



APRIL 2023 | ISSUE 04



THE BUZZ AT KEPO

The Official Newsletter of the Kahnawà:ke Environment Protection Office



WHAT'S THE BUZZ AT KEPO?

Welcome!

This is the official newsletter of the Kahnawà:ke Environment Protection Office (KEPO). The Buzz at KEPO is a new quarterly newsletter that will provide updates on current KEPO initiatives and events, as well as environmental information relevant to Kahnawa'kehró:non. Keep on reading to see what we've been doing to protect and better our environment.

HIGHLIGHTS & PROJECT UPDATES

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FIGHTING TO PROTECT & BETTER OUR ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT UPDATE

Mother Earth Month

by Marina Gosselin, Environmental Projects Coordinator - Climate Change

Every year on April 22nd, the world celebrates Mother Earth Day. This year, the Kahnawà:ke Environment Protection Office (KEPO) is collaborating with Kahnawà:ke Waste Management (KWM) and calling on all community members go further during an entire Earth Month. Now more than ever, there is an urgent need to protect our Mother the Earth lonkhi'nisténha tsi ionhontsá:te from the impacts of climate change for the sake of our future generations and all things in creation. Earth Month is an opportunity for everyone to become a climate leader by strengthening our sustainability and promoting climate and biodiversity action amongst Kahnawa'kehrónon.

Kanien'kehá:ka culture is inherently linked to living in balance with Mother Earth. The Ohén:ton Karihwatéhkwen gives us a daily reminder that we have the important responsibility to ensure the cycles of life continue and that all things in creation can continue to fulfill their duties in the natural world.

We are proud to recognize the important role of cultural revitalization in shaping sustainability, climate and biodiversity action in Kahnawà:ke. We are encouraging all initiatives and events during Earth Month to draw linkages with Cultural Awareness month. Together, we can protect our environment for future generations, and ensure the community continues to develop in more responsible and sustainable ways.

Follow KEPO and KWM, on social media to find more details on the upcoming events and recommendations to get started. Let us know what you choose to do for Earth Month, and we may highlight you as a "climate champion". All participants will be entered to win one of three eco-friendly prize packs valued at \$150 each. Submit your actions to us through social media or email us at environmentprotection@mck.ca

This year KEPO will continue with our climate change activities. Keep an eye out for our food forest planting event and workshops focused on how to address climate anxiety. KEPO will also be conducting our first greenhouse gas emissions inventory to understand the sources of our emissions enabling us to develop solutions for emission reductions.



Follow us and submit your actions for Earth Month!



@kahnawakeenvironment
@kahnawake.waste.management



www.facebook.com/kahnawakeenvironment
www.facebook.com/recyclinginkahnawake

PROJECT UPDATE

Air Quality Monitoring Project

by Cole Delisle, Environmental Projects Coordinator - Terrestrial Habitats

During a late January snowstorm six community members joined us at the Golden Age Club to participate in our second Air Quality Monitoring Workshop. Like our first workshop held in 2021, participants learnt about the sources and types of air pollution, and how it can affect our health. After the presentation there was a guided workshop where everyone had the chance to build their own air quality monitor to take home. Since they first workshop we had made improvements to the design of our monitors and past participants were invited back to update their devices.

KEPO started working on the air quality monitoring project in 2020 as part of Concordia University's Decolonizing Light project. The university has been partnering with indigenous peoples to decolonize science by building capacity and incorporating indigenous knowledge. Through the partnership we designed the low-cost monitors that were built in the workshop.

These monitors are an inexpensive option compared to commercially available units but have similar capabilities. This lets us build more monitors to have an extensive network throughout Kahnawà:ke. The sensors that the monitors have been equipped with were chosen to detect pollution associated with vehicle traffic, passing ships, and industrial activity.



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

Spring Clean Up

by Julie Delisle, Environmental Projects Coordinator - Education & Outreach

This spring the Kahnawà:ke Waste Management Unit (KWM) and the Eastern Door are encouraging community members to get involved in making Kahnawà:ke a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable community!

To kick off the month, KWM has announced an **Earth Month Cleanup Challenge**. Community members are asked to choose an area to clean, and share before and after pictures of the area for a chance to win. Prizes are valued at over \$1000!

The **27th Annual Eastern Door Community Cleanup** will be taking place on April 21st from 7am to 12pm at the Eastern Door. The Eastern Door, KWM and KEPO will be on hand to provide cleaning supplies and giveaways to help with your cleanup. Starbucks coffee will be offered on site!

We encourage all community members to use KEPO's Kahnawà:ke Dumping Tracker App during your cleanup efforts this month. The app allows community members to send data directly to KEPO regarding found dumping sites, including waste contents, severity, location, pictures and more.



EARTH MONTH CLEAN-UP

APRIL 1, 2023 - APRIL 30, 2023

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Check out the New Tracker
Check out the New Kahnawà:ke Dumping Tracker
<https://arcg.is/Hy91S> enter the area you think needs to be cleaned.

Step 1. Choose an Area
Choose an area to clean and take a before photo.

Step 2. Clean the Area
Clean the area and take another photo of it cleaned.

Step 3. Post before and after pics to Win
Post pics in the tracker or send photos to our Facebook messenger @Recyclinginkahnawake or email photos to Wastemanagement@mck.ca

KAHNAWÀ:KE WASTE MANAGEMENT

450-632-4321
@Recyclinginkahnawake



GET THE APP



The Kahnawà:ke Dumping Tracker App uses an online platform called Survey123. The app is free to download and use, but also not necessary! The app can be accessed through any web browser on your phone, tablet or computer. You don't need an account, or to sign up for anything to use the Dumping Tracker App, and users can submit information anonymously if preferred.

WILDLIFE PROFILE

Okonté:na

American eel

Anguilla rostrata

The American Eel is a species of fish with a long, snake-like body and fins that extend along its back, around the tail and along its underside. Juveniles are yellowish-green or brown. Adults are grey with a white or cream belly. Adult females may reach over a metre in length while males reach less than 40 cm.

Over the course of its life, the American Eel can be found in both salt and fresh water. American eels spawn only once during their life span, and the entire population spawns together in the Sargasso Sea located south of Bermuda.

Eels are nocturnal and most of their feeding therefore occurs at night.

Eels are catadromous. This means they spend most of their lives in fresh water and return to the ocean where they were born, to spawn.

The female can lay up to 4 million buoyant eggs and dies after egg-laying.

In the wild the American Eel can live for more than 50 years.

Dams and other in-water barriers can prevent access to feeding and spawning areas. Hydro-electric turbines also kill a reported 20% of American Eels that try to pass through the turbines during their downstream spawning migration. The American Eel is considered a threatened species under the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

MEET THE TEAM

Cole Delisle

Environmental Projects Coordinator - Terrestrial Habitats

Cole worked for KEPO as a summer student for two years before joining the team full-time in 2019. He is the Environmental Projects Coordinator for Terrestrial Habitats. A graduate of Concordia with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology he also has experience in communications and archeology from his work in the community. As the Coordinator for Terrestrial Habitats, Cole works on implementing a variety of KEPO's projects like the emerald ash borer program, air quality monitoring project, and Recreation Bay restoration project. He also conducts environmental surveys and helps develop recommendations for areas of the community which might be impacted by development. Outside of the office spends a lot of time listening to podcasts on his favorite topics: indie music, dungeons & dragons, and history!



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

No Mow May

by Julie Delisle, Environmental Projects Coordinator
- Education & Outreach

For a second year KEPO is challenging you to No Mow May/Nó:nen Onerahtohkó:wa Nikahá:wí, Tóhsa' Sewathéntia'k! Register to participate, simply refrain from mowing your grass for the entire month and submit weekly progress pictures so we could share updates and see the progress. Participants will be entered to win one of three pollinator prize packs valued at \$150 each. The first 25 participants to register will receive a free lawn sign!

The No Mow May initiative was designed to raise awareness about the importance of protecting biodiversity and pollinators during an important stage of their life cycle. Pollinators are a crucial part of our ecosystems. Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, and beetles are needed for the reproduction of 90% of flowering plants and 35% of the global food supply. Bees are the world's primary pollinators who contribute to plant diversity and crop pollination. Unfortunately, pollinator populations have seen a dramatic global decline. Nearly one in four native bee species are at an increased risk of extinction. The main threats to these populations include habitat destruction, pesticide use, and climate change (Kopec).



NO MOW MAY REGISTRATION FORM



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