



FEBRUARY | VOLUME #37

# KAHNAWÀ:KE TOURISM

Annual Ice Fishing Derby | Moccasin Workshop | Maple Fest | Representing Kahnawà:ke at IITC | A Visit to the Kanatahkwèn:ke Cultural Arts Center | Cultural Exchange | Visitor Stats



## HOOKED ON WINTER: FISH, MOCCASINS & CARNIVAL FUN IN KAHNAWÀ:KE

From icy fishing holes to handmade moccasins and curling laughs on the ice, February was bursting with activity in Kahnawà:ke! The Kahnawà:ke Youth Center’s Winter Carnival brought community members together to learn new skills, celebrate culture, and welcome visitors from near and far. Despite the frosty temperatures, the warmth of community spirit was everywhere.



### ANNUAL ICE FISHING DERBY

The Annual Ice Fishing Derby at the Kahnawà:ke Marina, hosted alongside Kirby Joe Diabo and Brandon Rice from Reel Um In Bait Shop started bright and early at 9am of February 8. Tourism team Bronwyn and Iakothahitahkhe were on site

welcoming eager participants, including members of the youth group who have been learning the art of ice fishing.

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## ANNUAL ICE FISHING DERBY

While the thermometer read a chilly  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ , that didn't stop anyone! Cozy fishing shacks with heaters and fireplaces helped keep participants warm while they waited for the fish to bite.

The event drew an amazing mix of participants:

- Community members
- A visitor from the Cree Nation who arrived fully equipped with her own drill and fishing setup
- Four adventurous guests visiting from France and Belgium



To keep everyone fueled for the day, participants enjoyed delicious moose soup made by Bronwyn and hot chocolate sponsored by Tim Hortons.

And yes—the fish were biting! Several lucky anglers reeled in pike, making for an exciting derby.

## DERBY WINNERS



The winners walked away with gift certificates for Reel Um In Bait Shop—and of course some well-earned bragging rights!



## STITCHING TRADITION: MOCCASIN WORKSHOP

The fun continued on February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> with a two-day Moccasin Workshop.

15 community members took part in the workshop, each creating their very own all-leather moccasins.

Instructor Tyler Diabo guided participants step-by-step through the traditional process. The room was filled with laughter, focus, and a growing appreciation for the skill and artistry behind traditional moccasin making.

By the end of the workshop, everyone left with something special, a beautiful handmade pair of moccasins and a new cultural skill to be proud of.





Tourisme  
**Kahnawà:ke**  
Tourism

# MAPLE Fest



**SUNDAY, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>**  
9 AM to 3 PM at Kahnawà:ke Survival School

Sugar Shack Brunch hosted by  
The Rail Coal Fire Bistro  
**Vendors, Horse & Buggy Ride,  
Maple on a Stick, and more!**

**TICKETS**  
Buy tickets at the door  
on March 22 or online!



- \$20**  
Adult
- \$10**  
5-12 yrs
- \$10**  
55+



EVENT IS SPONSORED BY:





## CURLING, LAUGHTER & COMMUNITY SPIRIT

On February 11th, Winter Carnival brought organizations together for a Curling Activity hosted by Tewaohnni'saktha.

Participants from Tewaohnni'saktha, Tourism, Kahnawà:ke Youth Center, Kahnawà:ke Collective Impact, and KSCS hit the ice to test their curling skills. With coaching from Martin and Glenna Jacobs, even beginners quickly got the hang of sliding stones and sweeping the ice.

There were plenty of laughs, some surprisingly competitive moments, and a whole lot of fun.

Niawenhkó:wa to Abigail Jacobs from Tewaohnni'saktha for bringing everyone together for such a great community activity.

## PLANTING SEEDS OF KINDNESS

Kahnawà:ke Tourism staff also joined KSCS for their uplifting “Planting Seeds of Kindness” Carnival.

With the theme “Ha'o' Tetewatretsa:ron! — Let's Lift Each Other Up!”, the event celebrated positivity, connection, and community support.

Schools from across the community participated and visited information booths while taking part in a beautiful community belt activity led by Fire Loom Creations from Akwesasne.

Students also received small giveaways and had the chance to enter a raffle draw for a special gift basket.

It was a wonderful reminder of the strength that comes from lifting each other up.



## REPRESENTING KAHNAWÀ:KE AT THE INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS TOURISM CONFERENCE (IITC)

After Hosting last years IITC conference in Montreal, some of the Tourism and Marketing team had the incredible opportunity to attend the annual International Indigenous Tourism Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, hosted on Enoch Nation territory.

The conference began with a powerful Grand Entry by the Blackfoot and Enoch Nations, hosted by Ashley Callingbull, who welcomed Chiefs to the stage with pride and strength.

Throughout the week, the team participated in inspiring panels and discussions featuring Indigenous tourism leaders from around the world, including representatives from Turtle Island, South America, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Australia, and Finland.



Beyond the conference sessions, the team had the chance to explore the Enoch Nation community and experience cultural teepee storytelling and Pow Wow singing and dancing at the River Cree Casino. There was a moment to be inspired by Crystal Lightning who was the Broadway hit Bear Grease, as she shared her story of the journey she took to get to where she is and show that Indigenous talent is finally breaking into spaces that we haven't been in giving inspiration through acting, dancing, signing, storytelling.



The week wrapped up with a spectacular Gala Night hosted by Cardinal, featuring performances by Tia Wood, Notorious Cree (James Jones), and The Mason Sisters Hoop Dancing Group.

These gatherings are invaluable opportunities to connect, share ideas, and strengthen Indigenous tourism worldwide. We're already excited for the next conference in Manitoba in June 2027!

*Attending the 2026 Indigenous Tourism Conference in Edmonton, hosted by the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada, was a meaningful opportunity for Kahnawà:ke Tourism to stand proudly in who we are. We attended as a community rooted in language, culture, and living traditions. Being in space with other Indigenous nations from across Turtle Island reminded me that our work is bigger than tourism; it's about telling our own stories, protecting what's sacred, and creating sustainable pathways for our people. We shared the spirit of Kahnawà:ke, built relationships grounded in respect, and brought home new ideas that align with our values. Every conversation reinforced that when we lead with culture first, tourism becomes a tool for strengthening identity, pride, and opportunity for future generations. Said Kimberly Cross, Tourism Development Manager.*



## A VISIT TO THE KANATAHKWÈN:KE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

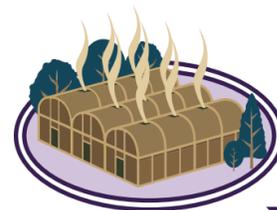
Kahnawà:ke Tourism and the Kanatahkwèn:ke building committee had the honor of welcoming staff from the Kahnawà:ke Education Center (KEC) for a guided tour of the new Center.

This new space is rooted in language, creativity, and community pride. It offers incredible potential for youth programming and cultural learning.

Walking through the center together created an opportunity to share not only the vision behind the space, but also its potential for culture and education intersect. Collaborating with the education center is essential because our vision is that our youth are provided hands-on experiences that connect them to their identity through art, storytelling, performance, and land-based knowledge. By building a strong partnership with KEC, we can create meaningful programming, artist residencies, workshops, and curriculum-

connected opportunities that enrich student learning beyond the traditional classroom.

The hope is to develop strong high school collaborations in particular with Kahnawà:ke Survival School—offering mentorship, co-op placements, creative intensives, and cultural programming that empowers students, builds skills, and inspires the next generation to see themselves reflected in the future of our community.



**KANATAHKWÈN:KE**



## CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH DEERFIELD ACADEMY

The Kahnawà:ke Welcome Center welcomed back visitors from Deerfield Academy, who brought more than 14 students to experience the community.

The group began their visit with a youth cultural exchange alongside students at Kahnawà:ke Survival School.

Their day continued with a tour of the historic Saint Francis Xavier Mission, followed by a guided tour of Kahnawà:ke. The visit wrapped up with a local shopping and dinner at Kahnawà:ke Brewing Co.

### COMING SOON: CULTURAL AWARENESS MONTH

April is Cultural Awareness Month, hosted by the Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language & Cultural Center. Kahnawà:ke Tourism will be offering free noon-hour guided tours every Monday throughout the month. Visitors can:

Pre-book online through the tourism website

Walk in and join a tour on the day

Learn about the rich history, culture, and stories of Kahnawà:ke

## VISITOR STATS

The Kahnawà:ke Welcome Center had the pleasure of hosting 29 visitors in February. These guests hailed from various parts of the world, with 19 coming from Canada, 4 from China, another 4 from the United States, and 1 from Germany. We are excited and eager to welcome even more visitors in the upcoming months!

## TRIPADVISOR REVIEW

*"Exceptional people, fascinating conversations, and much to see and learn!"*



## 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 .....	CLOSED

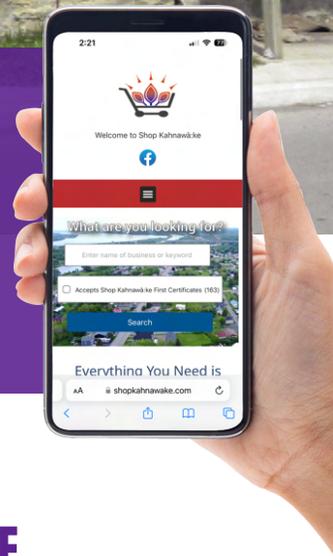
WEEKENDS CLOSED AS OF DECEMBER 14TH

1 RIVER ROAD, KAHNAWÀ:KE QC, JOL 1B0

## SHOP KAHNAWÀ:KE

[Shopkahnowake.com](http://Shopkahnowake.com)

Shop Kahnowà: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 Kahnowà:ke. Visit the Shop Kahnowà:ke Facebook page and website for more information.



## BOOK A TOUR WITH US

To experience all that Kahnowà: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.

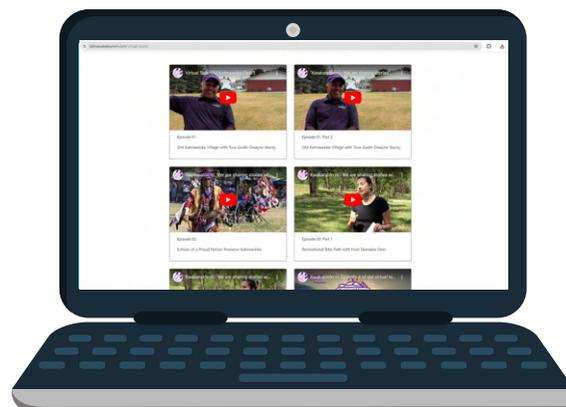


SCAN TO BOOK!



[KAHNAWAKETOURISM.COM/BOOK-YOUR-TOUR](http://KAHNAWAKETOURISM.COM/BOOK-YOUR-TOUR)

## CHECK OUT OUR VIRTUAL TOURS ONLINE



[KAHNAWAKETOURISM.COM/VIRTUAL-TOURS](http://KAHNAWAKETOURISM.COM/VIRTUAL-TOURS)





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