

ELDER OF THE WEEK

Ray Fadden

Married: Christine Chubb

Children: John Fadden

Parents: Carroll & Matilda Fadden

Occupation: Retired Teacher, Museum Curator

Contributions of the Indians:

"The American Indians developed over 200 different kinds of corn. Corn, beans, pumpkins, squash, celery, buckwheat, maple sugar, maple syrup, vanilla, chocolate, peppers, tapioca, Irish potatoes (didn't come from Ireland like everyone thinks...), sweet potatoes, peanuts, popcorn, chewing gum, pepper, pineapples, tomatoes - all gifts of the American Indian, never put in school books... Thanks to what the American Indian has given to the world in the line of medicines, food plants, ideas of sanitation and health, people today are as healthy and strong as they are. It will always be a racist country, and it will never be that big melting pot they brag about, until they teach children in school that all people contribute to our present day civilization."

Akwesasne Camp Counselor Organization:

Ray started a boy scout troop here in Akwesasne, which was later called the Akwesasne Camp Counselor Organization. Instead of merit badges they earned feathers (coup). They had many ways of earning feathers, they could make moccasins, make a Kastowa, run so many miles, read so many authentic books, visit another reservation, and many other things.

He was also trying to unconsciously train them to be Indian Camp Counselors. There were jobs out there for people who could talk about Indian History, but these

jobs were being taken by white people, because most Indian children did not know their own history. He raised money on his own, and loaded these kids in his car. They went on many trips, visiting places like Wounded Knee, the Black Hills and Pine Ridge. They visited actual places where history was made; where Sitting Bull was murdered, where Chief Crazy Horse was burned, where Abe Lincoln was born, and many other places. Often they couldn't afford admission into some of these historical sites, so they would sneak in, he laughs, remembering some of their adventures. "I wore out eight cars carting those kids around," he says shaking his head and smiling. He says, "I looked at those kids like they were my own... "When they did something good I was proud, when they did something bad I was sad." "I look at these pictures (of the children) and I get lonesome".

Thank You

The Big Drum/Little Drum Social Gathering committee would like to thank the following people for their continued support and effort to make the 1st Annual Social Gathering, which was held on March 25th & 26th a huge success! Without the support and generosity of the Akwesasne community businesses & community members, this social gathering event would not have been possible.

It was a community event well worth the time, effort and dedication to be able to witness Indian people from Akwesasne and the surrounding territories of its brothers and sisters to enjoy a weekend of dancing, singing &

socializing.

We had hoped that this Social Gathering would bring all Indian people together to share each others culture and to give our children an opportunity to participate in a cultural event that they can be proud of. There were many young singers and dancers who came out and displayed their talents that sometimes goes unrecognized. But during this weekend their talents were acknowledged and applauded for, which will certainly give them the encouragement & support needed to continue their strive to be Onhkwehonweh people and be very proud of their heritage.

The Social Gathering

Committee had hoped that its objectives would be met but it certainly went beyond our expectations. Not only did everyone leave with a positive feeling, but many new friendships were established and old friendships were rekindled. Our visitors were very pleased and grateful for the hospitality that was shown to them from the Akwesasne Mohawk Nation people.

As this will be an annual event, we are hoping that your continued support & encouragement will be with us for the next year and the coming years after that.

Thank you very much to all our dancers, drummers & singers, organizers, volunteers and spectators, without you our social gathering would not have been such a successful

event.

Again, Niawen:kowa to the following businesses and people who generously donated to our gathering:

Arnold Saulteau, Mark Jock, Lonnie Thompson, John Thomas, Karom Thomas, Shannon David, Little Turtles, Bald Eagles, Echoing Sky, Echoing Thunder, Kanesatake Singers, Darrell Thompson, Charles Aldrich, Buck White, MCA Community Counseling Program, Dr. Danielle Dubec, Dr. Denis Dubec, Dr. Michel Dubec, Dr. Simpson, Ononkwasona Pharmacy, JR Fuels, Smoke's Mechanical, Toby Roundpoint, Frank David, Oionkwawonwe Enterprises, Accessoware, Steve Cook, Leona & Terry Francis, Rosie's Clothing, Truckstop #9, CKON, J & J Insurance, Twin Leaf Gas Station, Wolfpack Gift Shop, Thompson's Balloons, Snye Fire Dept., Roy & Joellene Adams, Billy Sunday, Jimmy McDonald, Raymond Swamp, Brant Davis, Brian Mitchell, Sarah Mitchell, Darrell Mitchell, Lyle Lazore, Marty Jock & Family, Agnes Lazore, Hilda King, Maureen Benedict, Guzzy Lazore, Elaine Thompson, April Lazore, Anna Rourke, Terry Terrance, Larry 'Jug' Mitchell, Towsneh Swamp, Theresa Fox,

Sherry Sharrow, Tsiakwas Porter, Karri Cook, Amanda Cook, Sheila Jacobs, Sheila Lafrance, Tammy Bonaparte, Bobbi Jo Lazore, Rachel Gray, Tracy Gray, Cheavee Willie, Jamie Bova, Sweets Jacobs, Cheyenne, Tammy Terrance, Tara Skidders, Lani Papineau, Raiewente Herne, Dawn Day, Connie Oakes, Sherry Lazore, Jennifer Cook, Laura Lee Thompson, Jenny Jacobs, Charlie Sunday, Ceily Lazore, Mae Bigtree, Judy David, and Liz Sunday.

We apologize to anyone who we may have forgotten on the list but remember your name will always be engraved in our mind for helping us out. We hope to see everyone at our 2nd Annual Big Drum/Little Drum Social Gathering.

Thank you very much, Big Drum/Little Drum Social Gathering Committee:

Della Jock, Renee Sunday, Lorraine Bero, Lynne Cook, Kevin Lazore, Paula Jacobs, Dani Rourke, Romaine Mitchell, Al Smoke, Kwiiio Fox, DJ Smoke & Mark Jock.