



A VOICE FROM THE EAST

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Akwesasne Native Graduates from Northfield Mount Hermon Prep School

On June 4th, Northfield Mount Hermon Prep School will hold their commencement exercises for the class of 1995. Among these fine graduates, is a student and athlete from Akwesasne.

Randi L. M. Rourke, who turns 18 on April 22, enrolled at NMH 3 years ago. She's made the most of her experience, making numerous friends while gaining high praise from her coaches and staff alike.

Randi excelled in English, History and Religious studies. Her favorite course was English and she plans to pursue her college education in this field. Her goal is to write a book. Randi's English teacher says she is, "one of my best writers and students."

Another teacher says,

"Your writing, while strong throughout the term, showed increasing clarity and passion as you crystallized and articulated your own perspectives within the theological areas we have been exploring. Finally, your analysis and illustrations of the Iroquois Creation story were very beautifully done. I hope that you will take seriously my comment that your analytic work of that story could be publishable if further developed."

Naturally, Randi's favorite topic to write about is our Mohawk heritage. Her stories are about family values that are the cornerstone of our culture. Her tales have enlightened both classmates and teachers.

Randi is also a fine athlete. She has earned Jr.

Varsity and Varsity letters in soccer, ice hockey and lacrosse. She is the co-captain of the soccer team that finished with 10 wins, 1 loss and 4 ties. Her coach comments, "A good captain and a great defender, Randi played almost every minute of every game and was the major reason for the team's success on and off the field."

Her defensive strength and stamina remained evident as she played consistently throughout the hockey and lacrosse seasons.

In her senior year, Randi has also been a student leader, acting as a liaison between students and staff.

Randi is the recipient of the John Ben Snow Foundation Scholarship
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Randi L.M. Rourke of Akwesasne graduates from Northfield Mount Hermon Prep School on June 4, 1995.

Photo: Submitted

Smoke to Run for Chief

I would like to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for the position of Chief on the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council. Currently, I am a Sub-Chief on the council and my three year term will expire at this years election.

By announcing my candidacy this early in the year I hope to avoid the media frenzy that occurs every year between caucus and election time. I don't feel any justice is done to the community when people must make such an important decision based solely on what they have read or heard in the media. Far too many times a candidate's true values and ideas towards enhancing this community

have been blindsided by the mudslinging opposing sides direct at one another.

Another advantage to announcing early is that it will allow people time to voice their opinions and thoughts on certain issues that affect this community. I have attended many Tribal meetings where citizens tried to have Chiefs adhere to their campaign promises, but only came away frustrated and angry.

Throughout my adult life I have been involved with a variety of volunteer committees and functions whose objectives always seem destined for the same goal. That is, improving the social environment and living conditions here at Akwesasne. One must ask whether

those in the leadership role now, or in the future, can say the same?

Far too often Chiefs have been given the leadership role without first paying their dues to the community through volunteerism. As anyone knows, volunteer work is a vital component to any community or organization. I feel I have paid these dues and now am ready to undertake a more challenging role in improving our community.

In the coming weeks I will publish some of my views on issues our community faces. I also encourage anyone that feels the need to discuss

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Tribal Chief Removes Signature from Consulting Contract

According to Joel Gray, Public Relations for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council, Chief Norman Tarbell has removed his signature from the Sun Gold Consulting Contract. Since Chief John Loran never signed the contract, that leaves only Chief Philip Tarbell's signature on the document.

Traditionally, two signatures are needed for any contract/document to be legal. With only one signature, Sun Gold does not have a legal contract.

The contract with the consulting firm Sun Gold was to develop the proposal of the Tribe and

White Pines Development. The Sun Gold Consulting firm was to loan the tribe money to construct the building. The company, Sun Gold, went public with their contract to attract investors which is what other gaming business companies do, according to Mr. Gray.

There was some concern raised at the April 1st tribal meeting by Carl Tarbell concerning Sun Gold and Sun Gold not having any money to do anything.

Chief Norman Tarbell felt that Sun Gold was not being up front with the
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