

DISCOVER

SIX NATIONS

SUMMER 2020

POWWOW & TOURISM MAGAZINE

ACTIVITIES

RAEKS

CELEBRATIONS

RAHRON:KAS

EVENTS

RATKAHTHOS

FESTIVALS

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WELCOME *Shé:koh*

Welcome to Discover Six Nations. We are pleased to present it to you from the Grand River Territory of the Six Nations, the home base for Turtle Island News, Canada's number one national native weekly newspaper. While COVID-19 has posed difficulties for us all, the world has begun to open up and First Nation communities themselves are no different opening and welcoming you to visit, but First Nations are putting community safety first so expect COVID-19 safety measures to be in place. We urge you to, when visiting, come prepared with masks and expect COVID-19 safety measures to be in place including distancing and limits into our stores and galleries during your visit to our communities. And check ahead. Just as the rest of the world some First Nation communities are fully open,

others are still in closed phases and some are slowly opening limiting events and the numbers of people that can visit. Indigenous communities across Canada have welcomed visitors to their homes for generations to share with you the treasures of our culture and customs and history. To walk with you through time. To introduce you to our languages, to the wonderful customs that make up our nations. At Six Nations, located just south of Hamilton, Ontario along the Grand River, you will find the home of the Mohawk, Onondaga, Oneida, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscaroras. It's the only place where you will find all six of the Haudenosaunee, the People of the Longhouse, or "Iroquois" peoples living. The Six Nations came together to form a Confederacy of Nations

under the "Great Tree of Peace", following the messages brought by the "Peacemaker". Inside you will find stories of our culture, history and events. Descriptions of powwows dances and our festivals all of which will be back in 2021! Not to mention the many crafters, art galleries and businesses in our communities that welcome you to come and browse. Sharing and laughing and telling stories is as much a part of our communities as the air we breathe and the water we drink. We love to tell you all about us from all our different nations. The Six Nations Territory is located along the banks of the Grand River surrounded by the original Carolinian Forests of Southern Ontario. We hope you will get a chance to visit our communities. Nia:weh, thank-you!

Lynda Powless - Editor



COVID 19 - Awareness

To ensure the health and well being of all staff and visitors alike, tourist destinations will each have restrictions in place to protect everyone. Guests are encouraged to pre-plan their visits. Review websites or call ahead. *Practice social distancing and use a mask when inside facilities.*

Turtle Island News
Discover Six Nations is published yearly by Turtle Island News Publications. Submitted manuscripts accepted but may not be returned. Only authors of selected materials will be contacted. No portion of the magazine,

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EXPERIENCE THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE



A Powwow celebrates dance, song and family. Traditionally it is a celebration presented by one Nation of aboriginal peoples to welcome and honour others.

Powwows are usually three day weekends and people often travel great distances to at-

tend them. The main powwow season extends throughout the summer and everyone is encouraged to attend. It's a real educational experience.

The experience of attending a powwow can be a valuable and fascinating cultural experience for a non-Native person, particularly those unfamiliar with the first peoples of this country. And it provides a healing experience for aboriginal people.

With emphasis on the youth, a powwow gives them a chance to reconnect with their culture and who they are, especially



those from urban centres.

There are several different kinds of powwows although the two most common are known as traditional powwows and the competition powwow.

In a traditional powwow everyone participates in the dancing or singing. While there is a degree of competi-

tion in the dancing events, it is not a formal competition. Ceremony is a big part of traditional powwows - honourings, giveaways, first dances or coming out dances and adoption ceremonies.

A competition powwow has large prize money for the dancers, depending on the hosting band and can range up to \$1 million in prize monies.

Everyone can still compete and dance, but only the dancers who place near the top of the competition receive prize money, drum groups also compete for prize money.

While competition powwows usually draw the most dancers, the powwow isn't just about prize money; it is about making new friends.



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Fancy Feather DANCERS

You can tell the Fancy Feather dancers from other dancers because they wear two feather bustles.



Fancy Shawl DANCERS

Traditions in the east say that shawl dancers are similar to grass dancers in that their dances represent warriors. Don't be surprised to see a lot of high stepping, twirling and lifting and almost flowing of the shawls.



Grass DANCERS

The dance comes from the west. The regalia is made with bright coloured yarn or ribbon fringe. Most dancers have stunning bead work but some are making the transition to coloured fabric.



Hoop DANCERS

Display interpretations of the life cycle of the Eagle and or the Creation Story.



Traditional DANCERS

They dress in bone beaded breast plates, war shields and some may even paint their faces in an array of colours and patterns that remind one of the excitement and anticipation for many warriors of days gone by celebrating in anticipation of the coming hunts.



Jingle DANCERS

Jingle Dress dancers are respected for the special status their dress and teaching gives them. They are given tobacco at a gathering and asked to dance for a member of the community who may be ill or in need of healing.

Regalia & Dances

Dances in the Indigenous People's culture each have a deeper purpose and significance. Below are just a few of the traditional dances.

Stomp Dance - walking clockwise around the fire, women and men traditionally alternate in a line, with the women wearing rattles around their ankles and maintaining the rhythm of the song.

Ghost Dance - performed to symbolize the regeneration of Earth, the ghost dance is fairly unstructured, asking only that the participants move in a manner to awaken the spirits.

Sun Dance - beginning and ending at sunset spanning over 4 - 8 days

Grass Dance - one of the oldest dances it mimics the quiet swaying movements of grass when the wind blows.

Discover Six Nations

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Colourful and exciting, the annual **Grand River Champion of Champions Powwow** is held the fourth weekend in July.

It promotes heritage and the rich arts community by showcasing our 'pride' in music, dance, arts and crafts. Many Native Americans from the United States now participate as well.

The event traditionally takes place in the open-air, during the afternoon and on into the evening under lights. It has been held at Chiefswood Park, on the grounds of the former Estate of the Mohawk Poetess E. Pauline Johnson, at the Six Nations of the Grand River Community. 1037 Brant County Hwy 54, Ohsweken, ON

The Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation borders the Six Nations community and is located 30 kilometres south-east of Hamilton, just off Highway 6.

Blue# 2789 1st Line Road (Mississauga Rd.) Hagersville, ON

Home to the **Three Fires Homecoming Powwow and Traditional Gathering** held annually in August.

The community was established in 1847 when the Mississauga Nation was relocated from their traditional grounds on the north shore of Lake Ontario where the cities of Toronto and Mississauga now stand. For information: www.new-creditcc.ca or call New Credit Library at (905) 768-5686

2020 COVID restrictions may apply, visit websites for more information.

Watch for virtual Pow Wows this summer!

Pow Wows around the area...

July

Marvin "Joe" Curry Veterans Pow Wow, Salamanca, NY
www.senecapowwow.org

July

Six Nations of the Grand Grand River Pow Wow, Ohsweken ON
www.grpowwow.ca

July

Saginaw Chippewa Pow Wow, Mt. Pleasant, MI
www.sagchip.org

July 29-31

Grand Mid-Summer Pow Wow at Queens County Farm Museum
73-50 Little Neck Parkway, Floral Park, NY

July-August

Wikwemikong Annual Cultural Festival & Pow Wow
www.wikwemkoong.ca/tourism/traditional-pow-wow

August

Saugeen First Nation Pow Wow, Southampton, ON
www.saugeenfirstnation.ca

August

Rejuvenation of the Spirit Pow Wow, Leamington, ON

www.caldwellfirstnation.ca

August

Chippewas of Rama First Nation Pow Wow, Rama, ON
www.mnjikaning.ca

September

Akwesasne International Pow Wow, Cornwall, ON
www.akwesasnepowwow.com/

Welcome

There's always things to discover in the Six Nations Community!

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The oldest Indigenous Fair in Canada. It runs from September 11-13, 2020. This year would mark the 153rd year for the fair which takes place the weekend after Labour Day. 1738 Fourth Line Road, Ohsweken, ON

SN Fall Fair



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Harvest Festival



Annual event held in mid October.
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 1086 Hwy 54, Ohsweken ON
 For updates visit Route 54 facebook page.



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TURTLE ISLAND NEWS -

Earth Day *Festival*

This free event takes place in April to mark Earth Day.

A day of activities and educational opportunity for all ages. "We are thrilled every year to put on an Earth Day celebration. It has gotten bigger every year. Most importantly we are all planting trees together;"

Turtle Island News editor

Lynda Powless said.



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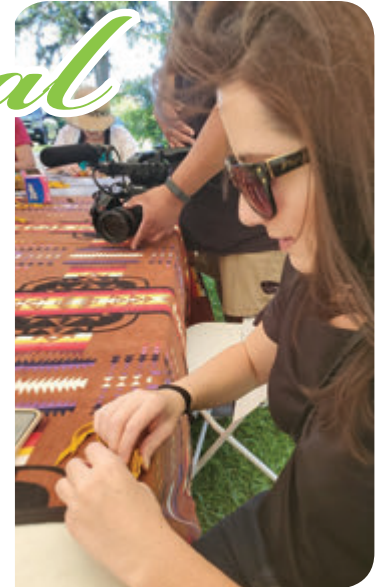
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Onkwehón:we Festival



Woodland Cultural Centre holds an annual Onkwehón:we Festival with music, dance, crafts and fun. Last weekend of June.



Woodland Cultural Center



Enjoy the unique cultural experiences that the Six Nations of the Grand River has to offer.



Enjoy the displays at the Woodland Cultural Centre. Located on the Six Nations Reserve within the city of Brantford. This centre offers educational programs special lectures, demonstrations, workshops, performances & festivals.

2020 COVID restrictions may apply, visit websites for more information.



184 Mohawk St., Brantford ON.
www.woodlandculturalcentre.ca

When out and about practice social distancing.

Destinations Kayanase & Kanata Village

Kayanase is a greenhouse, ecological restoration and eco-tourism company specializing in native species plants. With the building of the 17th century replica longhouse, Kayanase now offers eco-tourism learning through both tours and workshops around the longhouse.

993 Highway#54, Ohsweken, ON Mon. to Fri. 8 am - 4:30 pm

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Destinations Chiefswood Park



& Chiefswood NHS

The Chiefswood National Historic Site (NHS) is the birthplace and childhood home of renowned Mohawk and English poetess, E. Pauline Johnson. The building is a Italianate villa style set in a picturesque treed landscape on the banks of the Grand River.



Situated on a 20 acre site beside the Grand River, Chiefswood Park consists of 2 areas for camping or log cabin rental; top and river-side. Canoe and kayak rentals are available. Day use May - October 6am - 9pm. 1037 Hwy 54 & Chiefswood Rd., Ohsweken ON.

2020 COVID restrictions may apply, visit websites for more information.

Chiefswood NHS is open May to October. Tue. – Sun. 10 am – 3 pm.



HMR Mohawk Chapel

Marvel in the quiet serenity and historical beauty of Her Majesty's Royal Chapel of the Mohawks (1785). Open May - October. Daily July - Labour Day. 301 Mohawk Street, Brantford ON. www.mohawkchapel.ca

Enjoy your summer exploring the Six Nations area!

Be safe, practice social distancing and use a mask in indoor public situations.

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HOT POINTS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The HCCC have assigned certain individuals to provide a process and an institution to ensure that Haudenosaunee rights are protected. That process is currently called the HDI.

NO AUTOMATIC APPROVAL

Approval is not automatic. Currently where a project is recommended for approval by the HDI, final approval must be provided by the HCCC and its processes.

NO SURRENDER

No HDI land use agreement will ever surrender or relinquish Haudenosaunee title to the land.

FUTURE DIRECTION

The HDI is preparing to appoint a Community Advisory Board.

Understanding the



Haudenosaunee Development Institute

OUR LAND OUR LAW OUR PEOPLE OUR FUTURE

In 2007 the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council ('HCCC') was swamped with developers seeking approval of projects within areas of Haudenosaunee jurisdiction including the Haldimand Tract.

The developers were approaching the HCCC because of recent Canadian legal decisions and because the Crown has completely failed to deal with Haudenosaunee rights.

The problem of 'development' on Haudenosaunee lands is not a new problem for the Chiefs to address. Historically developers were simply called squatters – and the solution at that time was to ensure that lands were leased rather than sold.

This was done for the perpetual care and maintenance of the Haudenosaunee people and consistent with one of the mandates of the HCCC which is to protect the interests of the Haudenosaunee people.

The HCCC have now decided that a process for dealing with the modern day squatters is necessary because of infringement on Haudenosaunee rights and damage to the environment caused by the squatters. The HCCC have assigned certain individuals to create a process and an institution to ensure that rights are protected. That process is currently called the Haudenosaunee Development Institute ('HDI'). It is understood that the HDI must function and operate in accordance with Haudenosaunee Law.

The HDI is not about any individuals – it is about establishing a process and structure that will protect Haudenosaunee rights long after any individuals are gone.

Currently the HDI process asks developers, individuals or governments to submit an application for a project to be considered for a land use agreement. The land use agreement is simply renewing the original intent of the Chiefs in terms of providing for the perpetual care and maintenance of the Haudenosaunee people. At no time will any land use agreement surrender or relinquish Haudenosaunee 'title' to the land.

Approval is not automatic. Currently where a project is recommended for approval by the HDI, final approval must be provided by the HCCC and its processes.

The HDI is not about past injustices or the current negotiations. The HDI is about protecting lands and resources going forward and allowing us to become self sufficient and truly independent.

We look forward to providing you with our next press release on our accomplishments to date and thank you for your understanding, patience and support as we work towards protecting the rights and interests of all Haudenosaunee people.



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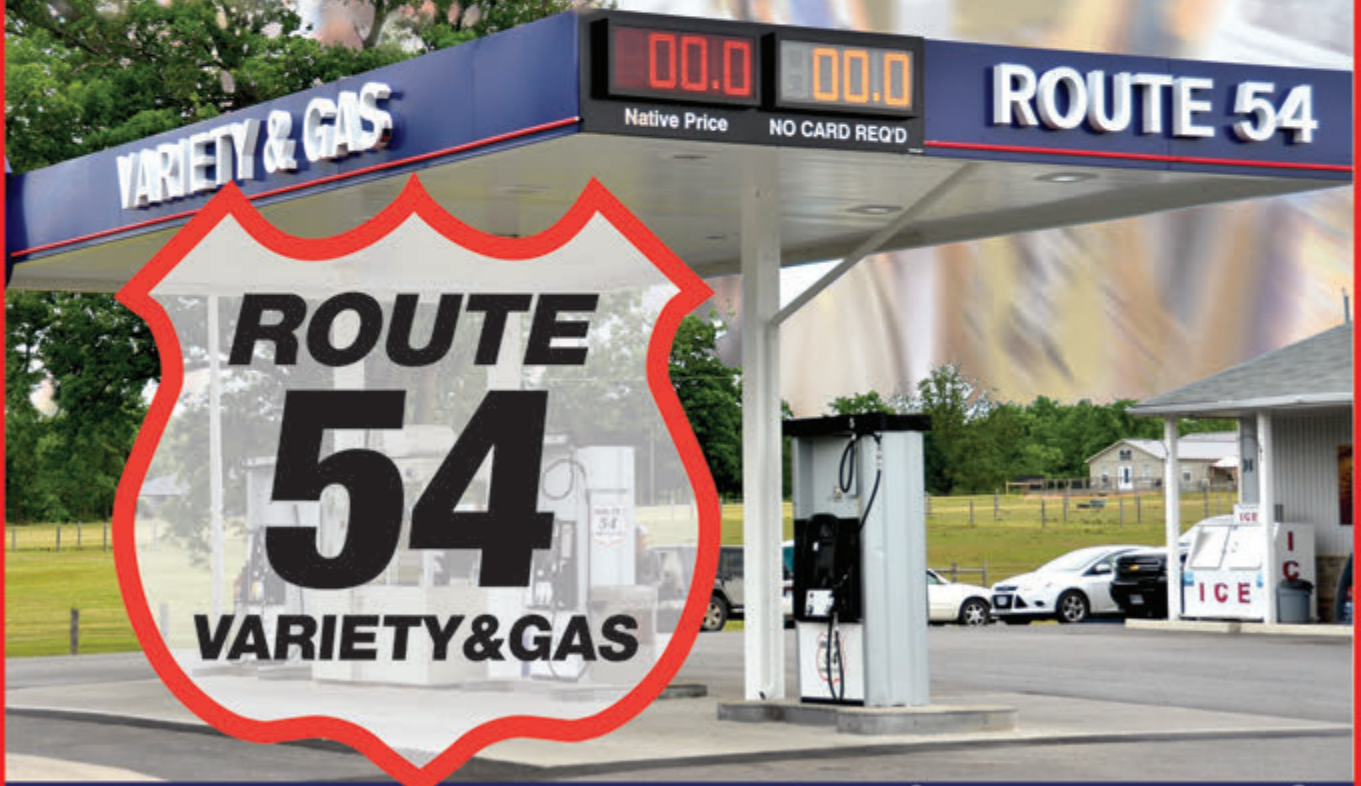
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