

Featured Programs

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Planning

Kawennì:ios



Casino Hotel Topped Off



Broadband Project Update

SMART® Board Goes to Akwesasne Freedom School

By Jason Hall, Broadband Project Manager

On *Obiarikhó:wa*/July 20, 2012 the Akwesasne Freedom School (AFS) received a SMART® Board interactive whiteboard courtesy of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's (SRMT) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) project. This BTOP project is one part of the SRMT's broadband initiative. The BTOP project looks to help the people of Akwesasne improve their lives through computer technology resources and educational opportunities. AFS staff received training on the new SMART® Board and is very excited about introducing it to the school's students. The BTOP project is extremely pleased that we could increase the scope of the project to include the Freedom School. This SMART® Board will allow teachers to motivate and promote student involvement by bringing new digital capabilities to the AFS classroom and to underserved Akwesasne youth. SMART®

Board technology is also available to the Akwesasne community at the following public computer centers: the Akwesasne Library, the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club, the SRMT Senior's Center, the Akwesasne Employment Resource Center and the casino's HR administration building.



AFS Staff with SMART® Board



Broadband Construction Truck

High Speed Internet Services Coming to Akwesasne

By Brenna Susice, Broadband Project Manager

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is pleased to announce the final design of the SRMT Broadband Initiative has been completed by engineering firm MyROW International and is entering the construction phase of the project. The construction efforts will be spearheaded by Kahnawake native Gerard Montour. Gerard, with his existing staff of professional linemen, will be mentoring local Saint Regis Mohawk residents in all phases of construction through an on-the-job training process. Please watch for up-coming job fairs to fill construction positions.

Unlike the existing out-of-date copper infrastructure currently in place, the new high speed internet services (broadband) will be a 100 percent fiber-optic network to every home and business on the southern portion of the Akwesasne territory. The "Fiber to the Home" or (FTTH) infrastructure is state-of-the-art technology that will accomplish multiple things immediately: the availability of affordable high speed data services with access to multiple internet providers rather than just one. What's more, the fiber optic network in place is easily upgradable to increase speeds as needed, as well as provide other services such as television and telephone services for generations to come. ♦

Good Words of Welcome



Shékon Akwesashró:non,

First and foremost, *Nia:wenkó:wa* to the community members who voted me back into office for a third term! I was overwhelmed by the number of votes and it was a very humbling experience to say the least. During the Swearing-In, The honor song by our Mohawk men will forever remain in my heart and soul as it was the most incredible feeling of pride one could experience being *Akwesashró:non*. Sincere gratitude to Mark Light, John Thomas, Forest Light, Harvey Thompson, Rickey White and Jeremy Molt.

I was asked to coach Team New York 21U for the Aboriginal National Invitational Volleyball Championships held at the Anonwara'ko:wa Arena, *Ohiorihkó:wa*/July 27, 28 and 29. I coached seven very talented girls who captured the gold in their division. Our team consisted of Shaylan Jacco, Haylee Jacco, and Lilly Loran (all from Akwesasne), Bean Miner and Maura Abrams (both from Onondaga), Gwennie Hill (6 Nations) and Gus Jonathan (Tonawanda). We lost our first set, changed our lineup and went undefeated for the remainder of the tournament. Congratulations girls!

On the Cover: Final Beam Placed on the Hotel Frame for the Casino Expansion Project

This year I've been fortunate enough to watch different age levels of lacrosse. From my nephews Xavier (Paperweight) and Michael Joey (PeeWee) to the talented goaltending of my cousins Kobi Johnson, Trey Adams, Jake Lazore and Torry Bigtree, to the skilled level of play of our Akwesasne men's and women's teams. Congratulations to each and every player for your combined teamwork, effort and sportsmanship.

This goes to show that Akwesasne is a showcase of talent thanks to our parents, coaches, teachers, aunties, uncles, friends and role models for their dedication, hard work, travel to and from practices and games and confidence in our youth for always encouraging them to go above and beyond their goals and reach for the stars!

Niá:wen, Corleen Jacco, Tribal Clerk



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Ironworkers Complete and Compete

Complete Hotel Frame and Compete in Festival

By David T. Staddon, Public Information Director

From *Wiskhaton* / Friday *Ohiarikhkó:wa* / July 20 through *Tsiat'abkhaton* / Sunday *Ohiarikhkó:wa* / July 22, 2012, the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino was the site of two memorable events. Ironworkers, tribal and casino officials conducted a topping off ceremony as they installed the last piece of steel into the frame of the casino's new resort hotel. This is a tradition among ironworkers when the steel frame of a construction project is completed. Tribal officials, casino officials and construction workers signed the beam which was decorated with a pine tree and flags. The familiar pine tree, symbolizing the "white roots of peace," accompanied the final raised beam to the top of the multi-story structure. Over 200 people attended the topping off ceremony.

Newly re-elected Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chief Paul O. Thompson went up top to connect the last steel beam. He is a 51-year Local



Tribal Council Signs the Final Beam



Chiefs Thompson and LaFrance Speak at Festival Opening Ceremony

440 journeyman ironworker and the veteran of many construction projects across the United States and Canada. Chief Thompson remarked, "This was my final ironworking job and I am proud to have been a part of this project. After this

I am turning in my union book."

At 7:00 p.m. on *Wiskhaton* / Friday the opening ceremonies of the 10th Annual International Ironworkers Festival followed the topping off ceremony. Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance provided words of welcome to the attendees. He recalled his father's experiences as an ironworker, "He came home tired and dirty," said Chief LaFrance. "He had burns from welding sparks and told me, 'This is not something I want you to do. I want you to get your education.'" Tribal Chief Paul Thompson also provided welcoming remarks, along with Union 440 members Mike Swamp and Bill Sears. Sears recounted some of his experiences in

*Family Members Honor
Ironworkers Lost This Past
Year*

the ironworking trade as well as remembrances of those ironworkers who had passed away during the past year.

The Ironworkers Festival kicked off on *Iahì:kbatoñ* Saturday *Ohiarikhó:wa* / July 21, 2012 and the competition began at 11:00 a.m. The event featured the spud throw, knot and rod tying, the bolt throw, the rivet toss and the most dramatic event – the column climb. Competitors came in from Michigan, Florida, New York City, New Jersey and Pennsylvania as well as Montreal, Ottawa and even Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Last year's Ultimate Ironworker Eric Costa again repeated and defended his crown against Chris Prophet. Eric also broke the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino record for the fastest climber at the Column Climb event. He smashed the old record of 6.4 seconds coming in at 6.09 seconds. Other winners included Al Staley, Retiree Overall Champion, and Travis Thompson, Apprentice Overall Champ. Other notable wins included Ella Arquette at Women's Packing Competition. The competition also featured another repeat winner in the Chicken Wing Contest for Fort's Brickhouse. When asked why he comes to this event yearly, Chris Prophet stated, "This is a brotherhood and family. I come back year after year because of the wonderful people here in this community. They are welcoming and the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino has always put on the best show of the summer for us." ♦



Column Climber



*Local 440 Ironworkers
Working on Project*

Preserving the Mohawk Language - Word by Word

Tribal Historic Preservation Office Program Feature

By Carole Ross, Mohawk Language Coordinator

The mission of this program is to raise awareness of the need to revitalize our language... while we still have speakers of *Kanien'kéha*. The first thing I want to do is to say *Niaʷen:kówa* to the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne for the meaningful reminder on the billboard across the road from this office at 412 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY. (My office and classroom are located in the Tribal Community Building in the room next to the receptionist's desk). The billboard says:

Tóhsa Ionkwá:ti (Let's not lose it)

Kanien'ké:ha Təwatá:ti
(Let's speak Mohawk)

I hope everyone has seen it, read it (or tried) and would like to do something about learning and using *Kanien'ké:ha* again. That's what my program tries to do.

Secondly, I encourage the community members to come in and use the Can 8[®] program we have purchased through the Akwesasne Economic Development Agency (AEDA). New computers have been ordered that will be able to accommodate the Can 8[®] program on the internet. Access to the Internet Can 8[®] will be free if you sign up for one of the classes held here in my office. Discussions with Jason Hall, the project manager of the Broadband Initiative, are ongoing. The goal is to hold Mohawk classes in one of the sites that

have been designated to house computers and Smart[®] Boards. They are in place and ready to be used now. The sites are at the Akwesasne Library, the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club, AERC, *Tsi Tetəwata'tkens* (Senior's Center) and the casino training center. Tentative plans are to begin classes in *Seskehkó:wa*/September or *Kenténha*/October. More information will follow as plans become more concrete.



The first 12-week course was for beginners and was held here in the language lab for the employees of the Tribe. Many applied and were interested with two finishing the first course. The second beginner 12-week class began in *Onerahtohkó:wa*/May and will be finished on *Seskéha*/August 17, 2012. There have been two daily classes for the second 12-week course, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Three students

in the morning and three in the afternoon have been attending steadily. They are my **stars** and I thank them for their persistence. Keep it up, Class of 2012! Keep trying and **most important; use** what you've learned, as often as you can.

Iakorihonnién:ni, Carole Katsi'tsienhá:wi LaFrance Ross, Mohawk Language/ Cultural Resource Coordinator. ◇

Judicial Oversight Commission

By Legal Department Staff

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council is pleased to announce the formation and appointment of the Tribe's Judicial Oversight Commission. This commission's purpose is to ensure compliance with established standards of judicial behavior of Judges presiding in our Tribal Court system. This commission is empowered to enforce the obligations of judges to observe high standards of conduct while safeguarding their right to decide cases independently. By forming this commission, the SRMT hopes to promote public confidence in the integrity and honor of our Tribal Court system. This commission will provide a forum for Tribal members with conduct-related complaints to seek redress and disciplining those judges who transgress ethical constraints.

The new commissioners are Penny Coleman, Martha Montour and Kurt Fetter. Penny Coleman is a graduate of the University Of South Dakota School Of Law and is a member of the Virginia and South Dakota Bar Association. Penny is an attorney with over 30 years of experience in tribal law. As Lead Counsel for the National Indian Gaming Commission, her litigation, legislation and management experience in gaming is extensive. While serving in the Office of the Solicitor within the Department of Indian Affairs she directly advised Department of the Interior Secretary, the Counselor to the Secretary and Assistant – Indian Affairs and Solicitor on Indian gaming matters. In addition, Ms. Coleman is experienced in federal acknowledgement, the Indian

Self-Determination Act, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Child protection, subsistence rights, education, social service and tribal government leadership disputes.



Penny Coleman



Martha Montour



Kurt Fetter

Martha Montour is a member of the Mohawks of Kahnawake and graduated from the National Law Program of McGill University and is a member to the Bar of the province of Quebec, and New York State Bar Association. Martha has 22 years of law experience in Native American law mediation, aboriginal law mediation, family mediation, commercial mediation, civil mediation, labor mediation, small claims mediation, Native American justice, aboriginal justice, alternative dispute resolution (arbitration, collaborative law), elders, children, traditional justice systems, aboriginal mediation training and supervision.

Kurt Fetter is a member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and received his Master of Education in both Administration and Counselor Education from Saint Lawrence University. Mr. Fetter has worked in the area of education for nearly 30 years as a teacher, counselor and School District Administrator.

The Tribal Council is proud of the great progress our court has made and is committed to supporting efforts to expand and develop our court system to the benefit of the community and to exercise our collective right to govern ourselves and our relations with each other, and those that choose to conduct business with us. We hope to have the new commission sworn in soon! ♦

Johnson O'Malley Summer Program

Education Program Feature

By Becky Smoke, JOM Director

The JOM Program is designed to help the specialized and unique needs of eligible students who attend Massena Central School districts and Salmon River Central School district. This includes the Head Start program and elementary aged children. In order to assess the needs of our community, I administered a needs assessment survey during our summer program as well as to the community at the Annual Wellness Day. These results will help the goals and objective for the JOM program. People who filled out a survey had their name put into a drawing for a Kindle®. The winner of the Kindle® was Nancy Jacobs. Congratulations and thank you for all the responses.

Steps for Success Summer Camp Program 2012

This year JOM combined services with the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club to offer a summer program to cater to the needs of the community. There were a total of 150 students in our program of students from ages five to 12. The program ran for six-weeks from 8:00 a.m. until

4:00 p.m. This year we had activities that included educational activities, daily reading time, arts and crafts, team building and motivational games. Other activities included anti-bullying workshops, safety presentations, personal self-care/self-esteem presentations, Zumba workout sessions, environment presentations, water fun activities every Friday, a beach day and our final end-of-the-year trip to Calypso waterpark. Students took part in an activity that the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club like doing a newspaper fashion show. Students were able to use their imagination and design outfits for peers of their groups and showcase a fashion show of their newspaper clothing design. There were about 30 students that took part in this event and it was a huge success.



Student Tries Trumpet at Band Camp



Spiderweb Name Game

Every *Tekeníbaton* / Tuesday we had the pleasure of having the Alcohol/Chemical Dependency Prevention Program ladies come in and do activities with all of our campers. The JOM program implemented a one-week band camp, with Mr. Justin Hahn, who is currently the band

teacher at Mohawk School and Salmon River Central School. Students were able to sign up for his class if they were interested in learning more about instruments or were current students of Mr. Hahn's band classes during the school year. All students enjoyed being a part of this opportunity.

During the fourth and fifth weeks of summer programming, Katsitionni Fox and the Title VII Program held a cultural program from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The students learned about the opening address, social songs and dances and a printmaking project to go along with the opening address. Students also made pottery and went on a medicine walk around the school property. Louise Herne was a guest speaker that came in and talked to the students about the Rights of Passage.

JOM thanks all the people and programs for their assistance in making this summer a truly memorable one for our students. I would have not been able to do this without the JOM summer staff, WIA staff, the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club staff, the St. Regis Mohawk School for lending their school for our program, Clarissa Chatland and the Indian Welfare Program, Melissa Connors-Chamberlain, Mel Back and the girls from the Alcohol/Chemical Dependency Prevention Program, Julie

Jacobs and the Environment Division, the Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department, P.J. Herne and The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police and *The Let's Get Healthy Program*.

Upcoming events to look forward to for this school year:

- Continue offering tutoring services within the Salmon River Central and Massena Central School Districts.
- Offer after school tutoring for students in need.
- Conduct Study Skills workshops, Time Management Workshops, Test preparation, SAT/ACT preparation, career preparation and attend college visits.
- Offer incentive prizes for students who make the honor roll for each marking period.
- Reward students for excelling in reading goals.
- Continue with the "21-day challenge" for students in grades 7 – 12 who attend school for 21 consecutive school days.
- Re-establish and participate in the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Chapter and activities that involve math, science and engineering-oriented activities.

For any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the JOM Office at 518-358-2272 ext. 252 or email rebecca.smoke@srmt-nsn.gov. ♦



Newspaper Fashion Show a Big Hit



Supportive Apartments Program

Community & Family Services Program Feature

By Heather Durant, Support Benefit Services Manager

The Supportive Apartments Program currently has three certified Supportive Apartments located at Sweetflag Estates in Rooseveltown. The program provides services on a daily basis for individuals who have developmental disabilities. Each individual receives up to 20 hours a week of staff support. These individuals demonstrate the appropriate skills to live independently. The program fosters supportive interpersonal relationships, offers supervision to ensure health and safety and assistance in learning activities that are a part of daily living. Supportive Apartments are designed to provide a home environment. The staff provides a setting where individuals with developmental disabilities can acquire the skills necessary to continue to live as independently as possible. Staff are onsite and available to provide the specific support needs of an individual. The Supportive Apartment Program serves as the individual's representative payee and assists with transportation, recreation, bill paying, grocery shopping, meal preparation, house-keeping, laundry, personal hygiene, medication management, one-on-one assistance and advocacy for all health-related appointments.



In addition to the Supportive Apartments Program, we also have our Sweetflag Estates Supervised Apartments which provides 24 hour supervision. This is a newly established residential program designed to meet the housing needs of our developmentally disabled individuals. This residential program has individualized apartments in which supervision is based on the person's needs. Individuals receive Residential Habilitation services that provide individually tailored supports that assist with skills related to living in the community. These supports include adaptive skill development, assistance with activities of daily living (hands-on), community inclusion and relationship building. Additional skill developments include training and support for independence in travel, transportation, adult educational supports, development of social skills, leisure skills, self-advocacy, informed choice skills and appropriate behavior development to help the individual access their community. Residential Habilitation also may include program related personal care, health care and protective oversight and supervision. The Supervised Apartments are designed to provide a home environment and also to provide a setting where individuals with developmental disabilities can acquire



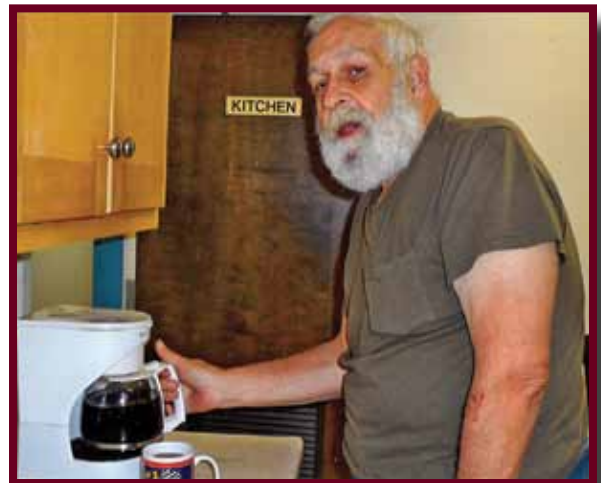
Tony Montour Takes Care of His Laundry



The Bed is Always Made in Louise McCumber's Room

the skills necessary to live as independently as possible. The program currently operates with six Habilitation Aides, an Apartment Supervisor and an RN to provide nursing oversight 24/7.

To be eligible for these programs an individual must meet all requirements through Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). Assistance with filing for eligibility can be completed through the Family Support office. For more information, please contact Heather Durant, Family Support Benefit Services Mgr. at 518-358-9481 or Sheryl Thomas, Apartment Supervisor at 315-705-4792. ♦



Lowell DeCarr Prepares Coffee for the Gang



Kitchen Chores are No Problem for Mary Wheeler

Photos by Sheryl Thomas

The Partridge House Inpatient Program

IHS Program Feature

By Valerie Staats, CASAC-G, Clinical Director

The Partridge House is a 56-day inpatient rehabilitation program that offers a journey of hope and healing to American Indians living with addiction. Though the focus is on the Akwesasne community, the program accepts referrals from other Haudenosaunee territories and throughout the areas east of the Mississippi River.

Addiction

Addiction is a progressive, chronic and fatal disease. It is a brain disorder that alters perceptions, feelings, attitudes, thinking and behavior. Judgment becomes so impaired for an individual struggling with addiction that they are unable to see and accept just how chaotic and destructive their lifestyle has become. The internal and environmental changes necessary to support healing and sustain recovery are difficult to accept. There may be false starts and relapse. Too often, the consequences of addiction reach tragic proportions before there is motivation to change. As such, Partridge House staff works with community members, agencies, courts and jails to provide the smoothest possible transition into care at Partridge House. Additionally, clients develop comprehensive plans for discharge, including adequate sober supports, continuing care, safe housing, primary care and cultural and spiritual connections.

Addiction & Trauma-Informed Care

Addiction is a primary disease that develops based on a number of factors – genetics, exposure to use, especially



*Valerie Staats,
Clinical Director*



Home Cooking

at an early age and peer pressure among others. It may also be a symptom of other issues - namely unresolved childhood and adult trauma. The use of alcohol and other drugs provides an illusionary sense of power to those who've lost their way as the result of unresolved feelings of despair, hopelessness, shame, grief and loss. The Partridge House program helps individuals understand their use of addictive behaviors to numb emotional pain and, in some cases, inappropriately vent their emotional pain (e.g., violence). Partridge House staff understands hurt people and has become a leader in advancing person-centered, trauma-informed care. They provide a supportive, respectful environment grounded in the ancient values of gratitude, responsibility and good mind.

Wisdom So Old, It Seems New

Science has come full circle in its understanding of ancient indigenous wisdom. Emerging science now supports many of

the ancient ways of understanding and facilitating the healing, recovery and wellness process for individuals and families. Partridge House blends emerging science and ancient wisdom in its programming, healing work and education.

Core Program Components

Addiction impacts all life areas – physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, and social. As an example, once an individual begins to abuse alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, their developmental growth is slowed. This

explains why a 32-year-old struggling with addiction since their teens may have the attitude and behavior of a teenager. As such, Partridge House provides a holistic approach to healing and recovery. The 56-day structured program works to break the cycle of addiction through education, individual and group therapy, cultural teachings and activities, experiential groups, recreational activities, meditation and relaxation and 12-Step meetings. Sober coping and living habits are learned and practiced. The heart of the program, however, provides a journey of hope and healing through spirituality and culture – smudging, sweat lodge, other ceremonies and traditional and Medicine Wheel teachings. This journey is a path of self-discovery and visioning. An individual must know who they are and have a vision of their sacred path. Otherwise they risk a return to their old destructive ways of coping.

Family Education Program

The Partridge House Family Education program seeks to share knowledge, resources and support to those seeking to understand addiction, relapse, and recovery and the impact on parenting, marital, social and employment relationships. In particular, family members of clients are given opportunities to learn how addiction has impacted their family and how to take care of themselves while being supportive of their loved one who is living with addiction. Clients and family members participating in the program have opportunities to learn and establish appropriate boundaries and practice healthy styles of communication. The Family Education program meets every Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and is open to any Akwesasne community member interested in learning more.

Annual Reunion & Day of Sharing

Graduates of Partridge House and others in recovery and their families and friends are welcome to participate in a special day of sharing on the 3rd Saturday in July every year. Bring a dish to pass and join us under the big tent to share stories, songs and good times!

Accessing Partridge House Services

Partridge House accepts referrals from detoxification programs (e.g., Canton-Potsdam Hospital, Withdrawal Management Centre in Cornwall, Ontario), outpatient addiction programs (e.g., SRMT Alcohol/Chemical Dependency, *Tekanikonrahwakon* Wholistic Health), drug courts/tribal healing to wellness courts, jails (via Native liaison workers) and physicians. Additionally, Partridge House offers screenings and referrals to community members who are concerned about their use of alcohol and other drugs.

Providing 24-hour supervision is a multi-disciplinary team consisting of certified alcohol and drug abuse counselors (CASACs). Some have a gambling specialty. Other staff includes a registered nurse, a recreation specialist, a recovery coach, cultural teachers, resident aides and security staff. A family nurse practitioner and a physician provide medical oversight. The facility is operated by the

SMRT Health Services, funded by IHS and licensed by the NYS-OASAS. The Partridge House is host to a Narcotics Anonymous meeting at 8:00 p.m. every *Tekenihaton*/Tuesday. For additional information, or to just talk with someone about recovery, please call (518) 358-2223.

Partridge House is a tobacco-free program. ◇



Sweatlodge on Grounds



Staff with the Three Sisters Mound Garden



Climate Change

By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager



I was very fortunate to go on travel to Washington D.C. in Ohiarihko:wa/July. I went to a Climate Symposium given by the First Stewards Organization at the National Museum of the American Indian hosted by the Hoh Tribe, Makah Tribe, Quileute Tribe and Quinault Indian Nation. This symposium was geared toward coastal nations and had a lot of representatives from Hawaii, the Pacific islands, Alaska and the northwest nations. There were several statements that are very powerful, "As indigenous people, we have to understand our own stories on a really deep level. They have instructions on how we're supposed to be human. We have to listen to the fish and the plants—what they tell us are the keys for our survival." I heard from all the panels about unity, the need for us to unify, to be together to solve this issue. If we can't slow or stop this big problem we're facing, we're going to have to find a way to work together to adapt.

So what I learned from this symposium is adaptability equals survivability. I thought to myself and realized, "What a powerful statement. But what if we don't have time to adapt?" That's when it actually scared me. I thought to myself what if...the fish left?...there was no rain to grow corn beans and squash?...the deer died out?...the birds didn't fly south?...What if? Then you look out the window and what do you see? Rain, hail, wind and it only lasts for an hour or so. These are called extreme rainfall events: rain that comes in fast does a lot of damage, then is gone. What would happen if we got four or five inches of rain in two hours? Would that wipe out the bridge in Hogan? Would it strain the dam in Hogan? Possibly break it? Flood the homes? What would happen at the sewer plant? You might think this can't happen but we've heard of things happening in areas that shouldn't. It turns out that the glaciers that were supposed to be there forever (well, maybe not forever, but for many years to come) and provide fresh water to lakes, streams and for communities. They are not just shrinking. They are gone. The Native Alaskans are losing hunters and fisherman because the ice is too thin.

The bottom line is we need to preserve our culture. We need to document what we are doing now. We do this by writing an adaptation plan to document everything we have seen and everything we are doing now to help save our culture. One big term out now is TEK or Traditional Ecological Knowledge. TEK is defined as, "A cumulative body of knowledge, practice, and belief, evolving by adaptive processes and handed down through generations by cultural transmission. It concerns the relationship of living beings (including human) with one another and with their environment."

Another issue brought up by discussions about climate change was our ceremonies. What if everything is not in balance? How do we go about scheduling the maple syrup ceremony, the strawberry ceremony, green bean ceremony and green corn ceremony? In March of this year it was 75-80°F, then it got a little cold again. How did the maple sap run? Growing seasons were affected. What can we do to help plan for these changes and adapt to them.

At the Climate Symposium one speaker said "I want my son to say I went to Washington, D.C. and started a climate change revolution," said Ann Marie Chischilly, a Navajo Nation tribal member. "Get mad! Get motivated and get involved. It has been good to validate these many stories of pain and not having anyone say 'that didn't happen,'" said Chischilly. "That's the beginning of healing and allows us to move forward and take action." She said it was important to use the anger to speak up in all government forums and to teach children about climate change so the action continues.

An adaptation plan will be written for Akwesasne. The adaptation plan for Akwesasne will be a living document that can be used now and for the next seven generations. If you would like to help out please contact either myself or Julia Jacobs at the SRMT Environment Division 518-358-5937. ◇



“Ignoring climate change will be the most costly of all possible choices, for us and our children.”

Peter Ewins



Scholarship Opportunity for University Students Available Again

By David T. Staddon, Director of Public Information

The Tribe has once again received support in the amount of \$32,000 from an anonymous donor to fund scholarships for Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal university students. Tribal Council will contribute \$1,000 to this fund so this round of scholarships will be eleven (11) \$3,000 scholarships. This year, nine undergraduate students and two graduate students will be funded.

In addition to the applicant's educational and career aspirations, the application letter must state the specific financial needs for which the scholarship will be used. What out-of-pocket expenses will be met by the scholarship must be included in letter of application.

Award funding may only be used directly for attainment of degree.

The application essay must be original.

1. Last year's recipients are NOT eligible for this year's scholarship program, except in the situation described in section two (2) below.
2. An undergraduate student who received a scholarship last year is eligible to apply as a graduate student this year.

3. All applicants must currently be enrolled as a college student or entering college as a freshmen or graduate student for the 2012 – 2013 scholastic year.
4. Incoming freshmen or graduate students for the 2012 -2013 scholastic year must also submit a letter of acceptance from their target university.

5. Deadline for submitting essay/letter will be *Wiskhaton/* Friday, *Kenténha /* October 5, 2012.

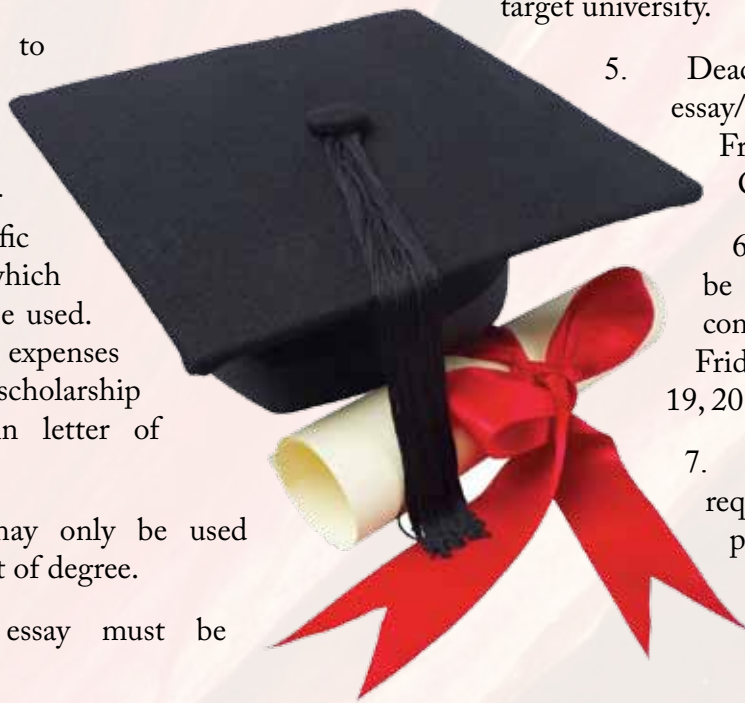
6. Award decisions will be made by the awards committee by *Wiskhaton/* Friday, *Kenténha /* October 19, 2012.

7. Award recipients are required to submit a one-page biography and a current picture.

Checks will be distributed to recipients after receipt of recipients' biographies and pictures.

Letters of application must be submitted to Rod Cook, Higher Education Director, 412 State Route 37, Akwesasne, New York 13655 and must be postmarked by no later than *Kenténha /* October 5, 2012. Late applications will be returned unopened.

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Moving Vietnam Wall Visits Akwesasne

By Alyson Cole, PIO Administrative and Production Assistant

Escorted by a procession of motorcycles, the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall finally made its way to Akwesasne in ample fashion on *Obiarikhó:wa*/July 19, 2012. After months of planning and fundraising, the event proved to be successful as hundreds of spectators visited the American Legion Post 1479 to visit and view the half-size replica. With 59,000 names listed on the memorial, five were once residents of Akwesasne: James Bigtree, Charles Martin, Charles Rubado, Clifford Tarbell and William Tarbell.

It was a great opportunity for people to get together and share their stories of loved ones, pay their respects and honor those who had given everything. The event also provided a chance for people to view the Memorial Wall for the very first time. Many that may not be able to take the trip to Washington to view the original memorial.

At the opening ceremony on *Iabià:khaton* / Saturday, *Obiarikhó:wa* / July 21, traditional dancers and singers were present to play a homage song intended for warriors that have passed. Along with the cultural aspect, the ceremony included color and honor guards, a bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace," a bugler playing Taps and a 21-gun salute for traditional military honors. As well stated by Post 1479 Commander Todd

Connors, "This is a small token of our appreciation; they gave it all for us."



About one thousand people signed the registry book and came from all over North America, some as far as California and Florida. Overall, the number of visitors was significantly higher, but due to the high volume of visitors on the weekend, the volunteers were unable to keep a count of people that were coming in.



Certainly the event could not have turned out as nice as it did without the help of the forty or so volunteers, efforts put forth by the Post 1479 members and contributions made by the community and other local organizations. Volunteers did a great job in the landscaping of the field, assembly of the Wall, 24 hour security detail, feeding the staff and searching through the thousands of names to find loved ones on the wall. On *Kiobierénhton*/Monday, *Obiarikhó:wa*/July 23, the Moving Wall was packed up to make its next viewing in Solon, Ohio while

people continued to come in hopes of getting one last view. Serving as host, the American Legion Post 1479 is proud all the hard work has paid off and is glad to provide such an opportunity to local and surrounding communities. ♦

Are You Ready?

Emergency Planning Program Feature

By Sarah Lee Diabo, Emergency Planner

National Preparedness Month, which starts September 1st, is an opportunity to remind people of the importance of being ready for emergencies and steps that they can take.

In the past, hurricanes, flooding, extreme heat and severe winter snowstorms have threatened Akwesasne and surrounding areas. Now consider the possibility of home fires and even terrorist attacks. Are you prepared to make it on your own for a few days in the event of an emergency?

As we are aware of our location, we recognize the importance of self-reliance as individuals and part of a community. Simple preparations today can keep you safe during a disaster or emergency. Have a plan. Be ready.

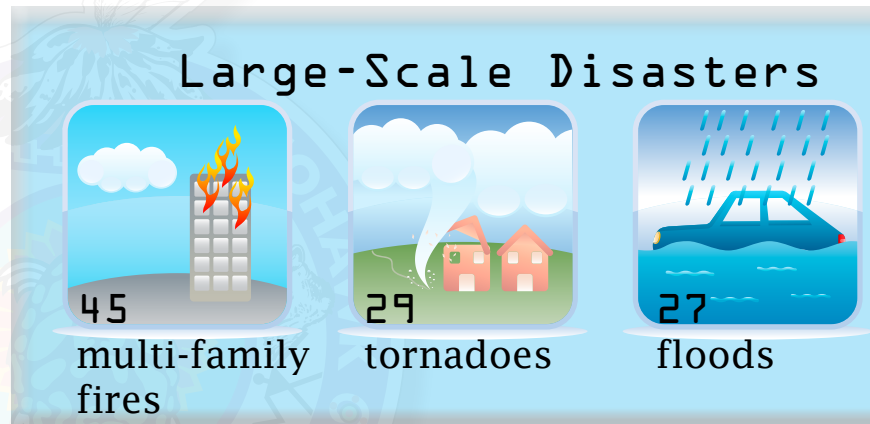
Recommended Supplies to Include in a Basic Kit:

- Water, one gallon per person per day, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food like dried fruit, meat or fish, protein bars and canned goods
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Local maps
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation

- Copies of wills, family records, health insurance cards, medical records, tribal ID cards, etc.,

During an emergency you also may need:

- Infant formula and diapers, cell phone and charger
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Change of clothes
- Prescriptions and a week-long supply of medications



- Eyeglasses, hearing aid batteries, wheelchair batteries, oxygen
- Operating instructions for lifesaving equipment
- Pet food, extra water, supplies, and medical records
- Books, playing cards, toys, comfort items

Step 1: Make a plan for what YOU will do in an emergency

Develop a family communications plan. Consider the following with your family and decide on an emergency plan together. Write down information that isn't easy to remember and keep it in a safe place.

- Make a game or song to help younger children memorize important information.
- Pick one friend or relative to call to help your family get in contact if you are separated. An out-of-town contact is best because long-distance

phone service is less likely than local service to be affected by an emergency.

- Know where you will meet. Pick a meeting place for when family members are at home and find out the evacuation locations for work, school, day care and other places family members often go.
- Make a list of important information. Write down important information for all family members—name, Social Security numbers, dates of birth and important medical information. Collect up-to-date names and telephone and policy numbers for doctors, pharmacies and medical care, along with critical homeowner's and/or rental insurance information.
- Stay where you are or get away? Plan for both possibilities. Use common sense, news broadcasts, and any other available information to determine if there is an immediate threat. Watch television

evacuate immediately when told to do so by authorities. Take your portable emergency kit. Lock the door behind you.

- Be sure you have a week-long supply of medicines, plus any medical supplies or equipment you use regularly. If you need electricity to operate medical equipment, ask providers what to do during power outages. Enlist family and friends as a support network, share your emergency plans, and make sure they have a key to your home.
- Work with others - Talk with your extended family and other tribal members about how you can help each other in an emergency. Ask your tribal council or governing body about the emergency plan for your community.

Step 2: Get a Kit of Emergency Supplies

Think about fresh water, food, and clean air. You may need to rely on your own supplies for at least three days, maybe longer. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. Basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewer, and telephones could be cut off for days or longer.

Last Year in the U.S.



15

hurricanes



10

wildfires



4

blizzards



1

earthquake

and listen to the radio for official instructions from local emergency managers.

- Plan to Shelter-In-Place if you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly contaminated, you may need to seal the room and stay put. Immediately turn off air conditioning, forced-air heating systems, exhaust fans and clothes dryers. Seal all windows, doors, and vents to create a temporary barrier between you and contaminated air.
- Stay informed through the best method available: watch TV, listen to the radio, or check the Internet for official instructions.
- Plan to evacuate if instructed- If it is necessary to leave your home, plan in advance where to go. Keep your gas tank half full and check out alternate routes. Consider your options if car travel is impossible. Monitor news reports and

Review lists for items to pack.

Remember to include unique family needs like pet supplies, diapers and infant formula and medications. Store these items in easy-to-carry bags or bins. Consider two kits— one for home and a second lightweight, portable kit to keep in your car.

Step 3: Be Informed about What might happen

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected are the same regardless of the type of emergency. However, it's important to stay informed about what types of emergencies are most likely to affect your community. Be prepared to adapt this information to your personal circumstances and make every effort to follow instructions received from authorities. Above all, stay calm, be patient and think before you act. With these simple preparations, you can be ready for the unexpected. ◇

Monthly Tribal Meeting

Seskeha / August 4, 2012
Chaired by Chief Ron LaFrance

Agenda

1. Introductions:
 - Welcome
 - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
2. Ethics Update
 - Peter Garrow
3. Field House Presentation
 - Chief Ron LaFrance
4. Police Commission Policy Presentation
 - Carrie Garrow
5. New Business
6. Reading of Action Items
 - Tribal Clerk
7. Adjournment

Action Items from August Meeting

1. To look into making provisions to the fuel allotment to include those that have electric heat and report back at next months meeting
2. To look into the Anti-tax steering committee's meeting that was first discussed at the tribal monthly meeting held earlier this year (March or April)
3. To arrange a meeting with the Diabetes Center of Excellence Committee to discuss the issues delaying this project moving forward
4. To get an opinion on whether it violates the law to enter into a severance agreement with an individual, and, separately, to contract with the same individual for similar services

Follow-up on Action Items from July Meeting

1. To have Tribal Council check with the GM at the Casino regarding the handicapped parking

Follow-up: Chief Ron LaFrance spoke with Patrick Bassney. 25 Additional handicapped parking is being made available. Patrick encourages them to use the valet services as it is safer.

2. To have the MCA Ambulance agreement issue added to next month's agenda items.

Follow-up: A meeting with MCA Chiefs has been set for August 9, 2012.

3. To look into the restricted contingency & other line item and report back at August's monthly meeting

Follow-up: Following is a listing of items included in Restricted & Other

Reserve for Contingency	40,019,264
Partridge House	9,329**
Indigenous Games	271
Community Partnership	19,890
Drug & Alcohol Prevention	4,665**
Fines (Law Enforcement)	2,455**
Chronic Health Care	70,500**
CITGO Oil Program	18,965
National Grid	192,970

Interest Rate - .05%

**Paid out to programs the following month.

4. To (have Compliance) add Mohawk preference plus Native preference for the next casino expansion update

Calendar

Seskehko:wa / September

- 3 - Labor Day Holiday - All offices and programs closed
- 5 - Mobile Devices Workshop - 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. - Akwesasne Library
- 8 - Monthly Tribal Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building lobby
- 11 - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's office
- 14 - Disability Awareness Day - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - HAVFD Station #1
- Tuesdays - Tribal Council Work Sessions - 9:00 a.m. - Tribal Council Boardroom

New Faces

Dulsie Thompson

Per Diem

Chronic Care Nursing

JOM and WIA Summer Students: Stevie Ray Adams, Storm Adams, Trent Arquette, Rakenhoktha Barnes, Johl Benedict, Katie T. Boots, Danielle Boots, Danielle Bowles, Joseph Clute, Cordy Cole, Timothy David, Kayanna Jackson, Cody Jock, Kobi Johnson, Clayton Martin, Jolsin Millett, Tia Mitchell, Theresa Oakes, Dillon Point, Kaienkwinehtha Ransom, Zachary Rogofsky, Alexandra Sardella, Melanie Sardella, Larri-Lee Skidders, Nathan Smoke, Blake Square, Shenae Tarbell, Jenna Timmons and Noelle Ward-Conners.

Giving Back

Sports - \$ 6,750

Golf Sponsorships - \$ 773.92

Community Support - \$ 2,405

Funerals - \$ 2,000

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.

Employee Recognition Day, 2012

By David T. Staddon, Director of Public Information

Friday July 27, 2012 was a special day for tribal employees. Everybody had the opportunity to take the day off for the employee picnic and the tribe's annual Employee Recognition Day. The event was held on at Barnhart Beach this year. Tribal Chiefs Paul Thompson and Ron LaFrance were on hand at the event along with Tribal Sub-Chief Eric Thompson. Chief Paul Thompson gave some very thoughtful words of welcome, appreciation and encouragement. Sixty-four employees were recognized for their years of service in various job capacities with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.

Employees with 10 and 15 years received beautiful limited edition prints by Jordan Thompson and certificates of appreciation. Employees receiving five year awards got certificates of appreciation and special time off from work. For those employees who had reached the 20 and 25 year milestones, they received

certificates, special days off and black-ash baskets. Marie Benedict received recognition for her 35 years of service to the tribe. She received a certificate, a large black-ash basket and special time off.

Employees enjoyed a day at the beach with their families and fellow employees. They swam, played volleyball, chowed down and generally enjoyed the beautiful weather. Lunch was a catered affair of BBQ hot dogs and hamburgers accompanied by salads, baked beans and other fixins'. A big thanks to all tribal employees for their hard work and dedication to the community and to Tribal Council for hosting the 2012 Employee Recognition Day. A special thanks to Juanita Tarbell, "Peppermint" Patti Herne and Margaret Jacobs of the Human Resources Department as well as Annie Bero for organizing the event and presenting the recognition awards. Pictures of the event are posted on the tribe's intranet site where employees can access them.

Five Years



Paula Gray, Accounting
Christina Lazore, Administration
Russell Doxtdator, Gaming Commission
Ashley M. Snyder, Community Services
Jodele Currier, Community Services
Jaime Garrow, Community Services
Amy Mossow, Community Services
Shelley White, Community Services
Leroy Gotham, Community Services
Mary Terrance, Community Services
Rachel Jock, Community Services

Tiann White, Community Services
Deidre Rourke, Community Services
Amberdawn Lafrance, Environment
Adam Bashaw, Human Services
Jean A. Laffin, Human Services
Andrea Lavalley, Human Services
Kay L. Barber, Human Services
Nicole L. Bero, Health Services
William Latreille, Health Services
Erin Barnes, Health Services
Nathan B. Boots, Tribal Police

Matthew J. Crowl, Tribal Police
Leroy Swamp, Tribal Police
Richard D. Cook, Maintenance
Tammy Lavare, Maintenance
Frederick Nicholas, Maintenance
Jody Ward, Maintenance
Linda Montour, Seniors Center
Leona Thompson, Seniors Center
Robert Reavy, Gaming Commission
Francis Buckshot, Water Department

Ten Years

Terry Cree, Tribal Clerk
Kathleen Mitchell, Gaming Commission
Dolores Conners, Community Services
Rhonda King, Community Services
Erin M. Lewis, Community Services
William R. Gero, Community Services
Jane Lafave, Community Services
Russell D. Phillips, Environment
Jari Thompson, Environment
Mona Romeo, Human Services
Michael A. Gibbons, Tribal Police
Phillip White, Tribal Police
Peter Barnes, Tribal Police
Danielle M. Lazore, Legal
Adam David, Maintenance
Wade J. McDonald, Maintenance
Theodore L. Square, Construction



15 Years

Kevin L. Chubb, Maintenance
Harvey Herne, Health Services
Joy A. Lazore, Health Services
Anastasia Benedict, Health Services
Leah Smoke, Health Services
Alice Herne, Technical Support
Richard Cook, Health Services
Lucy Barnes, Food Distribution
Craig Jock, Maintenance
Melody Point, Accounting



20 Years

Patricia Herne, Human Resources

25 Years

Iris Herne, Community Services
Erica Oakes, Health Services
Kenneth Jock, Environment

35 Years

Marie A. Benedict, Education ◇



Disability Awareness Day

By Cody Terrance, TVR Administrative Assistant

Akwesasne:non are encouraged to attend the 10th Annual Disability Awareness Day on *Seskehkó:wa* / September 14, 2012. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Vocational Rehabilitation Program hosts this informative and entertaining event. It will be at the Hogsburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Dept. from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Community members will have an opportunity to learn and ask questions about tribal government resources, programs and services available throughout Akwesasne, New York State and Canada.

Community members will have a great opportunity to gain information about the various disability programs and services available to Akwesasne. This year's awareness day will highlight community services, programs and initiatives to help or support eligible individuals, including but not limited to, those with disabilities.

If you are unsure of what kind of eligibility requirements are needed in order to qualify, come to the event. If you have questions about a specific program or service, come to the event. If you need assistance finding employment, education or support, this event will answer your questions.

The goal of Disability Awareness Day is to bring awareness to the community of the different types of disabilities and the programs, services and support Akwesasne has to offer for those affected individuals.

A few of the program attendees from last year were: SRMT Police Department, BOCES, Three Sisters Program, Traditional Medicine, Alcohol/Chemical Dependency Prevention and Mental Health. Refreshments will be available along with various crafts and vendors. ♦



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
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