other population of women in the United States, it would be considered a national crisis requiring immediate attention. Here in Akwesasne the reported rape cases are:

- 2009 - 7 cases
- 2010 - 14 cases
- 2011- 4 reported cases as of February 11

So an increase in the number of reported cases has occurred. There is still the fact that 60% of rapes/sexual

assaults are not reported to the police, according to a statistical average of the past five years. Those rapists, of course, tend to never spend a day in prison. Factoring in unreported rapes, only about six percent of rapists ever serve a day in jail.

There is a newly formed position to help alleviate the stress of this trauma here in Akwesasne: the Sexual Assault Caseworker. She is here to help victims of sexual assault and bring awareness and education to the community.

Amie Barnes, Sexual Assault Caseworker  
*Always Here for You*  
STOP Domestic Violence  
412 State Route 37  
Akwesasne, NY 13655  
518-358-4406 ♦

If a rape is reported, there is a 50.8% chance of an arrest

If an arrest is made, there is an 80% chance of prosecution

If there is a prosecution, there is a 58% chance of a conviction

If there is a felony conviction, there is a 69% chance the convict will spend time in jail

So even in the 39% of attacks that are reported to the police, there is only a 16.3% chance the rapist will end up in prison

Factoring in unreported rapes, only about 6% of rapists will spend a day in jail

15 out of 16 walk free

# Pollution Produces Giant Emerald Ash Borers

*By Loof Lirpa*

An infestation of emerald ash borers apparently found their home in the toxic pollution from an unnamed local automotive plant. Marrying and interbreeding with their first cousins for too many generations appears to have caused a genetic mutation in the pesky bug. “This is now a huge, powerful beetle,” exclaimed Ken Jock, Director of the Tribe’s Environment Division. “We hope that they don’t acquire a taste for humans, or we’ll be in big trouble.”

Signs of the beetle were first discovered with extensive tree damage (see image). Since the beetles are now about the size of alligators, community members are advised to keep pets indoors, just to be on the safe side. Jennifer Herne, Tribal Animal Control Officer, foresees no problems with the beetle. “They are delicious! When we expand the kennel, we’ll also build a holding pen for the giant beetles, slice ‘em up and sell them to local restaurants for

appetizers. Maybe we can make some money for the tribe!” She denied charges that unclaimed pets would be used to feed the beetles.

Tribal Chief Mark Garrow sees opportunity. “Hey, I’ve got a bunch of brush that needs to be cleared on my back property. I plan on renting a couple of these beetles, turning them loose and saving some money instead of buying a new brush-hog.”

Some community members have expressed their concerns about the giant beetles. “We plan on appointing a special commission to investigate the mutant beetles,” declared Tribal Chief Randy Hart. “We will also be addressing this important issue at our next monthly tribal meeting.”

“Ever since we captured Sasquatch two years ago, I’m still waiting for somebody to capture some of those cute leprechauns,” groaned Tribal Chief Monica Jacobs. “Looks like we’ll have to hire Mr. T to help us out!”

APRIL FOOL!!!! ♦



*WOW!*



*Giant Beetle No Challenge for Environment Division*

# Centering Pregnancy Celebrates Its First Year

*By Randi Rourke Barreiro*

Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services celebrated an important milestone on Feb. 10, 2011. That day marked the first birthday of its new model of prenatal care, Centering Pregnancy. Like new parents, the staff involved with Centering couldn't be more proud. "We took on a monumental challenge in shifting the 'old' model, and we're succeeding," said Debra Martin, Health Director at SRMHS. "We want to celebrate that."

Beverly Cook, Family Nurse Practitioner, with the support of clinic staff and providers, spearheaded the effort to shift prenatal care from a one-on-one, doctor-patient model to a more supportive group approach. "Sharing experience, information and support around a circle of peers is what we've always done as women," said Cook. "It works."

A national model for group health care, Centering creates a safe and confidential circle in which moms-to-be share information and support each other throughout their pregnancies and after. This is important, Cook said, because women who have support and are knowledgeable about the birth process report a more rewarding experience.



*Centered Moms Introduce Their Newborns to the Group*



*These Baby Boys Attended Group with their Moms*

Grouped by delivery dates, the moms participate in self-care and individual physical assessments, and facilitated discussions led by an obstetrician or certified nurse midwife. "I looked forward to my group," said Tsiawente Jackson, who had her first baby, Charlie, in May. "I knew I could find answers, and the other women helped me know what to expect. Plus, it was fun."

The camaraderie is important, Cook points out, "Centering Pregnancy is helping to rebuild the supportive connections between women in our community."

She sees those connections as critical to overall community health and well-being.

Sharon Rising, president and CEO of Centering Healthcare Institute, led the training that prepared the clinic to realize its goal of improving its prenatal care.

She's thrilled by the success at Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services. "I'm so impressed with the clinic, the personnel, and the positive energy that has been there from the beginning," said Rising. "This site is sure to become a model and a resource for others in Indian Country." More than 30 women in seven different groups became "Centered Moms" during the program's first year. ♦

# Pet Photo Contest Winners

*By Kyrie Ransom, PIO Administrative Assistant*

The 2011 Akwesasne Winter Carnival Pet Photo Contest received 150 photo submissions. Over the course of four days of voting in-person and on Facebook the contest received 4,607 votes!

All winners received a \$20 gift certificate to Pet Valu, a gift certificate or products from the category sponsors, and pet supplies related to each category.

The 'Favorite Caption' award was selected by a member of the organizing committee and the winner received products from the company Ohonte Akwesasne.

*Nia:wen* for everyone who participated in the contest and keep an eye out for next year's contest!

Here are the winners for each category:



*Look! I can touch my nose with my tongue*

Category: I'm So Ugly I'm Cute  
Submitted by: Alvena Delormier  
Pet: Buddy (Pug)  
Sponsor: Shannoncourt Dog Grooming



*How come I can't get through this cat door?*

Category: Ready-Set-Action!  
Submitted by: Nola Benedict  
Pet: Lady (Dog)  
Sponsor: Akwesasne Sports



*Cuddle with someone your own size*

Category: Cutest Couple  
Submitted by: Myranda Carr  
Pet: Bebe & Shnagums (Cat & Ferret)  
Sponsor: Floral Gallery



*My mom buys my clothes at garage sales...but I must say that pink is my color...*

Category: Favorite Caption  
Submitted by: Reen Cook  
Pet: Cleo (Maltee-poo)  
Sponsor: Ohonte Akwesasne



*Just TRY and say something about my team, I dare you!*

Category: Best Dressed  
Submitted by: Lynn & Kuy Chaussi  
Pet: Sammy (Chocolate Lab)  
Sponsor: First Class Seconds



*My Little Pony*

Category: Me and My Pet  
Submitted by: Karenhatironhtha Johnson  
Pet: Phoenix (Gypsy Vanner Horse)  
Sponsor: Shannoncourt Dog Training ♦

# Who is the Farm Service Agency?

*By Jennifer Bosley*

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) traces its beginnings to 1933, in the depths of the Great Depression. Agency names and programs have changed over time, but the overall goals remain the same: supporting productive farms and ranches, supporting secure and affordable fiber, conserving natural resources and enhancing the environment. FSA's mission is to serve all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners equitably through effective and efficient agricultural programs.

FSA administers and manages farm commodity, conservation, disaster assistance and loan programs through a network of over 2300 county offices nation-wide. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of agriculture. In New York State, FSA delivered nearly \$203 million dollars in loans and program assistance for the 2010 Fiscal Year. Excluding farm loans and commodity loans, Franklin County FSA issued nearly \$2.1 million dollars to agricultural producers in the county last year.

FSA continues to provide America's farmers with a strong safety net through the administration of farm commodity programs. FSA also implements various disaster programs including the Non-insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP). NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. FSA's long-standing tradition of conserving the nation's natural resources continues



## *Mission:*

*Farm Service Agency is equitably serving all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans*

through the Conservation Reserve Program. Energy programs include the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) which provides financial assistance to owners and operators of agricultural and non-industrial private forest land who wish to establish, produce and deliver biomass feed-stocks.

The agency provides credit to agricultural producers who are unable to receive private, commercial credit. FSA's loan programs are designed to help family farmers obtain loans and loan guarantees, and conduct business planning. Farm Ownership loans can be used to purchase a farm, enlarge an existing farm, construct new farm buildings and/or improve structures. Operating loan funds may be used for normal operating expenses, machinery and equipment, repairs and refinancing debt. FSA places special emphasis on providing loans to beginning, minority and women farmers and ranchers.

More information about FSA programs is available online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). Or you can contact your local FSA office at 518-483-2850, extension 2 or visit us at 151 Finney Boulevard, Malone. ♦

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

# Celebrating Akwesashró:non

## *Salmon River Central School Parade of Champions*



*By Kyrie Ransom, PIO Administrative Assistant*

The excitement in the air was almost a tangible entity as student at the Salmon River Central School geared up for a momentous weekend in varsity athletics.

The Varsity Boys Hockey team carried a season record of 18-4-1 as they beat out the St. Lawrence Larries to take the Section X Division II title in the 2010/2011 season. With this win the Varsity Boys Hockey team advanced to the NY State Championship quarterfinals.

The Varsity Girls Basketball team also held an outstanding regular season with an undefeated record

of 18-0. Their win against the Potsdam Sandstoners gave the team the Section X Class B title advancing them to the NY State playoffs.

In honor of their achievements in athletics this season both teams participated in the 'Parade of Champions' in the elementary wing of the school. All classes in Grades K-6 joined in on the rally to show support for their role models.

*Congratulations athletes on a spectacular season of accomplishments! ♦*



*Section X Class B Champions*



*Section X Division II Champions*

# Celebrate Earth Day

*By Julia Jacobs and Craig Arquette*

**P**lant *It for the Planet* is the theme for the Annual Earth Day Celebration and ATFE Seed and Tree Give Away which will take place April/Onerahtokha 23, 2011 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. It is being held at the Wolf Clan Banquet Hall on Route 37.

This event is sponsored by the Saint Regis Mohawk Environment Division and will have numerous tables with a variety of information regarding different aspects of the environment and green products. Once again Ken Parker, owner of Sweet Grass Gardens has confirmed that he will do two

presentations on Saturday. Ken did a great job last year entertaining the audience while providing pertinent information on green gardening.

A variety of vegetable seeds and trees will be given away to Akwesasne community members free! For a list of vegetable seeds or trees to be given away, please contact Craig Arquette @ 518-358-5937 or Margaret George @ 613-936-1548.

Look for our posters in the coming weeks for Earth Day and Seed and Tree give away on April 23, 2011. ♦



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

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