



ONKWARIWA'SHON:A



The Issues and Business Affairs of Today, Which Affect Our People

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF KAHNAWÁ:KE



The SPRING KAKWITÉ:NE EDITION...

WHAT'S INSIDE...

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION



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2007-2008 BUDGET

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	TOTAL REVENUE	TOTAL EXPENSES	BAL.
FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS			
Kahnawá:ke Park Improvement	250,000	250,000	0
Kahnawá:ke Fire Brigade	275,000	275,000	0
Kahnawá:ke Youth Centre	125,000	125,000	0
Kahnawá:ke Schools District Financial Support	13,300	13,300	0
Grant	10,000	10,000	0
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT - Michael O'Brien, Director			
Mohawk Self Insurance	877,770	877,770	0
Membership Department	325,000	325,000	0
Child & Youth	58,173	58,173	0
Manitowishki Bayou, Keswick	4,700	4,700	0
Social Assistance Restr. Program	4,284,000	4,284,000	0
Special Assistance Restr. Program	1,600,000	1,600,000	0
Special Assistance, General Funds	65,000	65,000	0
Special Assistance, Municipalities	70,000	70,000	0
Special Assistance Administration	295,350	295,350	0

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CLEAN SOIL POLICY



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FLOOD SAFETY



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KWE KWE!

by Justus Polson-Lahache

Ahh, the spring season is finally here!



Change is all around us. The snow has melted, the brisk winds have warmed up, and the sounds of nature are waking you in the early mornings.

As the birds are busying themselves by building nests, or chirping melodic hymns, we find ourselves walking back from the post office wondering, “where’s my newsletter?”

Change is indeed the reason for us not being in your mailbox. Our circulation has changed from bi-monthly to seasonal and includes articles that are geared to the season such as flooding or planting. Extra pages also allow for a larger volume of information in one

It's finally
SPRING!

newsletter per season instead of smaller newsletters bi-monthly. It makes more sense.

To list a few, this edition includes articles on community consultation, the ongoing border crossing issue, Seigneurie, Clean Soil Policy and a sneak peek at the new www.Kahnawake.com website.

Make yourself a drink and get yourself a spot on the couch to enjoy this Spring Edition of your Onkwariwa'shon:'a Newsletter.

TEIERISTIÍÁKTHA BORDER CROSSING

by Joe Delaronde

On January 23, 2007, the United States and other countries insisted that all visitors arriving in their country by air or sea required a Passport. For Kahnawakehro:non, that meant that either a Canadian or American Passport had to be used to fly between countries. Additionally, in January 2008, passports will be required to cross the border by land.



(Currently, flying within the United States without a passport is acceptable – such as flying between Burlington to Florida.)

The MCK has been trying to work with other First Nations representatives to find an alternative to Canadian or American Passports. No alternatives have materialized as of yet. The MCK is currently hoping that the Traditional bodies as well as the Band Councils of the Iroquois Confederacy can work together to find a solution for all.

KANÁ:TA AIONTATERIHWANÓNTONSE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

by Neil McComber & Joe Delaronde

Community Consultation is becoming more and more of an imperative need for the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke (MCK).

In the past, major issues such as the Membership Law would include community consultation. Other Mohawk Laws, major policies and negotiations with governments would usually be decided at the Council Table by the elected Chiefs. However, times are changing. Not only is the Community demanding more input, the MCK is also hoping for the same. Therefore, it was recently announced that the MCK would be embarking upon an ambitious series of community consultations, with a plan to utilize new and creative methods of communication between the chiefs and the people.

In 2006, several initiatives pointed in this direction. A Focus Group was held to create a Community Survey on Council Priorities. An independent group led by Dr. Gerald Taiaiake Alfred ran a consultation process on the Seigneurie of Sault St. Louis land claim. Also introduced, was a new way to develop



Community Meetings are currently not considered consultation in their present format

Communal Laws, with direct input from Community Members. Finally, the Lands Unit ran consultations to create the Clean Soil and Commercial Land Use policies. The new Legislative Process is expected to be implemented this year.

Look for more Community Surveys, Focus Groups and different Consultation models in the near future.

Please take part if you are willing and able.

WHAT IS MSI?

MSI stands for Mohawk Self Insurance, which is a program offered through the Social Development Unit of the MCK.

Its goal is to provide a better quality of life for Mohawks of Kahnawá:ke by ensuring that all entrepreneurs have proper insurance coverage for their employees in the event of an on-the-job accident resulting in injury.

ENHSERIWÍSAKE
SURVEYS

by Neil McComber

A two-part Community Survey was held in early March, in which 324 people took part.

Results and Community Suggestions/Comments were given to Chief and Council. A decision on whether or not to change the Community Meetings back to monthly will be discussed at a Council Meeting. The Train Survey was only to gauge whether or not the Community would use the station if one were built. At this time, there are still some unknown variables to that potential project.

SURVEY RESULTS

Train Survey:

Would you or your family members use a commuter train service if it stopped at Adirondack Junction?

Yes 286 (includes 3 call-ins)
No 41



Community Meeting Survey:

How often should Community Meetings be held?

Seasonal (Special meetings as issues arise)	140	45%
Monthly	125	40%
Bi-Monthly	50	15%
No Answer	9	

How often do you attend Community Meetings?

Never	136	44%
Rarely	102	33%
Sometimes	56	18%
Always	18	5%
No answer	3	
Unreadable / Multi-Answer	9	



HOW DOES MSI WORK?

- Mohawk Self Insurance is a replacement for Quebec's Workman's Compensation, commonly known as CSST.
- MSI provides comparable coverage to CSST, such as weekly income replacement indemnity should an employee not be able to work due to an on-the-job injury.
- In many cases, MSI exceeds the benefits and services that CSST provides.
- With MSI, every case file is individually examined and processed according to the unique circumstances of each situation.

ONTIONHÓNTSA ST. LOUIS 2007 SEIGNEURY OF SAULT ST. LOUIS IN 2007

by David S. Lahache

Seignery Process Update

The current Seignery Negotiation Process, which was slated to end in December 2006, has been extended. In January, the MCK announced that negotiations have been extended until December 2007. This will allow both parties to continue working on settling this outstanding grievance.

Consultation

The MCK will be consulting with the community on the Seignery, which has been identified as a priority by Chief and Council. Community input is an important part of the current Seignery process and Kahnawakehrónon are being urged to participate. Like the first phase of consultations on the Seignery that took place last year, the upcoming round of consultations will be carried out by a third party, working independently of the MCK. This phase is expected to be more inclusive and extensive, with the start date to be announced in the very near future.

New Seignery Coordinator

The Seignery of Sault St. Louis Team underwent a change in management this year. In December of 2006, the coordinator of the file, Frank Vieni, officially retired after more than 13 years of service here at the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke (MCK). Dennis Diabo has taken over as coordinator, and continues to work with the rest of the Seignery Team.



Dennis brings several years of experience with him, having worked within various departments of the MCK, including the Lands Unit and the Office of the Council of Chiefs. Before coming over to the MCK in 2001, Dennis worked within the department of Indian Affairs and with more than 60 First Nations Communities across Canada, including Quebec, Ontario and the Northwest Territories.

HOW DO I GET MSI?

If you are presently in a work situation with no on-the-job insurance coverage, talk to your employer about the advantages of providing MSI for the life blood of their company, you the employee. If you can't work due to injury and you have no coverage, paying your bills and providing for your family will be an overwhelming challenge.

Make it a **group effort**. Get your co-workers together and talk to your boss about insuring your future. Mohawk Self Insurance, "Providing a better quality of life for Mohawks of Kahnawá:ke."



WHAT DOES MSI PROVIDE?

- Mohawk Self Insurance pays 75% of your gross salary before deductions. (CSST pays 90% of your net salary after all deductions including taxes).
- With MSI all medical expenses are paid.
- MSI will cover re-training for a new career should the need arise.
- An annuity in the case of death is also paid. Even the employee's children receive survivor benefits.
- Funeral expenses of up to \$3500 will also be provided.

2007-2008 BUDGET

OHWĪSTA TEWA NIKÓN RARE BUDGET

by Neil McComber & Ryan Rice

The Mohawk Council of Kahnawake finalized its 2007/2008 fiscal budget on Wednesday, March 28 at a special Council Meeting. The fiscal year runs from April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008. Note: This is the third year of a five year Financial Arrangement with Canada, whom the majority of funding comes from.

Path of a typical MCK Budget

- Unit Directors submit budget requests on February 6, 2007. Primary budgets represent current needs. Secondary requests are additional needs.
- The Finance Unit, Executive Director and Associate Executive Directors review the budgets following Director submissions and ensure all budgets follow MCK standards. Changes may be requested before proceeding.
- Secondary requests are discussed at an Operations Team Meeting, which consists of all Unit Directors, Associate Executive Directors and the Executive Director.
- The budgets are reviewed for pre-approval by the Finance and Operations (FAO) Committee, who make recommendations as to which Secondary Requests can be approved, if any. The FAO is made up of 3 Council Chiefs.
- Budgets are finalized at a full Council Meeting, in which all Directors must be present and able to answer questions.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	TOTAL REVENUE	TOTAL EXPENSES	BALANCE
FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS			
Kanien'keha:ka Onkwawen:na Raotitiohkwa	250,000	250,000	0
Kahnawake Fire Brigade	275,000	275,000	0
Kahnawake Youth Center	125,000	125,000	0
Kahnawake Schools Diabetes Prevention Project	13,500	13,500	0
Kahnawake Library	10,000	10,000	0
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT - Michael O'Brien, Director			
Mohawk Self Insurance	877,770	877,770	0
Membership Department	322,025	322,025	0
Council of Elders	98,173	98,173	0
Membership Review Committee	4,780	4,780	0
Social Assistance Basic Needs	4,284,000	4,284,000	0
Social Assistance Employment	120,000	120,000	0
Social Assistance Special Needs	45,600	45,600	0
Social Assistance Miscellaneous	70,000	70,000	0
Social Assistance Administration	299,320	299,320	0
Social Development Unit Administration	358,635	358,635	0
New Construction	5,660,955	5,660,955	0
Emergency Repair Fund	85,000	85,000	0
R.R.A.P.	616,445	616,445	0
MCK Housing Repairs	433,958	433,958	0
Housing Support	364,455	364,455	0
Multi Dwelling Complex	326,623	326,623	0
PUBLIC WORKS UNIT - Brendan Montour, Director			
M.C.K. Equipment	692,877	692,877	0
School Bus Purchase	91,111	91,111	0
Town Garage	296,029	296,029	0
Daily Transportation	877,948	877,948	67,000
Maintenance Management	207,923	207,923	0
Roads Department	752,393	752,393	0
Filtration/Sewer Plant	1,103,080	1,103,080	0
M.C.K. Transport	518,840	518,840	0
Community Buildings Repair	158,252	158,252	0
CAPITAL UNIT - Thomas Sky, Director			
Uncommitted Funds	100,912	100,912	0
Infrastructure & Rehabilitation & T.V.	20,000	20,000	0
Database	22,000	22,000	0
Capital Administration	260,000	260,000	0
Rural Roads	65,000	65,000	0
9C Phase 4	1,300,000	1,300,000	0
Infrastructure Extension	110,000	110,000	0
Remedial Measures	300,000	300,000	0
Plans & Specifications	150,000	150,000	0
Sewage Treatment Plant - Phase 2	236,652	236,652	0
Modify Existing Reservoir	65,000	65,000	0
Chlorine Storage Area	66,000	66,000	0
EPIC Study	65,000	65,000	0
Water Network Flow	55,000	55,000	0
Distribution Pumping Station	258,438	258,438	0
Modify Sand Filters	1,000,000	1,000,000	0
SLS 13 Water Reservoir	55,000	55,000	0
Bedard Quarry Rehab	575,000	575,000	0
River Road - Replace Water Main	595,000	595,000	0
Lot 106 Phase 2	50,000	50,000	0
Rural Road Semi-Urban Upgrade	250,000	250,000	0
River Road Dry Hydrants	90,000	90,000	0
River Road Walkway	80,000	80,000	0
Arena Plant Upgrade	380,000	380,000	0
Arena Drainage Outlet Upgrade	50,000	50,000	0
Sewage Lft Station 3 Study	50,000	50,000	0
LANDS UNIT - Russel Curotte, Director			
Tiowero:ton Program	246,354	246,354	0
Tiowero:ton Roads	20,000	20,000	0

2007-2008 BUDGET

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	TOTAL REVENUE	TOTAL EXPENSES	BALANCE
Environment Office	232,718	232,718	0
Priority Analysis	72,000	72,000	0
Climate Change	4,905	4,905	0
Shoreline Characterization	34,300	34,300	0
Khanata	109,128	109,128	0
RLAP	57,000	57,000	0
Quarry	429,992	369,992	60,000
Species at Risk Project	80,000	80,000	0
Landfill	124,418	124,418	0
Recycling	297,948	297,948	0
Solid Waste Management	365,424	365,424	0
Land Directorate	272,173	272,173	0
Land Management	341,705	341,705	0
Land Policy Department	157,635	157,635	0
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION UNIT - Ryan Rice, Director			
Information Systems	523,364	523,364	0
M.C.K. Property	232,392	232,392	0
Legal Services	676,476	676,476	0
Community Planning	132,061	132,061	0
Research & Development	48,186	48,186	0
Kanienkeha Training	168,416	168,416	0
PR/Communications	405,928	405,928	0
Accounting Department	662,893	662,893	0
Office Management	492,250	492,250	0
General Funds	209,500	209,500	40,000
Employee Benefits	900,000	900,000	0
Purchasing Agent	61,628	61,628	0
Quality Assurance Dept.	242,700	242,700	0
Executive Director Office	779,794	779,794	0
Executive Director Committee	190,399	190,399	0
Employee Training	44,879	44,879	0
Human Resources Dept.	482,585	482,585	0
M.C.K. Building Addition	50,986	50,986	0
JUSTICE SERVICES - Ron Sky, Director			
Court	416,969	416,969	0
Restorative Justice	65,000	65,000	0
Alcohol Beverage Control Board	59,442	59,442	0
Gaming Commission	757,512	757,512	0
Athletics Commission	5,000	5,000	0
Police Services Board	25,000	25,000	0
Peacekeeper Program	3,860,057	3,860,057	0
Ethics Committee	25,000	25,000	0
Justice Commission	25,000	25,000	0
COMMUNITY PROTECTION UNIT - Terry Diabo, Director			
Safety Department	147,617	147,617	0
Safety Committee	19,835	19,835	0
Emergency Preparedness	158,612	158,612	0
Community Protection Unit Administration	234,324	234,324	0
Crossing Guard	22,433	22,433	0
Animal Protection	101,985	101,985	0
Conservation Department	134,316	134,316	0
RECREATION UNIT - Brian Deer, Director			
Sports Complex	616,632	616,632	0
Recreation Transfers	200,000	200,000	0
Recreation Unit Administration	454,966	454,966	0
OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS (OCC) - Andrew Delisle Jr., Director			
SSSL	755,095	755,095	0
ILCC	103,763	103,763	0
Traditional Government	63,000	63,000	0
3rd Party Negotiations	30,000	30,000	0
O.C.C. Operations	1,392,542	1,392,542	0
CHIEF & COUNCIL			
Chief and Council	1,216,035	1,216,035	0
F.A.O. Committee	40,000	40,000	0

2007-2008 MCK BUDGET

MCK BUDGET SUBTOTAL:

Total Revenue: 45,102,466

Total Expenses: 44,935,466

APPROPRIATED FUNDS:

Balance: 167,000

TOTAL MCK BUDGET BALANCE:

Total Revenue: 45,102,466

Total Expenses: 45,102,466

The Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke **Annual Budget** for the 2007/2008 fiscal year is **\$45,102,466**, which runs from April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

For more Information, please contact Ryan Rice, Associate Executive Director of Finance and Administration at (450) 632-7500 or the Unit Directors listed. Each year, the MCK undergoes a financial audit and the results of the 2006/2007 Audit will be released to the Community in the Summer of 2007.

HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM

IONTATHWISTANIHAS AIONTENONHSÓN:NI HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM (AVAILABLE YEAR ROUND)

by Gene Diabo

If you're one of the many Kahnawakehró:non applying for funding through the MCK Revolving Loan Program this year, you have already received a letter from the Housing department advising you of changes to the current system. The goal of these changes is to make it quicker and easier to apply for a mortgage with more flexibility for the homeowner.

“Basically, instead of having the one-time-a-year call out saying loans are available, we're going to be there

on a continuous basis”, said Mike O'Brien, Director of Social Development Unit. “People will be able to come in, apply for a loan and get approved just like you would in a bank.”

In the current housing schemes A and B, amounts that can be borrowed are fixed at \$60,000 or \$82,500 with a 10% down payment. If one were to go to an outside bank, the required down payments are 25%.



On the Horizon

With the new loan program, community members will be able to determine what type and size of home they wish to build, figure how much they'll need to borrow, and then shop between banks to see who offers the best mortgage plan. O'Brien also points out that having three banks to choose from when shopping for a mortgage will benefit the home-builder, since they will have to compete for your business and hopefully,

offer more incentives.

“Between the two current MCK housing programs, the Duplex Housing Project, and the banks, we're trying to give community members as many options as possible”, stated O'Brien. “Clients will be able to get what they want, when they want it, anytime of the year.”

DUPLEX DWELLING

TEKANONHSANEKHÁNION DUPLEX DWELLING PROJECT

by Gene Diabo

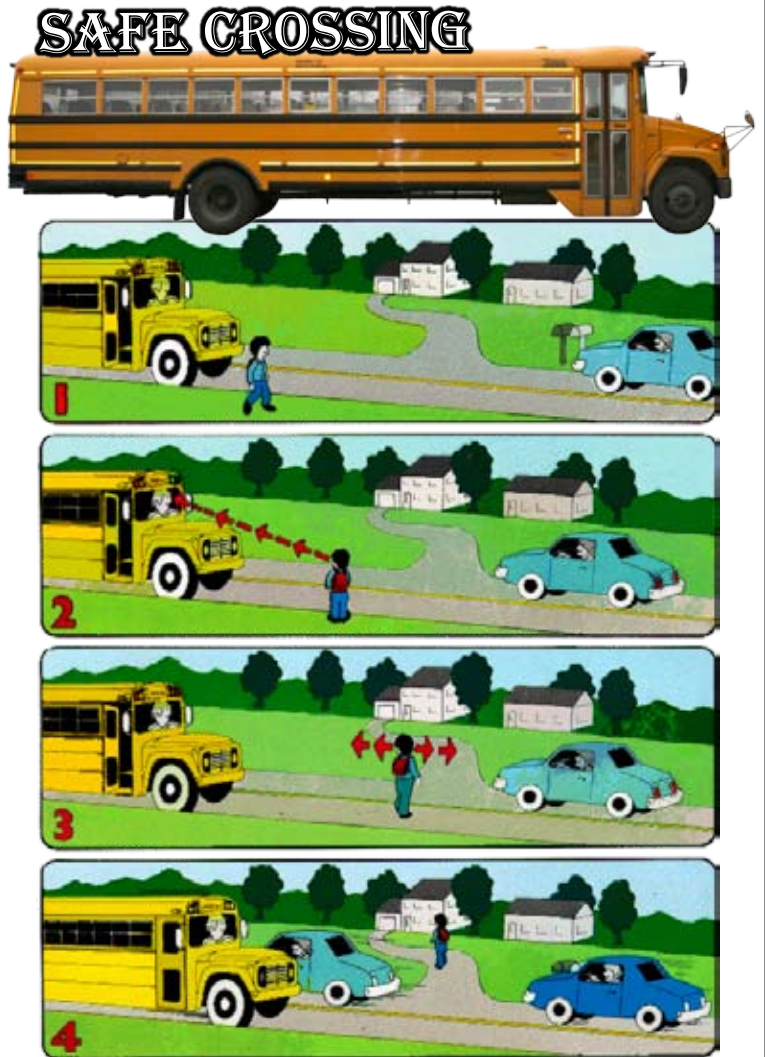
As recently reported on News 4 and Kwatokent Television, the Social Development Unit of the MCK recently received approval from Council to move forward with their proposed Duplex Housing Development Project. The hope is that this project will solve the current dilemmas for those seeking affordable housing. Duplexes or “semi-detached” units turned out to be the most economical option.

There are 14 duplexes planned for construction, making 28 units available for purchase. They will be built in the new development of lot 106, past the Clay Mountains. The units will be sold in the mid \$60,000 range, with zero down and mortgage payments comparable to those of the Kahnawá:ke multi-dwelling rental units.



The Duplexes will use a design similar to these units.

The duplexes would be interspersed throughout the new development lot 106 and not all clumped in one area.



Courtesy of Manitoba Education

STAY INFORMED!

Call the Info Line at
(450) 632-9595

or

Sign up for the Mass Mailing List online at:

www.kahnawake.com

or request to be added by emailing:

communications@mck.ca

Stay Informed on the latest MCK News updated daily. Make us your 1st Source for Information!

FAREWELL MARSHA

MARSHA WA'ERIHÓWANAHE TSI IONTORIHSENTAKWA:NE MARSHA CALLS IT A CAREER

by Neil McComber

After 34 years, the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke's longest serving employee is calling it a career. Marsha Delisle began her career working with the old Mohawk Recreation Association (MRA) as a secretary. She later worked in Accounting, where she rose to the top position in that field, Associate Executive Director (AED) of Finance and Administration.

Delisle has been a major factor in much of the expansion and what the MCK is today. When she began her career, she was 1 of 7 MCK employees with a budget of \$481,000. On her departure from the MCK, she leaves as 1 of close to 300 employees, with an operating budget of almost \$45 million dollars.

Delisle will be replaced by Ryan Rice, who has worked under her as a Financial Analyst and who replaced her as Director of Finance when she became an AED.



*Ohén:ton Marsha aiontorihsentáko
Before Marsha steps out to pasture*

The Information system group and the MCK has benefited by the direction Marsha has given the UNIT. We are very proud to have worked under her keen eye and involvement in maturing the Information Technology to who we are today. Her characteristic, "to the point way" of speaking will be missed. When speaking to Marsha, there is never any doubt on what was said and what was expected. That's what makes a good manager. Plus she's just nose about things.

Holding such a high level position in the MCK never put her out of reach. She could always be counted on to discuss her great love of dogs, betraying her soft side not always seen by everyone. Mention the Rolling Stones and a certain gleam in her eyes will tell of past remembrances ready to burst out. One can only wonder.

I'm sure she will feel uncomfortable to be in the spotlight and all of the attention given to someone who has spent her career working at the MCK at jobs not always appreciated or given public recognition. Her commitment to the job is an inspiration and should be held up - if even for a moment - (sorry Marsha) for all to see and honor.

On her last day, I truly wish her the best and to forget us bunch of monkeys, and get on with her plans of self employment, and to turn down the intensity and relax, at least for a bit !!

Have a great retirement, see the world and when you get back, get a new dog.

Tom Scott

Some of Marsha Delisle's Career Highlights:

- Was part of the creation of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke
- Helped bring a balanced budget to the MCK for many years
- Is a major reason why the MCK is one of the most Financially Accountable First Nations Governments in all of Canada
- Played a major role in the special unique funding arrangements Kahnawá:ke has with Canada
- Was the first ever MCK Director of Finance
- Was one of the first ever MCK Associate Executive Directors (Finance and Administration)
- Her 34 years served is the longest MCK/MRA employee tenure.

IOHONTSATA'KARÍTE KAIENNERAHSERA

CLEAN SOIL POLICY

by Gene Diabo & Landfill Office

*“We do not inherit the land from our ancestors,
we borrow it from our children.”*

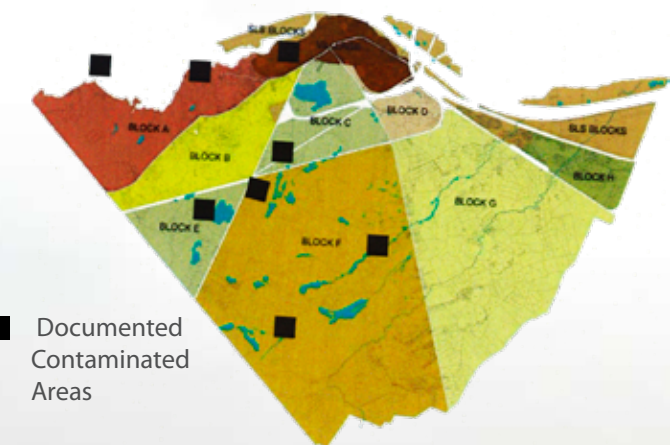
Construction season is here and many new home builders will be in need of clean and safe landfill for their property. The MCK's Landfill Office can answer some of the most common questions home owners may have when it comes to regulations and the newly revised Clean Soil Policy.

Brief History

Landfill guidelines for Kahnawá:ke were first developed in 1987 with amendments to the policy in 1995. The Landfill Policy has now been amended to the Clean Soil Policy. There are currently eight documented contaminated landfill sites in Kahnawá:ke due to unmonitored landfill activity in the past.

Why do we need a Clean Soil Policy in Kahnawá:ke?

To protect our health, safety and environment by avoiding contaminated soil from being brought onto the territory. The Clean Soil Policy has criteria for acceptable landfill that is current to Federal and Provincial standards. This will lower the risk of further contamination of our lands.



How can I get Landfill?

Bring proof of landholding and a lot map with specific dimensions to the Landfill or Environment Protection Office for an application and complete a request form.

Who needs a permit to Landfill?

All contractors and sub-contractors are required to get a permit. Community members do not require a permit and there is no cost for landfill to landholders.

How long does it take to get Landfill?

Once the application is processed, the Landfill Inspector evaluates the site, and with the approval of the Environment Protection Office, landholders are put on a waiting list. Landfill is subject to availability with priority given for housing or emergency repair work. It is best to apply well ahead time.

Will the Policy affect me if I'm landscaping my yard?

No. It does not affect landholders or community organizations that purchase topsoil from a reputable nursery or landscaping company. However, all organizations, including the MCK are required to follow the Clean Soil Policy.

Who has authority to inspect and suspend landfill activity?

The Director of Lands or designate, the Environment Protection Coordinator, Kahnawá:ke Peacekeepers, the Public Works Roads & Highway Department Manager, Kahnawá:ke Conservation, Health & Safety Manager, Landfill Inspector, and the Landfill Coordinator.

To know more about the **Clean Soil Policy** or to obtain your proof of landholding and map with specific dimensions, contact the Landfill Office located on the 2nd floor of the **Environment Protection Office** at **450 632-8774**.



AIONKWATATEWEIENNENTÁ:'ON NO:NEN ENIONKWAHNE:KO FLOOD AWARENESS

by Justus Polson-Lahache & Kellyann Meloche

The warm weather, though a pleasure when it arrives, is also for many, a home disaster if they are victims of a flood. The spring season brings large amounts of water to your yard, and sometimes into your basement.

To reduce damage to your household and belongings, make sure you are prepared for a flood. It will save you money, your home, and possibly even your life.

How to prepare for a flood:

- Keep water-proofing materials such as plywood, sandbags, and plastic sheeting.
- Purchase a sump pump and keep it plugged in at all times.
- Ensure you have a battery powered back-up sump pump in your basement in case of a power outage.
- Have a qualified plumber check your flood-proof devices (floor drains, sump pump, backwater valves.) Have the plumber explain how it works and how to use it.
- Ensure you have a family escape plan and meeting place in case you and your family get separated.
- Talk to your insurance company about flood protection.
- Install a water-level alarm.



Cleaning after the flood:

Aside from the obvious damage by the flood, “invisible” toxins such as mold, mildew and infectious bacteria begin growing and cause allergies, bronchitis, asthma attacks and lung illnesses. Before cleaning, remove all carpet and water absorbing materials such as insulation, furniture, mattresses, etc. Ensure that you ventilate your household to dry everything.

There are many ways to clean a flood mess, and the most effective is bleach and water. For sensitive surfaces, use non-ammonia soaps (mixing with

bleach creates toxic gases). Remember to use the proper hand and eye protection when using cleaning solutions.

No matter how prepared you are for a flood, it is still disastrous to experience. Being prepared will reduce the amount of damage it will do to your home, family and finances. Prepare yourselves.

For information on how to prevent flooding and other ways to keep your home safe, visit: www.safecanada.ca.

TETE WATATERIHWAKWENIËNHSTHA
MAKING US ALL PROUD!

by Gene Diabo

February 23, 2007 marks a day that will live, not in Infamy, but in actual "famy" for all Kahnawakehrónon - certainly a milestone for Corey Diabo and his fellow band mates in Jonas, but as well a source of great pride for all who know Corey and his history from a 10 year old to present "guitar wizard".

With as much charisma and vocal ability that lead singer Jonas Tomalty possesses, I think anyone would be hard pressed to imagine that the band would reach anywhere near their current success without Corey's trademark sound and virtuosity on his chosen instrument. In fact, suffice it to say that it is that virtuosity that incites Jonas to perform at the level to which we've become accustomed. Whatever the symbiotic recipe they've come up with, it's definitely working in their favor.

It is unfortunate though, that in the music business, talent alone, no matter how great, is not all it takes. Images have to be created and honed, the right clothes must be worn, and your hair can't be too short...or too long. In fact, sometimes you can't even be your real age. Many individual struggles and sacrifices must be made for the good of the whole, especially when you're the focal point of the operation. Needless to say, our boys rose to the challenge.

"The reality is you get in and deliver the goods under any circumstances", Corey reminds us.

And they've walked the talk. From the early days as "Jonas & The Blues Blooded" playing Bistro A JoJo downtown on St. Denis or at the Kahnawá:ke Knights of Columbus hall in front of 100 people for "Vegas Night", to the Blues Stage at the

Montreal International Jazz Festival and then down to just "Jonas" touring the U.S. and Canada opening for Van Halen, plus every stop in between here and Chibougamou on the road to recognition.

It's a tough road to follow but they did it, and somebody was on the ball because it's all been captured for posterity on film. Watch your local movie listings for the release of "The Quest" in a movie house near you. Trailers are already in theatres and there's a buzz in the industry about the film.

As Corey put it, "You're coming on the road with us learning what it's like to try to get a Quebec band signed internationally."

Apparently all the hard work and sacrifice has paid off as it was announced recently that "Jonas" had inked a deal with the famous Seymour Stein of Warner Music. The same Seymour Stein who personally signed Madonna to her multi million dollar contract. This ain't no small potatoes. "It was a long time in the works", Corey says about the deal. "We're very happy and proud to be in association with such a fine label."

...continued on page 16

"The reality is you get in and deliver the goods under any circumstances"

IONTHSWEN'KARATIANENHTÁHKWA AIONTEN'NIKÓN RAREN
SKATEBOARD SAFETY

by Justus Polson-Lahache

The Kahnawá:ke skate park will excite many skateboarders with its grand opening to be scheduled as soon as the weather clears. As a skateboarder, taking risks is the one of the only ways, besides practice, that improves your skating ability. Unfortunately it comes at a painful price; risk of injury.

To avoid severely hurting yourself, minimize your risk by following these simple rules:

- Wear a properly fitted helmet and safety pads (knee and elbow). Head injuries are the most severe injuries caused by skateboarding.
- If you fall, roll instead of stiffening your body. It will soften your fall.

- Wear wrist protectors. The first instinctive reaction is to use your hands to break your fall, and this could lead to a broken wrist.
- Always check your board before skating. If the board is cracked, or the trucks are loose, replace the parts or don't use it.
- Never skate alone, in case you are incapable of calling for help.

If it seems impossible to accomplish, it probably is. Don't risk your safety! Follow these techniques and keep yourself safe!

Remember, you are skating at **your own risk!**



ENSEHSEHONTSÁRHONSTE THE DIRT ON COMPOSTING

by Gene Diabo

Waste is the by-product of our consumer society. The impact of our wasteful habits must be managed if we wish to leave the earth fit for future generations. Composting is one easy and effective method. You don't even need any special knowledge or equipment. It takes only a little extra effort to collect your wastes, known as **browns** and **greens**, and establish an active compost pile. Once you've got it going, it just about takes care of itself.

How composting works:

In nature, organic wastes are broken down through a combination of biological and chemical processes. Biological agents like worms, insects, fungi, bacteria and other micro-organisms "chew up" the materials, which are further transformed by oxidation (exposure to air), reduction and hydrolysis (exposure to water).

For successful composting, you need:

- The right amount of water and air to keep the biological and chemical processes functioning.
- The right temperature. Ever notice how quickly things go 'bad' in warm - weather? In a sense it's 'cooking'.
- The right Carbon:Nitrogen ratio. Ideally, your C:N ratio should be thirty to one. Sawdust, straw, wood chips and dry leaves are high in carbon. Grass clippings, plant trimmings and kitchen scraps are high in nitrogen.
- What to compost: Grass clippings, leaves and twigs, flowers, old potted soil, weeds (if green and not seeded), fruit and vegetable scraps, tea bags and coffee grinds, wood ashes, sawdust and wood chips, pet hair, egg shells, manure and straw.
- The right container you should use is a compost unit.

How to get started:

You don't have to run to the composter every time you peel a potato. Many people keep their kitchen wastes under the sink in a large plastic container with a resealable lid and a handle. When the container is full, they empty it into the compost pile, thus reducing the number of trips they have to make.

BROWN & GREEN

make good
COMPOST



Building a compost box:

Building your own composter will allow you to design a unit to suit your specific needs. A composter can be made of wood, concrete blocks, wire mesh or almost any material you have available.

The three **most** essential features in a composter are:

- 1) A lid that protects the pile from rain and snow and allows you to control how much moisture gets in.
- 2) Holes or vents to allow air circulation.
- 3) A means of removing the final product.



For more detailed information:

Call the Kahnawá:ke Environment Protection Office by telephone at (450) 635-0600 or by e-mail at environment.protection@mck.ca, or The Composting Council of Canada online at www.compost.org

Sources: Kahnawá:ke Environment Protection Office, The Composting Council of Canada

KAKWITÈ:NE TEWAIÉNTHOS SPRING GARDENING

by Sondra Cross & Holly McComber



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Sha'tewenni'tí:hen Enníska entehsatáhsawen kanónhskon ká:nen enshiéntho tánon Ohiari'kó:wa nikahá:wi enhsatehontsahserón:ni tsi nón:we enshiéntho tánon nó:nen enshiéntho ó:nenkti enshenaktóthahse akontehiá:ron. É:so tsi nón:we teiorahkontsheróien tho nón:we enshiéntho tánon orhon'ké:ne tókani o'karahsnéha enshené:kanon'te. Nó:nen entká:nio enshén:tako ne kahentaksénskwa tánon enwá:ton environment entísewe, enkwaienawá:se thé:nen tesewatehontsó:ni ne kaia'takehnhátshera.

As we always have, it is once again time for us to plant. Get the family together and make a small garden of healthy fruits and vegetables without pesticides.

Mid-March to early April is the time to start planting seeds indoors. Get your garden and soil

ready by the end of April or early May. Think about how the plants will grow and this will help you plan your garden. Make sure they have enough room to grow and are planted where they can get plenty of sunlight. By early to mid-May or after the last frost, move your seedlings and start planting your garden.

Don't forget to weed, water and mulch your garden to grow healthy plants all summer long. Go to the Environment Office to use their resources. They have plenty of information on gardening (and composting too.)



2006 Harvest Fair Scavenger Hunt Art Contest Winning Submission **Kaia'tahen:te Arquette-Cross**

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ONKWARIWA'SHON:'A

Through this publication, the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke seeks to promote awareness and dialogue by informing the community on its activities and by analyzing the important issues affecting Kahnawá:ke.

The editorials serve to provide a forum for commentary from the Mohawk Council and/or its staff, while serving as a catalyst for community input. The editorial views expressed are the sole responsibility of the author, and may not represent those of the MCK or those of the editorial staff. Please direct all correspondence to the Communications Department.

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And all Units that provided information for our articles.



The new Mohawk Council of Kahnawake website is almost here!

It will be quicker and easier to find the information you need!

- more interaction
- take surveys or polls
- leave feedback
- download past editions of Onkwariwa'shon:'a
- watch excerpts of Kwatokent TV

The web site will be your source for information.

Keep yourselves informed, visit www.kahnawake.com today!

...Coming in early May...

**TESKATÉNION
KAHNHATSHERA
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Lisa K. Montour Technical Inspector

Ryan Rice Associate Executive
Director, Finance & Administration

Farewell to **Marsha Delisle**,
who is retiring after 34 years of
dedicated service to the MCK.
Nia:wen Marsha!

Continued from Page 13

Well Corey, the rest is up to you to just keep on doing what you've been doing all the while. Stay true to your music and true to your vision and hopefully the rest will fall into place. Congratulations on all your successes thus far and best of luck as you embark on this new chapter of your life. If things get a little rough here and there on this new road, remember that all your brothers and sisters here in Kahnawá:ke are behind you every step of the way.

Oh yeah, you're probably asking what was that date in-"Famy", February 23, 2007? The date every kid that ever picked up an instrument dreams of. Headlining in front of 10,000 screaming fans at Montreal's famed Bell Center. Not Bad - not bad at all!