

Featured Programs

Women's
Research
Project

Mental
Health

Senior's
Services

Tribal Historic
Preservation

Kawennì:ios



Tribe Supports Kateri Conference



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Supports Tekakwitha Conference

Catholic Pope to Canonize Kateri Tekakwitha

Press Release

On Tuesday April 10, 2012, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council presented the Tekakwitha Conference committee with a check for \$25,000 to support the 73rd Annual Tekakwitha Conference. This year's conference will be held in Albany, New York July 18 to 22, 2012. Native American Catholics and traditional Native Americans have been traveling to different parts of the US and Canada for years to attend this conference. Catholic Church leaders, Indian clergy and missionaries also take part in the conference. The conference planning committee raised nearly \$30,000 for the event. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne have each contributed \$25,000.

Conference organizers expect over 1,000 people to attend from the United States and Canada which will be held at the Holiday Inn near the Albany Airport. The conference opens with a grand entry of various Indian Nations from Canada and the U.S. Each parish and Kateri Praying Circle is named and acknowledged as the delegates pass the main stage. The entrance is made to the beat of traditional drums of various Indian nations. Local political officials give a major welcome ceremony. The opening ceremony

is finished with prayers, meals and the meeting of old friends from many nations. Other conference activities include sun rise prayer services, daily masses, Mohawk children putting on plays about Kateri Tekakwitha's life and numerous health services asking for Kateri's help for cures. The event will also feature a pow-wow.



The cost of the conference will exceed \$70,000 which will go to tent and table rentals, transportation, meals and insurance. Transportation is a major item for travel from hotels to the Fonda Shrine, and to the Auriesville Shrine. These outings will feature large prayer services and meals after which attendees will return to their hotels in Albany.

Kateri Tekakwitha, of the Mohawk Tribe, is the first and only Native person to be considered by the Catholic Church for sainthood. She was baptized at age 20, but died when she was 24. Pope John Paul beatified her in June 1980 and the next step is canonization which the Pope has pledged to do later this year. Nationally and internationally, many prayer groups and Tekakwitha cause groups have pledged their time and resources to support path to Kateri Tekakwitha's sainthood. Later this year, many groups are scheduled to go to Rome Italy to have an audience with the Pope and to witness the canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha. ♦

On the Cover: Chief Randy Hart and Sub-Chief Stacy Skidders present a check for \$25,000 to Kateri Conference Organizers Vicki Phillips, Terry Steele, Debbie Thomas, Bernice Lazore and Alma Ransom.

Tribal Member Receives Diamond Jubilee Award

Peter Garrow Recognized for Educational Achievements

Press Release

On Tuesday April 17, 2012, Canadian Senator Pierre DeBané presented Peter Garrow with the Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of Garrow's achievements in Native Education. The citation read, "By Command of Her Majesty the Queen, the Diamond Jubilee Medal is presented to you in commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession to the Throne and in recognition of your contributions to Canada."

Peter Garrow continues to be a strong advocate for the rights of First Nations people, their concept of life long learning and promoter of our people's contributions to society and the world. Peter is a member of the Mohawks of Akwesasne, Bear Clan. He was the Director of Education, Jurisdiction, Governance and Languages for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) for the past six years. Prior to this Peter was

the Director of Education for the Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) for eight years. He has held senior executive positions within the Federal government in Ottawa and the Atlantic Region. His last official Federal position was the Federal representative for the relocation of the Mushuau Innu of Davis Inlet, Labrador.

"I am proud to receive this distinction" remarked Garrow, "And I share it with

all First Nations educations who continue the challenge of life-long learning for all students." Garrow received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and History from Mount Allison University in New Brunswick. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1964 to 1967. He currently serves as the Ethics Officer for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.

Read the full press release at www.srmt-nsn.gov. ♦



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Program Feature

Women's Reproductive Research Project

By Tewentahawih'tha' Cole, Research Grant Coordinator

Project Description

The Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services, in collaboration with the University of Albany, has been conducting a research project examining the impact of environmental pollutants, such as PCBs and lead and their effect on the reproductive health of Akwesasne Mohawk Women.

Project Purposes

The Akwesasne Women's Reproductive Research Project is gathering data to identify possible routes of PCB and lead exposure within the community and to examine the relationship between reproductive health and exposure to environmental contaminants.

History

Dr. Lawrence Schell, Dr. David Carpenter and Dr. Mia Gallo have worked with the community of Akwesasne for over 10 years and had success in completing the following research projects, leading to the development of this research project. Past research projects in Akwesasne include: PCBs and the Well Being of Mohawk Children and Youth: Growth, Development and Cognitive/Behavioral Functioning and Mohawk Culture, Behavior, Toxicant Exposure and Health. Published reports of these past study results are available. Please call for a copy: Larry Schell (SUNY) 518-442-4714, Mia Gallo (SUNY) 518-442-4720 and Beverly Cook (SRMHS) 518-358-3141.

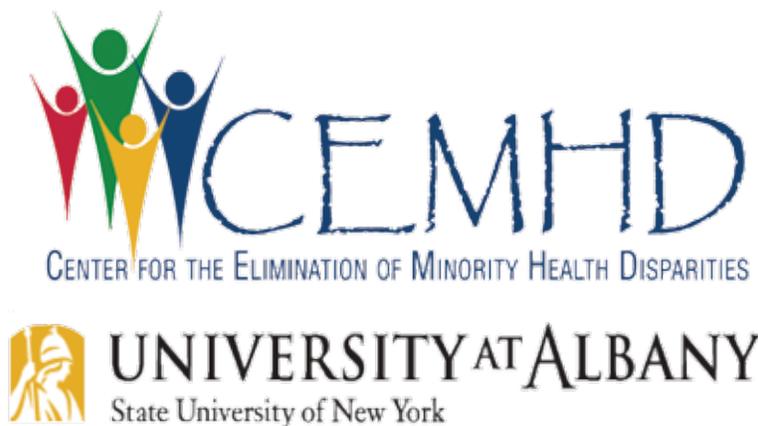
Who is eligible?

Young adult women who are:

1. between the ages of 21-38 years
2. not pregnant or currently nursing an infant, (if you are pregnant, you can become eligible six months after delivery, if you are breastfeeding, you can become eligible six months after you stop)
3. a patient at one of these clinics: the Kanatakon Clinic, Kawehnoke Clinic, or the Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services
4. not currently taking any form of thyroid medication
5. not currently taking any form of hormonal contraceptives (ex: pills, patch, Mirena IUD, etc... If you are taking birth control, you may become eligible 30-60 days after you stop taking it.)

What does the study require from each participant?

1. an interview that takes about an hour
2. collect daily saliva, first thing in the morning, for the length of one menstrual cycle (about 28 days)
3. collect saliva and record basal temperature every morning, which takes about five to 10 minutes to complete



4. day three of the menstrual cycle will include a fasting blood draw

What's in it for you?

As a big *niawenko:wa* for your participation, you will receive a total of \$180 once all requirements for this study are completed. You will receive the results of your levels of pollutants and your thyroid function. A copy will be placed in your medical file.

Please keep in mind that all individual data collected are strictly confidential and will not be shared with any person or agency, with the exception of the ordering clinician at SRMHS, without your written approval.

Who to Contact

The Akwesasne Women's Reproductive Research Project office is located at the Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services here in Akwesasne. Anyone with questions about the project or women who are interested in participating may contact:



Louise Ingle
Data Collector
Phone: (518) 358-3141 ext. 142
Cell: (518) 651-9931
Email: lingle@regis.nashville.ihs.gov

Tewentahawih'tha' Cole
Research Grant Coordinator
Phone: (518) 358-3141 ext. 245
Cell: (518) 651-9931
Email: tcole@regis.nashville.ihs.gov ♦

Program Feature

Social Services - Respite Care

By Stephanie Cook, Home Finder Caseworker

The Department of Social Services works very diligently in providing and recruiting safe and nurturing homes for the children that come in to our care. We appreciate the willingness of our foster families to open not only their homes, but their hearts to the children in care in our community.

We strive to provide our foster parents with training and support that will increase their knowledge and help them become resourceful caregivers for the children placed in their care.

Our current families who provide foster care are extraordinary individuals! It is not an easy undertaking when a family decides to provide foster care. The challenges are great, but the rewards are remarkable!

Children in care could be placed in a foster home for an extended period of time or for a short while. Either way, they become a significant part of the family in which they live and grow.

Our Certified/Approved Foster Families make an immeasurable difference in the lives of the children in

care. We say Niawen:kowa for all that they do for us and for the future of our community.

Are you wondering how you can help? Become a respite provider with our agency. Respite is a form of care in which the foster parent(s) request a break for a period of time. Sometimes it is for a few hours, the day or for a week.



May is National Foster Care Month, so be on the lookout for events that we will be having throughout the month!

So, if you have thought about foster care, respite care might be a way in which to explore that possibility! It would allow you the flexibility to provide care at your convenience. Re-imbursement is available for your time. More importantly, you will be helping to provide a foster parent an opportunity to spend some one-on-one time with their family, attend appointments or tend to family emergencies that may arise.

For more information on becoming a respite provider with our agency, please contact Stephanie Cook, Home Finder Caseworker at 518.358.4516. You can make a difference in helping to strengthen the next seven generations. ♦

Buy Organic! Foods High in Pesticides

By Julia Jacobs, Environmental Outreach Coordinator

As promised, here is the list of produce that are high in pesticides from the Environmental Working Group's (EWG) Shopper's Guide to Pesticides in Produce. The website to view all the produce is: www.ewg.org/foodnews/summary.

This site is produced by Environmental Working Group from Washington, D.C. to help consumers shop safely when buying groceries.

For produce that is high in pesticides, consumers should most likely buy the organic brands. The following list (not in any particular order) are those that are high in pesticides:

- apples
- celery
- strawberries
- peaches
- spinach
- nectarines
- sweet bell peppers
- potatoes
- blueberries
- lettuce
- collard greens

Any questions? Please contact Julia Jacobs, Environmental Outreach at 518-358-5937. ♦



Program Feature

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

By Arnold Printup, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Mission Statement: *We strive to preserve the historic and cultural heritage of the Akwesasne Mohawk people for the seven generations that will follow in our footsteps.*

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) goal is to protect and maintain Mohawk cultural resources. The THPO is committed to the preservation and continuation of cultural knowledge in all regards: origins, histories, stories, land areas, waterways and their uses; traditions, values and beliefs; language, song and dance, mental, physical and spiritual well-being; the cultural uses of animal life, marine life and plant life, and all other aspects of Mohawk identity.

Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO) have the responsibilities of State Historic Preservation Officers, but on tribal lands. They advise federal agencies on the management of tribal historic properties. T.H.P.O.'s preserve and rejuvenate the unique cultural traditions and practices of tribal communities.

The THPO is authorized under Section 101(d)(2) of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. Some duties of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office are:

- Direct and conduct a reservation-wide survey and maintain an inventory of historic and culturally significant properties.
- Identify and nominate eligible properties to the National Register and administer applications for listing historic properties on the National Register.
 - Develop and implement a reservation-wide historic preservation plan covering historic, archaeological and traditional cultural properties.
 - Advise and assist federal and state agencies and local governments in carrying out their historic preservation responsibilities.
 - Cooperate with the Secretary, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and other federal agencies, state agencies, local governments, organizations and individuals to ensure that historic properties considered at all levels of planning and development.
 - Provide public information, education, training and technical assistance in historic preservation.
- Consult with the appropriate federal agencies in accordance with Section 106 of the Act on:



1) federal undertakings that may affect historic and culturally significant properties within the boundaries of the reservation and, 2) the content and sufficiency of any plans to protect, manage, or to reduce or mitigate harm to such properties.

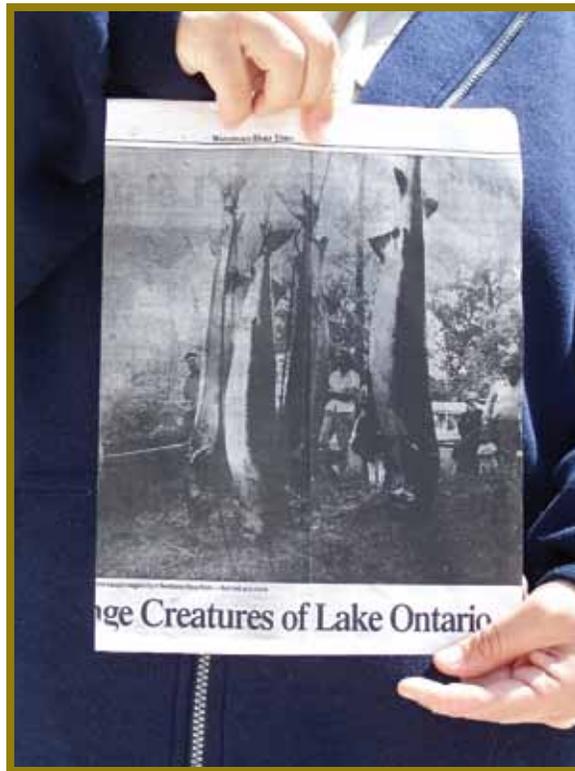
- Create and maintain repositories for archaeological records, historic building records and cultural resource reports.
- Work closely with military installations in their respective areas in preserving sacred areas on lands now occupied by the Department of the Defense.

The Saint Regis Mohawk T.H.P.O. provides a variety of services. Below are some examples of those services:

- Work to help Federal agencies comply with the National Historic Preservation Act and other federal laws for needed services to tribal communities on large projects, such as a new community water source, landfill planning, highway repaving and small projects, such as individual home site development.
- Be involved in the planning and compliance needed for road, school, housing and economic development construction.
- Provide technical assistance essential to Native language conservation and rejuvenation.
- Provide an important cultural service for their tribal communities through oversight for repatriation per Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and related matters. For example, almost all T.H.P.O.'s implement NAGPRA at the local tribal level.



Ancient Artifacts



Tribal historic preservation plans have emphasized the importance of the oral tradition, and consulting Tribal elders and spiritual leaders with special knowledge of the Tribe's traditions. The plans also give emphasis to the importance of protecting "traditional cultural properties," places that are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places because of their association with cultural practices and beliefs that are: 1) rooted in the history of the community and 2) are important to maintaining the continuity of that community's traditional beliefs and practices.

Incorporating Tribal cultural values into the historic preservation program has been consistently cited as a priority. Finally, the need for assuming the responsibility for reviewing Federal undertakings that may affect historical properties and the importance of archaeological survey work is essential. Tribal Historic Preservation Officers advise Federal agencies on the

management of Tribal historic properties and strive to preserve their Tribes' cultural heritage and preservation programs. ♦



From the Office of Tribal Council

IGA Closure:

Businesses aren't always profitable enough to remain open and that was the case with the First American's IGA.

In April of 2008, the Tribe established the First American Food Store, LLC (the "LLC") to own and operate the IGA grocery store located on the Tribe's land in Akwesasne and to engage in economic development activities. After years of struggling to make the business viable, the LLC Board of Managers decided to close down operations. The decision to do so was tremendously difficult, but we've come to the realization that it's been put off for far too long. Over the past five years and without the revenue to pay overhead costs; the IGA became dependent on the Tribal General Fund to the tune of \$628,762. At a special meeting of the LLC, the Board of Managers had to make the tough decision that nobody wanted to make.

We kept the store open as long as we could, but with the continued drop in customer counts and the average sale per customer on a decline, the LLC Board could not, in good conscience, recommend to keep the operation open as there was no indication that the IGA would turn around and be viable. We had to take the recommendation from the LLC and close the doors.

The story of the IGA highlights the small businesses in Akwesasne, the willingness to experiment and try new things, but in this case, we were unsuccessful. Nevertheless, as we move forward, we are meeting with the community to talk about what we learned along the

way with the sincere hope of teaching what lessons we can to the next round of entrepreneurs. Tribal Council looks to form a committee of community members to look at alternate uses for the building and as more information becomes available, we will forward that to the community through our various resources.

On behalf of everyone on Tribal Council, thanks to everyone who supported our efforts. In closing, we would like to acknowledge and thank our great staff for their tireless commitment and continued efforts to help the store succeed. In the end, it was their labor and individual dedication to their team that kept the IGA open for as long as it was. *Niawenkowa.*



Trip Report:

April 1-4, Sub-Chiefs Shelley Jacobs and Michael Conners attended the National Indian Gaming Association Annual Conference and Trade show in Sand Diego, California. It was an educational as well as a networking opportunity; a chance to see numerous vendors from almost any aspect of the gaming industry, and attend numerous workshops covering every department we have in operation here and more.

Collectively, we attended workshops on topics including Succession Planning for Tribal members, IRS Tip Compliance, Taxation of Tribal Member Benefits provided by the Tribe, Gaming Management, Gaming Leadership Development, Trends in Class III Tribal/State Gaming Compacts, Tribal Construction Contracts, and Effective Inter-Departmental Communication. ♦

Program Feature

Home Improvement Supplement

By Rod Garrow, Program Manager

The HIP program is funded through the Tribal General Fund (TGF). They are currently finishing up the 2011 projects and will begin 2012 soon. This year applications will be accepted for the 2013 construction season starting in June. Applicants are selected according to a point system created by the Tribe. The old BIA HIP guideline served as the basis for an improved income guideline. This has enabled us to help more people. Seniors have priority because they get more points, based on age. Application for assistance does not guarantee selection. Emergency applications can be made at any time.

Applicants must re-apply every summer and start the application process again each year. We are able to help the top 25 to 30 applicants. Our budget is then based on the needs of the successful applicants. The budget is approved in January of each year and the work begins in that fiscal year. Due to steady budget increases from TGF funding (casino) the program operates all year long.

The Home Improvement Supplement Program has eight employees: the program director, Rod Garrow, a foreman and six carpenters. Some of the workers have special skills like plumbing, electrical

work, plastering, flooring, home heating and roofing.

Priority is given to seniors (55 and over) in need of assistance for home repairs. Applicants must be enrolled members of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Mohawk National Council or the Kanienkehaka Longhouse. They must reside on the southern

portion of the territory. They must own and live in the house that requires repairs and must provide proof of land ownership. They must provide income verification for all adults living in the household. If necessary, they must provide a doctor's certification of a

handicap or a health problem. Our service area is the southern portion of the Saint Regis Mohawk Territory.

The money allotted to each project is based on the necessary repairs and renovations to bring the home up to standards. Jobs are prioritized on how much the needed repairs affect the life, health, and safety of the homeowner. Some examples of repairs are replacing a leaky roof to prevent moisture damage, repairing faulty wiring and repairing an unsafe furnace. The Home Improvement Supplement Program will only make the necessary repairs to make a house habitable. They will not do cosmetic improvements to a home. ♦



HIP Workers in Action

Program Feature - Seniors

Older Americans Month 2012

By Lorelee LaFrance, Informational Coordinator

May is Older Americans Month, a perfect opportunity to show our appreciation for the Elders in our community. Since 1963, communities across the nation have joined in the annual commemoration of Older Americans Month—a proud tradition that shows our nation's commitment to celebrating the contributions and achievements of older Americans.

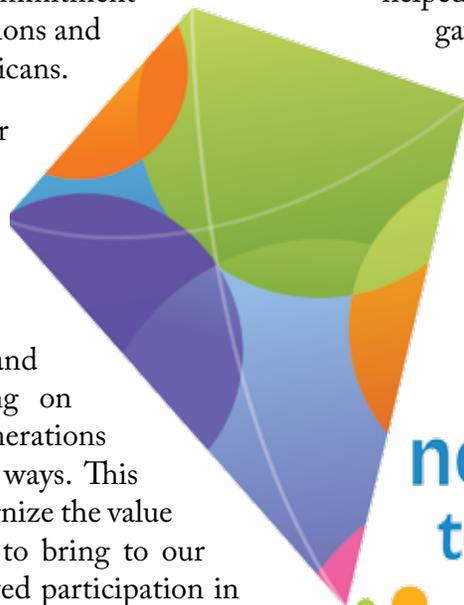
The theme for Older Americans Month 2012—*Never Too Old to Play!*—puts a spotlight on the important role older adults play in sharing their experience, wisdom, and understanding, and passing on that knowledge to other generations in a variety of significant ways. This year's celebrations will recognize the value that older adults continue to bring to our communities through spirited participation in social and faith groups, service organizations, and other activities.

As large numbers of baby-boomers reach retirement age, many communities have increased their efforts to provide meaningful opportunities for older adults—many of whom remain physically and socially active through their 80s and beyond. Current trends show that people over age 60 account for an ever-growing percentage of participants in community service positions, faith-based organizations, online social networking as well as arts and recreational groups.

Lifelong participation in social, creative and physical activities has proven health benefits, including retaining mobility, muscle mass, and cognitive abilities. But older adults are not the only ones who benefit from their

engagement in community life. Studies show their interactions with family, friends, and neighbors across generations enrich the lives of everyone involved. Young people who have significant relationships with a grandparent or elder report that these relationships helped shape their values, goals, and life choices and gave them a sense of identity and roots.

While the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Office for the Aging provides services, support, and resources to our Elders year-round, Older Americans Month is a great opportunity to show special appreciation for some of our most beloved elders. We have many reasons to celebrate them!



never too old
to play
older americans month 2012

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Office for the Aging is joining in the national celebration of Older Americans Month 2012 with activities and events to promote intergenerational engagement and recreation. We invite you to join in the fun!

Here are just some of the great activities happening this month!

- May 1 : Grand Opening of the Seniors Computer Learning Center from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- May 11: "My Favorite Elder" Essay contest award

and Mother's Day Evening Meal at the Center from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

- May 14 – 18: Akwesasne Senior Games Week. Health Promotional and Recreational activities scheduled throughout the community.
- May 23 – 25: Oneida Aging Well Conference at Turning Stone Casino.

To find out how you can support Older Americans Month 2012 and take part in intergenerational play, contact our the Office for the Aging at 518.358.2963 to find ongoing opportunities to celebrate and support older Americans. ♦

2012 Senior Games

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18
	Tsi Tetewatkins Center	Tsi Snaihne Recreation	Tri-District Elders	Kanatakon Recreation	Tsi Tetewatkins Center
8:00			Coffee Social		
9:00	Coffee Social	Coffee Social		Coffee Social	Coffee Social
9:15	Opening remarks				
9:30	Theresa Gardner on Cancer Topics	MCA demo on walking sticks	Dr. Dubec, Optometrist	Health Topic	Michelle Gauthier
10:00	Poker Walk	Horseshoes	Wii Bowling	10 to 3 Come spend the Day with Lacrosse Legends: Shooting on Net Longest Drive Walking Horseshoes	Musical chairs with a twist & Minute to Win It
10:30	Red solo cup stacking / pong		Doll dressing		
11:00	Zumba w/ Jamie	Luncheon Learning w/ Heather Pontius	Swimming/ Walking @ Aquatic Center in Cornwall Bingo Walk		Golf
12:00	Free Lunch for All Participants				
12:30					Awards
1:00	Bingo	Bike Ride	Ace to King		
1:30		Line Dancing w/ Sue Rubideau			Fiddlers - So You Think You Can Jig?
2:30		Karaoke			
5:00	Bowling in Moira				

Calendar

Onerahtohko:wa / May

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

5th - Tribal Caucus- 10:00 a.m. - Community Building lobby

8th - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's office

12th - Monthly Tribal Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building lobby

28th - Memorial Day Holiday - Tribal Offices and Transfer Station closed

31st - Spring Hydrant Flushing ends

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

New Faces

Leanne Armstrong
Melissa M. Arquiatt
David C. Barnum
Stacey L. Gray
Jacey A. Hall
Heath R. Kuhn
Andrew C. Person
Justin Peters
Kierstyn Sunday
Kelly M. Tarbell
Cody Terrance

Health Services - Chronic Care Nursing
Akwesasne Group Home
Family Support
Early Childhood Development
Environment
Medicaid Service Coordination
Environment
Environment
Individual Residential Alternatives
Early Childhood Development
Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation

Home Health Aide
Youth Worker
Habilitation Aide
Teacher Aide
Intern
Supervisor
Scale House Operator
Scale House Operator
Habilitation Aide
Teacher Aide
Administrative Assistance

Giving Back

Sports - \$3,500

Funerals - \$ 6,500

Community Activities - \$ 1,500

Jobs

Diabetes Program Coordinator - *Tsi tewatakari:tat* -
Let's Get Healthy Program

**Resource Patient Management Systems Assistant Site
Manager** - Health Service

Maintenance Support Worker - Office for the Aging

Volunteers - Akwesasne Group Home

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

Monthly Tribal Meeting

Onerahtókba / April 7, 2012
Chaired by Chief Randy Hart

Agenda

1. Introductions:

- Welcome
- Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk

2. Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services

- Medicaid Enrollment
- Health Issue - Dental

3. Economic Development

- IGA Closure
- Mass Transit Project

4. Compliance

- Trade Between Nations
- Casino Expansion

5. New Business

6. Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk

7. Adjournment

- To have Debra Martin provide a report on the cost that Health Services has incurred since SRMT employee dropped their health coverage.
- To have Elliott Lazore from Compliance check into the number of females employed on site regarding the casino expansion project.
- To have Elliott Lazore set up a meeting to discuss the Tribal fee on cigarettes for small business.
- To have an update on the transformer issue.
- To have Legal give a report on the history of 663323 and the usage of the tax exempt number.

Follow-up on Action Items from March Meeting

- Set up meeting with Debra Martin to discuss concerns regarding Detox.

Follow-up: Sub-Chief Stacy Skidders met Debra Martin concerning the issue raised at the Tribal meeting and Debra spoke with the community member.

Action Items from April Meeting

- Have a special meeting with Debra Martin and Lori Thompson from I.H.S. to discuss various health issues raised during the April monthly meeting.

- Add to next month's agenda: Trade between Nations and seizures on manufacturing products.

Follow-up: Chief Randy Hart reported that he has met with the Director of Compliance and he will provide a brief overview at April's monthly meeting on this situation, as well as to seek an update from the committee that was mentioned at the last monthly meeting.

Program Feature

Kanikonri:iohne, the Place of the Good Mind

By Melissa Jacobs, Case Manager

The Saint Regis Mohawk Mental Health (SRMMH) Program, also known as *Kanikonri:iohne* is located in the Saint Regis Mohawk Health facility. The purpose of *Kanikonri:iohne* is to ensure that members of the Akwesasne community, both children and adults, who are having emotional troubles get the treatment they need to feel better. Many times people need a place to talk about their concerns and problems in private with the assurance that what they say will remain confidential and not out in the community.

Our counseling center is such a place. Our program offers individual, family, couples and play therapy and assessments and psychiatric evaluation. Our staff is also trained in crisis management, intervention and debriefing. Under the supervision of our psychiatrist we also offer medication therapy.

We are made up of a trained staff of licensed social workers and mental health counselors, psychiatrist and a traditional medicines worker. Our staff is: Christine Venery, LCSW, Mental Health Director, Jill Conrad, LMHC, Alison Herne, LCSW, Anita Plann, LMHC; Richard Cook, Jr., and our part-time staff psychiatrist is Dr. Robert Wolff. Together we offer direct services for issues such as depression, anxiety, mood swings, anger management, suicidal thoughts, relationship issues, grief/loss, sexual problems and trauma and sexual/physical/emotional abuse concerns (both past and present). Alison and Anita also offer school-based mental health therapy at the Saint Regis Mohawk School and Salmon River Central School, respectively.

For those who wish to take a more traditional approach toward healing, our traditional medicine worker is Richard “Jr.” Cook. Our office support staff includes Anastasia Benedict and Chelsea Sunday who assist with office management and scheduling. We also have two case managers who assist with client outreach services including referrals, parenting skills and advocacy. Our case managers are Melissa Conners-Chamberlain and Dana Henhawk. Melissa also has office hours in Salmon River Central with the Teen and Women Health Education Program. Mental health staff members serve as consultants to other tribal programs such as the Akwesasne Group Home and the Head Start program, as well as take part in external organizations such as the Akwesasne Coalition for Community Empowerment and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Healing to Wellness Court.

Services are available to all registered members of federally recognized tribes and who are registered to receive medical services with patient registration for the Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services. The SRMT Mental Health Program is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The office follows the business hours of the SRMT so we follow the holiday schedule for the SRMT. To access services an individual can contact one of our case managers at (518) 358-3141 extension 160; our toll free number at (800) 647-7839 or come to our office at Health Services. At that time a case manager will obtain information and determine if mental health services are needed. Crises are seen immediately. All services are confidential. We also offer an anonymous



*Christine Venery,
Mental Health Director*

on-line screening tool; www.mentalhealthscreening.org/STREGIS, where you can see if you may be in need of mental health services.

Some upcoming events include our Early Recognition Screening Program, community education opportunities, such as the Tribe's Wellness Fair and our continued media campaign – radio ads, billboards and print material - meant to combat stigma about mental illness and encourage help-seeking behavior. Richard Cook also organizes a yearly VisionQuest

at the beginning of September for interested young people. Our Early Recognition Screening Program is offered to school age children entering Head Start, Pre-Kindergarten, and Kindergarten at both Saint Regis Mohawk School and Salmon River. Our hope is that screening will identify behavioral health issues in hopes of providing early interventions and treatment in a timelier manner to assist children. A major goal for the program is to increase awareness and knowledge so that one day emotional health screenings will be just as important as yearly vision and hearing tests. ♦



New billboards located on State Route 37 east and in front of the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino are a collaborative effort by the Mental Health and A/CDP programs. They use local youth to encourage a drug free lifestyle.



Program Feature

HCBS Waiver Program

By Doug Hamilton, Family Support

The Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Program, operated by the Family Support Program, covers a wide range of services to help those with developmental disabilities live healthy and independent lives. Mary Terrance has recently assumed the position of the HCBS Waiver Supervisor. Our program priorities include community inclusion, person centered planning and honoring traditional beliefs. Through a number of services, individuals in HCBS Waiver are offered opportunities to participate in a variety of recreation and leisure activities and to develop daily living skills, both in the community and in their homes.

The Day Habilitation (Day Hab.) Program serves adults in the community mainly throughout the week and occasionally on weekends and evenings. Our workers help individuals complete personal errands like bill paying, laundry and grocery shopping. Day Hab also provides recreational activities designed to promote healthy relationships in the community. Our guys enjoy a

number of activities including bowling, woodworking and regular trips to the local gym for general fitness.

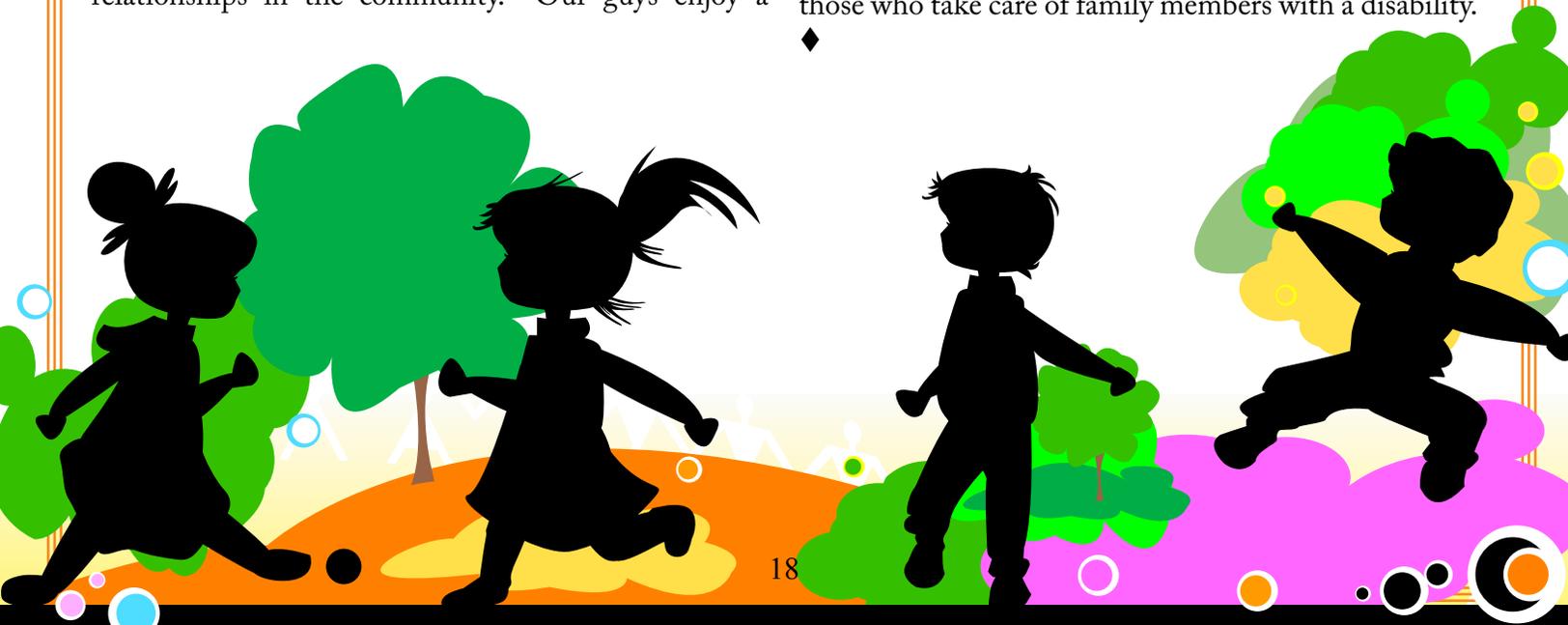
The Community Habilitation Program allows staff to go into the homes of our participants to help with daily living skills. In the home, workers are able to assist our individuals with regular household chores, meal preparation and nutritional counseling.

Kids' Recreation (Kids' Rec.) provides specialized after-school programming to our *Onkweh:honwe* children. Kids' Rec. serves children from surrounding schools including Salmon River, Akwesasne Mohawk School and Massena Central. Kids' Rec. provides activities for our children that are not only fun, but are also designed to develop self-help and social skills.

Family Support offers respite programs designed to provide relief to family members whom take care of people with developmental disabilities. Essentially this program provides relief to those who take care of family members with a disability.



*Mary Terrance,
HCBS Waiver Supervisor*



Akwesasne Private Sector Benefits Tribe and Community

Fees Support Programs and Services

Press Release

The entrepreneurial spirit is strong in Akwesasne with over 300 businesses in the territory. Not only do these businesses provide jobs and support the local and regional economies, they provide financial support to community members through alcohol, petroleum and tobacco fees paid to the tribe. These fees go to support programs and services in the community such as drug and alcohol prevention, chronic health care, scholarships and residential treatment. Other businesses are not assessed fees. "The Akwesasne business sector remains healthy," remarked Tribal Chief Mark Garrow. "They are an important part of the community and play a vital role in supporting a variety of tribal programs and services. The community benefits from the relationship between private enterprise and tribal government."

In 2011, the private sector provided over \$1.8 million in fees, all of which went to community programs and services. "Unfortunately, not all businesses choose to pay the fees," said Tribal Chief Randy Hart. "This reduces the amount available for community support through

the tribe. We want to recognize those businesses that do provide support through our fee structure. They are fulfilling their obligations to both the tribe and the community. We hope that community members and the general public will patronize those businesses that support the community."

Private businesses also generously support fundraising activities such as for the Diabetes Center for Excellence, sports teams, cultural activities, the Boys and Girls Club, seniors' programs and the Christmas toy and food drive. "Without the help of our private sector, a lot of things wouldn't get done around here," said Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance. "We have a strong tradition of volunteerism and generosity here in Akwesasne. People are always raising funds for different worthy causes and our local businesses have been very supportive of them."

Supporting these businesses is important to keeping tribal community programs and services strong. Below is the list of Akwesasne businesses that support tribal programs through fees. ♦

37 West Bar and Lounge
Ahnawate Corner Store
Ahnawate Marina
AK Gas & Tobacco
Akwesasne Cigarette Depot
Akwesasne Convenience Store
Assoc.
Akwesasne Gas
Akwesasne Mohawk Casino
American Legion 1479
Bear's Den
Big Boys
Blood Brother
Borderline
Brass Horse
Broken Arrow
Chiefs Tobacco Outlet

Comfort Inn & Suites
Cook Road House of Art
Cook's Greenery
CPL Enterprises
CT's Country Market
D & B Smokes
Eastend Convenience
Eastern Door
Fast Foods
First Americans IGA
Golden Dragon
Grace & Allens
Jen Tobacco
JS Enterprises
Kaniienkehaka Fuels
Keegan's Tobacco

Koi Japanese Steakhouse
Kori - John's
Log Cabin Smokeshop
Luv's Tobacco
Mohawk Bingo Palace LLC
Mohawk International
Raceway
Mohawk Junction
Originals Art Gallery
Reflections Gift Shop
Riverside Smokes
Route 37 Tobacco &
Convenience
Smokey's Tobacco
Smokin Daubers
Speedway Plaza
Standing Cloud

State Road Finest
Tobacco
Sticks Sports Bar &
Restaurant
Sundance Salon
The Sundance
TLC Country Kitchen
TNT Enterprise
Tobacco Den
Trade Zone Gas
Treetop Gas
Truckstop #9
Twinleaf Express
Twinleaf Gas & Tobacco
Western Door
Wild Bills 1 Stop
Wolfclan Truckstop

Get Ready! Get Set! Spring Cleanup in Akwesasne!

By Les Benedict, Assistant Director, Environment Division

First, the rumor that the Tribe is conducting a Spring Cleanup this year is true! The Solid Waste Program with financial support from the Tribal General Fund will be conducting a Spring Cleanup from Onerahtohko:wa/May 21 to Ohiarihko:wa/July 13, 2012.

A brochure detailing the route schedule and the types of materials to be collected will be available at the Tribal Community Building, Environment Office and at any of the store locations in Akwesasne where Blue Bags are sold. Akwesasne is divided into five collection areas with specific dates when materials will be collected. Be sure to follow this schedule. If any delays are encountered the Solid Waste Program will issue an announcement. The brochure gives guidelines about the types of materials that WILL and WILL NOT be collected. The cooperation of the community is appreciated in following these very important guidelines. Please don't place any household hazardous waste in the collection, these materials will be rejected. The Solid Waste Program is working on setting up another Household Hazardous Waste collection day for the community in the near future. Please be patient.

Just as a reminder, recyclable materials are already accepted at the recycling depot located in Akwesasne and regular household waste is accepted at the transfer station for a fee (see attendant for details). The Solid Waste Program also offers bins for drop off for a small

fee plus a charge by weight to help manage home renovation wastes and other materials to be disposed of in large quantity. Get in touch with the Solid Waste Program to learn more about this customized service.

The Solid Waste Program also offers "Blue Bag" collection on a weekly schedule for your regular household solid waste. The Solid Waste program invites community members to consider using its "Blue Bag" system and becoming a regular customer. Each bag is \$4.00 and will hold 30 gallons of material. Combined with free recycling, the Blue Bag can be an economical and convenient way to manage your solid waste.

The Solid Waste Program will soon be accepting electronic waste (E-waste) at the Transfer Station for cost. More details on this service will be provided as information becomes available.

The Forestry program will also be conducting its annual "chipping project" beginning Onerahtohko:wa/May 29, 2012, the day after Memorial Day. This is another program the Tribal General Fund is generously supporting and will assist the elderly, handicapped and other community members with the removal and disposal of downed and dead trees and limbs. This project is designed to help community members with their spring cleanup, to reduce the need to burn and to reduce fire hazards. Please remember, backyard burning of solid waste materials doesn't make sense, it



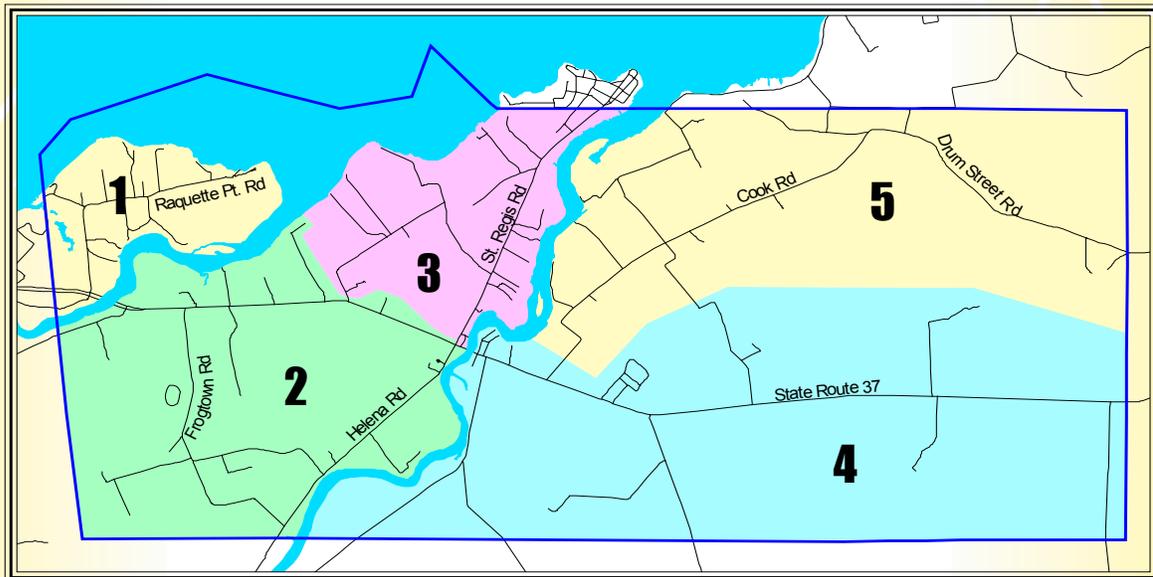
generates toxic smoke and ash. Take advantage of the chipping service to get rid of downed trees and brush. To burn brush or tree limbs, please obtain a burn permit and follow the instructions provided by the Air Quality program. These programs are designed to keep the community and families safe from toxic smoke and wildfires.

To participate in the chipping project, community members must complete and sign a permission waiver form at the Environment Office. The service is provided on a priority basis, serving elderly and handicapped first and then on a first-come first-serve basis with work performed according to the most economical routes

possible. Economical routes are designed to cut down on mileage and fuel costs. Please also remember that the Forestry program is unable to chip boards and materials that have been pushed into the dirt because they will damage the chipping equipment.

Keep in mind that the funding budgets are limited so please help the Solid Waste and Forestry Programs by following instructions and guidelines provided with each of these services. For additional information you may contact: Solid Waste, Spring Cleanup – Russell Phillips, (518) 651-9941, Teres Seymour (518) 358-5937, or Forestry Resources, Chipping Project – Setanta O’Ceallaigh, (518) 358-5937. ♦

2012 Spring Cleanup Route Schedule



- Area 1: May 21 - 25
- Area 2: May 29 - June 5
- Area 3: June 11 - 20
- Area 4: June 21 - July 3
- Area 5: July 5 - 13

Fourth Year of JP Morgan Scholarship Awards

By Rod Cook, Higher Education

This is the fourth year that we have given out scholarship awards from an unknown benefactor through JP Morgan. The first year we received \$18,000 and awarded six students out of sixty essays. The second year we received \$36,000 and had twelve awards from eighteen essays. The third year it was \$42,000 and fourteen students were selected from twenty two essays. This year, we received \$29,000, and with \$1,000 of support from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council, we chose ten students from thirty essays.

The essays were based upon an explanation of educational goals, aspirations and financial need as a college student. Each essay was reviewed by three readers, Sub-Chief Stacy Skidders, David Staddon and Rod Cook. Awards were made to both graduate and undergraduate students. We wish those students continued success. ♦



Harriet Akat Chubb
SUNY Potsdam
Special Education



Thomas Cook
University of New Hampshire
Justice Studies & History



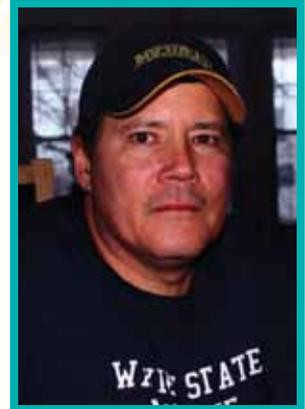
Chelsea Francis
St. Lawrence University
Government & Native American Studies



Kristen Jock
SUNY Plattsburgh
Sociology



Bobbi Lauzon
SUNY Potsdam
Biochemistry



Kenneth Martin
University of Michigan
Environmental Studies



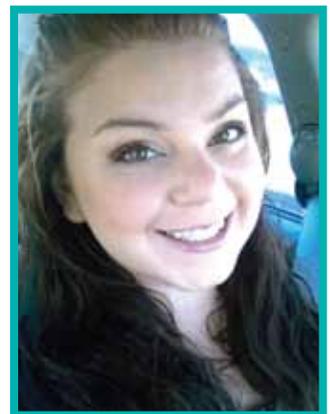
Sawentanon Skidders
Pfeiffer University
Political Science & Criminal Justice



Lani Sunday
St. Lawrence University
Mental Health & Counseling



Jessica Tarbell
Dartmouth College
Biology & Anthropology



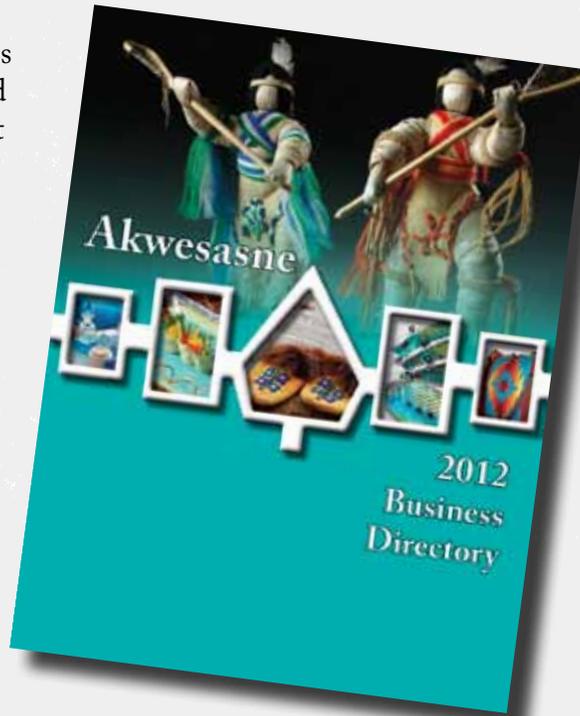
Christine Kylee Thomas
Niagara Community College
Early Childhood Education

2012 Akwesasne Business Directory Now Available

By Aimée Benedict, Publications Manager

The business categories have been streamlined for easier identification. It still contains police, fire and ambulance emergency contact numbers, a quick reference guide, a map of business locations and phone lists for the Tribe's and MCA's departments and services. This year, nearly 250 Akwesasne businesses have been included.

The Economic Development departments of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne have been



collecting, editing and updating information all year. They have called every number in the 2011 edition at least twice. If a business did not answer or had no answering machine during regular business hours, they were automatically deleted.

Copies can be picked up at local stores and at the Community Building. If you would like a copy sent to you, please contact the Public Information Office at 518-358-2272. ♦



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
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