

Featured Programs

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Kawennì:ios

Akwesasne Boy



Akwesasne Youth Benefit
from Room Occupancy Fees



Program Snapshot: ASPC

By Christine Venery, Mental Health Director

Last year, several programs in and around Akwesasne came together with community members to share their hope of ending suicide. Their discussions looked at reducing the stigma associated with seeking help for social and emotional problems through education and information. They also provided encouragement for those often difficult and uncomfortable conversations that just might save a life. The gathering resulted in the formation of the Akwesasne Suicide Prevention Coalition.

The mission of the Akwesasne Suicide Prevention Coalition is to provide help, hope, and recovery for Akwesashró:non in the areas of suicide prevention, education, and healing. Its goals are to provide a media campaign designed to increase knowledge, improve help-seeking behavior, reduce stigma associated with suicide and behavioral health issues, and to provide Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper and Postvention training and education on the signs and symptoms of depression and risk of suicide.

To assist the group's efforts, a logo contest was held to increase awareness of the Akwesasne Suicide Prevention Coalition. Many great works of art were submitted by community members, but only one could be the overall winner. The Coalition is pleased to announce Tazz Oakes was the first place winner; with the following individuals also receiving recognition: 2nd Place—Cannon Honni David, 3rd Place—Taylor Bonaparte, and Honorable Mention—Isaiah Cree. It was a tough decision to make and the voting was very close. We congratulate each participant for sharing their beautiful artwork with us.

The Akwesasne Suicide Prevention Coalition will hold a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on March 13, 2015 in the Sun Room at *Tsi Tetewatatken* (Office for the Aging). The public is welcome to attend and to join efforts to end suicides in our community.

Please email Dana Henhawk at dhenhawk@regis.nashville.ihh.gov to be put on the email list to receive notifications about upcoming meetings and other announcements. ♦

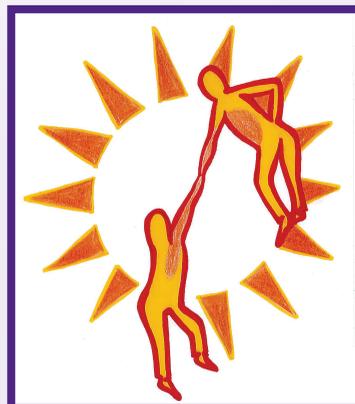


First Place Winner - Tazz Oakes

Second - Cannon Honni David



Third - Taylor Bonaparte



Honorable Mention - Isaiah Cree



Good Words of Welcome



Sh:ékon sewakwe:kon Akwesashro:nón,

I begin this opening by hoping all is well and you are faring well in the heart of winter. Just think, spring is right around the corner!

I am pleased to announce that the Tribal Fuel Assistance Program has reached over 1,400 homes this year and everyone who signed up is receiving fuel assistance this winter. Remember to keep an eye on your fuel tank especially since we have had many days and nights where the temperature has been below 0 degrees. Stay warm!

We have experienced some hard times and recent tragedies here in Akwesasne and my heart is overwhelmed by the outpouring of community support for those who need help. Allena Jacobs and her family have lost everything in a house fire that destroyed her home, and our community came together to help her family and prove that here in Akwesasne, we are all akwatsi:re – family. I am very proud to announce that Tribal Council also contributed by donating the trailer that is at the former First Americans IGA to help her family restore their lives. We know, of course, that nothing can erase the memory of losing a home, but we hope that this will be the start of a new future and new memories for the Jacobs family. I say a great big niawenkó:wa to all of Akwesasne for showing her the support that her family needs at this time.

I express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Brandon Sweeting and Kirk Ransom for their unfortunate loss. Life along the St. Lawrence River can be enjoyable, but it is often fraught

with danger during the cold winter months. I share my continued appreciation to the following agencies that risked their own life and worked together to try and save another: Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department, Franklin County Office of Emergency Services, Fort Covington EMS, St. Lawrence County Underwater Recovery Team and the Surete Du Quebec.

At the same time, there are good things happening in Akwesasne. I want to acknowledge Tisha Thompson, Joy Lazore-Gibson, Shari Adams and other community volunteers for all their hard work and dedication to the Akwesasne Attack girl's lacrosse program. They are being featured in a film project on the Salmon River Central School girl's varsity lacrosse team. If it wasn't for their persistence, our girls wouldn't be spotlighted in a film. I acknowledge John and Amy Lazore for their contributions to girl's lacrosse and to all the moms and dads who bring their little girls to practices and games. With all their help, our girls are now being presented with the same opportunities as our boys to forge a bright future and receive athletic scholarships. *Tho tsi nih hsierha!*

In closing, I hope everyone remains safe and warm and be sure to check on the safety of your elders. Every little bit helps.

Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance

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Health Services

From the Director's Office

As announced at the February Tribal monthly meeting, the next Health Services 2015 community planning session will be held on March 25, 2015. Once again, we will host the session at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Diabetes Center starting at 6:00 p.m.

One of the items that will be on the agenda is the community's request for a halfway house. During this session we look forward to receiving community feedback as a way to establish the fundamental needs of the community and to help identify what services will be provided through a halfway house.

If you've been following the national headlines you may have noticed that measles has been in the news. Should we be concerned? Theresa Gardner, FNP, shares the following information from the Center for Disease Control:

- Measles is an acute viral respiratory illness. It is characterized by a prodrome of fever (as high as 105°F) and malaise, cough, coryza and conjunctivitis – the three “C”s. The rash usually appears about 14 days after a person is exposed; however, the incubation period ranges from 7 to 21 days. The rash spreads from the head to the trunk to the lower extremities. Patients are considered to be contagious from 4 days after the rash appears.



- The common complications from measles include otitis media, bronchopneumonia, laryngotracheobronchitis, and diarrhea.

- People at high risk for severe illness and complications from measles include infants and children aged <5 years, adults aged >20 years, pregnant women and people with compromised immune systems, such as from leukemia and HIV infection.
- Measles is one of the most contagious of all infectious diseases; approximately 9 out of 10 susceptible persons with close contact to a measles patient will develop measles. The virus is transmitted by direct contact with infectious droplets or by airborne spread when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. Measles virus can remain infectious on surfaces and in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves an area.
- Measles can be prevented with a measles-containing vaccine, which is primarily administered as the combination measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.

We recently wished the very best to some long-time employees who have decided it was time for the next chapter in their lives. Health Services said “Goodbye and Thank You” to the following individuals who have played key roles in our program development:

Sharon Cook was the Office Manager for the Partridge House for 24 years. Sharon was the first person you encountered when you walked into Partridge House and always greeted you with a nice, warm smile. She will be greatly missed by the staff, along with the clients of Partridge House.

Carol Whelan was the Outpatient Program Coordinator with the Alcohol/Chemical Dependency Program where she served for twenty-two years as an Alcohol Counselor/CASAC and for the last year as the Outpatient Program Coordinator. Carol was well received by the many clients she assisted with addiction problems. She will be missed by all her co-workers and the people she helped day-in and day-out.

Katherine Thompson was the Health Services switchboard operator for 24 years. Katherine answered the phones and made sure calls got through to the appropriate programs and people. Katherine will be missed by the staff, as well as the many friends she made over the years with Health Services patrons.

Craig Jock was the Custodial Supervisor for the Tribe, as well as being the Facilities Manager for Health Services. He was with us for 23 years. Craig always made sure the building was maintained above standards for the safety and well-being of all visitors. His knowledge of the

facility was phenomenal and he was always able to fix any problems that came up. Craig will be missed by everyone who had the pleasure to work with.

Through our relationship with Alice Hyde Hospital we are pleased to welcome a new physician on site. Dr. Banu, Internist, has been well received by patients and staff and is available in the Medical Clinic on Mondays and Wednesdays.

I am also pleased to express my appreciation for the positive feedback we received from our Alcohol/Chemical Dependency Program's (A/CDP) Drug Facts Week. We are grateful for the promotional support from CKON and the local pizzerias that participated.

Last, but not least, thanks to everyone for your patience as we changed our phone systems. The switch came with some technical programs and we experienced periodic outages and dropped calls. The telecommunications folks did their very best to address the problems in a timely manner. *Niá:wen!*

The Health Facility hours of operations are as follows:

Medical Clinic – 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday. (Extension 110)

Pharmacy – 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday. (Extension 470 to speak to a pharmacist, Extension 450 to order prescriptions)

Dental Clinic – 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. (Extension 120)

**We can be reached at
518-358-3141**



*Health Services Staff Held
a Luncheon to Celebrate
Carol's Retirement*

Environment - Recycling Tips

By Larry Thompson, Recycling Coordinator

Ever wondered if that greasy paper plate could go in your recycling bin? Or would it really be a big deal if you threw in just one plastic bag? It may seem simple to determine what doesn't go in a recycling bin based on its labels or whether or not it shows a recycling symbol, but unfortunately, it's not that straightforward.

Listed below are some examples of what you can and can't recycle at the Tribe's Recycling Depot and Transfer Station. When using the recycling depot please make sure you put each material in the right container.

Recycling Depot			
Mixed Paper	Plastics	Metals	Glass
YES: newspaper & inserts junk mail & circulars magazines & catalogs phone & paperback books brown grocery bags computer & office paper clean & dry corrugated cardboard	YES: codes 1-7 accepted containers - jugs, jars, bottles & tubes, plastic food trays	YES: tin food cans aluminum food & beverage cans deposit cans aluminum foil aluminum plates & trays empty aerosol cans	YES: green, amber & clear containers canning jars deposit bottles liquor & wine bottles food & beverage containers
NO: hard cover books, napkins, paper plates, tissue paper, foil- faced or plastic coated products.	NO: plastic bags or films, toys, Styrofoam, motor oil bottles, furniture, clothes hangers or hard/brittle plastics.	NO: metal cardboard containers: cocoa & motor oil, silverware, small appliances or paint cans.	NO: broken glass, drinking glasses, ovenware or ceram- ics, dishes, mirrors, window glass or light bulbs.



*Recycling Depot located on
State Route 37
across from Wild Bills*



*Transfer Station
located at 179 County Route 43
Ft. Covington*

The following items **should not** be left at the SRMT Recycling Depot, but can be brought to the Transfer Station: garbage, single use batteries (collection bins also at the Community Building), electronic wastes and household hazardous waste.

Let's all do a part in keeping Akwesasne beautiful by recycling and reducing waste. If you have any questions, please call the Solid Waste Program Transfer Station at 518-358-4632 or speak with the Recycling Coordinator at 518-358-4529. ◇



Monthly Tribal Meeting

Tsiothohrkó:wa / January 10, 2015

Chairperson: Tribal Sub-Chief Eric Thompson

Agenda

1. Welcome - Chairperson
 - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
2. Transitional Housing - Tribal Courts/MIHC
3. Transfer Station - Matthew Thompson
4. Land Claims Update
5. New Director Introductions
6. New Business
7. Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
8. Adjournment

Enníska / February 7, 2015

Chairperson: Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance, Jr.

Agenda

1. Welcome - Chairperson
 - Reading of Action Items ~ Tribal Clerk
2. DSS/Tribal PD Special Presentation
3. Community Assessment for ECDP ~ Barbara Buckshot
4. SRMT Priorities Discussion
 - Senior Benefit Program
 - Senior Energy Assistance - Pilot Project
 - Tribal Administration Building
 - Waterline Capital Project
 - SRMHS Clinic Expansion
 - Former IGA Building
 - Dialysis Center
 - Community Recreation Center
 - Child Advocacy Center
5. New Business
6. Reading of Action Items ~ Tribal Clerk
7. Adjournment

Status of Monthly Meeting Motions from the Floor:

1. A motion was made that a referendum be held for a \$200 monthly benefit be paid to tribally enrolled American resident elders 62 and over within the 15 mile radius which is the established guidelines of the SRMT. Moved by Ruth Bell, seconded by Ron Garrow. Vote: In Favor - 31; Opposed - 3; Abstentions - 5. Carried.

As is required by the Procedures Act, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council thoroughly considered the motion and determined that the initiative is not in the best interests of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, as a whole, at this time. The Community Members have the option of utilizing the Petition/Initiative process to require a referendum on the matter and it is our understanding that they have. We have directed our General Counsel to review the new petition language to ensure that it meets the requirements for a petition to be acted upon by the Election Board. In the event that a petition meets the requirements of the Election Ordinance, and states a proper referendum question, the Election Board will set a referendum date. The request of the Seniors group, represented by Mrs. Bell and others, has been reviewed thoroughly by the Council and Tribal Administration, who have made a determination that a cash payment of \$200 per month to seniors 62 and over is not economically feasible and would not properly address the needs of the majority of elders in the community. We continue to look at ways to address the pressing needs of all community members, with a focus on our elders and children.

Follow-up on Action Item from December Meeting

1. To ask Mary Jo Terrance from MIHC and PJ Herne from Tribal Courts to do a presentation on the transitional housing at January's monthly meeting.

Transitional Housing will be on the agenda for January's monthly meeting.
2. To look into the possibility of hosting USET.

We currently do not have the space capacity to host a USET conference.
3. To record the budget meeting presentation Wednesday,



December 10, 2015 at 5 p.m.

The Tribal Clerk was present to record.

Follow-up on Action Items from January Meeting

1. To look into the possibility of a halfway house here in Akwesasne.

Research is ongoing on this issue. Initial staffing plans indicate that 7-12 full-time and part-time staff would be required. The next quarterly community consultation meeting with SRMHS is being planned for March 2015 where additional community input into this issue is being requested.

2. To look into the possibility of additional recycling depots

While the need for recycling is always present, currently it is very cost prohibitive to create a second recycling depot. The upfront cost for new HL-6 units would be \$36,000 dollars for the units. In addition, to operate the depot for the year would cost annually approximately \$7,500 depending upon usage. Please keep in mind that there currently is already a second recycling center that is available to community members since the Transfer Station always accepts recyclables from community members at no cost.

3. To look into the possibility of adding the recycling blue bin pick up system to the trash collection routes.

The convenience of picking up recyclables from our PAYT customers at the time of pickup is very appealing but, at this time, it is not possible. For this type of service a new truck with 2 compartments would have to be utilized and we, at present, do not have this vehicle. In addition to the limitation of the equipment we have, the cost of providing bins for recycling is approximately \$50 per bin, which for all of our customers would be about \$5,000. This cost would be a give-away with no chance of recouping our investment. The only other option that could be considered would be to use a pickup truck with a trailer in tow. This would allow our driver the ability to separate the recyclables from the solid waste however, this would increase our pickup times and would require the driver to work a lot more hours thus substantially increasing our costs which would lead to an increase in PAYT bag prices, which is not looked on favorably by the community.

4. To look into the possibility of allowing tribally owned medical marijuana into our community.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has begun gathering information related to the medical marijuana industry. Medical marijuana is in an interesting trend in North America and has the potential to provide significant economic development. The issue of medical marijuana is complicated and we are taking the time to investigate approaches to understand the possibility of producing medical marijuana. Aside from the economic effects, there are many social and health implications for the community and this sector would require stringent regulations enforced by SRMT in order to encourage healthy growth should we decide to pursue this venture. Council and technical staff participated in a webinar on Thursday, February 5th. As mentioned before, this venture would require significant attention be paid to all benefits and potential dangers of engaging in this industry. We are intrigued by the potential benefits and want to ensure that "sustainable" projects go forward which take the health of the community into consideration.

5. To find out when pool will be open at the Diabetes Center.

The DCFE pool is anticipated to open January 5, 2015. A pool maintenance contract and staff training are complete. Interviews are currently underway for water aerobics instructor to lead the classes on a scheduled basis.

Action Items from February Meeting

1. To look into the surplus give-a-way from the casino hotel and to obtain the inventory list.
2. To look into providing fuel to enrolled tribal members living outside of the land claims areas. ◇

Benefits of Gaming

Akwesasne Youth Benefit from Room Occupancy Fee

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

Members of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council were pleased to be on hand for the delivery of a new Nissan van for the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club on February 20, 2015. Tribal Council donated the funds to pay for the vehicle through the Tribe's Hotel Occupancy Fee. To show their appreciation, Club staff and youth presented a signed banner to Tribal Council that is on display in the Community Building lobby.

"We're proud that the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has been able to find ways to support the youth of Akwesasne," said Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance. He added, "They represent the future of our community and we want to ensure that they have the means to succeed—both in school and in life."

In 2013, the Tribe implemented the Hotel Occupancy Fee Ordinance to financially support the increasing number of recreation, education and tourism programs for tribal members. The regulation entails the assessment of \$10 per room for each day of occupancy. The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort began collecting the fee in September 2013, while the Comfort Inn was added in the spring of 2014. It has averaged \$68,000 per month in revenue.

"The Room Occupancy Fee is one more measure that Tribal Council has implemented to help generate needed funds to support the well-being of tribal members," stated Tribal Chief Paul Thompson. He noted, "It's used to provide the greatest benefit to the community in areas that typically don't get funded or are underfunded."

The Tribal Council provided a check for \$38,000 in December

2014 for the Club to purchase a vehicle to safely transport youth to extracurricular activities and after-school programs. The new van will replace a 2003 Ford van that has been used to provide daily transportation due to overcrowding from the St. Regis Mohawk School to the Club. The new vehicle will also enable the Club to expand its services and be used to transport youth from the Akwesasne Freedom School.

According to Tribal Chief Beverly Cook, "The Tribe is proud that the Boys and Girls Club continues to be at the forefront in the positive development of Akwesasne's youth. Through the Room Occupancy Fee, Tribal Council is able to support the Club's and other community organization's efforts to open doors and provide opportunities for tribal members that didn't previously exist."



Along with the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club; the Room Occupancy Fee has benefited the Early Childhood Development Program in purchasing a Head Start bus and the Salmon River Central School in establishing a welding program. This has allowed the

two former-Head Start buses to be donated to the Mohawk Indian Housing Corporation and the American Legion Post #1479.

"The Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club youth extends a sincere thank you to Tribal Sub-Chief Michael Conners for his work to get the van donated to the Club utilizing the hotel occupancy fee! Our old van was becoming more maintenance than it was worth, so Christmas came in February for many of the youth that ride in the van daily! Niawen again to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and the Tribal Chiefs," stated Jessica Cree Jock, Executive Director of the Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club. ◇

Keeping Our Schools Safe

Tribe Hosts Inaugural School Safety Meeting

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

Two communities have come together to keep schools safe for our youth. School administrators, law enforcement and elected leaders from Massena and Akwesasne attended the first School Safety Planning Committee meeting on January 23, 2015 at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Diabetes Center. Hosted by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department, the gathering discussed the development of a coordinated response to school emergencies.

Superintendents and principals from the Massena Central and Salmon River Central School Districts, Massena Village Chief of Police, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police A/Chief of Police, New York State Police and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance shared their desire to work cooperatively for the safety and security of our schools.

According to Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance, "Letting people know that our schools, and particularly our children, are safe and secure helps bring peace to the community." This was an important point made for the benefit of parents of the 1,065 tribal students that attended the Salmon River School District during the 2013-2014 school year.

To ensure that schools are safe, Salmon River Central School District Superintendent Denise Collins noted that, "Every school is required by state law to have a building safety plan." She noted the plan needs to be amended however, to include notification to tribal police in the event of an emergency that the Akwesasne community needs to be made aware of.

The cooperation and support of law enforcement in responding to school emergencies is a critical component to the safety of students. For St. Regis Mohawk School Principal Sharlee Thomas, "Safety is very important for us and we are fortunate that tribal police are located close by."



MCS District Interim-Superintendent William Flynn, SRC Middle School Principal Kevin Walbridge, St. Regis Mohawk School Principal Sharlee Thomas, SRCS District Superintendent Jane Collins, SRMT Police Investigator Decota Thompson, SRMT Education Director Stephanie Cook, Madison Elementary School Principal Alan Oliver, New York State Police Sargent Randy Bush, Massena Village Chief of Police Mark LaBrake, SRMT Police Sargent Martin Jock, SRCS Bus Coordinator Norm Treptow, SRCS Facilities Manager Ryan Adams, SRMT A/Chief of Police Matt Rourke and SRMT Chief Ron LaFrance.

The main campus of Salmon River is at disadvantage however, by not having a Fort Covington or Bombay Police Department. "As a result, we [Salmon River] are thankful that the tribal police and the Malone District Attorney have provided phenomenal support," stated Collins.

Tribal A/Chief of Police shared the sentiment that, "There is great cooperation with all law enforcement agencies and the school." It is anticipated that the cooperative effort will result in a formalized protocol for communicating information and notifications. ◇

Johnson-O'Malley Program Expands to Massena High School



The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Johnson-O'Malley Program (JOM) is now offering student services at the Massena Central High School.

Education Specialist Anna Thompson began working in the High School on January 30, 2015. She is located in room 413 and can be reached by telephone at (315) 764-3710 extension 3182, or by email at athompson@mcs.k12.ny.us. Some of the services she'll be providing to Massena students include: academic tutoring, academic advising, college searches and career planning.

The JOM Program is pleased with the expansion and that it can finally bring needed support services to the Native American students at Massena High School. It's their hope that it will contribute towards a successful high school experience for many of our students. ♦



Graduation is the Expectation: Developing Community Leaders

April 23-25, 2015

Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort, Akwesasne, NY

Tentative Agenda

Thursday – Early registration, meet and greet
Friday – Full day of workshops, dinner and awards
Saturday – NAIEANY Membership Meeting

Special track for high school and college students

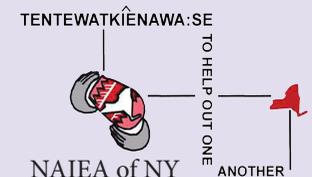
Registration fee:

\$250 – Adults, \$100 – Students and Seniors (55 and over)

For more information:

Samantha Phillips @ Samantha.phillips@srmt-nsn.gov
(518-358-2272 x 2171)

Stephanie Cook @ Stephaniei.cook@srmt-nsn.gov
(518-358-2272 x 2270)



Future Mohawk Leaders

Ten Scholarships Awarded

Higher Education received a record breaking number of submissions with over 80 applications reviewed. It is testament to the talent and skill that our students possess, but also indicative of the financial need that exists when one pursues higher education.

The award is based upon a rubric that measures writing ability, career aspirations, financial need and leadership potential, among other qualities. It was an arduous task to review each application, but rewarding at the same time. We currently average around 250 students per year that are served through our Higher Education program. We are very fortunate that we receive this anonymous donation to support this special scholarship. Students have the flexibility to utilize the funds in any manner they see fit. Some use the scholarship for travel costs, books, unmet financial need and child care.

The common thread is that each and every student possesses the desire to return home to Akwesasne. Our future is very bright knowing that so many of our students are pursuing their education in career areas that will enhance our leadership and services. ◇



*Colin Jacobs
Syracuse University
Civil Engineering*



*Tewasherake Barnes
Utica College
Criminal Justice*



*Dakota Tarbell
Clarkson University
Environmental
Engineering*



*Theresa Oakes
Carleton University
Psychology*



*Kristen Pyke
Syracuse University
Psychology*



*Rae Seymour
St. Lawrence
University
Counseling
and Human
Development*



*Tyler Sunday
Syracuse University
Biology*



*Noah Bero
SUNY Canton
Electrical
Engineering*



*Taylor Smoke
St. Lawrence College
Environmental
Technician*



*Graduate Student:
Samantha Phillips
St. Lawrence University
Master's in Educational
Leadership*

Beware What You Share: Internet Safety Training Available Online

By Austin Swamp

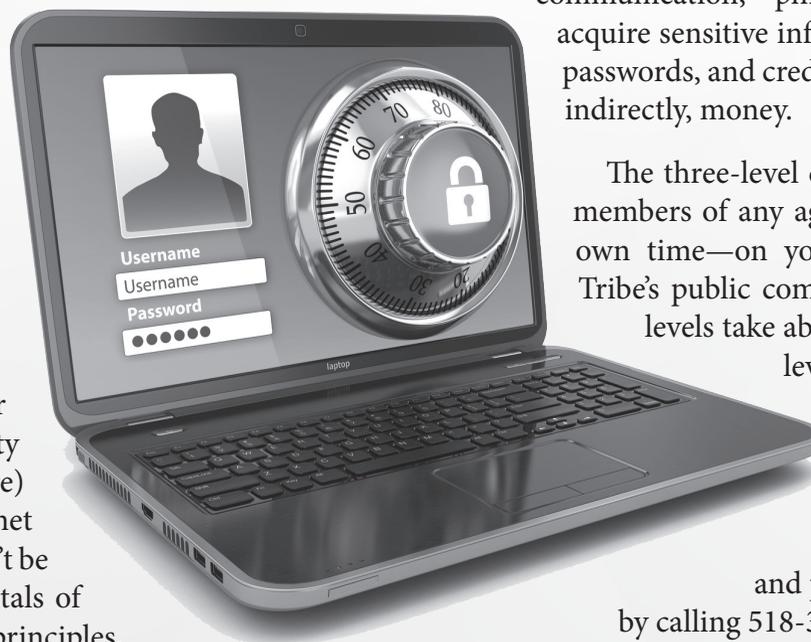
Many people today rely on online banking for paying bills, internet shopping and emails. Not many people realize that there are con artists, hackers and thieves trying to steal your personal information. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Technical Support Department is providing a free online training course to help community members better understand how you can be targeted through e-mails, suspicious links, and other media and how to better protect yourself from such attacks.

Protecting your personal and workplace data is as crucial as protecting your bank account. Hackers, identity thieves and malicious (malware) programs roam the Internet searching for easy targets. Don't be a target. Learn the fundamentals of online security including key principles, concepts, vulnerabilities, threats and how to counter them.

When you sign up for certain products, some companies sell your email address to make money. Next time, think about that before you sign up to have a chance at winning a prize. That's how you can become a target for 'phishing'. By masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication, phishing is the attempt to acquire sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, and credit card details and sometimes indirectly, money.

The three-level course is free for community members of any age and can be taken on your own time—on your device or at one of the Tribe's public computer centers. The first two levels take about an hour each and the last level about 30 minutes.

Contact Austin Swamp at the Akwesasne Employment Resource Center to receive a login and password. He can be reached by calling 518-358-3047 Ext. 005. ◇



Are You Safe Online?

Calendar

Enniskó:wa/March 2015

- 7 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building Lobby
- 10 - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office
- 11 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom, Community Building
- 13 - ECDP Headstart & Child Care Closed for Staff Training
- 25 - Health Services Community Planning Meeting - 6:00 p.m. - Diabetes Center for Excellence

Onerahókha/April 2015

- 4 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building Lobby
- 8 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom, Community Building
- 14 - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's office
- 25 - Earth Day and Tree & See Giveaway - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Office for the Aging Senior Citizens Center

Wednesdays - Tribal Council Work Session - 9:00 a.m. - Tribal Council Executive Boardroom

New Faces

Allena D. Jacobs, Production Technician - Broadband
Amanda Lynn Demers, Habilitation Aide - IRA
Anna Thompson, Education Specialist - Johnson O'Malley
Ashely Leighton, Habilitation Aide - IRA
Austin J. Swamp, Computer User Support - Tech Support
Benjamin Treptow, Dispatcher - Tribal Police
Brendan White, Director - Communications
Brian Bond, Pharmacist - Health Services Pharmacy

Giselle M. Cook, Administrative Assistant - Construction
Joanne D. Ashe, Per Diem - Early Childhood Development
Juliah Perkins, Production Technician - Broadband
Kahontineh Swamp, Information Coordinator - Office for the Aging
Larry Dowdy, Pharmacist - Health Services - Pharmacy
Lee Tarbell, Custodian - Facilities
Murray Lauzon, Dispatcher - Tribal Police

Donations

Community Development - Financial assistance for a community member - \$750

Funerals - \$2,000

Community Events - Akwesasne Winter Carnival - \$5,000

Sports - Massena Rifle Team Booster Club - \$1,000

Jobs

All current positions with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe are posted on the Tribe's website at www.srmt-nsn.gov.

Positions with our gaming operations are posted on the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino's website at www.mohawkcasino.com.

Akwesasne and surrounding area positions are posted at the Akwesasne Employment Resource Center (AERC) at www.myaerc.org.

Tribal Employee Enrichment Award Winners Announced

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe honored five of its employees at the 2014 Christmas Party. Employee Enrichment Awards were given to Connie Thompson, PJ Burns, Lindsay Tarbell, Patti Herne and Sharon Cook.

The Tribe's Enrichment Awards are given to tribal employees for their hard work and outstanding contributions to the organization. The award was created to recognize staff members for their efforts enriching the workplace.

Individuals are nominated by their colleagues for their exceptional display of service to their co-workers, community members and their team spirit and initiative to provide an enjoyable work environment. They were recognized for the collaboration, professionalism, integrity, positivity and other notable characteristics.

Entries were submitted to Tribal Administration and provided examples, as well as reasons, for the individual's nomination.



Connie Thompson -
A/CDP Outpatient Program

"Dedicated over 25 years of service to the field of addictions. She is a role model both as a professional and as a community member."

Sharon Cook, Office Manager
Partridge House (Not pictured)

Sharon has worked for 20 years at the Partridge House. She knows the program inside and out and is always willing to go the extra mile to help clients or staff. ◇



PJ Burns,
Tribal Police Department

"PJ has been an officer over 14 years and promotes a positive image for the Department."



Lindsay Tarbell,
Economic Development

"Deserves recognition for the work she has done in her role and going above and beyond in keeping the Department in a position to have a positive effect on the community we serve."



Patti Herne,
Human Resources

"Always has a smile as soon as you walk in to the office. She enriches our office and the Tribe with her attitude, helpfulness and problem solving ability."

Environment Division Kicks Off Spring Projects for 2015

By Environment Division Staff

Forestry Resources

The Forestry Resources Program being overseen by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environment Division has announced several seasonal programs that assist community members with their annual spring clean-up. The programs include chipping, hazard tree assessment and urban forestry assessment.

Chipping is the removal of dead and down trees, limbs and branches. This eliminates the need to burn and provides a safe and convenient way to get yards in shape for the summer months. Although the elderly and disabled are prioritized, anyone can sign up. In the past, the program has assisted local cemeteries with clean-up and removal of trees and branches and plans to do the same again this year.

Hazard Tree Assessment is the identification of trees that have the potential to fall and damage buildings, as well as cause injury. Site assessments are done and a determination is made for safe removal of a potentially hazardous tree. The Forestry Resources Program will place particular emphasis on ensuring the delivery of services to seniors and disabled who are on fixed or limited incomes.

Urban Forestry Assessment is a way for community members to learn about the health of trees on their property. The assessment identifies the trees in a yard and calculates how much energy savings they provide

in heating and cooling. Community members will have a chance to talk directly to a forestry technician and receive valuable tips on planting, care and benefits of trees.

Community members are encouraged take advantage of these services by getting in touch with the Forestry Resources Program by calling (518) 358-5937, or stop by their office located at 449 Frogtown Road.

Earth Day Events

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environment Division and Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment (ATFE) are pleased to announce the annual Earth Day and the Seed and Tree Give Away. The event will be held at Tsi Tetewatatken (Office for the Aging) on Saturday, Onerahtókha/April 25, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Lynn Braband, Community IPM Extension Educator, NYS Integrated Pest Management Program at Cornell University, will be a guest speaker from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the topic, "It crawls; it bites; it stings. Dealing safely and effectively with pests in and around your home."

Various informational tables will be available.

Road Side Clean Up event will be held at Tsi Tetewatatken (Office for the Aging) on Onerahtokó:wa/May 9, 2015. Rain date is Onerahtokó:wa/May 16, 2015.

Contact Craig Arquette or Julia Jacobs at SRMT Environment 518-358-5937 for more information.



Burn Permits

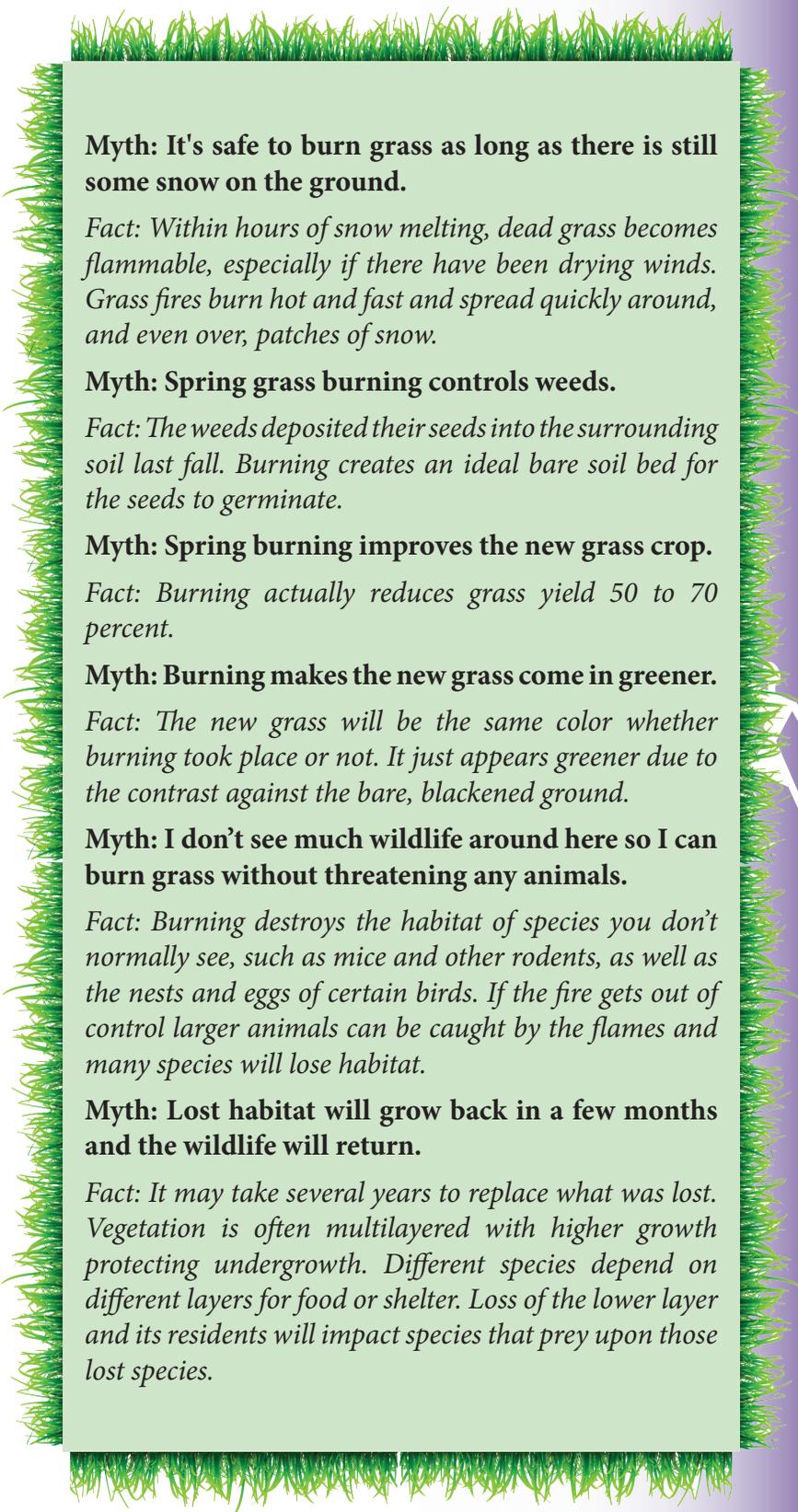
Believe it or not, spring is coming! That means people are going to be picking up their yards and burning unwanted yard waste. Keep in mind however, that there is a burn regulation in place. The burn regulation was put in place to educate the community on the effects of burning; whether it is tree branches, paper, cardboard or garbage.

In springtime, after the snow melts, the danger of uncontrolled fires increases. As a precaution, the Air Quality Program will not approve burn permits between Enniskó:wa/March 15 and Onerahtohkó:wa/May 15, 2015. The best practice is not to burn, but if you have to burn you must apply for a permit. The process for obtaining a permit is fairly easy and doesn't cost a thing. On Thursday, Onerahtohko:wa/May 7, 2015 a representative from the air quality program will be in the community building lobby from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with burn permit applications.



Burning is not the only option when it comes to the disposing of trees, garbage or anything else. You may also contact the Environment Division at 518-358-5937 to see what other options are available. Instead of burning your branches and trees the Environment's Forestry Program may be able to chip it. Information on additional services available from the Environment Division will be provided in the coming months so keep an eye out in *Kawennì:ios*, Indian Time or listen to CKON.

As for your garbage you should never burn it. Not only does it smell bad, but it releases toxic chemicals into the air that harm the developing lungs of our children and makes it hard for our people to breathe. The Solid Waste Program has a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) system in place for roadside pickup. At \$4 a bag you can't beat the price (sold in lots of 5 for \$20.00). Also, when you reduce-reuse-recycle, the amount of trash you have is drastically reduced therefore making it less expensive. So for now and the next seven generations practice environmentally friendly garbage disposal. ◇



Myth: It's safe to burn grass as long as there is still some snow on the ground.

Fact: Within hours of snow melting, dead grass becomes flammable, especially if there have been drying winds. Grass fires burn hot and fast and spread quickly around, and even over, patches of snow.

Myth: Spring grass burning controls weeds.

Fact: The weeds deposited their seeds into the surrounding soil last fall. Burning creates an ideal bare soil bed for the seeds to germinate.

Myth: Spring burning improves the new grass crop.

Fact: Burning actually reduces grass yield 50 to 70 percent.

Myth: Burning makes the new grass come in greener.

Fact: The new grass will be the same color whether burning took place or not. It just appears greener due to the contrast against the bare, blackened ground.

Myth: I don't see much wildlife around here so I can burn grass without threatening any animals.

Fact: Burning destroys the habitat of species you don't normally see, such as mice and other rodents, as well as the nests and eggs of certain birds. If the fire gets out of control larger animals can be caught by the flames and many species will lose habitat.

Myth: Lost habitat will grow back in a few months and the wildlife will return.

Fact: It may take several years to replace what was lost. Vegetation is often multilayered with higher growth protecting undergrowth. Different species depend on different layers for food or shelter. Loss of the lower layer and its residents will impact species that prey upon those lost species.

Tribe Doubles OED Staff

By Mary La France, Support Officer

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's (SRMT) Office of Economic Development (OED) is pleased to welcome two new staff members to its ranks; Edward Smoke and Mary La France. These new additions will contribute valuable skills to enhance the OED's support for local businesses and continued economic growth for Akwesasne and the surrounding area.

"I am looking forward to a revised approach to supporting the local economy, which gives full value to the capacity we have within our own community," stated OED Director, Christopher Thompson. "The team here will work towards putting Akwesasne on the map in terms of community economic development, especially in the area of Tourism. We have a dynamic community in a unique location and we will work towards realizing all opportunities available to us."

Edward Smoke is the new Business Services Specialist and brings with him expertise in capacity building for Native businesses. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services Studies from Cornell University and an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from SUNY Canton. Most recently, Mr. Smoke has utilized his business services skills in positions held with Waubetek Business Development and the Ohwistha Capital Corporations. He is the son of Eddie and Selena Smoke and lives in Akwesasne with his wife, Rena Smoke, and their three children.

Joining Mr. Smoke as the new Economic Development Support Officer is Mary La France. She comes to the Office of Economic Development from the SRMT's Environment Division and holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Natural Resource Management,

with a minor in American Indian Studies, from Cornell University. Her skills bring stability to the OED as it continues to grow and expand its services for the benefit of Akwesasne's local businesses. She is the daughter of Lynn and the late-George La France, both of Akwesasne.

The additional staff is already paying off, as the OED office is quickly advancing in the promotion of local businesses with the release of the 2015 Akwesasne Business Directory and launch of its new interactive website: www.AkwesasneBusinessDirectory.com. This modernized directory promotes local businesses, while providing up-to-date information that supports a vibrant business community.

It is the OED's desire to strengthen existing and form new partnerships with agencies aimed at enhancing business services in Akwesasne. To accomplish this, the OED works closely with other community agencies including the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Economic Development, the Akwesasne Employment Resource Center and the Akwesasne Chamber of Commerce.

Some of the business services currently offered by the OED include: conceptual and business planning, professional development training, financial assistance, supporting employment opportunities, and continuing to be responsive to the business community's needs.

For more information, please contact the OED at (518) 358-2835 or visit www.srmt-nsn.gov/divisions/administration/economic_development/. ◇



The EcDev Team: Edward Smoke, Christopher Thompson, Mary La France and Lindsay Tarbell

Honoring Our Past: Our Leaders Remembered

By Lillian Barton, Records Officer

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Historical Preservation/Records Department is seeking community assistance in locating photographs and service dates of previous Tribal Council Chiefs, Sub-Chiefs, Administrators and Clerks. The project will display all past, present, and future leaders with their service dates.

Please send photos and information to lillian.barton@srmt-nsn.gov or drop them off in the Records Department at the Tribe's Community Building. All photos and documents will be scanned and returned to the owner. For more information please call the Records Department at (518)358-2272 ext. 2165. ◇

Alma Ransom
Maggie Terrance
Hilda Smoke
Pat Thomas
Phillip Tarbell
Norman Tarbell, Jr.
Rita Swamp
Carol Herne
Andrew Jacobs
Rick Terrance
Harry Benedict
Emily Lauzon
Fred White
Bryan Garrow
Lincoln White
Harold Tarbell
Michael Angus Pyke
Cecil Garrow
Allen Jacobs
Pat Thomas
L. David Jacobs
Rosemary Bonaparte
Lawrence Pyke
John S. Loran
Julius Herne
Brenda Lafrance
Gilbert Terrance
Allen Terrance



Display formerly in the lobby of the Community Building to be updated

Leonard Garrow
Nina Cook
Harry Cook
Lawrence Terrance
Solomon Cook
Reginald White
Charles Terrance
Noah Cook 60's (need new photo)
Francis Arquette
Larry Thompson
Lois Thomas

Allan White
Randy Connors
Ira Benedict 50's
Charles Thompson, Jr.
Charlie Jacobs
Mose White 40's
John Bigtree, Sr.
Jake Laughing
Loren Lazore
Frank Rourke
James Cook

Albert Lazore
Phillip R Cook
Melvin White, Sr.
Peter Ransom
Mose White
Dan Lazore
Andrew C. Cook 20's/30's
Joseph Terrance
James Deer
Frank Terrance 1917
Louis Foote 1915
Noah Lafrance 1914
Mitchell Laughing 1914
John Gray
William Gray
Peter Tarbell 1894
Alexander Solomon
Joe Bero
Peter Herring
Joe Wood
Angus White
Charles White
John White
Frank Terrance
Paul Swamp
Matthew Benedict
Joe Cook
Joe Garrow



Another Journey Begins

Angus McDonald

Angus (Gus) McDonald first joined the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe in 1982 as the Director of the JTPA/CETA Program. He worked in that capacity for eight years before serving as Tribal Administrator beginning in 1990. Following a four-year separation from the Tribe, Gus returned in 2002 as the Executive Director. In his final years as a tribal employee, he worked as a caseworker for the Department of Social Services.

On behalf of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, thank you Gus for 25 years of exceptional service. You will be missed. ◇

Gus

*Your pain is now over
a new journey you'll start,
up into Heaven you go
leaving us with a broken heart.*

*The family will greet you at Heaven's gate
I know they are anxious, I know they can't wait.*

*So many lives you have touched
during your time here,
so go with the Angels
and go without fear.*

*You can't be replaced
by any other.*

*Ma & Dan are waiting
and so is your brother.*

*You know we all loved you,
you know that is true.*

*The hole left in our hearts
is in the shape of you.*

Love always – James McDonald (brother).



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
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On the Cover: Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chiefs Ron LaFrance, Paul Thompson and Beverly Cook and Sub-Chief Eric Thompson pose with Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club staff and members with a new Nissan van that was donated by Tribal Council through the Hotel Occupancy Fee.