

OH↑INDI↑AN↑HO T↑↑↑ME

A VOICE FROM THE EASTERN DOC

Volume 10, Number 20

May 29, 1992

Head Start Program Celebrates "Moving Up" Day



Photo: Derrick Paul.

Louie Adams of the program receives his award from Teacher Yvonne Peters during the Moving Up Graduation program yesterday at Billys Bingo Hall. More photos on page 8 & 9

John Mohawk Receives Honorary Doctorate

John C. Mohawk, a lecturer on the American Studies faculty of the State University of New York at Buffalo, has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by the trustees of his alma mater, Hartwick College, at the college's graduation ceremony last Sunday, May 24.

Mohawk, a member of the Seneca Nation of the Iroquois League, received the degree in recognition of his accomplishments "as a writer and scholar, which have significantly enhanced awareness of the Native American experience within, and contributions to, the historical record of American society," according to a Hartwick spokesperson.

A prolific writer, Mohawk is recognized for having helped shape his discipline's approach to native American studies. He is the editor of *Daybreak*, a national award-winning Native American newspaper, former editor of the Akwesasne Mohawk

Nation publication, *Akwesasne Notes* and the author of "Red Buffalo, A Program in American Studies" and "A Basic Call to Consciousness." He currently is editing a collection titled "Indians and the U.S. Constitution."

These are publications that Hartwick President Philip S. Wilder says "extend traditional values into the urgent, complex legal and cultural concerns of native peoples." Mohawk also will be cited by the college for his work with the New York State Board of Regents on the development of a public school curriculum that presents a new approach to Native American history.

Mohawk has lectured and presented papers throughout the United States and Canada on a wide range of topics, including economic

See Mohawk, page 3

Canada Customs Expansion Plans Unveiled for Kawehnoke

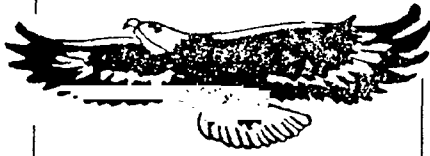
Canada Customs recently unveiled their plans for the expansion of the port of entry on Kawehnoke (Cornwall Island). Mohawk residents have demanded that Customs do something about the traffic congestion coming off the international bridge, and Customs officials recently met with them to discuss possible solutions.

The diagram (not shown here) demonstrates how an expanded facility would facilitate the steady flow of traffic. Note the 12 traffic "queuing lines" at the center of the plans. This will handle approximately 360 cars at a time, decreasing the amount of cars backed up on the bridge. Dave Hoyland, Manager of the St. Lawrence District of Revenue Canada Customs and Excise, says

the system will operate much like the lines at a bank.

This multi-million dollar development is only in the planning stages for now, but Mohawk residents are asked to think carefully about the expansion and the impact it will have on the area. At the present time, there is an attractive area west of the southbound lane where grass grows and children often ride horses along the fence. The proposed plan calls for a large parking lot to be built there and relocation of that southbound lane.

A Kawehnoke resident (who asked not to be identified) reminds us that this plan is not yet set in stone and that Mohawks can insist on an alternative solution to the traffic problems: "I believe that this plan should be opposed.



Operation of Akwesasne's Fire Stations Depends on Volunteers

For many years Akwesasne has been fortunate to have people who care about each other and our community. We all know who the volunteers are - we see the same faces all the time.

This is a tribute to all those outstanding volunteers who give up countless hours of time working to make our communities a better place for us.

On April 26, 1992 the Hogansburg Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department held their annual bullhead dinner at the Snye Station. This is one way in which the department generates additional funds to pay for the operation of the station.

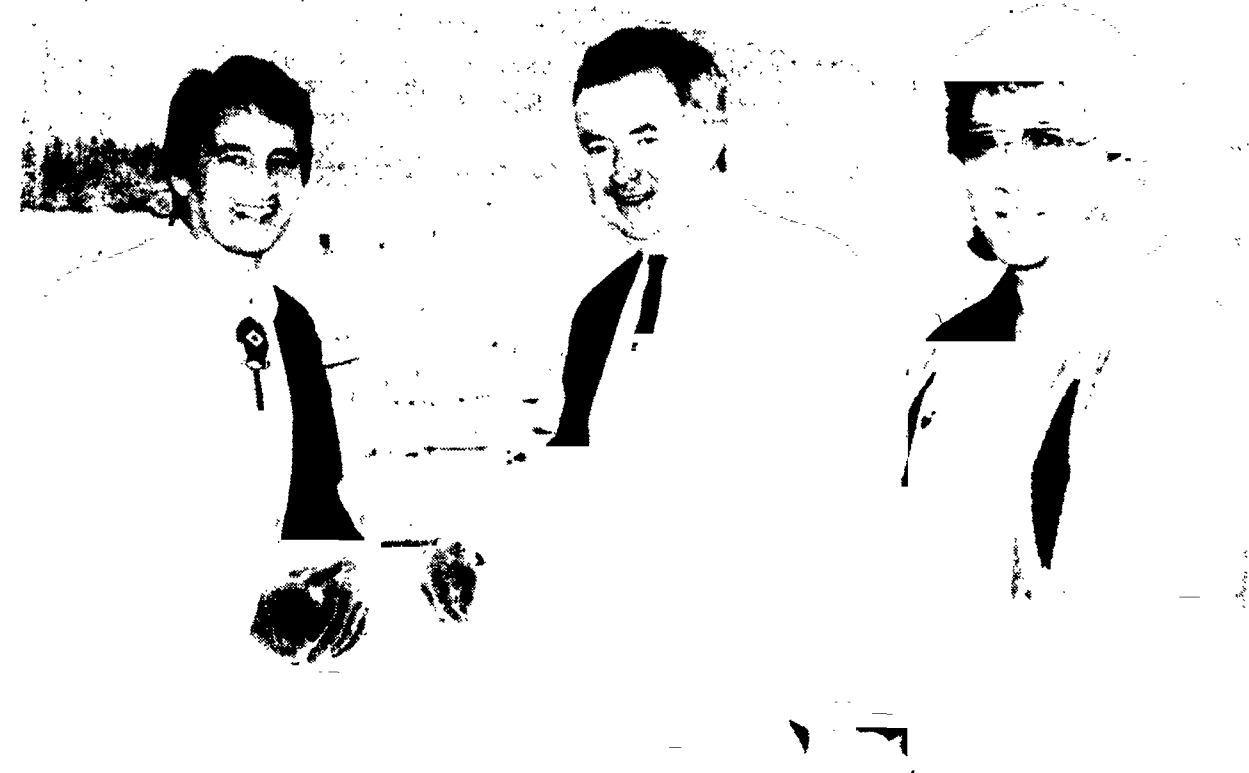
The organizers of the fish feed reported a total of \$5,000 (less costs) dollars. Thanks for making this event another success. And a big "NIAWEN:KOWA" to our firemen.

The Executive members of the Hogansburg Akwesasne Fire Department is made up of professionals. These are men who have experience in fire fighting through long-time membership in the department or by nature of their full-time employment. Akwesasne is very fortunate to have some 54 voluntary members belonging to three district stations, Hogansburg, Snye and Cornwall Island.

The federal government sends funds for fire protection services on the Canadian portion of the reserve. In the years gone by, the firemen had to hold a number of fund raising events to help meet operating costs. It turns out someone in Council decided to turn over only a portion of the funds and use the rest for other projects. (Slush Fund)

When we talk about self-government and becoming more independent of government spoon feeding us, we should be proud that we have qualified individuals who can impress not only fire marshals but other fire departments.

The Blood Indian Reserve in Alberta made national news when a fire destroyed a new home earlier in April. Their fire station was in dire need of repairs and



Pictured: Ovide Mercredi, National Chief, Assembly of First Nations, Hon. Joe Clark, Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs, Mike Mitchell, Grand Chief, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

This picture was taken during the constitutional talks in Vancouver, B.C. during the week of May 11, 1992. This week the Constitutional Conference moves to Montreal. The following week, the last conference will be held in Toronto. At that time, the Provinces, Federal Government and the four aboriginal groups will make final decisions on constitutional matters, aboriginal issues, as well as, changing the structure of the Senate and Supreme court. For more Constitutional talk news see page 7 for interviews of Matthew Coon-Come, Frank Tseleie, and Dennis Alphonse.

maintenance and - volunteers were no longer interested in putting in additional time trying to raise funds to meet operating costs.

Whether we realize it or not - the only way we can help ourselves and make the dream of self-government become a reality is if we start taking more responsibility for our own communities. If the federal government sends funds for fire protection it is our responsibility to ensure that Council spends it accordingly. People have to take an interest in what our own government is doing for us - otherwise we will never move forward.

When you consider the consequences of "volunteer burnout" - the demise of the fire stations and the return to Indian Affairs contracts with outside fire departments, we owe it to ourselves to support our fire departments as much as we can.

Ill equipped Blood firefighters fail to save house

Firefighters could only stand by and watch while a house on the Blood reserve burned to the ground around midnight.

The blaze - suspected to be arson -- occurred just hours after the head of the reserve's emergency services

warned that lives were in danger because of inadequate fire fighting equipment.

No one was injured in the blaze which tore through a newly renovated home in Standoff, George Porter said. "All we could do was just stand there. If we had equipment, we could have put it out."

An off-reserve station was called in, but the house was "caving in" by the time it arrived, Porter said.

Fire fighters are being forced to battle grass fires with hockey

See Fire Station, page 3

Turn-out Good For Memorial Day Parade in Hogansburg



Photo: Derrick Paul.

Carolyn Francis of the St. Regis Drug and Alcohol Division on Kawehnoke. She and her friends gave out candy and treats to spectators at the Memorial Day Parade in Hogansburg last Sunday. The float was constructed by Leona Barnes, Lois Ferrance, Sheila King and John and Carolyn Francis. The theme of their presentation was Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. The theme of the parade was Drug and Alcohol prevention. The Sunday afternoon show consisted of Vets, Horse and Buggies, Head Start floats and various antique cars. (More photos on page six)