

# ONKWARIWA'SHON:A



THE ISSUES AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF TODAY, WHICH AFFECT OUR PEOPLE

*Oon-gwa-rhee-wa-soon-a*

Onerahtohkó:wa/May 2004

Newsletter of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke



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Kwe Kahnawa'kehrónon,

Onkwariwa'shon:'a makes its return to the community with a few changes this month. If you've wondered where the MCK newsletter has been, the staff of Onkwariwa'shon:'a took a short hiatus to reflect back on the newsletter. It was time to make some changes—and put a little effort into generating new ideas. Thanks to the staff of the MCK who came together and came up with some new topics—which they thought the community would like to read about.



This issue will introduce some new features such as a “Youth’s Page” to inform our young people about the MCK and will ask for their input ; “Reflections” takes a relevant topic in the community and reflects back on how things have changed throughout the years; Kahnawake is given an opportunity to voice their opinions, in the “Letters to the Editor”; Stats & Facts from various programs & services within the MCK will be provided; and of course, we'll update you on the ‘political’ side of things.

Onkwariwa'shon:'a will now be published every second month. So you can expect the next one in your mail box at the end of July, just in time to introduce the new Council. Speaking of which, the 2004 elections are already the hot topic in Kahnawake, so Onkwariwa'shon:'a takes a look at that subject in this issue.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Walker-Phillips".

WENDY WALKER-PHILLIPS  
MCK Communications Coordinator

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Onkwariwa'shon:'a is welcoming your *Letters to the Editor* for publication in future issues of the newsletter. Please send us your opinion, thoughts, or comments on any subject.

Letters must be signed and include a return address or phone number. We ask that the writer remain respectful in their opinions. Onkwariwa'shon:'a reserves the right to edit for purposes of length.



Address letters to:

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
c/o MCK Communications  
P.O. Box 720 Kahnawake J0L 1B0**



# FACTS AND STATISTICS

## MCK DONATIONS

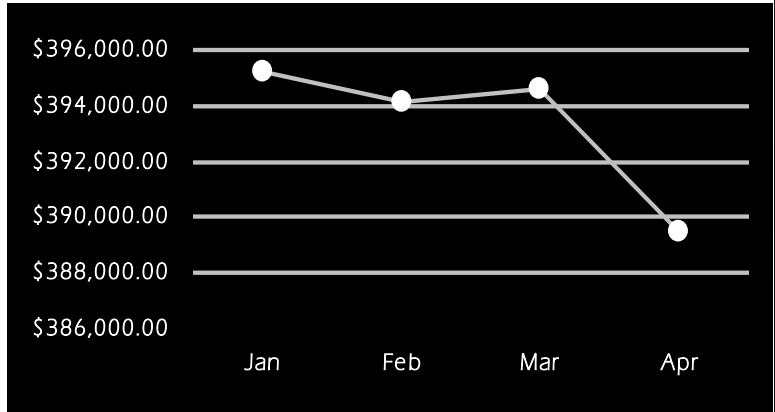
April 1<sup>st</sup> 2003 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2004

Organizational Donations \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 13,206.64  
 Advertisements/  
 Sponsors/Ticket Purchases \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 4,545.00  
 Individual Requests \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 1,219.07  
 Bus Transportation \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 1,112.45

**GRAND TOTAL: \$ 20,083.16**

## Social Assistance Statistics

January—April 2004



### 2004 Social Assistant Expenses

### Caseload

January	\$ 395,259.84	607
February	\$ 394,132.20	599
March	\$ 394,609.02	609
April	\$ 389,449.85	601

### NCCP Coaching Clinic Theory part A.

To be held in Kahnawá:ke on  
June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.



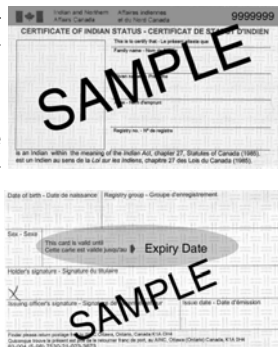
Cost is \$60 dollars. For more information call the Sports & Recreation Unit at 638-2672, ask for Dave Canadian.

### Band Card Expiration

The MCK would like to remind community members that status cards have expiry dates. An adult's card expires every five years and a minor's every two years. If your card doesn't have an expiry date, it is most likely outdated and you should drop by the Membership offices to obtain a new one. Offices are located in the Services Complex (behind Hydro office).

If your current card only has a 4-digit band number, you must renew it to obtain the 10-digit band number (ex.: 0700999901).

Expired or old cards should be returned to the Membership Department. The reason for having expiry dates is to prevent fraud in the event of a lost or stolen card. As well, stores may not accept your card (nor are they obliged to) for tax exemptions if your card is expired.



## MYTH VERSUS FACT



Myth...

**Council Chiefs have unlimited spending & credit cards**

**FACT:** There are only three credit cards issued to three people at the MCK. The Grand Chief carries one, the Executive Director, Alana Goodleaf-Rice carries another one and Dwaine White holds one on behalf of the OCC.

The cards have restricted spending limits; used only for MCK travel and purchases that require a credit card.

## MCK Urges Mediation in Kanehsata:ke

By David Lahache, SSSL Communications Coordinator



A lot has happened in Kanehsata:ke since the events of January 12, 2004. After the Kahnawake Peacekeepers pulled out of our sister community on March 31, the Kanehsata:ke Mohawk Police have been trying to patrol the territory. However, most of their patrols have been in the Village area and on the western boundary at English Point.

In mid-April, 24 residents accused of taking part in the events at the Kanehsata:ke Mohawk Police Station on January 12-13, were identified and sought by authorities.

14 warrants and 10 summons were issued. Several turned themselves over to the SQ and 2 were arrested.

Tensions escalated during the early morning hours on May 4, when several dozen Native officers tried to enter the community at English Point. Dressed in riot gear, the officers were pushed back by community members who were keeping watch at the Western end of Highway 344. Later that day, officers and residents clashed. According to media reports,

four Kanehsata:ke Mohawk Police officers were slightly injured when hit with rocks and sticks. Several of their vehicles were damaged, including an SUV, which was rammed from behind by a dump truck, all of which was caught on videotape.

The following day, Quebec Public Security Minister Jacques Chagnon announced joint patrols would begin in Kanehsata:ke. At a press Conference in Quebec City, Chagnon told the media, the "Peacekeepers", SQ and RCMP would begin patrols in Kanehsata:ke that afternoon; This after receiving a request from Chief Ed Thompson. However, just hours later, Kanehsata:ke Grand Chief James Gabriel called a press conference in Laval to announce joint patrols would not begin that afternoon, as previously announced by Chagnon. Details still needed to be ironed out between the three police forces. Chagnon's comments also caused some confusion in Kahnawake and Kanehsata:ke, along with members of the media. It was

the minister's use of the word "Peacekeepers" in identifying the Kanehsata:ke Mohawk Police Force that prompted the MCK and the Kahnawake Peacekeepers to issue press releases to clear up the confusion and to reassure both communities that the PKs were not taking part in joint patrols with SQ and RCMP.

Many members of our community, including Grand Chief Joseph Tokwiro Norton, expressed serious concerns about the joint patrols in Kanehsata:ke and the potential for bloodshed. The Grand Chief also reiterated that mediation needs to take place between all parties involved in Kanehsata:ke.

Norton's statement prompted many responses, both positive and negative, including one from Grand Chief James Gabriel who said Norton's comments were misleading.

Gabriel also expressed concern over Norton's "intrusion" into the affairs of another First Nation. ♦

## Office of the Council of Chiefs (OCC) update

By Alwyn Morris, Associate Director of the O.C.C.

On-going efforts to resume discussions with the Federal government regarding the Canada/Kahnawá:ke Relations process have not been successful. This void in discussions has created problems for the Office of the Council of Chiefs because the Council is now without the federal funding for the process. This budget reduction has forced staff reductions to the Office of the Council of Chiefs and will likely create more budget difficulties as the year progresses.

Another important file currently stalled is the Seigneurie of Sault St Louis Claim. Federal officials have indicated that they are awaiting the Minister's direction regarding the process for the negotiations. If this does not begin within this fiscal year, other staff reductions will likely occur to the Office of the Council of Chiefs.

After the announcement in March of the appointment of Mr. Daniel Johnson as the Quebec negotiator on behalf of the provincial government for the renewal of the ten QKR agreements, preparation began on Mr. Johnson's first visit to Kahnawá:ke. After his initial meeting with the Grand Chief in mid April, Mr. Johnson visited the community and met with the Council on May 4, 2004. The process for the re-negotiations will begin sometime during the month of May 2004.

The Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke has been actively monitoring the situation in Kanehsata:ke and continued to respond to the requests for support from Kanehsata:ke community members for the re-involvement of the Kahnawá:ke Peacekeepers. The Council has continued to support the view that mediation is the only true way in which to resolve the political conflict in Kanehsata:ke, and to that end has urged the elected Council in Kanehsata:ke to return to the discussion table. ♦

(Alwyn Morris has provided this update in place of OCC Director Andrew Delisle . while he is off work on sick leave. We wish Andrew a speedy recovery.)

Daniel Johnson tours Kahnawake with Grand Chief Joseph Norton (May '04)



# MOHAWK COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

January to May 2004

- 01/12/2004 Land Allotment—Mark Garnet Rory Bauersfeld  
01/12/2004 Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre Land Designation  
01/26/2004 Land Allotment—Estate of Mark W. Montour  
02/02/2004 Seigneurie of Sault St. Louis Claim loan submission  
02/02/2004 Land Allotment—Patrick Warren Goodleaf  
Rescind & Replace MCR#46/10/27/03  
02/09/2004 Land Allotment—Mark Garnet Rory Bauersfeld  
Rescind & Replace MCR # 61/2003-2004  
02/16/2004 Land Purchase—Alexander James Jacobs  
02/23/2004 Appointment of Membership Registrar Alexis Shackleton  
02/23/2004 Land Allotment (Personal Property) Barbara Ann Kara Deer  
03/02/2004 Land Allotment Kathleen Ann Tekakwitha Meloche  
03/02/2004 Common Land Transfer—Keith Myiow and  
Kahnawá:ke Mohawks  
03/08/2004 Land Allotment—Jamie Kirby  
03/08/2004 Land Allotment Chester & Angela Deer  
03/22/2004 Appointment of Dwayne Zacharie—Interim Chief PK  
03/22/2004 Extension to the Policing Agreement—Gov't Canada  
03/22/2004 Extension to Policing Agreement—Gov't Quebec  
03/29/2004 MIT Agreement—Grand Chief Norton to sign the Trust  
Agreement, Lease Agreement, MCK/Tewatohnhi'saktha  
Protocol (Rescinds & Replaces MCR #62/1998-1999)  
03/29/2004 Land Transfer—Personal Property Michael T. Horne  
04/06/2004 Quarry Agreement—Mr. Raymond Viateur Beauvais  
04/06/2004 Quarry Agreement—Roxboro  
04/06/2004 Land Allotment—Lawrence Brian Jacobs  
04/06/2004 Land Allotment—Rosalie Deer  
04/14/2004 Land Allotment—Lisa Montour  
04/13/2004 Authorization for Signatures—Multi-Dwelling Loan  
04/19/2004 ATV/ATC Law  
04/19/2004 Land Allotment—Harvey & Lynn Diabo  
05/03/2004 Land Allotment—Mary Joan Shirley Diabo  
05/03/2004 Land Acquisition—Eva Johnson  
05/10/2004 Amended Kahnawá:ke Land Allotment Policy  
05/10/2004 Designate Lot 9 Block A for Public Road  
05/10/2004 Step By Step Funding Renewal

## Membership Council of Elders and Review Board

Candidates were presented at a special Community Meeting held on Saturday, May 15, 2004 at the Karonhianonhna School gym.

Arlene Diabo and Burgess Diabo both withdrew their names prior to the meeting. Elder Ida Goodleaf addressed the community, withdrawing her name due to health reasons.

Approximately 50 community members were present to review and accept all remaining candidates. With no formal objections being made, the following people are hereby selected for the Council of Elders and Review Board:

1. Wendy Two-Axe Mayo
2. Sandra McComber
3. (George) Wahiakeron Gilbert
4. Juanita Delisle
5. Tawnie Miller Bush
6. Kahn-Tineta Horn
7. Josie Lahache
8. David Atewenná:ron Dearhouse
9. Leonard Bordeau
10. Matthew R. (Watio) Montour
11. Lynn Delisle
12. Paul G. Deer
13. Rita Jacobs Goodleaf
14. Cecilia Phillips Canadian
15. Ramona Decaire
16. Rhonda Kirby
17. Marina Mayo
18. Chris Leclair

*Newly appointed Council of Elders/Review Board for Membership. Missing: Josie Lahache, Paul G. Deer, David Dearhouse.*





# REFLECTIONS

With the 2004 MCK Elections just a few weeks away, this month's 'Reflections' takes a look at elections of the past. We spoke to several MCK employees and past Chiefs who recall the earlier days of the MCK.

The people we spoke with remembered one distinct difference—"sections". For those who don't recall sections, the community was divided up into numbered areas (6 sections). For example, the area from the tunnel to Kane's corner, down to the seaway to the Mercier Bridge was section 5. Other areas were numbered in the same way.

One, two or even several candidates would run as a representative for each section. Voters had to choose one candidate from those running in their section. You couldn't vote for a candidate from another section (or part of town).

Recollections of past elections, had people reflecting on the fact that elections were more laid back; there was no name calling or dirty politics. One person recalls, "people didn't take it so seriously back then, compared to today."

The Chiefs were paid \$10.00 for each meeting they attended, which almost always took place on Saturdays as the Chiefs held regular jobs. Many were ironworkers and were away during the week.



**Andrew Delisle Sr.** has been involved in politics for nearly 50 years in Kahnawake. His recollections of past council elections brought back many fond memories for the elder Statesman.

"It was a much quieter time," recalls Andrew. "Everyone had the same goal or goals—and that was to get rid of the Indian Act, take charge of our own affairs, return to Traditional Government and reduce outside interference in our everyday lives. We don't need a paper to tell us to return to Traditional Government, it's always been there."

According to Andrew, there is less interference by outside governments today than there was back in the 1960's and 70's. Community Meetings often required an Indian Agent or RCMP officer to be present, so secret meetings often had to be held in garages and basements without the agent so the Chiefs could plan their strategies amongst themselves.

Andrew was recently honored with a National Aboriginal Achievement Award.



The Grand Chief was chosen a few weeks after the elections by the Chiefs who were voted in and the Grand Chief then chose his Assistant.

The campaigns for Chief consisted of the potential candidates riding around town blowing their horns and with big hand written signs on the side of their cars. It was a simpler time then and one interviewee talked about the after election parties that would sometimes last over the weekend into Monday, "People had more fun back then". ♦

*Sources: Marsha Delisle, Tom Morris, Andrew Delisle Sr.*

# CTIONS

## Election Recollections

By Joe Delaronde



Sixteen years ago, in 1988, I was elected to Council. It was one

of the most invigorating, frustrating, inspiring, miserable and happy times of my life.

Though it was a long time ago, I clearly recall the excitement of events such as nomination day, candidate's night and election day itself. I can't say I was fully prepared for the intensity of the political process. In the days before the election, I told myself that, if I didn't get in, I wouldn't take it personally.

I don't think I was completely honest with myself.

Several people had approached me to run. I was flattered, to say the least, but right up until the last minute I wasn't sure it was the right idea. In the end, it was a family decision. I accepted.

Candidate's night was a doozy. 1988 was a turbulent time in our history and, suffice to say, it was a turbulent night.

On election day I voted almost as soon as the polls opened. There, I ran into other candidates, most of who gave me the thumbs up, as if they had voted for me. I was very encouraged until I caught myself giving the same thumbs up to a candidate I had not voted for.

The most nerve-racking time was the actual counting of the votes. It seemed that, at times, long minutes would elapse before I would hear my name. There was no way I was getting in – or so it seemed!

At about 10:15 Electoral Officer Pearl Jacobs announced the results. For me, it was a happy result. Not so for others. When the suspense was finally over I didn't have the energy for celebrating. The feeling I had was more of relief.

After it was over, all I wanted to do was sleep. After accepting congratulations from family and friends, my wife and my young son headed home. I kept the lights off so no one would visit. For the most part, it worked.

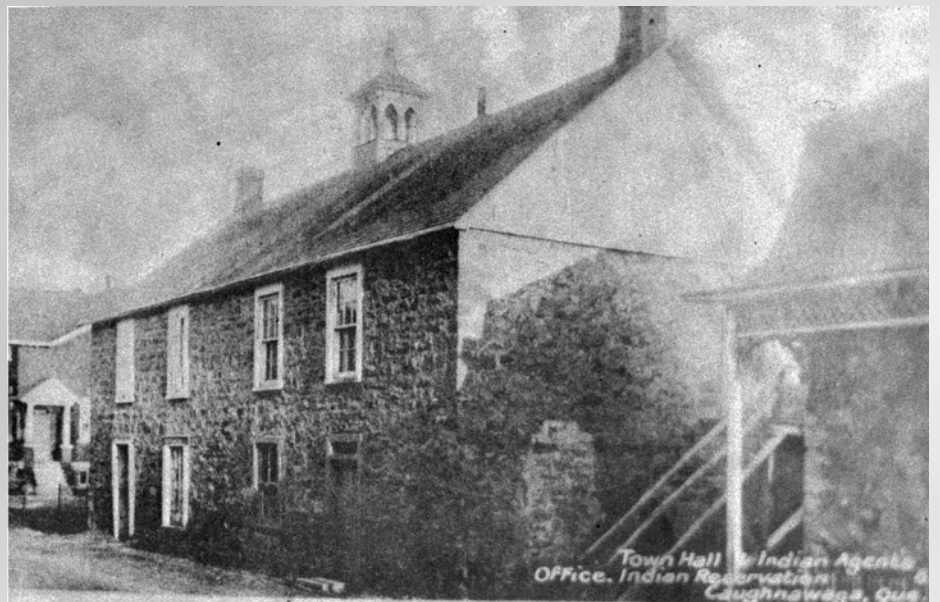
My two years in Council were a real education. I gained a huge

appreciation for the work that goes on at all levels of Kahnawá:ke government. It wasn't perfect then, and it isn't perfect now, but look around this community and see what we have, compared to other Native communities. I was honored to have worked for Kahnawá:ke as a Council Chief but, in the end, my modest talents were best utilized elsewhere and I returned to my first love, broadcasting, after the term ended.

I'd like to finish by saying that I respect anyone who throws his or her hat into the political ring. There's a lot at risk. If the voters don't support you it can break your heart. And, even if they do, it's advisable to grow a thicker skin than the one you have.

I have no regrets. My only advice: don't throw your vote away.

Photo courtesy: Kanien'kehaka Onkwawén: na Raotitiohkwa Cultural Center



# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## All Terrain Vehicles

All Terrain Vehicles, or ATVs as they are known in the community, are no longer permitted to ride on public roads. Safety being a major factor, the Kahnawake Peacekeepers launched a campaign to put a halt to all-road access for the ATVs.

Several months later, the MCK responded with an ATV law. This law, has been distributed in the community for a review period and is now in effect. The law takes into consideration those people who use their vehicles for business purposes. Permits are available at the Peacekeepers for those who meet the following requirements (taken from the law):

- Must be 16 years of age or older to use and operate an ATV/ATC
- Must have a valid driver's permit, in addition to the ATV/ATC User's Permit to use or operate an ATV/ATC – a driver's permit under suspension will prevent a person from acquiring an ATV/ATC User's Permit
- An ATV/ATC User's Permit is valid only for the owner/operator that applies for the permit
- An ATV/ATC Users Permit must be registered to a specific ATV/ATC.
- An ATV/ATC must pass an annual inspection with the Kahnawá:ke Peacekeepers, ensuring that the ATV/ATC meets all operational and safety requirements.

An annual ATV/ATC work-related permit may be obtained only if the applicant:

- Declares their intention to use the ATV/ATC for work-related purposes at the time of applying for an annual ATV/ATC User's Permit
- Is required to be exempt from any specified articles provided for in the ATV/ATC Law.

An ATV/ATC permit holder is subject to fines administered in accordance with the law and may have his or her permit revoked if the regulations respecting ATV/ATC use are not adhered to.



## 'Tis the Season to be Prepared!

### Basic Preparedness Tips for Severe Storms

*Provided by Emergency Preparedness Manager, Kellyann Meloche*

**Lightning often strikes** outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away. "Heat lightning" occurs when thunderstorm lightning is too far away for it to be heard. However, the storm may be moving in your direction.



### **You are in danger from lightning if you can hear thunder.**

Light travels faster than sound, so flashes can sometimes be seen long before the thunder is heard. When lightning and thunder occur very close to one another, lightning is nearby. To estimate the number of miles you are from a thunderstorm, count the number of seconds between a flash of lightning and the next clap of thunder. Divide this number by five.

**Many strong thunderstorms produce hail.** Large hail can injure people and animals. It can also be very destructive to automobiles, glass surfaces (skylights and windows), roofs, plants, and crops. In a hailstorm, take cover immediately. Pets and livestock are particularly vulnerable to hail, so bring animals into shelter before storms begin.

**Downbursts and winds associated with thunderstorms can produce winds 100 to 150 miles per hour, enough to flip cars, vans, and semi-trucks.** The resulting damage can equal that of tornadoes. If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter. Leave structures that are susceptible to being blown over in high winds, such as a mobile home.

## What to Tell Children

The sound of thunder can be especially frightening for young children. Take the "scariness" away by teaching them what to expect during a thunderstorm and how to be safe.

### **Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely.**

**If you see/hear a thunderstorm, get inside a sturdy building or car.** If no building is nearby, a hard-top vehicle will offer some protection; keep car windows closed. Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside. Rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide **no** protection from lightning.

**If you are outside and you feel your hair stand on end, hurry to a low, open space immediately.** Crouch down on the balls of your feet, place your hands on your knees and lower your head. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize contact with the ground. Show children how to practice squatting.

**Stay away from tall things like trees, towers, fences, telephone lines, or power lines.** Lightning usually strikes the highest point in an area.

**Stay away from metal that attracts lightning,** (umbrellas, baseball bats, fishing rods, bicycles).

**Stay away from water (beach, pool, boating).** When lightning strikes nearby, electrical charge can travel through the water.

**Turn off the air conditioner and television,** and stay off the phone until the storm is over. Lightning can cause electric appliances to become dangerous.

**Stay away from running water inside the house** (washing hands, taking a bath or shower). Electricity from lightning has been known to travel through plumbing.



# Youth's Page



## CONTEST

Here is your chance to see how much you know about the MCK. Answer these questions correctly and your name will go into a draw for a prize.

1. How many Chiefs are there at the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many of the present Chiefs are women? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the phone number of the MCK? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who is the Grand Chief? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What does OCC stand for? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the answers and cut out the form and drop it off at the MCK Offices.

Try to research your answers on your own. Ask teachers or parents for help, or call the MCK Offices at 632-7500 and ask for Communications. We will answer any questions you may have. The draw will be made on June 8 and the winner announced in the July issue.

## FIND A WORD

Bylaw  
Chief  
Conservation  
Council  
Court  
Election  
Future  
Health  
Housing  
Information  
Jobs  
Kahnawake  
Kwatokent  
Lands  
Laws  
Meeting  
Membership  
Mohawk  
Office  
Peacekeeper  
Roads  
Safety  
Skennen  
Sports  
Tioweroton  
Vote  
Water

P	E	A	C	E	K	E	E	P	E	R	V	K	C	M
Y	R	E	T	A	W	W	R	T	O	O	L	A	O	I
B	Y	L	A	W	A	F	R	A	T	A	S	H	U	N
C	H	E	A	L	T	H	D	E	N	S	A	N	N	F
E	C	I	F	F	O	S	H	P	H	W	F	A	C	O
F	W	A	T	F	K	J	O	F	K	A	E	W	I	R
E	W	I	M	E	E	T	I	N	G	L	T	A	L	M
I	S	B	O	J	N	H	N	G	J	A	Y	K	S	A
H	E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	F	N	N	E	K	T
C	O	U	R	T	C	D	A	U	R	D	T	P	E	I
C	B	O	O	S	T	R	O	P	S	S	D	P	N	O
W	A	N	O	T	O	R	E	W	O	I	T	G	N	N
S	C	E	R	U	T	U	F	E	E	D	N	O	E	I
L	M	E	M	B	E	R	S	H	I	P	D	G	N	N
X	A	N	O	I	T	A	V	R	E	S	N	O	C	G

Hey Kids! Submit your stories, drawings, cartoons or pictures to us, using the topic of **Summer Safety**. We'll try to print as many as we can. The deadline for the next issue is July 9<sup>th</sup> 2004.

# 2004 Mohawk Council Election Information

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, Angus L. Montour was elected by the community as **Electoral Officer** for the 2004 MCK Election Process.

Angus' first order of business was to confirm the Election and Nomination Dates for the summer election. Janet Deer has been named as his Assistant and will work with him throughout the process.

Should you require any information pertaining to the MCK Elections, give Angus a call at 514-378-9114.



Angus L. Montour, Electoral Officer



Janet Deer, Assistant Electoral Officer

## Notice for Nominations Tewataté:ken

This is to notify the community of Kahnawá:ke that nominations for candidates for elections to the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke will take place on:

*Né:'e kí:ken ne aiesewató:kenhse tsi ionsakáhewe aietshihseenníon'te ónhka  
tesewatonhontsó:ni tahonnitiohkwakén:ni*

Saturday, May 29, 2004  
**Social Development Unit Offices,  
Located at the Services Complex  
Building next to the Hydro Office**  
10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon)

Entákta, 29 Onerahtohkó:wa 2004  
**Tsi ietsenhaintákhwa  
Enkahnhotónkwén**  
10 niiohwistá:'e tsi niio:re ne 12  
(éntie ní :kare)

### Who Can Be Nominated?

To be eligible to hold the office of Grand Chief or Council Chief, a person:

- (a) must be on the Mohawk Registry;
- (b) must be fifty (50 %) percent or more Mohawk Blood quantum;
- (c) must not be married to or living common-law with a non-Native person;
- (d) must be a minimum of twenty-one (21) years of age;
- (e) must be ordinarily a resident of Kahnawá:ke;
- (f) must not have been, within the previous six (6) years, convicted and sentenced for a criminal offense. The six (6) year ban commences only after sentence has been served in full;
- (g) if he or she has previously served on Council, must have ended his or her term of office in good standing; and
- (h) must be willing to submit to and pass a physical test for illegal drugs, after being elected to the position of Grand Chief or Council Chief.

**All nominations must be motioned and seconded. It is preferable that the nominee accompanies his/her nominators on Nomination Day. Contact MCK Electoral Officer Angus L. Montour for more information at 514-378-9114.**

## ELECTIONS for the MOHAWK COUNCIL OF KAHNAWÁ:KE

Saturday, July 3, 2004  
Kahnawá:ke Youth Center  
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

To be eligible to vote, your name must appear on the Mohawk Registry and you must be eighteen (18) years of age or older.

Please note that a piece of identification may be required (i.e. Driver's License, Medicare card, Band Card) in the event the elector cannot be properly identified by the electoral staff.

# Opinion Matters

Employees of the MCK are community members as well, and their opinions do count. Sometimes they can give us insight or perhaps they can help us to shed light on a subject in a different way. Onkwariwa'shon:'a welcomes the staff opinion column.

## Unbuckled Children

"It has been my unfortunate experience to have the responsibility of trying to save a child who was in a motor vehicle accident without being either in a car seat or a seat belt. I have seen so many times, children riding in the front seat of a vehicle on the laps of parents or family members with big smiles, and all I could think about is me trying to revive them or putting them on an immobilization board to try and save their mobility for later on, getting the glass out of their bodies from the windshield and trying to keep family members who are yelling at me to save their child at bay.

**"I cringe each time I see a child jumping in the back seat of a vehicle on the highways..."**



I cringe each time I see a child jumping in the back seat of a vehicle on the highways that surround us, while the parents drive with their seatbelts on so they don't get a ticket, not thinking about the life they may lose in the back seat. It's not about fines or tickets people, it's about lives." Kellyann Meloche

*Kellyann presently works as the Emergency Preparedness Manager.*

## Back-Related Injuries Increases in Kahnawake



The Mohawk Council of Kahnawake MSI PROGRAM and the Health and Safety Program have Discovered an Increase in Back-Related Injuries. A year-end injury report indicates a high incidence of back-related injuries. The MSI Program has received 15 claims for back injuries with a total of 537 days of missed workdays. It is the feeling of our respective programs that information must be provided to our clients regarding this type of injury and in an effort to address this high incidence, we are planning to provide all our clients with information on back care and back injury prevention. This information must be shared with your employees as well, and we hope that the information provided will help reduce the amount of back injuries to employees and employers.

Take note that back injuries are not limited to workers within the construction industry. Back injuries occur in just about all types of occupations and listed below are possible reasons, which contribute to most back injuries:

1. **Not knowing the correct lifting technique;**
2. **Not having the proper equipment to lift or move heavy loads;**
3. **Having a macho attitude;**
4. **Peer pressure;**
5. **Improper back care;**
6. **Lack of use of back belts;**
7. **Lack of use of personal protective equipment.**

Within the coming weeks, the MSI Program and the Health and Safety Office will be providing more information on how to correct the back injury causes listed above. Please stay tuned to Kwatokent TV for special segments, the Eastern Door, and Onkwariwa'shon:'a Newsletter. Also, the Health and Safety Office has a selection of safety videos, which address back injury prevention. These safety videos are about 5 to 8 minutes in length and are available at the Safety Office by contacting Walter Goodleaf at 635-8390.

Should you require other health and safety information do not hesitate to contact the offices of MSI (638-0500) and/or Health and Safety. If we don't have what you are looking for, we will help you find it.



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## ONKWARIWA'SHON:A

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

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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## MCK Employee News



**New Position— Alexis Shackleton** who began her stint at the MCK as the Archives Administrator, has moved on to the position of Membership Registrar.



**Lisa Lahache**, who began at the MCK as the Assistant to the Office of the Council of Chiefs, has now moved on to become the Archives Administrator, replacing Alexis.



**Christine Zacharie-Deom** recently became a part of the Legal Services Department. Christine began with the O.C.C. as Legal Advisor.



**The MCK welcomes the newest editions to our organization:**

**Jennifer Montour** is the new Secretary/Receptionist for the Social Development Unit.

**Donna Peterson** is the new Membership Clerk for the Social Development Unit.



**Vera Beauvais** has been hired as Receptionist/Secretary for the Sports & Recreation Unit.



**Lisa Montour** joins the Lands Unit as the Environmental Technician Trainee, working for the Environment Protection Office.