

ONKWE'TA:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 Issue 6

FREE

Ohiarí:ha/June 2023

SPECIAL

EDITION

Recognizing the great things our community members have recently accomplished!

AKWESAKRONON



AKWESASCONON

Accomplishments
&
Highlights

MONARCH COUNCIL OF AKWESASCONON



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WAT'KWANONHWERA:TON/GREETINGS

Welcome to a special edition of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's newsletter, Onkwe'ta:ke, dedicated to celebrating recent positive news, accomplishments and other uplifting events. This issue is designed to make you proud, to make you smile, and to make you feel inspired by all things big and small that Akwesasronon are accomplishing.

There was no achievement or event too big or too small to be considered for this issue. From local achievements like the Boba Bar grand opening to world stage accomplishments like Cecelia King's Marvel superhero, we at the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne are very happy to highlight what creative, hard-working and goal-driven people Akwesasronon are.

This issue naturally can only recognize a limited number of achievements. There are many others doing other amazing things within the community and literally across the world. We celebrate all of you! We left no recent achievement out intentionally.

If you know of someone accomplishing great things or have a special positive story to celebrate, please send us an email at communications@akwesasne.ca. We hope to publish a regular special edition and in the meantime we also enjoy featuring positive news in our regular monthly issues and on our social media pages.

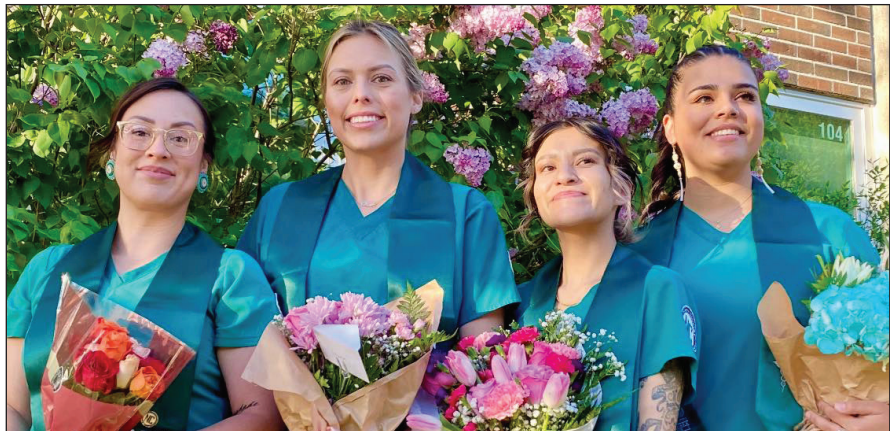
Congratulations and ioianere to all those who are working hard toward their personal goals and representing Akwesasne positively!



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

FIVE AKWESASNE WOMEN COMPLETE NURSING PROGRAM AT NCCC

In May 2023, five Akwesasne women completed their studies in the nursing program at North Country Community College. Congratulations go out to the four new LPNs—Loretta Rourke, Lauren Cook, Bee Laughing, and Isabella Dejung (pictured)—and one new RN, Kyra Thompson-Douglas, who received pins at a ceremony as a symbol of their hard work and determination. Congratulations on completing your grueling academic coursework.



OHERO:KON—RITES OF PASSAGE GRADUATES

Ohero:kon — “Under the Husk”, is a four-year Haudenodaunee rites of passage ceremony guided by tribal aunties, uncles and elders through Mohawk practices and teachings in the modern context, strengthening their cultural knowledge, self-confidence, and leadership skills.

Ohero:kon helps with the transition of a youth into adulthood. During the first four years, participants commit to a full day of activities and workshops every weekend from January to May. At the conclusion of these four years, the nieces and nephews undertake a ritual fast, from which they return by canoe to a community feast that celebrates their journey and accomplishments.

In June 2023, participants concluded the year with their fasting ritual. Nia:wen to all that made this year possible and for the dedicated youth that participated.



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

ABRAHAM FRANCIS AWARDED CHANGEMAKER FELLOWSHIP

Abraham Francis was awarded a prestigious Changemaker Fellowship from the NDN Collective, an Indigenous-led organization dedicated to building Indigenous power, in recognition of his leadership potential and community dedication. Francis is one of 21 Indigenous Changemaker Fellows for the 2023 Cohort from across the continental United States, Canada, Mexico, Islands of Hawaii, and U.S. Territories.

Francis is a PhD student in the Environmental Science & Engineering program at Clarkson University.



AMPS RECEIVES 20-YEAR SERVICE MEDAL

Congratulations goes out to the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service officers who received a 20-year service medal from the First Nations Chiefs of Police Association (FNCPA) in Québec City. We appreciate all the hard work you do to keep the community safe!

Recipients from AMPS:

Detective Constable Rachel Thomas (21 Years)
Sergeant Aronienens Porter (22 Years)
Constable Norman King (23 Years)
Detective Sergeant Kariwate Mitchell (23 Years)
not present
Staff Sergeant Ranatiiostha Swamp (20 Years)
not present



FNCPA President Jerry Swamp, AMPS Chief of Police Shawn Dulude and Detective Constable Rachel Thomas.



FNCPA President Jerry Swamp, AMPS Chief of Police Shawn Dulude and Sergeant Aronienens Porter.



FNCPA President Jerry Swamp, AMPS Chief of Police Shawn Dulude and Constable Norman King.

AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

THE BOBA BAR CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING

Congratulations to entrepreneurs Kyla Gray and Libbie Tarbell who held the grand opening of their new business, "The Boba Bar" in May.

The Boba Bar, which is located at 340 State Route 37 (the former Treetop Boutique), features delicious bubble teas, exotic candy and local sweets that everyone can enjoy.

We are proud to celebrate Mohawk women entrepreneurs who may inspire young girls to reach for the stars. We wish much success to the Boba Bar!



BARREIRO BROTHERS CREATE GOOD MIND GRAPPLING



Phillip and Thomas Barreiro, both multi-time Canadian national Greco-Roman wrestling champions, have teamed together to create Good Mind Grappling - a project to guide indigenous youth to use sport as a positive physical outlet for overcoming intergenerational trauma and developing good character.

The program is rooted in cultural traditions. It aims to mentor youth and promote physical fitness, mental well-being and pride with grappling.

Great job and way to make a positive impact on our youth.



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

CAREY TERRANCE JR AND TEAM USA—GOLD MEDAL CHAMPIONS!

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to congratulate Akwesasne resident Carey Terrance, Jr, age 17, for his outstanding GOLD medal win at the U18 Men's World Championship in Switzerland! Carey represented Team USA and scored the game-tying goal with 3 minutes left in play to send his team into overtime, and onto the championship win. Akwesasne is so proud of you Carey!



SALMON RIVER VARSITY BOYS ICE HOCKEY TEAM – NYSPHSAA SECTION X DIVISION II CHAMPIONS

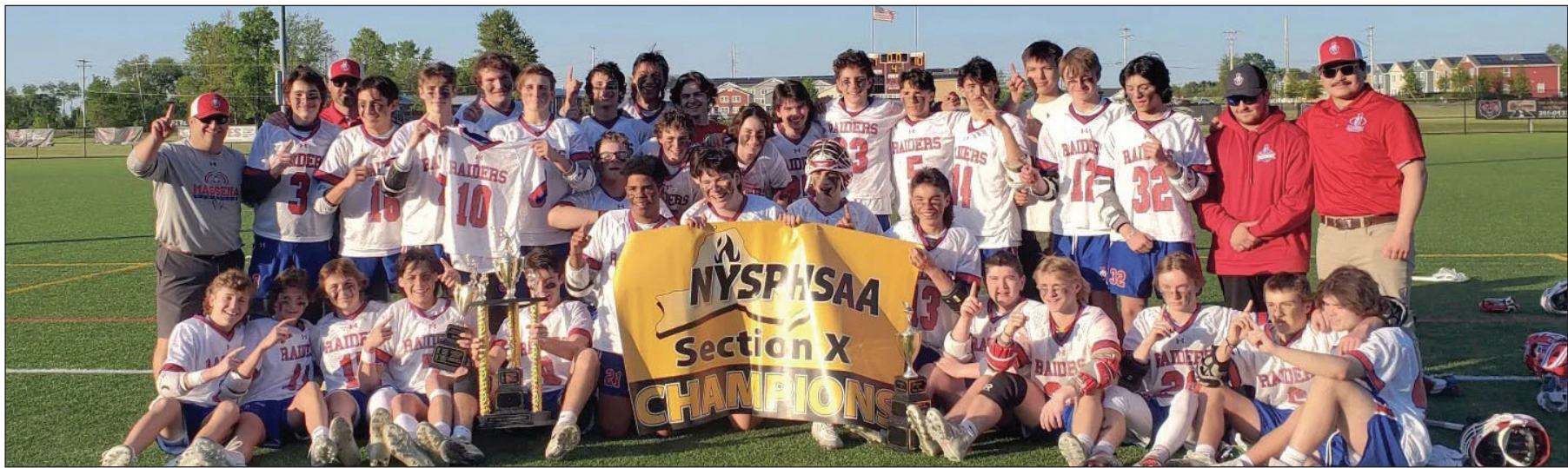
In February, the Salmon River Shamrocks defeated the Ogdensburg Free Academy 7-3, earning the Section X Championship. In the state semi-final, the Shamrocks lost to Skaneateles 3-2, in a nail-biter game from the start to finish. All the players should be pleased by their great season. Everyone was proud of how well they played and represented Salmon River. It was the team's first time reaching the Final Four since 2005. Congratulations!



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

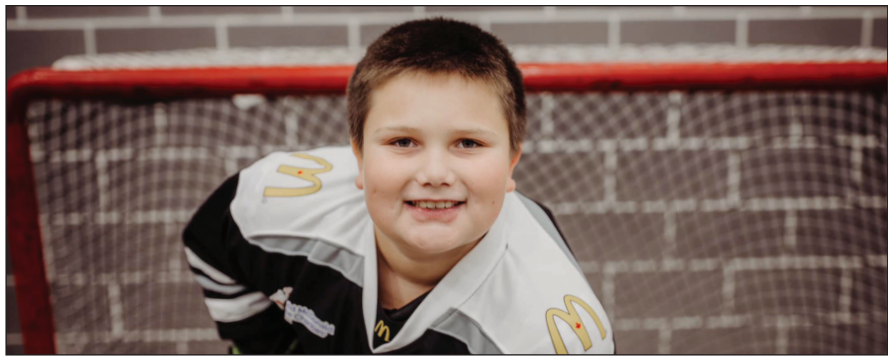
MASSENA RAIDERS BOYS LACROSSE TEAM – SECTION X CHAMPIONS

In May, the Massena Raiders defeated the Ogdensburg Blue Devils in the Section X Boys Lacrosse Championships to earn their first title since 2016. Congratulations goes out to Takaronhiotakie Thompson who was the Section X Most Valuable Player. Congratulations—your hard work paid off!



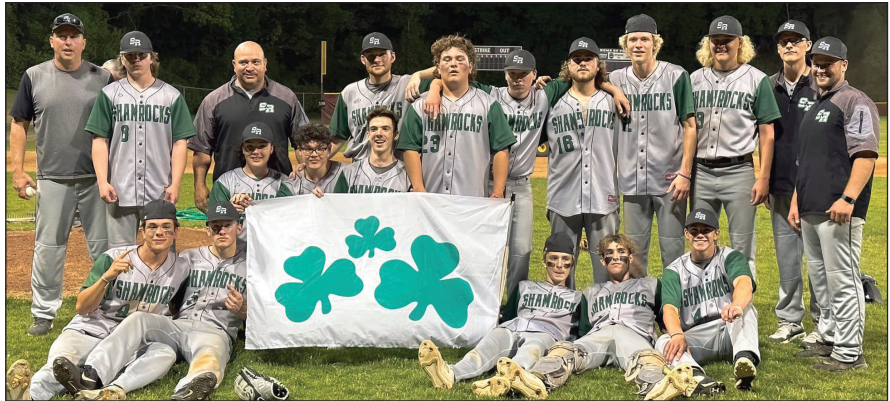
COLLIN ROUNDPOINT AWARDED MVP FOR CORNWALL MINOR HOCKEY

Congratulations goes out to Akwesasronon Collin Roundpoint who was awarded the Most Valuable Player for his Cornwall Colts U11 C House Team in the Cornwall Minor Hockey Association. Collin's strength on the ice grew this season as a solid defenseman who became known for his ability to skate the puck from his own net all the way to the opponent's zone to score. He was a top goal-scorer, earning him the team's MVP award at the CMHA banquet – a challenging accomplishment for a defensive player. Collin was also voted Best Stickhandler by his team.



SALMON RIVER VARSITY BOYS BASEBALL TEAM – SECTION X CHAMPIONS

In May, the Salmon River Varsity Boys Baseball Team won their second straight Section X Class B title with a dominant 12-0 win against Ogdensburg at St. Lawrence University's Tom Fay Field. The boys also continued their winning streak and were the state sub-regional winners. Their season came to an end after falling short to Plattsburgh during their Regional playoff game by a score of 9-3. Congratulations on a great season!



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

SALMON RIVER VARSITY GIRLS LACROSSE TEAM – SECTION X CHAMPIONS

In May, the Salmon River Shamrocks Varsity Girls Lacrosse team was victorious over the Canton Bears with a score of 13-3 in Potsdam and declared the NYSPHSAA Section X Champions. In addition, Akwesasronon Joryan Adams was named the Section X Most Valuable Player. Way to go Joryan! Congratulations to the girls on your championship!



Coach Ryan Adams and MVP Joryan Adams.



WYNTER JOCK RECEIVES NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP

Wynter Jock was one of two 2023 Native American Scholarship honorees, presented by the Premier Lacrosse League. Wynter is a member of the Haudenosaunee Nationals Women's Team and former team captain at Salmon River. In the fall, she will play for the prestigious University of Notre Dame. Congratulations!



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

AKWESASNE TEAMS ATTEND 2023 LITTLE NHL

After a three-year hiatus, the 49th Little Native Hockey League (LNHL) returned in March 2023 and was well-represented by athletes from Akwesasne. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to congratulate all the players and the parents for their hard work and dedication in the Little NHL. Congratulations to the teams from Akwesasne who brought back medals, and to the many others who worked hard for their teams and represent the Akwesasne community positively! You all did tremendous and Akwesasne was so proud of you!



AKWESASNE YOUTH & VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATE IN OTTAWA KIDS MARATHON

One of the biggest highlights of the Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend, which took place in May, is the Scotiabank Ottawa Kids Marathon, an opportunity for kids between the ages of 7 and 12 (grades 2 to 8) to run in front of thousands of cheering spectators who turn out for Canada's largest weekend running event. The event also raises funds for CHEO, the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. In the months leading up to the event, each half hour of exercise counts as one kilometre. With 41 pre-race day "kilometres" complete, participants then run the final kilometre of their marathon in a mad dash to the finish line. This year, 27 students from Akwesasne participated. Great job!



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

ARIANA ROUNDPOINT LAUNCHES NEW BOOK

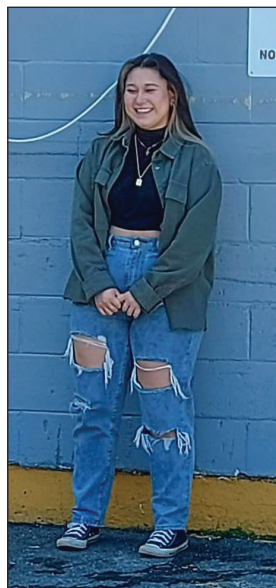
Wentanoron Ariana Roundpoint of Kawehno:ke released the new children's book *Bean and Grandma's Weekend* in May.

This book marks the beginning of a magical journey. Moments shared between grandmother and grandson begin the mending of a gap between two powerful generations; one who keeps the sacred traditions alive, and another to feed the flames of the future. Bean learns from his grandma the importance of learning the language, the wisdom of picking medicines, and the peace of his grandmother's life. This book sparks a conversation about why it is vital to remember who we are, where we came from and where we can go.

Congratulations to Ariana for this wonderful achievement and the release of your second book (*Sila and the Sand* was released in March 2022)! We are so proud. Keep writing and continue inspiring a new generation of youth!



KIRBY THOMPSON'S ARTWORK FEATURED AT SIBC



Kirby Thompson, a worker at the Seaway International Bridge Corporation (SIBC), was given the opportunity to showcase her artistic talent. In late May, the SIBC unveiled a mural at their building on Kawehno:ke that was completed by Kirby.

This isn't the first opportunity they provided her to showcase her talent. In September 2022 they let her design, create and produce their Every Child Matters t-shirts which staff wore.

Great job Kirby. You are one talented artist!

AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

IAKOWI:HE'NE' OAKES NAMED INAUGURAL RECIPIENT OF THE LUCILLE LORTEL FOUNDATION INDIGENOUS THEATERMAKER AWARD

The Dramatist Guild Foundation has named Iakowi:he'ne' Oakes as the first recipient of the Lucille Lortel Foundation Indigenous Theatermaker Award. The award was presented to Oakes at part of the Dramatists Guild Awards celebration in May in New York City.

Oakes is the founder and director of the North American Indigenous Center of New York, a

community center located in downtown Manhattan. The award is presented to an Indigenous theatre institution or organization for their work and commitment to the preservation of Indigenous theater makers located in New York or Connecticut. In addition to the honor, the award comes with \$20,000 to further the work of the institution or organization. Congratulations!



JASON MCDONALD STARS IN NIIZH

Niizh, a play by Anishinaabe playwright and actor Joelle Peters, is a coming-of-age comedy that promises a powerful, authentic and contemporary representation of Indigenous identity and celebrates family dynamics and love.

Niizh, which was shown at the Aki Studio in Toronto in April, is set on a reserve in Southwestern Ontario. Jason McDonald was cast as Billy Little. This was Jason's first time doing a theatrical play.

Congratulations to all that made this play possible. And great job to Jason McDonald for following a

dream, trying something new, and bringing life to a character. We hope you continue with theatre and acting!



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

ARIHHONNI DAVID WRITES AND ILLUSTRATES CHILDREN’S BOOK

Arihthonni David, an illustrator and writer from Akwesasne, released his first children’s book, *Who Will Win?* in April. This story is a fun tale about Bear and Turtle with a surprise ending that is sure to bring a smile to your face.

In addition to writing children’s books, Arihthonni, also known as Honni, can be recognized for his incredible

artwork, including Star Wars fandom illustrations and for his delightful cultural storytelling skills. (If you haven’t heard him tell his engaging and animated stories, make sure you do—soon!)

Great work Honni! We can’t wait to see what you do next.



Photos captured by Akwesasne TV.

SHELBY MITCHELL-ADAMS PREMIERS RADIO BINGO SHORT AT THE ATLANTA FILM FESTIVAL

Shelby Mitchell-Adams, who was the 2022 Valedictorian at the Toronto Film School and who produced Emmy-award winning documentary *Roots of Lacrosse* and *Dirt McComber: Last of the Mohicans*, was recently featured at the Atlanta Film Festival for her short documentary *Radio Bingo*. *Radio Bingo* tells the story of a radio station, (our live and local station, 97.3 CKON) that is helping keep the Mohawk Language alive through bingo. This 8-minute enchanting story shows how bingo is integrated in culture and how radio bingo is more than a fun, community game, but a vital piece of maintaining Akwesasne history.

Wonderful work and congratulations Shelby. We can’t wait to see what story you will create next!



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

FERYN KING STARS IN HOMELANDS

Santee Smith, the founder/director of Haha:wi Dance theatre launched *Homelands*, which examines Indigenous people’s spiritual bond with the land and waterways since time immortal. Feryn King, from Akwesasne, is one of the stars of this theatrical performance.

King is a hoop and dance performance artist, and recently toured throughout Europe with Cirque du Soleil.

Homelands features three Kanienhkeha:ka dancers, including Santee Smith from Six Nations, Julianne Blackbird from Six Nations, and Feryn King. *Homelands* creates an immersive world in which to express the strength and ingenuity of the many generations of Indigenous women who have cared for their lands, waterways, and, most importantly, for one another throughout history.

Congratulations on this wonderful endeavour Feryn! You continue to make Akwesasne proud in all you do with your grace and storytelling through dance.



SALMON RIVER DRAMA CLUB PUTS ON ANNIE JR.

For this year’s spring production, the Salmon River Central School Drama Club put on a production of *Annie Jr.* The student actors did a wonderful job, and attendees were delighted by their wonderful performances.



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

DAVE FADDEN FEATURED AT GALLERY IN SARANAC LAKE

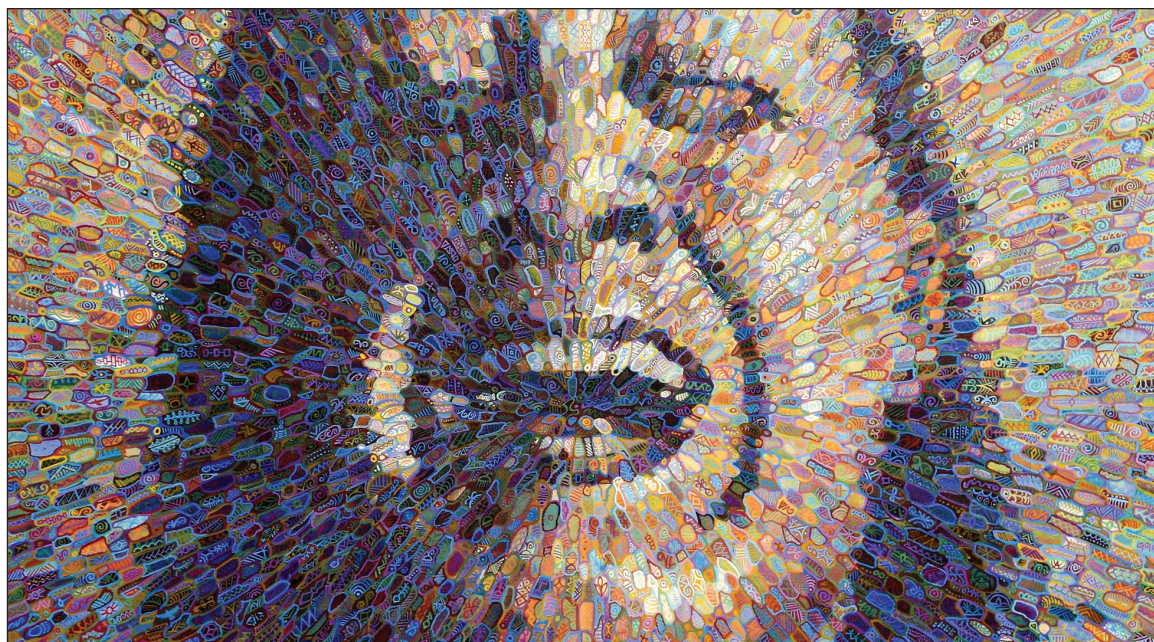
Akwesasne artist Dave Kanietakeron Fadden will be showcasing his artwork at the BluSeed Studios in Saranac Lake with a collection of his work in his “Indigenous Reflections” series.

Dave’s amazing artwork often depicts realistic portraits of Indigenous people. He also creates beautiful mosaic-style portraits that from a distance, are a portrait, but as you move closer, you see that these smaller tiles are a mix of pointillism and/or collage, often using native symbology to create the pattern. He is also known for including amongst these

tiles “hidden symbols”, such as Star Wars or pop culture references. Regardless of what the painting includes, it is always magnificent.

This free exhibit, which is sponsored by the Adirondack Diversity Initiative, is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 2 to 6 p.m. Dave will be at the exhibit closing and have an artist conversation on June 25 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Great work Dave! We are always excited to see your next masterpiece.



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

CECELIA KING WORKS WITH MARVEL STUDIOS TO CREATE MOHAWK SUPERHERO

Cecelia King made the exciting announcement in March that for the past two years, she was working with Marvel Studios and writer Ryan Little to provide assistance on the Marvel television show, “What If..?” She assisted with the language for Kahhori, a brand new Mohawk superhero.

Representation matters and it is absolutely amazing that Cecelia was able to work on this once-in-a-lifetime project. Congratulations!



Marvel writer Ryan Little, Cecelia King and grandson Blake Lazore.



KATSITSIONNI FOX SELECTED FOR PBS IGNITE MENTORSHIP FOR DIVERSE VOICES INITIATIVES

PBS is pleased to announce the 2023 cohort for the Ignite Mentorship for Diverse Voices. This is a hybrid one-year program for 12 early-career filmmakers from underrepresented communities. Whether participants have a current project underway or are starting a new one, they will be provided with professional development, mentorship, a monthly stipend, and relationship building opportunities needed to produce content for public media platforms. It is an opportunity for filmmakers to spend a year developing their career path and exploring the process of content production for public media.

This year, along with many other talented filmmakers, award-winning Akwesasronon Katsitsionni Fox was selected as one of the recipients of this mentorship. Congratulations Katsitsionni—we can’t wait to see your upcoming films!



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

RYAN HILL'S ICE SCULPTURE FEATURED AT WINTERLUDE

In February, 13 pairs of carvers took part in 45th edition of Winterlude. The ice sculptures that were created as part of the Winterlude National Ice-Carving Championship was inspired by the theme "Creatures of the Sea."

Award-winning sculptor Ryan Hill created an amazing piece of work titled "Agloolik" along with Jocelyn Galipeau to make up "Team Nunavut."

The sculpture represented a kind sea monster lending a helping hand to hunters and fisherman and was a reminder of the ancient legends of sea creatures.

The ice sculpture was magnificent, creative and majestic. Great work Ryan. You and your partner did an amazing job!



AKWESASNE KIDS IDOL



In late April, Mary Faye Roundpoint hosted a "Kids Akwesasne Idol" at the Turtles Nest Diner. There was an amazing turnout of talented Akwesasnoron from young to old. Nia:wen to all that participated. Akwesasne has many talented singers!

AKWESASNE IDOL WINNERS:

Tots: Willow Johnson

Big Kids: Kateri

Teen: Brynlee Roundpoint

Duets (Kid and Adult): Sharlann Anderson and her son Lyten

Best Performance of the Night: Ava Herne

In early April, there was also an adult Idol with amazing talent as well.

Congratulations to all the winners! You all did a phenomenal job and sang your hearts out!



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

NIIO PERKINS SHOWCASED AT MILAN FASHION WEEK

Milan Fashion Week, one of the world's most prominent fashion events, is a time when fashion designers and brands display their latest collections. For the first time ever, part of the scene included a group of Indigenous designers from Canada. The Indigenous show, part of the WHITE/Milan Fashion Week section for up-and-coming designers, made a playful, profound and imaginative debut in la Citta'

della Moda, the City of Fashion.

Unsurprisingly, Nio Perkins Designs was included in this group of incredibly talented Indigenous designers. You continue to amaze and inspire with your wonderful talent Nio! Congratulations on this incredible achievement.



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

QUEENA RIBBON DESIGNS FEATURED IN TETON TRADE CLOTH FASHION SUMMIT

In April, the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City hosted the second annual Teton Trade Cloth by Lenape Fashion Summit showcasing the best of Native American Fashion, highlighting a mix of traditional and contemporary designs, and a range of materials and techniques. Tina Thompson, the talented designer of Queena Ribbon Designs, was one of the featured designers at this year's event.

Congratulations on a job well done and for showcasing your unique, elaborate and elegant designs. Way to represent Akwesasne!



Designer, Tina Thompson (bottom left) with models wearing Queena Ribbon Designs at Teton Trade Cloth Fashion Summit.

NATIVE FASHION IN THE CITY



In March, designers and models from Akwesasne were featured in the "Native Fashion in the City" runway show, which was held in Denver, Colorado. This event showcased the beauty of Native American culture and fashion at this premier native fashion event. Great job to all who participated!



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

FASHION EXHIBITION KAHNAWA:KE

In May, She Holds the Sky Designs hosted the Fashion Exhibition Kahnawa:ke which featured several talented Akwesasnoron designers, including Tina Thompson of Queena Ribbon Designs, Waverli Thompson of Ever Green Designs, Cheyenne Lazore of CheyLazore Designs and Tisha Thompson. Many Akwesasne models were also featured.

You ladies are all incredibly talented and your talent was highlighted with your diverse designs. Way to represent Akwesasne!



Tisha Thompson – Spring Collection 2023.



Lineup of models wearing CheyLazore Designs.



Designs by Tina Thompson of Queena Ribbon Designs and beadwork by Waverli Thompson of Ever Green Designs.

AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

AKWESASNE MODELS AND DESIGNERS DEBUT AT CANNES INDIGENOUS ARTS AND FASHION FESTIVAL

Akwesasne was showcased at the inaugural Cannes Indigenous Arts and Fashion Festival, an inaugural event featuring a diverse and eclectic mix of celebrated influential Indigenous designers, models, entertainers, film enthusiasts, hair & makeup artists, fashion bloggers and fashion marketing strategists.

Akwesasne Designers Stacey Mitchell (Stacey Mitchell Designs) and Natasha Thompson (Tasha Marie), debuted their gorgeous designs and models Ryan King, Steevi King, Reannon Day, Steven Thompson-Oakes and Teiokahrathe Herne rocked the runway.

Way to represent Akwesasne on an international level!



Reannon Day wearing Stacey Mitchell Designs.



Ryan King wearing Stacey Mitchell Designs.



Steven Thompson-Oakes wearing Tasha Marie.



Teiokahrathe Herne wearing Stacey Mitchell Designs.



Gown designed by Natasha Thompson (pictured right).



Steevi King wearing Stacey Mitchell Designs.

AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

FIRST CLARKSON UNIVERSITY STUDENT TO WEAR TRADITIONAL REGALIA TO COMMENCEMENT

Katsistohkwineh Chrissy S. Benedict proudly wore her green and white traditional regalia to the 2023 Commencement Ceremony at Clarkson University, the first person to do so in the university's 127-year history.

Katsistohkwineh graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the School of Arts and Sciences and played for the women's Golden Knights lacrosse team.

Katsistohkwineh was also honored for being a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Distinguished Scholar at the Cultural Graduation Ceremony for the class of 2023, for her work in helping reactivate the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) chapter at Clarkson University.

Congratulations and good luck in your next chapter at SUNY Plattsburgh!



DALTON LABARGE RECEIVES MD FROM ROCHESTER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Dalton LaBarge MD, the grandson of Patricia Francis and Harvey Boots, graduated Medical Doctor (MD) from the University of Rochester School of Medicine in May.

Dalton has received many accomplishments during his time at Rochester, including being inducted into the National AOA Medical Honor Society. He was recipient of the Medical Education Distinction and was awarded the "Medical Student Professional and Leadership Award" from the American College of Emergency Physicians. Dalton, who is also a Wampum belt artist, was also recently awarded the 2023 Dreamstarters Creative Award from Running Strong for Indigenous Youth. His work is exhibited in the Seneca Iroquois National Museum and will be featured at the upcoming Akwesasne Juried Art Show.

Currently, Dr. LaBarge sits on the University of Rochester's Indigenous Advisory Council and will be an Emergency Medicine Residency Physician on a 3-year contract at the University of Rochester, after which he plans on practicing in rural hospitals in the Akwesasne region.

Congratulations Dr. LaBarge! You make Akwesasne proud.



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

PHILLIP ROUNDPOINT NAMED 2023 VALEDICTORIAN FOR ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE



Akwesasne youth, Phillip Benny Roundpoint was named the 2023 St. Lawrence College Valedictorian. He is a graduate from Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education and Training Institutes General Arts & Science program with a focus in Pre-Trades, developing a diverse skillset in bricklaying, masonry, electrical, plumbing and welding.

Congratulations on this outstanding accomplishment and best of luck in your future endeavors.

FIRST AKWESASNE FABLAB PROGRAM GRADUATES

The Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute held their first-ever FABLAB closing ceremony for students in June! The ceremony included a display of student projects including a Mohawk immersion sensory board, made by Totawatensewen McDonald.

The program provided students the skills and knowledge to use digital fabrication technologies to develop prototypes and solution-based products. Different techniques learned were vinyl cutting, 3D-printing, laser cutting and engraving to name a few.

We would like to extend our congratulations to Andrew Cook, Totawatesewen McDonald, Chantal Jacobs,

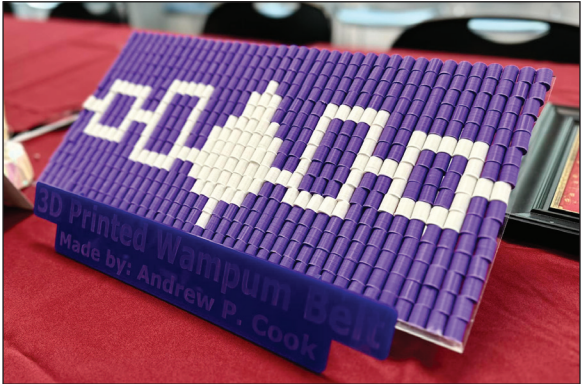
Stanley Cook, Mia Keese, Kimberly Cook, Dominique Cook, Thihane kaiens Elijah, Katsitsiaroroks Mitchell and Nathan Cole. Great job completing the program and we look forward to see what you develop next!



Mohawk immersion sensory board made by Totawatensewen McDonald.



Chess set made by Thihane kaiens Elijah.



3D Printed Wampum Belt made by Andrew P. Cook.

AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

AMS STUDENT RECEIVES SECOND PLACE IN WISEMAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

In March, the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Schools 6th grade Math group participated in the 12th Annual Wiseman Mathematics Competition. The competition is run by the First Nations University of Canada and is open to all Grade 4, 5 and 6 students attending schools on-reserve in Canada.

Great job to all the students who participated and congratulations Grade 6 student Kanonkwatsherake Jocko-Skidders, who came in second place. Congratulations on this incredible academic achievement!



DCSS DISTRIBUTES FAMILY SUSTAINABILITY CHEQUES TO HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD IN THE COMMUNITY

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Community & Social Services (DCSS) provided "Family Sustainability" funds (cheques) to community members in the northern portion of Akwesasne. The cheque was issued to the "Head of Household" and Akwesasronon families residing in Cornwall were also eligible to receive the Family Sustainability cheque. Nia:wen to DCSS for this generous distribution—it was greatly appreciated!

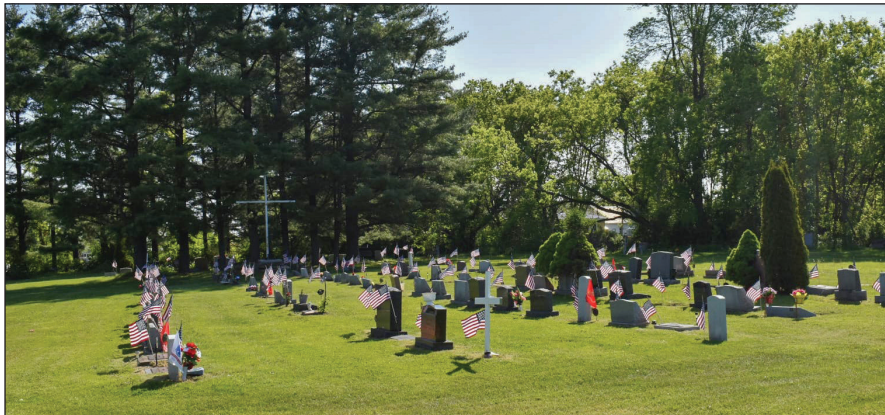


AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUNTEERS BEAUTIFY LOCAL CEMETERIES

Niawenhko:wa to the volunteers who helped over Memorial Day Weekend with the beautification of local cemeteries where past veterans are laid to rest. Over 20 volunteers assisted, with a special thank you going out to organizer Cheryl Jacobs.

And nia:wen to our veterans and especially those who have fallen. They sacrificed their life for our freedom.



Photos courtesy of: Cheryl Jacobs

AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUNTEERS, STAFF, HAVFD ASSIST WITH POWER OUTAGES

Niawenhko:wa to all the volunteers, staff of Mohawk Council and the Hogansburg Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department who came together to help community members without power in the districts of Tsi Snaihne and Kana:takon for the two lengthy outages in December and April. Shelters, food, resources and camaraderie quickly came together to help those in need. Although no one enjoys a power outage, it helps when you have a community that will come together so quickly to help those in need. Nia:wen.



COMMUNITY MEMBERS PROVIDE GENERATORS TO AKWESASRONON



After a year with several power outages, two residents, Alexandra David and Fallan Jacobs wrote a proposal to receive funding for generators. They prioritized Kana:takon and Tsi Snaihne residents in certain circumstances including: families with children at home; elders who had medical equipment that needed power; homes that didn't have a wood stove or backup heat, and those who didn't already have a generator. Many happy community members received a generator from these ladies. Nia:wen for your donation to the community ladies!

AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

U13 CORNWALL TYPHOONS WIN GOOD DEEDS CUP

The Chevrolet Good Deeds Cup is a challenge for minor hockey teams to take the values they learn in the arena – determination, leadership, teamwork – and use them to support their communities outside of it. The more good deeds completed, the more points scored for the team. The U13A Cornwall Typhoons were announced as the winners for 2023, successfully securing \$100,000 that was donated to Beyond 21 in Cornwall, a local charity that empowers and supports adults with developmental disabilities.



On Tuesday, May 30, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne held a small ceremony for the lonkwakwé:nion Book of Accomplishments at the Benson Centre in Cornwall. Players of the Cornwall Girls Hockey Association's U13A Typhoons team, joined by their coaches and families, were invited to sign the book and be honoured for their work with the 2023 Chevrolet Good Deeds Cup.

Congratulations to this exceptional group of girls who are good—on and off the ice!



Pictured L-R: Chief April Adams-Phillips, Sloane Thompson, Embry Skidders, Lilli White, and Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs.

CHICKEN GIVEAWAY

In April, there was a chicken giveaway at the Kateri Hall and Cornwall Island donated by Cheyys Place, East End Construction, King Canna Dispensary and Dank Bank Dispensary. Each family received one 10-lb bag of chicken leg quarters. These chicken giveaways have been distributed frequently throughout the past few years.

Nia:wen to all that made this gracious donation possible for our community!



AKWESASRONON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

DCSS DONATES FUNDS TO LOCAL COMMUNITY & YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

On Tuesday, April 25, 2023, representatives from the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne presented cheques to several community non-profit organizations. The funds were donated by the Dept. of Community & Social Services (DCSS) to assist in the creation of programming for children and families, as well as ongoing operations of their respective facilities. Each organization is frequently accessed by Akwesasne community members.

Organizations that received funds from DCSS today are as follows:

- Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club (ABGC) - \$1,000,000
- Generations Park - \$100,000
- Kana:takon Recreation Center - \$100,000
- Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center - \$100,000
- Kawehno:ke Recreation Center - \$100,000
- Iakwa'shatste Youth Fitness - \$131,000

"These donations represent an effort by MCA to uplift and support organizations that work hard, often through volunteerism, to benefit our entire community," said Grand Chief Abram Benedict. "The Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club has continued to offer positive and enriching programs after school and throughout the summer to children in all districts of Akwesasne and we are happy to continue supporting them. Likewise, our recreational committees and other non-profit organizations offer year-round activities and facilities that support a healthy community with diverse opportunities. Thank you to these organizations for all the work that they do for Akwesasne."

"On behalf of the Department of Community & Social Services, we would like to extend our appreciation to these organizations that have proven to be very valuable in promoting healthy families in the community," said Director of DCSS Joseph Morin-Lauzon. "Each of these organizations provides facilities, activities and programs that support prevention in youth which builds strong Akwesasne families and futures. We look forward to seeing their programs and services continuing to enrich the community."



CONGRATULATIONS!



Class of

2023



GRADUATES



You did it! Best wishes in your future endeavours.

