

# ONKWE'TA:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 10 Issue 1

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

Tsothohrhkó:wa/January 2021

## 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to share the different events and services that were provided to the community in 2020 throughout this issue of Onkwe'ta:ke. We are thankful to all of the programs, staff, council and community members who worked hard, particularly with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that everyone has a safe and happy 2021!

## UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

### JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

A Zoom General Meeting will be held on January 28, 2021 at 6 p.m.

Please send an email to [meetings@akwesasne.ca](mailto:meetings@akwesasne.ca) to receive a link to watch the video.

You can also send any questions you may have to [meetings@akwesasne.ca](mailto:meetings@akwesasne.ca) as well.



# MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE 2018-2021

## **Grand Chief**

Abram Benedict

## **Kana:takon District**

Chief Theresa Jacobs  
Chief Darryl Lazore  
Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs  
Chief Tim Thompson

## **Kawehno:ke District**

Chief Carolyn Francis  
Chief Edward Roundpoint  
Chief Vince Thompson  
Chief Vanessa Adams

## **Tsi Snaihne District**

Chief April Adams-Phillips  
Chief Connie Lazore  
Chief Joe Lazore  
Chief Tobi Mitchell

## **Administration**

Heather Phillips  
Executive Director

Leslie Papineau  
A/Director  
Department of Infrastructure &  
Housing

Joyce King  
Director,  
Akwasasne Justice Department

Karen Hill  
Director,  
Community & Social Services

Keith LeClaire  
Director,  
Department of Health

Donna Lahache  
Director,  
Akwesasne Mohawk Board  
of Education

Shawn Dulude  
Chief of Police,  
Akwasasne Mohawk Police  
Service

Kylee Tarbell  
A/Director,  
Tehotiennawakon

# WAT'KWANONHWERA:TON/GREETINGS

She:kon/Wat'kwanonhwera:ton,

The MCA Communications Team is proud to bring you a new issue of our print newsletter, Onkwe'ta:ke. The name Onkwe'ta:ke means "For the people" and the newsletter is our way of reporting MCA news and information to those we are serving...you, the people. MCA prides itself on transparency and accountability, and the news and reports in the pages to follow are MCA's attempt to ensure you receive informative and helpful news.

There is always a lot to learn about Council and the MCA departments, so we hope you find the newsletter both interesting and useful. We look forward to sharing our most valuable news with you in this format, and welcome you to provide feedback or suggestions by emailing our team at [communications@akwesasne.ca](mailto:communications@akwesasne.ca).

**Below are 5 THINGS we want you to know about MCA this month:**

## FIVE THINGS

OUR YEARLY LIST OF FACTS, REMINDERS &  
IMPORTANT MESSAGES

- 1 During 2020, the COVID-19 global pandemic created many changes to everyone's habits and even how programs provided services. As we move into 2021, we encourage community members to continue to practice frequent hand washing, maintain a physical distance of 6 feet at all times and make sure that you wear a mask. We are all in this together.
- 2 In 2020, the MCA and CBSA created a Border Collaboration Initiative. They have been meeting frequently to discuss ways to improve border crossing for community members. One effect from this collaboration was the creation of the Domestic Lane at the CBSA Port in Cornwall.
- 3 Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there were many programs and staff members that went above and beyond to ensure services were provided and that community members had activities to participate in. Nia:wen to all the frontline and essential staff leading the way!
- 4 In January 2020, the Akwasasne Court Justices deemed that the Tsikaristsere/Dundee Specific Land Claim was "conducted in good faith" and that the results were officially approved.
- 5 During the pandemic, the MCA Food Distribution provided food packages to over 900 families per week. In May /Early June, over 300 raised garden beds were delivered to community members under the Kaienthóhsera initiative.

# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

As 2021 has officially arrived, we want you to take a look at all of the things that took place in 2020 throughout the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

We can't talk about 2020 without discussing COVID-19. On March 16, 2020 the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe declared a state of emergency due to the ongoing global pandemic. As we reflect back, we want to thank all of

the community members and neighbours who adhered to our regulations in order to ensure the safety of Akwesasronon. Nia:wen to you all in doing your part.

A big niawenhko:wa also goes out to the essential staff and front line workers who had to work during the shutdown to ensure services were provided to the community.

It has been a trying year to say the least, but amongst the craziness,

there was still a lot of great things that occurred.

The community of Akwesasne certainly knows how to come together and it was more important than ever for everyone to come together during these times.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne wishes you and your family a safe and healthy 2021 and strive to continue providing services to the community.

### THE MCA-CBSA BORDER COLLABORATION INITIATIVE

The MCA-CBSA Border Collaboration Initiative was officially launched on January 8, and aims to improve the daily lives of all who work, utilize or travel through the Akwesasne Cornwall border crossing.

The initiative includes plans for immediate-, short-, medium- and long-term priorities with some improvements already implemented or underway.

Representatives from the MCA and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) met to discuss collaborative measures that will improve the border crossing experience at the Cornwall Port of Entry.





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### NEW MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST AT WHOLISTIC HEALTH & WELLNESS

In January 2020, the MCA Wholistic Health & Wellness Program welcomed Wennietanoron Oakes as their new full-time Mental Health Therapist!

Wennietanoron is currently practicing and supporting mental health in Akwesasne. For more information, contact the Tekanikonrahwa:kon Wholistic Health & Wellness Program at 613-575-2341 ext. 3115.



**WENNIETANORON OAKES**

MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST, WHOLISTIC HEALTH & WELLNESS

### NEW NURSE PRACTITIONER AT KAWEHNO:KE MEDICAL CLINIC

In January 2020, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne welcomed Nurse Practitioner Katelyn Fedorak to the community.

Ms. Fedorak joined the team of staff at the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic, joining fellow Nurse Practitioner Janet Brant, Dr. Funnell, and Dr. Torres. With the addition of Katelyn, Akwesasne will have greater access to walk-in clinics and same-day appointments.

### DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL SERVICES RECEIVES NEW GRADER

In January, the staff at the Department of Technical Services happily received a new grader, as part of a proposal and grant from Indigenous Services Canada. The grader will help to improve our ability to maintain Akwesasne's roads!



**KATELYN FEDORAK**

NURSE PRACTITIONER, KAWEHNO:KE MEDICAL CLINIC



# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### MCA CONTINUES CELEBRATING NEW BABIES WITH FAMILY EVENT

Babies and families have a vital role in the health and future of our community, and MCA's Community Health Program wants to make sure each new or growing family knows how much value they hold.

For several years, the Community Health program has hosted a "Celebration of Birth" event to honour all of the new babies and families who were served by the

program throughout the year. It was held on January 30, 2020 at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino.

Chief April Adams-Phillips, who holds the Health portfolio, offered to speak on behalf of Council and shared words of love and support for all the families in attendance.

Niawenhko:wa to all of our families for attending this event.





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

In January 2020, MCA celebrated National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day — nia:wen to the men and women of the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police, and agencies from surrounding areas who work hard to keep our community safe!



**HAPPY NATIONAL LAW  
ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY!**



### TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

In January, Tsi Snaihne School grade 6 students Lexi Mitchell and Charleigh Jacobs created a Take What You Need bulletin board for the school.

The messages on the board are positive words of encouragement that anyone coming in to the Tsi Snaihne School community can take as a reminder of kindness and caring. Some of the notes are "U R Amazing", "I matter," "Do your best." The best part are that the messages are from the heart.

Great job ladies on doing your part to spread positivity!





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### TSIKARISTISERE/DUNDEE SPECIFIC LAND CLAIM REFERENDUM OFFICIALLY APPROVED

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne received official notification from the Akwesasne Court that the results of the October-December 2018 community referendum on the Tsikaristisere/Dundee Land Claim Settlement Agreement are valid.

After hearing the appeals from Akwesasne residents, the Akwesasne Court Justices determined that the referendum “was conducted in good faith,” and declared that the referendum results were valid in January 2020.



### WORLD WETLANDS DAY

On February 2, 2020 Environment hosted World Wetlands Day at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation.

There were numerous family-friendly activities for Akwesasronon to enjoy, from snowshoeing with lakwa'shatste Youth Fitness, a photo booth, arts & crafts, puppet shows, informational booths and more.

In the photo pictures, A/Program Manager for Environment Abraham Francis was talking with booth attendees and informing the community on World Wetlands Day.



### DEPT. OF HEALTH STAFF PARTICIPATE IN TRAINING FOR CERTIFIED FIRST NATIONS HEALTH MANAGERS

During February 2020, staff with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Department of Health completed Course 100 with the First Nations Health Managers Association. Congratulations to the employees and we look forward to seeing the great work that will be accomplished on this professional development endeavour!





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### MCA WINS MORALE, BUT TRIBE WINS AKWESASNE WINTER CARNIVAL MCA VS. SRMT BATTLE ROYALE

On February 14, 2020 MCA staff faced the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe staff in an epic showdown of physical fitness, mental competence, and wit for the Akwesasne Winter Carnival MCA vs. SRMT Battle Royale. After

competitions in basketball, volleyball, broomball, poker, puzzling, and executive director minute-to-win-it games, MCA came up short for the overall win, but celebrated the most participated-in Battle Royale yet, and a huge increase in overall participation from recent years.





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### GREAT AKWESASNE RIVER CLEANUP

In February 2020, the MCA Environment Program began to work with our partners to plan the 2020 Great Akwesasne River Cleanup.

Since we began over 5 years ago, local volunteers have taken 40 tonnes of garbage out of our rivers and wetlands. Follow the MCA Environment Program Facebook page for more details in the days ahead to see how you can become involved!



### AKWESASNE UNITY MARCH

Members and staff of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne were among many Akwesasronon to participate in the Unity March held on March 4, 2020.

Community members and allies peacefully marched in support of the Wet'suwet'en Nation, Cayuga Nation, Tyendinaga and Kahnawake. People departed from locations to the east and west of Route 37 and united at Margaret Terrance Memorial Way.

Akwesasronon joined together in this act of solidarity with the help of traditional songs, ribbon shirts/skirts, banners, flags, and posters. The march ended at Generations Park in Hogansburg — a community condolence was conducted alongside a tobacco burning, followed by a shared meal of corn soup, fry bread, strawberry drink and more.



### WETLANDS WORKSHOP

On February 11, 2020 the Environment Program and their special guests from the River Institute, Raisin Region Conservation Authority, and the Canadian Coast Guard (MCA office) came together to host a hands-on wetlands workshop for the high school's in- digenous students.

Over 100 Mohawk students from grades 9-12 participated in a full day event that highlighted the importance of the wetlands in their own backyard. Students were also given the opportunity to sign up for high school volunteer hours by helping out with the wetland inventory by assisting as citizen scientists. Over 30 students took up the challenge. Nia:wen to all that signed up for this opportunity to help our wetlands.

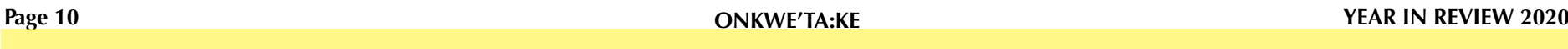




# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

In March 2020, the Kana:takon School celebrated Spirit — students and staff enjoyed showing their spirit on Crazy Hair Day and Throwback Thursday!





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### MCA COMMUNITY PANDEMIC UPDATES

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has been working diligently to provide updated, accurate information to the community.

On March 18, 2020, MCA Grand Chief Abram Benedict and Executive Director Heather Phillips did a Facebook live video to discuss the changes to our organization amid the COVID-19 outbreak and recently-declared State of Emergency from March 16.



### HEALTH TIPS WITH STAFF AND COUNCIL

In March, the MCA released a series of videos from staff and council discussing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In this video, Dr. Horn shares tips on maintaining good respiratory health for those with underlying medical conditions like seasonal allergies, asthma, and obstructive sleep apnea. This information is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### SRMT & MCA COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT — MARCH 28, 2020

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe released a serious of joint community statement and regulations in order to keep the community of Akwesasne safe.

Here SRMT Chief Beverly Cook and MCA Grand Chief Abram Benedict provide important updates to the Akwesasne community regarding COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus).





2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

In March, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne began embracing technology to ensure social distancing and service delivery for our community — to make sure Akwesasronon has access to essential services & programs while keeping health a top priority! Chiefs began meeting regularly via videoconference to stay updated.

ENSURING  
SERVICE &  
SOCIAL  
DISTANCING

MCA chiefs have been utilizing video-conferences to stay both safe and up-to-date!

Stay safe & socially distant.





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WORKS TOGETHER TO PROVIDE GREEN FOOD BAG TO COMMUNITY

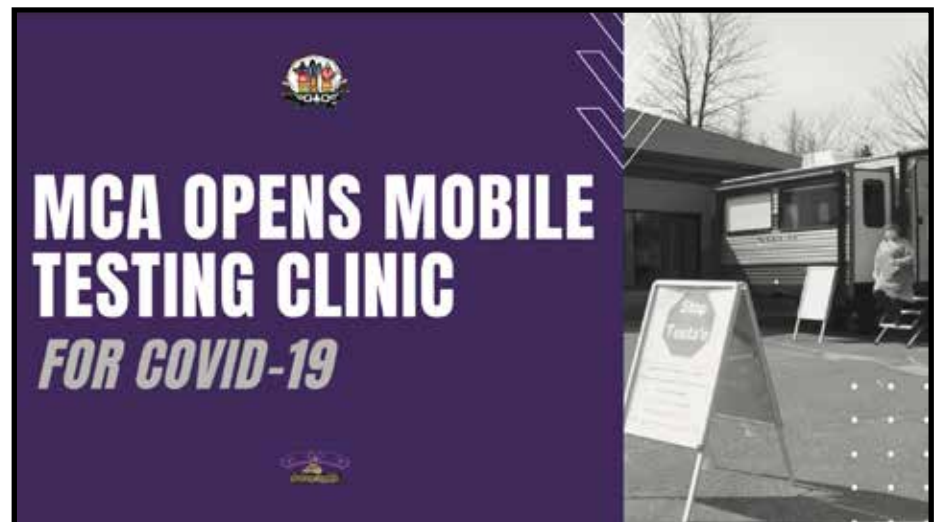
On March 17, 2020 staff from the Department of Health worked together to ensure that individuals who ordered their monthly Green Food Bag safely received it. In order to limit contact amongst individuals and ensure that the health and safety of all was met, staff made deliveries to those that ordered.

Niawenko:wa to all our front-line workers that are working hard to ensure that services are carried out.



### MCA OPENS MOBILE TESTING CLINIC FOR COVID-19

In April, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health received approval from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit to operate a mobile testing clinic for COVID-19 in Akwesasne. This is one of the first mobile testing clinics operated by an Indigenous public health body in Canada and will operate as a drive-through site with appointments scheduled by our Community Health Program (CHP).



### IOHAHI:IO PROVIDES HOT MEALS TO COMMUNITY

In April, Iohahi:io staff cooked and distributed hot meals to the students and community members.

Nia:wen to those that did their part!





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS HONORING FRONTLINE HEALTH WORKERS

On April 27, local first responders travelled to various loations in Akwesasne to show their support to our frontline health workers on both sides of the community.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service, Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police, and the Akwesasne Mohawk

Ambulance activated their lights and sirens across the community—theconvoybeganatHAVFDStation#1and madestopsatlakhihsohthaLodge,Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility, Tsiionkwanonhso:te Longterm Care Facility, CIA #3, Akwesasne Housing Authority and SRMT Health Services before ending at the Ionkwakiohkwaróron Administration Building.

Niawenhko:wa to those working hard to keep us safe!



### COMMUNITY MEMBERS DONATE POTATO PACKAGES TO AKWESASRONON

In April, a group of community members donated potatoes and distributed them to Akwesasronon.

It was greatly appreciated by community members!





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### MCA EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROVIDES THOUSANDS OF MEALS TO FAMILIES DURING PANDEMIC

Since March 16, 2020, staff and volunteers from the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne provided Emergency Food Packages to over 900 families per week. The EFP's contained basic pantry

supplies for a family and fresh foods, based on supplies received. The final distribution was held on May 15th.

Niawenko:wa to all front-line staff who worked hard to ensure that community members received the Emergency Food Packages.



### GARDEN BEDS PROVIDED TO DISTRICT RESIDENTS

In May, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, under the Kaientoh'sera initiative, delivered raised garden beds to district community members, along with soil, plants and direction on how to properly tend to your garden.

The raised bed gardens, made by Akwesasne Earth Movers and Two House Designs, were delivered to over 300 households.





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### POLICE WEEK — #AKWESASNEPOLICEWEEK2020

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) and Community Partners celebrated Police Week from May 10-16, 2020.

Police Week is an annual event that focuses on raising awareness on the work of police services.

This year Police Week was dedicated to all First Responders in the community of Akwesasne. Each year police proudly select a theme to highlight and celebrate the important roles of our local First Responders.

Nia:wen to all that make such a difference in Akwesasne!





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### MCA CELEBRATES EMS WEEK

To help the Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance celebrate the 46th Annual National EMS Week during the week May 18-22, 2020 and to get to know the members of the Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance Unit, EMT's were featured on the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Facebook page.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance unit has grown since last year with a number of new emergency medical technicians joining the team. The last few months have been a stressful time to work on the front lines and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health values the work being done by the EMS team



### 12-YEAR-OLD STAYS CALM ON SCENE

On June 3, 2020, Akwesasne Central Dispatch received a call from a 12-year-old female who reported an incident that required police and ambulance to provide medical assistance to another person.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service, Central Dispatch, and the Mohawk Council Ambulance Unit would like to thank this young person for calling police and remaining calm until first responders arrived on scene.





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### WORLD ELDER ABUSE DAY

The Akwesasne Child & Family Services Program and the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Services hosted an event on World Elder Abuse. In an effort to raise awareness on elder abuse, participants were asked to wear purple and to post pictures with stickers from Tim Hortons on Kawehno:ke or Three Feathers Cafe in Hoganansburg.

All those that participated included the hashtag #WEAADakwesasne when posting.

Each participant was entered into a draw to win some great prizes. Nia:wen to all that wore purple and helped to raise awareness on this important cause. Below are images of some that participated in event.





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### POLICE LAUNCH TWO NEW BOATS TO ASSIST IN RIVER PATROLS AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT

In June 2020, the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service launched two new Rigid-Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIBS) to improve their capacity to keep the rivers safe and secure. Both boats will provide the police service with an improved mode of transportation to quickly navigate to areas on the river where they're needed.

Akwesasne has an abundance of water, which the community actively uses for fishing, recreation and leisure throughout the summer months.

The boats provide police with an increase in capacity to assist in keeping these waters safe and enjoyable, free from hazards and crime.





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### TRADITIONAL—THEMED CARDBOARD CHALLENGE

During the month of June, the Akwesasne Child & Family Services Program hosted a traditional-themed cardboard challenge. Over twenty submissions were

submitted from Akwesasronon displaying their creations that ranged from kastowas and crowns, to moccasins and rattles to drums and jewelry. All those that submitted were entered to win great prizes from local artists and vendors.



### PUTTING THE 'WE' BACK IN 'WETLANDS': AKWESASNE WETLANDS PROJECT

The MCA Environment Program began the Akwesasne Wetlands Project in September 2019. They can develop proper longterm monitoring and management of our wetlands. They are working toward integrating traditional knowledge and educating our community about the importance of wetlands and the environment as a whole.

This program began the field season in June with an aerial survey to map the summer vegetation types and patterns, as well as fish surveys to identify species. A more extensive summer biosurvey to identify plant and animal species was done in late July/early August. They also engaged with the community through outreach, including a "virtual" bioblitz event where people completed their own species surveys at home. This event provided an opportunity to learn about scientific research, species identification and nature journaling.





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### AKWESASNE CLEANUP

In June, the Akwesasne Green Team, Environment Program and the Akwesasne Child and Family Services teamed up for the Akwesasne Cleanup. Community members sent in their pictures of cleaning up their ditches, common areas of Akwesasne, or even their own yard.

There were many entries and it was so great to see all those that were working hard to keep our Mother Earth clean and garbage-free.

Niawenhko:wa to all that participated in the Akwesasne Community Cleanup. Keep up the great work. You did an amazing job!



*Nia:wen for keeping  
Akwesasne Clean*





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

In June on the Friday before Fathers Day, the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service teamed up with the Akwesasne Child and Family Services Program to provide fathers and their families a delicious barbeque. Nia:wen to all that made this event possible.



### MOBILE UNIT OF FUN

In June, Akwesasne Child and Family Services and the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club teamed up to create a mobile unit of fun. They hosted a virtual competition on Facebook so Akwesasne families could enter a chance to receive a visit from the staff members. After a winner was selected, they would get a visit from the mobile unit of fun and at each location, the winners of the day would get to play fun games, and would also get the opportunities to complete various arts and craft activities.





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### DEMOLITION OF FORMER ADMINISTRATION 2 BUILDING

On July 9, 2020, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne’s Department of Infrastructure & Housing (DIH), along with Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC), hosted a public consultation Zoom meeting to inform and engage the community on the upcoming demolition of the former Administration 2 building at 92 Third Street, Kana:takon (St. Regis). The building was the former location of Mohawk Government and offices of the chiefs. It was vacated in 2014 due to poor air quality and building conditions.



### RECREATION CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSES

In July, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne officially licensed the first businesses in the community to enter the recreational cannabis industry. MCA wishes to acknowledge that these businesses abided by the necessary requirements and lengthy application process in accordance with their community’s interest in having a regulated cannabis industry. Any other cannabis

businesses operating in the territory are unlicensed, unregulated and there can be no assurances of their safety or legitimacy.

These licensed businesses have also entered into community contribution agreements which will provide benefits to the community at large, which unlicensed cannabis businesses do not contribute to.

## MCA LICENSED CANNABIS BUSINESSES

<b>GREEN RESERVE DISPENSARY</b> 90 Akwesasne Street Kana:takon	<b>GREEN RESERVE FARMS</b> 90 Akwesasne Street Kawehno:ke	<b>HAPPY DAYS</b> 896 Island Road Kawehno:ke
<b>GREEN CHIEF NATURALS</b> 341 Island Road Kawehno:ke	<b>BUDDERS QUICKSTOP DISPENSARY</b> 60 Third Street Kana:takon	<b>BRIGHT SKY GROWERS</b> 11 Walter Delormier Road Kawehno:ke
<b>ISLAND FLOWER</b> 155 International Road Kawehno:ke		<b>THE HERBALIST</b> 211 International Service Road West Kawehno:ke



# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

Through hard work and determination, Issac McDonald of the Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance received his paramedic certification.

We are appreciative of all that you do in order to keep Akwesasne safe. Congratulations Issac on your accomplishments and all that you do for Akwesasne.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne wants to send out a heartfelt niawenhko:wa to all the health frontline workers. This has been a particularly stressful year and we appreciate all that you do in order to ensure the safety of the Akwesasne community .

Nia:wen!



### AKWESASNE FAMILY WELLNESS RECEIVES \$1000 COVID-19 GRANT

In July, the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program received a \$1000 grant from the Rotary Club of Cornwall Sunrise for COVID-19 relief.

The Rotary Club noted, "We strongly support the work these local organizations offer to women and children and the grants were provided as financial support to be put toward food, cleaning products, personal protective equipment (PPE) and gas for clients in need."

Pictured is of Catherine Lelievre, Program Manager of the Family Wellness Program and a Rotary Club representative.

Nia:wen for the donation!



# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### AKWESASNE NON-INSURE HEALTH BENEFITS RECEIVE NEW TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE

In July, the Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefits staff were excited to add a new non-emergency medical transportation vehicle to their fleet.

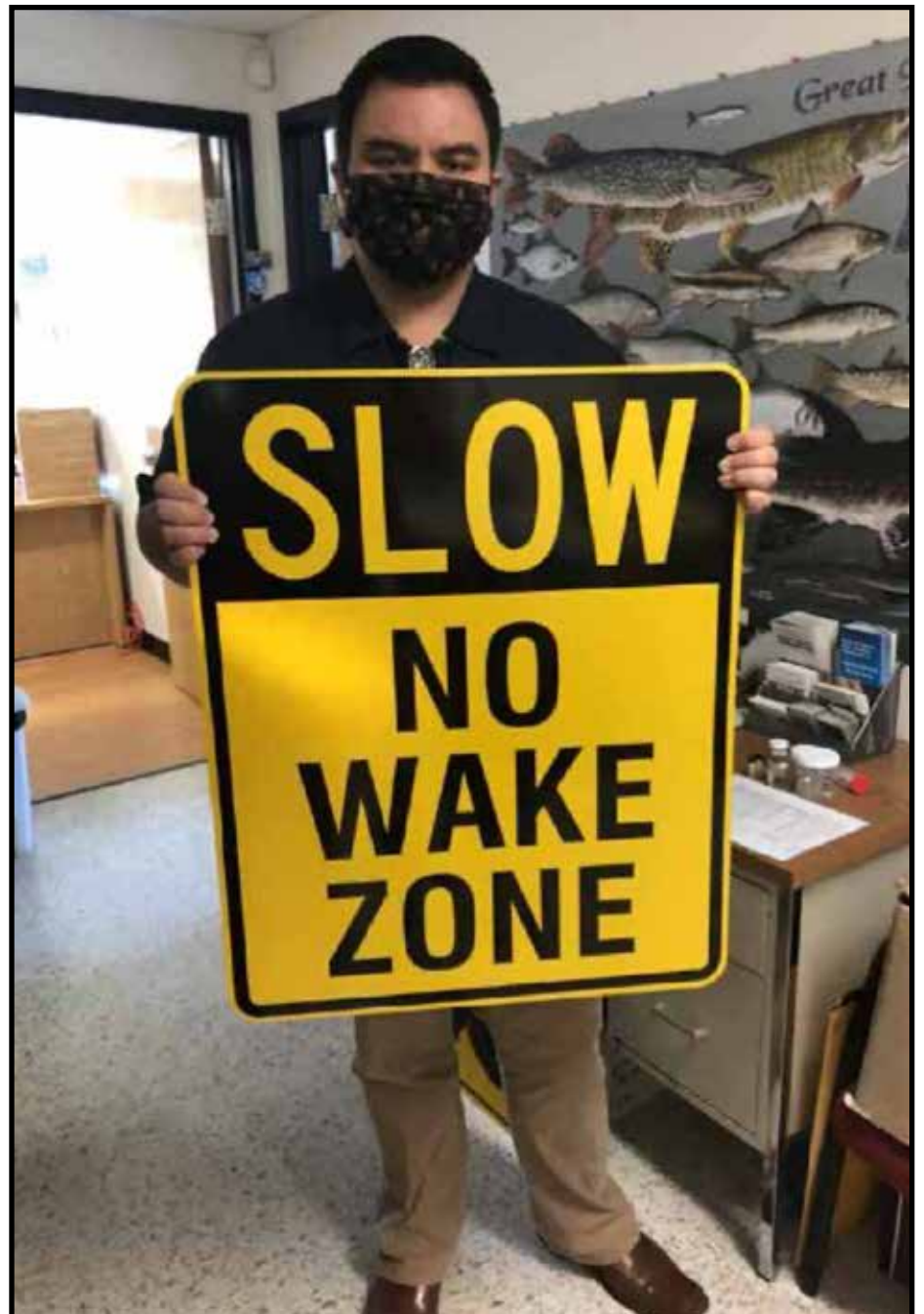
Safe travels.



### NO WAKE ZONE

On August 7, 2020, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne recently delivered "No Wake Zone" signs to businesses and households located on the Snye Channel.

We would like to say nia:wen to the businesses and residents for putting these signs up as a reminder to those on the water.





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### POINT CLEAN-UP

Nia:wen to all of the volunteers and community members that cleaned up the Point for children and families to enjoy in August 2020! It was greatly appreciated.

The Department of Infrastructure and Housing also helped remove some of the garbage from the location.

It is so important that when we are near or on the waterways that we do our part to keep the river clean and garbage free.

Nia:wen to all that helped make this river clean-up possible.



### IAKHIHSOHTHA KEEPING MORALE UP WITH RESIDENTS DURING COVID-19

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the staff at Iakhihsohta Home for the Elderly have kept the morale high and continued providing fun activities for the residents to enjoy.

There were lots of activities that were held, but in the August, the staff hosted a Woodstock themed event which was decorated amazingly with many of the residents and staff in full costume.

We appreciate how much the staff has gone above and beyond with their outfits and activities to make sure the elders have a special day.

We are glad that the residents have been able to enjoy these wonderful events and nia:wen to the staff at Iakhihsohta for all you do!





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### VIRTUAL SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

The Akwesasne Community Justice Program (ACJP) joined forces with Independent First Nations (IFN) and many local organizations to put on their first virtual youth summer camp in August 2020.

ACJP has collaborated with many community programs since 2013 to host a summer youth camp called Tsikonhet on Kwawen:na Tsiniionkwariho:ten (Revive Our Word and History). The goal of the Youth Camp is to provide the participants with a fun, positive, educational, and cultural experience.

While the camp is normally held on Thompson Island,

all events and activities were moved online due to restrictions caused by the global pandemic.



### ELDER PACKAGES

In August, the Kaienthóhsera - Akwesasne Garden Initiative staff gathered vegetables, medicines and more to provide packages to over 40 elder homes. The students placed in Kaienthóhsera were initially hired with MCA to assist with the garden boxes that were provided to over 300 homes in Akwesasne. After the garden box project was complete, some students were

placed under the leadership of Jessica Shenendoah, Coordinator of the Thompson Island Cultural Camp. This is where the idea of creating the Elder Packages came together.

All medicines that were picked used cultural practices and protocols that students learned while working with Thompson Island staff and external presenters.





2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

CBSA CHOOSES AKWESASNE ARTIST FOR NATIONWIDE ORANGE SHIRT DAY CAMPAIGN

As part of the MCA-CBSA Border Collaboration Initiative (BCI), local Akwesasne artist Joseph King was selected by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to create a custom design for their national Orange

Shirt Day campaign. The new image will be featured on materials available across Canada to honour and remember Indigenous children who died and suffered in residential schools. The “Every Child Matters” and Orange Shirt Day campaign is held annually on September 30.

The Orange Shirt Day 2020 graphic was designed by artist Joe King, a member of the Mohawks of Akwesasne First Nation.

It features a child's hand cradled in that of an adult, surrounded by imagery representing First Nations, Inuit and Métis cultures.



First Nations imagery of Wampum 1, the Rising Sun 5, and the Flowering Vine 9 are shown.

Métis imagery of the Métis Star inside a flower vine 2 and the Infinity Symbol 3 are shown.

The Directional Arrow 4 represents people of the Northwest Territories.

Inuit imagery of the Ulu 6 and the Inuksuk 8 are shown.

The child's hand with a heart on the palm 7 represents Every Child Matters.



# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### MCA PROGRAMS PLANT COMMUNITY ORCHARDS AT THE THREE DISTRICT RECREATIONS

In September, the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service, the Wholistic Health & Wellness Program, Thompson Island Cultural Camp staff/summer students, Akwesasne Green Team, and Akwesasne Child & Family Services teamed up for a community orchard giveaway! Staff were able to plant an assortment of fruit trees and bushes across

Akwesasne, including the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Centre, Akwesasne Homemakers, Iakhihsohtha Lodge, Kana:takon Recreation Centre, Tsiionkwanonhso:te, and the Onkwe Community Garden. Along with the planting, the group was able to gift additional trees, bushes, and other small prizes to Akwesasronon. Niawenhkó:wa to everyone involved in making this initiative a success and congratulations to the giveaway winners!



### MCA WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

In September 2020, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne announced that a new director of Community & Social Services has joined the organization.

Karen Hill, a Mohawk from Six Nations, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the area of family and child services.

We are pleased that you joined the team at the MCA and wish you lots of success in your role.

Welcome to the team!





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### YOUNG JOURNALIST AWARD WINNER DONATES PRIZE TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS IN AKWESASNE

In September, family of the late Levi Oakes were joined by members of the Akwesasne Freedom School and American Legion Post 1479 to accept a donation from a former Standard-Freeholder staffer.

Nick Dunne was employed at the Cornwall Standard-Freeholder during the summer of 2019. As a result of his 13-week contract with the newspaper, Dunne was selected as one of two recipients of the Hon. Edward Goff Penny Memorial Prize for Young Canadian Journalists. The young journalist ventured to the Native North American Travelling College (NNATC) on Kawehno:ke

to present his award winnings to representatives of the American Legion Post 1479 and the Akwesasne Freedom School; both groups received \$500.



### ACFS HOSTS PRIDE EVENT

In September, the Akwesasne Child & Family Services hosted a virtual pride event and river float in order to show support for the LGBTQ+ community.





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### HOUSING INTRODUCES 5-PLEX

In September, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne unveiled a new 5-plex rental housing unit on Kawehno:ke (Corn-wall Island) that will house five families in the community.

The Department of Infrastructure & Housing actively seeks funding and project opportunities to improve Akwesasne's housing shortage. The 5-plex is the first of its kind for MCA and is a quality building the housing staff take great pride in.

Each unit in the 5-plex features three bedrooms, laundry hookups, and a state-of-the art efficient heating and cooling system. Quality construction, designs and

colours throughout the units make them appealing new homes.

Nia:wen to everyone who made this possible, including Indigenous Services Canada, staff and the contractors.



### KIDS FOR FISHING

The Kids for Fishing Program was created in 2010 by Norman King and PJ Burns. These men, who are avid fishermen and also police officers, are from the community of Akwesasne.

The Kids for Fishing Program began in 2010 and each year 40 youth and 10 with Special Needs are selected to participate in this unforgettable event.

2020 marked the Kids For Fishing 10-year anniversary of taking youth ages 10-17 fishing on the beautiful St. Lawrence river system. Unfortunately, this year the event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In lieu of the normal Kids For Fishing event, Norman King and PJ Burns handed out free poles to kids in each of the districts in September 2020.





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### ORANGE SHIRT DAY

September 30th is Orange Shirt Day, which honours the indigenous survivors and victims of residential schools.

The City of Cornwall, in collaboration with the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario, helped raise awareness of the impact residential schools have had on indigenous communities. An orange banner was hung from the city's iconic clock tower, and two of the city's water fountains were lit orange for the evening.

Catholic school board reps and Cornwall Mayor Bernadette Clement invited Mohawk Council to attend the official banner unveiling in Lameroux Park.

District Chief Vanessa Adams attended on behalf of Council. The event was also attended by Indigenous

advisors to the catholic school board, David Deerhouse and Theresa Cook. Representatives from Cornwall and Akwesasne came together for Orange Shirt Day, which honours the indigenous survivors and victims of the residential schools.



### ARTIST RECOGNIZED FOR EVERY CHILD MATTERS LOGO AT PORT OF ENTRY

Local artist Joe King was invited to the CBSA Port of Entry in Cornwall today where the banner featuring his artwork is on display. He was joined by Port Director of Operations Phil Leblanc,

Director of CBSA's Indigenous Affairs Secretariat Nicole Elmy, and Kawehno:ke District Chief Vanessa Adams.

Congratulations again that you were selected for your amazing work Joe!





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### MCA AND AKWESASRONON HARVEST WILD GINGER

In October 2020, Jessica Shenendoah from Thompson Island worked with the Saint Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences on the Great River Report, which is an ecosystem health report of the Upper St. Lawrence River. This report is unique in its approach as it integrates community stories and actions in relationship to our local environment.

While working together, SLRIES identified an area that had medicines to harvest. The location was in Cornwall and being logged for development, which meant that there was a concern of losing the medicines on the site. After Jessica had discussions with Tsi Snaihne District Chief Tobi Mitchell, a plan

was formulated and Grand Chief Abram Benedict contacted Cornwall Gravel to see if medicines could be harvested.

After permission was granted, Jessica, along staff from Thompson Island, Environment Program, Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment, and Akwesasne Community members worked with Stephany Hildebrand from the SLRIES and Cornwall Gravel to harvest over 300 wild ginger plants, 4 buckets of soil and many bags of leaves. The plants were transplanted at various locations in Akwesasne and were also donated to the Akwesasne Freedom School, STFE, Nelson Jock, Onkwe, Barebones farms and other community members.

Nia:wen who were all a part of this initiative!





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### MCA AND CBSA ANNOUNCE DOMESTIC LANE PILOT PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE TRAVELLER EXPERIENCE AT THE CORNWALL PORT OF ENTRY

As part of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) Border Collaboration Initiative (BCI), the Domestic Lane Pilot Project was launched on November 3, 2020, and will run for a minimum of six months.

By designating a lane specifically for domestic travel, the pilot project aims to create a smoother border crossing experience for all travellers at the CBSA Cornwall Port of Entry (POE), resulting in faster processing and shorter wait times for all.

Through this initiative, we hope that we can continue to make progress for community members crossing the border.





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### HOUSING INTRODUCES NEW DUPLEX

In November, MCA unveiled a new duplex rental housing unit in Kana:takon. Each unit in the duplex features laundry hookups, and a state-of-the-art efficient heating and cooling system.

The new duplex is located in the village of Kana:takon (St. Regis).

Construction of a triplex on Kawehno:ke is in the early stages of tendering and is expected to be completed in 2021.



### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HONORS FRONTLINE WORKERS

In December, the MCA Department of Health's Administration team posted a heartfelt niawenhkó:wa on social media to all of the amazing frontline workers throughout Akwesasne and the surrounding areas!

Your courage, hard work, and compassion have not

gone unnoticed and we appreciate your continued service to the community.

Our everyday heroes have gone above and beyond when planning activities for our elders, providing COVID-19 testing to Akwesasronon, hosting virtual activities, keeping our facilities clean, ensuring our community members are cared for, and so much more!





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### MCA WELCOMES NEW MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST

The MCA Wholistic Health & Wellness program introduced their new Mental Health Therapist to the community in December 2020.

The Department of Health welcomes Valerie to Akwesasne. All of the staff members have enjoyed meeting her, working with her and getting her introduced to our team and community.

Valerie will be practicing and supporting mental health virtually and by telephone referrals due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, please contact the Tekanikonrahwa:kon Wholistic Health & Wellness Program at 613-575-2341 ext. 3115.



**VALERIE ROWE**

MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST, WHOLISTIC HEALTH & WELLNESS

### MCA COVID-19 TESTING SITE RELOCATION

The MCA Department of Health would like to remind the community that their COVID-19 testing site has been relocated to 33 Third Street in Kana:takon (St. Regis).

The mobile testing unit will be stored for the fall & win-

ter months. We anticipate re-activating the mobile unit in the spring of 2021.

If you have questions about COVID-19 and testing, please call the MCA Community Health Program at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220.



**NOW LOCATED AT 33 THIRD ST, KANA:TAKON**



# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### COUNCIL DELIVERS PACKAGES TO COMMUNITY

In December 2020, Council members from the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne delivered bags to every household in its jurisdiction.

The packages contained COVID-19 supplies, such as thermometers, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer and masks, a gift card, as well as resources and

information to help you feel prepared throughout the pandemic. The chiefs arrived by school bus and made sure all safety and prevention practices were followed.

Council was happy to provide community members with these resources and wishes safety and health upon your entire family in the new year. We are all in this together.





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### ELDER CARE PACKAGES

In December 2020, Elders from Tsi Snaihne, Kawehno:ke, Kana:takon, and Hogansburg all received care packages through the efforts of an amazing group of individuals. A special nia:wen goes out to Jessica Shenandoah for her efforts in organizing this entire event! Her hard work and dedication lead to numerous donations, partnerships

and the community coming together as one to show our Tota's love and appreciation through this difficult time.

Nia:wen to everyone who helped contribute to this amazing initiative and the chiefs for also helping with the boxes.





# NEWS

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

### DEER HUNTING AT IAKHIHSOHTHA

In December 2020, the staff at Iakhihsohta put on a fun game for residents. The object of the game was for staff dressed up as deer and the elders were given a nerf-style gun to “shoot the deer.”

This event created a lot of laughs for both the residents and the staff members that have been working so hard to ensure that the residents continue to have uplifting and positive memories during this difficult time with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

We want to once again send out a huge niawenhko:wa to all of the staff members who go above and beyond to ensure that our elders are happy and safe.

Nia:wen to all of the frontline health workers and essential staff that have been working hard since the beginning of the pandemic. We appreciate all that you do to keep our community safe.



### 21 DAYS OF POSITIVITY

In December 2020, Council members provided a packet called “21 Days of Positivity” to community members.

Throughout the pages were recommendations and tips to stay positive during this difficult time with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, for 21 days in December, a different question or task was posted on Facebook and if community members participated, they were entered into a drawing for some amazing prizes!

Nia:wen to all that participated and in the 2021 year, let’s remember to stay positive!





# YOU ARE IN THE TERRITORY OF AKWESASNE

PLEASE PRACTICE THE FOLLOWING PROTOCOLS TO ENSURE SAFETY FOR ALL:



**WEAR A MASK.**



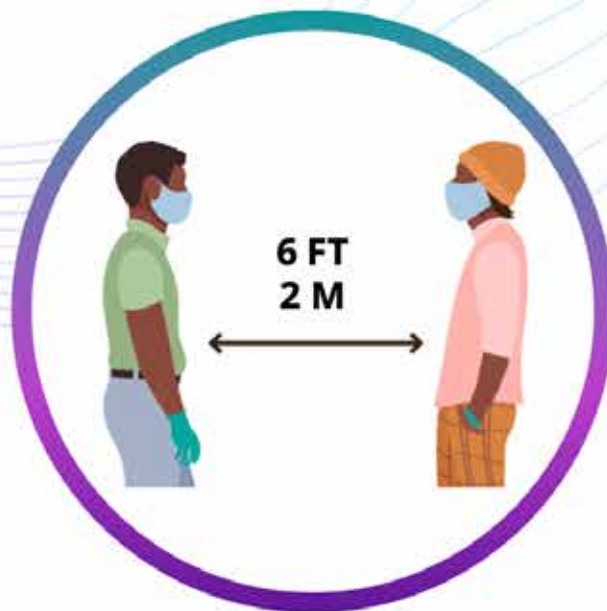
**PHYSICAL DISTANCE  
KEEP 6 FT/2 M.**



**WASH HANDS OFTEN  
FOR 20 SECONDS.**



**COMING FROM OUTSIDE TRAVEL  
RADIUS? SELF ISOLATE FOR 14 DAYS.**



# WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

