A Message from the Nation Representative

Shekólih. Earlier this month, we mailed out an update regarding the Oneida Indian Nation Neighborhoods development project. It is truly an exciting time as we get set to open a new chapter in our history. This type of project is a direct investment in our self-sufficiency, sovereignty, community – and more broadly, our home. It goes far in fulfilling the hopes and dreams of our ancestors in restoring the strength of our Nation.

We understand that we must have a community that engenders a sense of home, woven together by the bonds we have formed from our common history. The connector road, the first phase of this development that will connect the Village of the White Pines to Territory Road on the 32 acres, is well underway and will include all new sidewalks, street lights, water, sewer, electric and other public services.

We also know that a neighborhood is more than just houses and roads, which is why we are proud to announce that as part of the Oneida Neighborhoods development project we will be building a new, state-of-the-art community center that will serve as the central activity and gathering place for our People.

In preparation for the construction of this facility, we want and need to hear your ideas about what would be important to include in the community center – whether it be recreational, social, technological or otherwise. If you have ideas that you’d like to share, you can email them to memberadvocate@oneida-nation.org or just send a letter.

The unification of our lands by Territory Road and the Village presents us with opportunities to invest in initiatives like the Oneida Neighborhoods development project, as well as health care, education, affordable housing and other aligned programs that continue the restoration of our Nation’s vitality. This investment serves not only Members living within our community today, but will serve the needs of our future generations.

The Oneida Indian Nation stands today before a proud history of perseverance, even when facing daunting challenges. Thank you for your continued perseverance as we move forward with the ongoing restoration of our homelands and our People.

Naki’wa,
Ray Halbritter
Nation Representative
Connector Road Update

Progress on the new Connector Road continues every day. The long, winding road will connect Territory Road to the edge of Runners Road in the Village of the White Pines. Beginning in mid-summer, construction included clearing the land of overgrown brush and vegetation and installing infrastructure requirements for public services like water, sewer, electricity and natural gas. Soon, blacktop asphalt will be laid down.

As part of the infrastructure upgrades, the gas pipeline was replaced running through Territory Road south up to Union Street to the north. The new Community Center will be centrally located for easy access no matter where you live in the neighborhood along with new wayfinding signage for safe travel within the neighborhood. Plans also include nature trails and elevated boardwalk bridges so residents can enjoy the natural gifts of the Creator on our lands.
as America’s First Allies, the Oneida Indian Nation’s legacy of support for the United States dates back to the Revolutionary War, when our People fought alongside colonists against the British. During the weekend of October 9 through 11, the Nation took part in the Museum of the American Revolution’s Indigenous Peoples Weekend to honor this legacy and ensure its preservation. The annual event encourages visitors to explore American Indian history and culture, ensuring an increasingly diverse country’s history accurately reflects the diversity of its foundational story.

Nation Members Wes Halsey (Wolf Clan), Cameron Schenandoah (Wolf Clan) and Jamison Cathers (Turtle Clan) traveled to Philadelphia along with Chris and Hailey Thomas (Onondaga) for the event as part of a group of dancers sponsored by the Nation. Each day the group performed Haudenosaunee social dances in the museum’s outdoor plaza, interacting with the crowd to make the presentation more educational and entertaining for all.

Visitors joined museum educators for a discovery cart that introduced Tyonajanegen (Two Kettles Together), who fought alongside her husband HanYerry during the Battle of Oriskany. The cart allowed guests to explore replica artifacts and documents that help tell Tyonajanegen’s story, including how she loaded HanYerry’s gun to help him continue fighting after being wounded during the conflict.

Guests also enjoyed screenings of The People of the Standing Stone in the museum’s Lenfest Myer Theater. The 27-minute documentary shares the Oneida Indian Nation’s tremendous story of courage and generosity, cementing the Oneidas’ standing as America’s First Allies. Narrated by Academy Award winning actor Kevin Costner and directed by Emmy Award winner Ric Burns, the film traces the Nation’s history during the Revolutionary War with a deeper exploration of the story not often found in history textbooks.

The Oneida Indian Nation Gallery, the museum’s core exhibition, welcomes guests to immerse themselves in the Nation’s historic debate over whether to break away from the Six Nations Confederacy and stand alongside the colonists in support of the Revolutionary cause. In the gallery, lifelike figures representing Oneida men and women discuss the difficult choices they faced.

Other activities offered during Indigenous Peoples Weekend included wampum belt demonstrations, daily pop-up talks and craft activities.

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Oneidas Commemorate Battle of Oriskany

On August 6th, 2021 – the 244th anniversary of the Battle of Oriskany – Oneida Members, their friends and families, as well as many from the local community, gathered to commemorate the friendship forged between the Oneidas and American colonists and the sacrifices both sides endured for generations.

The battle is known as one of the bloodiest of the Revolutionary War and proved to be a pivotal moment that led to the Americans’ eventual victory. The unification of the colonists and the Oneidas at Oriskany protected nearby Fort Stanwix from a forthcoming British siege. If the British and their loyalists were successful, they could’ve divided the colonies in half.

Nearly two and half centuries later, the Oneidas’ legacy as America’s First Allies is finally being recognized. Bear Clan Councilmember Brian Patterson noted the historic investments the Nation is making – including a dedicated exhibit at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia – to ensure future generations know the whole story of the United States’ founding.

Brian’s daughter, Stevie Rae Patterson (Wolf Clan), has been attending the ceremony ever since she was a little girl. Now she’s bringing her own daughter.

“It’s kind of surreal, but really cool to pass the torch of knowledge on so she can learn about her ancestry,” she said. “It’s a very tangible history and we’re able to experience it each year since we’re not far away. It’s our local history and a lot of people don’t know about it so it’s great to be able to carry on that tradition.”

It was also the first time for some Nation Members, including Madison Dickerman (Turtle Clan).

“It was really interesting,” she said after the ceremony. “Seeing it firsthand and hearing everybody speak was powerful.”

Speakers at the 244th anniversary ceremony included Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon, New York State Historic Site Regional Supervisor for the Central Region Michael G. Roets, and Marine Corps veteran Justin Muir from Clear Path for Veterans. Brian delivered closing remarks.

The solemn ceremony is held annually at the Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site near the original Oneida village of Oriska.
Oneida Carry Monument Dedication Highlights Summer of Cultural Recognition

Back in May, the Oneida Indian Nation, along with officials from Oneida County and the City of Rome, unveiled a new bronze sculpture and public exhibit commemorating the historic Oneida Carrying Place and the Nation’s legacy as America’s First Allies. Nation Representative Ray Halbritter spoke of that legacy in a brief speech before the unveiling, explaining how the area connecting the Mohawk River and Wood Creek was integral to the success of the American colonists during the Revolutionary War.

“Recognizing the contributions and sacrifices of our ancestors is among the most important priorities for the Oneida Indian Nation,” said Halbritter. “As we continue to make strides in creating a truly inclusive community, this beautiful tribute will remind us to never forget our collective past and help visitors learn about the role this region played in the founding of the country.”

Measuring an impressive 7 feet by 27 feet, the display features three bronze panels behind a life-size bronze sculpture of an Oneida warrior. The sculpture is located.
at 301 West Dominick Street in downtown Rome on a section of the Oneida Carrying Place that leads to nearby Fort Stanwix. Commissioned by the Oneida Indian Nation, the public artwork is the beginning of a larger revitalization effort by the city of Rome that will showcase the rich, diverse culture and history of the area with input from the voices that contributed to it.

While the Carry was used by the Haudenosaunee well before European settlers arrived, the path became a critical strategic area during the American Revolution when the Oneidas helped the American colonists defend nearby Fort Stanwix from a British siege. The attempted siege failed and helped change the momentum of the war.

Several Nation Members, including Bear Clan Councilmember Brian Patterson and Oneida Elder Sheri Beglen (Wolf Clan), who gave words of thanks to begin the ceremony, attended the event. The large group, some dressed in regalia to honor their ancestors who were among the first friends to the Americans, joined for photos in front of the new sculpture to mark the momentous occasion that will keep our collective story alive for future generations. Please be sure to visit the remarkable monument in Rome. There is plenty of nearby parking available.
This summer, the Oneida Indian Nation restarted its popular youth programs, even amidst the pandemic, with proper health and safety protocols in place after last year saw them canceled for the first time. Summer Jam was able to complete its 6-week program, and both the younger Crew, as well as those placed on jobs at the Oneida Indian Nation, finished a whole summer of work.

The job placements give participants some real-world experience and accountability. Lisa Powless (Wolf Clan) took the opportunity and ran with it at the Nation’s Recreation Center, serving as the de facto youth programs assistant and handling some of the activities of the Summer Jam program.

In her role, Lisa made sure the kids followed safety protocols and stuck to the schedule of activities that were planned – while also participating in some herself.

“We do a lot of small activities here and in the gym, and sometimes go to the pool,” Lisa said of how a typical day during the Summer Jam program usually goes. “Anything to keep them active instead of sitting at home.”

Lisa is now heading into her senior year of high school and is excited about what comes next.

“I want to be a nurse,” she said unequivocally. “I don’t plan on working in child care, but this experience has been helpful getting to work with other people I don’t know. I still look forward to coming back next year because I know we’ll be able to do more.”

The program is hopeful it will be able to do more off-site trips next summer, which are always popular with the kids. In the past, they’ve visited museums and local historic areas like the Great Swamp Conservancy. Now, Lisa says she’s looking at 4-year colleges with the goal of becoming a nurse. Her first choice is Hartwick College in Oneonta.

The four other Youth Work Learn participants worked at the Nation’s golf department, a popular destination for the
Beginning October 16, the museum will also showcase the Nation’s pivotal role in American history with *Liberty: Don Troiani’s Paintings of the Revolutionary War*. The exhibition includes 40 of the artists’ paintings and will be on display through September 2022. The Nation was pleased to loan “The Oneidas at the Battle of Oriskany” for the exhibition, a stunning painting commissioned with Troiani that depicts Han Yerry and Tyonajanegeken in battle. A renowned historical artist, Troiani is celebrated for his research-based paintings that bring to life compelling stories of the diverse people of the American Revolution.

The program has become a summer staple for Nation youth for over two decades. Next summer will hopefully provide more opportunities for the younger generation to work in the various departments of Oneida Nation Enterprises and the Oneida Indian Nation.

McKenna liked the independence and responsibility of the job, though she hasn’t ruled out looking for experience at another department.

“I like how this is more independent [than the Crew] and I like being outside,” she said. “But I’d like to try something else, too, because I think it’s a great opportunity. Finding a job would be a lot harder, especially at this age, without the Youth Work Learn program.”

The Oneida Indian Nation is a proud sponsor of the Museum of the American Revolution and its ongoing efforts to tell the full story of the United States’ founding. The phrase “never forget” is a refrain we often hear about history. It urges us to preserve our heritage and reminds us that without effort, our past can be erased from our memories. Nation support for the Museum of the American Revolution and events like Indigenous Peoples Weekend helps ensure the history of our ancestors is told without distortions, mistruths or omissions for generations to come.
Youth Work Learn Crew Visits Colgate University

As part of the Oneida Indian Nation’s Youth Work Learn program, younger participants this summer – known colloquially as The Crew – were able to take a break from weeding and staining decks to visit Colgate University to tour the campus and a few of the school’s departments. The visit offered the group an opportunity to see some of the anthropological and historical artifacts as well as artwork the school’s University Museums cooperative has on display. This summer, the Crew included Javlyn Aregano (Turtle Clan), Elaina Cook (Wolf Clan), Daelyn Cousineau (Turtle Clan), Beleza Gibson (Turtle Clan) and Larry Torres (Turtle Clan). With a limited schedule due to the pandemic, the group was happy to finally go on a field trip.

The Longyear Museum of Anthropology was the first stop on the tour. They were joined by Kaytlynn Lynch, Curatorial Assistant and NAGPRA Coordinator for the museum, Rebecca Mendelsohn, Co-Director of University Museums and Curator for the Longyear, and Nation Member Lisa Latocha (Wolf Clan), the Community Liaison for the museum. Kaytlynn is the daughter of Dick Lynch (Turtle Clan) and granddaughter of Norma Jean Fera (1934-2014, Turtle Clan).

One of the feature exhibits curated by Kaytlynn, Makers and Materials of the Americas: A Celebration of Haudenosaunee Creativity and Craftsmanship, explores many of the items of significance in Haudenosaunee culture. The curators also picked out specific pieces that included no-face dolls, baskets and clay pots to show the kids up close outside of what is currently on exhibit.

Next, the group visited the Ho Tung Visualization Laboratory and Planetarium, which is housed on the fourth floor of the Robert H.N. Ho Science Center. Joseph Eakin, the Technical Director of the lab, led a discussion on the solar system – along with an interactive video that displayed on the planetarium’s half-sphere screen – and how the Earth...
These items are part of the Makers and Materials of the Americas: A Celebration of Haudenosaunee Creativity and Craftsmanship exhibit at Colgate University.

Larry Torres (Turtle Clan) checks out an exhibit in the Robert M. Linsley Geology Museum at Colgate University.

Crew participants gathered for a photo with Lisa Latocha (Wolf Clan) and Kaytlynn Lynch.

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West, another Co-Director of University Museums and Curator for the gallery, spoke with the kids about the inspiration behind the current displays, which centered on the technique of printmaking. Everyone in the group picked a piece to learn more about, but the favorite among Elaina, Javlyn and Beleza was a print by Chakaia Booker (American, born 1953) entitled Quality Time (2004) that used melted rubber as the canvas – a unique piece that Nick noted was actually the artist’s first attempt at printmaking.

The trip with the Nation’s youth was a great introduction to college life and an opportunity to explore more of the school that sits on the Nation’s ancestral homelands.

Joe then guided the group to the Robert M. Linsley Geology Museum to give them a glimpse of the exhibits that cover Earth’s natural resources like minerals, rocks and fossils. Among the many interesting displays was a full-size jawbone of a sperm whale and Colgate’s famous dinosaur egg – one of the first complete dinosaur eggs ever discovered. The group also got to see the fluorescent mineral display, a favorite stop on the tour.

The last stop was at the Dana Arts Center to view contemporary artwork in the Picker Art Gallery. Nicholas

has evolved over millennia. He tied it in with some of the Haudenosaunee Creation Story and Creation stories from other cultures.
Oneidas Take Home Ribbons from the 2021 NYS Fair Indian Village

Congratulations to all who entered the various competition categories at the 2021 Six Nations Agricultural Society Indian Village at the New York State Fair. The 18-day fair drew smaller crowds but still managed to bring out the creativity of Oneida artists and agriculturalists, with the following Members taking home ribbons:

- **Barbara Sayers** (Bear Clan) - 1st place, beaded purse (Nation logo)
- **Rosalie Tompkins** (Wolf Clan) - 1st place, beaded box (far left in top right photo)
- **Sheri Beglen** (Wolf Clan) - 1st place, beaded frame and old-time basket; -2nd place, basket (top right photo)
- **Tsilós Edwards** (Wolf Clan) - 1st place, miniature corn husk dolls; - 3rd place, jacket (top right photo)
- **Anita Williams** (Turtle Clan) - 1st place and 3rd place, shawls (left side in bottom right photo)
- **Geraldine Feeley** (Wolf Clan) - 2nd place, quilt (upper right in bottom right photo)
- **Linda Williams** (Turtle Clan) - 3rd place, quilted bowl holders (bottom right in bottom right photo)

Additional winners in Agriculture included:
- **Wanda Wood** (Wolf Clan), - 2nd place, cucumbers
- **Sheri Beglen** (Wolf Clan), - 1st place, Hubbard squash
- **Sheri Beglen** (Wolf Clan), - 1st place, zucchini squash
- **Sheri Beglen** (Wolf Clan), - 1st place, acorn squash

Oneida Indian Nation Council Member Brian Patterson (Bear Clan) served as the MC for the entire 18-day run at the Indian Village, welcoming visitors and introducing the dancers on Turtle Mound for the daily dance shows. <3