



MAY & JUNE | VOLUME #40

# KAHNAWÀ:KE TOURISM

Let's Talk Tourism | MMIW Awareness Day | Akwesasne Pow Wow | Tours | Fêtes des Cultures | Rendez-vous Canada 2025 | Ionkhinenhrí:ne' | Summer Staff | Tour Stats



## KAHNAWÀ:KE TOURISM HITS THE ROAD! MAY ADVENTURES & HIGHLIGHTS

May was packed with connection, culture, community, and exciting opportunities for Kahnawà:ke Tourism! From tourism conferences and cultural celebrations to sporting events and international networking, we were proud to represent our community and share our stories throughout the month.

## MONTREAL TOURISM SUMMER LAUNCH

On May 5, Public Relations Officer, Bronwyn Johns, attended the Montréal Tourism Summer Launch at New City Gas in the heart of Montréal.

This annual gathering brings together organizations from across the tourism sector to prepare for the busy summer season ahead. The event shines a spotlight on the many festivals, attractions, and experiences that draw visitors to Montréal and surrounding communities each year.

From the excitement of Grand Prix season to the celebration of Indigenous culture at the International First Peoples' Festival, there are countless opportunities to explore our territory, enjoy incredible food, experience live music, and connect with the vibrant communities that make this region so special.

The day wrapped up with networking kiosks and collaborative discussions, creating new opportunities for future partnerships and tourism initiatives.





## CHAMPIONS OF THE FLOOR, CONNECTIONS IN THE STANDS

On May 9th, Bronwyn set up an information booth Let's Talk Tourism in the community during the Kahnawà:ke Hunters Lacrosse game against the Mountaineers.

The evening was especially memorable as the community celebrated the raising of the team's first Founders Cup Championship banner. Pride filled the arena, and excitement echoed throughout the stands.



Visitors stopped by to learn more about the new Kanatahkwen:ke Cultural Arts Center, which celebrated its soft opening in April. It was a wonderful opportunity to answer questions, share upcoming initiatives, and connect with community members.

Whether we're discussing employment opportunities, upcoming events, youth programming, or economic development through Tewatohnhi'saktha, Kahnawà:ke's Economic Development Commission, we're always happy to share what we're working on.

**Mark your calendars!** We'll be back at the Kahnawà:ke Arena Hunters' home game on June 17 against the Griffins, where we'll also be sharing more information about our youth program, Ionkhinenhrí:ne'!





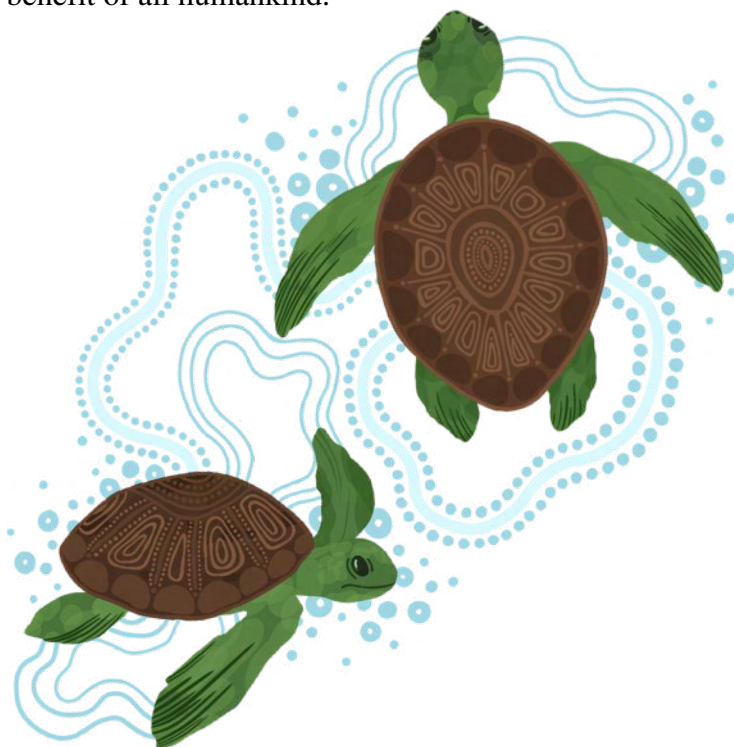
## MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AWARENESS DAY - STANDING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

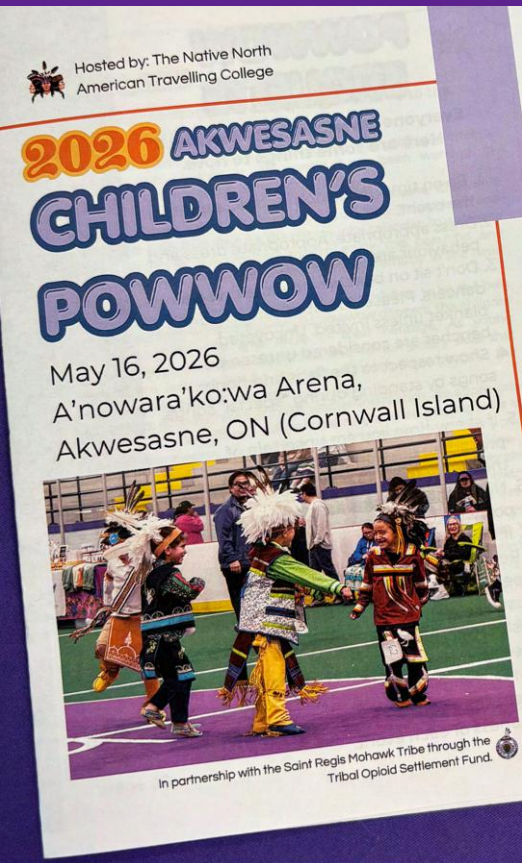
May 5th is an important day of awareness for Indigenous people, marking the National Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) movement.

After attending the Summer Launch event Bronwyn Johns headed to Cabot Square, where the city came together in solidarity. The Native Friendship Centre of Montreal hosted a march from Cabot Square to Peel Street, bringing together hundreds of community members, allies, and supporters.

The evening began with an opening address from Kahnawà:ke representative Kevin Deer, who helped set the tone for the gathering and the activities that followed. He was joined by Ellen Gabriel of Kanesatà:ke, who delivered a powerful message about the importance of

working together to stand up for our rights, protect one another, and care for the land for the benefit of all humankind.





## THE NEXT GENERATION TAKES THE FLOOR- TINY FEET & BIG SMILES

On May 16th, Kahnawà:ke Tourism joined the first Pow Wow of the season at A'nowara'kó:wa Arena in Akwesásne, our sister community

There's something truly special about watching young dancers gather around the arena floor, moving to the heartbeat of the big drum. The atmosphere was filled with joy, culture, and good medicine.

Hosted by Akwesásne Travel, the event welcomed families from across the region. Attendees had opportunities to win exciting prizes, including a gift basket and a custom Indigenous-art skateboard promoting the community skateboard park located on-site.

Families also enjoyed a complimentary lunch that helped keep dancers energized throughout the day.

The vendor area was bustling with creativity, featuring beautiful Indigenous artwork, handcrafted goods, and unique treasures. (Yes—we brought a few treasures home ourselves!)

Be sure to explore the Akwesásne Traveling College Museum and visit Akwesásne Travel's tourism pages to discover their full summer lineup of events.

Their next Pow Wow is scheduled for September—we hope to see you there!



## BREAKFAST WITH A SIDE OF HISTORY

On May 17th, we had the privilege of welcoming a tour group from the United States as the first stop on their Canadian journey.

Guests enjoyed an Indigenous-inspired continental breakfast catered by the wonderful team at Messy Kitchen Catering, featuring maple butter fry bread, fresh fruit, muffins, and strawberry juice.



While sharing a meal together, visitors learned about who we are as Haudenosaunee people, our role as keepers of the land, our history, our resilience, and our continued efforts to preserve our identity for future generations.

These conversations are powerful. Visitors left with a deeper understanding of Indigenous nations and a new perspective on the territories they would continue to visit throughout their travels.

Niá:wen to Collette Tours for choosing Kahnawà:ke Tourism!



## THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF COMMUNITY LEARNING

On May 20th, Kahnawà:ke Tourism had the pleasure of welcoming the Indigenous Field Studies group from McGill University as part of their week-long visit to the community from May 18th 23rd.

During their time with us, students and faculty learned about the role Kahnawà:ke Tourism plays in sharing community history, culture, and visitor education through place-based learning experiences. Discussions focused on respectful tourism, cultural representation, community storytelling, and the importance of presenting Kahnawà:ke in ways that reflect Tsi Nionkwarihò:ten – Our Ways- and community priorities.

These conversations offered students an opportunity to explore how tourism can be a tool for education, relationship-building, and cultural understanding while ensuring community voices remain at the center of the story.

Niawenhkó:wa for visiting Kahnawà:ke! We can't wait to see where the connections made this week may lead. That's the beauty of community learning—the ripple effect continues long after the visit ends.



## AROUND THE WORLD IN ONE DAY - FÊTES DES CULTURES

On May 23rd, Bronwyn attended Fêtes des Cultures in Saint-Constant for another day of cultural sharing and community connection.

This marked our third year participating in the event, and once again it proved to be a wonderful opportunity to engage with visitors from around the world. Booths representing cultures from every corner of the globe shared traditions, stories, and experiences with attendees.

Throughout the day, performances filled the main stage, including cultural dance groups, singers, and martial arts demonstrations.

At our booth, we proudly flew our flag and welcomed meaningful conversations with newcomers to Canada who were eager to learn about Indigenous peoples and our relationship with the land.

One of the highlights involved the children's cultural passport program. As young visitors collected stamps from participating booths, they also learned fun facts from each culture represented.

We took the opportunity to introduce youth to the significance of the strawberry in our culture, teaching them the Mohawk word Ken'niiohontéhsa while promoting our upcoming Strawberry Food Fest.



To help connect them to the teachings of the Two Row Wampum, children received small bracelets made of white and purple beads.

The smiles said it all. Connecting through tourism truly creates lasting impressions.



## MAKING WAVES AT RENDEZ-VOUS CANADA 2025

From May 26th–29th, Bronwyn represented Kahnawà:ke Tourism at Rendez-vous Canada in Toronto, one of the country's largest tourism marketplaces connecting international buyers and sellers.

We were proud to be part of the Indigenous Tourism Pavilion, standing alongside Indigenous tourism operators from across Turtle Island and sharing the stories of the original hosts of these lands.

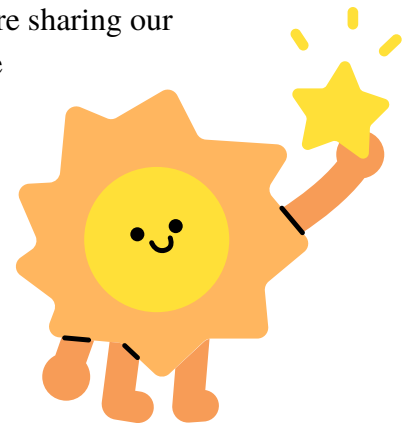
The week began with a spectacular opening evening at the CN Tower, where more than 1,500 attendees enjoyed dinner overlooking Toronto's skyline at sunset.

The following morning featured a powerful opening performance organized by Indigenous Tourism Ontario, with smoke dancers and singers from Six Nations and Mississauga of the Credit First Nation.

Their presence set a meaningful tone for the week by honouring the land and the peoples who continue to steward it.

It was a powerful reminder that Indigenous tourism continues to grow, evolve, and create space on the international stage.

The future is bright, and Kahnawà:ke Tourism is continuing to build meaningful relationships that will create new opportunities for our community. We are here, we are sharing our stories, and we are making waves.



## MEET THE SUMMER CREW!

Summer is shaping up to be a busy and exciting season at Kahnawà:ke Tourism, and we're thrilled to welcome some familiar and new faces to the team! From youth leadership programming to guided tours and cultural experiences, these team members will help bring our community's stories to life.

Kahnawà:ke Tourism is pleased to welcome Olivia Rice and welcome back Jayla White as facilitators for the Ionkhinenhrí:ne' Youth Cultural Leadership Program this summer.

### *Growing Future Leaders – Welcome Olivia and Jayla!*



**Olivia Rice**

The Ionkhinenhrí:ne' program helps youth develop leadership skills through cultural learning, community engagement, and hands-on experiences that strengthen connections to Kanien'kehá:ka traditions, values, and identity. Throughout the summer, Olivia and Jayla will guide participants as they build confidence, connect with community knowledge keepers and cultural educators, and gain valuable experiences that support their growth as future leaders.



**Jayla White**

We are excited to have Olivia's fresh perspective alongside Jayla's creativity, energy, and dedication as they help make this year's program a success.

Be sure to say Kwe and join us in welcoming Olivia and Jayla to the Kahnawà:ke Tourism team this summer!

*Welcome*

# YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN ACTION!

## Ionkhinenhrí:ne' Youth Cultural Leadership Program

The Ionkhinenhrí:ne' Youth Cultural Leadership Program continues to inspire and empower the next generation of community leaders through cultural learning, mentorship, and meaningful community experiences.

Participants connect with Kanien'kehá:ka traditions, language, teachings, and values while building confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills. From storytelling and land-based learning to community projects and cultural workshops, youth are gaining experiences that strengthen both personal growth and cultural identity.

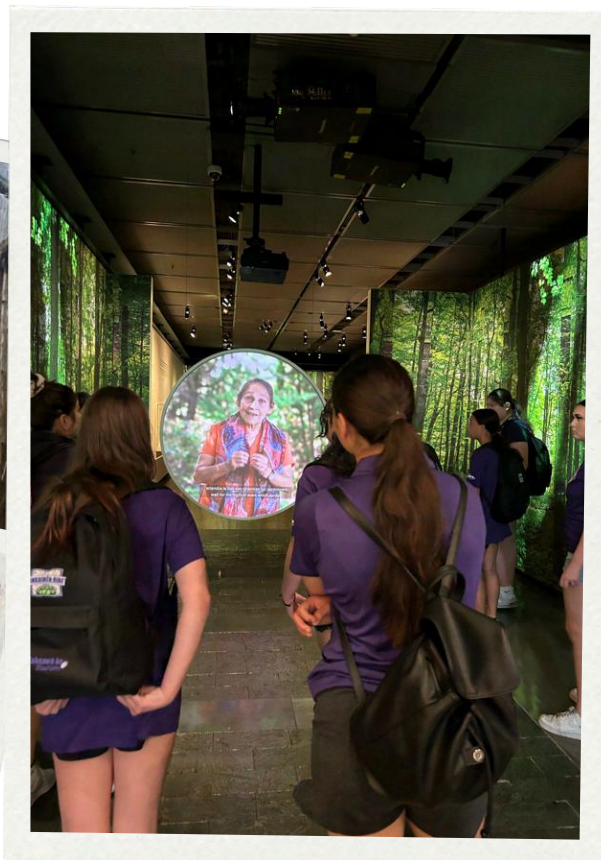
Guided by mentors, knowledge keepers, and community leaders, participants learn the importance of respect, responsibility, and community connection while developing the skills they'll carry into the future.



Investing in youth today helps strengthen our community for generations to come. Registration is NOW OPEN to our community youth!



# REGISTER NOW ↪



## TOUR GUIDE MODE: ACTIVATED!

A big welcome back Harley Delaronde! Harley joins Kahnawà:ke Tourism as a seasonal tour guide for the next 25 weeks.

Throughout the season, Harley will be welcoming visitors from near and far, leading guided tours that highlight the rich history, living culture, and stories that make Kahnawà:ke unique.

But that's not all! Harley will also play an important role in supporting the upcoming opening of the new museum at Kanatahkwèn:ke. As the museum prepares to welcome guests, he'll help bring exhibits, stories, and cultural experiences to life for visitors.



Whether on the tour route or in the museum, Harley will be helping guests discover the heart of Kahnawà:ke one story at a time.

## EXPLORE KAHNAWÀ:KE THIS SUMMER!

**Discover the Stories Behind the Community**

Looking for a unique cultural experience this summer? Join us for a guided tour of Kahnawà:ke!

Our daily tours offer visitors an opportunity to explore community landmarks, learn about Kanien'kehá:ka history and traditions, and gain a deeper understanding of the people, stories, and culture that continue to shape Kahnawà:ke today.



### Tour Schedule

Mondays & Wednesdays

1:30 p.m.

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

10:00 a.m.

Whether you're a local resident, a first-time visitor, or simply curious to learn more, there's something for everyone. Walk-ins are welcome, and advance bookings can be made through our website. Come discover the welcoming spirit of Kahnawà:ke!

# TAKE A TOUR



## MAY TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: BY THE NUMBERS

May was a busy month on the tour trail!

- 10 tour groups welcomed
- 326+ students hosted
- 40 visitors from tour operators
- 17 conference guests welcomed
- Countless stories shared and connections made! Here's a look back at some memorable visits:

### School Tours in Full Swing

Throughout May, students from Centennial Park School, McGill University, St. Willibrord School, Mary Gardner School, and École Lanaudière visited Kahnawà:ke to learn about community history, culture, and traditions. From guided tours through the community to storytelling sessions and cultural teachings at Mohawk Trail Longhouse, hundreds of students had the opportunity to learn directly from Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

### Visitors from Ottawa

On May 29, Harley welcomed visitors from the Rideau Hall Foundation attending the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference. Guests enjoyed a historical tour highlighting Kahnawà:ke's achievements, history, and community stories.

## SHARING OUR STORIES, ONE VISITOR AT A TIME

Whether welcoming school groups, tour operators, conference attendees, or curious travelers, every visit creates an opportunity to share the rich culture, history, and hospitality of Kahnawà:ke.

Thank you to everyone who joined us this month. We look forward to welcoming even more visitors throughout the summer season!



## KAHNOWÀ: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

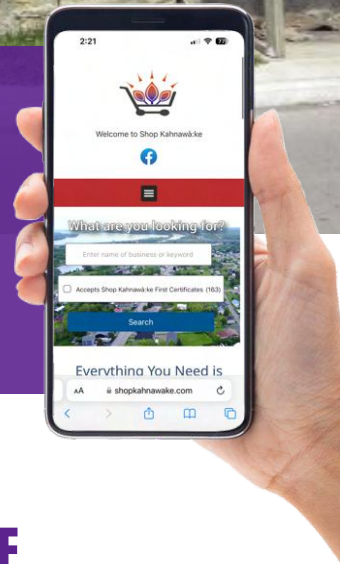
WEEKENDS ARE CURRENTLY CLOSED

1 RIVER ROAD, KAHNOWÀ:KE QC, JOL 1B0

## SHOP KAHNOWÀ: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.

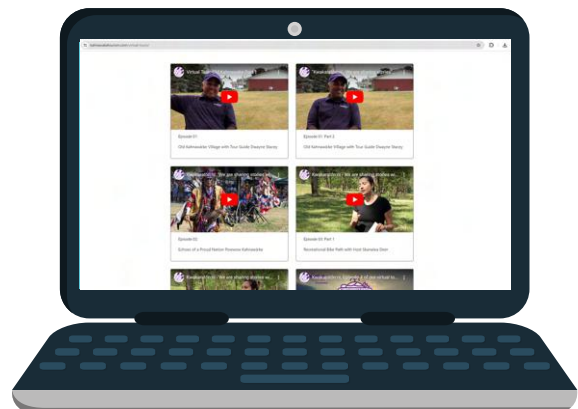


SCAN TO BOOK!



[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)