

MCK Opens Door for Tobacco Solution



Several Kahnawá:ke tobacco manufacturers have been issued letters of inspection from Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. The inspections are part of the conditions of the tobacco manufacturing licenses they have received from Canada, which the manufacturers have agreed to.

On January 10, 2006, the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke (MCK) had issued a tobacco statement making it clear that Canada's inspectors do not have jurisdiction in Kahnawá:ke and are not welcome in our Territory.

On January 19, 2006, the MCK called for an urgent meeting with those involved in the tobacco industry. That meeting took place at the Knights of Columbus on January 24, 2006. There were approximately fifty people from the industry in attendance, which included manufacturers, retailers and workers. Chiefs Mike Delisle and Peter Paul, the leads on the tobacco file, were also present.

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Iroquois Statement of Solidarity

The elected Council Chiefs of Kahnawá:ke, Kahnésatá:ke, Akwesàhsne, Tyendinga, Wahta, Six Nations of the Grand River & Oneida of the Thames have prepared a statement. The **"Iroquois Statement of Solidarity"** was read to the Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 in Ottawa.

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Dr. Alfred is named NAAA Award Recipient

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Poker to be Regulated

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Environment Protection Office has started a **Recycling** Campaign

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Seigneurie of Sault Saint Louis

Since Onkwariwa'shon:a's last issue, the MCK informed the community last November 17, 2005 that the MCK has agreed to begin negotiations with Canada on the Seigneurie land grievance.

Seigneurie of Sault Saint Louis in 2006

By David S Lahache

The Seigneurie of Sault Saint Louis file has made significant progress over the last 16 months. The SSSL has gone from the Exploratory Process to the much-anticipated start of the Negotiations Phase. To some, this progression may seem very quick or all of a sudden. But in fact, work with Canada on the SSSL has been around for quite some time. It's taken many years of hard work and countless meetings with outside governments to get to where we are today. Our community has been seeking a resolution on this land grievance for centuries. In recent history, Kahnawá:ke has made several statements and presentations to the surrounding municipalities concerning our seigneurial interests in the Seigneurie Lands.

What's ahead for the SSSL and Kahnawá:ke?

The next several months will be very busy for the MCK and Kahnawá:ke. Negotiations on the main elements on resolving our outstanding land grievance are expected to take approximately one year. Some of the information and issues discussed during the Exploratory Process will likely find their way to the negotiating table. Input from community members and those participating in the various working and focus groups will also be used in this important process. It's hoped a draft agreement can be reached by the end of 2006.

Why not take Canada to court on the Seigneurie?

This question has been asked time and time again. The answer is a fairly easy one, "The Canadian court system" is not the place to seek justice for most First Nations. The courts rarely find in favor of the First Nation and in some cases, question the rights of First Nations. A negotiated process can usually achieve better results, such as recognition of rights, governance, agreements that benefit the community, to name a few. In short, a First Nation can get more through open discussions than from a Judge's decision, which is considered an adversarial system.

Will Seigneurie negotiations affect a Mohawk Nation Claim?

As stated by the MCK, negotiations on the Seigneurie of Sault Saint Louis are without prejudice to any future Mohawk Nation Land Claim. The SSSL grievance is an issue of loss of use of land and loss of revenue for the Mohawks of Kahnawá:ke.

What can you do ?

For the last several months, Kahnawakehró:non have been invited to offer their comments and suggestions on this very important file. You can still take part by contacting the **SSSL Communications Team at 632-7500**, or by email sssl@mck.ca.



"I believe that the basic principles that will lead Kahnawá:ke to an acceptable resolution of this long-standing grievance have been established. I have confidence that our people will embrace the fact that this is the beginning of a more prosperous future for all Kahnawa'kehronon."

Grand Chief Michael Ahríhron Delisle, Jr.

The MCK will continue to engage and involve the community throughout the negotiation process and welcomes any feedback or comments Kahnawa'kehro:non may have.

Domestic Affairs



TOBACCO continued from page 1

Despite the MCK's correspondence since October 2003 outlining its serious concerns, Canada Customs and Revenue Agency has continued to process and approve individual applications for tobacco manufacturing licenses without Council (MCK) approval or knowledge. A letter has been sent expressing the MCK's dissatisfaction.

"We cannot stress enough the importance of our position," said Grand Chief Michael Ahríhron Delisle, Jr. "We continue to pursue the goal of internal regulation of the industry. While there has been progress, the actions being contemplated by Canada Customs and Revenue Agency are not only inappropriate but could have far-reaching and very negative implications.

We also need to remind the community that we all share the obligation to defend the rights of the collective. It is unacceptable under any circumstances for individual businesspersons to jeopardize the overall jurisdiction of Kahnawá:ke."

After the January 24th meeting, Chief Paul said that the draft regulations created earlier by both the MCK and the Kahnawá:ke Tobacco Association each have their merits. Those documents could be examined as a starting point for internal regulation.

In the aftermath of the meeting, several manufacturers have contacted the MCK for further discussions. The community will be updated on a timely basis.

MCK agrees to regulate poker



The Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke (MCK) has announced that it has come to a clear consensus that poker should be regulated in Kahnawá:ke.

The issue was discussed at the duly convened Council meeting Monday, January 16, 2006. In December, it was rejected due to a lack of quorum, though a majority of chiefs actually supported the idea.

The MCK will now work with the Gaming Commission to begin the process of creating and passing regulations. An initial draft was presented to Chief and Council last year after several Kahnawa'kehró:non asked for poker to be regulated.

Kahnawa'kehró:non who are considering holding poker tournaments are being asked to act in a prudent manner while the regulations are being developed.

Signs of the (election) times

By Timmy Norton

The Mohawk Council of Kahnawake announced to the community several months ago that it would be taking bids to erect large billboard signs on common land along the Mercier Bridge access ramps. So far, there have been no contracts signed or billboards erected under this new proposal.

The MCK did receive complaints about a Bloc Quebecois election campaign sign on the 138 highway near the old Rivermont Quarry. According to Chief Peter Paul (the Chief responsible for the sign project), **"These signs are on private land and the MCK has no control over what the private land owner and the sign company involved put on their signs."**

According to Chief Paul, with the new billboard project being worked on at the MCK, we will have control over what is appropriate and what is not. The project will bring in new revenue for the community.

Domestic Affairs



Iroquois Statement of Solidarity

“There has been a lot of frustration with the AFN,” said Grand Chief Michael Ahríhron Delisle Jr. **“This statement sends a clear message that we are quite prepared to use other means to ensure our collective voices are heard.”**

To the Chiefs of the Assembly,

Many hundreds of years ago, a Peacemaker came amongst our people and demonstrated that a single arrow could be easily broken, but that five arrows bound together could not. This promoted the unification of five individual Nations into the Haudenosaunee or Iroquois Confederacy, which still exists today. We are seeking to restore this principle of Unity.

Kahnawà:ke, Kahnesatà:ke, Akwesàhsne, Tyendinaga, Wahta, Six Nations of the Grand River and Oneida of the Thames are communities of the Iroquois Confederacy. Although we are separated by distance, we recognize that we are one People who share a common Identity, common responsibilities and our own system of Law and government.

In our long history as the original people of this land, it is only in the very short time since the arrival of the Europeans, that our Nations have been disrupted, our relationships severed, and our families torn apart by a system designed and imposed for that very purpose.

But even within this system, we find that many of the issues affecting our people require us to look to our original rights, our own system of Law and, the historical relationships and agreements our people entered into as Nations.

As individual communities, we have had our issues and views represented through other processes. This has not worked for us.

Instead, we have come together in a forum known as the “Iroquois Caucus” where we can discuss our shared issues and concerns, come to be of one mind and speak with one voice. The purpose of this forum is to develop consensus-based positions, formulate nation-based strategies and seek solutions beneficial to our people.

As Iroquois, we will now, and in the future, represent ourselves at all regional, national and international levels and speak on our own behalf as one People.

We recommend to our Sisters and Brothers across Turtle Island to also begin this process of internal rebuilding and to renew the historical relationships between our Nations, for the purpose of adding more arrows to the bundle.

Niá:wen



Who was the Grand Chief *50* years ago?
& the 11 Councilors? Answer on page 6



Domestic Affairs

Kahnawá:ke and Antigua & Barbuda Sign Mutual Assistance Protocol

The Kahnawá:ke Gaming Commission (KGC) and the Antigua and Barbuda Financial Services Regulatory Commission (FSRC), two of the most senior regulating agencies in the online gaming world, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that allows for the sharing of investigative findings and material regarding existing and prospective licensees.

The objective of the MOU is to enhance effective regulation within the two jurisdictions through an efficient and reasonable channel for the exchange of information.

"Given the global nature of the online industry, it is important that regulating authorities develop ways in which they can coordinate their activities. We believe that this MOU will assist the regulators in both Kahnawá:ke and Antigua and Barbuda in the performance of their duties and we hope that other jurisdictions will follow suit," said Alan Goodleaf, KGC Chairperson.

"The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between both Commissions is a concerted effort to effectively regulate the respective jurisdictions and to form an administrative relationship. I believe that this initiative is a key component in finally having a clear nexus between jurisdictions, bridging the relationship gap between gaming authorities, the advent of creating international standards for regulators and we stand to benefit from resources that we may otherwise not be able to obtain from our own means," stated Mr. Lebrecht Hesse, Chairman of FSRC, Antigua & Barbuda.



Social Development Assists Elders & Low Income Earners

The MCK's Social Development Unit (SDU) recently provided an oil and propane gas heating supplement to low income homeowners. SDU is please to announce that there were 68 supplements of \$250 given out in our community. The money left over from the heating supplement plan is being used to continue the Snow Shoveling Program for the elders

MCK Employee News

Larry Jacobs, Civil Engineer Technician with 7 years of employment with the MCK, has left his position to pursue another opportunity with KSCS . Good luck Larry.

Ross Leclaire has been the successful candidate for the permanent bus driver position with the Town Garage. Ross started November 21, 2005. Congratulations Ross.

Lance Delisle became a new employee with Sken:nen A'onsonton (Restorative Justice Program). Announced on December 5, 2005, Lance will be acting as the coordinator with the newly developed "Youth Council". He will be situated at the Courthouse and will be with us part time on a one yearly contract. Welcome Rockin' Lance.

MCK would like to announce that Debbie McComber was the successful candidate for Mail Clerk / Receptionist. Debbie started Monday, January 16th. 2006. Welcome aboard Debbie.

Lois Williams is the new Purchasing Agent for the Executive Director's Committee which includes 9 Kahnawake Institutions. Lois' one year contract started on Monday, 9 of January 2006. Congratulations Lois.

Community Events



Agnes Hemlock

A Beautiful Model for "Emergence of a Chief"

Agnes Hemlock is the female model for the *Emergence of the Chief* statue recently unveiled at Concordia University. Agnes was born on October 12, 1927 in Kahnawá:ke. She has 5 sisters and 3 brothers. Agnes has an interesting background as well as her nephew, former Grand Chief Joseph Norton, who is the male model for the statue. Agnes was one of the original elders who helped to put together the Kahnawake Law on Membership that was enacted in 2003.

Dr. Gerald Taiaiake Alfred 2006 National Aboriginal Achievement Award Recipient in the field of Education

On behalf of both the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke and the community at large, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Gerald on the honor of being named a recipient of the 2006 National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Education.

Gerald has honored the community through his achievements and his journey has taken him far from home. May he travel the challenging road he has chosen with continuing respect for our past and vision for our future."

In Peace & Friendship,

Grand Chief Michael Delisle Jr.

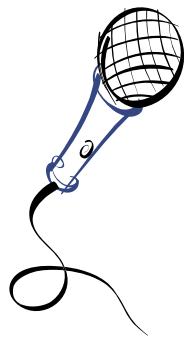


Dr. Gerald Taiaiake Alfred

The Year was **1956**



The Grand Chief was
Mike T. Montour
& the 11
Councilors were:
Harry Beauvais
John L. Deer
Angus Marquis
Mike Leborgne
John Lazare
Mathew Deer
Constant Albany
James Lazare
Stanley Myiow
John Woodland
Bernard Beauvais



The **Winter Community Meeting**
will take place on
Tuesday, 28
February
@ 7:00 pm
at the
Golden Age Club

Volunteers Needed
for the
National Aboriginal Hockey
Championships
April 30 to May 6, 2006

If interested, stop by the Recreation Unit
at the Sports Complex or call **638-2672**
or by e-mail sports@mck.ca



REFLECTIONS



HOLIDAY TRAIN Visits Kahnawá:ke



Canadian Pacific's famous "Holiday Train" made its first-ever Kahnawá:ke appearance on Monday, November 28, 2005. The brightly decorated 13-car freight train pulled in at our own Adirondack Junction, one of the

many stops across Canada (and the U.S.) The "Holiday Train" encourages the collection of food and money (and raising awareness) for local food banks.

The one hour stop included a concert by Country Music Hall of Famer, Tracey Brown. The Kahnawá:ke visit was coordinated through the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke.

The Kahnawá:ke Christmas Basket Committee collected approximately \$1,850 and a truck load of food and toys. As well, Canadian Pacific donated \$1,500 to the Kahnawá:ke Christmas Basket Campaign for a total of \$3,350.

Congratulations to everyone who helped to make the visit by CPR's "Holiday Train" a huge success. Thanks to the many people who volunteered, such as MCK, PeaceKeepers, KSCS, community members & the Christmas Basket Committee (Hilda Deer-Hannett, Nancy Goodleaf and Peggy Mayo).

A very special thanks goes out to Lanny Jacobs and Samantha Montour. And, finally, thanks to Canadian Pacific Railway without whom this wonderful event wouldn't have happened.

Always remembered

Lawrence Francis (Tekanerahten:sere) of Akwesasne and Kahnawá:ke; age sixty-three years. Lawrence Francis acted in the capacity of Head Chief of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne throughout most of his 20 year political life, spanned from 1974 to 1994 and he has been credited with some of the most memorable court actions and demonstrations of civil disobedience. Some of the most progressive social development initiatives for his community were realized during his tenure.

He was known to be a dominant and forceful negotiator for the rights of his community. He became an accredited Mohawk translator for the Ontario court system and a mohawk language teacher for Kanien'kehaka Onkwawen:na Raotitiohkwa at Kahnawá:ke from 1994 to 2005. He will be greatly missed for the major role he played in the revitalization of the mohawk language at Kahnawá:ke.



Lawrence Francis
1943-2005



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ONKWARIWA'SHON:'A

Through this publication, the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke seeks to promote awareness and dialogue by informing the community on its activities and by analyzing the important issues affecting Kahnawá:ke. The editorials serve to provide a forum for commentary from the Mohawk Council and/or its staff, while serving as a catalyst for community input. The editorial views expressed are the sole responsibility of the author, and may not represent those of the MCK or those of the editorial staff. Please direct all correspondence to the Communications Department.

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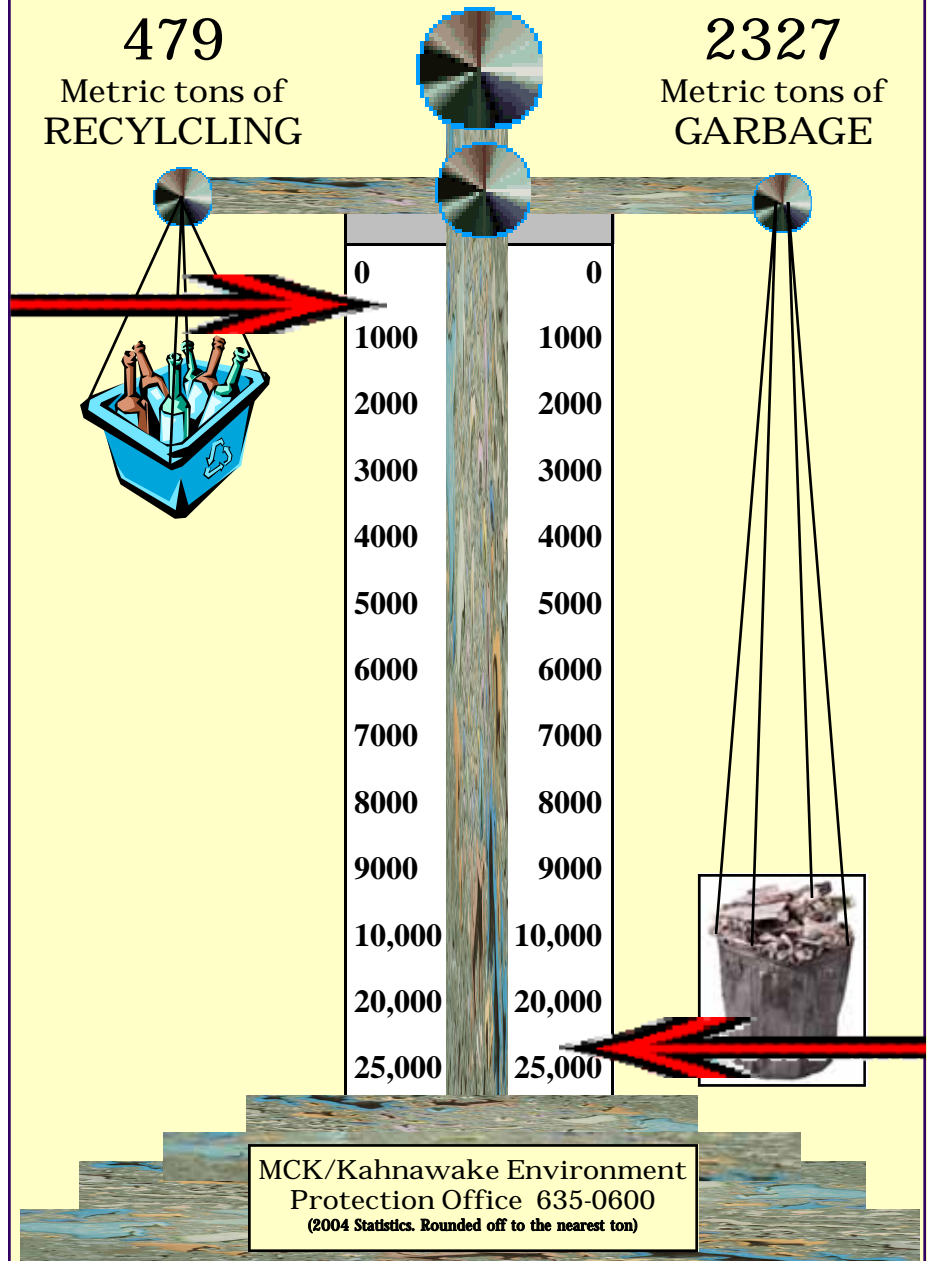
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each &
every
week

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For complete details contact **Jo-Ann Johnson** of the Environment Protection Office at 635-0600



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