



# IROQUOIS ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER



Students from the Akwesasne Freedom School assist in the Award winning Wetlands project. See Story Page 6

## Spitzer May Change Mind Over Lawsuit Involving GM Clean-up

New York's top prosecutor has not yet decided to pursue a lawsuit that would force General Motors to clean-up a 12-acre industrial waste dump adjacent to the St. Regis Mohawk reservation. The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe has long contended the waste dump will continually leak chemicals, including PCBs into the St. Lawrence River unless it's removed. Eliot Spitzer, New York's Attorney General, made a visit to the Tribe on April 23rd to discuss his intentions on the dump issue. Unfortunately, his visit with tribal officials was cut short in order for him to visit General Motors. However, he reassured the Tribe he is continuing to evaluate the issue and will meet with GM to seek a resolution.

Last spring, Mr. Spitzer was quite adamant about going forward with the lawsuit against GM unless "substantial progress," wasn't made within in 90 days, citing public health studies and research on fish and wildlife relating to PCB exposure, a known human carcinogen.

That time period has come and gone.

Just when the Tribe and community were feeling a sense of vindication for the fight against the toxic waste legacy, Mr. Spitzer, backtracked from his earlier stance. Mr. Spitzer expressed hope that further negotiations between the two sides will lead to a solution. He also suggested the Tribe and GM be open to alternative clean-up plans.

Mr. Spitzer faces re-election in the fall.

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IROQUOIS  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
NEWSLETTER

*Published Spring and Fall of each year by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division. The mission statement of the IEN is to inform and educate Iroquois Nation people and to network with other members of the Iroquois Nation regarding environmental issues in our territories.*

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*The viewpoints contained in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the USEPA or the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe. The IEN encourages free and open discussion of all environmentally related issues. We encourage submission of letters, comments, and articles from our readers so as to promote a greater awareness among our people about environmental issues and to foster the free exchange of information, technology, and culturally relevant values of all Iroquois people.*

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## **From The Editor**

Each spring we experience the renewal of life as flowers blossom, grass turns green, and the birth of countless species of birds, fish, and other animals takes place. And as the roadside clean-up wraps up, we as Indian people may question why there isn't more respect and commitment to our Earth. Well we could sit and ponder that until the cows come home and still not come up with a rational explanation. However, the intent of this editorial isn't to berate the litterbugs but rather to promote an appreciation of our land, rivers, and wildlife again this coming spring and summer. One doesn't have to look far to see the enjoyment that our lands and waters bring us. But as I encourage people to take pleasure in our small place on Earth, I also encourage people to respect it because when it comes down to it, that's all we have. Have a great summer, take advantage of it's spendor, and wherever you are make it a better place than you found it. Have fun, Be safe.

Lornie Swamp  
Editor

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*"Sit by a river  
Find peace and meaning  
In the rythm  
Of the lifeblood of the river"  
-Author Unknown*

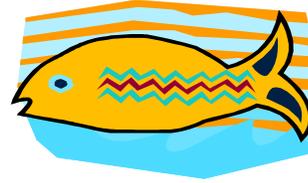


Peggy-Pyke Thompson and Jenna Herne searching for the sampling location

## SRMT Clean Water 106 Program Update

The Clean Water 106 program has completed a Non-Point Source Assessment and Management Plan for the waters within Akwesasne. This assessment provides information on all sources of pollution to area surface and groundwaters that are not directly related to a discharge pipe. This would include, fuel stations, pesticide/herbicide use, road salt-stormwater runoff, contamination from upstream sources (ie. PCB's, Fluoride), Erosion, siltation, and agricultural runoff. The Management Plan suggests ways of dealing with these potential sources and preventive measures to protect rivers and groundwater from contamination. The program is also close to a final draft for a Source Water Assessment for the waters that influence the SRMT water treatment plant. This assessment will provide similar information that the NPS assessment will, except this information will focus on upstream sources from the water intake. PCB contamination, Turbidity, inactive hazardous waste sites, Fluoride, Fuel stations, and 90 EPA standards for drinking water are reviewed and monitored for the potential to affect the SRMT water treatment system. The 106 program is still waiting for Treatment as State (TAS) approval for its program and water quality standards from the USEPA. The court case Nevada vs. Hicks has caused the approval process to stall. The court case, in summary, states that tribes can not enforce tribal standards on non - native land owners within the reservation. This applies to many Western tribes but does not apply to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe. The program is continuing its efforts as it has for years to monitor the quality of the rivers and the contamination affecting Akwesasne waters.

## AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES AND AQUATIC RECREATION



People have inadvertently introduced non-native plants and animals to new marine and freshwater areas. In many cases, these plants and animals are free from their natural predators, pathogens, parasites and competitors that normally keep them in check. Once these species become established they can cause negative impacts on natural ecosystems. They can displace native species, increase operating costs of infrastructure and degrade ecosystems. Because of their impacts, these species are referred to as aquatic nuisance species.

People love to spend time on the water. Swimming, boating, fishing, sailing, jet skiing and scuba diving are some of the many ways people enjoy water and water related activities. Because we have the ability to move from water body to water body, we increase the chance of moving aquatic nuisance species each time we go to a new recreation area.

They are a few guidelines that the people of this community can use to help reduce the spread of nuisance species when they are participating in aquatic recreation activities.

### Always do the following:

Inspect your equipment—Look for visible plants and animals before traveling and remove them.

Always drain water—drain any water in your equipment before transporting it.

Always clean your equipment and working dogs—especially when leaving infested waters, clean everything before going to other waters.

Always report questionable species—contact the Environment Division for identification assistance.

Information is available from many sources on aquatic nuisance species. Specimens are needed to confirm sightings. Check with natural resource agencies for instructions and regulations on possessing and transporting nuisance species for this purpose.

continued on pg. 8 see "Aquatic"

## Toxic Watch: DIOXIN

DIOXIN is one of the nine toxic pollutants we're supposed to be getting to zero discharge and zero emission by 2020. Its 2002 and counting; are we headed towards zero or not? Are we making the changes in our homes, businesses, and institutions so we'll get there eighteen short years from now?

### Burn Barrels; a burning issue

The time-honored back-woods tradition of lighting up your trash in a barrel out back has come under fire. As more and more research piles up one central fact sounds a clear call for the elimination of this toxic tradition; one back yard burn barrel can spew out more toxic pollution than an incinerator burning hundreds of tons of trash for an entire city. The problem? Dioxin. the most widely known and universally feared of the constituents of burn barrel smoke. is one of the most concentrated and deadly toxic substances ever made by mankind. Responsible for everything from birth defects to cancers. dioxin also happens to be one of nine chemicals slated for elimination from the Lake Superior basin. But there's a problem. In spite of the fact that on the US side of the Lake outdoor trash burning is already illegal. its still being done by many rural households. And on the Canadian side. a recent Ontario study found that between one quarter and one half of all rural households are burning their trash. To make things more difficult. one in four of these reported that nothing-notlaws, not information about harm to themselves and their neighbors-would make them stop. While it isn't clear just what might convince these folks to change their well-loved toxic habit. It is clear that the sooner we stop outdoor trash burning. the sooner we will eliminate dioxins from Lake Superior. Just how much of Lake Superior's yearly dose of dioxin comes from burn barrels? The Lake Superior Lakewide Management Plan. LaMP 2(XX) estimates total yearly dioxin emissions on the US side of the lake at nearly 7 grams TEQ. a number which the document itself tells us is a wild guess. As of spring 2000. there were no accurate estimates for the contribution made by burn barrels on the US or the Canadian side of the Lake. But experiments clearly show its a problem. So what is being done by our many governments-federal, provincial, state, tribal, county and city to bring dioxin pollution from burn barrels down to zero.



### Ontario

Ontario is proceeding with study, education, and outreach:

- \* Analysis of existing recycling infrastructure in northern Ontario (Lake Superior region) by the Association of Municipal Recycling Coordinators of Ontario.

- \*the municipal recycling infrastructure in the Lake Superior waste shed, analysing program gaps, challenges, and opportunities for advancing recycling programs in under-serviced communities.

- \* fact sheets for communities considering expanding or implementation of recycling programs.

- \*build a coalition among environmental and non-environmental community groups to deliver long term outreach and implementation on waste disposal practices.

- \* focus group on household garbage burning at the April 2, 2002 Lake Superior Forum meeting.

- \* Identify a community based social-marketing approach to be tested in the Canadian Lake Superior region.

First Nations: Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation

- \* has developed a waste management environmental awareness/training guide, "Earth Keepers Learning Guide," which will include information on household garbage burning and alternatives to garbage burning. Outreach to First Nation communities in northwestern Ontario is planned for Spring/Summer 2002.

Taken from "Superior Vision," Spring 2002, Vol. 11-Issue 1

## No April Fool: Check Your BBQ Propane Tank

### Les Benedict

It is no April fool if, beginning April 1, 2002, you try to get your 20-lb barbecue propane tank filled and you get refused. There is a good reason and it is no joking matter. New safety regulations went into effect April 1, 2002 affecting refillable propane cylinders. It is what is known as the OPD rule.

OPD stands for Overfill Protection Device and is a mechanical device that all cylinders manufactured after September 30, 1998 must include. Effective April 1, 2002 no cylinder is permitted to be filled unless it has an OPD. This affects all cylinders with capacities from 4 lbs. to 40 lbs., with some minor industrial exclusions. This means that your propane barbecue grill tank will not be filled unless it has an OPD because most of these tanks are 20 lb. cylinders.



There are about 600 fires or explosions by gas grills each year and at least 30 people a year are injured from these accidents. The OPD is a safety device that will reduce the number of accidents because overfilling of a tank has been part of the problem. Often times a filling station will accidentally, or do you a favor and put more propane in a tank than it should. Each tank has an actual volume because of its physical size, but was designed to be under filled to allow for expansion of the liquid and gas inside the tank.

When overfilled, a tank no longer has room for expansion of liquid and gas so when heated from the sun or the operation of the grill, the gas then has nowhere to go but to escape through a safety release valve in the cylinder. The next steps in a chain of catastrophic events would be escaping gas, burning gas, uncontrolled fire, burned propane fuel line, more gas released, more fire and heat, explosion and damage to people and property. Not exactly the type of fourth of July fireworks you might have planned.

The OPD is designed to prevent propane tanks from being accidentally overfilled or from having the guy at the filling station do you a favor. It consists of a float, like in a toilet tank, that shuts the flow of propane off once the tank reaches 80% of the cylinders volume.

The liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) industry has promoted this rule and the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) has been instrumental in developing safety in the storage, handling, distribution and use of propane for many years. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) developed the rule based on the recommendations of the LPG industry.

You can determine or a qualified propane technician can determine if your tank has the OPD device and can now be filled. First of all any tank manufactured since September 30, 1998 must have and OPD, so you can look for the date of manufacture stamped on the cylinder. A tank that has an OPD can be readily identified by a unique triangular hand wheel, or valve handle. The letters OPD are also stamped onto the hand wheel.

Also, every 12 years small cylinders must be requalified by testing and examination to assure they are fit for service. Any cylinder that was manufactured before September 30, 1998 may also be fitted with an OPD. However, considering the low cost of a newer, safer cylinder (around \$20.00 US) you might be better off just buying a new cylinder.

*Theres more about propane cylinder safety on Page 14*

## Freedom School Students Honored For Wetlands Project

Regional Winner for 2000-2001

Student: Kanaratenhawe Jackson, Wolf Clan  
Akwasasne Freedom School  
Akwasasne Mohawk Territory  
via Rooseveltown, New York

Sponsor: Patrick Sullivan, Department of Agriculture's National  
Resource Conservation Services Malone, New York

In 1999, the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students attending the Akwasasne Freedom School were learning about wetlands, their importance to the natural world, and how they provide critical habitat for many plants and animals species. The Akwasasne Freedom School owns a 70-acre property and it was decided to restore a 50-acre degraded wetland on the school's property.

The Akwasasne Freedom School is a Mohawk immersion, year-round school based on traditional teachings of the Haudenosaunee, within the Mohawk Nation. Together, the students, teachers, and families of the Akwasasne Freedom School, in collaboration with the Akwasasne Task Force on the Environment, a community based, not-for-profit environmental organization, and the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Agency, made this project become a reality.

The students of the Akwasasne Freedom School had extensive involvement in this wetland restoration project. They were instructed on the importance of wetlands. They were involved in designing, surveying, and reconstruction of the wetlands. They learned about plant species and replanted vegetation in and around the wetlands.

Today, the restored wetland has become an important part of the natural world again. A focal point of the project is the reconstruction of a small island in the wetlands, replicating the shape of the turtle. Turtle is one of the three major clans of the Mohawk Nation. As well, in the Mohawk Creation Story, the Earth is really on a Turtle's back. Among the natural habitat reoccupying the area, deer and mallard ducks can be seen utilizing the wetlands. The plant community is healthy and vibrant. The site is continuing to provide a learning experience for the students of the Akwasasne Freedom School. All of the partners have benefitted from the project, especially the natural world.



**Second Annual Black Ash Conference  
Akwesasne Mohawk Territory  
July 18 & 19, 2002  
St. Regis Recreation Center  
St. Regis Village**

There will be no registration fee, but you must call to register so we will have a meal for you. All our basket makers and log pounders are welcome to attend. The focus of the conference is for black ash preservationists and researchers to meet with our native people who utilize it for baskets. There will be a free exchange of ideas, issues and progress reports on the work that has been going on. The conference will consist of short presentations on the work that has been done followed by discussion. There will be bus tours to sites where black ash has been planted or where work is currently taking place. A lot of informal discussion will be encouraged. This will provide preservationists, researchers and foresters to learn how to best develop plans for forestry. Basket makers will learn what work has been going on. Lunch and break snacks will be provided.

This conference is sponsored by the Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment, American Friends Services Committee and the USDA Forest Service.

**Agenda**

July 18, 2002

8:30-Noon

Opening and Welcome

Presentations/demonstrations

Roundtable discussions – foresters, researchers, basket makers, log pounders,

Noon - Lunch provided

1:30-4:00

Bus tour of black ash preservation sites

July 19, 2002

8:30-Noon

Bus tour of black ash preservation sites

Noon- return for lunch provided/or picnic lunch

1:30-4:00

Roundtable discussions – foresters, researchers, basket makers, log pounders

Presentations/demonstrations

Keynote speaker

Closing - Adjourn

To register, call Richard David, MCA Environment (613) 575-2377, Les Benedict, SRMT Env. Div., (518) 358-5937, David Arquette MNO (518) 358-3381. Remember there is no registration fee. If you need travel assistance please call before June 15, 2002 to request help. We will help as many as we can on a first come first serve basis.

**Forest Inventory in  
Akwesasne: Coming Soon**

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division, in cooperation with SUNY – ESF Ranger School and the US Forest Service is in the process of inventorying the forestlands on the reservation. The inventory will be used to complete a reservation wide analysis of forest type, species, volume and health. The Tribe is beginning a project to develop a forest management plan to assist community members with developing or managing their woodlands for timber, firewood, wildlife and individualized needs.

The Environment Division would like to visit your wooded area to conduct an inventory during the month of April and early May. During the inventory you will be invited to accompany us and discuss your forest resource needs and desires. After the inventory has been analyzed you will be provided an individualized report on your forest. The service is free in exchange for allowing access to you property. If you are interested in having the inventory performed for your woodlot or private forest please contact the Environment Division at (518) 358-5937, extension 18. We are limited to the number of inventories we can perform at this time so call in soon if you are interested.



## Contact Us

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division (SRMT) is open between the hours of 8am-4pm, Monday - Friday. If you would like to contact us our address is:

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If you would like to contact any of our staff members you may do so by phone or on the internet. Provided below is each staff member's position and email address:

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**"Aquatic," continued from pg. 3**

### **Avoid the following:**

Transporting animals and plants—mud, aquatic plants and animals from lakes, rivers, wetlands and coastal areas.

Releasing animals and plants—including all aquarium bait, pets or water garden plants. Do not release these into the wild unless you know they are native to the water body.

# ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENT REPORT

11/01 - 3/02

By Craig Arquette

This is the quarterly installment of the Environmental Incident Report to the Iroquois Environmental Newsletter (IEN). An updated incident report will continue to be in all future issues of IEN. The purpose of this report is to make the readers of IEN aware of the numbers and types of incidents that our Environmental Response Team (ERT) responds to.

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's certified ERT members include: Ken Jock, Les Benedict, Peggy Thompson, Shawn Martin, Craig Arquette, Laura Weber, Lornie Swamp, Angela Benedict-Dunn, Marie Benedict, Aimee Mitchell, Denean Cook, Joyce Barkley, Jim Snyder, Tom Debo, Teres Thompson, Jenna Herne, Evan Thompson, Tony David and Adrian McDonald.

NATURE OF INCIDENT	# OF INCIDENTS
Residential/Business Fuel Oil Leak	1
Motor Vehicle Leak	2
Biological Response	1

## Staff Profile



Jeri Thompson

Jeri is the newest member to join the SRMT Environment staff. She is the cultural researcher for the Natural Resources Damages Program. Jeri attended Trent University in 1995, right after graduating from the Ethel Walker School (private school) and graduated from Trent University with a Native Studies B.A. In 1999, she was employed by the ATFE as a researcher to find and identify the Traditional Cultural Properties of Kanienkehaka and how they were affected by the development of the NYPA. The project was part of the NYPA relicensing process. In her spare time, if not spending time with her daughter, she also raises, breeds and shows her Quarter Horses and Paints in reining, pleasure and trail futurities. Welcome aboard, Jeri.

### Environmental Health Clearinghouse Available

The Environment Division is glad to announce that environmental information is available to the community through a comprehensive repository of environmental fact sheets, research studies, fish advisories, and general environmental information. Please contact Lornie Swamp at the SRMT Environment Division for more information: 518-358-6211 ext. 15  
[earth2-swamp@northnet.org](mailto:earth2-swamp@northnet.org)

### 6TH National Tribal Conference for Environmental Management

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the Environmental Protection Agency are pleased to invite you to participate in the 6th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management in Reno, Nevada from June 4-7, 2002. The conference is one of the premier environmental events in Indian Country. The 6th NTCEM conference is being held at the John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel in Sparks, Nevada (near Reno) from June 4 - 7, 2002. For more information please contact Lela Leyva at 775-574-1000.



## The Disadvantages of Washing your Car

With Spring and Summer on the way, many people will be washing their cars, more frequently, at home. Although the advantage of having a nice looking car and saving money there are some disadvantages to washing your vehicle at home. Non point sources of pollution are becoming an important aspect to controlling contamination in groundwater and surface waters. This is pollution that comes from storm water runoff, road runoff, agricultural runoff, that does not directly come out of a discharge pipe. Yes, this means your drinking water well and the waterways can both be affected by non-point pollution. The use of many different detergents, tire products, Armor All, Turtle Wax, and chrome polishers, all contribute to contamination. Much like the runoff from roads; petroleum

products, salt, greases, rust, some benzene and chromium, and brake dust lining can be the cause of some contamination in water sources while washing your vehicles. If you use a tire cleaner, then read the label to see what else gets washed away. The water used seeps from your driveway or yard with all the chemicals from washing your car into the ground. Rainfall helps these fine toxins seep further into the ground and eventually this groundwater makes its way to your well, if you have one, and to surface water sources. The water can also flow directly into storm sewer drains, which usually has a direct discharge into our rivers and streams. Detergent concentrations can kill fish at 15 ppm and kill fish eggs at 5ppm not to mention damaging gills and destroying the outer mucus layers that protect fish from bacteria and parasites. And has anyone seen the “foam” in our waterways? This can be partly to blame. Not that is any better to wash your vehicle at a car wash facility. The drains go directly to treatment facilities that discharge directly to surface waters. Some, but not all of the toxins get removed in the treatment process. Many name brand cleaners and detergents, like Armor All, offer tips for consumers: “Clean your car in an area that allows for evaporation of run-off and prevent entry into storm drains, streams, or any body of water.” The manufacturers of these products know the elements that are in their cleaners so we should be aware of them also. So the next time you wash your car, be aware of the chemicals used in the product. Remember, if your one of the many people who say, “oh, it is only one car, what harm can that do?”, there are thousands of others saying the same thing. If you have any other questions regarding groundwater or surface waters, please contact Shawn Martin, Clean Water Manager at (518) 358 – 5937. If you have any questions about the carcare industry and their products, you can go directly to their websites: [www.turtlewax.com](http://www.turtlewax.com) or [www.armorall.com/maint/pages/tires/html](http://www.armorall.com/maint/pages/tires/html).

Mercer, Kevin. Stormwater Magazine. May/June 2002 issue. [www.stormh2o.com](http://www.stormh2o.com)



SRMT and EPA Representatives meet at the Annual Ending Year Reporting Meetings in NYC

pictured L-R: Ron Borsellino, Bill Muszynski, Karen Benn, Ken Jock, Jane Kenny, Les Benedict, Angela Benedict-Dunn, Denean Cook, Shawn Martin and Christine Yost

### **Regional Representation** **Les Benedict**

Since May 2001 I have been assigned to attend the National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC) meetings. The TOC meets regularly with EPA headquarters to discuss current environmental issues, policies and funding needs. The information that is generated in these meetings should be disseminated throughout the region to the other Tribes so that they can be kept abreast of events and issues affecting them in the environmental arena. They should also have the opportunity to have their voices heard and issues brought to the table during the national meetings.

Many other Tribes have established Regional Operations Committees as a formal means of getting information back and forth between the NTOC meetings and the Tribes in their region. Some have established formal charters and a means of electing their representative(s). However simple or elaborate their committee is the basis for the committee is to foster dialogue and communication. They have also developed a means to ensure fair and adequate representation at the NTOC meetings.

I have been discussing the possibility of establishing some form of a regional committee amongst the Region 2 Tribes, that at this point includes the 6 Nations. Most of what I have heard has been positive and encouraging. I hope that a committee can be developed for the purpose of communicating our issues and needs regionally and on the national level. It is also my hope that this committee will also establish a means of selecting their delegate or delegates who will represent them at the NTOC meetings. I think this is important because out of fairness and respect to each Tribe they must have an opportunity to decide who they want representing them at the NTOC meetings.

Having been the representative for one year now, I am able to say that the job as the Region 2 representative has been challenging, especially since there is no committee with which to meet with to discuss information obtained at the NTOC meetings. Currently I send e-mails of the meeting proceedings and forward messages from the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) in Washington. This has its limitations because there is no one-on-one interaction, no face-to-face discussion. I enjoy the efficiency of modern technology and zapping messages across the internet, but also enjoy meeting with people and learning not only their words, which on paper are only black and white, but the feelings they express in their voices, faces and actions.

With the aid of the other Tribes in Region 2, I will work toward building a more effective communication process for NTOC representation in the coming months. Please contact me with your comments and suggestions at (518) 358-5937, [earth-lbenedic@northnet.org](mailto:earth-lbenedic@northnet.org).





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The listings are the EPA NY office (except a few under Superfund...see asterisk);



## Protecting Your Groundwater Supply

### *When Building, Modifying Or Closing A Well*

- Hire a certified well driller for any new well construction or modification .
- Slope well area so surface runoff drains away .
- When closing a well:
  - Do not cut off the well casing below the land surface
  - Hire a certified well contractor to fill or seal the well

### *Preventing Problems*

- Install a locking well cap or sanitary seal to prevent unauthorized use of, or entry into, the well
- Do not mix or use pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, degreasers, fuels, and other pollutants near the well
- Never dispose of wastes in dry wells or in abandoned wells
- Pump and inspect septic systems as often as recommended by your local health department
- Never dispose of hazardous materials in a septic system .Take care in working or mowing around your well

### *Maintaining Your Well*

- Each month check visible parts of your system for problems such as:
  - Cracking or corrosion,
  - Broken or missing well cap,
  - Settling and cracking of surface seals
- Have the well tested once a year for coliform bacteria, nitrates, and other contaminants
- Keep accurate records in a safe place, including:
  - Construction contract or report
  - Maintenance records, such as disinfection or sediment removal
  - Any use of chemicals in the well
  - Water testing results

### *After A Flood- Concerns And Advisories*

- Stay away from the well pump while flooded to avoid electric shock
- Do not drink or wash from the flooded well to avoid becoming sick
- Get assistance from a well or pump contractor to clean and turn on the pump
- After the pump is turned back on, pump the well until the water runs clear to rid the well of flood water
- If the water does not run clear, get advice from the county or state health department or extension service
- For additional information go to

**<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/consumer/whatdo.htm>**

### Propane Gas Grill Safety Tips

- Follow all of the grill manufacturer's instructions and keep written materials and manuals in a safe, accessible place.
- Always use your grill outdoors in a well-ventilated area- .
- Keep grill at least 3 feet away from buildings, dry leaves or brush.
- When not in use, make sure all grill burner controls are turned off and that the valve cylinder is closed.
- Keep grill covered when not in use. Make sure the grill is shut.off and cooled off before covering.
- Always store cylinders outdoors in an upright, vertical position.
- When you fill or exchange your cylinder, have your supplier check for dents, damage, rust or leaks.
- Before lighting your propane gas grill burner, use a leak- detection solution to check all connections for tightness.
- Open the grill lid before lighting to prevent gas from building up.
- If there is an uncontrollable release of gas or a fire, call the fire department immediately and move all people and pets away from the unit.
- Do not smoke while handling the propane cylinder.
- Do not allow children to tamper or play with the cylinder or grill.
- Do not use, store or transport your cylinder where it would be exposed to high temperatures. (This includes storing spare cylinders under or near the grill. )
- Never attach or disconnect a cylinder or move gas fittings when the grill is in operation or when hot.
- Keep the grill and cylinder clean.
- Do not leave the grill unattended while in use.



### Would You Know What to Do If You were Called to a Gasoline Tanker Emergency?

Then **You** Should Attend:



*The weekends of*

**May 18-19,2002 June 1-2,2002 June 8-9, 2002**

Mark your calendar now and get registered. Location -Akwasasne Housing Authority Auditorium.

Hosted by St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Hazardous Materials Planning and Training. Tanker provided by McEwen transport.

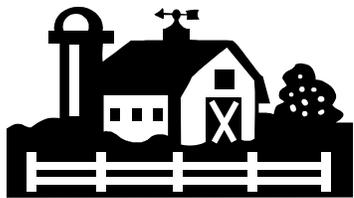
Held on weekends to accommodate the schedules of the volunteer.

Designed for First Responders -Volunteer Firemen, Police Officers, EMS, HazMat Teams. Fire Chiefs, Fire Captains, Police Chiefs, Police OIC's, HazMat Responders should attend.

Classroom lecture and practical skills training. Bring your bunker gear and work cloths. The instructors are veteran HazMat responders and responders who have flirted with death and destruction throughout their career .Nationally Renowned Instructor -Stephen L. Hennann, Huntsville Training Associates.

Reserve your seat for the course. Limited to 25 students.

Nominal registration fee. Limited Native American Responder Scholarships available (reimbursement basis, attendee must attend all sessions and successfully complete the course) available. Fee-\$100. Contact: Les Benedict or Adrian McDonald for more information, (518) 358-5937/2272. FAX (518) 358-6252.



**COMMISSIONER: FARM VIABILITY GRANTS  
NOW AVAILABLE  
Funding for Business Plan Development and  
Implementation**

State Agriculture Commissioner Nathan L. Rudgers today announced the release of Grow New York's Farmland Viability Grant Program Request for Proposals (RFP). This grant program provides funding for applicants proposing to develop a business plan or a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP), or to implement one or more components of an existing plan. It also enables county agricultural and farmland protection boards (AFPBs) to implement components of their approved county farmland protection plans. "Governor Pataki recognizes the importance of the fact that a quarter of the state's total land mass is dedicated to agriculture," the Commissioner said.

"With this grant program, he is once again providing the necessary resources to maintain the economic and environmental health of our agricultural industry here in New York State."

"I encourage farmers, agricultural cooperatives and farmland protection boards to evaluate their operations and submit their proposals, whether they include expansion, transition, management alteration, or developing a plan. This is an opportunity that will help New York's agricultural industry grow and remain a significant agricultural state."

All proposals must address how the Farmland Viability Plan will increase the overall profitability and contribute to the sound environmental management of farm operations. Projects may include evaluating the processing of agricultural products, transitioning to an alternative product, construction of new facilities, or the protection of natural resources.

The Farmland Viability Grant Program will provide up to \$20,000 to eligible proposals. Individuals, partnerships, associations, cooperatives, corporations, and county agricultural and farmland protection boards (AFPBs) are all eligible to apply. Proposals for funding are due into the Department by May 31, 2002.

Governor Pataki's Grow New York initiative incorporates numerous programs designed to enhance the economic vitality of agriculture in New York State. Grow New York offers competitive grants such as the Farmland Viability Grant Program, technical assistance, workforce development, market enhancement and more. Currently, Grow New York has distributed more than \$1.1 million to 41 projects across the State for farmland viability development, agricultural research and development, and physical improvement of farmers' markets.

Earlier this year, Lt. Governor Mary O. Donohue announced the latest round of the research and development grants, now called the Food and Agricultural Industry Development (FAID) grants. She awarded \$842,580 for 27 projects that enhance the production, processing and distribution of agricultural products. RFPs for Farmers' Markets Grants will be released later this year.

Since taking office, Governor Pataki has established an extremely favorable business climate for farmers by cutting school property taxes for farmers up to 100 percent; slashing workers' compensation rates for farmers by more than 25 percent; strengthening agricultural district laws; and introducing the Pride of New York Program to promote state-grown products.

For more information on Grow New York's Farmland Viability Grant Program, please contact the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets at 1-800-554-4501 or visit the Department's website at [www.agmkt.state.ny.us](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us) <<http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us>> and click on 'Grants.'

Iroquois Environmental Newsletter  
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Environment Division  
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