

LOCAL NEWS

Adopt-A-Road Program

AKWESASNE - BY: Kawehnihe. The community of Akwesasne is a beautiful place for the Mohawk people. This site was chosen by Mohawk ancestors hundreds of years ago because of the location and proximity to rivers and forest areas so that the Mohawk people could survive. Through the years there have been changes to Akwesasne with each new century. Akwesasne has kept up with the times. The Village of Kanatakon which was the center of the Mohawks has spread out to include Kahwehnoke, TsiSnaihne, and the American portion of the reserve.



Just a small sample of what we allow our home to look like.

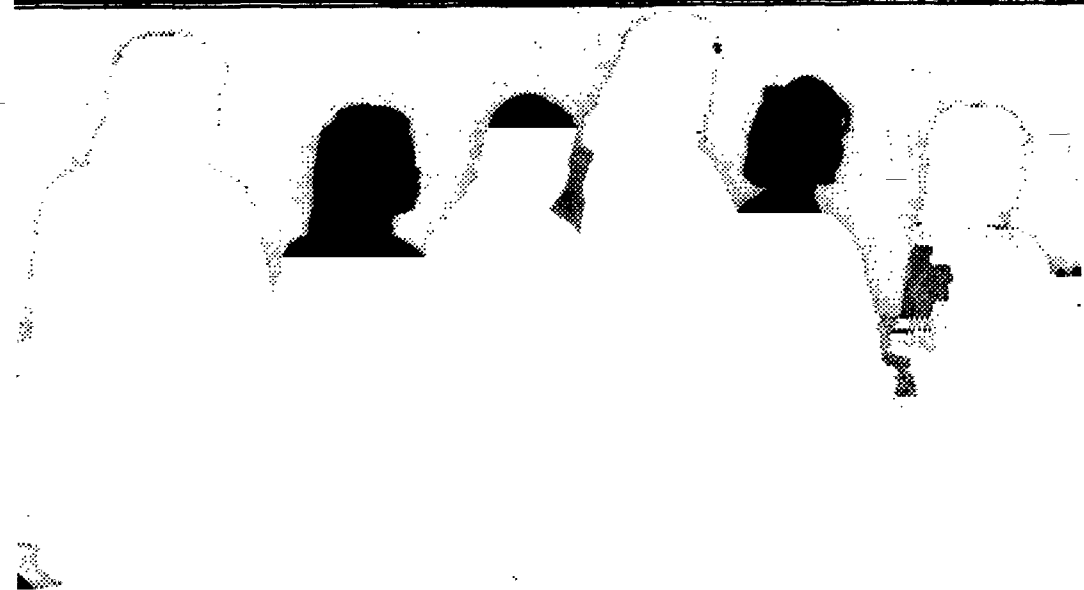
Photo: Staff

The roads, paved, connect the different parts of the community. As you travel on these roads the roadside ditches are visible and the ditches have bottles, paper, and other debris which makes Akwesasne look dirty. It is so easy to toss McDonald's or other fast food bags out the window. Of course, it lands in the ditches.

With spring here, perhaps the people need to take the time to select a portion of a road and adopt the section. It would be your responsibility to clean that area, bag the garbage and then the Environmental Divisions or Akwesasne

Task Force would organize pickups by a garbage disposal company.

Earth Day was on Saturday, April 22 and the only activity in Akwesasne was the seed distribution by the Akwesasne Environmental Task Force. Schools, organizations and local committees did not sponsor any event. The Earth is important and a clean, healthy environment and it is necessary for the future generations. The Adopt-A-Road project is an idea which can become a reality. The Adopt-A-Road project can work if everyone wants to keep Akwesasne clean.



Congratulations to Our St. Regis Mohawk School 3rd Grade National Winners!



Pictured above is Mrs. McCarthy's Third Grade class who were the National 3rd grade winners in the Scholastic kids care, good citizen Challenge!

Congratulations to:

Darwin Arquette, Toby Back, Leslie Benedict, Lelan Clute, Tracie Cook, Michelle David, Lydia Garrow, Derek Hart, Patrick Kelly, Joseph Mitchell, Latoya Rourke, Julianne Skidders, Taylor Smoke, Ashley Tarbell, John Tarbell, Jade White and Sheena White.

Freedom School Announces Earth Day

The Akwesasne Freedom School was one of about fifteen Indian organizations, from across the nation, to be invited to Washington, DC, to attend the 25th Anniversary of celebrating earth day on April 22nd. The students did the 'opening' and 'closing' for Saturdays events, and they did a wonderful job of representing Akwesasne throughout the whole weekend.

There were many people from other territories who sought out our group to congratulate them on a job well done. They would stop by our exhibit and say, "We heard Akwesasne was here, we had to come by and say hello...".

The atmosphere was upbeat and exciting, the students took every opportunity to enjoy and appreciate all the green grass, flowers — and LEAVES on the trees. (Not an item issued in our area yet...). Passerby were quick to notice the tumbles and cartwheels going on all around our

exhibit.

Joanne Shenandoah gave an excellent performance, and sang such favorites as 'My mother the Earth', 'Dream on', 'The Iroquois', 'They Didn't Listen', and many more songs appropriate to the occasion. Haskell University did performances of "the trickster" stories; and Thomas Bonianca of the Hopi Nation gave a very strong speech on the meaning of "keepers of the earth". In all, the students had a good time and added another step to worldly experience.

The Students, Staff, and parents of the Akwesasne Freedom School would like to thank all of the groups and people who gave donations to cover the expenses of our trip, they are: Snye Elders Group; Snye Home makers; Ononkwasona Pharmacy; Margaret Terrance; and the Akwesasne Mohawk Nation. Nia:wenh Ko:wa!