

Featured Programs

Child Care

Laboratory

Services at the
Seniors Center

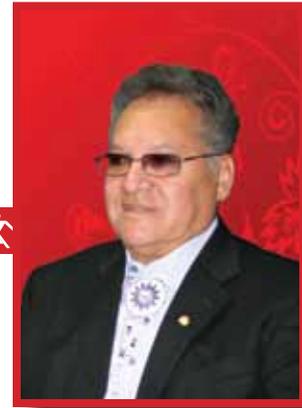
SRMT
Brownfields

Kawenni:ios



Turtles and Traditions

Good Words of Welcome



Shé:kon.

This issue of the tribal newsletter marks the one-year anniversary of my re-election as a tribal chief of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. Over the past twelve months, many events have taken place and goals have been reached within Akwesasne that I would like to tell you about. Through the voice of your suggestions and the teamwork that I have witnessed that begins when people come together as a proud community, there has been progress. I will recount some of these moments with you.

While on the campaign trail in my last re-election, I heard from many of you that you wanted to make sure that the Tribal Council knew all about the programs that the tribe offers, as well as the people who work there. It has been my pleasure to report that I have met with all of the departments of our tribal programs and almost all of the employees. Some of these departments deal with tribal members every day and others work more in the background. The one thing that I can say is that all of those departments see the direction that the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is moving in and that they are all pointed in that same direction. The betterment of the tribal membership begins with those entrusted to carry out that responsibility with the confidence and high expectations that they will do the best that they can, each and every day. We are on the right track in this suggestion that was followed up on.

I heard from some that I spoke with that we need to do more for the welfare and endowment of our elders as well as the very youngest. In this area, I can point to the contributions that have been made from the Tribal General Fund to worthy educational causes such as the Mohawk Freedom School, the Akwesasne Library and Museum Cultural Center, as well as the hiring of a Director of Education to lead our way into

the future as a growing community. These steps are just the beginning of the path that we will take as resource stewards looking to future plans and implementation. Those that I spoke with last year about other areas that need attention, I want to tell you that more community reinvestment will follow in the next twelve months, above and beyond what has previously been done.

Another area of concern I heard from some longtime friends and neighbors involved keeping our youth occupied, engaged and energized. They told me that young adult programming needs to be increased and more of it needs to be offered, in general. One way to do this is to support our Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club during the school year and also in the summer, because it offers a place where our young ones can be together, while still remaining local. Athletic leagues also must be provided adequate facilities to encourage participation and teamwork. Tribal voters have given the Tribal Council the go-ahead to construct a new Community Center which will combine the very best indoor training facilities with a suitable building design. This new addition to Akwesasne will be built on land of the Margaret Terrance estate and will include new locker facilities, team shower areas and instructional classrooms for coaches and trainers to work with the teams and their players. These multi-use rooms can also be used for educational preparation for our young college students as they prepare to leave Akwesasne, possibly for the first time, while attending the many colleges that our outstanding young people have been admitted to. Again, there is more to say about what can be done in the future and the focus on the younger members of this community is an obvious one.

The financial fitness of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe was among the most commonly asked question

of me last year, prior to my election. 'How would I go about looking into that?' was one inquiry. I am proud to say that with the addition of new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Barbara Montour, the Tribal General Fund is being overseen by yet one more set of eyes that is able to attest to the one direction that we are all moving towards as a tribe and as a community. Her experience working in international accounting and native customer service is a true benefit to the joy that she personally brings to her position of responsibility. I am very proud to have seen her hired to do this work that she is very qualified to do.

Other areas of realization that involve tribal finances include the consolidation and growth of the Tribal Gaming Enterprises. The Mohawk Bingo Palace Class II gaming facility was officially joined with the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino earlier in 2013 in a long-awaited merger. This was soon followed by the completion and grand opening of the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Hotel in May 2013, creating the dynamic Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort. We now can point to a destination location for our many visitors and friends that have long requested that Akwesasne offer more in the way of resort amenities, such as in-house spa services, a swimming pool, and an on-site fitness center. The look is different on the gaming floor and more improvements will follow. A performing arts concert hall and theatre are in the plans for the next stage of development, because you have asked for it and it will be a unique tourist attraction in a prime location.

Lately, I have heard from many of you that you want to know more about the recent agreement with New York State to settle our tribal land claims and maintain the exclusivity of the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort. This subject of the land claims related to the Treaty of 1796 was a big topic of discussion in Akwesasne in 1996 when I was first elected to the Tribal Council, and after this many years, is again. I intend to make your voice heard as a tribal membership during these discussions. Foremost of the needs of this growing community is the land base upon which to build upon. Our expansion east of Akwesasne reflects a return to the full use of the surrounding areas that are known now by different names, but never forgotten or treated lightly by me or anyone else on the current tribal council. We will protect what is ours now and regain the land that our future generations will need to keep us a vibrant people. That is what the Tribal Council is trying to accomplish with the new agreement with New York State.

In closing, I thank those who participated in these achievements with me and to all of those who take the time to offer your comments and suggestions. I am here to listen and act. It has always been this way.

Niá:wen.

Paul O. Thompson

On the Cover: Riveredge Associate's Michael Reynolds demonstrates how to set a turtle trap while grade three students from St. Regis Mohawk School look on.

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It's Not Just Pollen Out There...

By *Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager*

In the summertime we find a lot of other things like insects and bugs in our living area: indoor and outdoor. Bugs and insects are natural; they have their job in life just as we do. But that doesn't mean we have to like them. Lots of people are afraid of bees and stinging insects. Why? Because they are allergic (or don't know if they are allergic and don't want to find out) or because it hurts to be stung. Bees aren't the only stinging insect out there either. We have yellow jackets, hornets, wasps and biting mosquitoes

Bees: There are a few types of bees around: bumble bees, honey bees, ground bees. Bumble bees like flowers. They pollinate plants and gather nectar. They are not normally aggressive unless they feel threatened. Honey bees are also pollinators and are considered one of the most beneficial bees on earth. Honey bees are the ones that are kept in boxes but can invade your home with hives weighing hundreds of pounds because they have tens of thousands of worker bees. Ground bees burrow in the ground and get really mad when the lawn mower goes over them. They are very easily agitated and can become very aggressive.

Wasps: Wasps like to nest in attics but will build it anywhere: eaves, shutters, decks, swing sets, acid rain collectors and light fixtures. Their sting hurts the worst.

Yellow Jackets: These can sting repeatedly and typically have yellow or white on their faces.

Hornets: Introduced from Europe in the middle

of the 19th century and are considered more painful because of their venom. The European hornets can sting multiple times and do not have barbed stingers and they are not pulled out from their bodies.



Hornets eat Leaves, Tree Sap, Flies, Bees and Other Insects



Worker Honeybees are all Female and are the Only Bees Most People See



Wasps Prey upon Pest Insects, Either for Food or as a Host for its Larvae

Mosquitoes: We all know what mosquitoes are and that they are very annoying and plentiful. There is a lot of research going on about why mosquitoes seem to like one person over another. It is known that mosquitoes like carbon dioxide and sweat. They also like people with excess steroids or cholesterol on their skin they can smell it from up to 50 meters away.

So what can we do to make our BBQ atmosphere insect-free? Nothing! But we can minimize the amount of pests. Insect repellent is good, citronella is good, wasp and bee traps are good. Covering up your skin helps with mosquitoes although they still buzz in your ear. Depending on the type of bee you may not want to kill them. For example, honey bees can be harvested by a bee keeper. Other nests such as wasp nests can be deactivated by using Dawn® dish detergent and water poured on the nest. I hear it kills them instantly. And because they don't like soap they will probably not come back.

Hopefully, I gave you some good information here about things in the air other than pollen and it will help

this summer as we BBQ and play outside. So for now and the next seven generations, let's keep our family and friends safe from insect bites/stings. ◇

Election Board Announces Appeal Decision

Special Election for Chief and Sub-Chief Positions Scheduled

News Release

On June 10, 2013 the Election Board heard an appeal from a community member who presented to the Election Board evidence that the integrity of the April 02, 2013 Election and Referendum Ordinance was jeopardized. After careful consideration of the facts presented and documentation supporting the appeal, the Election Board has determined, as per the April 02, 2013 Election and Referendum Ordinance, the appeal is successful.

Therefore, the June 1, 2013 tribal election for the positions of Chief and Sub-Chief is null and void. The positions for Chief Judge, two Traffic Courts Judges and the two referendum results have not been affected by this appeal.

To ensure fairness and integrity to the process of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Elections, the Election Board has determined that a special election will be held on July 13, 2013 for the positions of Chief and Sub-Chief.

Please Be Advised:

- No Caucus will be conducted for the July 13, 2013 Special Election.
- Candidates from the May 4, 2013 Caucus will remain on the July 13, 2013 ballot for the position they had been nominated for.
- Candidates who wish to remove themselves

from the July 13, 2013 Special Election, please contact the Election Board by June 24, 2013.

Timeline for Special Election:

- June 24 to July 10: Absentee Ballots available from the Tribal Clerk's Office
- July 10: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - In-Home Voting
- July 11 & 12: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. - Walk-In Voting - Community Building Lobby
- July 13: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Special Election - Community Building Lobby

Any questions or concerns regarding the eligible voters list or requests for an absentee ballot can be directed to the Tribal Clerks Office at 518-358-2272.

Contact the Election Board to schedule in-home voting at 518-358-2272.

Election Board Members are Wendy Adams, Christine Horn, Katrina Jacobs, Mark Martin and Betty Roundpoint. ♦

Child Care

Program Feature

By Barbara Buckshot, Program Manager

The Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP) is housed together under the direction of the SRMT Community and Family Services Division and Education Division. The ECDP offers comprehensive programming for Akwesasne children and families, through five components:

- 1. Child Care Center:** Provides structured, developmentally-appropriate programming for children ages three months to five years. The Child Care Center has an Infant room (three – 18 months), a toddler room (18 months – three years) and a transition room (three to five years). It is open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
- 2. Head Start Center:** Provides comprehensive early education services and school readiness for children three to five years of age and their families. Head Start has four classrooms for children and is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.
- 3. Home-Based Child Care:** Provides flexible, developmentally-appropriate programming for children ages zero to 13. Non-traditional hours are available including evenings and weekends.
- 4. Child Care Subsidy:** Assists low income, native families with the cost of child care.
- 5. Resource and Referral:** Provides access to support systems enabling parents to make healthy choices for their families.

All of our staff is trained and qualified in their particular content area. As the Program Manager, I oversee all program operations. The Child Care Education Coordinator ensures programming and curriculum are implemented and meets all state and federal standards. She also ensures the individual goals set by the families are met. The Education Coordinator enhances each child's level of development and assists families with children with special needs through early intervention, by identifying needs and by coordinating services within our program or outlying community. The Child Care Home-Based Coordinator offers assistance to parents who chose the home-based care. A Registered Nurse Supervisor ensures our program has a safe, healthy environment conducive to work/learning. Thirteen teaching staff offer individualized, age-appropriate programming to enhance development in all areas: cognitive, social, emotional, physical, cultural and health.



Niwakera:a and teacher, Jenna Timmons

In the past year we developed a strong management team focused on program quality and efficiency. It effectively meets the needs of our children within the tribal, state and federal government guidelines.

Through self-evaluation, the management team, staff and parent groups identified deficiencies. To address them, our team updated written plans and classroom/playroom guidelines for all content areas. These describe exactly how services will be provided to meet each standard and have increased professional development.

We identify delays and establish services in an efficient manner. We revamped programming to be more developmentally-appropriate and individualized. We have increased communications so that staff, parents and tribal administration are on the same page. We strengthened our relationships with our partners in Akwesasne and outlying communities.

In a formal letter to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council, the Child Care Supervisor, in collaboration with Child Care Aware of America and other organizations, called attention to the importance of high-quality child care services. Through resolution 2013 – 27, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe proclaimed the second Friday of May as “Child Care Provider Appreciation Day” in Akwesasne.

We continue to develop our program to offer comprehensive services. This includes an expansion to our Head Start 12:1:1 classroom and Child Care breastfeeding room. Other improvements include physical improvements to our gross motor room, playground restructuring and bringing a Speech Therapist and Mental Health Consultant on staff. We will increase the effectiveness of programming for infants and toddlers, increase the quality of the Home-based Child Care component develop wrap-around services and develop computerized tracking systems to ensure all requirements are being met in a timely manner.

We hosted a Father’s Day Brunch on June 15, 2013 followed with a public hearing to review our Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan preprint. This is to raise public awareness of our CCDF funding and how it contributes to quality programming for each child. CCDF supports our mission by providing the funding to train educators in early childhood development and material to plan, implement and assess our activities.

We welcome the following new colleagues to our team and look forward to continuing our efforts to create a quality family- and community-engaged program.

- Rachael Patterson, Infant Teacher
- Jennifer Conners, Toddler Teacher Aide
- Lillyann Laffin, Head Start Teacher Aide
- Jenna Timmons, Waddler Teacher Aide
- Melissa Conners, Child Care Home-Based Coordinator
- Justine George, Per Diem Teacher Aide
- Carrie Smoke, Per Diem Teacher Aide ◇



Tebotenion Herne Climbs Around with Courtni Day



*Avalea Ward and Jennifer Conners
Making Happy Faces*



Kaientake Allen Checks out the Slide

Tribal Ethics Office

Program Feature

By Peter Garrow, SRMT Ethics Officer

I am pleased to announce that the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe now has an official Ethics Commission in place. The following SRMT members were sworn in as Commissioners by SRMT Ethics Officer Peter Garrow: Sally Marie Hamelin, Alma Cecilia Ransom, Minerva C. White, Wanda Ann Patterson, Barbara A. Lazore and Mark C. Martin. Their first order of business as a newly-formed Ethics Commission is to review the existing SRMT TCR 2007-61 Ethics Ordinance passed by referendum June 2, 2007 and recommend amendments to the Ordinance for clarification and implementation.

This Ethics Ordinance serves as a Code of Conduct

raise the quality of life for their Mohawk members.

The Ethics Ordinance has been in place since 2007 and has never been implemented. A review of the Ordinance needs to be undertaken as some sections of the Ordinance require adjustments or amendments to be fully functional and operational as a proper oversight of elected officials. This process will be enacted by this newly formed Ethics Commission and the amendments will be brought forward to the community for approval at a series of three public meetings. This Commission is being guided by Carrie Garrow, Executive Director of the Center for Indigenous Law, Governance and Citizenship of Syracuse University College of Law.



Ethics Commission Swearing In Ceremony, L-R: Minerva White, Sally Marie Hamelin, Peter Garrow, Alma Ransom, Wanda Ann Patterson and Barbara A. Lazore

for the Tribe's elected officials (Chiefs, Sub-Chiefs and Tribal Clerk). The ordinance is intended to provide guidance for these officials in enacting their official duties as leaders as they conduct tribal business while, protecting the interests of the tribal membership and protecting the integrity and reputation of the Tribal government. It is extremely important that all elected officials are transparent and accountable to their membership and maintain high standards of honesty, integrity, fairness and impartiality in their actions to

Carrie participated in the first meeting of the SRMT Ethics Commission, held at the SRMT Tribal Court Boardroom on May 23, 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to review the existing Ordinance in detail and discuss potential amendments. There will be one more Ethics Commission meeting to prepare the amendments for the public meetings. The amended Ordinance can then be in place for implementation. ◇

IHS Laboratory

Health Services Program Feature

By Alice Tarbell, Medical Technician (ASCP)

The IHS Laboratory is an integral part of the SRMT Health Services Medical Clinic. Our purpose is to provide quality healthcare support for our patients and medical providers by delivering accurate analysis of all laboratory specimens. Most of you may be familiar with the routine of having your blood drawn. You see your healthcare provider, make your appointment for lab work, fast overnight, and come to the lab to have your blood drawn. What most of you don't know is what goes on behind the scenes after all the blood samples are taken. In the main part of the lab you can hear the humming and whirring of all of our equipment. Each day we ready all of our laboratory instruments in preparation for the tests to be done. Our lab consists of seven departments: Chemistry, Hematology, Urinalysis, Serology, Immunohematology (Blood Banking), Microbiology and Virology.

For each test performed, we are required to run quality control (QC) checks to ensure the accuracy of our analysis. Quality control is a considerable part of our daily and routine testing. Not only do we perform QC on a daily basis for the tests we run, we are also required to perform quarterly proficiency testing from outside agencies each year.

We receive samples to test from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) as well as from the American Association of Bioanalysts (AAB). We run these tests and submit our results and in return we receive grades for our testing. This testing ensures that we are performing and reporting patient samples accurately since passing these tests are essential to maintaining our license for operation. Along with proficiency testing, we also undergo rigorous unannounced inspections from the NYSDOH to ensure that proper laboratory procedures and requirements are being met.

Our lab is currently staffed with three New York State Certified Laboratory Technologists and Technicians. We are a small but busy lab. In 2012, we ran a total of 39,703 patient tests and 24,765 QC tests for a grand total of 64,468 laboratory tests.

We performed blood draws on a total of 4,745 patients as well as drawing over 1,700 samples

to be sent to reference labs for other testing. The number of patients we see each year is increasing. We have a limited number of patient slots for blood work each morning which is why it's so important that you keep your lab appointments. ◇



IHS Lab Staff: Melissa St. Mary, Alice Tarbell and Nicole Meacham

Environment

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division is seeking public comments on proposed revisions to the Water Quality Standards (Standards). These Standards apply to surface waters and groundwaters of the Tribe and are implemented under the authority of the Federal Clean Water Act. As required by law the Standards must be updated every three years to regulate emerging pollutants, refinement of existing standards and account for updated science. The Standards can be downloaded from the Environment Division website at the following address: www.srtmenv.org.

Please send written comments to Tony David, Program Manager of Water Resources, 412 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655 or email to Tony.David@smt-nsn.gov by close of business Ohiarhko:wa/July 26, 2013.

Vendors Wanted

The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort will be hosting their 11th Annual Ironworkers Festival on Saturday July 20 and their 2nd Annual Car Show on Saturday July 27.

If you are interested in being a vendor at either event, please contact Ashley Thompson at (518)358-2222 ext 2112 or athompson@mohawkasino.com.

There is no charge to set-up but register early because space is limited.

Wellness Day

Learn about wellness programs and services available from the Tribe, MCA and at area businesses. The 23rd Annual Wellness Day will be held rain or shine on July 25, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Office for the Aging, 29 Business Part Road, Akwesasne.

The 'Thompson Trio' will host a lacrosse skills clinic, question and answer period and autograph session from noon to 2:00 p.m. Bring your family for booths, vendors, food, door prizes, face painting and give-a-ways. Contact Outreach at 518-358-3141 if you have any questions.

Higher Ed

Hey, are you going back to college? Have you got your FAFSA and TAP applications done yet? If not, what are you waiting for?

Don't forget those application dates for the fall semester- New York State Indian Aid, AMBE and the Saint Regis Mohawk Higher Education program of July 15, 2013.

If you are considering college for the fall semester, please do not wait for the last moment to apply.

Good luck next semester.

Questions, give a call at 518-358-2272 x 247.

Roderick Cook, Director

Saint Regis Mohawk Higher Education Program

School Based Health Center

IHS Program Feature

By Aimee C. Vida FNP and Lisa Tarbell, Health Assistant

Staffed by a New York State Licensed Family Nurse Practitioner, a Health Assistant and a Supervising Physician the School Based Health Center (SBHC) is a program of the Saint Regis Mohawk Indian Health Services and is located at the Saint Regis Mohawk School. The staff works with a School Nurse to provide a team approach to the overall care and well-being of students enrolled in the SBHC program.

The SBHC is dedicated to providing each student with the opportunity for easy access to primary health care with a strong focus on prevention and to have educational services readily available.

The SBHC along with the school, health care providers and parents, will work with families to assure that children come to school each day healthy and ready to learn. Other main goals of the program are to provide support for students who may be at risk for physical and emotional concerns and to keep the access of health care easily attainable for students who need it.

Services provided by the program are open to all St. Regis Mohawk School students at no cost and regardless of insurance status. Participants

will receive health care provided by the SBHC and insurance will be billed but no payments are required from families. The program also provides assistance for families that may need help in obtaining insurance coverage for services outside the SBHC.



Aimee Vida, FNP and Lisa Tarbell, Health Assistant Finish Another School Year

Enrolled students will receive preventive dental services that include dental related education, oral hygiene instructions, fluoride treatments routine dental cleaning, temporary/permanent fillings and sealants to prevent tooth decay (It is important to note that these dental services do not replace a regular dental exam). The SBHC program also provides free check-ups, immunizations, physical exams, prescriptions, treatment for illnesses or injuries and health education and counseling.

The School Based Health Center's hours of operation are Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This program runs from September through June, when school is in session. If you would like to contact SBHC, please call (518) 358-4124 or (518) 358-2763 Ext. 6164. ♦

Grade Three Students Gain Appreciation for St. Lawrence River Area Of Concern

By Mary LaFrance, Environmental Health Educator

The Grade 3 Education Outreach Day is an event hosted by the St. Lawrence River Area of Concern (AOC) program at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) as a way to introduce environmental science to children at a critical age and to foster an appreciation for the local environment, particularly the local St. Lawrence AOC.

The event was held on the morning of June 5 at the Tewathahita Walking Trail for Grade 3 students from the St. Regis Mohawk and Salmon River Central schools. Approximately 105 students arrived that morning to discover they would be assisting real life biologists, technicians, and historians conduct 'field work'. They were given book bags donated by the New York State Department of Health Tribal Fishery Advisory project, and included *Conservation for Kids* activity booklet donated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and field journals and pencils to record their observations at four different interactive stations located around the trail.

The first station introduced students to turtles and traditions where they heard from the Akwesasne Cultural Center and Riveredge Associates, LLC, about the important roles turtles have in Mohawk culture and

also as an important indicator species for environmental health. They were also given a unique opportunity to get up close to SUNY Potsdam's collection of live turtles.

At the water quality station students assisted SRMT water quality technicians sample the water quality of a nearby pond. Each student was given the opportunity to conduct water quality tests and learn how water quality influences various species.



Michael Reynolds, Riveredge Associates, LLC, Presenting with Sue Ellen Herne, Akwesasne Cultural Center, about Turtles and Traditions

A third station introduced students to animal tracking with the help of the Friends of the Robert Moses State Park (RMSP) Nature Center. They learned about the adaptations of fur bearing mammals that make them good indicator species of environmental health and even collected animal tracks in their field books.

At the last station students played an interactive game where they learned about pollution pathways and how pollution gets in to the environment. With some help from wildlife technicians from Riveredge Associates, LLC, students observed how pollution affects certain species of animals by modeling a food chain.

The success of the Grade Three Education Outreach Day event would not have been possible without the dedication of the SRMT Environment Division staff



SRMT Staff Jade Gabri and Angela Benedict Prepare to do a Water Quality Demonstration

or the cooperation of local agencies that volunteered their time and donated to the event. Thank you SRMT staff, Riveredge Associates, LLC, the Friends of the RMSP Nature Center, the Akwesasne Cultural Center, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York State Department of Health and SUNY Potsdam.

For more information about the St. Lawrence River AOC please go to the SRMT Environment Division webpage www.srmtenv.org, or 'like' the St. Lawrence River AOC Facebook page. ◇



Students Learn to Identify and Record Animal Tracks with Friends of the RMSP Nature Center, Mary Danboise



Mary La France, Environmental Health Educator, and Joel Danko from Riveredge Associates, LLC, Entertain Questions from Eager Students

Monthly Tribal Meeting

Obiarì:ha / June 8, 2013
Chairperson Chief Paul O. Thompson

Agenda

1. Introductions:
 - Welcome
 - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
2. AB&GC Annual Report Presentation
 - Jessica Cree Jock
3. Prescription Pills Abuse
 - Beverly Cook FNP
4. Update on MOU
 - Michele Mitchell
5. New Business
6. Reading of Action Items
 - Tribal Clerk
7. Adjournment

Action Items from June Meeting

- To look into limiting commercial traffic on Route 37 from Friday to Sunday
- To look into offering something for the children at the Casino
- To look into the promotional coupons given out by the Casino (Class 2 vs. Class 3)
- To look into having valet parking expand to second entrance
- To have a financial report from April to the present since the Bingo Palace moved to the Casino available at next month's tribal meeting
- To look into having incentives for honor roll students
- A request for a written report from Economic Development on the efforts put forth to create jobs

Follow-up on Action Items from May Meeting

1. Possible Broadband internet providers present to the community what services their company will offer.
Follow-up: Once all companies have presented to Tribal Council, presentations will be scheduled for the community
2. Publish the Broadband project timeline.
Follow-up: A simplified project timeline is being prepared for posting on the Tribe's website
3. Look into the registration fee that Franklin County charges when renewing vehicle registration.
Follow-up: A letter has been drafted indicating the community member is a resident of the Saint Regis Mohawk Reservation, that state taxes do not apply and citing state tax. However, it was noted that there is no guarantee that Franklin County will accept it.
4. Community member requesting minutes from February, March and April meetings held regarding changes made to the Election ordinance.
Follow-up: This request was forwarded to Betty Roundpoint, member of the Election Board. Additionally, it was noted that this request should be made in accordance with The Open Records Policy.

Calendar

Obiarikhó:wa / July 2013

3 - **6th Annual Twilight Fun Run/Walk Series Begins** - Tewathahita Walking Trail - 5:15 p.m.

4 - **Independence Day holiday** - Tribal offices and transfer station closed

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

10 - **Absentee Ballots available from the Tribal Clerk's Office** - June 24 to July 10

In-Home Voting - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

11 & 12 - **Walk-In Voting** - 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. - Community Building Lobby

13 - **Special Election** - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Community Building lobby

25 - **Annual Wellness Day** - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Office for the Aging

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

New Faces

Marion Adams

Home Delivery

Office for the Aging

Bethany Boyea

Nutrition Coordinator

Office for the Aging

Dillon C. Cole

Fish Technician

Environment

Morgan Francis

Custodian

Facilities

Mindy J. Gray

Custodian

Facilities

Nancy Labarge

Registered Nurse

Health Services - Outreach

Kallen M. Martin

Director

Office for the Aging

Kristin Pirozzi

Shift Supervisor

Social Services Preventive Unit

Donations

Funerals - \$ 2,000

Jobs

Director of Communications - Communications

Current tribal job postings at www.srmt-nsn.gov

Pharmacy Clerk - Health Services Pharmacy

Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort positions are posted at www.mohawkcasino.com

Registered Nurse / Case Manager - Office for the Aging

Akwesasne and surrounding area positions are posted at www.myaerc.org

Services at the Center

Office for the Aging Program Feature

By Kallen Martin, Director

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Office for the Aging (SRMTOFA) is centrally located in the heart of Akwesasne. The Tsi Tetewatkins building (situated just north of the police station) on Business Park Road provides easy access to a wide array of services to the elderly population of Akwesasne. Our staff members are available anytime to provide assistance with all senior related issues. In addition to the specific services described on the Tribe's Seniors/OFA website, the Senior Center has recently secured the services of four additional staff members.

Kallen Martin joined the OFA in early May as the new Director of the SRMTOFA. She brings with her many years of program management, planning, and administration in the health, social/human services fields. Kallen (daughter of the late Priscilla [George] and Alexander Martin) hopes to widen the range of services available to our Akwesasne Seniors by combining the skills and knowledge of staff members. The OFA's Nutrition Coordinator, Bethany Boyea, and Health Educator, Tewentahawih'tha' Cole are also new to the center and with their joint work, more informed educational sessions and activities will be offered at both the center and in client homes.

Caregiver services, for example, are important for families so they know what is happening to their elder as their health either improves or declines. Activities that can increase mobility are critical and family members can help tremendously in this area through their encouragement and tutoring. Familiar to many in the community are medically directed changes in diets that come with certain medical diagnoses, for example, diabetes. The new staff members will be available for nutrition counseling and will also be scheduling home

visits, most likely in the evening, so that families can participate. What they will become familiar with are some of the ways in which foods that are bad can be filtered out of one's daily diet, and what foods contain the necessary nutrients, minerals, and vitamins for a medically directed diet change. If you receive a home delivered meal at noon, Bethany Boyea, our Nutrition Coordinator will be in touch with you to make sure the home delivered meal meets your needs along with a few other questions about your health status.

Our new Health Educator, Tewentahawih'tha' Cole (daughter of Debbie Tarbell and Brian Cole) is a graduate of SUNY Potsdam. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health in 2011. She brings to the center skills and knowledge that focus on health promotion. Stretching and exercise are important to all of us, especially for seniors who have become less mobile. In addition to our Activities Coordinator, Chanel Cook, Wente and Bethany will be developing some exciting activities to participate in at the center and at the Tribe's Wellness Day, scheduled for July 25 at *Tsi Tetewatkins*. We hope to begin a series of weekly activities that will promote the health and flexibility of our seniors. Stay tuned for more details on these developments.



*My Favorite Elder, Leona Cook,
and her daughter Diane Boots*

Another new staff member is Marian Jacobs who is assisting in the delivery of meals to those seniors who are home bound. Besides delivering meals, Marion has also been trained to be on the lookout for certain signs or symptoms of ill health among seniors who are home bound. She was instrumental in noting such signs in one senior and called the ambulance right away. She reported this to our nutrition coordinator who stayed with the senior until the ambulance arrived.

Unfortunately, the senior had suffered a heart attack. But, fortunately, with Marion's quick action, we were able to facilitate for this individual the proper medical attention. With rehabilitation, this senior will eventually return home, where we hope to be able to provide or facilitate caregiver and/or home health services.

Through the Senior's Club, groups of our elderly have gone on trips to St. Regis Falls and to Kahnawake. In both locations, our seniors were guests of the senior center they were visiting. They also have the opportunity to begin new friendships or renew old acquaintances, and play bingo!

Coming up later in July is the Safe Driving Course sponsored by AARP. Members of AARP are charged \$17.00 while non-members pay two dollars more. The two-day course begins at 1:00 p.m. on July 23 and 24,

2013 at the Senior Center. Participants who complete the course receive a 10% discount on their car insurance.

As part of its funding, the SRMTOFA will be conducting a needs assessment among the senior population in Akwesasne. A similar assessment was completed in 2010. We hope to be able to utilize the more current findings in our application for funding from the federal government. Another feature of the SRMTOFA is its public forum, designed to gain further insight on the needs of our Mohawk seniors. This forum is likely to take place in late August or early September.

We are beginning to see a much larger crowd at the center for our noon meals which are all homemade, and you don't have to be 55 years of age or older to join us for lunch. When you do join us, be prepared to laugh, visit with old acquaintances and enjoy a delicious hot meal or if you prefer a toss green salad!



Grace Barnes and Alice Jacobs Work on Their Journals at the Oneida Aging Well Conference



Mabel White, Gloria Cook, Michael David, Jr. and Louise Cook Enjoy a Mother's Day Meal at the Center

Senior Center Closure Update

On June 15, at approximately 3:00 p.m., an alarm notified the Hogsburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department (HAVFD) that there was a significant drop in water pressure at the Office for the Aging Senior Center. When the HAVFD arrived, the building had two to four inches of water most areas within the center.

The Fire Department, Maintenance, Senior Center staff and Tribal Administration responded to the call. All efforts were made to minimize the damages and

dehumidify the building as quick as possible. Luckily, with efforts from everyone, most equipment was saved. However, some of the flooring and sheetrock must be replaced.

For the safety of our seniors and community members, all or some of the building will be closed until the repairs are complete and the building is safe for our elders to occupy. Announcements will be made on CKON 97.3 FM, Indian Time and the Tribe's Facebook page and website. ♦

What Can an Otter Tell Us About the Environment?

By Mary LaFrance, Environmental Health Educator

You have probably never seen a river otter in nature. That is because they are small, very intelligent and also semi-aquatic, meaning they can spend just as much time on land as they do in water. In fact, an otter can run up to 18 mph on land and in water they can hold their breath for up to eight whole minutes! But, if you are ever lucky enough to see an otter in nature, they can tell you a lot about the health of the surrounding environment.

Otters are excellent animals to use as indicators of a healthy environment because they do not migrate. While most animals will travel hundreds of miles during the winter months to warmer climates, otters are adapted to living in cold climates. They have a thick fur that keeps them warm and they are able to swim beneath the ice to search for food. Another adaptation is that in the summer they are nocturnal, meaning they are most active at night and during the winter they are diurnal or active during the day. This helps to regulate their energy and maintain their temperatures during the difference seasons.

Another reason why otters are good indicators of environmental health is because they are extremely sensitive to changes in water quality. Water quality refers to the chemical, physical or biological characteristics of water. Otters can spend up to one-third of their lives in the water and often build their dens close to or along shore lines. If there is a change in water quality in a

particular area otters are likely to relocate to a healthier environment with better water quality.

The kind of food an otter eats is another way to tell the health of the environment. Much of an otter's diet is made up of fish, although they do occasionally eat insects and small animals like mice or amphibians. When contamination gets into the environment it is deposited in water or on land and is washed into rivers, lakes and ponds where it settles to the bottom.

Small animals and fish can take these contaminants into their bodies that can then be transported up the food chain into larger animals like the otter. Because most of their diet is made up of fish they are more likely to be exposed and experience the health effects from environmental contamination.

In areas of heavy environmental contamination and poor water quality, otter populations have completely disappeared. But, the good news is that when these same areas are cleaned up, the otter will return. The St. Lawrence River near

Massena and Akwesasne has

been known to be contaminated and efforts are ongoing to restore the environment. One way you can help is by informing the St. Lawrence River AOC program at the SRMT Environment Division (518) 358-5937 of otter sightings in and around the Massena/Akwesasne area so that information can be used for population studies.

◇



SRMT Wildlife Technician, Jay Wilkins Gets His Furry Friends Ready for a Presentation on Identifying Animal Tracks

Human Resources

Administration Program Feature

By Juanita Tarbell, Human Resource Director

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has grown steadily over the past four years, increasing the employee base from 601 in 2008 to 728 employees in 2012.

The Human Resource Department has had to respond to this growth through the addition of a Human Resource Generalist in 2008 and an Employee Relations Specialist in 2013.

Anthony Tillman was selected as the Employee Relations Specialist in May of this year. Anthony is a Mohawk from Akwesasne and he brings practical work experience from the management roles in his past. His focus will be to assist employees in resolving disputes between their managers/supervisors.

Anthony will develop a training plan for all Tribal staff. Training will be in the areas of Administrative processes, health and safety, harassment and Tribal Policies affecting staff. Departments within the Tribe will prepare training sessions for staff on purchasing and budget preparation, for example. Anthony will be developing an employee orientation program to cover all areas of the Tribe and will sit on various committees to better serve the Tribal organization.

Anthony possesses a Bachelors Degree in Business Management and a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership. He has the education and experience to assist our employees and management in all areas of Human Resources.

Patti, Margaret and Juanita are orienting Anthony into all areas of Human Resources that include staffing of positions, payroll and benefits administration, payroll accounting, employee relations and Personnel Policy interpretation.

We welcome him to our department and look forward to working together with him for many years. Anthony is located on the first floor of the Community Building and can be reached at 518-358-2272, extension 251.

Margaret Jacobs, the HR Generalist has been working very hard with staffing open positions. In the past year, she has received 1,073 resumes and applications for 142 positions.

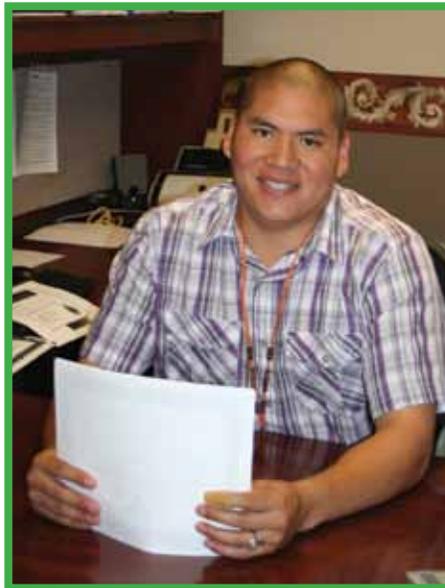
Native preference policies have maintained 72% Native employment in the Tribal workforce. The staff in HR enforce this policy for every open position.

Patti Herne, the Pay and Benefits Specialist worked with the Human Resources staff of the Casino on an employee purchase plan for high quality mattresses, the same that were installed with the new hotel at the Casino.

Employees were allowed to pay for these mattresses through payroll deductions. During the 3 days of delivery, Patti, Bill Arquette and McDuck of the maintenance department, Brad Rickerl of the Compliance Department, Craig Fuller and Tyler Jock from the Casino HR department, Karli Tarbell, Meghan Barnes, Tracey Sunday-Cook, Troy Thompson, Jerome Thompson, Demitri

LaFrance, Eric Romeo, Stevie Jones, Trent McDonald and Matt Lazore helped load 304 mattress and box springs into trucks and trailers. On behalf of all the staff, *Niawen:kówa* for making this employee purchase plan a success.

As Human Resources Director, I see how our employees go above and beyond on a daily basis. I am very proud of the commitment of all the tribal employees and the services they provide to our community. ♦



*Anthony Tillman,
Employee Relations Specialist*

Keep It Out!

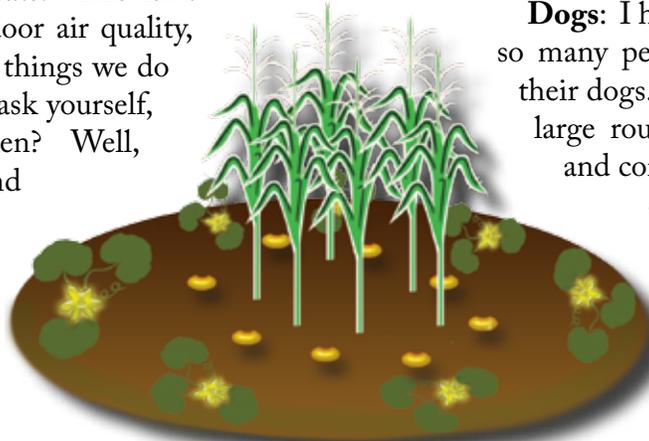
By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager

The subject of this article was brought to me by a community member who has real concerns about this and wanted me to get it out to the rest of the community. This article isn't about air quality but I thought it was interesting enough that it should be talked about. It isn't for the weak stomach either. So what's this about? It's about our beloved pets: dogs and cats. I love cats! Dogs are OK and I have one but I have always preferred cats. This isn't about how they affect our indoor air quality, it is about how they affect the things we do in life like gardening. So you ask yourself, how can they affect my garden? Well, besides tearing up the plants and such, they can use the garden as a toilet. Yes, I said toilet. We all know cats dig a hole, do their business, then cover it up. So what better place than a garden. Dogs go just about anywhere. What you might not know is that their business is TOXIC, very toxic.

Cats: Most people know that pregnant women and people with compromised immune systems should not clean or handle the litter box. I was recently asked why and now I have the answer: *Toxoplasmosis*. *Toxoplasmosis* is a parasite that infects humans and other animals. Some symptoms of *Toxoplasmosis* are headaches, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes or sore throat. Gardening is actually a second source of infection. The first would be contaminated food and water because you ingest the parasite directly. Cat feces also contains roundworms. The roundworms can be carried to the mouth by dirty hands, especially in young children and by fruits and vegetables.

So how do you keep them out? A fence can work or some type of deterrent. Some say planting the rue

herb helps because cats don't like the smell. Others recommend planting thorny roses or laying thorny branches on the ground around your plants. Another method is sprinkling cayenne or crushed pepper, it irritates cats. Rinds from grapefruit and lemon may also work. If you prefer to spray, a tea of rue, hot pepper liquid or lemon juice sprayed on plants may help to keep them out and will not hurt the plants.



Dogs: I hate to say anything about dogs, so many people are very defensive about their dogs. *Toxocara canis* is the common large roundworm that infects humans and comes from dog feces. Dog feces contaminates by getting on your hands and food. Once the fresh produce from your garden is eaten, the eggs get into your system. Once in your system (small intestine) they hatch and go throughout your body. They get into your bloodstream and float to the liver. This is called *Visceral Larval Migrants*. Another condition is called *Ocular Larval Migrants*. This one can affect the human eye, attack the retina and cause blindness.

Some things to remember are: Never add dog or cat feces to your compost, keep your pets out of the garden, treat your pets for roundworms, wash your fruits and vegetables thoroughly before eating, wear gloves when gardening and wash your hands thoroughly after handling cat/dog feces and soil.

So there you have it! Hopefully you won't be discouraged from gardening. After all, fresh produce from gardens is the best. So for now and for the next seven generations, let's keep our gardens pet free. ♦

Preventive Services

Social Services Division Program Feature

By Clarissa Terrance-Chatland, Assistant Director

The Preventive/Foster Care Unit is now located at 382 State Route 37, the old police station right next to their old building. We have a new Supervisor, Joni Cole, who will be starting on July 1, 2013. She comes from the Massena Central School district and has previously worked as a caseworker for the unit back in 2000.

Our unit consists of one supervisor and four caseworkers who are Stacey Loran, Chloe Cebek, Breanne Herne and Ellie Fuller. We also have one home-finder, Mallory Godreau, a LAN Administrator, Cassi Thompson, and Krystal Phillips is our Administrative Assistant.

The unit has been in operation for 19 years. In April of 1994, Tribal Council and the New York State Office of Child and Family Services signed an agreement allowing the tribe to handle their own social service problems.

The Preventive Unit assists in court-mandated cases. This is an involuntary procedure through Person In Need of Supervision (PINS), Juvenile Delinquency (JD) or ordered through the Family Court System initiated by a removal or order of protection through an investigation by Child Protection Services (CPS), another unit of the Division of Social Services.

Our home-finder is always in constant need of foster homes to help with children who are being removed or need respite for current foster parents.

We work with several other tribal programs such as:

- Intensive Preventive Program – Positive Indian Parenting and Parent/Child Advocacy
- Mental Health – Traditional Medicine, Anger Management and Counseling
- Drug and Alcohol Treatment – Outpatient and Partridge House
- Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program- 6-week Prevention Program
- Three Sisters – Shelter, Supervised Visitation/ Exchange, DV Advocacy and Sexual Assault Advocacy and Education
- Men for Change – Education
- Franklin or St. Lawrence County Services – Medicaid and/or Temporary Assistance, Food Stamps
- Canadian Services – referrals to ACFS

Our offices are open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays. If you have any questions about Preventive Services, contact us at 518-358-4516. ♦



The Preventive Services Staff: Krystal, Mallory, Breanne, Chloe, Stacey, Cassidi and Ellie

To strengthen, support and protect families of Akwesasne in all stages of life for Seven Generations.

The SRMT Brownfields Environment Program Feature

By Amberdawn LaFrance and Julia Jacobs

Since its inception in 1995, EPA's Brownfields Program has grown into a proven, results-oriented program. It has changed the way contaminated property is perceived, addressed and managed. "Tribal Brownfields" are defined as properties on tribal land that are "hindered from expansion, redevelopment, or reuse by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant." The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe received its first grant in 2010 to establish a Brownfields Program in Akwesasne. "EPA's Brownfield Program empowers tribes, states, and communities by providing money and technical assistance to prevent, assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse Brownfields. Through these response programs, tribes are taking an active role in combating environmental issues in Indian country, while creating self-sufficient organizations for environmental protection."

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Brownfields Program is currently gearing up for its fourth year of service. We are continuing to gather information from the community about potential Brownfields sites. The Brownfields Database currently has 38 possible Brownfields properties and corresponding data. This information was collected over the course of this year and last year through community outreach activities. The Brownfields staff created a plan for the next phase of inventory: prioritization. To assist with this we have established the "Akwesasne Brownfields Committee" (ABC) of Akwesasne community members to help prioritize criteria to apply

to the sites. The criteria were then used to create maps of natural resources that the group considered priorities to protect from environmental contamination. The next step in this process will be to compare the map of resources to the map of potential sites and see which sites pose the most hazards to community resources.

The Brownfields Program participated in the Tree and Seed Giveaway and the Akwesasne Roadside Cleanup Day this year. A table with information and



*Amberdawn and Julia Display the New
"Akwesasró:non Pledge to Mother Earth" feathers.
Photo by Jari Thompson.*

a map was set up at the Tree and Seed Giveaway, for community members to identify potential Brownfields sites. For the Roadside Cleanup Day, the Brownfields Program donated 13 mugs, filled with candy and a magnet, to be used as door prizes for the community members that spent the day cleaning up the roadsides. Brownfields will also be participating at the Akwesasne Annual Wellness Day by hosting a table with information and prizes for the community. Outreach staff also developed a 12-inch feather-shaped postcard with inspiring words, titled

"Akwesasró:non Pledge to Mother Earth." This will be given to community members as a reminder to keep our Mother Earth clean and to call our local environment office about potential Brownfields sites.

On April 23, 2013, Amberdawn LaFrance and Julia Jacobs attended the bi-annual Brownfields Roundtable Discussion in Albany, NY. This meeting brought together Brownfields grantees, the EPA, and NYSDEC to discuss anything about Brownfields

Grants, assessments, funding, etc. This meeting is important for the SRMT Brownfields team because it is an opportunity for all Brownfields grantees, including tribal grantees, to get together and share ideas, stresses and other information. We also met with Phil Clappin, our project officer from EPA Region 2.

On May 14-17, 2013, Brownfields staff Daniel Benedict and Julia Jacobs, along with SRMT Economic Development representative Lindsay Tarbell, traveled to the National Brownfields Convention held in Atlanta, Georgia. Daily a room was set aside for tribal representatives to gather, network and discuss issues pertinent to tribal communities. Several sessions were relevant to tribes such as Assessing Brownfields Challenges in Tribal Communities and Addressing Open Dumps and Construction Waste in Tribal and Rural Communities. Daniel attended a series of short film clips which demonstrated how communities can work together on Brownfields clean-ups. Two of the films were projects by Native American Tribes: the Cherokee in Tahlequah, Oklahoma and the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe of Sequim, Washington. Another new feature to

the Brownfields conference was the Tribal Listening Session co-hosted by EPA’s OSWER (Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response) Assistant Administrator Mathy Stanislaus, and EPA’s Janice Simms. They also toured Atlantic Station, a \$2 billion dollar smart growth project located on a 138 acre Brownfield site in the heart of Atlanta. They attended a Revitalization Roundtable which consisted of the nation’s most innovative leaders. The leaders were the Atlanta mayor Kasim Reed, the Cincinnati mayor Mark Mallory and Asheville mayor Terry Bellamy. Other leaders included White House Director for Intergovernmental Relations Jay Williams, the Assistant Administrator of US EPA Mathy Stanislaus and the President

Scott Condra of Jacoby Development Inc. During this session the panel shared their vision for sustainable revitalization and how to integrate redevelopment with support for struggling families and citizens.

The SRMT Brownfields Program has submitted a proposal to continue funding for 2013-2014. The proposal includes a new section under site-specific activities. We hope to begin our first round of site assessments in the next funding year. ♦



Yocasta Dejesus, Brownfields Project Manager, Julia Jacobs, SRMT Brownfields Outreach Coordinator and Schenine Mitchell, Brownfields Projects Officer Standing at EPA’s Region 2 Informational Booth at the National Brownfields Conference in Atlanta, GA. Photo by Daniel Benedict.

Join the Let's Get Healthy Program for the 6th Annual
Twilight Fun Run/Walk Series

The Twilight Fun Run/Walk series is a fun, family activity for all ages and fitness levels. It will be held at the Tewathahita Walking Trail at Generations Park. The series will be every Wednesday evening starting July 3 to August 28, 2013. Please sign in from 5:15 to 5:30 p.m. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. All ages are welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult. Free T-shirts for those who participate in four of nine nights. Bring your family and help us in our fight against diabetes.

For more information please contact the Let's Get Healthy Program at 518-358-9667



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