

Haudenosaunee Today

Meet Ronnie Reitter



Ronnie is a Seneca woman and is part of the wolf clan. Before she retired, she used to work at Kodak, the RMSC, and Ganondagan.

She lives in a gray two-story house with an attached garage. Her sons are all grown up so now she lives by herself.

What Does She Do for Fun?

Ronnie has many things that she likes to do for fun. She likes to go to the movies, hike, and spend time with her grandchildren.

She also likes to make traditional art like the Haudenosaunee of long ago. She makes corn husk dolls with no faces just like her ancestors did and she weaves baskets. She also does beadwork. She made all of these!



Does She Make Her Own Clothes?

Making your own clothes is hard work! The Haudenosaunee of long ago had to make everything. Today Ronnie wears everyday clothes like jeans and shirts that she buys from the store.



Ronnie chooses to make some clothes for fun. She started sewing clothes when she was eleven. First she made everyday clothes, then she made traditional ribbon clothes, and then clothes for corn husk dolls.

Does She Grow Her Own Food?



Long ago Haudenosaunee people had to grow all of their own food. Like her ancestors, Ronnie grows plants, too, but only some. She grows native tobacco for ceremonies and she grows native beans in containers.

Ronnie also shops at Wegmans. She enjoys blueberries, strawberries and blackberries, turkey and chili. She likes to eat almost everything except lima beans.

Remembering Traditions

Ronnie thinks remembering traditions is important. She goes to a longhouse for ceremonies just like the Haudenosaunee of long ago. She doesn't go to a bark longhouse, though. She goes to a modern longhouse. At ceremonies Ronnie eats special foods and listens to speakers and there is dancing!

