



Oneida Day 2012 at the Western Fair

Yawa'ko to all who contributed to the success of our day!

More Website info . . . – The audio files can be downloaded (or played on) to your mobile digital devices so that you have your practice phrases at your fingertips. There are also coloring pages, info sheets and a handy placemat with table talk phrases on it to use at the table; available to print and use. There is also a contact form to provide feedback which will help drive content, if there's something in particular you would like to see this is how you send it in to us. Or of course you can always just phone in or drop by.

LISTEN

- ▶ Are You Hungry
- ▶ Deer
- ▶ Do You Want
- ▶ Does It Taste Good
- ▶ Foods
- ▶ Get Ready To Go Outside

DOWNLOAD

- ▶ Kahstowah (PDF)
- ▶ Oneida Water Drum Colouring Page (PDF)
- ▶ Placemat Legal Size 2012 (PDF)
- ▶ Strawberry Jam Making Colouring Page (PDF)

VISIT US AT - www.oneidalanguage.ca
Oneida Language and Cultural Centre office is open
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Launch of www.oneidalanguage.ca

Our new website is up and running at last! The culmination of an 8 year old dream! We officially launched our website at the Oneida Day at the Western Fair on September 13, 2012. According to our Google Analytics Tool we have had over 2,300 pageviews by visitors to our site from around the world, a peak visit duration of 33 minutes! The most popular section is Learn Our Language/words and phrases.

Master Speakers

Our Master Speakers who have come forward over the years to help with language content, are the featured hosts of this website. Because pronunciation is so difficult for new learners to master, we have provided a treasury of audio files voiced by these wonderful ladies who currently come in monthly and we also upload some of the rich strong voices from our archive of past helpers - Ross Ireland and Daisy Elijah. Please practice using these authentic models as much as possible to ensure clear communication.



ONEIDA LANGUAGE MATTERS



ONEIDA DICTIONARY NEWS Dictionary Sale

Through an arrangement with Council, OLCC will soon have 500 dictionaries for sale at \$50 each. Thank you to Ursula and Luke for setting this in motion. This support is appreciated as it will boost our winter programming to bring our speakers in more often.



Class of 2012 photo by Dawn Antone

Oneida Language Course

Having had time to reflect back on this course which ran from June 24 to July 26, I would have to say it is by far the most successful and exciting language programming I have participated in to date. There were consistently an average of 46 students attending daily with enthusiasm and commitment to the lessons which were not easy and required prolonged mental stamina. Prior to this class, I had been wondering if there was any point to trying to keep the language alive, if anyone wanted to use it or would it just die out? A worry that many of our speakers secretly harbour as well. But after seeing 46 out of 52 registered Oneidas successfully complete the course, all doubt has vanished. I am proud and happy to say that both OLCC staff are a part of that solid group of A2 level Oneida language learners who are passionate about learning to speak Oneida who are now becoming a part of the speaking community.

There were a couple of highlights that coincided on the same day – Kanatawakhon's birthday celebration, which speaks to the

camaraderie of the group, and a visit by the Western University dignitaries. President Amit Chakma came to the fairgrounds site to see for himself the successful turnout at an Oneida-based university class. First Nations Director, Dr. Susan Hill stated that the Oneida student population at Western has doubled as direct result of this class and both she and Kanatawakhon, spoke to the vibrant, positive energy in the classroom. Hopefully this visit will bode well for our future planning.



Future Plans - unconfirmed

It is our hope at OLCC that Western will offer Oneida Part I in an evening intercession May and June 2013; and Oneida Part II in summer

day July and August 2013.

We plan to offer an evening study group where Kanatawakhon will lead us through guided exercises and group activities to practise and reinforce what we have learned so far, starting in January 2013.

Babytalk/Interlanguage

And yes, there has been some criticism because we are being taught by a Mohawk, but that Mohawk Kanatawakhon, can take apart the parts of speech and explain how each participle functions and how it fits together to make meaning. We learned Iroquoian grammar in a way that no one else can teach it, it is like decoding the language and Oneida speakers were present to model Oneida speech.

We may not sound like native Oneida speakers yet but that will come in time. The utterances that any learner of any new language makes during the first year or two of trying to speak, is called interlanguage and it may sound like another language altogether at first. It is completely normal and expected to sound a bit off at first. With practice and continued exposure to proper pronunciation this condition will clear up and speech will improve over time. This can be very discouraging for the learner when s/he is not understood by speakers, and disappointing for the speakers who are expecting excellence right off the bat. It is not a new language we are learning, nor is it Mohawk, it is what Oneida adult learners sound like trying to learn to speak, like baby talk... So patience, persistence and practice!



Strawberry Assessment Tool

Iroquois Language Portfolio

OLCC has taken the lead in developing an Iroquois Language Portfolio which is a common language learning framework that all of our six nations can use to standardize lesson planning and assessment along a common scale of proficiency. The first modules were created and exchanged at the Nov. 6th workshop where teams from Tyenidaga and Kawennio Immersion School each developed a module: Katitakonnis (making moccasins); Tekalihwakhwa (singing); Answering the Phone; Body Hurts and recorded the target phrases in their respective languages. At the end of the day we exchanged work so that all participants had 5 new modules. So far work is occurring in Mohawk and Cayuga at Kawennio; Mohawk in Tyendinaga and here in Oneida, enabling the three writing teams to exchange their work and opens the possibility where we can speak and understand each other's language again - plurilingualism