

ARPIL 2025 | VOLUME #29

# KAHNAWÀ:KE TOURISM

K-Town Collectibles Expo | April Tours | Vanier Pow Wow | Summer Tour Guide Training | Tours







### **STRAWBERRY FEST**

Join us at the Golden Age Club on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, as we traditionally give thanks for natures gift of strawberries, we would like you to join us for a fun-filled day featuring: Artisan & food vendors, Strawberry Jam Contest, Face painting & bounce house for the kids, Strawberry bobbing contest with prizes, and so much more, bring your friends and family!

Let's celebrate community, creativity, and all things strawberry!



## **JUNE IS BERRY EXCITING IN KAHNAWÀ:KE!**

Get ready for a month full of flavor and fun with Kahnawà:ke Tourism! Strawberry Food Fest – All Month Long! Support our amazing local businesses as they showcase their culinary talents with berry-infused creations!

Every week, you could win a Shop Kahnawà:ke gift certificate just by enjoying a meal from one of the participating restaurants. Don't forget to share your foodie experience for a chance to win!























## **KICK OFF THE SUMMER WITH US AT THE K-TOWN COLLECTIBLES EXPO!**

Melina Singh, Tourism Events Coordinator, will be representing Kahnawà:ke Tourism at the upcoming K-Town Collectibles Expo on June 8th at the Mohawk Bingo Hall!

Come find our table and discover all the exciting new things happening with our team. From fresh initiatives to summer plans, we can't wait to share what's ahead! Let's connect and enjoy the day together. See you there!

### **CELEBRATING CULTURE AWARENESS MONTH WITH FREE WEEKLY TOURS**

Throughout the month of April, the Kahnawà:ke Tourism Office proudly offered free one-hour tours every Wednesday from 12–1 PM at the Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language & Cultural Center in recognition of their Culture Awareness Month (CAM).

These tours provided guests with an introduction to Kanien'kehá:ka culture and history, highlighting the Nation's enduring contributions to both American and Canadian history. From traditional values to the legacy of ironworkers, each session helped deepen cultural understanding and appreciation among visitor

The tours were thoughtfully led by Hayden Nicholas, a stage student from Dawson College, who brought enthusiasm and knowledge to each session. The final CAM tour took place on April 30th, wrapping up a successful month of community education and engagement. Niá:wen to all who joined us in celebrating and learning!



# SHARING CULTURE AT VANIER COLLEGE'S 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL POW WOW

On April 9th, we were proud to participate in the first Pow Wow of the year at Vanier College! Our Kahnawà:ke Tourism booth was set up and ready to welcome the many guests eager to learn, celebrate, and engage with Indigenous culture and community.

The event was vibrant and full of spirit, centered around the powerful heartbeat of the drum. We were honored to have Kahnawà:ke's own Owen Mayo serve as the emcee, guiding the day with wisdom, warmth, and deep respect for tradition. The dance circle came alive with performers from Kahnawà:ke and other Nations, joined by throat singers and Métis dancers, who added beautiful and diverse expressions of culture to the celebration.

It was a day of connection, cultural pride, and community spirit — and we're grateful to have been part of it. Niá:wen to everyone who came out to support and share in this meaningful event!



## **SUMMER TOUR GUIDE TRAINING UNDERWAY AT KAHNAWA:KE TOURISM!**

On April 22, the Kahnawà:ke Tourism Office launched its seasonal Tour Guide Training Program, preparing a new group of guides for the upcoming summer season. The training kicked off with a rich and immersive experience on Tekakwitha Island, led by Cole Delisle.

Cole shared the fascinating history of how the island came to be - from the digging of the St. Lawrence Seaway to how landfill material was

used to combine multiple smaller islands into one larger landmass. The leftover materials also formed what we now know as the clay mountains. Participants also learned about ongoing environmental efforts like the Restoration Bay Project, where parts of the river were dredged to create diverse habitats for local wildlife.

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## **SUMMER TOUR GUIDE TRAINING UNDERWAY AT KAHNAWÀ:KE TOURISM!**

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He also shared intriguing local history, such as the small road that once allowed trucks to dump seaway landfill near what is now Bayview Restaurant - a reminder of how much the landscape has changed over time.

Next, the group visited Kateri Church, where Dwayne Stacey gave an insightful tour on the life and legacy of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, as well as the historical significance of the church in Kahnawà:ke's cultural and spiritual heritage.

The final stop of the day was the Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language & Cultural Center, where Bronwyn Johns shared an in-depth session on Haudenosaunee history. Her teachings covered:

- The formation of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy
- The meaning and importance of wampum belts
- Traditional governance structures
- Regional history of the Haudenosaunee Nations
- The story of Kahnawà:ke's own past, including how Kanien'kehá:ka men became ironworkers
- An overview of the Oka Crisis and its lasting impact

All this knowledge will help equip our tour guides to share Kahnawà:ke's rich history and culture with visitors this summer. The group expressed great enthusiasm and appreciation for the day's learning - and they're eager to begin leading tours and welcoming guests to our community!





# A DAY IN KAHNAWA:KE

On April 25th, we were pleased to welcome the team from Tourisme Montréal (Tiohtià:ke) for a day of connection, learning, and collaboration in Kahnawà:ke. It was a memorable experience filled with rich storytelling, shared history, and meaningful conversations about where we've come from - and where we're going.

We kicked off the day with a visit to the Kahnawà:ke Brewing Company, where the group enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour and an engaging Q&A session. From there, we boarded a bus for a guided community tour, with a quick stop at the Welcome Center and a walk through the historic village.

Our next destination was the Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center, where guests received valuable insight into the language, traditions, and stories that define our identity. We then made our way to the construction site of the upcoming Kahnawà:ke Cultural Arts Center (KCAC), where we shared exciting updates and generated anticipation for its opening next spring. The day wrapped up with a visit to Calico Cottage, where our guests had the chance to browse and support Shop Kahnawà:ke.

# CLICK TO SEE THE PROGRESS OF THE KCAC KAHNAWAKETOURISM.COM/MUSEUMS-AND-ATTRACTIONS

Moments like these are essential for building strong partnerships, raising awareness about our community, and creating opportunities for collaborative tourism in the future. We're excited to see where this growing relationship will lead!





# TOUR SEASON IS BACK IN FULL SWING AT KAHNAWA:KE TOURISM!

In April, we welcomed 37 visitors: one from France, one from Morocco, two from Australia, three from Michigan, and the rest from across Canada.

April was a busy and exciting month for Kahnawà:ke Tourism, as we proudly welcomed 8 group tours, bringing a total of 145 visitors to explore some of our community's most cherished destinations.

Guests experienced a variety of immersive tours, including:

- The Tour of Kahnawà:ke
- The Tour of Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center
- And more customized community visits

Visitors dined at local restaurants or enjoyed delicious catered meals by Simple Pleasures, which were a hit with every group!

Some groups also had the chance to visit the Mohawk Trail Longhouse, where they engaged in storytelling sessions and Q&As, offering a deeper understanding of our traditions and way of life.

To top off their experience, many guests supported our local economy by shopping at favorites like Calico Cottage and Iron Horse Boutique - a great boost for our local artisans and businesses. What a fantastic start to the tour season! We're excited to keep the momentum going!

# KAHNAWÀ:KE SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

These ones are for Kahnawà:ke Students going back to school full-time in Fall 2025! If you have a strong sense of leadership, history and culture and want to work with local youth we have ONE Youth Cultural Leadership Facilitator position open for the summer that will end in August.

If you are interested in Event planning or Communications our Events/PR Assistant position is for you! Learn to network, work with the media, organize and implement events!





### **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

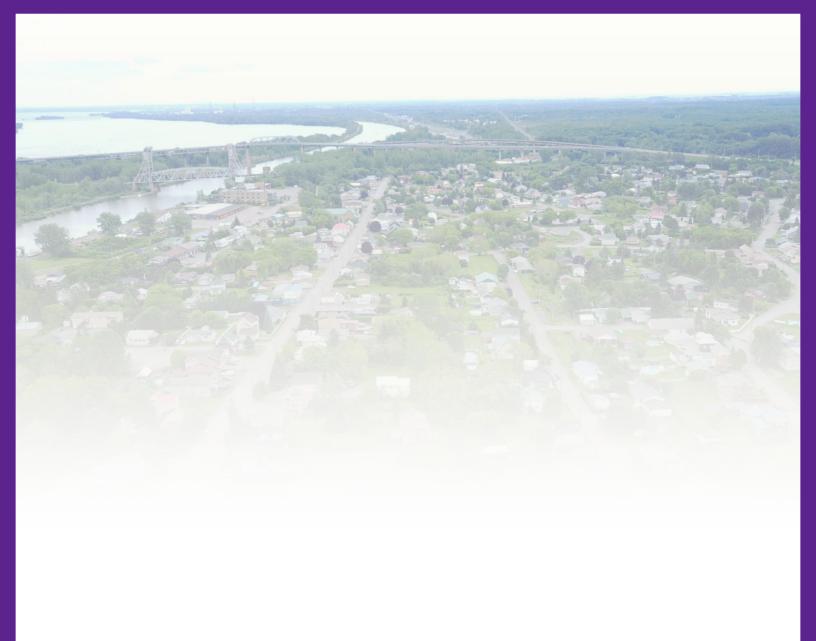
# CHECK OUT OUR VIRTUAL TOURS ONLINE



KAHNAWAKETOURISM.COM/VIRTUAL-TOURS







1 Rd River, Kahnawà:ke, Quebec JOL 1B0 (450) 635-2929 info@kahnawaketourism.com

kahnawaketourism.com tewa.ca shopkahnawake.com



