



ONKWARIWA'SHON:'A



VISIONING SPECIAL II

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF KAHNAWÀ:KE

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR THE FUTURE OF KAHNAWÀ:KE?

HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

UNCENSORED

FEATURED ESSAYS

- 7/8 B Kahnawake Survival School
- 8C Kahnawake Survival School
- Lakeside Academy

The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke is pleased to present the second group of essays entitled “Vision of Kahnawà:ke” featuring essays from grade 7 and 8 students from the Kahnawake Survival School and Lakeside Academy.

The first edition of essays printed in the September Onkwarihwa'shon:'a newsletter proved to be the only method of disseminating the essays as they were written. There was no cutting down the essays for size concerns. Some editing took place to make the essays more readable (grammer, sepelling, etc...). If you missed the first edition, it featured essays from Grade 6 students from Kateri and Karonhianonhna School and created quite a buzz in the community.

There are still copies available of the first edition at the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke or on Kahnawake.com. We invite you once again to grab a seat and enjoy the read of this second edition! Nia:wen Ko:wa for supporting this project.

Please note that we did not wish to censor our youth and we did our best to respect the privacy of the individuals they may be writing about.

FUTURE OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7-B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written by: Ohsennase Phillips



I wish for the future of Kahnawà:ke that there will be no more cigarette stores or cigarette factories. Even though the cigarette money helps build their houses and stuff that could help the town and help rebuild people's homes that got burnt down in the past. Or if they got robbed or

anything like that.

I would also like to see in the future of Kahnawà:ke, that all the pollution in the air just start going away so that we could start going back to our old ways, and live off the land. If that happened, I think the people of Kahnawà:ke would kind of panic because they are so used to this technology and all this "man made" stuff, like groceries stores, or just regular stores that people go to. But maybe those stores would be better if they didn't sell cigarettes and all that sugar and fattening stuff as in candy. They should stop putting water in plastic bottles because the pollution's chemicals get in those bottles and we drink that, and it could possibly affect us with stuff like our blood, our body, or it could cause birth defects. You never know.

I might be asking for too much already but we should really try to clean the seaway because it's really disgusting and polluted that even some of the fish in there are screwed up and don't even know what species they are. But I do think asking to clean up the seaway would be too much of a big thing because it's too polluted and gross so people don't even want to go near it. I remember when I was small. I used to swim in there and it was all clean but now it's too gross, even the ducks don't

want to swim in it or eat stuff from it.

Another thing that would help Kahnawà:ke in the future is if we could stop all the people in trouble with drugs and the mafia. They bring them here then they think they can do whatever they want because they're all big and bad. Or if people just stop doing drugs and selling it, but if they didn't sell it they wouldn't be able to build their big houses, cool cars, and all different stuff that they don't really need.

In the future of Kahnawà:ke there's not going to be Peacekeepers there's just only going to be S.Q (French cops) who will pull over any native because there going a bit too fast, but I think it's racist. Now in town they're becoming real butt munches. Some people would say that they're doing a good job but there are people who would say that they suck. The cops that really suck are the ones from Oka. Even though all those cops

“ ...it (seaway) was all clean but now it's too gross, even the ducks don't want to swim in it.. ”

suck, some are cool. But they should really stop all those spray painters because they're making Kahnawà:ke look like the ghetto or some stuff like it looks good but they shouldn't do it on peoples' houses and stuff like that. But maybe if they made some place where they could spray paint and do other stuff but not illegal stuff, legal stuff.

YOUR VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7-B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By: Katsenhiiio Delormier



My vision of Kahnawà:ke is that there are more trees and not a lot of garbage, and we could have more to do in this town. I would like for the Peacekeepers to not be assholes and to all the rest of

us. It was dumb when they stopped me, put me in the car and arrested me and took me home. I would like a new bridge because the other one is just going to fall any day and a lot of people will die because of the rust and how old it is and all of the stones that hold the bridge up is dead. It's all cracked.

I also would like if all the graffiti was gone because our town looks dirty and has not looked very nice. It's just not good.

The drugs in this town are crazy. There's so much that it makes the most money in Kahnawà:ke. There should be no more because some people

got caught and they are in jail and they have businesses like [a certain] store. It's closed because of that. And others and stores that sell them to kids is just stupid. And a lot of kids do drugs because its peer pressure on them and that is how we get addicted to it and then we always need it. But not beer, beer is good (**legal**) I find. I also say we need a lot more land because all of our houses are so close together because we have only a little land and the cigarette factories take a lot of room and they knocked down a lot of trees. But what I want is for there to be many trees in our town, a lot more.

“ The drugs in this town are crazy, ... others and stores that sell them to kids is just stupid. ”

The language is the most important part of our community. I just want to see more people speak our language or to see people try to speak. It's also hard to speak and learn a language when you were born into the world

where no one spoke the language, so it's hard to get the language back. But there are some people that grow up with it and they are fluent speakers and that is a good thing because they hold on to that for all their lives.

* legal



FALL COMMUNITY MEETING

will take place on

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

at 7:00 pm

at the Golden Age Club

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written by: Colton Diabo



In the future for Kahnawà:ke, hopefully David Lahache will be able to get our land back. Maybe we will have our own government. Maybe we will have self sufficiency. We would be able to gain back our language and our culture. Hopefully

that is what will happen but if we do not take care of our community then things might not turn out as good as that.

If David Lahache (who is in charge of the Seigneurie) can negotiate to get our land back then we will have more land in Kahnawà:ke for our people to live on. Today if you go outside you cannot see any land that is not owned by anyone. We are running out of land in Kahnawà:ke.

It will also be a good idea to get our own government. We would not have to follow the rules of the Canadian government. We would be able to fund our own schools and public uses. Gas prices might be a little bit cheaper. We would have our own rules and our own borders. These are some of the advantages of having our own government.

We have to gain back our language and our culture. We should be able to speak our language every day and fluently. There are only two thousand Kanien'ke:ha speakers in Kahnawà:ke out of eight thousand people in our community. Today we have no self sufficiency because we have to depend on the Canadian government and only a quarter of us know our language.

That is the good that might happen in the future but there is also a lot of bad that is possible to happen.

If we do not push ourselves to succeed then we will probably not succeed. We can totally lose our language forever. We might become history. We might lose our culture. We might be forced into another great depression. In an estimate of one hundred years from now we can lose every thing we have. The few current speakers that we have would have passed on by then and our language would pass on with them, unless we learn from them. Our stories and legends would have been forgotten and withered away to never be recovered or heard of again and it will be like we never even existed.

If we lose our language and our culture then we will have nothing left of ourselves. We will not be able to call ourselves Kanien'keha:ka if we lose our culture or our language because all it would be is a name, a name with no meaning.

Like I previously mentioned, two thousand of eight thousand people in our town (Kahnawà:ke) are Kanien'ke:ha speakers. That means if we do

**“ If we lose our language
and our culture.... We will
not be able to call ourselves
Kanien'keha:ka... ”**

not learn from them then we will either lose our language or have only a few speakers left here in Kahnawà:ke.

Our culture is also very important because it is who we are and how we live. We go to long houses and we have festivals and socials. We should continue to celebrate in our own way. In the future for Kahnawà:ke, WE will need to push ourselves to succeed.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By: Watakerenawi Dunkley

My future vision of Kahnawà:ke would be to have a new road for the farm road. Don't want it to be paved, just fix it up a little bit more with new gravel. To get more land back from the white people and I would like to see more people to help clean up the earth, not just to clean up but to recycle, stop littering. I think that Kahnawà:ke is a good town because there is no homeless people in Kahnawà:ke. If you need help there will always be someone who is happy to help you. I think that Kahnawà:ke is a good town after all.



I think that they should fix the back roads because a lot of people that are riding four wheelers and cars are on the back roads. Sometimes they are racing and all the rocks are going everywhere. When it rains it washes the road away and then the pot holes get bigger. The cars are moving the dust around and people who are sensitive to dust, have a more complicated time breathing, so that is why I want them to fix up the back roads.

I want to get our land back because Kahnawà:ke is getting a little bit crowded with people and most of the land is owned by people with big families. We should get our land back because it was our land before the white man came and took it from us. Also, it would be nice to see the land get used for good reasons, not for more cigarette stores in Kahnawà:ke or for more big houses that are the size of a big mansion or the size of a big castle.

I want to see more people trying to help the world to become a better place by recycling and stop littering the ground. Pick up anything you see on

the ground and don't waste energy, water and trees because people are just wasting paper and they're not recycling them all the time. Trees help the carbon dioxide form into new air. The world will be polluted with all gases and fumes in the air.

I think that they should stop putting up factories on the earth, stop cutting down the trees because the animals will have no homes and in some time they will die out and if the animals die out on the earth there will be a better chance of global warming and then the world will no longer be known as Mother Earth.

If all this happened to Kahnawà:ke, it would be a better place to live. I think a lot of people would live in Kahnawà:ke. They would be a lot

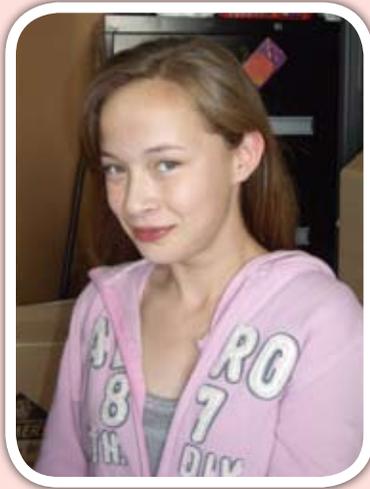
“ ...they should stop putting up factories on the earth, stop cutting down the trees because the animals will have no homes and in some time they will die out on the earth there will be a better chance of global warming and then the world will no longer be known as Mother Earth... ”

more healthier. I think we will have more animals in Kahnawà:ke and that everybody will be much happier.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written by: Kahshennokwas Reese Jacobs

My future vision of Kahnawà:ke would be for everybody in Kahnawà:ke to go green. Everyone would recycle, no one would litter, and everyone would have compost in their yard. We would also reduce the number of all the cigarette stores, to only a few, instead of one every ten feet away from each other. Everyone would have energy efficient light bulbs, and everyone would have any type of vehicle, but it had to have good gas efficiency also. Everybody would respect each other.



Everyone in my future vision of Kahnawà:ke would recycle, no one would litter, and everyone would compost in their yard. Everyone would recycle because things that you are supposed to recycle are bad for the environment, and take about a hundred years or more to disintegrate and go back into the ground, while you could reuse it for a lot of other things. No one would litter because the garbage that they throw on the ground is bad for the environment also. Everyone would have compost because the things that are supposed to go in it are biodegradable, so it all turns into dirt in a short amount of time so you could reuse that too. All of these things would help the environment.

Everyone would start gardening and planting fruits and vegetables. We would start gardening because fruits and vegetables are healthy for you. All of the food would be natural, with no chemical, or bug sprays. They would also put all of the fruits and

vegetables that are no more good, or left over in their composts. Everyone would like their fruits and vegetables because they are healthy and delicious.

We would reduce all of the cigarette stores from one every ten feet away from each other to only a few. There would be a lot less compared to now, and because of all the land they took up, there will be a lot more land. When people smoke, it affects the environment, and your health. It would be nice to see less cigarette stores.

Everybody would have energy efficient light bulbs and gas efficient vehicles. Regular light bulbs use up a lot of energy, so your electricity bill could go up, but if you use energy efficient light bulbs, your bill could go down. They may be expensive when you buy them, but it's all worth the money. Gas efficient vehicles are better because they use a lot less gas than a regular vehicle, and you save money getting gas. Carpooling is good too,

“ Everyone would start gardening and planting fruits and vegetables. We would start gardening because fruits and vegetables are healthy for you. ”

because if everyone is going to the same place and using all separate cars, you're wasting money, and polluting the Earth more also. If you get these things, you're saving money and saving the environment.

YOUR VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By: Steven Jacobs

My future vision of Kahnawà:ke is our people will help each of our people or community to be stronger as in everyone will use our language Kanich'keha.



I also want our people to start taking responsibility for their actions and also start taking care of Mother Nature, as in every single one will stop smoking, stop building factories, will stop taking drugs and driving cars that run on gas because all these things affect the environment causing trees, grass and plants to die polluting the water we drink and the ocean. Pollution is also killing animals. A lot of animal species are going extinct and that's why we should stop killing Mother Nature and stop polluting the world.

I think in order to stop all these things we should drive cars that run on battery and every single person will have to agree to it because some how we will get a new law enforced. It will be a good law because we will cut out all the sexist laws and another thing is people from a different race. And also one law that I would like is in this world no one should be allowed to smoke and if caught you will be charged a fine of two thousand, five hundred dollars, and possibly be sent to jail for one to two years. There are two more laws I would like to enforce but I think the community should choose them.

In the future, I also hope that our town will get our land back and we will be able to build more houses

for our children and we will build farms so our people won't starve because of the food shortage also caused by pollution and global warming. It would really be nice or great if we built a new hospital - you know so if someone is really hurt from something. I personally think it would be a really great thing and I think the town would too.

I think Kahnawà:ke should go green so we could stay on this planet (earth) longer and so every one could live. And what I mean by going green is everyone in town should start taking care of Mother Earth by picking up garbage and start recycling and I think every week there should be a garbage pick up day so the world won't die and I would be a little more happy. But there is a

“ I think Kahnawà:ke should go green so we could stay on this planet (earth) longer and so everyone could live. ”

problem because there will be people who won't help because they really don't care or they're just too lazy. I also would like this to be enforced by law. I think it would be a good thing because this world would be clean and have less pollution and I want the world to only have one factory per city. If we were in the States I think the President would agree to every thing I said and put it through and this is my future vision of Kahnawà:ke.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Starr Masty.



My Future vision of Kahnawà:ke is there be less cigarette stores, for Mohawks to learn how to speak their language, and to help save the Environment.

I really want there to be less cigarette stores because it's affecting trees, children, and plants all over town and even the world. It is also making people jealous because of how people are making money by the cigarettes they sell and those other people think they'll make a lot of money if they open their own cigarette store.

I also want Mohawks to learn how to speak their language because a lot of kids don't know how to

Speak their language and I thought who's going to teach their kids in the next generation. I know how to speak my language because in the past, Cree People never spoke English or French but they did though, but they usually spoke Cree. So I am proud to be speaking my language and keeping our tradition strong.

I also want the World, and People to help save the environment because everything is dying, like the world, plants, trees, and even animals. People don't care that the Earth is dying and even animals getting extinct, all they care is about their families,

(food and shelter), no offense, but they also need to help save the Environment to live because the Earth might not

take it someday and just blow up or something like that.

So those are the four wishes I wish for My Future Vision of Kahnawà:ke.

“ ... less cigarette stores because it's affecting trees, children and plants all over town and even the world. ”

YOUR VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By: Wahsontanó:ron McGregor-Yuan.



What I would like to see happen is a reduction of the number of cigarette stores. It's ridiculous of them to have a million stores lined up against each other! Not only does it waste an atrocious amount of space, it also claims lives. Spoken from witnessing it, cigarettes

were the main cause of my grandfather's tragic and un-deserved death. I am not suggesting that they ban the horrid stores (much as I want to), but a simple cut would suffice. Merely three or four different stores should be in different locations in Kahnawà:ke. Or perhaps a huge factory that uses a natural fuel source that everyone who owns a cigarettes store could support in unity.

I realize that some good may possibly come out of it; I am utterly aware that we are somehow benefiting from this, yet, what troubles me the most is the idiotic, life- claiming product that they sell. I'm tired of finding cigarettes butts and broken beer bottles all over the ground. Cigarettes are addictive drugs and seem to be snatching everyone I love and know. One of the family members I'm very close with is struggling desperately to quit smoking.

Teens of today are probably pushed into cigarettes, most likely some will quit and refuse. Others, as in the not-so-fortunate-ones, shall perish for their own addiction. It's sad to see precious lives wither and waste away until they are no more... Alas, I am only a kid, a girl who hates any idea of the cigarette industry. Some people would take a look at me and say "you're crazy!" Others, like my Ista, would fully agree, for she is a non- smoker. Some

poor, unfortunate souls may be peer-pressured into smoking, simply because their friends are doing it.

They would fear if they do take it in, they wouldn't be in with the 'in-crowd'. I'd really hate to see that take place, especially in our community-although I'm pretty sure that it is already happening; my most horrible nightmare's coming alive and taking hold of me without enough air to breathe! It's suffocating!

I had only found out a few days ago that my close friend smokes, luckily not around us! (I shan't mention any names!). It's truly disappointing. My suggestion is that instead of selling cigarettes, the

“ Cigarettes should be called ‘Death-in-a-wrap’ ! But of course, it wouldn't sell as good, would it? ”

town could come together and somehow think of a substitute. Perhaps one not so life-threatening! Cigarettes should be called 'Death-in-a-wrap'! But of course, it wouldn't sell as good, would it? Sure, students try to scare their parents out of smoking by learning about the effects of smoking. All in all, it counts for naught. Right now, I only fear that I will be asked to smoke or something stupid along those lines.

Smoking takes lives, which is precisely the reason why I shall never do it.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Cheryl Lynn Myiow.



My three wishes for Kahnawà:ke are for no more cigarette stores, people to go green, and people to speak more Kanien'keha fluently.

The reason why I don't want too many cigarette stores is because people just open up cigarette stores for themselves to make money and profit. In a little while, they will all be gone and then what do people have for a second job? Most people don't have second jobs if they work at a cigarette store. If people don't have second jobs then they'll have to work with the money they have. The money that they have won't support their family if they have any families.

My second wish is for everyone to go green because no one is taking care of our earth or any of our parks, fields, or even our own backyards. People should do it for the sake of the earth. People should go pick up garbage all around town, all year round. Together our community would be beautiful. Together we could see what the rest of the community has done. So, if they find out how much garbage there is, do you think people will finally get the picture of what's going on with Mother Earth? Maybe, maybe not. Who knows if

people don't stop to think of what they are doing, then we will have no more earth to live on in the next fifty years. Our grandchildren probably won't even get to see a polar bear because of us and what we are doing to the earth.

In about fifty years we won't have the Antarctic or Arctic. Mostly, just the ice. All the heat and smoking is melting the ice. Glaciers are going under and are not as high over the water as they used to be because of chimneys, smoking and mostly just the heat. That is because of us.

My third wish is for our community to speak way more Kanien'keha. I want people to pass by and say 'Hi' in Kanien'keha to each other. Since we are Kanien'keha:ka people, we need to speak fluently. We need our sources (which are our Kanien'keha teachers) to help us out a lot.

“ I'd wish for respect to each other because people here in Kahnawà:ke are always fighting...”

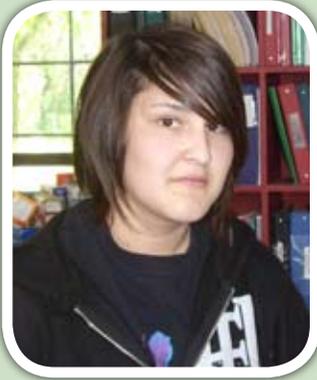
If I had a fourth wish I'd wish for respect to each other because people here in Kahnawà:ke are always fighting. If we do have another killing of a race just like the Germans

slaying the Jews - if they do, how many people do you think will stand up and fight for our rights to stay alive. How many will back down and say, "I don't care!"?

There won't be too many people standing up, will there?

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By: Tyler Robertson.



My future vision of Kahnawà:ke is what I would really want to see when I am older. All these things I want are all the things that are important.

Some of the things I hope to see gone by the time I am an adult,

hopefully less cigarette stores, less golf courses that take up too much land here in Kahnawà:ke, possibly for all the drugs to be banned, to teach everyone our language again, no casinos, and more places for the kids to just hang out.

Cigarette stores have a good and bad effect on Kahnawà:ke. It gives us the money we need, and in some way gets us noticed. But also the bad thing about it is, we are selling a product that kills. I think that there are too many young people going in the cigarette stores and going buy the product, and everyday the age could be getting younger.

The golf courses I would like to see less, because they are taking up a lot of land, and for the kids when they get older and are able to build, where will they build? They would have to be building off the reserve.

The drugs that people are using in this town are bad. Some are illegal and some are not. Kahnawà:ke should just ban all drugs from here. Because some people just carelessly use them. Some are pregnant mothers, and could give their baby a birth defect. So Kahnawà:ke should watch out for what these people are using.

Now, for a place for the kids/teens to hang out would make them happy, they would be allowed to go whenever they want. The reason I would want to have this is so the kids will always be happy and never bored, so they can socialize and meet different people in Kahnawà:ke, so everyone would not dislike each other.

For our language to be used in the everyday life would be nice, everyone will know who we really are and know our Kanien'keha language that we were always supposed to use. The young kids would know it and would be able to teach their children the language, and it would just keep being passed on from generation to generation.

I would want no casinos in Kahnawà:ke. They take up the land, also they had people vote whether or not we should have them about two

“ I would like to see us get our land back what we once had.. ”

to three years ago. The casinos can easily turn into the cigarette stores we have in Kahnawà:ke - after one person builds one, everyone would want one of their own. It will take our money away and make problems.

I would like to see us get our land back what we once had, so the children/teens today will have a place to build when they are adults, so they can still always live where they were raised.

So in the future, when I am old enough and able to have my own house and take care of myself, I hope Kahnawà:ke will be the way I wish it would be and everyone in the town will like it too, everyone will be happy like I want it.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE: GOING GREEN CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Leilani Shaw.



In Kahnowà:ke we use up a lot of energy, and we take the natural resources that Mother Earth gives us. To help save energy we can ‘Go Green’. By this I mean that we should use energy efficient light bulbs, car pool (to save gas), and get cars that have good mileage. But with all the kids driving around in their four wheelers, it’s hard to save gas when it is being wasted for nothing. We can each help Mother Earth if we all chip in.

For our community, ‘Going Green’ is a big step. We may not be used to having to watch how much power or oil that we consume each day. Types of cars that we could buy are either hybrids or smart cars. Saving the planet doesn’t come without a price. The energy efficient light bulbs aren’t the cheapest things out there but they have the light of a 100 watt bulb, but it only takes energy for a 20 or 30 watt bulb, so you cut down on your electrical bill. The light bulbs

are guaranteed that they will last for 5 years, so for 5 years you will be saving the world for 5 years. The world shouldn’t have to work so hard to keep the human race alive.

While we say that our planet is getting polluted with all the toxins, no one is doing anything to reduce the pollutants. People still ride huge cars that they don’t need, like hummers or SUV’s. They don’t need cars that big if it is just one person driving that car. Also people don’t need 5 or 6 cars; one if you have a small and 2 if you have a larger family or you have two people in the house that go to work and have separate lives.

“ Four wheelers were mostly used for working and other industrial purposes, but now they have been used for free lancing around town and that’s the most gas sucking, and time consuming event in Kahnawà:ke... ”

The thing that’s the most important of them all is gas and oil. Everything we own is either made with oil or made with machines that run off oil. I think that the gas prices are crazy, and that we should cut down on our usage of oil and gasoline. Four wheelers were mostly used for working and other industrial purposes, but now they have been used for free lancing around town and that’s the most gas sucking, and time consuming event in Kahnawà:ke. Kids have

nothing to do than to drive around showing off how much their bike has cost and how far it has taken them from their home.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By: Tharonhianen:te Barnes.



This would be my future vision of Kahnawà:ke. I would want all the bars and poker houses to go away or at least ease down. Another thing I would like is that there would be more places for the kids to go and play instead of being on the streets. There should also be some kind of border on Kahnawà:ke so that no one else besides locals can come into the town, like speeding drivers and other strangers. If all that would happen, or at least some of it would happen, then I think that Kahnawà:ke will be a slightly safer place to live. Also, I would like our people to regain our language back, because today we seem to have almost lost it.

I feel that there are way too many bars, poker houses and especially smoke shops. There shouldn't be that many, it's crazy. If there were less or no places like that, I think that the town would be safer. But, then again, a lot of people make their living selling cigarettes, so there would probably be a lot of homeless people to join the homeless community. But it would be good because without those places, there would be less drunks and "druggies" walking and driving around town. I also think that all these places are a waste of space and land that could be used to build houses.

To keep the kids safe, there should be more places like the Youth Center, Our Gang, Onake Canoe Club, and the many others that are spread all over the town. It would be nice to have a long awaited town pool that seems to never get built.

Because today the streets in our town are very dangerous with all the weirdo's driving around and what not.

The town would be safer also without all the non-locals coming into town. I think that the town would be safer and quieter without the several cars driving down our back roads and down the highways. I think that the only ones allowed would be the people who have business or work at a place in Kahnawà:ke.

It would be great too if the drug trade would move on out of here. Because drugs are the worst thing to get your self involved with. I'm not so sure what goes on after the street lamps go out, but I'm sure it's not good. One day I hope that the night would be safer again.

In the future I would want the people of

“ I'm not so sure what goes on after the street lamps go out, but I'm sure it's not good.”

Kahnawà:ke to regain our language. Because our language is the most important thing that we have, and we're slowly losing it. In the future there should be more people that would join Kanien'keha teaching places like Language Nest and the few other places that remind us of our language. That is the worst thing to lose, our culture, our ways of life.

That's what I would like to see happen in the future. I hope at least some of this would come true. But then again, maybe it will all come true. **Because only the people of Kahnawà:ke can change the fate of Kahnawà:ke.**

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Ikey Beauvais.



When someone says the future, the first thing I think of is how long in the future. But with this paper, I picture ten years in the future. I like to do this project because this is very interesting and if they read one of the students it might

make a big change in Kahnawà:ke. Some changes might be good and some changes might be bad. Although nothing is perfect including here.

Say we will get rid of all the cigarette stores and factories, half of the people will be happy because it will save the environment and it would not make our town look so bad. The other half of Kahnawà:ke owns cigarette stores. With that they make a lot of money and buy expensive substance that they are not done paying for - so when the stores get closed down, they will get their houses taken away, cars will be taken away and stuff like whatever has a mortgage on it.

What I will like to see in the future is people not being so racist to Jews and Africans. Also, what I would like to see for Kahnawà:ke is a new town pool again so all the people that do not have a pool can swim there in the summer time. You can also charge them money. Five dollars for kids and seniors and eight dollars for people over thirteen. With the money, we can use it for fixing damages around Kahnawà:ke. The next thing I will like to see for Kahnawà:ke is a theater so we do not have to go out of town to watch movies. Plus all the movies will be in English or we can translate them into Kanien'keha, then put English subtitles.

Another thing I would like to see in ten years is a totally awesome, new amusement park just like LaRonde but better and cheaper. I would like less Peacekeepers that are less focused on the rules.

There is one last thing I would like to change for Kahnawà:ke which might be the biggest thing on this paper too. In the Mohawk Council, we should be able to live without the government.

“ We should be able to grow our food, speak our language, produce our own electricity for the town, be able to pay for college and stuff without the government and we should not vote in the Mohawk Council anymore.”

We should be able to grow our food, speak our language, produce our own electricity for the town, be able to pay for college and stuff without the government and we should not vote in the Mohawk Council anymore. All of us should put our heads together and make one mind to agree on stuff just like back in the day. Yes it takes longer than voting but this is the best solution to solve a problem. Plus it causes no argument because everyone agreed on the same thing.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By: Joy Marie-Canadian.



Soon enough I can truly say Kahnawà:ke won't be liveable. Instead of waiting for the future (for change) we should start now. My future vision of Kahnawà:ke is neither plain nor simple. Building new houses

and what not are not the main reasons why Kahnawà:ke is going down hill. It is our attitudes that need to be restored; our minds need to be at one. But right now our minds only think about themselves. Peace, unity, righteousness, power and respect should be brought back.

The main problem in our town is drugs. I would like to see a drug free zone (even though the law specifically says no drugs, we still have them). Whenever I walk down the street or anywhere in town I see drug paraphernalia (needles and wraps used for "homemade cigarettes"). It would be nice for our children not to have to grow up seeing all this.

Cigarettes are another huge problem in our town. There are cigarette stores on every street, cigarette butts all over the ground and the stench of cigarettes always stays (the smell is basically all over town, as well). A cigarette free town would be astonishing and outstanding. There are so many underage smokers in town it's just flat out disgusting. I doubt hardly anyone wants their children to smoke and getting rid of cigarettes would be a great start. The alcohol abuse in our town is insane. I would like a lot of the stores to stop selling alcohol. There are so many beer bottles all over the ground that no child/person

“ It is our attitudes that need to be restored; our minds need to be at one...”

can walk bare foot and most animals get infected when they get glass stuck into their bodies.

The Mercier Bridge is slowly falling apart, the whole bridge is rusted and everyday on the radio I hear warnings to not use the bridge. I try not to use that bridge as often as possible. I can honestly say I'm deathly afraid of that bridge because I'm frightened it will fall apart at the seams. It would be nice to see a brand new bridge.

Taxes are a huge problem. The problem is not in our town but out of town. There are a lot of stores that won't accept band cards. We still have to pay taxes on stamps and we still have to pay taxes in restaurants. It would be nice to not have to pay any taxes. It would literally be a weight lifted off everyone's shoulders. Something in our town is fading away, our language. In the future I want to hear more of our language and less English. Our language and French should be the two most spoken languages in our town. Our language is being forgotten and to bring it back we should start with the children. For the future it would be nice to hear more of our language.

Garbage isn't a huge problem but it's still there. In the future it would be nice to see a clean Kahnawà:ke. The whole town should have to recycle as well. An earth friendly Kahnawà:ke would be amazing.

This is what my future Kahnawà:ke would be like; garbage free, earth friendly, to hear/learn more of the language, tax free, a new bridge, alcohol free, cigarette free and drug free.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Ridge Cross McComber.



My future vision of Kahnawà:ke is to hear and see people from our town speaking our language. Everyone is always saying that in a few years our language is going to die and I thought that it wasn't true, but up until now I agree. I think we all should be fluent in our language.

For the future of Kahnawà:ke I feel that there shouldn't be any cigarette stores or factories because kids or teenagers can buy cigarettes anytime they want. The effects of smoking isn't okay, especially for teenagers who are doing it. Also, the cigarette stores are not always going to be there, so kids should get an education because they think, "Why go to school when there's cigarette stores out there I could work in."

I wish that there would be no more pollution going on here in Kahnawà:ke, because we should keep the town nice and clean. We should keep the town clean because it's our Mother Earth. I think we are just killing her and I don't think that's right, especially for Kanien'keha:ka because we were taught to keep our Mother Earth clean. Also, wouldn't it be great if our town was voted the number one non polluted town!

The town needs a new bridge because the bridge we have now, well, I'd reckon it's about ready to fall down and that isn't a good thing. The iron workers should start on it A.S.A.P because they always procrastinate and keep putting it off. And when they say they're going to start working, I

say to myself "finally" but they never seem to get started. That's what I think about the bridge problem.

We really need people to become doctors or surgeons because we need them in this town. Just in case of an extreme emergency so that we are ready for anything. If we had to operate on someone we would have all different kinds of doctors or surgeons, or if we had to fix your leg we would have an orthopedic surgeon to help fix it, or a head injury we would have a Neurosurgeon

“ cigarette stores are not always going to be there, so kids should get an education because they think, ‘Why go to school when there’s cigarette stores out there I could work often in’.”

to help your problem. Also, we should have a bigger hospital here in Kahnawà:ke so all the doctors could work there. Also in Kahnawà:ke, we should have animal doctors like veterinarians; we need all the doctors we could get. In case of an emergency we can never be too safe.

Even though this town has problems like pollution and cigarette stores, it's really safer here than other communities and being a part of this community is great because you have a lot of family here.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By: John Lee Day.



What I expect from Kahnawà:ke in the future is not something that can be bought or constructed but more of something that we are losing. It is something that no one can take. But, just because they can't take it away from us doesn't mean we

can't lose it. My future vision of Kahnawà:ke is to have our peace, strength, and unity repaired.

Too much drugs and gambling are entering our community and there are some who can't find the strength they need to quit. There are even young teenagers who are caught smoking. Should we be asking them why they are smoking or how did they even start? We have cigarette stores everywhere and we can't survive off the high profits for long. Drugs and gambling are filthy habits, many have lost their homes and family because of it. Maybe one day we will lose our status and land because of our sins.

Too many families are also separating and it is having a serious effect on everyone, especially the children. Some still feel terrible not seeing their mother and father together. You can still meet them but what's the point if you can't see the smile on their face as much as when together. When you are together and not arguing because of something stupid or that doesn't make sense then you are truly a family. You hear their side of the story and you still don't know what's going on even though this has been going on for a few years. You love them both very much but this separation is an example of how we are losing our unity. Children are arguing with their parents more and everyone's now fighting each other for money, even though

they will probably waste it on cigarettes. I've seen children less than half my age who are using swear words I never heard until a few years ago. This irresponsible behavior is nothing like peace.

People just don't want to waste their time to be together like a family. If we don't unite there will be no peace among each other. We are Kanien'keha:ka. Mohawk means flesh eater. We say we are not savages but seeing how out of control we are becoming, we might as well be.

I'm starting to see why our own people are leaving their own home because of how their friends, neighbor, or even their own brother and sister are acting like idiots. This is our home. I was raised and lived here and there should be a very good reason for me to change my mind. On May 22nd, 2008 at exactly 8:00 pm, I saw small raindrops glistening in the sun and when I turned around I was amazed to see not one but two perfectly clear rainbows in the sky. At exactly 8:15 pm, I saw the sun shining

“ **...families are also separating and it is having a serious effect on everyone, especially the children.** ”

majestically in the clouds which gave me a beautiful sun. Finally, at around 8:20 pm the sun was going down, the rainbows disappeared, and dark clouds were forming.

This reminds me of how we once had a wonderful community but now we live on this garbage of a reserve. I wish that one day we will have that shining sky again and with it will be our own shining world.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Iaroniawistha Delaronde.

Nowadays Kahnawà:ke has become a place where cigarette stores are out of hand, the Mercier Bridge is terrible, a lot of the roads definitely need constructing, the youth are lazy, and drugs and alcohol are a big problem. Getting our language back is a must in Kahnawà:ke because without it we're going to be just like everyone else and that's not good because our language makes us different and unique. In the future of Kahnawà:ke I would like to see many things.



My future vision of Kahnawà:ke is for there to be less cigarette stores and factories. I would like there to be less because there are so many all over the place and not enough room for families to build their houses. I would estimate about 350 cigarette stores here in Kahnawà:ke. If in the future there would only be about 15 that would be better.

I also would like there to be a new Mercier Bridge. You can see at any point in time it can fall and that wouldn't do any good for all the people who pass on it everyday. It has become rusty and old and unsafe to cross, and for those people who do graffiti at the catwalks, it's treacherous.

The one thing the majority of the people in Kahnawà:ke would like to see is better roads, such as the 132, also the 207 and the OCR.

The youth of Kahnawà:ke should be active outside and /or helping out around the community,

instead of sitting there day in and day out playing video games and on myspace/facebook. They should be volunteering at the Elders Lodge and hospital and other places around Kahnawà:ke. It would be good for young people to be helping out instead of spending all day smoking, drinking and getting high.

The one most important thing is getting our language back. All my life the elders and my family told me to speak my language as much as I can because it won't be around forever. I took it as a joke, but now that I am older, I understand what they were talking about and it's a scary thing, because if we do lose our language what will happen to us?

I wish in the future there would be only one big longhouse and whoever goes in is welcome. We're all from Kahnawà:ke. Why should there be three different longhouses? Also, people who don't normally go there get called down because they're there. Everyone thinks of natives as nice, welcoming people who help each other out but we're nothing like that.

“ ...elders and my family told me to speak my language ... I took it as a joke, but now that I am older, I understand...”

In Kahnawà:ke there are a lot of illnesses and we don't have that many nurses in town, so

continued on page 19

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

instead of people building huge cigarette stores and factories, they should actually try going to school and getting good jobs that Kahnawà:ke needs. No one needs cigarettes. It's just a way of killing yourself. They can go to school and become something successful and help out the community in one way or another.

In the future of Kahnawà:ke, I would like to see this town cleaner and less polluted. Also, I would like to see more gardens in peoples' yards. Like what Rosie says, "we're going to be relying on

our gardens in the upcoming future."

I think Kahnawà:ke is a nice safe-ish place to live other than the drunk drivers in the summer and the stalkers. I know the majority of the people in Kahnawà:ke and that's what makes me feel safe when I'm in town. I don't want this town to change much because it's already a little out of hand with the drunk drivers and drug users and on and on... There is always room for change and change is good. I wouldn't want to live any other place than here.

WINTER DRIVING REMINDER

Every time you get in the driver's seat, you stand the chance of being involved in a vehicular accident, and winter driving can be especially dangerous.

No matter how slim the chances, be prepared by having a vehicle emergency kit stocked and ready at all times.

Be extra vigilant of your speeds and don't let winter tires give you a false sense of security. Be sure to tell someone where you are going, when to expect you and leave yourself extra time to get there.

Being prepared won't prevent an accident from happening, but it could be the difference between life and death.

For more tips on how you can protect yourself in case of an emergency, call the Community Protection Unit at (450) 632-0635 or online at:

www.kahnawake.com/beprepared



COMPREHENSIVE VISIONING SURVEYS

The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke would like to thank the participants of the comprehensive Visioning Survey. Participants who spent valuable time filling out their surveys were entered into a draw and eligible to win a \$1,000 monetary prize. Chief Rhonda Kirby randomly chose Trina Diabo-Jacobs as the winner.

Congratulations!

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Kawisaienhne Horne.

I didn't necessarily grow up in Kahnawà:ke but compared to where I used to live, here is a lot better. Besides all the cigarette factories and cigarette stores, I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. I like knowing that wherever I go in town I'll be safe. I like that in town everyone is family, everyone in town knows each other, and mostly everyone gets along. I'm glad that Kahnawà:ke isn't like any other native reserve. You always hear something bad about them.



In the future, I don't want to see any cigarette factories or cigarette stores. Everybody fights about them and they just take up land. I know that cigarettes bring in a lot of money, but the people with all of it don't do anything good with it, besides make the community mad. Cigarettes aren't doing anything good for the community so why do they allow it here? They should build stuff for the kids so that they're not out on the streets smoking, drinking and doing drugs. All those rich cigarette people build enormous houses and build big garages for all their cars when they could be building something for the kids to do in the town. People get too selfish with money and cigarettes. They just fight about it and it breaks up the community. I really wish cigarettes weren't here. I think everything would be a lot better. The mob is another thing that shouldn't be here and the people who brought them here either. Look what happened to that guy who was shot near the tunnel. No one from Kahnawà:ke was involved in that. Maybe the next time it happens, someone from here will be hurt or maybe even killed.

Another problem in this town is littering. We're

supposed to be the people who take care of the earth. People are too lazy to throw out their garbage. Or when people are driving, they can't wait until they get home to throw it out. They just fling it out the window.

Drugs and alcohol have a big effect on Kahnawà:ke too. Most people get into it and other people sell it. It's worse because they sell it to younger kids. It seems like every year the drugs and alcohol get worse more and more. More people are dying every year. The police or somebody should do something about all of this. Another thing is jealousy. Everybody is jealous of each other, and it makes it worse for everything else that's bad enough for the town.

I think we should have our own government. We would be able to have and do a lot more things than we can now like; schools, jurisdictions and laws. We wouldn't have to live under the white man's laws and jurisdictions. I hope they fix the bridge right

“ I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. ”

away, it seems like they're waiting for it to fall down then they'll fix it. They should just take the whole thing down and build a whole new bridge.

It seems like some people are trying to get rid of our language. We should have more Kanien'keha in the schools. The kids shouldn't be embarrassed to try and speak it. You older people should know how to speak it too and talk to us younger ones and encourage us to speak it. We should be able to have conversations with people. It makes me sad to know I can't speak it. I get shy to speak it because I think I'll mess up on a word, but I'll never be embarrassed to speak our language. I hope to see all these things in the future of Kahnawà:ke.

FUTURE OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By: Tekawennaron McComber.



The future of Kahnawà:ke is significant. It is something we all have control of and we shouldn't take advantage of. The money in the community has increased, obviously, and people are taking advantage of that way of life, because it is easy. Money leads to greed and greed leads to hate. Also, other people tend to get jealous of what other people have and others don't, which also leads to hate. We, the people of Kahnawà:ke, need to make a difference because in my eyes, I see it all going away. Us. Who we are. What makes us different from everybody else? Our genes are the same, sure, but what else makes us different? What made us different is vanishing. Our culture, our language. That is two of the things that I think should be reinforced in our community.

I think that more people should take the time to learn our history, and about other aboriginal peoples, and explore what we have left of our culture and use it to our advantage. Just imagine a town where everybody could speak our language, a language that only we, the Mohawks, knew. A secret language.

I want to see culture in the streets, paintings, like on the wall at Lafleur's. That's art, and I think our town needs more of it. I want to see a beautiful town that every age would love. I want to see trees on the streets, and plants and flowers everywhere. I want to see more festivals, and carnivals, and fairs. More public gatherings where all ages could meet and have fun and just hang out, and talk about issues that the town might have. We need

to incorporate more of the peoples' opinions and apply it to the community.

I would like to see a new teenage hang out, one for after school. The Kahnawà:ke Youth Center is great and all, but it is only open to our age at around 6 o'clock till 11 o'clock. That there is just asking for trouble. I would like to see more adults reach out to the children and teach us new things. After all, we are the future. We need a stronger economy, and to be more independent, we need more people from our community to work in town, but at the same time I don't mean go out and fire everybody that

“ The future of Kahnawà:ke is significant. It is something we all have control of... ”

doesn't work in town.

I want to see a more energy efficient Kahnawà:ke, with hybrid cars, and recycled paper, and energy efficient lights. It would also be nice to have a market with organic food, so we could have healthy choices.

I think that the cigarette stores overrun the town, and that they are a waste of space that will be needed in the future, for either houses or something else. Being an entrepreneur is great and all, but too much of something isn't good. So I'd like to see less cigarette stores. On that point, I think that we should expand Kahnawà:ke, and get more land. When I move out of my house, I don't want to have to live in Montréal, or Chateauguy. I think the world is at a turning point in time, and people need to be guided in the right direction. We are entering a time when technology rules everything. But technology can be good and it could be bad, and I hope we make the best of it.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Ronikonhkatste Norton.



There are many things that I think should be changed in the future of Kahnawà:ke. For one, in the future I think that there shouldn't be as many cigarette stores and factories. It is ridiculous how many there are. When you drive down the road all you see is cigarette stores one after the other. There is absolutely no need for so many stores. However, if there is going to be that many, I think that a portion of the money they make should go back to the town. Most of the owners of the cigarette stores are just getting richer and richer, without contributing to anything that would be beneficial to the community.

In the future, I would also like to see more things for the youth. Right now we have the Kahnawà:ke Youth Center, the skate park that was recently built, and the rink next to the K103 radio station. That is just about all the things the younger generation has right now. In my opinion, if there are more things for the youth around the community, perhaps we wouldn't get involved in drugs, alcohol, and other negative things.

In the future I would also like to see a designated graffiti area in Kahnawà:ke. A designated graffiti area is a place where people can do legal graffiti, without destroying property. I think that this would help reduce the vandalism that is taking

place all over the community. If the graffiti artists have a place to do their graffiti, perhaps they wouldn't destroy houses, stores, stop signs, and other public or private property. Most people who do graffiti usually paint on the piers, and that isn't really a problem. The problem comes in when you're driving through town and you see houses and different stores such as Dustin's Convenience, Village Variety, and other local businesses vandalized. It makes our community look bad, and it destroys peoples' property. I think that a designated graffiti area would help solve this problem.

I would also like to see people being educated about their culture. Nowadays, no one really follows their traditional ways, speaks their language, attends ceremonies, no one really knows, or wants to know, about their own culture. As

**“ As Kanien'keha:ka people,
it is our birthright to be
educated in our own ways... ”**

Kanien'keha:ka people, it is our birthright to be educated in our own ways, and to follow through with what we are taught. With each generation more and more knowledge is

being lost. We have the resources to obtain the knowledge to carry out our traditions, but the younger generation doesn't seem to take much of an interest in the culture. In the future, I hope that our culture is rebuilt, but in order for that to happen, we have to start now.

Kahnawà:ke is not only home for us, but for children who crawl on the floors; the ones who run around the house; and for the faces yet to be born. It is our duty to ensure that there is still a liveable community for the generations to come.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By: Iako'tarakehte Phillips.

I would like to see a lot of things in the future of Kahnawà:ke. Everything is fine now, but things can change. Like cigarette stores, our Kanien'keha language, the land, the gas prices and for Kahnawà:ke to be a safe place.



Cigarette stores are lined up in a row. Store after store, they're everywhere but it does bring in a lot of money. A cigarette store doesn't bother me, but building more is just too much. I know it isn't going to last forever in this town. It would be nice to see people with real jobs that they graduated for and became what they wanted to be. There are many job opportunities in Kahnawà:ke that some people love and work at. Plus there are jobs outside of Kahnawà:ke that anyone can work at, but the most important thing is that you need to be bilingual, you need to know English and French.

Our Kanien'keha language should be spoken more around here. I like speaking it when we go shopping because it's fun and other people don't know what we're saying. It is the same with all languages. All the schools in Kahnawà:ke have the Kanien'keha language. It starts young in the schools, many of the kids speak it, and it's wonderful. Kahnawà:ke Survival School is the only high school with the Mohawk language and we are lucky. It would be nice if everyone spoke the language once in a while or even everyday. A lot of people do speak it and a lot of people don't.

The land in Kahnawà:ke is very important. There is a lot of land and some people appreciate it and some people are wasting it. They are wasting the land when they build big giant cigarette factories,

when other people can build their homes on that land. Or people can build useful businesses that don't involve cigarettes. What would be fun on a piece of land would be Mini Putt. There's none in Kahnawà:ke, all there is are golf courses and only a certain age can play. That's what I would build if I had the land for it.

This isn't just for Kahnawà:ke but for everywhere. The gas for cars is up and down. Sometimes it's expensive, sometimes it's not. It seems like people with big trucks won't be able to afford it because they take too much gas. It's the same for regular cars but some don't take too much gas. It is also a lot of pollution. Many people walk and ride bikes to work. It's good for the environment and it is exercise.

I want Kahnawà:ke to be a safe place in the future. It is safe now but sometimes it isn't. What is scary is when you hear of someone getting their house or store robbed, because no one wants that to happen to them. What really makes me mad is vandalism. My family and I sometimes think twice about buying

“What really makes me mad is vandalism.”

a big nice fancy decoration for outdoors. We might buy it or we might not because we don't want kids to come around and steal it or damage it. I just hope Kahnawà:ke is the future safe place for me.

It would be nice to see a few changes in Kahnawà:ke like the gas prices, to speak our language, the land, cigarette stores and factories and for the town to be safe. That's all I want for the future of Kahnawà:ke.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Iohserontie Rice.

In the future of Kahnawà:ke I would like to see less cigarette factories, of course, and I would like to see less drugs going around. Another thing I would like to see is a monument of me naked. One more thing I would like to see is no crooked cops going around town doing drugs with criminals, and drug addicts. Another thing that would be nice to see in Kahnawà:ke is more honorariums for people that are important to Kahnawà:ke, or people that made a difference in Kahnawà:ke. Another thing I would like to see in Kahnawà:ke is a little less vandalism toward houses. Some thing that would be nice to see in Kahnawà:ke is a native college run and attended by indigenous people from all over the world. I would enjoy seeing a graffiti shop and more walls around Kahnawà:ke to be made legal to spray paint on.



It would be helpful toward the community if there were more activities and groups in town. For example the Kahnawà:ke Youth Centre and Mad Group.

I would like to see less cigarette factories and stores because they take up a lot of the town and there could be trees rather than buildings. I wouldn't want to see any drugs around because they are a waste of time, money and they're not good for you. They also make a lot of people lose things, like family, friends, jobs, and money. Crooked cops just aren't right, I heard stories where a few cops were doing things they weren't supposed to

be doing while they were off their shifts. More honorariums would be nice to see in town. Memorials would be nice to remember people from the past or tragic accidents that took place in the past.

Vandalism isn't nice when it's done to important buildings or...whatever. If there were more walls made legal in Kahnawà:ke there would probably be a big decrease in numbers of other places being vandalized. If there were to be a graffiti shop in Kahnawà:ke it might be a bad thing but it could also be a good thing. It could be a bad thing because it might encourage people to do graffiti on illegal places. It can be a good thing because it would give a reason for people to stay in town and not wander around out of town trying to get spray paint cans or caps.

A college would be good for the town because people have a hard time finding transportation or can't pay for gas and vehicle repairs. If there was a

“ Vandalism isn't nice when it's done to important buildings...”

college in Kahnawà:ke run by Indigenous people it would be good for people that are Indigenous trying to get into a college but can't find one or didn't get in due to racism or stupidity.

In the future of Kahnawà:ke I would want it to stay almost exactly the way it is now other than the stuff I said I didn't like earlier. I wouldn't want Kahnawà:ke to get too fancy like the cities or non- native towns.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By: Wahiaronkwas Stacey.



I would hope for the future of Kahnawà:ke to be better than it is now. First off, it would be nice if all the cigarette stores were gone. We could use newly paved roads pretty much everywhere, and we are in need of a new bridge. Our town also looks a lot dirtier than

from a long time ago, with garbage everywhere, and the graffiti got a lot worse. Also, for everyone not to argue or fight with each other any more and just all get along. Last, for all of us to know our language. I just wish Kahnawà:ke could be how it used to be when I was little.

The cigarette stores in Kahnawà:ke I find are a very big problem. We are known as the place with all the cigarette stores and I don't think that's a good thing to be known for. Everyone is always complaining about land and there would be a lot more land if we didn't have cigarette stores every five feet. They should just all join together and make one big cigarette store for all the dumb people who smoke, or have no cigarette stores in Kahnawà:ke. They should be banned anyways.

Almost everyone in Kahnawà:ke likes to go walk around, ride a bike, or rollerblade around town, and most of the roads are pretty bad and all cracked, not good if you're trying to bike or rollerblade. The bridge is an even bigger factor. It's ready to fall apart, but nobody seems to care enough because all they do is little repairs that don't even do anything and just make it worse. It's super bumpy to cross

because they just keep patching it up, which is not helping at all. The steel is really rusty and the whole thing looks like it's going to collapse.

When you walk around our town, you see garbage everywhere on the ground. Before, you never used to see garbage on the ground. It used to be in garbage cans and the earth looked so clean and the grass was kept nice and would look so green. Now, there is garbage all over because everybody is too lazy to shoot it out. The grass at parks and in peoples' yards aren't kept as nice either because they are also too lazy to cut it. On a lot of buildings you look at, you can most likely find graffiti on them. It makes our town look like a bad place when there is graffiti everywhere. People have no respect and just go and vandalize other peoples' property.

In our way, we are supposed to respect one another, get along, and help each other. We aren't supposed

“ In our way, we are supposed to respect one another, get along, and help each other. ”

to fight and argue with each other or put one another down. Everybody always puts down other races too, and makes fun of them, when we are starting to be just like them. No one, well barely anyone, uses our language. We do not live with our ways anymore; I don't think we need to lose our language either. A lot of things can be changed for the future of our town, Kahnawà:ke to be better than it is now.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 7/8 B, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Sarah Taylor.



My future vision of Kahnawà:ke is that it will change a lot from how it used to be in the old days. It already has changed so much in as little as ten years. Kahnawà:ke has been the safety zone for many people and it still is.

People were respectful to all human beings and never talked back. Now some people are ruining our culture by breaking things that don't belong to us and by hurting others verbally and mentally and making Mohawk Indians look bad.

The thing about sidewalks; we in Kahnawà:ke never used to have sidewalks and now we have them. I have to admit, they are good for people who walk, run, and ride bikes for exercise but sometimes they get in the way. The soap box derby is gone now because of the sidewalks and curbs on blind lady's hill. The soap box derby

and Escalades. We had normal cars and bikes. A lot of the time people just walked to get to where they needed to go. Now more and more people are wasting money on these big expensive cars and not getting enough exercise.

Kahnawà:ke Survival School. Since 1978 Kahnawà:ke has had a secondary school for teenagers in Kahnawà:ke. Survival School has been here in Kahnawà:ke for thirty whole years. It is the only campus style school in Kahnawà:ke. There have been so many changes, new students, staff and technology. One bad thing about it is that the roofs are starting to leak and the toilets and sinks are backing up. That is why we are getting a new school in 2009. It is going to be very nice because it is going to be all in one building.

Instead of being attracted to all of the cigarette stores, more people will be attracted to our abilities to make things people in town can make

“ Big houses in Kahnawà:ke like the one near the church is making Kahnawà:ke look bad. My grandmother's house is across the street and it ruined her view of the seaway. That 'house' is ruining the oldest street in town ”

was a thing where families would get together and build a derby car and race it. I know because I used to be in it. My family would build a derby car and design it to what we wanted it to look like and write what we wanted our message to everyone to say. We don't have any of those small get-togethers anymore and it was always so much fun.

Big expensive cars are another thing we never used to have. For instance, we never had Hummers

like moccasins and beaded jewelry, ribbon shirts and much, much more. They will say positive things about us and make us sound good to other people.

Big houses in Kahnawà:ke like the one near the church is making Kahnawà:ke look bad. My grandmother's house is across the street and it ruined her view of the seaway. That 'house' is ruining the oldest street in town. All of the people

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

I talked to say that it's a waste of money because that's all you would need a house for are to sleep and to eat and to have a roof over your head. What happened to all the small family houses like on the old church road by the seaway? I would definitely like to see town with regular sized houses. Stores in town will always be there for Kahnawà:ke because there is so many of them

Otiohkwa Video, McComber's, Evelyn's, Chilli Willies, Village Variety, Hamburger Heaven, they are all for Kahnawà:ke.

I guess what I am trying to say is that Kahnawà:ke will change at the rate it is now and that everyone will be the same but, hopefully, change in a way that helps the community.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KANEHSATAKE CLASS 8 C, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Shelby McComber.

Kanehsatake right now is a place where if you were on a four-wheeler you will get harassed by the French cops. If you hang out with your friends somewhere ,there's always someone who will come up to you and your friends and ask you if you have drugs or want some. There isn't a night where you don't get woken up by the loud noise of someone's muffler who's racing with friends on your road at one or two in the morning. When there are lacrosse games and socials, someone always has to ruin everybody else's fun by flying by on the dirt road and spinning their tires. During the summer, this all gets ten times worse - there are nights where you see adults drinking and smoking with kids by a fire and during the day the cops are always harassing and even sometimes hitting into you.



Kanehsatake should be a drug free place where everybody is clean, not taking drugs or selling them to anybody. There should be less illegal cigarette stores because almost every driveway you drive by has a cigarette store. We should have

“ Kanehsatake should be a drug free place where everybody is clean, not taking drugs or selling them to anybody. ”

our own cops, ones who will actually do their jobs the right way. They need to respect all of us in Kanehsatake and not follow you while you're walking to your friend's house. We get followed on the side of the road or when we're just going for a ride on the four-wheeler or pedal bike.

continued on page 28

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

There should not be non-natives in Kanehsatake because it's supposed to be a Native community. We need a bigger and better youth center for the entire youth and not one that is the size of a house. It has to have more things to do, get the kids involved in community things and go on outings. We need a new Band Council, one that will actually do good things for our community like putting parks and playgrounds in for kids. We do not need bad things like selling our land to non-natives and giving away education funding to places that don't need it. We need more sport teams for boys and girls, not just boys. We need a new lacrosse box and baseball field.

We need a new Board of Education Director, someone who will actually care about the education of all children in Kanehsatake, even the ones who go to other native schools outside of Kanehsatake. For example, the Board of Education recently sent out a letter informing the students who go to school at Kahnawà:ke Survival School, that there will not be a bus for the upcoming school year. They said that there isn't enough money to pay for four extra students who want to get a good education, somewhere other than Ratihente High School. They don't want to pay for us to take the

“ ...the Board of Education recently sent out a letter informing the students who go to school at Kahnawà:ke Survival School, that there will not be a bus for the upcoming school year... there isn't enough money... ”

bus but they have enough money to pay for new office space at the Health Center. It's not needed because there are plenty of offices there already and that is completely someone who doesn't know very much about the high school back in Kanehsatake. If the Director of Education did know about the high school in Kanehsatake she

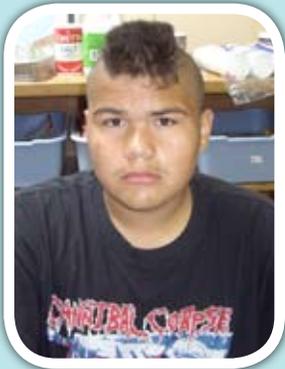
would know that there isn't enough room for more students. The teachers are already complaining that they have too many kids in their classes. There are 4 kids in grade seven, 5 kids in grade eight, 8 kids in grade nine, 10 kids in grade ten, and 7 in grade eleven. In the whole school there are about 30 kids. The high school wouldn't be able to take anymore kids there because the high school is the size of regular sized

house.

In Kanehsatake, the community needs to get more involved because right now it's a pretty boring place. There aren't any community socials or gatherings. When there are community gatherings, approximately ten people show up. The problem is that nobody informs anyone about the event. I find Kanehsatake needs to be a better community - one that is more sociable, involved, cleaner and healthier.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 8 C, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By: Jerron Montour.



My vision of Kahnawà:ke's future is not good because of the way people act by throwing garbage on the ground and destroying our Mother Earth. This is not how we should treat our mother because it is not good for her. She is dying every time plastics are burned. People are making the waters dirty. It is full of waste and garbage. We must learn to care for the waters. This will not happen until we stop destroying our Mother Earth. By stopping the destruction our people are doing we will have a beautiful land that's not ruined like others. Our mother makes our lives by breathing, moving, talking, etc. and we are slowly taking that away and slowly it is going away. This present destruction with plastics and rubbers and other things is getting out of hand and damages the earth. We should stop this because it is not right.

Today in our town, drugs are very bad. It is one of the worst things. Even alcohol is not good in our community. Kahnawà:ke is mostly recognized as people who are alcoholics and drug people. Some people in our town bring people from the outside into our community who are drinking and doing drugs.

Our language is dying because we don't use it much anymore. People in the community sometimes use the language when talking to each other but only if they are speakers. Our language is one of the only things that make our people different from other people and that's all we have left. What is going to happen if we lose our language?

Cigarettes are one of the things that our people are selling to get money. This is bad because it causes lung cancer, brain cancer, and other things that could kill you. The cigarettes have nicotine in it and nicotine is a drug that gets you addicted to cigarettes. I think we should get rid of the cigarettes and other things that have nicotine. If we don't stop this from destroying the people from Kahnawà:ke it will get worse and more of our people will die. The reason why we need to get rid of cigarettes from town is because it is giving a message to people from out of town that they could just come into the community of Kahnawà:ke. Some people who come in the community can be bad people who steal, but most of the people are here just to buy cigarettes. The way we could stop this is by being a stronger nation that should stay away from this stuff like cigars, cigarettes, and other types of bad smoking things that destroy lives.

“ If we don't stop this from destroying the people from Kahnawà:ke it will get worse and more of our people will die. ”

Life in Kahnawà:ke can be nice. We have a good town and nice land. Kahnawà:ke is the only place I lived for 12 years. When I was 2 years old I lived in Akwesasne. Akwesasne is another Mohawk town who probably has the same problems that we do. I'm sure they have problems with cigarettes, drugs and vandalism.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 8 C, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Stephanie Robertson.



The Kahnawà:ke we know today is a small community. Like all small communities, people strive to be on top with the biggest houses, better vehicles, and the most money. We are starting to forget the most important thing, the thing that has

kept this community going for past years. It was not houses, it was not money, nor was it cars. What I believe kept this community going was our people, our language, and our culture. What was important was our strong belief of who we were and what we stood for. Today the dignity our people once had is almost gone. Our people are becoming more careless and lazy. We are starting to lack effort, and potential. Everybody wants, few are willing to give.

Our use of the language is at a tipping point. To keep our language at level, we could try to encourage children and let them know how important our Mohawk language and culture is. We need to let them know the importance of keeping it going. The schools can help by adding extra classes to advance from what we have and learn now.

The environment that surrounds us is getting worse every year. We once were able to swim in our river. Now, who knows what swims in it. The fish are covered with sores; a lot of them are sick and are dying. This is caused by the ships passing though the seaway and not showing respect. They dump their waste into our waters, polluting it. We could try to reduce this by only allowing a few ships a week to pass through, or have some sort of warning policy against dumping waste.

Trees are another problem. With all the new development whether it's in town or on the farm, we're cutting down lots of trees. Therefore, we should be replacing them by planting a few here and there.

Another problem with the environment is all the trash you see along the sides of the road. We could try to reduce this from happening by a putting trash cans up everywhere. Another simple way to stop this from happening is to just stop littering. It would make this town look a whole lot nicer.

Kahnawà:ke is growing in services yearly. That can be both good and bad, depending on the service. The good we get out of these new services is the employment it offers to people. The bad all depends on how you see it. For example, a service could be cigarette stores and we have a whole lot of them. We have too many cigarette stores. We could try to keep them at a minimum.

“ To keep a clean and healthy community for the future, start small... Love who you are, know who you are and believe in who you are. ”

To look forward to a cleaner and brighter future, all depends on us. We could start now, or if we want we could keep going the way we're going. To keep a clean and healthy community for the future, start small. You need to start with yourself. Love who you are, know who you are, and believe in who you are.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 8 C, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By: Awentsaieshon Stacey.

When I walk around town I always get disgusted with the way our town looks. It is so trashy and has broken glass everywhere. When I'm on the bus on the way to school, I look out at how many cigarette stores there are. There's too many of them! Most of them have Quebec flags on the stores. A lot of people in the community are driving around in these high-tech cars which are ruining the environment. People in town are starting to get really greedy with all kind of cars. They keep on competing to see who has the better car or who has the biggest house. I find that really immature.



The other thing that's going on in the community is that there is a lot of underage people drinking and doing drugs. The drugs are addicting people. Some people are doing cocaine, heroin, weed, etc.

Our community has become a fighting land. We aren't getting along anymore and we're always fighting about stupid issues. We haven't been caring about our land or how the world is changing. Our community doesn't think about the land when they are polluting it, by littering and just cruising around town.

The changes I want for Kahnawà:ke are, to have less cigarette stores and no greedy people. The most important changes we need are to get along with each other and respect our land. I want to see people of Kahnawà:ke getting along

and everyone cleaning up the land once in awhile, not once a year! The cigarette stores are taking up our land, which we need to live on.

I think that the community should get rid of all the people that have done horrible acts, like sexual abuse, murder, etc. We should have our own border to block our town. The only people who should be allowed to access it is native people, people who work in the community or those people who want to see an event such as the Powwow, Sings, or any other kind of social. I want a border to be built right before Tim Horton's where all the cigarette stores start, near Chateauguay. On the other side of town, near the new Survival School there should be another border there. The cost should be \$1.00. We need to charge people who travel through Kahnawà:ke. We shouldn't have to listen to what the government has to say, especially if they try to make us sell our land or

**“ We need to charge
people who travel through
Kahnawà:ke. ”**

move off it. It's our land. They shouldn't tell us to sell it or leave it, when we really need it.

I play hockey but didn't play last year because Suroit took over our hockey teams. They took away our girl's tournament. A lot of the girls quit because they want to be known as Kahnawà:ke girl's Hockey not Suroit Express. The other reason some of the girls don't want to play is because of the price. They raised the price by about \$300

Continued on Page 32

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

dollars. The price used to be only about \$180 dollars, now it's about \$400. I just have been playing for my school. I have nowhere else to play in town.

The most recent form of a money making venture is gambling. We have too many gambling establishments. It's become a problem with everybody in town. If we get anymore of those places we're going to end up getting a casino. I don't want a casino built here but I'm too young to vote and say no. I also think that everybody in town should have input about

things happening in our town. If people in the community need to make money, by gambling or selling cigarettes, they should all get together and make a good business. We can have all different kinds of stores such as clothing stores and different types of stores. They can also make a business where teens can have a place to talk and hang out with friends. Somebody should make a restaurant for teens so they can eat and hang out and they should have a huge basement used for skateboarding, biking, and all types of recreation.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 8 C, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Chelsea McComber.



Today, our people do not own up to our priorities. Our grounds are very dirty, so are our rivers and streams. People of all ages have become very lazy. People are not only lazy with keeping our environment clean but with work. People want

fast money and will do anything to make it. There are tons of cigarette factories and stores throughout Kahnawà:ke. Some people depend on these stores to keep on making money. That is all they have, but cigarette factories and stores won't be here forever. Back in the day, men left their families to ironwork for a week to make money. It was good money too. Whether it is freezing or boiling hot, they worked for many hours everyday.

Adults who work in cigarette stores or even beer

stores don't care who they sell the items to. If you ask for it, you will get it. Only some employers will allow you to buy even if you don't have ID, but not all.

Teenagers are free to do what they want. If they were to get caught smoking or drinking by their parents, some don't mind it at all. As long as they don't get too drunk or get high every night. If parents are allowing their kids to drink now, what will they drink or use when they're eligible? When

“ Teenagers are free to do what they want. If they were to get caught smoking or drinking by their parents, some don't mind at all. ”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

the Peacekeepers drive around town they mostly drive around bars, or the backstreets where people speed. The Peacekeepers don't drive around the areas where gangs of kids hangout.

Teens are not only drinking, they are tagging all walls in Kahnawà:ke. What happened to chalk these days? Chalk is fun. It will come off when it rains but it's better than making our town look dirty. To stop graffiti, the Peacekeepers should drive around the areas where they see a lot of graffiti or where a lot of kids hangout. If kids did get caught then their parents should have to pay for the damage. They should make the kids responsible and clean the area and scrub the damage even if it won't come off.

Drunk driving is another problem in Kahnawà:ke. A lot of people drive while under the influence. Drinking and driving is a bad habit. A lot of people will think nothing will happen to them, but you just never know. It's not all the driver's fault. The bartenders or barmaids do have to know when not to allow someone to drive home. To help prevent people from drinking and driving, bartenders or barmaids should stop people at a certain point or at least take their keys away from them.

In about 50 or 60 years from now, hopefully my grandkids will be playing on the same grounds as I did. I don't want their town to look like a scary, unsafe environment. I want them to have the

best they could. As of right now, there's pretty big things going on in Kahnawà:ke but they will only get worse.

“ They should make the kids responsible [for graffiti] and clean the area and scrub the damage even if it won't come off. ”

Our town should have some rules where you have to walk your dog and pick up their mess. We should have at least 10 or more clean up days. In the end, it will only make life better and easier.

Someone once told me that people right now are complaining about the price of the gas.

I sure wouldn't want to feel unsafe walking to my house. So why should our children or grandchildren? I surely don't want them to walk and see people fighting, or drunken people walking the streets. The workers such as the Peacekeepers or the Fire Brigade are doing a fine job at their work but they only stay where adults would go when the kids are doing just as much as adults.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 8 C, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Wennekerakon Tiewishaw.



I am going to dedicate this paper to the problem of getting the Kanehsatake bus to KSS for next year.

The Kanehsatake Education Center has decided that our 'privilege' of going to KSS is going to be cut.

This is due to lack of funds. I think we can have a fundraiser for this to get enough money for the bus. It won't be easy, but we at least have to try. My mother and father received a letter in the mail stating the bus services that are bringing us to KSS are being canceled for the following year. They didn't consult the parents of those kids who go to KSS and the elementary schools, and those who have made friends and their life there.

The Kanehsatake Annual Report is filled with circle graphs, numbers, a head count, and phone numbers. How much do you think this cost, with all the research they had to do to make this? Where do they get the money? I hope it comes from somewhere that they earned it. The members of the Board who decided this, do not have any children going out of the community. How do they know how this affects us? We will be forced to go to Ratihente. How do they know how it feels to be taken away from the only place that you have made friends when nobody else likes you? How?! So why should they be the ones who get to decide?

The size of Ratihente High School is the size of the Administration office at KSS. The kids are squished. I would feel squished. The kids there deserve more than this broom closet school.

They work hard just like us. Right next door to Ratihente is the Health Center, which is getting an extension. Where did they get this money? The money that they're using to extend their office space should be going to the kids at Ratihente. They should get the extension. They need the space. That's where this money should be going, or to the bus to help us get to school.

There are a lot of us on that bus trying to get to Kahnawà:ke, a total of fourteen. My family is accepting donations to help keep the bus. We appreciate all the money we may get no matter how small the donation. We will not benefit from any of it other than getting the bus. I have an idea for this problem, if the bus services in Kahnawà:ke would hire our bus driver and help us, then he could get paid and we can have our bus. We would hopefully help pay for the bus with the donations.

“ The size of Ratihente High School is the size of the Administration office at KSS. ”

I have been going to this school for two years now. It has been the best experience I have ever had. The kids here are so nice because everyone here is like a big family. They care about each other and help each other out, from lunch money to personal problems. They care for each other. I have never been so impressed in the department of schools because I have always found something to complain about. However, I can't find anything negative in this school. I still don't know if I can say goodbye to all the wonderful friends and cool teachers they have here. I know I don't want to. I want to stay.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 8 C, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By: Laura Arsenault.



Kahnawà:ke is a beautiful town. I like all the forests that there are. It's really nice in the forest. If you go deep into the woods you cannot hear the highway. There should be more woodsy areas and fewer highways.

More people should know about their culture so that they can live off what's in the forest. However, people kill the trees, overuse everything, litter and don't really know much about their culture. There should be more information about our culture, taught through the schools. Many people like to learn things and try to get as much money as they can. People should know more about their culture and stop making the land we live on, die off and have fewer trees. It will help the environment a lot more and there should be less littering. There are a lot of people who litter, throw garbage where they want, and don't care about earth.

In the future, Kahnawà:ke should make a business where people go around cleaning up the garbage. The town would be a lot cleaner and more people would have jobs because everyone goes to a cigarette factory when they can't get a job. There are many cigarettes stores. Nobody cares what cigarettes can do to the inside of a body, they just want money. There should be less cigarette stores and the police should fine every store they see that sells the bags for less than twenty dollars. There should be a control board to manage this. Maybe their profits will go down and have to close. There should be a law where nobody can make a certain amount of cigarettes or they will be banished.

The town is filled with teenagers who smoke and

drink. Parents should try to stop them if they know about it. Most parents don't care. They let their children do what they want. I see this often. It's kind of sad. It'd be nice if the kids actually cared about school more than their social life and making friends. During the summer everyone goes to the quarry to swim and have fun. Most the time there is people drinking and smoking pot there. You can see them walking with six packs. Sometimes when I go there I see broken glass everywhere, cigarettes and garbage. Peacekeepers should go through there every day to see what happens during the summer because the people there cause a lot of littering and pollution to the water.

The quarry would be a nice place to go to if there were not a lot of beer bottles and garbage everywhere. Rules are very strict about drinking and smoking pot, but most of the time you can't get caught. When I go to Matty's Park, I see teenagers

“ They're ruining their lives even though they think it's doing something good for them [smoking pot]. ”

sitting on the benches by the baseball field smoking pot and drinking beer. The cops will drive right by sometimes without even seeing a thing or looking. I think something should really be done about smoking pot because it's a bad influence to everyone else. They're ruining their lives even though they think its doing something good for them. The Peacekeepers should try and stop kids from buying and selling drugs. There are some teenagers just asking anyone to buy pot because they think nobody will tell.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 8 C, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Iohontsarakhwasheton Beauvais.



Kahnawà:ke has changed so much in the last few years. Nobody cares anymore and it hurts to know the truth. This town is getting burned to the ground, and we are just watching it burn like fireworks. I once heard the story of “The Peace Maker”. This community reminds me of the story. In the

story a man picks up the arrows and tells the people what is going to happen. One arrow means we will break standing alone. Ten arrows together mean we will never break apart. What has become of this? This town is no longer strong. A lot of people can't stand on their own two feet. Everybody is constantly saying “respect” and no one even knows what that means anymore. We will not last much longer if we don't look out for each other.

The teenagers and young adults don't have any say in anything. We should be able to be part of what is going to happen to this community because we are the future. We will be the next voice to be heard. The choices you are making now are going to affect us in the future. Adults think they know better than us, but honestly they don't. Adults are learning just as much as we are each day. We can work together to help make this town a lot better and safer. We see things that you can't. We know things that you don't notice. We hear the things you aren't paying attention to, like the leaves blowing in the wind or spray cans being thrown on the ground. I think you should be able to vote at age 16.

Also, I think we need to do something about the garbage. Everywhere you look that's all you see. No matter how many times you open then close your eyes just for that one moment of peace, open them and realize what a mess this place has become. There is always glass on the ground. Kids can't just run around and have fun. They have to really be careful and watch where they

step. When I was little there wasn't as much garbage as there is today. The amount has increased. What we need is more public garbage bins. One on every second corner would be great. I know it's a lot of work, but the community would appreciate this. When you walk around with drinks and other things and are finished, all you have to do is walk five blocks to find a garbage bin. If we had more bins there is less of a chance that we would throw waste on the ground.

“ Everyone is constantly saying ‘respect’ and no one even knows what that means anymore.. ”

Along with that dirt comes tagging. You probably know some of the tagging teenagers. I know you are doing your best and this is how I feel. And yes I know most of them are under age. That doesn't mean you should let them off easy. They should write a letter of apology, pay for half the damage they have caused, and fix half the damage that they did. With the things that are happening lately, some of the teens are getting off easy.

Another concern of mine is the safety in the town. I think you should inform schools to let the little kids know how dangerous the town could be. Anyone could drive in town see a pretty little girl or boy and take them and they will be gone forever. You should enforce the safety guides in the schools so when a tragic time comes at any moment they will know exactly what to do. The world is growing faster then ever and we can't stop that. We have to be able to adjust to anything at any given time. If it's great or good we have to stick together and learn from our mistakes. I truly do hope this paper opens your eyes or at least gives you a different way of looking at things in town.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 8 C, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By: Ellery D'ailleboust.



One day I was waiting for the bus and decided to count the cigarette stores. I counted twenty cigarette stores from the apartments up to Survival School. Do we really need all of those cigarette stores? I don't mind if it's a store that sells other items too. I

don't even mind if cigarette stores have a distance between them. I hate it that there are cigarettes stores one after the other. When I was going to school there were fourteen cigarette stores next to each other. In the future, I would like to see less cigarette stores.

Our football team is trying to put together a Bantam team which is from ages thirteen to fifteen. I'm worried that they won't get enough players for the team. If there is any way to get your help to get players when a team is made, it would be very helpful. There are a lot of kids playing hockey, soccer, and lacrosse but there are barely any people playing football. Last year we had an average of twenty- two players at a game. The other teams had at least thirty, if not more players. For a Bantam team we will need at least thirty-five players. In the future, I want to see a football program that brings home championships every year.

When our town had the drug bust and all that money and guns they found, I was wondering how they got all that drugs, money and guns into the community. If they can sneak that sort of stuff in our community, I bet someone else can too. All that happened because some people wanted to get rich fast. If someone did it again would the police catch them again? I think we should banish people

in any future drug busts so they won't be able to influence anybody or sell drugs. In the future, I would like to see fewer drugs in the town.

“ When our town had the drug bust and all that money and guns they found, I was wondering how they got all that drugs, money and guns into the community. ”

I find that less and less people are speaking our language than they used to. I'm not saying that I speak it all the time but I try to say simple things in Mohawk like “Hi, bye, and what”. I think that there should be an after school area where everybody can go to learn the language, but it should be fun. No one is going to go if it is boring. In the future, I want to see more people talking in Mohawk.

I want to see a new town pool. When we had a town pool I used to go and swim everyday. Right now the only place to swim is the quarry, the seaway, or the Marina if you're a member. I don't want to swim in the seaway because it is polluted. The quarry is okay but there are broken beer bottles everywhere. Whenever you go there you're going to step on glass.

We are moving into the new school in the fall and I don't want to see graffiti in the bathrooms and on the walls. I'm tired of the school locking the bathroom when someone writes on the wall. In the future, I want the Council to not let any kids into the new school who have a long record of always fighting and writing graffiti.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 8 C, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Terrance Diabo.

My future vision of Kahnawà:ke is that we don't have a lot of cigarette stores left in the community because it makes our people look bad. It goes to show you that most people in the community can't work hard for their money because cigarettes are easy and a fast way to make money.



Drugs are the worst things to have in our community. People outside of the community say that Native Americans are bad because of all the drug busts in the community. When Native people got caught with 250g's of marijuana, 2 million dollars and a gun, we look pretty bad. Now what does that make people think about us outside of our community? I think we can stop drugs in the community by getting a bigger jail time for those who get caught with drugs. We need to get dogs to go around people's houses and search for drugs every couple of months to see if people have drugs.

I think that our community has a lot of graffiti. It's bad when visitors look around the town and see all the bad things people do. We can stop this by putting up cameras around buildings like stores and houses to stop the kids from spray painting.

What we need in our community is more things for kids to do. We need bigger parks and more

play things added to the old park. I think what we also need is more play things at parks for the little kids. Kids under six can't go to the Youth Center because they're too young. Their parents can take them to the park but they may not want to. The older kids drink, smoke and write nasty things all over the playgrounds.

In our community, we are losing our language. What we need to do is get after school programs to teach the kids our language. I think we are losing our language because no one cares about it. Some people can speak the language but most of the community can't. I think they should have more things to do to get our language back, like after school work programs to help people learn our language.

“ How long do you think cigarettes are going to last in the community? ”

The businesses in our town are not too good. Most of the businesses in our town are cigarette stores. How long do you think cigarettes are going

to last in the community? I think we can stop cigarette stores by keeping factories from making cigarettes. We can stop all the trucks and cars that come in town filled with cigarettes. We can stop them by not allowing people that are not from our community to come into town. Then there will be no one buying these cigarettes.

I think the town should make a new town pool. Most of the money needed is to build the pool and hire life guards so no one gets hurt. The town can help to raise money by having fundraisers.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 8 C, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By: Karenhnenhawi Goodleaf.



Kahnawà:ke seemed healthier, more loving and caring a long time ago. Even though I wasn't here very long, a lot has changed. Back in older days there were less cigarette stores and more trees. It seemed like there was more land and less violence. Now it seems as if we have all turned in to some type of addict for money and we can't get enough. Our community is breaking down. We need to escape that.

Looking at past pictures of the environment and comparing them to today's pictures of the out doors, there is a big difference. There are a lot more buildings and a lot less trees. Less trees means there are also fewer animals. Although I think we didn't really have a lot of animals I still know they are hiding somewhere in the bushes. Now that there are more homes they all have to go somewhere else. They have to move away because if they are seen they will get shot and I don't think that is right. We should let the deer breed more so they'll be more of them in the community.

I honestly think that people who deal drugs or worse than that should be banished from the community because when they get caught they give Kahnawà:ke a bad name. What if I wanted to go get a job somewhere in Montreal, and the people there are aware of the big drug bust that went on in the community. What are they going to think of me? I think they wouldn't hire me because they think I'm just like the people that got caught just because I'm from the community.

Therefore, I think these people should be banished from our town. They're only giving everyone else a bad name. I don't really want this community to be known as a big drug town. This may be harsh but if it came to that it should be done.

Another thing that I think we shouldn't have is casinos or poker houses in our community. Didn't everyone fight about not wanting a casino a couple of years ago? We won, which meant that we weren't going to have one in our community. Why is it there is a poker house down the 132? I find that's not right. We fought for so long not to have a casino. A few years later someone puts up a poker house thinking it's not the same and that we wouldn't care. Well it is the same and I don't think they had a right to build something like that after most people said no to casinos.

“ A few years later someone puts up a poker house thinking it's not the same [as a casino] and that we wouldn't care... it is the same and I don't think they had a right to build... ”

Although our community may get crazy at times, it's still our home. As long as we're here, we should care for it, love it and bring as much peace as we can to our community and not leave a bad name to our community for the next generations to come.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE CLASS 8 C, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Wahii Hemlock.

In Kahnawà:ke, there are so many cigarette stores especially going towards Wal Mart. I go to Kahnawà:ke Survival School and see this everyday. It looks like Las Vegas! We don't need all those cigarette stores in town. It's killing half of our people.

Talking about killing people, the drugs are a problem in town. There are people both from town and not from town who bring drugs into the community. They sell some of these drugs to minors. If these people who sell drugs get caught they should be banished from the community.

The other thing I think the Council should do is try to find new Peacekeepers. The reason I say this is because when they see minors drinking they don't do anything about it. They just tell them to dump their beer out.

There are other things that I would like to change in the town today. There are too many teens that ride around town super fast. They need to slow down. Some of these teens don't even have a permit to drive. There should be more police officers on duty so they could catch who ever is speeding.

The thing I don't like is that people vandalize property that doesn't belong to them. They spray paint or bust windows on private property. We need more cameras around town to stop the teens from doing this.

**“ We should do something
about the people who
drink and drive. ”**

Another thing I don't like is that there are too many factories in town. They should make one big factory and everyone has to work there and share.

I think the bridge should be fixed because there are a lot of Iron Workers in town that need a job. There are a lot of Iron Workers who would like to work close to home.

I would like for people to quit drinking and driving because it is killing innocent people. We should do something about the people who drink and drive. People who drink and drive should automatically lose their license and their cars.

Another thing I would like to see is people learning more about our culture. It seems like it is going downhill. Just like the language. It is not being used as much just like a long time ago. The people in our community should keep their kids in schools in town because they don't teach the language in other schools. If they choose to go to school outside of the community our language should be taught in those schools. There should be more places in the community that teach our language so that more people in town that can speak our language to each other.

We should have one more hangout place for teens in town. There are too many people who go to the Youth Center and don't actually go in. They are usually doing something bad in front of Kateri School or in the parking lots. They are shooting papers or lighting fireworks. I think that they should have cameras in the parking lot at all times.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KANEHSATAKE CLASS 8 C, KAHNAWAKE SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Written By Summer Martin.



Kahnawà:ke is a small town. We have our own language that we all don't use much. We should try to speak our language when we go to a store to buy food or drinks in town. We can ask the cashier how much something is in Mohawk or at least try. If we don't try to learn

and speak our language we are going to lose it in the future. We can also try to speak the language to our family members and I think that everyone should take part in this because I would love to know my language more than I do now.

We have too many cigarette stores in Kahnawà:ke. They are always so close together. I mean our town can try to spread out the cigarette stores because when I'm driving down the 207 to visit a friend and look out the window of the car I see one cigarette store after another. Also, on my way to school I look out the school bus window and see cigarette stores after another. We should make the owners spread out their cigarette stores!

Second-hand smoke is big in Kahnawà:ke and other places too. A lot of kids of all ages are suffering from second-hand smoke. Many people don't know the consequences that can happen to us young kids. We can die from this! I just hope that parents can try to stop smoking so we don't get affected by the smoke.

Drinking and driving is a big thing not only in Kahnawà:ke, but in any other city or country. Every day kids, adults and pets die from drunken

drivers!! People should only have about 3 or 4 drinks when they go out to have a good time. They do not need to get completely drunk where their eye sight is blurry and they don't remember where they are. It's bad to see people like that. It's not a nice thing to see, especially when you see them throw-up on themselves. It's really gross! I think that the Peacekeepers should take a bigger step and go wait outside of the bars. They need to stop people who are drinking and driving so no one else gets hurt.

I think that the police should take a bigger step in deterring people who vandalize by spray painting. It makes our town look like white man's land. With all the painting around the town it's not making it look nice, it's making it look bad! I'm ashamed with the town's vandalism that goes on. It's okay if it's for advertisement for the Pow-Wow or JoJo's Nursery because they

“ I'm ashamed with the town's vandalism that goes on... it makes our town look like white man's land. ”

got permission to go paint on the bridge pillar. However, we shouldn't vandalize people's houses with a tag name. It's just stupid! The person who lives there has to pay money to cover it up.

Garbage is something we create everyday of our lives. We need to start picking up the garbage on the side of the road so our town looks clean. It would look much nicer if our town was clean without garbage on the side of the road. We need to clean up our town not only in the way we look but in the way we act.

MY FUTURE VISION OF KAHNAWÀ:KE LAKESIDE ACADEMY

Written By Tiffany Lahache.



I think the future of the community is not really a healthy place because our community, if you look around, is well...filthy. I think we should make some changes so we could live better healthier lives.

We should take the time to clean our community. I think we should clean up all the garbage, broken glass and beer bottles and cigarette butts (these are different issues though) because it will make our environment so much healthier for generations to come. Also, I think we should clean it up because I know well, predict we will, not only live healthier, but feel better, maybe even live longer lives, and I know we will be happier in a garbage free environment.

I love our community but if we don't act soon to change maybe it won't be such a nice place to live, and who knows maybe there won't be a community left for future generations to see and I'm sure you don't want that. As a result of our negligence the following could happen: trees will eventually start to die and if that happens, birds will stop coming around and that isn't right but it is in fact the truth. Garbage will just start to pile up and personally that's totally disgusting and this is definitely what will eventually happen if we don't clean it up soon enough. I know I may be repeating myself but some of you just might not realize that right now and I just want the message to be clear. So I'm just trying to get you to notice it also. I am only 15 years of age, soon to be 16 in November and I kind of already notice all of this. If you think about it, then you will probably also notice what I am trying to say. I mean I know you're all probably thinking "Gross, I don't want to pick up garbage" (but truth be it as I said before, if we don't act soon trees and

other important things in nature that we need will no longer be around), especially in public, because I won't lie – I definitely think that as well. Now that I think about it, we shouldn't think that because if we do then probably nothing will happen (meaning possibly no changes).

Another issue is that not a lot of people or not enough people in our community recycle. I obviously know my family doesn't and I wish we could because with all the milk cartons, bottles, glass thrown out, it means it cannot be reused and I do not, well wait, I do know it is not a good thing at all.

So I ask once again, please look around you and

“ **...not enough people in
our community recycle.** ”

note what you see and ask yourselves – do you really want your children running around when the community is not so clean or there may be dangerous objects that could harm them? My answer is NO! It's not good for their or anyone's health.

Also, I noticed after all the snow has melted, there is garbage everywhere. When I get off the bus every day I look down at the ground, and notice these things. People! It is not nice to look at. It's hurtful, knowing I live in a world where garbage is all over the ground and worst, I think people just don't care.

So this is why I ask that we clean our little environment up because I honestly don't like seeing it dirty, especially since I have a five-year old brother, a four-year old sister and a one-year old sister running around outside. Thank you.

VANDALISM IN KAHNAWÀ:KE

By: MCK Communications (information provided by KSCS)

Kahnawà:ke has been subject to a significant increase in occurrences of vandalism over the last few years. Vandalism has always been around in one form or another, however, the number of instances seems to have skyrocketed to unprecedented levels in the past year. Reports of property damage such as broken windows on public buildings and private homes, and damage to parked vehicles are only part of the problem. The most visible signs of vandalism in Kahnawà:ke come from graffiti. All one has to do is walk down any street and the evidence jumps out at you from building walls, park benches, traffic signs, seemingly anywhere there is a flat surface.

What is Graffiti

Graffiti should never be confused as an issue of art; it is an issue of permission. The term 'graffiti' derives from the Greek word 'graphein', which translates to 'write'. Tagging is the most basic form of stylized signatures where 'taggers' strive to get their sign up as many times as possible. Common targets include public and private buildings, parks and recreation facilities, telephone booths, railway cars, bridges and overpasses. Kahnawà:ke's older village area provides many stone walls which are very inviting to taggers.

How is a Community 'Hurt' by Graffiti

Graffiti sends the signal that nobody cares, attracting other forms of crime and street delinquency to the neighbourhood. Graffiti also drains public funds which would normally be used for schools, sports and other public programs, roads, parks and community improvements which would benefit the general public. Graffiti also decreases a resident's sense of safety. Neighborhoods with graffiti see a decrease in property value, loss of business growth and tourism.

Reducing the Risk

Restrict access to walls or vulnerable areas by planting vegetation that will eventually cover walls. Increase lighting in vulnerable areas. Possibly most important, if you see something suspicious, don't downplay the situation; call the Peacekeepers as soon as possible.

Best Ways to Prevent Graffiti

Every community that has fallen victim to graffiti have stated the same sentiment; when graffiti is not removed within 24 hours, it indicates that nobody cares about the state of the community.

LET'S PUT AN END TO IT!

Kahnawà:ke needs to send a clear message to the people that vandalism will not be tolerated. Breaking the cycle is necessary. If tags are left up it glorifies their work so immediate removal will tell the vandals that their graffiti will not stay up and they will become discouraged from further tagging at that location.

continued on next page



MOHAWK COUNCIL OF KAHNAWÀ:KE

P.O. Box 720
Kahnawà:ke Mohawk Territroy
JOL 1B0

Phone: (450) 632-7500
Fax: (450) 638-5958
Email: communications@mck.ca



ONKWARIWA'SHON:'A

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

A digital version of this publication are available on www.kahnawake.com. (Click on the 'News' Tab, then Onkwariwa'shon:'a")

Layout

Justus Polson-Lahache

Proofreading

Neil McComber
Justus Polson-Lahache
Gene Diabo
Thelma Paul
Christine Zachary-Deom
Dodie Gilbert

Contributors

Christine Zachary-Deom
Dodie Gilbert
Kahnawake Survival School 7/8 B
Kahnawake Survival School 8 C
Lakeside Academy

VANDALISM IN KAHNAWÀ:KE CONTINUED

What a Parent Should Look For

- A collection of "Krylon" or other assorted spray can and caps of ten kept in a backpack. Spray paint residue on fingers and clothes, usually after they've been out with friends after dark.
- Black permanent markers or scribes (used to scratch graffiti into glass)
- Piece books (where graffiti ideas are sketched)



Possible Community Initiatives for Graffiti Prevention

Keep up the Neighbourhood. Make every effort to keep the appearance of your area clean and neat. Remove litter, fix broken fences, trim and landscape, and ensure all lighting is working properly.

Remove Graffiti Promptly. Data shows that removal within 24 to 48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of reoccurrence.

Encourage Citizen Reporting. Educate the public about the impact of graffiti vandalism and provide a way for them to report graffiti (i.e., PKs or Telephone Hotline).

Enforce Anti-Graffiti Laws. Law enforcement dedicated to tracking and apprehending graffiti vandals is a strong deterrent. A survey of arrested teenagers found the 'fear of getting caught' was the top response.

Monitor Graffiti Prone Locations. Step up police monitoring or locations that are frequently hit by graffiti. Consider a 'Neighbourhood Watch' using some type of security cameras.

Educate Youth. Incorporate graffiti education and prevention into classroom activities, after school programs and youth groups.

Adopt-a-Spot Program. A handful of communities provide citizens with clean up kits to keep an area they have adopted 'graffiti free'. This type of program improves awareness and engages community members in graffiti prevention.

Parents Maybe the Biggest Key

Not enough can be said for the role that parents can play in vandalism prevention. Talk to your kids, always try to keep up with who their friends are and what activities they are participating in outside the home environment. Don't be afraid to actually check in on your kids unannounced while they are out of the house just to make sure they are where they say they are.

