

Chief Wallace Oakes

Activity Report for month of February

SOLID WASTE PROGRAM:

Attending an emergency meeting with solid waste program. More workshops are needed in this area as well as radio announcements. There is a bag exchange from green to clear garbage. The green garbage bags can be exchanged at the Environmental Department.

FOLLOW-UP TO COMPLAINT:

Travelled to Stanley Island as follow-up to complaints from community members regarding salt being put on the ice and holes chopped in the ice. After visiting the area, there was no evidence of salt being poured on the ice as well as no visibility of holes. While at Stanley Island the cabins were also looked at.

IAKHIHSOHTHA ADVISORY BOARD:

Attended the Iakhihsoshta Advisory Board Meeting. A topic of discussion related to Council contribution of the elderly. After discussion it was recommended that there be more worked done in this area.

AKWESASNE FOCUS GROUP:

Attended meetings with the Akwesasne Focus Group on Disability. The group needs office space and seed monies to develop this program. The group will be applying for government grants to pick up these expenses.

HYDRO QUEBEC:

Attending various meetings regarding outstanding issues with Hydro Quebec. WANT TO EXPAND ON THIS AREA

VARIOUS MEETINGS

Attended a meeting with the Administrator at the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council where common concerns were discussed. Further meetings will be forthcoming.

Attended various meetings with department heads.

Attended meetings with community members concerning health and social programs.

Chief Angie Barnes

Activity Report for month of February

EDUCATION:

I attended two board meetings and two committee meetings of the Board of Education. Areas that have been my main focus are drafting of election regulations for the upcoming board election, grievances tabled with the Board, coordination of a steering committee for the continuation of the Aboriginal Math & Science Pilot Project and the St. Regis School. The Board of Education and the Mohawk Council should be meeting soon to discuss and decide on the most practical grades to be housed in the new school. Construction is a little behind because of frost, and they couldn't pour cement. Hopefully when more favorable weather breaks everything will come back on line. I also gave input on the development of terms of reference for an evaluation system which, when accepted by the Board, will provide a more detailed report. I will be putting together an orientation package for Council orientation on Education.

JUSTICE - LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION:

I assisted in the coordination of the community vote on the Intoxicants issue. Participated in the radio show, district meetings and special meetings to explain intent of the law and proposed structure to implement the community vote.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

I reviewed Draft I of the proposed Financial Management Plan to be implemented once accepted by the Mohawk Council. The overall purpose of the Finance Policy Manual is to provide guidelines that will ensure financial accountability of the Mohawk Council to the residents of Akwesasne. Once this is accepted a report should be developed for insertion in the newspapers. I also reviewed some articles of the Collective Agreement. Negotiations on the Collective Agreement should be starting soon between the two negotiating teams of Council and the employees. I started to review terms of reference of some contracts with external agencies.

OTHER:

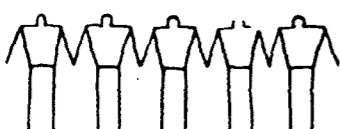
Special and General Meetings Justice Inquiry:

I was made aware of the structure of other inquiries in Canada. The main principle of any inquiry is to remain objective. Inquiries usually do not lead to charges, but they do come up with recommendations for improvements to a justice system. This was explained to community members.

Meeting in Kahnawake:

Alwyn Morris was also in attendance and gave an update on the Constitutional dialogue. He advised us to start explaining the rights we had before the Indian Act was imposed on native communities.

The Mohawk Council of Kahnawake provided an update in justice and work occurring on their Indian government model of operations. There was also discussion on the need to develop a joint Mohawk position to Quebec but first we need to be aware of the Bills and Policies that are already in place in Quebec. The meeting ended with a commitment to keep having meetings of this nature and possibly to meet the External Relations Committee of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.



Chief Lloyd Benedict

Activity Report for month of February

BOTTLED WATER:

Over the last eight months the bottled water program has been serving elders and low income households on Cornwall Island and Snye.

This program was negotiated with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) in Toronto because of the lack of good quality drinking water from well systems in the two districts of Akwesasne. The lack of good quality drinking water is a problem that affects the majority of households in the two districts, and currently negotiations are taking place so that all Cornwall Island and Snye can benefit from this program.

Many households may average through the year spending \$250.00 to \$350.00 for bottled water. For households able to afford this additional cost, \$85.00 will be the only cost and INAC will cover the bulk of the expenditure until a fresh water treatment system can be built on Cornwall Island and Snye. The service charge for that system will remain at \$85.00 per year for each household. The subsidized bottled water program is expected to begin sometime in May.

BRIDGE CROSSING:

The Seaway Bridge Authority and Canada Customs have retained an engineering firm "Thompson & Associates" to design the Cornwall Island bridge crossing to accommodate freer traffic flow through Canada Customs and the tollbooth as well as easier access through and to Cornwall Island for Akwesasne residents without having to sit in long line-ups. Emergency vehicle traffic for fire and rescue are priorities that will be addressed in the new designs. The engineering firm will produce three designs for review by the Akwesasne community and construction will begin as quickly as possible in order to relieve the congestions.

CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES:

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has been in negotiations with Ontario and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) over jurisdiction of our land and water within the Mohawk territory of Akwesasne.

Up until now, MNR has offered to train two of our eligible candidates as Conservation Officers at a school in Dorset, Ontario. Two Conservation Officers were trained in January and February of this year and are currently organizing the Akwesasne Environmental Law respecting hunting, fishing and trapping within the Mohawk territory. This law protects our aboriginal right to hunt, fish, and trap within our territory.

The law is also being reviewed to accommodate the use, handling, and sale of petroleum fuel within the territory to ensure that this form of business enterprise is done safely while respecting the Mohawk environment and of course residential areas.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is also working with the Environmental Division on a "Model Forest Project." This project will involve the research of our traditional uses of trees, plants, and herbs that all grow within a natural forest that are used by many residents here at Akwesasne, and to start green housing the trees and plants in order that they can be re-introduced into a forest for our use both medicinal and commercial.

Black ash seed collection has already taken place. This will be grown in the Kemptville green house in order that this tree can be restocked in the Akwesasne area for future use by our crafts people.

Sites around Akwesasne are being looked at for natural forests, designation research and improvement.

White Pine cone collection will soon be taking place around Akwesasne. Akwesasne is home to very old pine groves that are endangered by the air pollution from the surrounding industry, especially flouride. A volunteer forestry group located outside Cornwall has offered its services of good will to cultivate the off-spring of our endangered White Pine away from the pollution in hopes that some day they can be reintroduced to Akwesasne.

PHYTO FARMS:

Over the last couple of years the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has expressed interest in attracting non-polluting industry to Akwesasne in order that the economy of the community can be more self-reliant.

Phyto Farms is a company that grows leafy vegetables using a process called hydroponics. This process grows plants in mineral- and nutrient-filled water on a conveyor system under powerful artificial lights. It becomes apparent that large amounts of electricity are needed to power this industrial plant. Akwesasne, as compared to the greater United States, enjoys relatively inexpensive electricity mainly because of our close proximity to hydro electric plants.

Phyto Farms is looking for local private investment into their business.

E.A.G.L.E. (EFFECTS ON ABORIGINALS FROM A GREAT LAKES ENVIRONMENT):

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence river system over countless generations past was vast wealth, social, economic, and cultural sustenance for the aboriginal peoples of North America. It is a natural resource beyond comparison to any other water system in the world. Over the last 60 years the system has been plagued with mass industrialization dumping every conceivable toxin into the water, rendering it the largest chemical waste dump anywhere. Yet, the aboriginal people of this land still depend on its fish, wildlife, timber and farm lands to support their own societies, like they have done in generations past.

There is no doubt that there are health effects, social effects, and economic effects, but to scientifically prove any health effects in a strictly clinical manner is virtually impossible. To prove the one toxin such as PCB out of ten million toxins in the system is the root cause of an ailment is virtually impossible. This is the reason why a holistic approach that mass industrialization (pollution) has a gross impact socially, economically, culturally on the aboriginal peoples who intimately depend on this land for survival, including Akwesasne. Akwesasne plays a major role in this project sponsored by National Health and Welfare Canada. I sit and occasionally chair the EAGLE Steering Committee. Henry Lickers, Director of the Environmental Division, participates on the EAGLE Science Advisory Committee. Meetings are usually monthly.

FIRST NATIONS TREATY 8 TRIBAL COUNCIL:

Two weeks ago they were visiting Akwesasne. They too, are involved in the similar study in their Peace River and Athabaska River water shed system. They are experiencing industrial growth in the areas of oil companies, hydro projects, and mining. They are very new as a government and asked Akwesasne for help and guidance. They are providing services to 32 communities spread over northeastern British Columbia, northern Alberta, northwestern Saskatchewan and southern Northwest Territories. The environmental study they are involved in also looks at the social, economic and cultural effects that industrialization has brought. Henry will also participate in their Science Advisory Committee on a contractual arrangement with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and Treaty 8.

Chief Brian David

Activity Report for the month of February

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT:

The Portfolio chiefs for the Akwesasne Police Service, the Mohawk Court and Legislative Commission have been meeting with justice staff and staff lawyers to examine the current state of affairs in the area of justice. A proposal for funding is being developed in order to carry out a comprehensive information campaign to the community and to solicit the type of justice system which would be desirable for the community of Akwesasne. The activities under this proposal will also include an examination of traditional Mohawk law and the manner in which this may be introduced into the area of local justice. A thorough examination of the types of crimes being committed in Akwesasne has also been proposed in order to give the Mohawk Council an idea of the kinds of laws which need to be reinforced or developed.

AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE COMMISSION:

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission is the body empowered by Mohawk Council to oversee the general administration of the Akwesasne Police Service.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission met on February 25, 1992 to discuss the following areas: staff training, equipment requirements, restructuring and reorganization of the police service, a resignation and a Code of Discipline/Conduct.

AKWESASNE POLICING PROGRAM:

As of January, 1992, statistics are being collected and maintained as a means to gauge the activities in the area of policing. These statistics also provide an indication of the kinds of calls that the police officers respond to.

STATISTICS (for the month of February, 1992)

Total number of calls in Ontario and Quebec:	83
Ontario:	41
Quebec:	42
Traffic Accidents investigated:	6
Criminal charges filed:	10
Occurrences involving violence:	4
Occurrences involving youthful offenders:	8

Assist other agency (dealing with smugglers):	14
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ONTARIO

Trespass - ATV/Snowmobile:	1 - cleared otherwise
Domestic:	2 - involved violence
	1 - cleared otherwise
	1 - charged
Theft - motor vehicle:	3
	2 - cleared otherwise
	1 - still under investigation
Theft under \$1000.00:	1 - still under investigation
Assist other agencies:	16
Mischief:	3
	1 - still under investigation
	1 - involved violence
	1 - cleared otherwise
	1 - charged
Missing persons:	1
Narcotics Investigation:	2
	1 - unfounded
	1 - charged
Trespass:	1 - unfounded
Gunshots:	2
	1 - cleared otherwise
	1 - still under investigation
	2 - both cleared otherwise
Animal:	5
General Incident:	5
Possession stolen property:	1 - charged
Possible drowning:	1 - unfounded

TOTAL OCCURENCES:	41
Occurrences Involving Youthful Offenders:	5

QUEBEC

General Incidents:	9
Domestic complaints:	1 - charged
	3 - cleared otherwise
	1 - involved violence
Trespass - snowmobiles/ATV:	6
	4 - charged
	4 - cleared otherwise
Assist other agency:	5
False/Activated alarm:	2
Dangerous Driving:	1 - still under investigation
Recovered Stolen Property:	2 - both under investigation
Mischief:	1 - still under investigation
Theft - Motor vehicle:	1 - cleared otherwise
Narcotics:	1 - still under investigation
Unwanted person:	1
	1 - charged
Accidental drowning:	1
Excute Warrant:	1