



DECEMBER AND JANUARY | VOLUME #36

KAHNAWÀ:KE TOURISM

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GRATEFUL FOR 2025, EXCITED FOR WHAT'S NEXT

As we close out 2025 and begin fresh in 2026, we want to say niawenkó:wa to our community members, partners, artists, vendors, and visitors who helped make this year one of growth, connection, and pride in Kahnawà:ke.

This past year, we celebrated together through seasonal festivals, supported signature community events, welcomed new audiences, and continued sharing the stories, creativity, and experiences that make Kahnawà:ke a destination rooted in living culture. From food and art to laughter, learning, and tradition, 2025 reminded us of the power of gathering together.

The months from December to March offer an important pause. This is a time when our tourism team reflects on the year behind us, resets with

intention, and recharges in preparation for the busy months ahead—ensuring that what we bring forward is thoughtful, grounded, and community-centered.

Looking ahead to 2026, we're excited to build even more momentum. The year will bring expanded events, new tourism experiences, deeper cultural storytelling, and a major milestone with the Kanatahkwen:ke Grand Opening, setting a new standard for Kahnawà:ke's tourism industry. We will continue to support community-driven celebrations while creating meaningful and respectful opportunities to welcome visitors. Thank you for being part of our journey. We can't wait to share what's ahead. Wishing you a strong start to 2026!





Kwakarátón:ni

Podcast



Photo credit: Kahnawà:ke Hunters

STICK SKILLS, FISH TALES & COMMUNITY GOLD

After a short break during our busiest season, Kwakarátón:ni Podcast is back with two brand-new episodes, now available on our website and Iorì:wase Online.

In early December, we had the opportunity to sit down with six members of the Kahnawà:ke Jr. Hunters, the 2025 Founders Cup Champions, following an incredible regular season in the Ontario Lacrosse Association.

Host Bronwyn spoke with three players and three members of the coaching and management staff, capturing their reflections on the dedication, teamwork, and perseverance that led them to victory. Guests included father-and-son duo

Kirby Joe Diabo and Kaymen Diabo, players Owen Rice and Deelan Martin, along with Thunder Jacobs and Greg Horn.

Lacrosse is our Creator’s Game, once used as a medicine game for our people. Seeing players of all ages continue to compete at such high levels is both inspiring and meaningful. Tourism takes many forms, and sports tourism plays a vital role in our community. Each year, we welcome fans to the Kahnawà:ke Sports Complex to cheer, connect, and celebrate the game—building bridges and lasting relationships with guests on our land.

ICE FISHING SEASON WITH REEL UM IN: REEL COLD, REEL FUN

FINAL PODCAST OF 2025

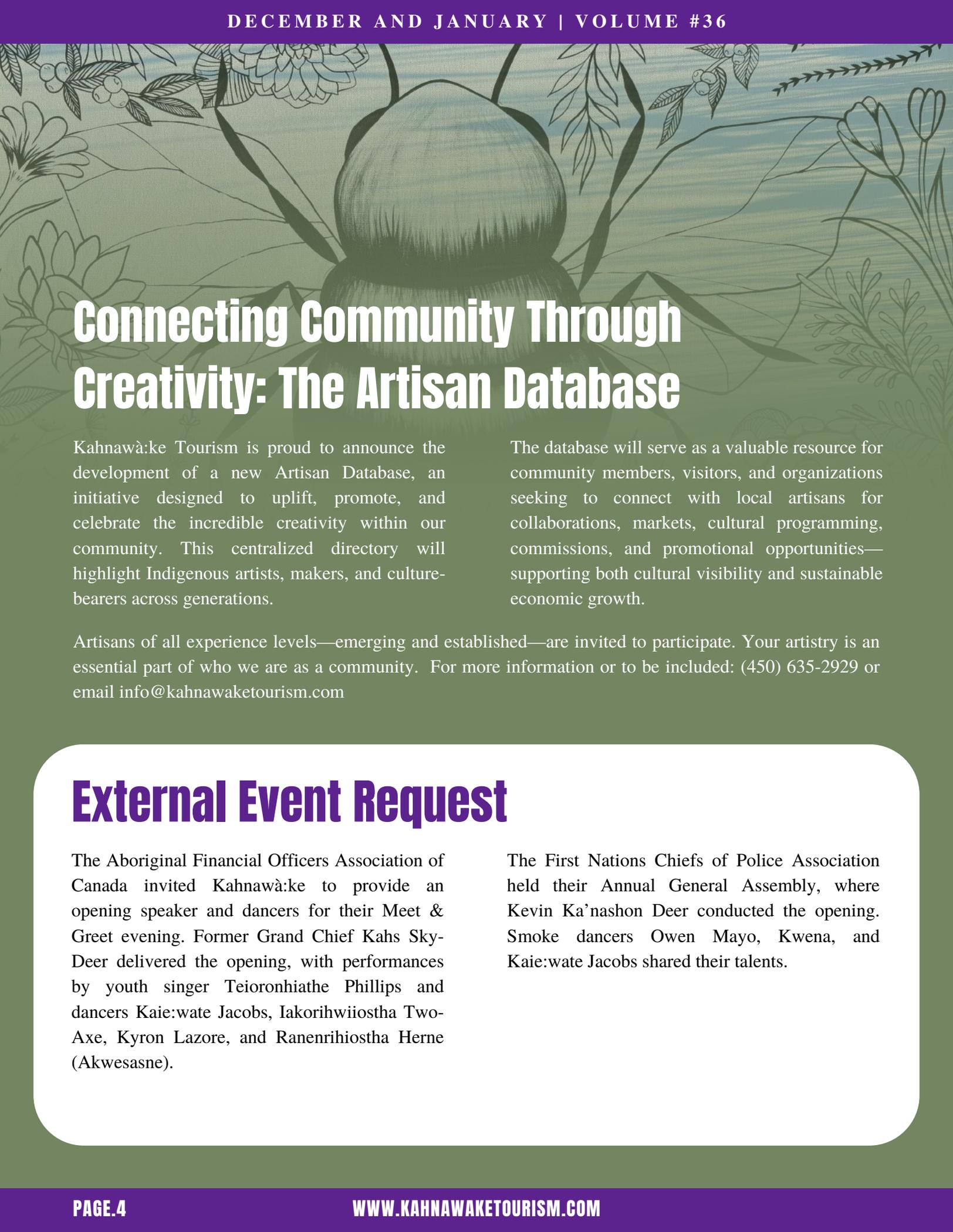
Our final podcast episode of 2025 highlights a powerful community success story led by Kirby Joe Diabo, in collaboration with Brandon Rice. Together, they run Tsi Nón:we Tewahriohkawí:nes, a program hosted at Reel Um In Bait Shop at the Kahnawà:ke Marina.

Listen here!
[Kahnawaketourism.com](https://www.kahnawaketourism.com)



This winter marks their first ice fishing classes, open to ages 12 and up, along with private guided ice fishing experiences. The response was overwhelming, classes filled to maximum capacity almost immediately, showing just how excited people are to bundle up and get out on the ice.

Kahnawà:ke Tourism has proudly partnered with this organization through the annual Fishing Derby as part of the Kahnawà:ke Youth Center's Winter Carnival, and by welcoming travelers from around the world during IITC 2025 in Montreal. We are deeply grateful for the dedication and hard work that keeps our community connected to the land while promoting safe, enjoyable experiences for all ages.



Connecting Community Through Creativity: The Artisan Database

Kahnawà:ke Tourism is proud to announce the development of a new Artisan Database, an initiative designed to uplift, promote, and celebrate the incredible creativity within our community. This centralized directory will highlight Indigenous artists, makers, and culture-bearers across generations.

The database will serve as a valuable resource for community members, visitors, and organizations seeking to connect with local artisans for collaborations, markets, cultural programming, commissions, and promotional opportunities—supporting both cultural visibility and sustainable economic growth.

Artisans of all experience levels—emerging and established—are invited to participate. Your artistry is an essential part of who we are as a community. For more information or to be included: (450) 635-2929 or email info@kahnawaketourism.com

External Event Request

The Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada invited Kahnawà:ke to provide an opening speaker and dancers for their Meet & Greet evening. Former Grand Chief Kahs Sky-Deer delivered the opening, with performances by youth singer Teioronhiathe Phillips and dancers Kaie:wate Jacobs, Iakorihwiiostha Two-Axe, Kyron Lazore, and Ranenrihiostha Herne (Akwasasne).

The First Nations Chiefs of Police Association held their Annual General Assembly, where Kevin Ka'nashon Deer conducted the opening. Smoke dancers Owen Mayo, Kwena, and Kaie:wate Jacobs shared their talents.



Celebrating our team

Olivia started as facilitator of the Ionkinè:rine' summer program 2026 and we were pleased to welcome her back as our Tourism Clerk for the fall season, from September 15 – December 12, 2025 (12 weeks). Her support and dedication were appreciated throughout her time with the team and hope to have her back again in the future as she brings youthful energy into the organization!

“My time in this role has been an incredible learning experience.

I am thankful to the tourism team for their patience, support, and constant encouragement. I leave with new skills, confidence, and a deeper appreciation for the work being done within Kahnawà:ke Tourism.

Niawenkó:wa for helping me grow as a student and worker. I hope to work with you all soon!” -Olivia Wakenhnhiióhstha Rice



From the Welcome Desk

Returning summer student Zye Mayo continued welcoming guests on weekends from September to December 2025. Zye was hired through Tewatohnhi'saktha's Mentor a Student Intern Program (MASI).



Tour Highlight

On January 22, we welcomed a group of 21 visitors from Spiritours for a private experience at Saint Francis Xavier Mission. The visit included a private Mass, followed by a guided tour led by volunteer guide Beverly. We thank Spiritours for visiting and Beverly for generously sharing her time and knowledge.

23
December visitors at
the Welcome Center

Canada
Country of
Origin

You made this season shine— Niá:wen and catch you next time!

As the tour season comes to a close, we extend a heartfelt niá:wen to Roxann for her time as a seasonal part-time tour guide from June 23 – December 8, 2025 (25 weeks). Her enthusiasm, professionalism, and welcoming spirit helped create memorable experiences for visitors throughout the season. We wish her all the best in what comes next.



Event Recap



Shop local, shop cozy—the Holiday Craft Fair sleighed Christmas gifting

Kahnawà:ke Tourism hosted a **Holiday Craft Fair** on **December 7, 2025**, at the Kahnawà:ke Youth Center, and we were thrilled with the turnout. Local vendors, along with artisans from our sister communities, showcased a beautiful variety of handmade items, including beadwork, knitted pieces for children and adults, customized shirts and mugs, candles, baskets, baked goods, and more.



Guests enjoyed delicious BBQ meals from The Old Haunt BBQ, while Screaming Chef warmed everyone up with chicken and dumplings. Hot chocolate was generously sponsored by KSCS, and storytelling by the fire pit with Lance Delisle added cozy vibes to the atmosphere. We were happy to welcome so many visitors who came out to shop, visit, and celebrate the holiday spirit together.



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

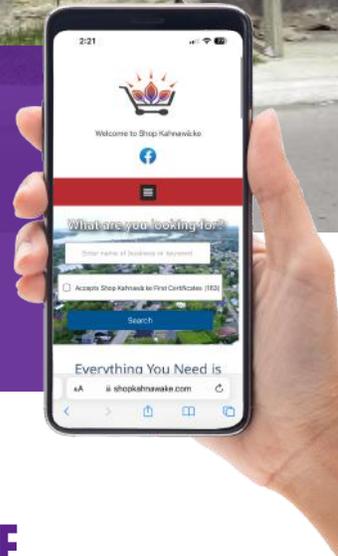
WEEKENDS CLOSED AS OF DECEMBER 14TH

1 RIVER ROAD, KAHNAWÀ:KE QC, JOL 1B0

SHOP KAHNAWÀ:KE

Shopkahnowake.com

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.

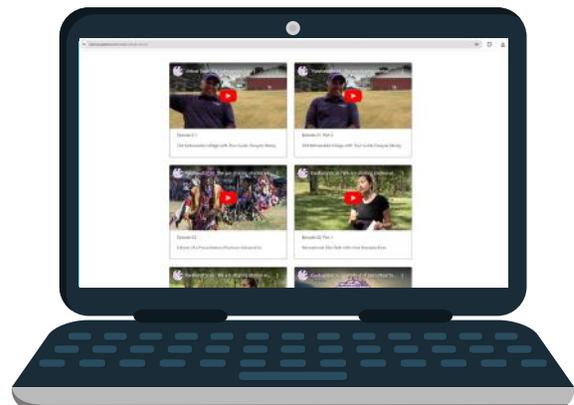


SCAN TO BOOK!



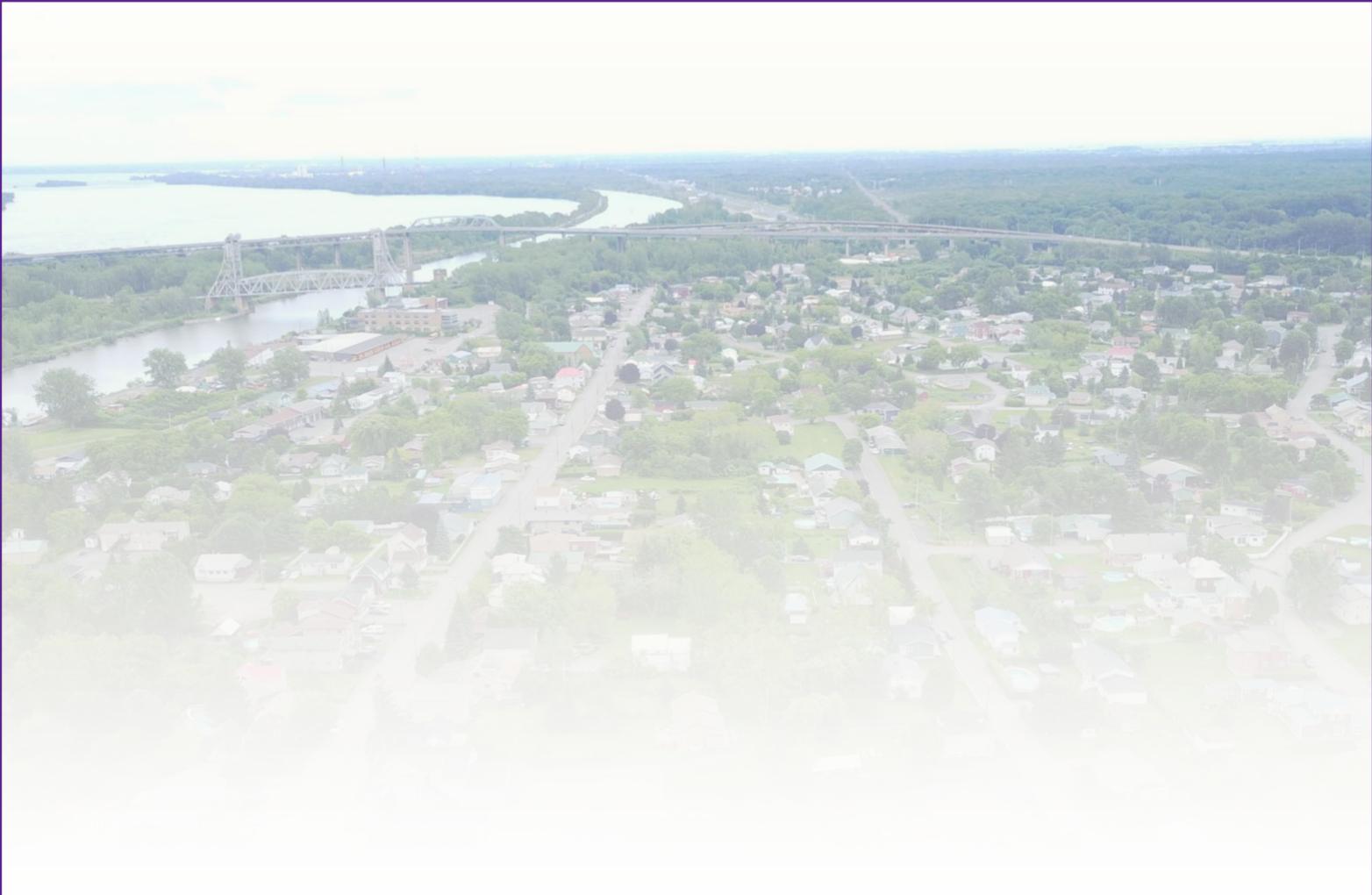
KAHNAWAKETOURISM.COM/BOOK-YOUR-TOUR

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