



JULY | VOLUME #41

KAHNAWÀ:KE TOURISM

Strawberry Fest | Paddle into Summer | Building Indigenous Culinary Experiences | Corn Fest | KWE Festival | Tourism Launch in the Montérégie | Grand Opening



KAHNAWÀ:KE TOURISM FEATURED ON SOUTH SHORE VIBE

Kahnawà:ke Tourism was recently featured on South Shore Vibe, an English-language television program on TV Rive-Sud, where Tourism Development Manager, Kimberly Cross, sat down with host, Brian Peddler, to discuss the exciting work happening in our community. The interview highlighted Kahnawà:ke Tourism's growing initiatives, including cultural experiences, visitor opportunities, and the importance of sharing our history and traditions through Kanatahkwen:ke. The episode offers our south shore neighbours an opportunity to learn more about Kahnawà:ke as a welcoming cultural destination and showcases the community's ongoing efforts to strengthen Indigenous tourism in Montérégie.



[YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=MACP4JPEHQ4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MACP4JPEHQ4)



CULTURE, CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNITY

Summer has been full of exciting opportunities to celebrate, connect, and share. From conferences and cultural festivals to exciting new community activities, here's a look back at everything happening over the past month—and a look ahead at what's coming next!

THE STRAWBERRY MOON AND THE GIFT OF GRATITUDE

As June came to a close, the Strawberry Moon reminded us that another cycle of life has begun.

The first berries of the season have long held special meaning for our people, representing renewal, gratitude, and the gifts that Creation provides.

On June 20, our community gathered at the Longhouse for the annual Strawberry Ceremony to give thanks for another season.



STRAWBERRY FUN FACT

The sweet wild strawberries that blanketed our lands inspired French settlers in the 1700s to crossbreed them with larger Chilean strawberries. That crossbreeding eventually created the modern strawberries found in grocery stores across Turtle Island today.

As the seasons continue to turn, may we all remember to pause and appreciate the many gifts that surround us.





SWEET SUCCESS! STRAWBERRY FEST 2026

This year's Strawberry Festival was a tremendous success, thanks to a wonderful collaboration with the Kahnawà:ke Shakotiià'takéhnhas Community Services (KSCS) Car Show.

Despite uncertain weather, the rain held off long enough for families to enjoy a full day of culture, community, and fun at the Kahnawà:ke Sports Complex.

Festival-goers enjoyed:

- Strawberry jam making with Kimberly
- Fry bread making with Owisokon
- Splint flower crafting with Robin Lazore
- Indoor and outdoor vendors
- Free popcorn, ice cream, strawberry juice, and food provided by KSCS

One of the biggest highlights was the first-ever Smoke Dance Competition, organized by Teka Everest.

With over 50 registered dancers, the competition exceeded all expectations and quickly became a festival favourite.

A huge nia:wen goes to KSCS and Playground Cares for sponsoring this exciting addition.

Most importantly, thank you to every volunteer, workshop facilitator, vendor, sponsor, dancer, and community member who helped make this year's Strawberry Festival such a memorable celebration.



PADDLE INTO SUMMER

REEL UM IN Bait Shop has expanded its outdoor offerings with brand-new kayak and paddleboard rentals available daily from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Located at the Kahnawà:ke Marina, this family-run business has continued to grow from fishing supplies and guided experiences to youth programs, charter boat rentals, and now a partnership with Pelican Kayaks.

Whether you're looking for a peaceful paddle, a fun family outing, or a relaxing afternoon on the water, there's no better way to experience the river.

And if fishing is more your style, they've still got one of the area's largest selections of bait to help you reel in the big one!



REEL UM IN bait shop



Kahnawake Marina rd,
Kahnawake, QC, Canada, Quebec



BUILDING INDIGENOUS CULINARY EXPERIENCES

Kahnawà:ke Tourism recently coordinated an Indigenous culinary training program lead by Ryland Diome and sponsored by Indigenous Tourism Québec. The program brought together community chefs to strengthen knowledge of Indigenous food traditions, culinary storytelling, and visitor experiences. As we continue to expand our tourism offerings, future culinary training opportunities will be incorporated into our Food Fest events, creating more opportunities for local vendors, community members, and visitors to experience the rich flavours and traditions of Indigenous cuisine. We asked Ryland to share a few words about the program “Kakhwa’ón:we’ aietewakhón:ni”

“I was very excited to take on this endeavor. It wasn’t something I took lightly, as accuracy was of utmost importance. I wanted to go beyond corn bread and the three sisters. I wanted everyone to understand the vast array of edible ingredients

that were available to our ancestors. From sunchokes to sumac and berries to bear grease, there is a myriad of Indigenous wild plants and wild game that was available to us. However, I also wanted to go further than just what we used to eat, but also as to why we ate them. The nutritional value of the traditional ingredients was something I tried to dive into as well. Our ancestral diet was something that had been carefully procured through hundreds of years and many generations. Our diet was designed to keep our nation’s people strong and healthy both in mind, body and spirit.

When the program first began I realized what we were doing together was much more than a simple cooking class. Both I and the participants were actively working in unison to help establish a new foundation of Kanien’kehá:ka cuisine, potentially sparking what could become some of the newest traditional dishes of Kahnawà:ke.

As many people know, our knowledge of traditional food is something that has been (for the most part) lost. It's now our responsibility to reclaim, revitalize and renew this highly valuable cultural tradition. This is exactly what the program was designed to do: to put the food back in our hands, back in our kitchens and into our bodies.



We discussed how the influx of heart disease, diabetes and various cancers have been effecting our people for generations. How our ancestral diet naturally consisted of high amounts of antioxidants (cancer fighting agents) and low amounts of salt and sugar. That our people today crave the things that were the most scarce in our past diet. I wanted the participants to be aware that the more we return to consuming the same foods as our ancestors the more we may begin to eliminate these diseases from our population.

I was very interested to see what kind of dishes the participants came up with. Each dish ended up being quite unique which was a very pleasant surprise. I think the participants left with much more knowledge on what Kanien'kehá:ka ingredients are and how to prepare them. It was fun working together and sharing the same space to create. I was more than happy to help them craft their ideas and bring forth their signature dishes.

Overall, this program helped me gain more knowledge as well. The program made me grow as a teacher and helped continue to expand my overall knowledge of Kanien'kehá:ka cuisine. I went deeper into our history than ever before and gained more knowledge that I had previously been lacking. That being said I still have much to learn and explore myself, which I am now more motivated to do than ever.

KAKHWA'ÓN:WE' AIETEWAKHÓN:NI (Original food for us to cook)

Our people always had a very special and close connection to our food. The preservation of traditional food is of utmost importance to not just our nation but to all Onkwehón:we people. The more we learn about the food, the more we learn about ourselves. There was an attempt to disconnect us from our language, our culture, our history and our food. That attempt has failed. Throughout my overall journey into the history of Kanien'kehá:ka cuisine, the biggest thing I have learned is; you are what you eat.

Thank you to all the participants and to Kahnawà:ke Tourism for making this program happen. Thank you to the community members that looked upon this program with a good mind. Surely it won't be the last of its kind and I hope more people are interested in taking part of the revitalization of kakhwa'ón:we' aietewakhón:ni (traditional foods for us to eat)."

The community was able to have a taste of the program during our Strawberry Fest, where Ryland was present distributing one of the strawberry salads that were created! Niawenhkó:wa to the participants, to Ryland for making this pilot program a success!





SWIPE RIGHT ON SUCCESS: #SOCIAL NEXT CONFERENCE

On June 10–11, Tourism's Public Relations Representative and the Tewaotohni'saktha Marketing Team traveled to Montréal's Palais des Congrès to attend the Social Next Conference, where digital communications experts shared the latest trends, strategies, and best practices in the ever-changing online world.

The team participated in engaging presentations and interactive discussions focused on new tools and ideas that will help us better promote and serve our organizations and community. We returned home inspired, energized, and ready to put those ideas into action!

KAHNAWÀ:KE TOURISM

CORN FEST

| VENDORS
| FOOD
| MUSIC

AUGUST 29TH

**11 AM TO 5 PM AT THE
GOLDEN AGE CLUB GREEN
SPACE, KAHNAWÀ:KE**

FOR MORE DETAILS
INFO@KAHNAWAKETOURISM.COM



STRONGMAN 3.0 2026

SATURDAY AUGUST 29

REGISTER BY AUGUST 7TH

**ORVILLE STANDUP PARK,
KAHNAWÀ:KE**

SHARING OUR STORY AT KWE FESTIVAL!

From June 12–14, Tourism represented Kahnawà:ke at the annual KWE! Festival on the Huron-Wendat Nation territory in Québec City.

This free festival brings together all 11 First Nations and the Inuit of Québec to celebrate and share their unique cultures with thousands of visitors every year.

Our booth was made even more special thanks to Fireloom Creations' Kelly and Tyson Back, who demonstrated traditional belt making while teaching visitors about the Two Row Wampum Treaty—a powerful visual reminder of the respectful relationship our people have always sought with our neighbours.



The festival grounds at Place George-V came alive with music, dancing, storytelling, cultural demonstrations, and the powerful sounds of the opening drum. One of the biggest crowd favorites once again was the exciting Inuit Winter Games demonstrations, showcasing incredible athleticism and cultural traditions.

Every conversation helped build understanding, create new connections, and share the realities of Indigenous history and life today.

We can't wait to return next year!



TOURISM SEASON LAUNCH IN THE MONTÉRÉGIE

Kimberly Cross represented Kahnawà:ke Tourism at the Montérégie Tourism Season Launch held at Ferme Guyon. The annual event brings together tourism operators, partners, and organizations from across the region to celebrate the start of the summer tourism season, share new initiatives, and strengthen regional collaborations. Attending events like this help ensure Kahnawà:ke remains an active partner in the regional tourism network while promoting our unique cultural experiences to new audiences.

TOURISME
MONTÉRÉGIE





TOURISM TIDBITS: BIG MOVES, BRIGHT FUTURES & BUSY SUMMER DAYS!

Kahnawà:ke Tourism is excited to officially settle into our new home at the Kanatahkwèn:ke Cultural Arts Center!

This move strengthens our presence within this exciting cultural hub while creating an even more welcoming experience for visitors exploring our community.

As part of the transition, Tours Coordinator Jordan Diabo, has relocated her office to the centre, making it easier than ever to greet guests as they arrive. Jordan is often one of the first friendly faces visitors meet, providing information about Kahnawà:ke.

Jordan also coordinates the Ionkhinenhrí:ne' Youth Cultural Leadership Program, supporting participants as they build cultural knowledge, leadership skills, and confidence throughout the summer.

The Kanatahkwèn:ke building allows us to better connect with both visitors and community members while creating a space where everyone can discover the rich history, vibrant culture, and welcoming spirit of Kahnawà:ke.

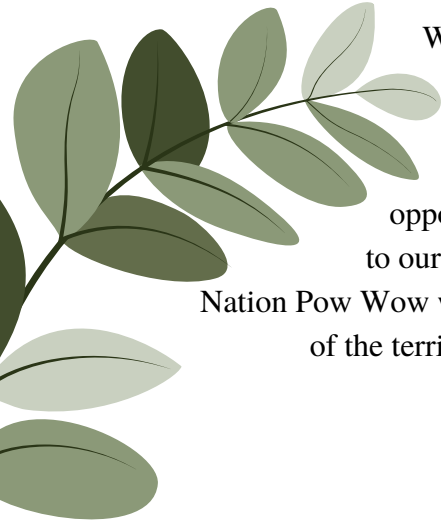


KANATAHKWÈN:KE

NEW HEIGHTS IN MONTRÉAL'S OLD PORT

While Strawberry Festival celebrations were happening at home, Tourism was also representing Kahnawà:ke at the grand opening of the Tower at the Grand Quay of the Port of Montréal.

Having worked with the Port over the past year to help increase Indigenous visibility, it was rewarding to see a white pine planted outside the site—a symbol of the Great Law of Peace and the enduring values of unity and respect.



With National Indigenous Peoples Day taking place the following day, it was the perfect opportunity to invite visitors to our 2026 Echoes of a Proud Nation Pow Wow while sharing the history of the territory and our community.

A sincere nia:wen to the organizers for creating another meaningful opportunity to educate and connect with visitors from around the world.

And if you're feeling adventurous next time you're in the Old Port... Montréal Bungee is right next door!

KAHNAWÀ:KE IN ACTION: THE BATTLE OF BEAVER DAMS

June 24 marks an important chapter in Kahnawà:ke's history.

During the War of 1812, American troops marched toward Beaver Dams hoping to surprise British forces. After learning of the plan, Laura Secord made her famous journey to warn the British.

What many people don't realize is that Kahnawà:ke warriors played a pivotal role in the battle. They successfully ambushed the American troops, ultimately forcing their surrender. More than 500 soldiers became prisoners of war.

Today, the names of these warriors can be found on the monuments across from Saint Xavier Mission Church on River Road—a lasting reminder of their courage and service.



FUTURE LEADERS IN ACTION

This July, Kahnawà:ke Tourism proudly welcomed a new group of participants for Session 1 of the Ionkhinenhrí:ne' Youth Cultural Leadership Program!

Over two exciting weeks, youth will strengthen their connection to Kanien'kehá:ka culture, history, language, and community through hands-on experiences, cultural teachings, and leadership development.



This year's program is packed with memorable experiences, including:

- Fishing with Kirby Joe Diabo
- Medicine Walk with Brooke Rice
- Corn Husk Basket Making with Jeci Goodleaf
- Guided Tour of Kahnawà:ke
- Traditional Medicine Bag Workshop
- Botanical Gardens & Planetarium Visit
- Public Speaking & Leadership Workshops
- Community Archives Session with the

Kahnawà:ke Cultural Center

Escape Room Team Challenge

End-of-Session Celebration BBQ



More than just a summer program, Ionkhinenhrí:ne' is an investment in the future of our community. By learning directly from Knowledge Keepers, cultural educators, and local leaders, participants gain the confidence and skills to become future ambassadors for Kahnawà:ke.

We wish all of our Session 1 participants an unforgettable experience and can't wait to see everything they'll accomplish!

GRAND OPENING

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2026
www.Kanatahkwenke.ca

12 PM to 4 PM Community 4 PM to 8 PM Public

THEATRE

KANINIEN'KEHÁ:KA ONKWAWE'N:NA RAOTIIOHKWA
LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER

MUSEUM

AMPHETHEATRE

ARTS & ARCHIVES

STUDIO



KANATAHKWÈ:KE

JUNE TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

June was one of our busiest months yet as we welcomed visitors from across Québec and beyond, creating meaningful opportunities to share the living culture, history, and traditions of Kahnawà:ke.



June 10 - McGill University

Nine visitors from McGill University joined us for a guided community tour, exploring important landmarks while learning about the resilience and living culture of the Kanien'kehá:ka people.

June 22 - Spiritours

Fourteen guests from Spiritours attended a private Mass at Saint Francis Xavier Mission before touring the Mission and the Kateri Shrine. The experience highlighted the spiritual significance of these sacred places and celebrated the life and legacy of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.



June 26 - Alongside Hope

Visitors from Alongside Hope enjoyed a full cultural experience that included a guided community tour, a visit to the new Kanatahkwen:ke Cultural Arts Center, an engaging presentation from the Kahnawà:ke Cultural Center, and a catered lunch from Messy Kitchen. The day created space for meaningful conversations and cultural learning.

June 28 - Collette Travel

Fifteen visitors began their morning at the Kahnawà:ke Marina with a delicious maple breakfast prepared by Simple Pleasures while enjoying beautiful river views. Storytelling sessions introduced guests to the history and traditions of the Kanien'kehá:ka, offering a memorable start to their visit.



June 30 – Cégep de Sorel-Tracy

Twenty-one students visited Kahnawà:ke to experience a guided community tour focused on history, culture, and the importance of preserving Kanien'kehá:ka traditions for future generations.

BY THE NUMBERS

59 visitors joined us through scheduled tours, each leaving with a deeper understanding of Kahnawà:ke's living culture and history.

A heartfelt nia:wen to our community partners, guides, presenters, hosts, and Knowledge Keepers who continue to generously share their stories, wisdom, and hospitality. Together, we're helping visitors experience the heart of Kahnawà:ke while building understanding that lasts long after the tour ends.





KAHNAWÀ:KE WELCOME CENTER HOURS

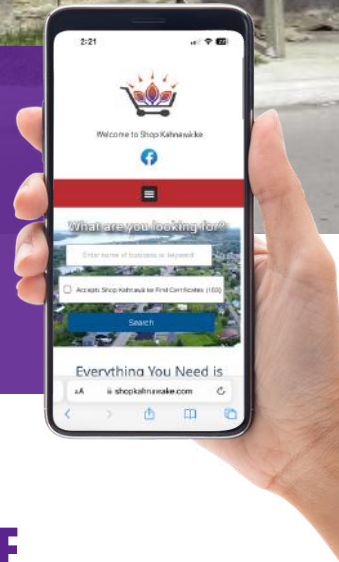
MON	8:30AM - 4:00PM
TUES	8:30AM - 4:00PM
WED	8:30AM - 4:00PM
THU	8:30AM - 4:00PM
FRI	8:30AM - 4:00PM
SAT & SUN	9:00AM - 3:00PM

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.

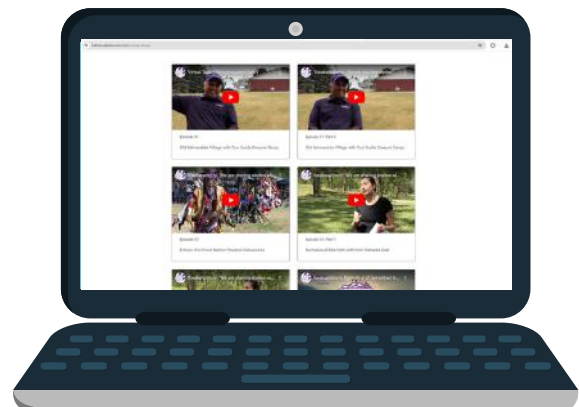


SCAN TO BOOK!



KAHNAWAKETOURISM.COM/BOOK-YOUR-TOUR

CHECK OUT OUR VIRTUAL TOURS ONLINE



KAHNAWAKETOURISM.COM/VIRTUAL-TOURS



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