



IROQUOIS ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

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Turtle Cove Clean-Up *Another Step in the Right Direction*

In November of 2004, General Motors (GM) began remediating Turtle Cove (formerly known as Contaminant Cove) in Raquette Point. This area of Akwesasne borders GM and was contaminated with PCBs from past disposal practices of GM's industrial facilities.

The Cove was cleaned up in accordance to the 1990 Record of Decision (ROD) that was issued by EPA. The ROD identified areas on GM property and on Tribal property that needed to be cleaned up. The ROD established the clean up levels on Tribal Property to be 0.1 Parts Per Million (PPM) for sediments and 1.0 ppm for soils. The ROD states that the method of treatment for the contaminated materials will be off-site disposal for PCBs greater than 10 ppm. The treatment for PCBs less than 10 ppm will be sent to GM for disposal.

The plan called for installing a cofferdam across the mouth of the cove. The water was pumped out to allow the contaminated sediments to be excavated

in the dry. Surface water entering the cove from upland ponds is re-routed around the work area. GM constructed temporary access roads into the Cove from their property. This allowed materials greater than 10 ppm to be taken to their temporary Storage Cells to drain. When these materials dry out in the Storage Cells, they will be sent to an off-site secure landfill this year.

There has been water monitoring stations for PCBs and turbidity located down stream from the Cove. There are three PCB air monitoring stations downwind from the work site on Tribal Property. The SRMT Environment Division monitored for PCBs at these locations to ensure the community and the environment was protected.

The excavation of contaminated materials ended in March of 2005 only after laboratory results indicated the clean up levels had been reached. Much of the Cove area has been restored to its previous condition with the exception of a settling basin,

“Turtle Cove,” cont. on Pg. 6

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.

The IEN is funded by the U.S.E.P.A, under the General Assistance Agreement Program.

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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Think Green

Here at the IEN we try to incorporate green practices into our everyday work. This can include conserving paper to shutting down computers when not in use. In this way we can all contribute to the ecological health of Mother Earth. For this reason I'm requesting that you contact me if you no longer want to receive a copy of the IEN in the mail. The newest editions of the IEN will be available on our webpage from now on. just visit us at:

www.srmtenv.org

To discontinue receiving copies of the IEN in the mail please contact the editor at

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News From the Tribe's Solid Waste Program

Written by:
Laura J. Weber
Director- Solid Waste Management



When will the transfer station open? This is a question that community members are asking. I wish that I could announce the opening date here, but there are some details that still need to be resolved before we can open. We have spent the last few months installing and testing the last pieces of equipment needed to safely operate the facility. We are currently in contract negotiations with a company to transport the collected wastes to a permitted landfill in New York State. Once the contract is finalized and signed by Tribal Council, we can open the transfer station. The community will be informed of the opening date through CKON and the local newspapers.

In addition to getting the transfer station ready to open, we have been working on several other projects to better manage solid wastes in the community. Staff from the Solid Waste Program has been working with other organizations planning for the Annual Akwesasne Roadside Cleanup Day. This is an annual event that is sponsored by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Akwesasne Task Force on Environment, and the New York State Department of Transportation.

We have also been busy developing a waste lamp recycling project for community businesses. Waste lamps, or better known as fluorescent lights, contain mercury. Businesses in the community currently dispose of their waste lamps with their regular trash. This is not a sound disposal practice since the mercury can contaminate the environment. The waste lamp recycling project creates a permanent recycling option for waste lamps. We will begin an education campaign and collecting waste lamps from businesses this year. The collected waste lamps will be shipped to a recycling facility where the mercury will be removed for recycling. Other components of the lamps will also be separated and recycled.

In closing, let us share that we truly appreciate your support and patience as we continue to develop the best possible solid waste program that provides you with the best quality service that you can afford.

PURCHASE YOUR BLUE BAGS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

Wild Bills
Kanienkehaka Fuels
SRMT Community Building
SRMT Medical Clinic
SRMT Environment Building

If your business would like to sell blue bags, please call 358-5937. We are looking for blue bag distributors.

Solid Waste Program Welcomes Staff



The Solid Waste Program welcomes the addition of three new staff members: (1) Larry Thompson (L); (2) Paul Doxtator (R); and (3) Teres Seymour. Larry was hired in October as the Scale House Operator. Larry's primary responsibility is to operate the scales and oversee operations at the transfer station. Teres Seymour was assigned part-time duty as the Solid Waste Billing clerk and performs monthly invoicing for the program. Teres also works as the Secretary for the Environment Division. Paul Doxtator was hired in November as a Solid Waste Coordinator. Paul has been operating the truck and performing all of the collections in the community. Paul was temporarily hired to fill in for the regular driver who injured himself in late November. The Solid Waste Program extends a warm thank you to Paul for helping us continue providing quality flexible services to the community.



She's an Icebreaker, Waveshaker by Matthew Thompson

John Bay and myself, representing the SRMT Environment Division, along with Chief Francis Boots from MCA were recently aboard the ice breaker Martha Black as it passed through Akwesasne on Wednesday March 23, 2005. Contrary to popular beliefs there is nothing special about the ship as far as the engineering. It is not strengthened in the front to better break ice; it is a standard ship that runs off of three diesel engines. The ship breaks ice by driving slow allowing the ship to drive over the top of the ice, then allowing the weight of the ship to break the ice. On the same day Chief Francis Boots and me were allowed to accompany the Pilot and Copilot on the Helicopter Patrol of the Seaway.

The Icebreaking commenced at the upper Beauharnois locks located near the town of Melocheville in Quebec, then traveled through the Beauharnois canal progressing towards Lake St. Francis. Based upon a visual inspection the thickness of ice over Lake St Francis was between 16 inches and 36 inches. There were only a few areas over the entire lake where there were open spots with no ice cover.

In Akwesasne, the ice thickness was only 1 to 6 inches. The Ice breaker turned around directly in front of the Snell Locks and then traveled back through the path it just created. The ship docked for the night at the Valleyfield docks and we were told that the ice breaker would repeat the procedure again on March 24, 2005 to make the lane even wider.

Land Where the Partridge Drums and Wakes Me Up!!

By LC Swamp



It must be spring because in recent weeks I'm awakened to the sounds of what appears to be a child who starts to dribble a basketball but is quickly bored and leaves the basketball to bounce into oblivion. For certain, nobody is playing basketball near my house at 5am but this bouncing noise appears at dawn every morning. I recently inquired to our resident ornithologist a.k.a "office bird guy," about what this noise may be and he informed me it's a partridge (a.k.a ruffed grouse) and its in the middle of its mating ritual. In an attempt to attract the female grouse the male begins drumming, a sound created by beating the air with their wings, to advertise their presence to females. Luckily for me the human counterpart to the female grouse doesn't require me to flap my "wings" to advertise my mere existence. That announcement usually takes the form in my overly proud declaration, "Look, I did the dishes AND took out the garbage!"

Getting back to the partridge, I've been asked by my resident g-f (girlfriend) to rid the neighborhood of the nuisance bird. "But how," I asked? "Shoot it," she replied. First off, I don't own a gun and even if I did I'm sure I would have shot myself in the foot by now. The clumsy gene in my family has seemed to skip everyone but me. So with the shooting option off the table I came to the realization I'm probably not the best person to take on freelance animal control. However, the problem continued. So I pondered what to do with the seasonal equivalent of the noisy teenager who drives around with the ear-splitting, megawatt thumping bass lines of hip-hop. Not really coming up with any reasonable solutions, I decided to take another approach. Putting myself in the partridge's shoes, feet, claws, talons or whatever birds walk on. Of course my g-f would comment that I have the bird-legs to easily fit that role. Thanks, hon.

Anyways, I thought a bird's eye approach might give me some perspective. Now if I was a male partridge how could I attract these uppity females without disturbing anybody else? Thinking back on my college days I would have then probably drank too much, crafted a comment about the meaningless value in giving students grades followed by an awkward attempt at asking her out. Ok, bad example. So I thought more about this from the bird's perspective and it came to me, I was approaching this all wrong. I had to look at it from a male perspective and not from a bird's point of view only. As well documented in the world of courtship, males compete with other males for the affection from females. This being the case, its necessary for males on occasion to rely on their buddies to do a certain amount of blocking on their behalf in order to attain the objects of their desire. I wondered if the male partridge doesn't "hook-up" does he get discouraged and just move on in shame? It was at this point that I felt a tinge of compassion for my winged brother. Dang it, I never felt more compelled to help the "frustrated" bird and decided right then to be his "wingman" and thwart any attempts from my g-f to interrupt his goal of catching his mate.

Is there a lesson to be learned in all this? I started out being annoyed by the partridge and his "drumming" but after looking at it from his perspective I gained a better appreciation for not only natures complexities, but also an appreciation for what it takes to live in the land where the partridge drums- a little patience, compassion, and understanding.

Illustration and some information courtesy of Connecticut Department of Environmental Conservation

GIS Technician Joins IS Program



Sidney Laffin is the newest member to join the SRMT Environment Division. Sid joins the Informational Systems (IS) program and will be responsible for creating and managing the Tribe's land ownership information for use in a Geographic Information System. Sid brings his experience from his previous work as Coordinator for the Akwesasne Land Claims committee for the Mohawk Nation. In his spare time Sid enjoys riding his Harley Davidson, playing golf, and traveling.

West Nile Virus

Beginning in July 2004, the SRMT Environment Division began collecting dead bird samples for West Nile Virus (WNV) testing. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Wildlife Pathology Unit offered their services to provide analysis. To date, there have been 6 samples sent in for testing. None of the samples tested positive for WNV. In 2004, St. Lawrence County reported there were 2 positive bird cases for WNV and no cases reported in Franklin County. This year the Environment Division will continue to collect samples and send them off for testing in Albany, NY. To report a dead bird to the SRMT Environment Division please ensure:

- the bird has been dead less than 24 hours
- there is no obvious head trauma to the bird

To report a dead bird, please contact the SRMT Environment Division at 358-5937.



“Turtle Cove,” continued from pg. 1

which will be built to help prevent the Cove from being re-contaminated from upland areas on the reservation. A layer of stone, called “rip rap”, was placed along the shoreline and will help prevent erosion. All backfill materials come from the dredge spoils that were placed in Raquette Point during the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway. This material has been tested and is free of detectable levels of contaminants of concern.

The Cove bottom has been excavated to a depth, which will allow the property owner the option of turning the Cove into a working Marina. The off-site disposal of contaminated soils and sediments, and the final construction of the settling basin will be completed this summer.



Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP)

Visioning for the Future

Do you think.....

- resources in the land claim area could hold future benefit?
- you have vision for Akwesasne?
- the pace of change in Akwesasne could jeopardize tribal resources?
- resources like water, fish and wildlife, and energy hold value for the future?

Vision Statement for the IRMP (subject to change)

Develop a resource management plan to encourage future generations to increase their sense of community, heritage, and overall sense of self by sustaining a livelihood in Akwesasne.

What is an IRMP?

- It ties in the reservation's natural environment together with the Tribe's social values.
- A long range plan to manage the natural resources of the reservation.
- It serves as a strong, powerful expression of tribal sovereignty.
- It links the natural environment and social realities, creating resource policies that support a healthy ecosystem while taking into account a community's social, culturally, and economic needs.

Community Involvement

- The IRMP process requires the community's input and close involvement for it to be successful. Goals and vision for the IRMP need to come from the community directly.
- Its important for the community to identify desired future uses for resources.
- The IRMP is a planning document for the community and not necessarily for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe.

If you're interested in receiving more information about the IRMP you may contact Lornie Swamp at the Environment Division at 358-6211 or through email at lornie_swamp@srmtenv.org

The Northeast Region of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Hosts New Tribal Grants Management Training Course for Tribes

By: DJ Monette, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Northeast Region, Native American Liaison

The Northeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hosted grants management training for Tribes at the end of November in the Regional Office in Hadley, Mass. The National Conservation Training Center developed the pilot course, while Native American Liaison D.J. Monette coordinated Tribal participation. The training course was developed to support the two Tribal grant programs (the Tribal Wildlife Grants and the Tribal Landowner Incentive Program) that the Service began to administer in fiscal year 2003 as part of the Services training commitment to the Tribes.

The training course focused on topics such as: writing a good grant proposal; managing and administering grants; using information resources in the Federal Assistance Toolkit to manage and administer grants; Tribal and Service roles; modifying grants; reporting requirements; and eligibility and compliance requirements.

Tribal natural resource and fiscal staff from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, the Narragansett Indian Tribe, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), the Penobscot Indian Nation and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians attended the course.

“Any grants management training we can provide to meet the needs of the Tribes participating in the Tribal Wildlife Grants and the Tribal Landowner Incentive Program is time well spent,” said Federal Assistance course instructor Blake Weirich. “The success of these two programs promises to open a vital link in not only sustaining the natural resources on Tribal lands, but also in re-establishing part of the cultural heritage of all Native Americans.”

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe wetlands biologist Joyce Barkley said, “I’ve been writing for and managing federal grants for over six years now, and I thought I knew almost everything. This course opened my eyes to the complexities on the federal side of grants and has made me a better grant writer.”

If you are interested in participating in future training opportunities conducted by the Northeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, please contact Native American Liaison D.J. Monette at 413/253-8662.



Participants in the Tribal Grants Management Training Course

Photo by D.J. Monette/USFWS



Current Situation on Chronic Wasting Disease in New York

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has received a preliminary positive result for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in a wild deer sampled in Oneida County. If confirmed, this will be the first known occurrence of CWD in the wild in New York State.

The positive sample was from a yearling white-tailed deer, and was tested as part of DEC's intensive monitoring effort in Oneida County. The sample tissue was tested at the State's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Cornell University. The sample will be sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa to be verified.

DEC implemented intensive monitoring efforts after CWD was found in two captive white-tailed deer herds in Oneida County – the first incidents of CWD in New York State. On April 8, 2005, the State Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM) completed testing of the captive deer and found a total of five positive results for CWD in the two captive herds.

To date, DEC, along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services program, has sampled 213 deer from Oneida County, and 25 deer from the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County. Since 2002, DEC has conducted statewide sampling of wild deer for CWD. When combined with sampling efforts in Oneida and Hamilton Counties, DEC has collected more than 3,700 samples from wild white-tailed deer.

Environmental Incident Report

By Craig Arquette

September 2004- March 2005

This is the bi-annual 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 responds too. If you are faced with a spill at night or weekends, you can contact the Tribal Police at 358-9200 and they will contact the Response Team to assist you.

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's certified Environmental Response Team members include Ken Jock, Les Benedict, Shawn Martin, Craig Arquette, Laura Weber, Lornie Swamp, Angela Dunn, Marie Benedict, Aimee Benedict-Debo, Denean Cook, Teres Thompson, Jim Snyder, Adrian Mcdonald, Joyce Barkley, Evan Thompson, Jari Thompson, Jessica Jock, Tony David, Matthew Thompson, John Bay and Bobby Phillips.

Nature of Incident
(# of Incidents)

Automobile Accident
(4)
Seaway Accident
(1)

Issue #24

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Spring '05

Green Building in Haudenosaunee

by Bryan Printup
Tuscarora Environment Program
Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force



We shape our dwellings, and afterwards our dwellings shape our lives: -Winston Churchill



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The Inn of the Anasazi is a popular four-star hotel in Santa Fe, New Mexico, just off the edge of the Governor's Plaza. It has not always been this way. The building began its life in 1965 as the steel-and-concrete office of the New Mexico state prison system.

Fifteen years later, it was reopened as the Inn of the Anasazi. The building's original skin had been completely stripped off, and the hotel was built around the old structure. The new adobe structure with dark brown stucco is quite beautiful and as green buildings go, it's a pretty good one. Almost all of the building materials were locally sourced, it's reasonably energy and water efficient, and a lot of attention was paid to indoor air quality. This green building example is especially significant because of its relationship between the people and community of Santa Fe. Local artisans made much of the furniture, the toiletries are produced by a local small community using Native American herbs, and the restaurant gets 90 percent of its food from a network of local organic suppliers. The hotel has found multiple ways in which it has woven itself into the fabric of Santa Fe, moving beyond technologies and techniques to thinking about how a project proactively interconnects itself into the social and ecological fabric of a community.

These types of green buildings should not be seen as a rare occurrence, to be used as lone examples

for a "new" shift of our conceptions of the purpose and process of development. But as communities, we need to collectively grasp the concept of the relationships between environment, sustainability and humanistic.

These three core qualities- so old yet so new -are the soul of the philosophy, methodology, and the blending of art and science that is, and beyond, the designing and construction of our built environments.

Haudenosaunee have always understood these core bedrock qualities, which are used in pursuit of the ultimate goal to create buildings that "give back" to the environment, sustain and restore natural habitat and human health, and contribute to quality of life. It is true that our recent and current building practices among the Haudenosaunee have not exactly followed our ancestors' path, and because of technology and modern techniques we have allowed ourselves to stray. Yet it is because of new technology and modern techniques that we can realign ourselves with the social and ecological fabric that the Haudenosaunee see as an integrated environment including Onkwehonwe and Mother Earth.

When trying to define our goal of green building, the aforementioned *Inn of the Anasazi* example is a guide to how the multiple parts of the design and building process can work together to create a building for human and community use.

As we know all too well, modern buildings are temporal in every sense. In many contemporary houses, construction quality is barely better than that of a theater set. Materials are made to fade, not last. Sustainable architecture is foremost about reimagining the relationship between humans and living systems. The most powerful expression of this relationship is our built environment. How do we build, now that our supply of natural capital water, wood, energy, land must be far more effectively used? How do we make zero-emission houses? How do we design structures that can be reincorporated into the earth harmlessly and endlessly? How do we consume energy and water so that the sky and Mother Earth improve rather than erode? In other words, how do we live? These are questions that are on the table for us at HETF, and for the Confederacy.

Bio-Control Method for Purple Loosestrife in Akwesasne

by Joyce Barkley

Introduction

Invasion of non-native, nuisance plant species into our wetland systems, in particular Purple Loosestrife, has become a deep concern. In many areas of the nation, including New York State, scientists have successfully used biological controls (bio-control) to limit the spread of purple loosestrife. Bio-control uses one biological organism to control the spread or infestation of another organism. In this case, the use of host-specific beetles to control Purple loosestrife in wetland areas.

There have been some concerns, however, of releasing host-specific beetles in Akwesasne. Since these beetles originate from Europe, alternative healers in the Mohawk community have been apprehensive about using this control without having information about the effects on medicinal plants in the wetland areas.

Several plants (over 40 species) have already been tested by the University of Michigan in prior studies. Additional plants (Table 1) were chosen based on at-risk medicinal species listed in a brochure printed by the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force (HETF). The plants were purchased during the winter and placed in a heated greenhouse. This was to allow the plants the opportunity to establish themselves in the pots. Multiple specimens of each species were infested with beetles to rule out any bias.

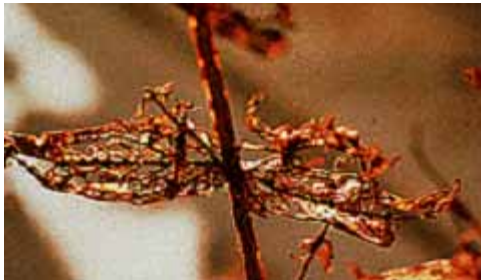


Figure 1. Beetle damage

“No-Choice” Test on At-Risk Medicinal Plants

A “no-choice” test consists of specific plants grown inside mesh netting. Larvae and adult beetles are placed inside the netting on the plant. The beetle then has the choice of feeding on the specific plant or starving to death. Table 1 shows some medicinal plants that have shown a negative response to beetle feeding.

Table 1. Plants showing negative beetle feeding response

Common Name			
Sneezeweed	Butterfly weed	Trillium	Black Cohosh
Rough blazing star	Common arrowleaf	White Boneset	Bloodroot
Black-eyed Susan	Cardinal flower	Wild Yam	Goldenseal
Blue flag iris	Lamb' quarters	Arnica	Green Dragon
Bee balm	New England aster	Calamus	Lady's Slipper
			Orchid
Sage	Purple coneflower	Gentian	Partridge Berry
Lupine	Joe Pye weed	Lobelia	Sundew
Evening primrose	Sunflower	Spikenard	Leatherwood
Wild rice	Goatsbeard	Culver's root	Cattail
Columbine			

Springtime in Akwesasne

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Spring '05

Responding to concerns raised by the community, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) joined forces to clean-up an illegal open dump site on the eastern outskirts of Akwesasne in the first week of May. Although not a new problem in Akwesasne, illegal dumping elicits the same, common response. “Why?” The Tribe and MCA offer solid waste pick-up services for its respective residents, with MCA offering no charge pick up service, making this situation so senseless. The dumping assailants have not been identified but a reward will be offered for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of people dumping trash on the Drum Street Rd. after May 4th. Combating litterbugs is no easy task and it will take a concerted effort from all the environment departments, law enforcement, and concerned community members to eliminate the practice of illegal dumping. The power of the individual to encourage change in Akwesasne shouldn't be ignored in this situation. Before the clean-up of the open dump on Drum Street Rd. was coordinated, Terri Lazore took it upon herself to start cleaning up the area. Ms. Lazore, like many others probably feels disgusted thinking people could dispose of their trash properly but decide not to for their own selfish reasons.

Coincidentally, the Drum Street Rd. cleanup occurred a few days before the annual roadside clean-up day, which each year further reiterates the need for fines to be imposed on persons who get caught unlawfully disposing of trash. Where does the solution lie? Enforcement? Education, which addresses the negative impacts of open dumping? Banishment? I'm not sure but littering conveys to everyone the pride (or lack thereof) that one has in his or her own community. It's hard to use terms like “uncaring,” “selfish,” and “senseless,” when describing people's actions but nothing else comes to mind. It certainly would be easier to positively write about the folks who take on the challenge of cleaning up other peoples trash..

So thank you to everyone who feels the pride to better the community and who come out each year to clean up the ditches and the open dumps of Akwesasne.



Animal carcasses were discarded at an illegal dumpsite at the northeast corner of the reservation. The assistance of the community is needed in reporting unlawful dumping in our territory.



Garbage in the roadside ditches welcomes springtime each year. Bringing polluters to justice could be a step in stopping this senseless activity.



For years people have been dumping their trash at the corner of Drum Street and County Route 43. The illegal dump poses a health threat to local residents and was removed by personnel from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Environment Divisions.



The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environmental Response Team led the coordination for the cleanup by providing personnel and equipment. Mohawk Council of Akwesasne also contributed personnel and paid for the proper disposal of the trash. May 4, 2005

Top 10 Things I Learned During the Roadside Clean-Up

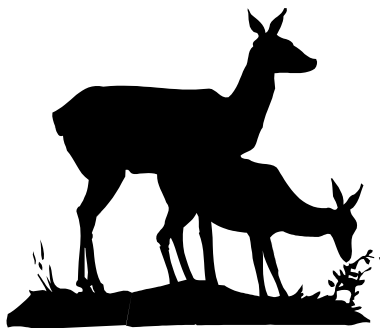
10. Some people think it's not their responsibility to keep Akwesasne clean.
9. The feeling of doing a good deed was overshadowed by feelings of anger, resentment and embarrassment for cleaning up other people's garbage.
8. People buy and use way too much styrofoam.
7. Some people couldn't care less
6. I felt like I was doing prison work duty on the ditches. Without the orange jumpsuit, of course.
5. Enforcement of "litter laws" is a must.
4. Evidently, people are drinking more water because I picked up more empty water bottles than ever this year. At least that's positive.
3. There are a lot of good-hearted people in Akwesasne willing to lend a helping hand.
2. Imagined what Akwesasne would look like if this wasn't a yearly event. Yikes!

And the #1 thing I learned during the cleanup.....

1. There is no such thing as leaving your sense of smell at home.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is found in some deer and elk populations in North America. CWD belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. Although CWD is in the same family of diseases as bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle, and scrapie in sheep, it is a distinct disease that has only been found in deer and elk. The specific cause of the disease is believed to be a type of prion (protein infectious particle) that is found in the brain, central nervous system and some lymphoid tissues of infected animals. There is no evidence that CWD is linked to disease in humans or domestic livestock other than deer and elk.

The state Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Agriculture and Markets (DAM), and Health (DOH), together with the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) are cooperating to develop a comprehensive statewide response to the threat of CWD. These agencies are actively participating together with other agencies and organizations in nationwide efforts to learn more about this disease and to prevent its spread.



Releasing beetles in the Summer of 2005

The Tribe's Environment Division will be working in collaboration with Dr. Bernd Blossey, Cornell University-Natural Resources Department to raise and release *Galerucella spp.* beetles. The adult beetles emerge in spring from hibernation in leaf litter and feed on the new leaves (*Figure 1*) and shoots of purple loosestrife. The egg-laying phase lasts approximately two months in the spring and eggs are laid in clusters of two to ten daily on the plant stem and in the leaf axils. Larvae feed on bud, leaf, and stem tissue.

Adults are very mobile and successful in seeking out new stands of purple loosestrife. Once a host has been located, migration slows. The overwintered adults die by late June, soon after the reproduction phase has been completed. In other established plots, purple loosestrife was reduced (Blossey, 1994) by 90% over most of its present range.

For more information, please feel free to call the Environment Division, Wetlands Protection Program at 518-358-5937.

Drinking Water Quality in Private Wells In Akwasasne

This project—funded through the Walker Fellowship and coordinated through SUNY Potsdam—is intended to collect data on the water quality of private well water supplies in Akwasasne and provide information for future investigations of the ground water. Included in the study is a complete analysis of inorganic trace elements and metals, 72 in all, such as arsenic, lead, chromium, and mercury. Some of which can pose serious health concerns over



long term consumption.

The primary concern of this study is public health. While some undesirable aspects of water quality exist they are cosmetic and not necessarily a health concern such as odor, taste, and discoloration of appliances. Bathing and washing of clothes does not present a health risk at these levels. For the most part, our results show that most wells have no risk to general human health. Each residence tested will have their individual test results provided to them. People with specific health concerns should discuss their results with a Doctor.

The elements that were analyzed are naturally occurring and not the result of industrial contamination. They are found deep in the earth's surface where drinking water is taken from. Each well can differ greatly from one house to the next depending on depth of the well and specific conditions at each site.

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) set by USEPA are listed on the right. Results are reported in part per million (ppm) or part per billion (ppb). To get an idea of the scale, a ppm is about 1 inch in 16 miles, and 1 ppm is equal to 1000 ppb. Every element has a different level at which it affects the health of humans. Some elements simply have no affect on humans in such small amounts. Preliminary results show minor levels of Arsenic at or below 10 ppb in the Drum Street Rd area (east of Snye Marsh). A second round of sampling will help us determine if these levels are a health threat.

Some Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs): given in either parts per billion, or parts per million

Element *	MCL
<i>Aluminum</i>	200 ppb
Antimony	6 ppb
Arsenic	10 ppb
Barium	2 ppm
Beryllium	4 ppb
Boron	30 ppm
<i>Cadmium</i>	5 ppb
Calcium	NA
<i>Chlorine</i>	250 ppm
Chromium	100 ppb
Copper	1.3 ppm
<i>Iron</i>	0.3 ppm
Lead	15 ppb
<i>Magnesium</i>	NA
Manganese	0.05 ppm
Molybdenum	0.07 ppm
Nickel	0.7 ppm
<i>Phosphorus</i>	NA
Selenium	50 ppb
Sodium	250 ppm
Sulfur	250 ppm
Thallium	0.5 ppb
Uranium	30 ppb
Zinc	5 ppm

***Note:** Not all elements are shown above and not all elements are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency, World Health Organization, or St Regis Mohawk Tribe.

Elements in Italics refer to secondary standards that are non-enforceable; they may have cosmetic or aesthetic effects (such as undesirable taste, odor, or color).

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