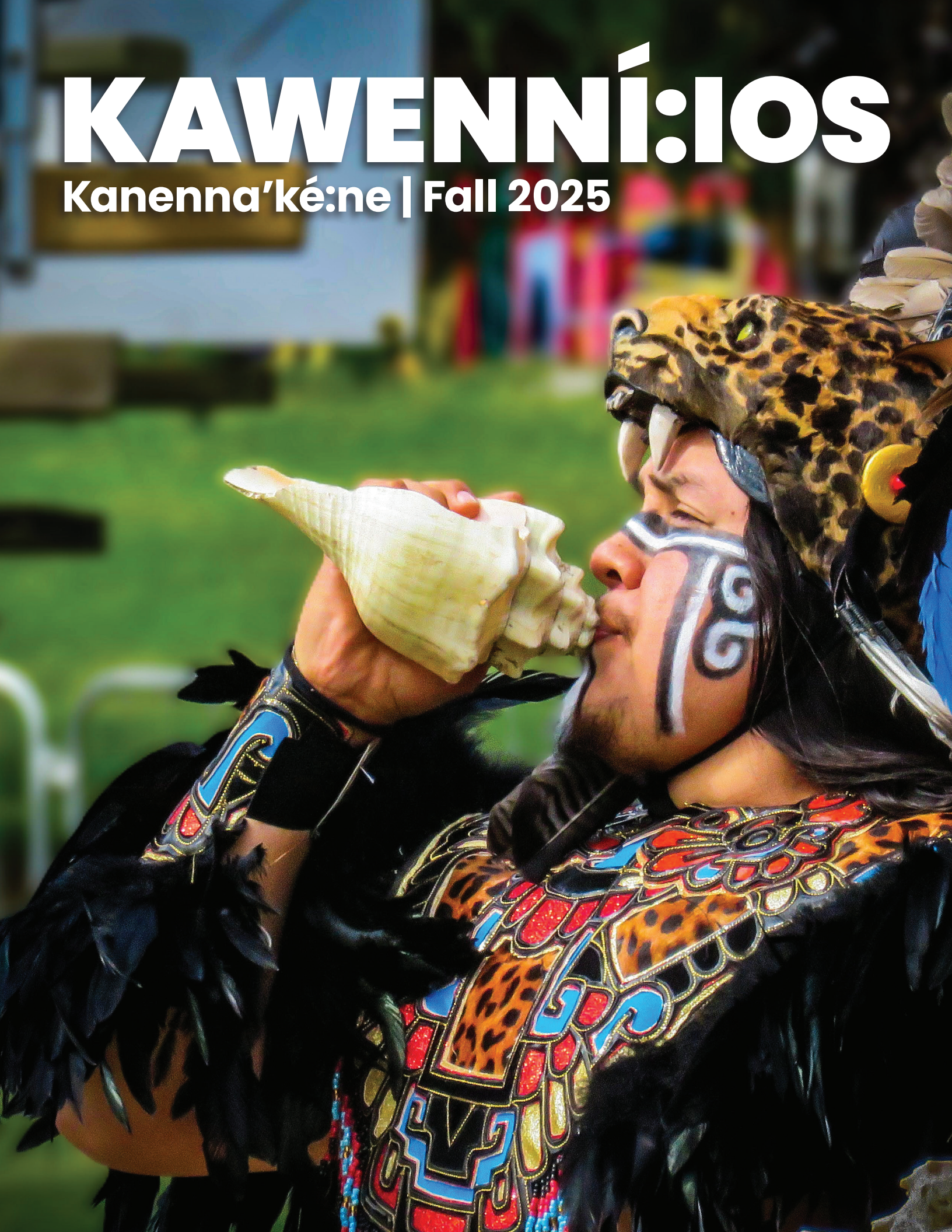


# KAWENNÍ:IOS

Kanenna'ké:ne | Fall 2025





# Table of Contents

## Kanenna'ké:ne | Fall 2025

**06 U.S. EPA Region 2  
Administrator and Team Visit**

**07 USET Epidemiology Team  
Site Visit**

**08 Pilot Studies Propel  
Science Forward**

**10 A Look Back at the 4th  
Annual Art Market and  
Juried Show**

**18 2025 Akwesasne  
Powwow**

**22 Business Spotlight:  
Flint & Stone**



**05 A Legacy of Dedication: Lois  
Terrance Receives Community  
Recognition Award**



**Reconnecting  
Camp**



**Enrichment Awards  
and Employee  
Beach Day**

**Contributing Authors** Chief Ross Garrow, Mose Herne, Jori Rourke, Katelynn Delormier, Austin Herne, Madison Breen, Haley Shattuck, Randi Barreiro, Spencer Alascio, Colleen Thomas

**Design:** Austin Herne - Publications Manager, Haley Shattuck - Graphic Designer

**Editor:** Katelynn Delormier, Communications Specialist

**Executive Editorial Team:** Mose Herne and Jori Rourke

**Photo Contributions:** Austin Herne, Haley Shattuck, Kahentawaks Perkins, Nolan Jacobs, Sylvie O'Rourke, Spencer Alascio

**Publisher:** The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Center for Media and Communications, Akwesasne, NY

**Printer:** Modernlitho



## Chief's Note: Looking Forward to a Productive Fall

Shé:kon sewa'kwé:kon,

It's with absolute pleasure and honor that I bring you the Fall 2025 edition of Kawenní:ios. Since the election and inauguration, through my first official meetings, it's been nonstop learning, discussions, and more learning — and I wouldn't have it any other way. This is exactly why I ran, and what you voted for. As you are reading this, Tribal Council is actively collaborating with partnering agencies and community members on matters important to Akwesasne. There's a lot to absorb — Tribal programs, division updates, and ongoing initiatives — but I knew what I was signing up for, and I'm ready to do the work.

Fall is such a beautiful season in Akwesasne. The leaves begin to change, mornings are brisk and cool, and the sun warms the day as it rises. It's one of my favorite times of year. At our recent Tribal Beach Day, it was Council's pleasure to announce the winners of the Tribal Employee Enrichment Awards. Seeing the kids enjoying the beach and families sharing laughs, food, and great prizes made it a day filled with good medicine.

As we wrap up another exciting lacrosse season, I want to congratulate all the teams, coaches, players, and families who give so much to keep our sport thriving. Special congratulations to the Kahnawake Hunters, Snake Island Muskies, and Six Nations Chiefs for winning the Founder's, President's, and Mann Cups, respectively — what an achievement!

Fall also means back to school — new clothes, new teachers, and new classmates. To all our college and trade school students: whether you're just starting out or finishing up, we applaud your hard work and determination. Getting accepted into your dream program is no small feat, and its proof that dreams really do pay off.

Recently, I had the honor of being the keynote speaker for the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort Summer Student Internship Program. I spoke about how our paths may not always be clear — we might think we know where we're going, but it's often the small decisions that shape our futures. Who knows — one of those students might be a future Chief or community leader. The Tribe continues to push capital projects forward — from paving initiatives to a new community dock and boat dock, IRA housing, and new housing developments. Akwesasne is growing stronger and becoming an even greater economic force each day.

Our office and the Tribal Environment Division hosted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a tour of the superfund sites near our territory. I had the privilege of joining them on the boat tour, which left them a powerful and lasting impression. We believe seeing the impact from the water left a lasting impression. We hope this visit reinforces the EPA's commitment to working with our Environment Division to clean up these areas. After all, we only have one Mother Earth.

Thank you for taking the time to read this issue. I'm looking forward to a productive season and continuing the important work we've started since taking the oath of office on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Stay safe, take care of one another, and enjoy the beauty of this Akwesasne season.

**Niawen'kó:wa,  
Chief Ross Garrow**



# Partridge House Aids Alcoholics



## A LEGACY OF DEDICATION: Loise Terrance Receives Community Recognition

GANSBURG — The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Traffic Court has held its inaugural session but only two traffic offenders, appeared for judgment. Traffic Court opened in the morning in the new Partridge House building, off the Akwesasne Highway.

By PAMELA OUIMET  
Staff Reporter

ST. REGIS MOHAWK RESERVATION — The St. Regis Mohawk tribe reached another milestone in creating its own justice system yesterday afternoon when five members of the tribal police commission were sworn into office.

Chief Norman Tarbell formally installed commissioners Marge Beaubien, Sherry Roundpoint, Russell Lazore, Lois Terrance and Pamela Brown.

Norman Tarbell noted getting the commission appointed and sworn in "was a major hurdle to overcome."

He said if the reservation community is to move ahead with economic development, they need a good police force — and a commission to oversee them.

"The commission will provide a buffer between the department and community," noted Chief Phil Tarbell. "They will provide a needed

# Compassion, Leadership, & Unwavering Commitment

Katelynn Delormier  
Communications Specialist

The Community Recognition Award was created to honor individuals who have made exceptional contributions to our community. This year, at the August Tribal Monthly Meeting, **Lois Terrance** received the Community Recognition Award for her years of service to the community with notable compassion and empathy. Lois' recognition was met with resounding applause and appreciation for her many years of dedication across a wide range of initiatives, each benefiting from lasting impact from Lois' leadership.

Sub-Chief Agnes "Sweets" Jacobs delivered a moving tribute, praising Lois for her "compassion, leadership, unwavering commitment" and "tireless work in public safety, healthcare, judicial development, housing, and rehabilitation services."

Lois began her public service career as the **Program Director at Partridge House**, where she worked to establish a stable

and suitable rehabilitation center for community members to access locally. During her time there, she managed to secure two double-wide trailers once used for the Olympic Games held in Lake Placid. The generous donation by the owner of a local petroleum company, the late Frank Augsbury, backed by the support of the Tribal Council, later became the in-patient treatment center still in operation today.

Lois went on to be appointed as the **first Tribal Police Commissioner**, ensuring regulatory adherence and serving as the buffer between the Tribal Police Department and the community. She served as an **Akwesasne Housing Authority board member**, committed to addressing the needs of the community in and around the territory. Lois served for decades as a **Traffic Court Judge** and also spent a considerable amount of time working with the **Mohawk Council of Akwesasne** in the

rehabilitation program and managing the **Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance service**.

Receiving the Community Recognition award came as a surprise to Lois, as she emphasized that the honor was not hers alone; it also honored the collective efforts of the many individuals who worked alongside her. Looking back at her journey, she recalls the challenges of building the Partridge House with limited resources, the tiresome responsibility of overseeing construction, and finally, the joy of seeing the fruits of her labor.

Lois intends to continue being active in the community, attending Tribal meetings and enjoying her backyard oasis with her two beloved cats. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Lois for over two decades of dedication to serving the Akwesasne community, leaving behind a legacy of care and compassion.

Niawen'kó:wa Lois!



**Mohawk traffic court debuts**

BY JASON EMERSON  
Staff reporter

HOGANSBURG — The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Traffic Court has held its inaugural session but only two traffic offenders, appeared for judgment. Traffic Court opened in the morning in the new Partridge House building, off the Akwesasne Highway.

ST. REGIS MOHAWK RESERVATION — The St. Regis Mohawk tribe reached another milestone in creating its own justice system yesterday afternoon when five members of the tribal police commission were sworn into office.

Chief Norman Tarbell formally installed commissioners Marge Beaubien, Sherry Roundpoint, Russell Lazore, Lois Terrance and Pamela Brown.

Norman Tarbell noted getting the commission appointed and sworn in "was a major hurdle to overcome."

He said if the reservation community is to move ahead with economic development, they need a good police force — and a commission to oversee them.

"The commission will provide a buffer between the department and community," noted Chief Phil Tarbell. "They will provide a needed

rehabilitation program and managing the Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance service.

Receiving the Community Recognition award came as a surprise to Lois, as she emphasized that the honor was not hers alone; it also honored the collective efforts of the many individuals who worked alongside her.

Looking back at her journey, she recalls the challenges of building the Partridge House with limited resources, the tiresome responsibility of overseeing construction, and finally, the joy of seeing the fruits of her labor.

Lois intends to continue being active in the community, attending Tribal meetings and enjoying her backyard oasis with her two beloved cats. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Lois for over two decades of dedication to serving the Akwesasne community, leaving behind a legacy of care and compassion.

Niawen'kó:wa Lois!

Kawenní:ios 5



## Tribal Police Are Sworn In

Tribal Police Department Commission Begins As Year Starts



# U.S. EPA REGION 2 VISIT TO AKWESASNE

**Mose Herne**  
Director, Center for Media and Communications

The Environment Division works with the **US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** for resources that are under their authority created by Congress. **EPA** delegates these authorities to states and tribes to do the work. **USEPA** is divided into 10 regions and **SRMT** is located in **Region 2 (NY, NJ and PR)**.

The **Regional Administrators (RA)** are selected by the President and the Environment Division met **RA Michael Martucci** in January 2025, on his first day in office. The **Environment Division Director Tony David** invited **RA Martucci** to visit Akwesasne to promote a greater appreciation of the importance of Akwesasne's natural resources and the impact of **legacy Superfund sites**. The first day of RA Martucci's visit focused on a boat tour of these sites as well as the **Moses-Saunders Dam**. Also highlighted were the investments made by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) on infrastructure improvements and the groundbreaking work of the Environment Division. The second day of RA Martucci's visit focused on recreational improvements made on Margaret Terrance Memorial Way and decommissioning of the **Hogansburg dam**, as well as a tour of the transfer station and the Agriculture Program's Mother Earth Farm.

RA Martucci was joined by **Victoria Tran, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator of American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO)** from **US EPA Headquarters in Washington**. Many of the EPA policies changes originate in Washington and Deputy Assistant Administrator Tran is in a position to influence change at the national level from the AIEO.



The two-day meeting with EPA and SRMT leadership was also intended to illustrate the proximity of the **Superfund sites** to Akwesasne. The Environment Division grew from a necessity to contribute to the cleanup process to better protect Tribal lifeways; this is merely a starting point for the Environment Division. Day Two showcased how we move beyond **Superfund** response, and grow through taking action to address our community needs and invest in **critical infrastructure and services**. Tribal Council's support for renovation of the Community Services Building, development of the transfer station and the Tribal farm, among other initiatives, help empower the Environment Division improve the services provided to the community.



## USET Epidemiology Team Visit

**Katelynn Delormier**  
Communications Specialist

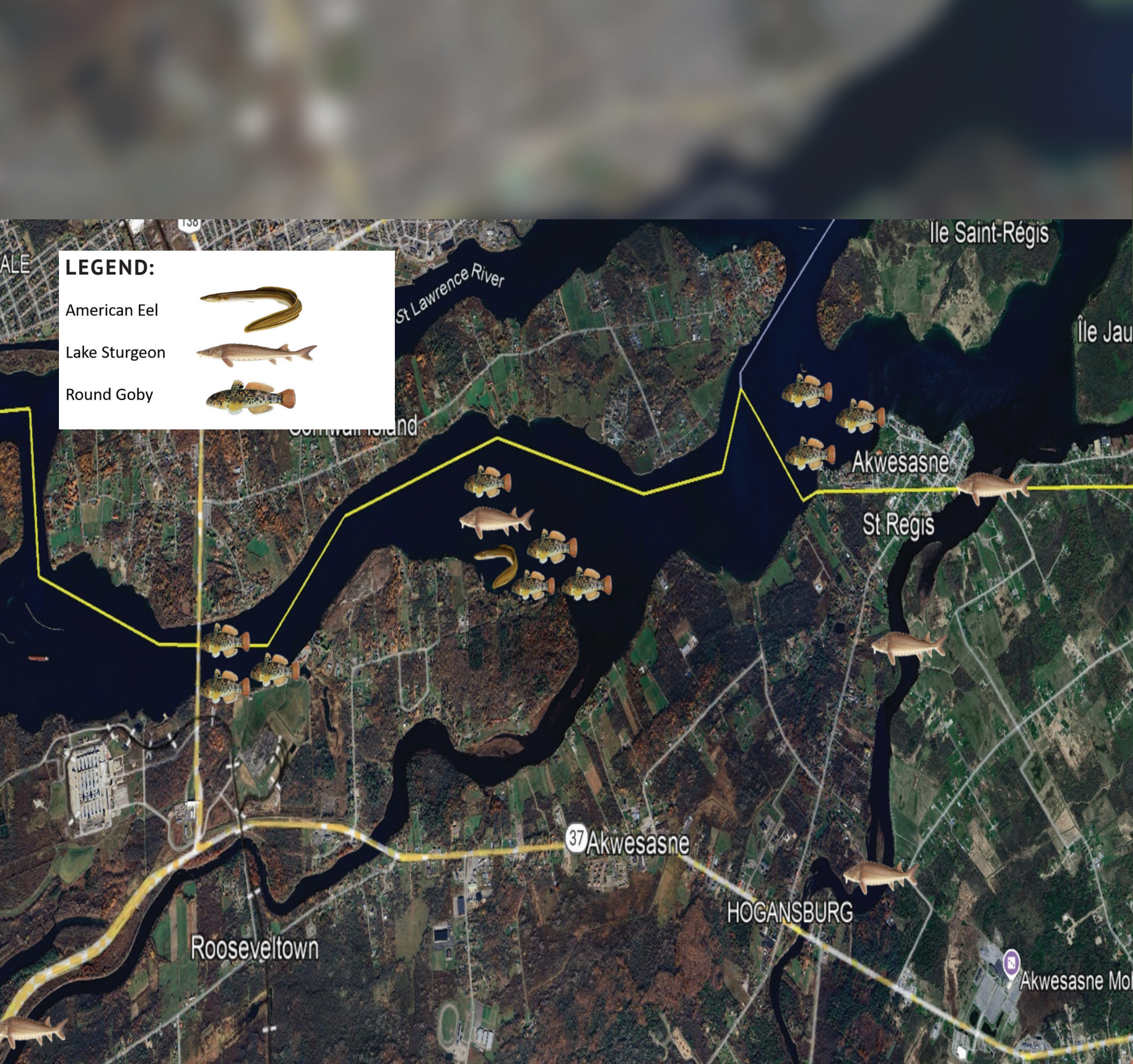
On September 5, 2025, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe had the pleasure of hosting the **United South & Eastern Tribes (USET) Epidemiology Team**. **Housed in the USET Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC)**, the Epidemiology Team provides a range of services to **USET Tribes**, including active infectious disease surveillance and other types of technical assistance.

The **USET Epidemiologist** team toured **SRMT health care facilities** and had the opportunity to meet with the Tribal Council to discuss the challenges of disease surveillance, case investigations, and data collection in a multi-jurisdictional community.

The **Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council** extends gratitude to the **USET Epidemiology Team** for visiting Akwesasne to provide insight on these issues important to the health of **Akwesasro:n** and our neighbors. By promoting the exchange of knowledge and forming strong partnerships between **Tribal-serving Public Health Authorities** and **Tribal Leaders**, we can help ensure healthy Indigenous communities.







# WALLEYE EDNA PILOT STUDIES PROPEL SCIENCE FORWARD

**Spencer Alascio**  
Aquatic Biologist SRMT Water Resources Program

This past spring we collected nearly **250 environmental DNA (eDNA) samples** from the St. Regis River during the annual **Skakahra'ksen walleye spawning migration**. The purpose of this study is to determine if eDNA samples can efficiently measure the walleye relative abundance and distribution of spawning sites without netting methods that require extensive effort and stress the fish during their migration. If we confirm the eDNA approach is reliable, it would provide an efficient way to detect changes in spawning walleye abundance through time and across multiple rivers. It could also help indicate where the best spawning habitat is and where other spawning habitats could be rehabilitated.

eDNA is genetic material that can be found in the earth or suspended in the air or water. Fish naturally shed skin cells, mucus, and waste products containing their DNA into the water. We filter the water to collect these fragments then run genetic tests to determine if, and how much of, the DNA of a certain species was present in the water. Studies have shown a reliable relationship between the concentration of eDNA and the relative abundance of a fish species where the sample was collected.

But let's back up a bit. Before we sampled the walleye spawning migration, we needed to confirm that our eDNA processes would work on walleye. We conducted a pilot study, which is a small-scale experiment that helps evaluate the feasibility, cost, and improve upon a study's design before performing the larger project. In the fall of 2024 we collected 27 eDNA samples and the results have been quite informative. We learned how to maximize the efficiency of our lab process to successfully detect walleye eDNA. Studies involving eDNA still vary widely in the methods used for sample collection and our understanding of the different factors which

influence results. Water temperature, pH, and overall sample location in the body of water are all good examples. If we understand what other factors affect our success in collecting and analyzing eDNA, we can produce more reliable results.

An added benefit of eDNA sampling is that the same samples used to understand walleye can also help detect invasive species or threatened and endangered species. Our pilot study samples identified one invasive, the Round Goby as well as two important threatened species – Lake Sturgeon (Teiokién:taron), and American Eel (Kiawerón:ko). While the identification of these species in our data set is not surprising, it demonstrates the usefulness of the eDNA methods to detect these species of interest at relatively low cost and effort.

**This research is funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and a partnership with the US Geological Survey and the SUNY Research Foundation.** We are excited about the preliminary results from this collaboration, and look forward to learning more from our walleye study results later this year.





# A LOOK BACK AT THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ART MARKET AND JURIED SHOW

Randi Barreiro, Marketing Specialist  
Katelynn Delormier, Communications Specialist

This year’s **Art Market** and **Juried Show**, presented by **Akwesasne Travel** and the **Office of Economic Development (OED)**, wowed crowds with performances, cultural demonstrations, and a spectacular showcase of **Indigenous creativity** that drew in thousands of people to experience the best of Akwesasne.

“We take great pride in the beauty of our home and the remarkable people who live here,” expressed Economic Development Director Dwayne Thomas. “**This event truly belongs to the community; it serves as a platform to showcase our local talent and strengthen our tourism economy.**”

### Creativity on Display

This year, the Indigenous art and culture event was expanded to two days, turning the much-anticipated **Juried Show** into a kickoff celebration. Artists and aficionados packed the **Winter ballroom at Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort** on Friday, July 25 to experience the announcement of winners, the full gallery of art submissions, and a special fashion exhibition.

**Notable award winners:** Johnson John, for *Ahtakwa Onwe*, deer hide moccasins adorned with beading and quillwork; Shannon David, for *Soul Sisters*, an ode to the Three Sisters growing from a ‘clay pot’; and Nanci Ransom’s stunning fancy basket, *The Spirit of Basket Makers, Past and Present*.



Karhatiron Perkins’ bronze and metal-cast sculpture, *Lunch on a Highbeam*, captured the coveted **Best in Show** award and a **\$2,500 prize**. Inspired by the iconic image *Lunch Atop a Skyscraper*, Perkins’ rendition was an ode to his family’s legacy of ironworkers and deep cultural ties. Perkins’ polished piece featured nine figurines sitting atop a steel beam, each representing one of the **nine Haudenosaunee clans**.

Nanci’s expert craftsmanship and powerful artist statement moved jurors and community members alike with its retelling of the history of Mohawk basket makers, their lived experience, and the ceremonial significance of the art form. “**The basket is an urn,**” Nanci wrote, “**but not for ashes—for memory, for breath, for the quiet heartbeat of those who wove before me.**”

The award-winning piece, along with a **beaded belt by Kelly Back** entitled *The Gathering of Nations*, was acquired by **St. Lawrence University** for its permanent collection.

The inclusion of **fashion** in this year’s **Juried Art Show** was a nod to its unique role in cultural tourism and economic development, as interest in Indigenous destinations and experiences continues to grow.



Celebrated **Mohawk** designers **Terry Cree** and **Tisha Thompson** presented four original looks that combined impeccable tailoring with traditional and contemporary elements. Items worn by their models include beaded and quilled leather bodices, a maxi-skirt constructed from cornhusks, and a tailored men’s sport coat. The mini-runway production offered a glimpse of the upcoming **Akwesasne Indigenous Fashion Show**, being held at the casino for the first time on **Sunday, Oct. 12**. The **Mohawk Bingo Palace at AMCR** will be transformed as more than 80 models walk for 15 designers. Tickets may be purchased at [www.akwindigenousfs.com](http://www.akwindigenousfs.com).

### Art From the Heart

Community members and international visitors from the region flocked to Generations Park on **Saturday, July 26** to take in the **Art Market**, where **over 100** Mohawk vendors, artists, and cultural practitioners offered a taste of **Kanien’kéha heritage** right from the source.

Sweet sounds of **log-pounding, rattles, water drums, guitars**, and a **fiddle** resonated throughout the day, setting the tone for **Akwesasne Travel’s** signature event promoting our thriving Mohawk arts and culture scene.

The **la'teiewenhnani'haras Amphitheater** at **Generations Park** came alive with performances by **Theresa Bear Fox and Kontiwennehawi—Akwesasne Women Singers, the Native North American Traveling College Travel Troupe, and the Crosswinds band** featuring **Jake Adams**. Hoop dancer **Feryn King** delighted fans once again as she graced the stage of Akwesasne’s beautiful new venue dedicated to performing arts.



The Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club presented the always phenomenal **Youth Art Show**, showcasing Akwesasne's next generation of creative stars. **Kenna Back, Vaeda Thompson, Iotsienhiio Thompson, and Kenzie Hart** took home ribbons in their respective age categories.

**Hart** wowed with a hauntingly beautiful watercolor of a jellyfish in *Starlit Drift*, and **Back's** striking multi-media expression of the *Creation Story* was a powerful representation of the balance of nature and of light and darkness. The youngster's piece can be seen on display at **Three Feathers Café**.

The **healing** power of art was palpable during the event, with **hands-on** activities encouraging **community** and **collaboration**.

A large weaving project returning to the **Art Market** for a second year invited colorful contributions of positive messages, with its end result to be displayed at a local school. A powerful tribute to the late **Sierra Johnson-Caldwell** was the centerpiece of an art installation offered by **Indigenous Arts Collective**. The organization collaborated with **Haudenosaunee** educators, artists, and environmental knowledge holders for the **Ohné:ka Healing Project**, emphasizing the **sacred relationship** between **humans** and **water**. Its Paddle Board community art murals include work by Akwesasne artists **Morgan Roundpoint, Kit Thomas, and Victoria Ransom**, whose stunning portrait of **Johnson-Caldwell** captured her **beauty, unwavering strength, and commitment to justice**.

A more whimsical design by **Thomas** featured an otter symbolizing the **essence of summer** and connection to nature. **Roundpoint** invited guests to contribute their own words of inspiration to her paddle board. The boards and the messages they carry will someday touch our local waters, completing the **good intentions** of each contributor and **renewing** the peoples' responsibility of stewardship.

Basket makers **Sheila Ransom, Angello Johnson, and Glenn Swamp** drew steady traffic to their demonstrations all day long, the chance to see log pounding or splint weaving too good to pass by.



This year's **Art Market and Juried Show** showcased Akwesasne's incredible talent and rich cultural heritage, uniting participants and visitors alike. Nearly **100 artists** and **vendors** participated in the event, making it the **largest Indigenous arts and culture event in the North Country**. Interactive exhibitions, demonstrations, and live performances served as a powerful reminder of the importance of **preserving and celebrating Indigenous culture**.

With tremendous gratitude for the support of numerous volunteers, Tribal departments, sponsors, and partners, OED staff pulled off another successful **Art Market** and is looking forward to celebrating the event's **fifth** year in **2026**.

Akwesasne's vibrant art scene and tourism industry continues to thrive, drawing more attention and appreciation for our unique Mohawk community.

Visit the **Akwesasne Travel** website for the full list of **Juried Art Show** winners. Like **Akwesasne Travel** and **SRMT Economic Development** on Facebook for more info on future events!





# RECONNECTING CAMP: RESTORING INTER-TRIBAL EXCHANGE

Austin Herne,  
Publications Manager

During the week of Ohiarikhó:wa/July 14, 2025 the **Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) Environment Division** hosted a group of Indigenous interns from the **Wabanaki Youth in Science (WaYS) Program** located in **Maine**. While **forest research** was the focal point of this project, facilitating the **restoration of intertribal student exchange** was the overriding goal. Indigenous youth from both the **Akwesasne Mohawk Community** and the **Wabanaki Nations from Maine** learned about **forest pest management research** through orientation to ongoing projects being led by Tribal natural resource professionals, university researchers and Federal and State partners.

The project involved reciprocal exchanges between Indigenous youth from **Akwesasne** and **Wabanaki Nations** from **Maine** at their respective **community cultural camps**. Participants in this exchange attended seminars, cultural gatherings, field visits, and working as interns alongside natural resource practitioners. The purpose was to gain an understanding of forest research challenges affecting **culturally significant natural resources** coupled with **implementing culturally relevant solutions**. During these meetings, **Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)** was shared related to **preservation** of culturally significant forest resources, such as black/brown ash trees, the cultural practice of basketry, tribal identity and sovereignty, Language, and local economies.

**Jennifer Galipeau**, Executive Director of Wabanaki Youth in Science shared “**It’s really great to reconnect, build relationships and work together to provide more opportunities for our young people and for our communities to strengthen our relationship to the land**”. Galipeau got involved in this project through **Les Benedict, Assistant Director of SRMT’s Environment Division**. Benedict was successful in applying for funding that helped support this initiative. Of particular importance is the use of TEK in addressing the challenges presented by climate change.



During the course of the exchange, students from the **Wabanaki Nation** were brought around to different culturally significant sites. **Kahnekarónion - The Waters, lonkhi’nisténha Ohóntsia:te – Mother Earth, and Kahrhàkon In the Woods** were the primary themes and students learned about traditional methods and practices that our natural resource professionals use every day.

In addition to the land-based teachings, the students were introduced to the **Ohén:ton Karihwatéhkwén-Saterihwahnhotó:ko**, or words before all else, by **Roiane Orenrekowa and Howard Thompson**, and **Iakorihonniénne ne’e Kaniénkeha -The Importance of Native Language** by **Edith McDonald**. The experience resonated with the youth of the **Wabanaki Nation** as they chimed in to share aspects of their culture that were handed down to them.

The exchange brought many laughs, shared stories and newly forged bonds. Earlier in the year, **Onondaga** and **Akwesasne** students visited the **Wabanaki Nation** camp in **Nibezun**. Students were given the opportunity to put their newfound knowledge to work on a **presentation encompassing forest research skills**. Students presented on: formulating testable hypotheses based on what we already know and understand about the problem; testing hypotheses by conducting experiments, making observations, and collecting and analyzing data to compare predicted and observed results; and reporting the documented results in the scientific literature through a process of peer review and approval. This experience with the scientific method, paired with **TEK** concepts and practices, provided students with a broadened worldview. Connections formed with other Tribal Nations’ youth and cultural knowledge promises to maintain vital cultural teachings for the next seven generations.







# EVERY CHILD MATTERS

**HONORING COURAGE,  
STRENGTH, AND RESILIENCE**

**Haley Shattuck,  
Graphic Designer**

Each year on **September 30th**, Indigenous communities across **Turtle Island** recognize “**Orange Shirt Day**”, also known as **The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**. **Orange Shirt Day** memorializes and raises awareness of the devastating impacts of **residential schools** on the **intergenerational health** of our communities. The effects of **intergenerational trauma** have been felt by generations of **survivors** and the movement for truth and reconciliation and healing is now embodied by the phrase, “**Every Child Matters.**”

**Orange Shirt Day** is an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion about the effects of **residential schools**, to bear witness and promote the **healing** of the **survivors** and their families, and to commit to the ongoing process of **reconciliation**.

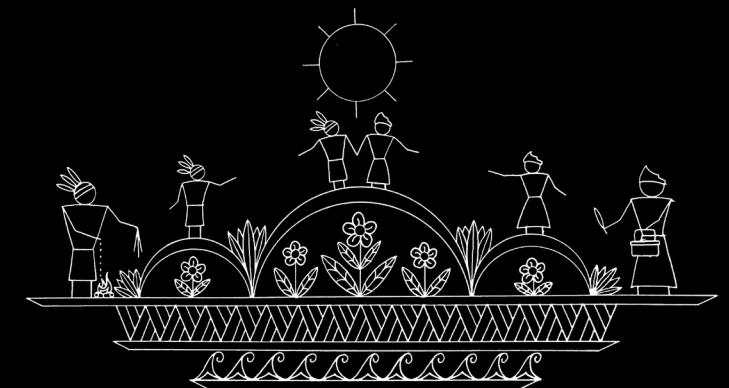
From the 1800s to the late 20th century, **residential schools** in **Canada** and the **United States** separated Indigenous children from their families, languages, and cultures. Many endured physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and cultural erasure, leaving lasting scars that communities continue to heal from today.

The day takes its name from **Phyllis (Jack) Webstad**, who at the age of six years old had her new orange shirt, a gift from her grandmother, taken away on her first day at a residential school. Her story has become a symbol of the courage, strength, and resilience of Indigenous children and families.

**Orange Shirt Day** began in **Canada** and is now observed internationally. Wearing orange is a way to raise awareness, show **solidarity**, and **support** the ongoing work of **truth and reconciliation**. Beyond the day itself, people are encouraged to learn local Indigenous histories, support Indigenous-led initiatives, and carry the spirit of reconciliation forward every day.

This year, on **September 30th**, **Akwesasronon Sonatanoron Survivors Group** and **Mohawk Council of Akwesasne**, with the support of the **SRMT Social Services Division, OEMS, and Parks & Recreation Staff**, are holding an **Orange Shirt Day** event at Generations Park. This completely free event features an orange shirt giveaway, community walk, medicine game, interactive cultural booths, lunch, and cultural presentation. Together, we will reflect, heal, and celebrate the strength of our culture through ceremony, song, food, and community.

**To learn, advocate, participate, and or donate, visit Akwesasronon Sonatanoron’ website at:**  
<https://www.akshn.org>.







# 2025 Akwesasne POWWOW

Haley Shattuck  
Graphic Designer

The 2025 Akwesasne Powwow was held on September 6-7<sup>th</sup> at Lamoureux Park in Cornwall, Ontario, drawing dancers, drummers, artisans, and visitors from across the region.

This year's Powwow featured a **Grand Entry** each day at Noon, followed by competitions for all ages in **Traditional, Grass, Jingle, Fancy, and Smoke Dance**, as well as a **Big Drum Contest** awarding **\$7,000** to the **first-place** winner. This year's Powwow also featured very special performances each day by **The Tlacopan Aztec Dancers**, an internationally renowned troupe of **Traditional Aztec dancers** traveling from **Mexico City**. Vendors offered traditional foods such as fry bread and corn soup, while artisans showcased bead work, jewelry, and handcrafted regalia.

By its close, the **2025 Akwesasne Powwow** showcased vibrant cultural performances and live demonstrations that celebrated **Indigenous knowledge, artistry, and spirit**, offering an opportunity to celebrate, learn, and be inspired

by the rhythm, tradition, and living culture of Indigenous peoples from across **Turtle Island** and beyond.







# SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FLOOD RECOVERY & READINESS ASSISTANCE ICDBG-IMMINENT THREAT FUNDED PROGRAM

**Madison Breen**  
**Communications Officer**

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Office of Emergency Management and Safety is announcing assistance through the Indian Community Development Block Grant – Imminent Threat (ICDBG-IT) program for Tribal members affected by Tropical Storm Debby in August 2024. This federal funding is designed to support recovery efforts and enhance household resilience against future flooding events.

The ICDBG program, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, provides financial assistance to federally recognized tribes to improve housing, public facilities, and infrastructure. Within this program, the Imminent Threat (IT) category addresses urgent situations in which a natural or man-made disaster poses an immediate risk to health, safety, or welfare. This is what occurred as a result of the flooding brought by Tropical Storm Debby to our area.

Through ICDBG-IT funding, the Tribe can respond swiftly to disaster-related needs, including emergency home repairs and measures that protect against future storm damage. This support helps ensure that homes are safe, habitable, and better prepared for potential future flooding events.



**Eligibility Requirements:**

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- The home must have sustained damage as a result of Tropical Storm Debby.
- The applicant must be a registered member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.
- The applicant must reside within SRMT jurisdiction.
- Both homeowners and renters are eligible to apply.
- Household income must be at or below 80% of the area median income.

Please note that individuals who have already received full funding for the same disaster-related repairs or improvements from FEMA, Tribal, State, or other sources are **not** eligible for ICDBG-IT funding.

**The ICDBG-IT program provides financial support for a variety of recovery and mitigation activities, including:**

**Emergency Home Repairs:** Addressing structural damage caused by Tropical Storm Debby, including roof, plumbing, electrical, and other critical home systems.

**Mold Remediation and Sanitation Services:** Ensuring that homes are safe and healthy following storm-related water damage.

**Flood Resilience Upgrades:** Installing sump pumps, backflow valves, or other protective systems to reduce the risk of future flooding.

**Flood Readiness Kits:** Providing essential supplies and resources to assist households in preparing for future flooding events.

**Elevation and Site Improvements:** Making modifications to homes or property sites to minimize future flood risk

This comprehensive approach not only addresses immediate repair needs but also strengthens homes against potential future disaster

The ICDBG-IT program provides critical resources for tribal members who are still recovering from Tropical Storm Debby, while also taking proactive measures to prevent future damage. By assisting households with repairs, sanitation, and resilience upgrades, the Office of Emergency

Management and Safety is committed to safeguarding the health, safety, and well-being of its community members.

Tribal members affected by Tropical Storm Debby are encouraged to take advantage of this program to restore their homes, protect their families, and enhance preparedness for future events. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe remains dedicated to providing timely support and resources to its community in times of need.

Applications are available at the following locations: Teiokwarihwaenawà:kon Community Services Building, Office of Emergency Management and Safety (OEMS), Room 203, Address: 850 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655

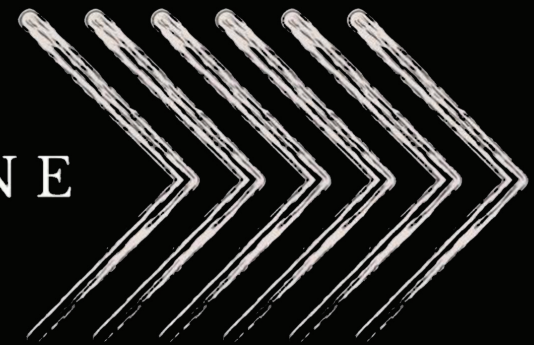
The **deadline to submit applications is December 31, 2025**. Applicants are encouraged to submit their materials promptly to ensure timely review.

For more information on process, please contact the Office of Emergency Management and Safety at 518-358-2272, Ext. 2230 or 2210, or via email at [elizabeth@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:elizabeth@srmt-nsn.gov).





# FLINT AND STONE



## FROM SCRATCH, & MADE WITH LOVE: FLINT AND STONE

**Katelynn Delormier**  
Communications Specialist

A bold and tasty business is brewing at 37 West! **Flint and Stone** is bringing a fresh take on coffee, tobacco, and **from-scratch** goods to Akwesasne's business district. The corner café specializes in artisan drinks, lunch specials, and a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Flint and Stone is one of the many amazing **Tribally-licensed businesses** contributing to programs and initiatives that support the well-being of Akwesasne's growing and thriving community.

The idea for a coffee and tobacco shop was inspired by deep-rooted family values and brought to life through their love of food, togetherness, and personal passions. "**It's something we really enjoy doing and we like to share it with our family and friends,**" shared co-owner Colleen Farwell. **Flint and Stone** strongly believe in bringing wholesome and nourishing foods to the community— a break from harmful additives and inflammatory ingredients.

**"We are conscious of everything we put in our food. We don't use any inflammatory oils. Our almond milk is just almonds, dates, and vanilla. Everything is simple and wonderful."**

~ Colleen Farwel, Co-Owner



Front left to right: Luke Jock, Cody Jock, Tanner Jock, Colleen Farwell, and Kenzie Courson



The cafe's doors first opened in **June 2025** for a soft opening, after two years of developing their business, perfecting recipes, and searching for the right coffee beans to feature in all of their specialty drinks. With the continual patronage of new and returning customers, the brew crew hopes to eventually expand their menu to feature more breakfast and lunch offerings. Fueled by their passion for food and high-quality goods, **Flint and Stone** is adapting and innovating as they go—learning together how to operate a successful business and continually finding ways to entice Akwesasne's taste buds.

Beyond the counter, **Flint and Stone** is more than a budding cafe and tobacco retailer— they are a passionate family bringing the best coffee and tobacco you can find around. **Mother and daughter duo, Colleen and Tanner**, think up the week's tastiest treats and beverage combinations while **brothers Jake and Luke** assist with production, streamlining processes, and lend a hand where needed. **The eldest Jock brother, Cody**, leads the tobacco retail side of the store, with a stand-out line of premium vapes— **Geek Bars**— that offer a safe, high-quality rip with a large selection of models and flavors.

Inspired by their love of quality and high standards, the store's artisan coffee comes from **Recess Coffee & Roastery**, based out of **Syracuse, NY**. The company offers ethically and sustainably sourced fair-traded beans, adhering to strict testing and roasting protocols, that ensures consistently good coffee in every cup.

Current seasonal favorites at the shop include their sweet, cozy and calming lineup of drinks, including the **Teddy Graham Latte, Lavender Oat Matcha, and Blueberry Pancake Latte**. Moving into Fall, you can expect the same level of taste and creativity in every sip. Be on the lookout for their drink specials in store or posted to their social media accounts.

Exciting things are happening in the Cafe's future. The date for their **grand opening** is set to take place on **October 4, 2025**. They will be serving up **carne asada street tacos** with a side of **exciting giveaways, a grand drawing, and specials on vapes and drinks**. To keep up with their rapidly growing business, they have announced an opportunity to join their team of creatives and innovators. If you, or someone you know, is passionate about food, health, and wellness, reach out to **Flint and Stone** to apply.

Serving locally sourced coffee and from-scratch goods, **Flint and Stone** takes food and drink seriously—opting for a wholesome offerings and a warm, inviting atmosphere. Their family of staff works collaboratively on exciting creations and unique flavors to add to an already impressive menu. If you enjoy fresh-baked eats, good company, and artisan brewed coffee, head to **Flint and Stone** for an experience that will have you hooked. Stay tuned to future editions of **Kawenní:ios** magazine for more businesses features and don't forget to support **Tribally-licensed business** that contribute to our growing and thriving community.

Follow **@flintandstone** on **Facebook** or **Instagram** for their menu, specials and more information on their **grand-opening** on **October 4<sup>th</sup>**!







# SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBAL COUNCIL UPDATE ON OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

## Jori Rourke Chief of Staff

On Tsiothóhrha/December 21, 2018, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (the “Tribe”) filed suit in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York contending pharmaceutical companies who manufacture, market, and distribute opioids, and carried out a scheme to make individuals believe that prescription opioids were safe, non-addictive, and could be used without long-term effects. The complaint alleged that the scheme created an opioid epidemic that has ravaged tribal communities.

For the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe the opioid epidemic created health effects on its members and their families, as well as increased instances of child welfare, foster care cases, and crime. As a result, the Tribe has undertaken various efforts to combat the epidemic, ranging from strategies to prevent opioids from falling into the hands of youth or those without prescriptions, and community education on opioid dangers and how to address them.

**“The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has dedicated substantial resources to confronting the opioid epidemic in other service areas in an effort to protect the wellbeing and health of its tribal members,”** stated Tribal Chief Michael Conners, adding **“despite these efforts the opioid epidemic has continued to grow.”**

As settlement agreements were negotiated with some companies, some defendants have filed for bankruptcy, it was undetermined at the time if additional payments would be added. **The amount of the settlements that is allocated among each federally recognized Tribe and Alaskan tribal health organization was determined with the aid of the 2020 U.S. Census. The Tribe stresses the importance for tribal members to participate in the decennial census.**

In accordance with settlement terms, the funds received shall support programs on an approved list of abatement strategies; **and also, for culturally appropriate activities that are aimed at remediating the opioid epidemic's impact on the Akwesasne community.** The terms recognize that tribal communities possess unique cultural practices that play an important role in the health and wellbeing of tribal members.

The Tribal Council shares that since 2023, the Tribe has received settlement monies from the litigation amounting to \$1,800,730.87 thus far, and expects annual distributions in varying amounts until 2037 in accordance with the following settlement schedule (subject to change based on actual amount received).

To date, the Tribal Council has received and reviewed two (2) formal requests for these settlement funds and has approved the requests as follows:  
Supplemental support for the Tribe's Kanienkeha

Language Program, with \$291,745.82 approved in FY 2025 towards language teacher retention/recruitment (competitive wages), funding of a Teacher's Aide, and to fund two (2) additional program cohorts starting in Fall 2025.

Second, the Tribal Council received a request from Salmon River Central School District to provide assistance with a new athletic wrestling program to help uplift and empower Akwesasne youth. The total commitment to fund for FY 2025-2027 (three years) amounts to total of \$160,964, with \$57,500 for Year 1 to start in 2025. In addition, the first year will involve creating a structured curriculum for coaches to guide youth participants, a comprehensive training framework that outlines key wrestling techniques, fundamental movement skills, and age-appropriate progressions while incorporating safety protocols, injury prevention strategies, and structured warm-up and cool-down routines. Salmon River Central requested the Tribe directly fund the program provider, Good Mind Grappling via its fiscal sponsor the Cedar Fund, to avoid State Education barriers that would have increased the proposal's budget by a significant amount.

on August 29, 2025, the Tribal Council released a community notice notifying community non-profit organizations that it is accepting proposals for the Tribal Opioid Settlement funds for Fiscal Year 2026.

External awardees of Tribal funding are responsible to meet the following conditions:

- Submit an annual expenditure report to certify that awarded funds are properly utilized in accordance with funding proposal and return any underspend by March 31<sup>st</sup> annually;
- Maintain records and financial documents for five (5) years after all funds have been expended;
- Express positive messages acknowledging the Tribe's support and assist with any public relations regarding the award;
- Present to Tribal Membership at Tribal Monthly Meetings on programmatic activity and report on how the funds were utilized.

The Tribal Council welcomed community organizations to submit proposals for FY 2026 (January 1-December 31, 2026) in accordance with the settlement terms, specifically for culturally appropriate activities that are aimed at remediating the opioid epidemic's impact on the Akwesasne community by Seskehkó:wa/September 30, 2025.

The Tribal Council looks forward to reviewing submitted proposals and announcing the awardees in early 2026.





# The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Planning & Infrastructure Division: Supporting Traveler Safety & Economic Prosperity

Colleen Thomas, P&I Director  
 Katelynn Delormier, Communications Specialist

**T**he SRMT Planning and Infrastructure (P&I) Division has several exciting developments in the works that include **major improvements to roads** and existing drainage infrastructure, and large-scale projects that will see substantial upgrades to **two of Akwesasne’s busiest roads**. Two goals of the **P&I Division** are to improve safety for motorists traversing the territory and to create a positive economic impact for our local Tribal businesses and families. The experienced team at **P&I** accomplish these important goals by cultivating relationships with engineering firms, collaborating with other Tribal programs and leadership, and obtaining community input.

At the Ohiarikho:wa/July 12, 2025, Tribal Monthly Meeting, **P&I Construction Manager Brett Herne presented the 2025 Road Maintenance Plan**, detailing the exhaustive efforts required

to maintain our roads throughout the four seasons. The plan included the acquisition of much-needed equipment for Akwesasne’s tough winters, repairing damage to the roads, ditching and drainage improvements, replacing failed culverts, and laying the groundwork for a full-depth **reconstruction of Frogtown Road—a \$6.273 million dollar project** to improve 2.2 miles of roadway in Akwesasne. The P&I staff annually reviews data and conducts regular road inspections, including consultations with first responders, residents and bus drivers, to establish the **Road Maintenance Plan** and to identify roads that are in the most need of attention. The level of priority assigned to each road depends on the length and condition of the road, drainage mechanisms and culverts, daily average traffic counts, signage visibility and condition, bus route locations, and the overall safety risk posed to community members and daily commuters. Once inspections are complete, **P&I** develops a scope of work, outlining the proposed upgrades,

with an estimate and a schedule. Previous annual inspections identified **many roads** in poor condition due to types and volume of traffic and sub-base layer deterioration caused by culvert and ditching deficiencies—a build-up of water gradually weakens the granular base of the road and causes substantial damage to the overall road surface conditions.

In the past decade, the **P&I Division** worked steadily to complete improvements to **Mose Cook Road, Louis Conners Road, Ransom Road, Solomon Road, Pumphouse Road,**



**and Helena Road.** With financial assistance from **Tribal Council** and contributions from the **NYS Department of Transportation**, **P&I** was able to expand their Road Maintenance efforts to include **Roosevelt Road, Smoke Road, Square Road, Hart Road, the Clinic Access Road, St. Regis Road, Gray Road, Mary Road, McDonald Road, the SRMT Housing Development Road, and the North section of Beaver Meadow Road.** Plans also are underway for major improvements at two of the busiest roads in Akwesasne, **Frogtown Road and State Route 37.**

In February 2024, the **P&I Division** applied for the **Rebuilding Americas Infrastructure with Equity and Sustainability (RAISE)** grant through the **U.S. Department of Transportation** to reconstruct Frogtown Road. The **Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)**, formerly known as the **RAISE** grant, was awarded to the **Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe** in January of 2025 in the amount of **\$6.273 million** to “support critical roadway infrastructure improvements that improve safety, reduce congestion, and spur economic growth” according to the DOT BUILD grant website. The funds from this grant will be used to reconstruct approximately **2.2-miles of Frogtown Road from the intersection of NYS Route 37 to Helena Road** and is expected to break ground in the Summer of 2026.

In addition to maintaining Akwesasne’s roads and planning for **Frogtown Road**, the **P&I Division** is developing another major project geared toward road safety.







P&I held community meetings on June 24, 2025 and August 21, 2025, and consulted with home owners to gather input and to share the scope of work and proposed road design. This project is currently in the preliminary design phase, including environmental approvals, with an anticipated construction start date of May 2027.

The **Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe** remains committed to paving the way to a safer and more prosperous Akwesasne. These infrastructure upgrades will not only address immediate safety concerns, but also support long-term economic development for local Tribal businesses and families. As major projects like **Frogtown Road and the Center Turning Lane** are underway, it is important to have the support of the community—working twords to a better future, together.

**Niawen'kó:wa** to our P&I team and the community for all that you do to make Akwesasne a strong and vibrant community.



In an Enniska/February 6, 2023 press release, the **SRMT** announced the award of **\$10,235,200** through the **U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program**, to build a center turning lane on **State Route 37**. The 4.2 mile project will improve the safety of motorists by making way for a 12-foot center turning lane, plus two 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction, and three to five foot-wide shoulders on each side along **Route 37 from the intersection of Route 95 to Raquette Point Road**. The creation of a center turning lane will reduce the frequency of crashes involving turning vehicles and will help improve access onto Route 37 for numerous residences, businesses, and offices.

**"As directed by our 2020 Tribal Transportation Safety Plan, these two impactful projects represent a vital step towards safer roadways and a prosperous future for Tribal families and local businesses; and are made possible by support from Tribal Council, assistance from the local NYS Department of Transportation crew and community input."**

~ Colleen Thomas, P&I Director.







SAINT REGIS  
MOHAWK TRIBE

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS NOT OUR WAY

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS MONTH



## TOGETHER, WE TURN AKWESASNE PURPLE

Madison Breen, Communications Officer

**Every October**, our community comes together to recognize **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, a time to stand with survivors, honor their strength, and remind one another that we all play a role in creating safe, healthy relationships.

**Domestic violence** can happen to anyone. In the United States, **2 in 5 women and 1 in 4 men** experience some form of domestic violence in their lifetime. It is important to remember that domestic violence can affect anyone, regardless of employment, education, race or ethnicity, religion, marital status, physical ability, age, gender identity, or sexual orientation. According to the **National Congress of American Indians**, American Indian and Alaska Native women are **1.7 times more likely** to face violence than white (Caucasian) women.

**Domestic Violence, also known as Intimate Partner Violence, is not always easy to recognize. It can take many forms:**

- Physical: Hitting, slapping, punching, shoving, kicking, or any action that causes physical harm.
- Emotional: Degrading comments, blame, threats, or constant criticism.
- Sexual: Forcing a partner to engage in unwanted sexual acts.
- Financial: Stealing, destroying personal belongings, or controlling access to money, income, or resources.

Survivors who face the decision to leave their abuser often choose to stay due to fear, normalized abuse, shame, intimidation, low self-esteem, lack of resources, disability, cultural factors, concern for children, or love. Leaving is not simple—in fact, it can be the most dangerous time. It may also take several attempts before leaving for good. Community support is vital. As friends, family, and neighbors, we each have the power to make a difference by:

- Listening without judgment when someone opens-up.
- Speaking out when you see or hear abuse.
- Sharing resources and promoting education about healthy relationships.
- Modeling respect and compassion in your everyday actions.

**Supporting** our relatives can help **reduce violence** and

make our community safer for future generations. When we speak out, abusers know their behavior will not be tolerated. And when we **wear purple this October**, we show that Akwesasne is a community rooted in care, strength, and healing. **Together**, we can build a future where every home in Akwesasne is **safe, peaceful, and filled with respect.**

Here in Akwesasne, the Community Advocacy Program invites us to **“Turn Akwesasne Purple”** on **October 16<sup>th</sup>**. Whether it’s wearing your favorite purple sweater, adding purple ribbons at your workplace, or sharing purple on social media, every action sends a powerful message: We believe in a violence-free community. If you or someone you love needs support, **the Community Advocacy Program is available 24/7. Call 518-358-4406 for confidential help.**

### Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Community Advocacy Program

The Community Advocacy Program along with its programming Three Sisters and Family Advocate provides assistance to individuals and families experiencing:

- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Dating Violence
- Stalking
- Human Trafficking
- Homelessness
- Crime Victimization

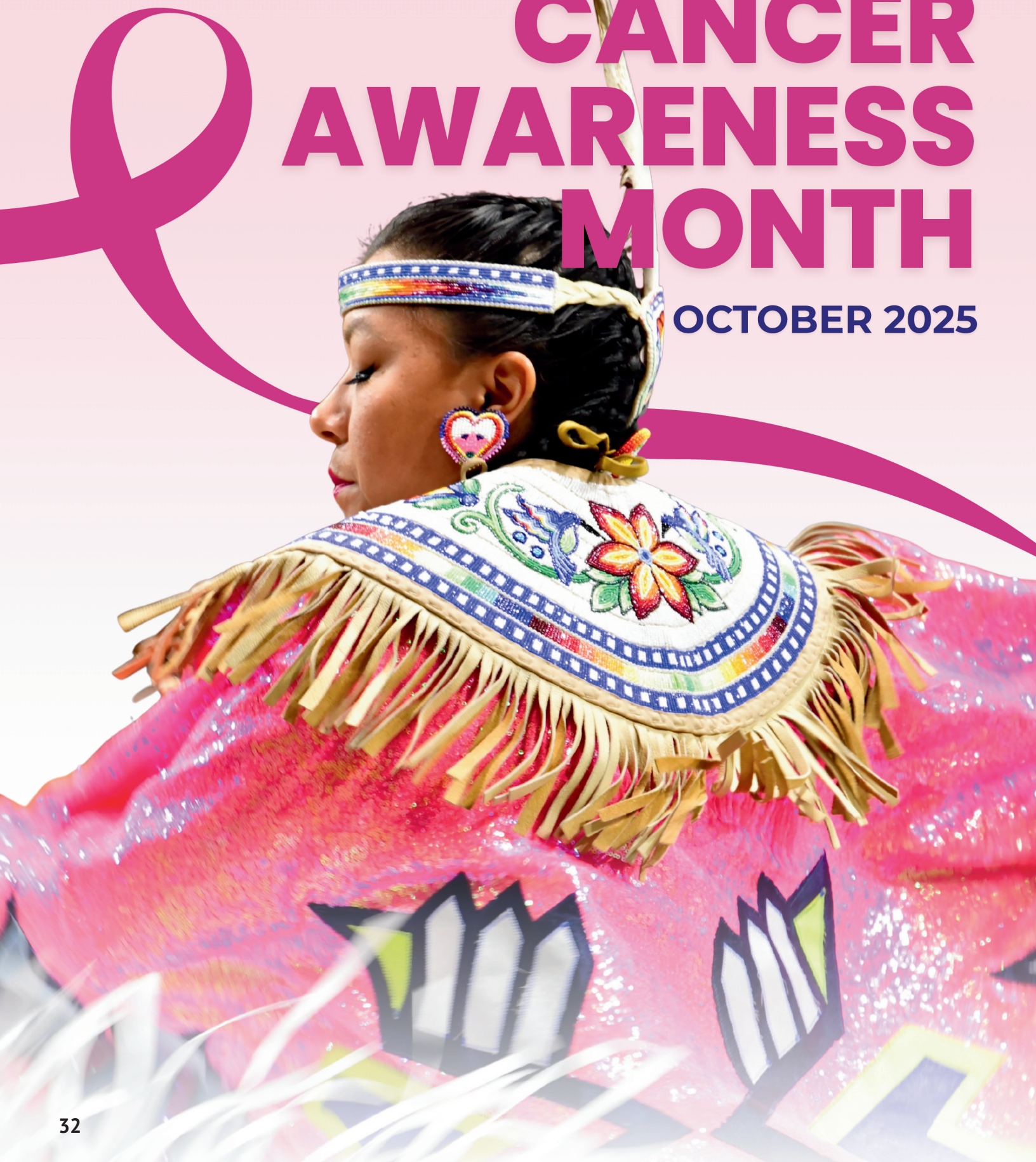
**To inquire about services call  
(518)358-4406 or (518)358-3021**

**For emergencies call Tribal Police  
(518) 358-9200 24/7 on-call services**



# BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

OCTOBER 2025



# EVERY DAY IS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY



COMMEMORATE THE RESILIENCE OF INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLE'S ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025



# SRMT Enrichment Awards and Employee Beach Day



**Madison Breen**  
Communications Officer

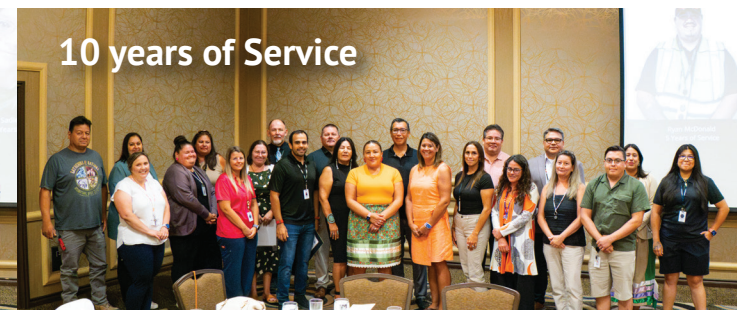
On Ohiarihkó:wa/July 18, 2025, the **Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT)** hosted the annual **Employee Beach Day** at Massena Town Beach.

**SRMT** staff spent the day relaxing, connecting, and enjoying the warm summer weather. **Enrichment Awards for Summer 2025** were announced and recipients were recognized for their outstanding work and dedication to realizing the **SRMT** vision and mission. This year's **Summer Enrichment Award Winners** are **Raven Oakes, Cassidy Thompson, Casey McMahon, Staff Attorney Johanne Sullivan, and Senior Accountant Trisha Gray.**

Congratulations to this year's award recipients, and **Niawen'kó:wa** to all of **SRMT** for a successful **Beach Day!**



5 years of Service



10 years of Service



15 years of Service



20 years of Service

## Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's 2025 Years of Service Recognition

**Madison Breen**  
Communications Officer

The **Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe** is proud to announce the **2025 Years of Service recipients!** This annual ceremony honors dedicated individuals who have reached significant milestones in their careers with the Tribe. Honorees are recognized for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, or 40 years of service, celebrating their commitment, hard work, and contributions to our community. A special acknowledgment is awarded to **William Arquette for 40 years of service with the tribe Niawen'kó:wa** for all of your hard work and dedication to the **Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe** and the community of Akwesasne!



25 years of Service



30 years of Service



35 years of Service



40 years of Service



**Kanenna'ké:ne | Fall 2025**

# **2025 INDIGENOUS FASHION SHOW**

**October 12  
6:30 PM**

**AKWESASNE MOHAWK  
CASINO RESORT**



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

**Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe**

**71 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way, Akwesasne, NY 13655**

*Ska'tne ionkwaio'te ón:wa wenhniserá:te ne sén:ha aioianerénhake ne enióhrhen'ne  
Working Together Today to Build a Better Tomorrow*