

**A VOICE FROM THE EAST**

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MAY 95  
AKWESASNE LIBRARY CULTURAL CENTER  
ST. REGIS MOHAWK RESERVATION  
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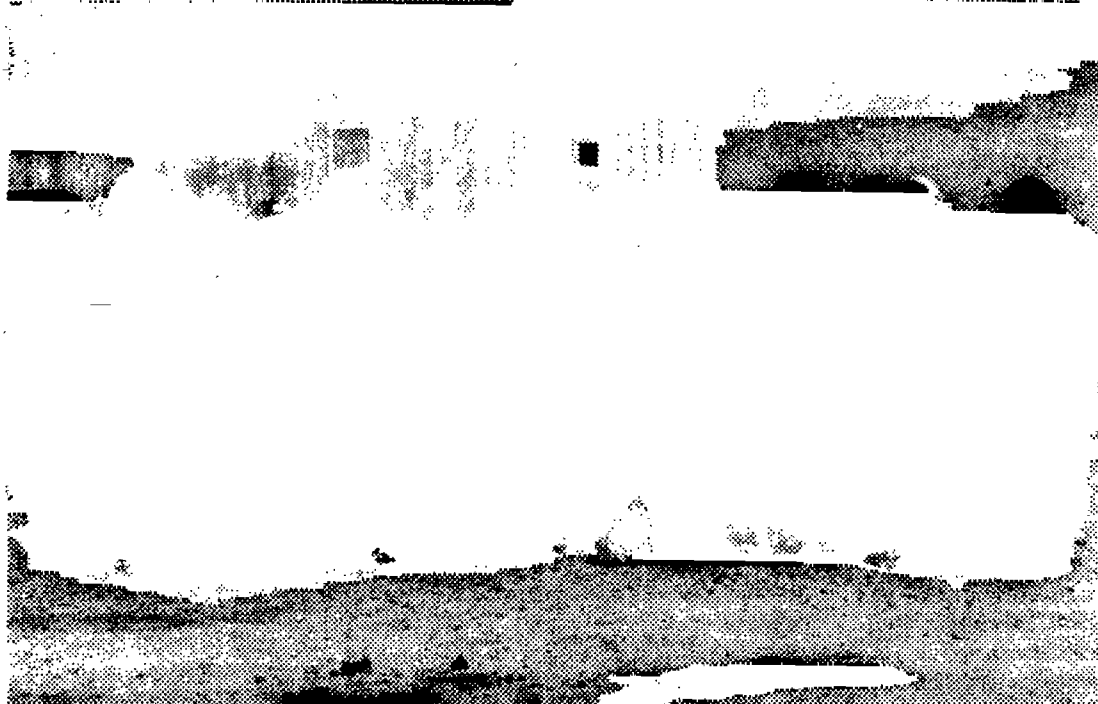
**Tsishnahne Students Visit  
Penpals in James Bay**

Grade 6 students from Tsi Snaihne School have recently returned from the first leg of their cross-cultural exchange with their penpals, Grade 6 students at Wiinibekuu School in Waskaganish, James Bay. Accompanying them on the trip were three parents, Paula Jacobs, Kevin Lazore and Emmy Mitchell as well as myself, their teacher, Cathy Hall.

We were warmly welcomed by our Cree hosts and had a wonderful time while there. It was a unique and memorable experience and one which

we will always cherish. Waskaganish is a Cree community with a population of approximately 1200 people. It is an isolated community, particularly in summer, when the only way in and out is by boat or plane. They have some modern facilities including an arena, a motel/lodge, a post office, a band office and a health clinic. Their school is a combined elementary and high school. They do not have a hospital, medical doctors or a movie theatre. There is only one all inclusive department

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*Grade 6 students of TsiSnaihne School visit penpals in Waskaganish, James Bay.*

*Photo: Submitted.*

**Akwesasne Power Authority  
Holds Public Meeting**

**AKWESASNE:** by: Wathiohta - On April 20, 1995, the Akwesasne Power Authority Commissioners held a public meeting at the Akwesasne Housing boardroom to discuss the proposed community power utility.

In 1993, the Akwesasne Power Authority (then the Akwesasne Community Futures Committee), initiated a study for a community owned and operated power utility. In November of 1993 they secured the services of R.W. Beck and Associates to conduct a pre-feasibility study to determine whether a community owned and operated electric utility, which would service the entire community (Canadian/American portions), would be a viable venture to pursue. The results of the study confirmed that the Akwesasne community, as a whole, would benefit

by the proposed community utility and the project should be pursued further.

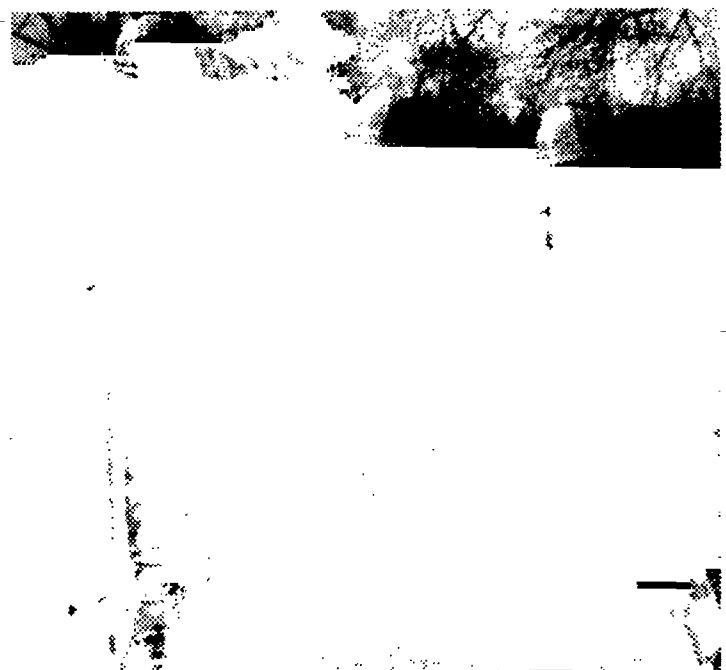
The study clearly indicated that profits from this utility system could be astronomical in impact in respect to offering reduced electric rates. As a result of reduced electric rates light manufacturing companies may be persuaded to locate or relocate here thus creating jobs and improving the local economy. There are also a number of other systems the community can take on once they own the system. One option would be an expanded telecommunications system.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has lent its support to this project. As well, the Akwesasne Power Authority states that Brian Skidders of the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs verifies its support for this project. In March of 1994, the Tribal

Council submitted a letter of support for the community utility. In March 1995, another meeting was held with the Tribal Council and a proposal was submitted. To date, the Akwesasne Power Authority has received no response from the Tribal Council on their proposal. The proposal submitted to the Tribe contains two options for pursuing this project. One option is a community owned and operated utility, the other option is to have a "for profit" organization develop the utility for a fee.

Publicly, all community governments have supported a "Mohawk owned/Mohawk operated" utility whereby all the savings are passed on to the community. A "for profit" organization will develop the project for an equity share of the profits and will have full control of all aspects of the opera

*Cont'd on Pg. 7, See POWER*



*Pictured left to right: Sheena White, Karl Bonaparte and Russell Billings. Photo: DM, Staff.*

**Mohawk School Expanded  
for \$5.3 Million**

**AKWESASNE - BY: DM** A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Tuesday, April 25, 1995, to mark the beginning of a \$5.3 million capital improvement project at the St. Regis Mohawk School in Hogansburg.

The project encompasses a major renovation of the existing structure as well as new construction

to provide additional classroom space and a new main entrance. The school, which currently provides pre-Kindergarten through Grade 3 instruction to Mohawk students, will be expanded to include Grades 4, 5 and 6.

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council Head Chief John Loran, Chief

*Cont'd on Pg. 5, See EXPAND*

