

# OHONDA ANNAH TIME

A VOICE FROM THE EASTERN DOOR

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## AMS Student Wins Poster Contest



Photo: Submitted

L-R Tasha Thompson, Vice Principal Dan Perry and Deputy Chief Lazore

Deputy Chief James Lazore presented a check for \$100 to Tasha Thompson, student at Akwesasne Mohawk School for her entry in the National Fire Safety Poster Contest. Tasha placed second in the contest which was judged by all Native Fire Chiefs. The winning poster will be entered in the National Contest which is open to all First Nation

students and is sponsored by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

As we were going to print, Indian Time learned that Tasha was a winner again in a poster contest sponsored by Agricultural Canada. The theme of the contest was sensitivity to Aboriginal people in Agriculture and left to the interpretation of the artists.

Tasha's poster was "exactly what they were looking for." A framed copy of the poster will be presented by the Assistant Minister of Agriculture to Tasha during the opening ceremonies of Aboriginal Awareness Week on May 20.

Congratulations to Tasha for her excellent work!

## Akwesasne Minor Athletic Awards Night



Photo: Derrick Paul.

Pictured are Kevin Cook, Leighann Macdonald, Donna Lazore and Coaches Al Smoke and Chrissy Lazore. They are members of the Snye Blue Jays Championship Volleyball squad. They along with many other fine young athletes accepted awards yesterday at the Angus Mitchell Community Center. (more on pg. 6 & 7)

## Akwesasne's Young Men's Singing Society Attend Sing at Six Nations

People. Their voices blended together in perfect harmony reflecting the pride of Mohawk People who have kept our traditional music alive and well.

A look of pride was clearly displayed on the faces of those from Akwesasne who attended to listen, and also to show their support, for Akwesasne's Singing Society.

Tyendinaga's Mohawk Singing Society consisting of men and women also gave an extraordinary performance.

Many other singing societies from various nations also performed their own social songs to the amusement of the hundreds of people in attendance. Some groups were made up of both men

and women, some only men, or women, and one group in particular was made up of children between the ages of eight and twelve. These young singers left quite an impression on all the people.

A supper was held for everyone around five o'clock and a social dance followed. Many of the singing societies who had performed earlier took turns in singing the songs for the social dancing. It was very obvious that everyone in attendance had a great time and left tired but happy from the gathering which ended at approximately 11:00 p.m.

Niawenkwawa to the Young Men's Singing Society who made Akwesasne proud.

## Last Of The Mohicans: Set for July Release



Photo: Derrick Paul.

Brant Davis at home in Kanatakon. One of the actors in the Michael Mann film *The Last Of The Mohicans*.

by Derrick Paul/Staff

This Summer we will see our local boys on the big screen.

Brant Davis of Akwesasne along with other local went to North Carolina to film the *Last Of The Mohicans*.

Davis was one of the actors who fell under the category "featured extra". They are not a part of the story but appear on screen a few times. The actors played several different parts from different nations.

The story evolved around the conflicts between the Mohawk and British and the Abenakis and the French.

Because movies are shot out of sequence, Davis did not know where he will appear in the film.

He played a Mohawk and later a Huron.

The boys capture the film star, Daniel Day Lewis. Larry King has a spoken role and a close up shot of him fighting with Lewis.

Kings' background as an athlete and noted amateur boxer played with his performance and his actions caught the attention of Producer/Director Michael Mann.

Davis credits Mann for his work. "Mann brought the rights for the book and changed it as they went along," said Davis, "he is a perfectionist and he does his magic in the editing room".

Some of the actors were those in *Dances With Wolves*.

"They did some of the stunts themselves under the direction of

Dave Webster who also called the shots in *Terminator 2*. His bit part in the movie was when Arnold and his young sidekick bust Linda Hamilton out of the hospital. Webster was the security guard who got blasted in the knees.

Several stunt coordinators were on hand during the filming of *Mohicans*. Webster had the job of hand to hand combat and small weapons-firing and cleaning.

When casting director Bonnie Zimmerman was holding auditions at the Freedom School last year she already had the parts and characters in mind. Some actors were playing several different parts but these won't be noticeable on screen because they shoot from different angles.

The majority of the local actors will appear in the big battle scenes. This is where they will try to challenge *Dances*.

Where the first movie had the Buffalo scene, *Mohicans* offers the battle scene.

A task is at hand in this because people in the industry say the buffalo hunt alone made the movie.

In order to give the actor the feeling of his role, the studio will build authentic sets.

Combined with the routine of the actor of nothing in his life but work, he/she will actually belong to the movie.

Davis described a scenario of which the actors were talking in between takes. The Native Americans were sitting on one side of the table and the British soldiers on the other side. Both sides were in full attire holding their guns. There was a fog about the air and the set and the whole scene made it look like this was actually happening.

The routine of the actors also helped them prepare for their roles. The only routine they would follow is home and the job. The 16 hour days took their toll. Davis

See Movie, cont'd on pg. 7

by Margaret Peters.

As a light drizzle fell and our Brother the Sun totally refused to shine, it was almost as if Shonkwaia'tison was attempting to take the focus off the weather outside and direct it to the goings-on inside the Onondaga Longhouse located on the Six Nations Reservation.

A special feeling of togetherness could be felt in the atmosphere as the people of the Six Nations joined together for a sing which was hosted by the Onondaga of the Six Nations Reserve.

Our own young men from Akwesasne gave a spectacular performance as they sang the social songs of the Mohawk

## Heritage Discovery Project Akwesasne Elders

Sekon Akwesasne, we are finished with our first month of our four month project with Heritage Canada and we are finding out how big this little place really is. It is not only a big place but a diverse place that has changed dramatically during our elders' lifetimes. For those who have left for more than ten years since 1960, have come back to a place that has changed radically. The changes are not only the readily apparent, like more houses and cars but fundamental changes like the weather, pollution and the health of the people.

The stories being related to us are tales of the "good old days" that really were the good old days. People were closer, yet lived a little farther apart. Neighbors helped each other because they knew one day they would need help in return.

One of the main points that keeps coming up is the lack of money that was available in Akwesasne, although times were hard, everyone we interviewed said

they were, and the people they knew were, happy. How many people are truly happy today? As Agnes Lazore said, "We never had any money. Money doesn't make you happy. We worked hard and lived a good life but we had no money. Times were good!"

It seems, from the interviews, that the major turning point for our community was when the Seaway was built. The beautiful clean and clear St. Lawrence River change to an ugly and polluted cesspool where the fish are inedible, when they could be caught, and the water smells of dead fish. Most stories being told of the river stress how clear the water was, people drank freely from the river knowing how clean it was. Ernie Benedict said, "When I was a kid, I used to be afraid of the river. My father would row out to the middle of the river and stop. The water was so clear that when it was clam it seemed like we were floating twenty feet in the air. That is why I was afraid, I didn't want to

fall to the bottom of the river."

We were pleasantly surprised to hear that Akwesasne was once a self-sufficient community with orchards, farms, dairies, cattle, pigs and fisheries. The people bartered to each other for necessities and only needed to go to town (Hogansburg or Cornwall) for flour, sugar or material, that they bought once a month.

Socially there was always a dance somewhere and on some occasion at several locations. "but people hardly ever drank, there was no need for it," said Mary David. "Oh, there were a few people who drank all the time, but the majority of the people hardly ever drank. No one ever knew about drugs. When people went out they had a good time but didn't need alcohol to do it. Drinking just caused trouble."

Times change and here we find ourselves in 1992 with polluted air, land and water, the sacred

See Project, continued on page 2