



OCTOBER 2025 | VOLUME #34

KAHNAWÀ-KE TOURISM

Radiothon | Attending Events | Iontkahthóhtha Art Exhibition | Harvest Fall Fest | Tours | Spotlight | Reviews



OLYMPIC LAB

On October 4, our team members Bronwyn Johns, Public Relations Officer, and Jordan Diabo, Tours Coordinator, proudly represented us at the second cohort of the Olympic Lab Committee.

The day began with an inspiring opening address from Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer, who set a thoughtful and motivating tone for the discussions that followed.

In the afternoon, participants were treated to a vibrant traditional dance performance by Owen Mayo and Family, celebrating culture and community spirit. The day concluded with a meaningful dinner and wampum workshop led by Dwayne Stacey and Tyler Gilbert. During the session, delegates learned about the art and symbolism of wampum belt making, contributed

their own rows to a collective belt, and crafted personal wampum bracelets as memorable keepsakes.

It was a day filled with learning, cultural connection, and collaboration—a true reflection of the Olympic Lab's values and purpose.





RADIOTHON SUCCESS!

Our community came together in an incredible way during the Radio-thon held October 18th and 19th, raising an outstanding \$670,000 (to be confirmed — we think it's even higher!). The generosity and enthusiasm shown over those two days truly highlight the strong spirit and solidarity within our community. Nia:wen to everyone who donated, volunteered, and tuned in to make this event such a success!



HIGHWAY 30 LANDS FOCUS GROUP

Members of our team attended the recent Highway 30 Lands Focus Group, facilitated by the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK). The session provided valuable insight into future land use planning and development priorities, ensuring that local voices, economic development, and tourism considerations remain central to ongoing discussions.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: INDIGENOUS TOURISM WEBINAR

Kimberly Cross participated in the online webinar, *“Indigenous-Driven Tourism, Part 2: Post Colonial Rebuilding and Reconciliation.”*

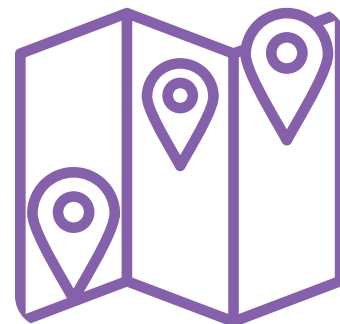
The session explored pathways for Indigenous communities to reclaim narratives, foster reconciliation, and build sustainable tourism models rooted in culture and self-determination.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE AT VANIER COLLEGE

This month, we had the opportunity to present virtually to Vanier College students on topics including cultural geography, the diffusion of culture, and sense of place. The discussion encouraged students—many of whom are first- or second-generation Canadians—to reflect on their own cultural roots and the influence of settler culture around them.

As part of their studies, the class examined how travel shapes perceptions of authenticity and how cultural products evolve through time and tourism. Their exploration led into a focus on Indigenous tourism in Canada, where Kimberly

shared examples from Kahnawà:ke—our development story, successes, challenges, and how we fit into the broader Indigenous tourism landscape.



We hope to welcome the class for an in-person visit in the near future!

SALON 50+ EVENT @ ILE SAINT-BERNARD

We were delighted to take part in the Salon 50+ (Journée Découverte 50+) held at the beautiful Manoir d'Youville on Île Saint-Bernard in our neighboring community of Châteauguay.

Our Public Relations Officer, Bronwyn Johns, spent the day connecting with guests at our information table, answering questions, and inviting people to join us for our upcoming seasonal events. She also was asked to share and reflect on the Oka Crisis and difficulties afterwards with broken trust, as well as the healing that has taken place since, reminding everyone how education can be a powerful tool for connection and understanding.

We were honored to be joined by Ray Deer's dance group, who shared traditional songs and dances on stage, offering beautiful explanations of their cultural significance. Their performance brought warmth and meaning to the day, sparking many wonderful conversations.

It was a day filled with new friendships, learning, and hope for the future. Events like these remind us of the importance of coming together, sharing stories, and continuing to build bridges between our communities.

IONTKAHTHÓHTHA ART EXHIBITION

The Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitíókwa Language and Cultural Center.

October 1–5, 2025 | Kahnawà:ke Legion Hall

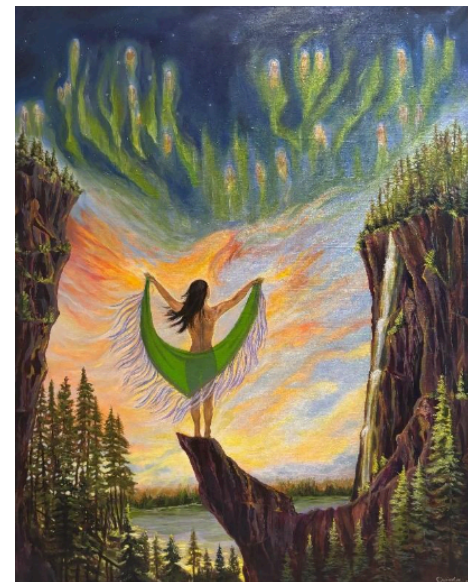
For the third year in a row, we were proud to collaborate with KORLCC for the final day of their annual Iontkahthóhtha Art Exhibition, which celebrates the incredible creativity of 57 Onkwewhón:we artists from various communities.

The exhibition ran from October 1st to 5th, open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Kahnawà:ke Legion Hall. This annual showcase is truly a must-see, as each year's collection of artwork leaves visitors inspired and wanting more. The event featured an opening night event catered by TLC catering and also held an Artist Talk series at 7pm everyday. The event featured long standing artist as well as up and coming artists!

The final day featured Vendors Day, where we collaborate with our Harvest Fall Fest—held just across the street—joining together, the two events

created a vibrant atmosphere filled with art, culture, and community spirit.

If you didn't get a chance to visit this year, be sure to check out the 10th edition of KOR Magazine for a glimpse of the magic. And don't forget to follow along for next year's dates—the Iontkahthóhtha Art Exhibition always takes place in the week leading up to our Harvest Fest!





HARVEST FALL FEST

October 5th, 2025

This year's Harvest Fall Fest was a wonderful celebration of community, culture, and the fall season, held on Sunday, October 5 at the Golden Age Club (GAC) from 11 AM to 5 PM and proudly sponsored by Playground Cares.

Guests enjoyed a vibrant day filled with workshops, delicious food, contests, and family fun. Workshop highlights included:

Elaine Delaronde – *Preservation of Food, Seeds, and Medicine*

Katsisiio Splicer – *Fire Cider and Tea Blending*

Skanaiea Deer – *Corn Husk Doll Workshop*

Dirt McComber – *All-Day Fish Fillet Demonstration*

Tom Deerhouse – *Smudging Section*

Owisokon Lahache – *Pan Bread Workshop*

Each presenter shared valuable traditional knowledge and hands-on experiences, offering participants a meaningful way to connect with Kanien'kehá:ka traditions.

A highlight of the day was our collaboration with KSCS, who hosted a Smoke Dance Competition. We had a fantastic turnout of participants and received incredible feedback from the community.

The festival also featured a variety of contests that brought out the community spirit: **Pumpkin Weighing Contest:** Winner Stephen Cross with a 17-lb pumpkin! **Pumpkin Painting Station:** A creative hit with the kids. **Apple Pie Eating Contest:** Congratulations to Michel Ouellette and Onerahtokon Deer, who each won a \$25 Shop Kahnawà:ke gift certificate. Delicious apple pies were generously supplied by Sherry Phillips.

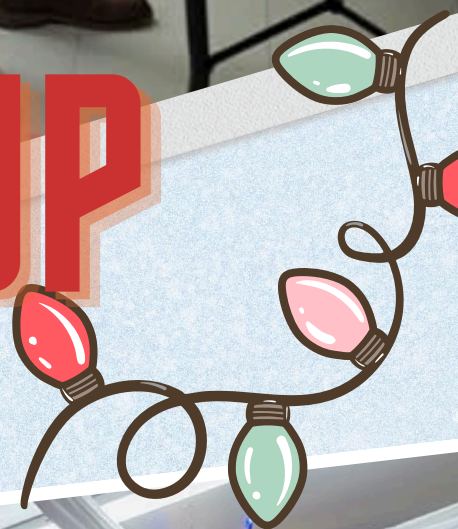
Adding to the harvest fun, Playground Cares treated guests to free cornbread and pumpkin pies—a sweet seasonal touch that everyone appreciated!

Entertainment filled the grounds all day long, including Line Dancing led by Daniel Chartier, Face Painting by Hayley Cross, and an all-day Bounce House that kept the kids smiling. Food lovers enjoyed a range of local eats, from Rezican Tacos (featuring elote bowls and deer tacos) to a free butternut squash soup giveaway from Screaming Chef. With over 400 people in attendance, the event was filled with laughter, learning, and community pride—making this year's Harvest Fest another memorable success!



COMING UP

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR



Location: Kahnawà:ke Youth Center

Time: 11 AM – 4 PM

As we move into the festive season, mark your calendars for our upcoming Holiday Craft Fair!

Join us for a cozy holiday market featuring:

- Local artisan vendors
- Face painting for kids
- Storytelling by the firepit
- Free hot chocolate giveaway

Support our community by bringing non-perishable food donations for the Kahnawà:ke Food Basket.

Every guest who donates or makes a purchase will be entered into our hourly raffle for a chance to win a beautiful 6-ft artificial Christmas tree—plus many more festive surprises!

Come shop local, support our artisans, and celebrate the holiday spirit together!

Stay tuned for updates on our social media pages.



DAWSON COLLEGE'S ANNUAL CRLT OPEN HOUSE

On Tuesday, October 21st, Public Relations Officer Bronwyn Johns represented Kahnawà:ke Tourism at Dawson College's annual CRLT Open House. We always look forward to this event, as it has connected us with talented students who have gone on to join our team in past years.

Our information booth gave us the chance to meet students eager to explore new experiences and opportunities in tourism. We left the event feeling energized after making great connections with potential recruits for the upcoming spring season.



We're especially excited for this next phase of growth as we expand our presence beyond the Welcome Center to also include staffing at Kanatahkwen:ke. We're grateful for the continued growth and enthusiasm within our tourism team — and can't wait to see who will join us next!

ROAD TRIP TO BIENVENUE QUÉBEC 2025

This year's edition of Bienvenue Québec was hosted by Tourisme Bas-Saint-Laurent on the ancestral territory of the Wolastoqiyik Nation. Public Relations Officer Bronwyn Johns proudly represented Kahnawà:ke Tourism, spending three full days networking, promoting the Kanatahkwen:ke Museum, and sharing with visitors to Québec who we are as hosts of the land in the Montérégie region.

The event began on Sunday, October 26th, at Hôtel Universel in Rivière-du-Loup with registration and a lively cocktail reception. Meetings kicked off early Monday morning, giving us a chance to showcase all that Kahnawà:ke has to offer—from tour options and annual events to exciting developments in our new museum space.

Day One also featured a lunch sponsored by Loto-Québec, which included a sneak peek of the

upcoming Michael Jackson tribute show that will tour several venues across the province. The day concluded with a series of appointments and the official opening night event, where guests were welcomed by a breathtaking tightrope performance from local artists. Attendees also had the chance to learn about the HMCS Onondaga, a submarine resting at the Pointe-au-Père Historical Site in Rimouski—named “Onondaga” in honor of the heart of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and our peoples’ deep connection to navigating the St. Lawrence River.

Tuesday featured a packed schedule of meetings and presentations, concluding with a delightful meal at Chef Maxime Lizotte's Restaurant Wolastoqey Maqahamoq, showcasing Indigenous fusion cuisine. The week ended on Wednesday at noon, leaving attendees with new partnerships, strengthened friendships, and a commitment to sustainable tourism.

OCTOBER TOURS

October was nothing short of busy for the Kahnawà:ke Welcome Center, which proudly hosted 12 private group tours throughout the month! Our team was delighted to welcome visitors from schools, tour operators, and organizations eager to learn about Kahnawà:ke's culture, language, and history.

October 5th

We welcomed the final Collette tour group of the year, with 24 visitors arriving at the Kahnawà:ke Marina. Guests enjoyed traditional storytelling with Bronwyn and a continental breakfast catered by Simple Pleasures. A special thank-you goes out to the Kahnawà:ke Marina for their generous support and use of their space this year!

October 7th

Eight visitors from Place à L'emploi toured the Kahnawà:ke Language and Cultural Center with our bilingual tour guide Bronwyn, learning about the rich history and heritage of the territory's first inhabitants.

October 14th

Spiritours brought 21 visitors for a private mass at Saint Francis Xavier Mission and Kateri Shrine, followed by a guided tour with Marion.

October 16th

Our first double tour day of the month! Two groups from Westmount High School with a total of 70 students, explored the community, Saint Francis Xavier Mission, and the Language and Cultural Center.

October 17th

Another busy day with two tours! 42 students from Harmony Elementary visited the community and the Saint Francis Xavier Mission, enjoyed a picnic at Orville Standup Park, and listened to traditional storytelling at the Mohawk Trail Longhouse. We were proud to work with Kahnawà:ke's own bus depot for transportation.

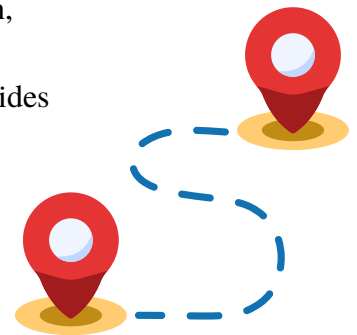
October 21st

A third group from Westmount High School with 37 students enjoyed a full day exploring Kahnawà:ke, including tours of the Saint Francis Xavier Mission and the Language and Cultural Center with guide Roxann.

October 23rd

A triple tour day! Two final Westmount High School groups (a total of 84 students) toured the community, the Mission, and the Language and Cultural Center with guides Roxann and Davis.

Meanwhile, 20 visitors from Spiritours joined Marion for a private mass and Mission tour.



October 24th

17 visitors from Parks Canada explored the Kahnawà:ke Historic Village and Language and Cultural Center with Roxann, finishing their day with dinner at the Kahnawà:ke Brewing Co. We extend heartfelt thanks to Parks Canada for their generosity in bringing delicious specialty donuts and thoughtful gifts for our staff, your kindness was greatly appreciated!



October truly showcased the spirit of connection, learning, and hospitality that defines Kahnawà:ke. We're grateful to everyone who visited and to all our guides and partners who made each tour memorable.

Summer Student Spotlight

Olivia Rice

Program: Kahnawà:ke Tourism & Ionkhinèn:rine Program

Position: Summer Student

This summer, Olivia Rice joined the Kahnawà:ke Tourism team through the Ionkhinèn:rine Program, where she gained valuable experience promoting and preserving Kanien'kehá:ka culture.

"My experience working with Kahnawà:ke Tourism and the Ionkhinèn:rine Program gave me the opportunity to contribute to the promotion and preservation of Kanien'kehá:ka culture while developing skills in community engagement, public communication, and event organization," Olivia shared.

Drawn to the programs by a passion for storytelling and cultural sustainability, Olivia aimed to help share our community's stories while supporting tourism that respects and uplifts our traditions.

Throughout the summer, she learned firsthand the importance of cultural representation, teamwork, and leadership, gaining a deeper appreciation for the role tourism plays in strengthening identity and fostering economic growth within Kahnawà:ke.

"This experience has shown me how tourism can be a powerful tool for community pride and connection," she reflected.

We thank Olivia for her dedication and wish her continued success in all her future endeavors!





Reviews

"Last week i brought my 2 grade 6 classes from Harmony Elementary School to Kahnawake. Thank you to Jordan Diabo, she organized a fantastic day for the students. They absolutely loved the day and are still talking about it. Thank you!"



"I am writing as today marks one year since my notable visit to the Kahnawà:ke village. I can still remember the tour I had having joined a group of schoolchildren, the cozy church, the museum, the pharmacy on the outskirts and most importantly, an amazing lady who assisted me with my visit.

The pen I bought then is still with me as is the orange T-shirt I proudly wore today.

And the fact how much the Native community supports and understands Ukraine (I am Ukrainian pursuing my studies in Austria)."

"I wanted to thank you for taking the time to welcome us in Kahnawà:ke. Jordan was fantastic in facilitating the tour, and Roxann was very generous in sharing deep, poignant and personal stories. Many of my colleagues wrote me afterward, saying they wish to visit again and that any opportunity to better understand and see the history through your eyes — and grasp how our actions still have strong repercussions today — is invaluable in helping us to unravel certain misunderstandings.

Congrats on the huge success of the radiothon! We are looking forward to visiting your new cultural arts center."

OCTOBER VISITORS REPORT

We had 134 visitors for October! The top countries to visit were Canada with 52 visitors, France with 27 visitors, and the United States with 24 visitors. Additionally, there are visitors from other countries, each contributing fewer than five visitors. These countries include Mexico, Peru, Spain, the Netherlands, Switzerland, England, Germany, and Belgium.





KAHNAWÀ:KE WELCOME CENTER HOURS

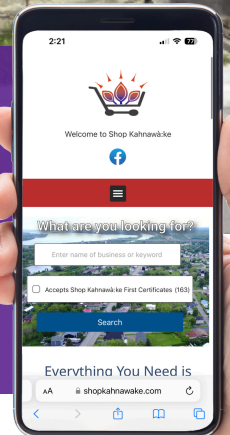
MON	8:30AM - 4:00PM
TUES	8:30AM - 4:00PM
WED	8:30AM - 4:00PM
THU	8:30AM - 4:00PM
FRI	8:30AM - 4:00PM
SAT & SUN	10:00AM - 3:00PM

1 RIVER ROAD, KAHNAWÀ:KE QC, J0L 1B0

SHOP KAHNAWÀ:KE

Shop Kahnawà:ke Gift Certificates are now available for purchase at the Welcome Center! Gift certificates can be given as a gift for that special occasion and can be redeemed in over 100 business locations in Kahnawà:ke. Visit the Shop Kahnawà:ke Facebook page and website for more information.

Shopkahnawake.com



BOOK A TOUR WITH US

To experience all that Kahnawà:ke has to offer, we invite you to book one of our many fun and informative tours or join us at one of our many cultural events.

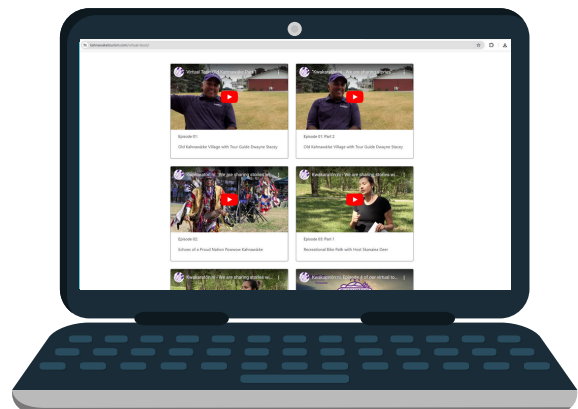


SCAN TO BOOK!



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