

Begun in July of 1983, the Indian Time is a news journal dedicated to reporting on what is happening in Akwesasne and our Sister Iroquois communities. The news policy at Indian Time insists we try to give our readers as truthful reporting as we can. We encourage and invite opinions different from ours. We are committed to a free and open press at Akwesasne. We believe in the unrestricted flow of information to our people. By this means, we have the ability to make intelligent, informed decisions about our collective future. Indian Time is a product of the people of Akwesasne. It is your newspaper - printing stories about you. Please feel free to contact our Kanatakon offices in the Akwesasne Communications Society building if you have concerns, compliments, complaints, or plain old curiosity about the material printed in Indian Time. Niawenkowa, Akwesasne for your support.

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RONATO HETSTON


David Seymour

David Seymour, of Iakhihsotha Home for the Elderly, Snye, died on Monday, April 24, 1995. David, formerly of River Road, Snye; age 75 years. Husband of Mary Lazore. Dear father of Alice Thompson of St. Regis Road, Hogansburg, New York. Loving grandfather of Theresa (Mrs. Stanley Thompson) of R.R. #3, Cornwall Island, Bridgette Thompson of

Cornwall, Ida Thompson at home, Harry and David Thompson of Washington, North Carolina and great grandfather of Teiothorake and Savannah, Jordan and Cheyenne. Dear son of the late Charles Seymour and the late Hattie Jacobs. Predeceased by one brother, John Seymour, one sister, Mrs. Theresa Peters and by one great grand-son, Basil Thompson.

Rested at the Homemaker's Center, Snye, up until the time of the funeral, which was held on Thursday, April 27 for Mass of Christian Burial in St. Regis Church, St. Regis at 2:00 pm.

Interment, Parish Cemetery. Funeral arrangements under the care and direction of the Cornwall Funeral Homes, West Branch, 20 Seventh Street West, Cornwall.



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Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Mohawk Police Commission will not sit back while our Police Service and officer is allegedly charged with "gross negligence and maliciousness" by Mr. Howard Yegendorf in an article that appeared in the Standard Freeholder on April 8, 1995.

In this article, Mr. Yegendorf is attacking the character, credibility and capabilities of Constable Francis Mitchell and the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Services. Many of Mr. Yegendorf's allegations were simply wrong in fact. Other statements, by innuendo and selective choice of facts, disclosing only part of the story, conveyed an erroneous picture of the investigation and court proceedings and reasons behind the withdrawal of charges.

Constable Mitchell's position as an officer does not lend itself, to him,

directly responding to inaccurate public statements of a lawyer seeking to discredit him.

We, as community leaders, support our Police Service and Constable Mitchell and believe that the investigation was properly carried out and no basis whatsoever exists for any action by Mr. Hilton against Constable Mitchell or our Police Service. There appears to be many reasons why the case was withdrawn, most of which have little or nothing to do with Constable Mitchell's investigation or the actual guilt or innocence of Mr. Hilton.

To discredit Constable Mitchell for his efforts and dedication in the performance of his job duties, is not only an injustice to himself and his family, it is an injustice to Akwesasne. Constable Mitchell is one of the many officers who has devoted himself to his job and takes his duties

seriously. Constable Mitchell has a reputation for being professional, fair, trustworthy and open-minded, he has earned through his six years of service. Constable Mitchell is one of the officers who has established professional working relationships with external policing agencies which has benefitted the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service and he has proven himself to be an asset in the investigations that he has participated in throughout his career. We have no doubts that the investigation of Alex Hilton was performed in a professional manner. The role of the investigating officer is to show reasonable and probable grounds to lay charges, the onus is then up to the Crown Attorney to determine if the case should proceed to trial, police officers are not judges, therefore, if Mr. Yegendorf feels that there was negligence and maliciousness, perhaps he should speak with the Crown Attorney.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Mohawk Police

Commission certainly appreciate and acknowledge the difficulty in performing police work in Akwesasne, with its multitude of jurisdictions, that has been forced on us by external governments. We have taken great strides in establishing a constructive working relationship with external agencies to work jointly in acquiring a justice system that will ensure fairness and equal treatment for all persons within our territory. Akwesasne in recognizing that law and order is the foundation of our society is presently in the process of negotiations with the Federal Government through the Mohawk Canada Roundtable, to address the various issues between the three Mohawk Communities with a major component being the Justice and the Multi-Jurisdictional issues.

Somehow, from all of this a Mohawk Policeman's record has been tarnished and the alleged accused has been made to look like an innocent victim. Let's not forget for a minute that there were eye witnesses to

what took place and the real victims in this ordeal were those who were robbed and shot at.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Police Commission supports a strong Justice system on our territory and in Canada as a whole. Our Mohawk Police Service and our Mohawk Court work hard and effectively within our territory to achieve such a goal. We support our Police Service and believe in the work they do protecting our community. The fact that charges against Mr. Hilton are not proceeding because of varied reasons, most of which are unrelated to the Mohawk Police work, does not change this confidence and support for our Police Service.

Niawen Kowa,
Chief Phyllis Lazore
Mohawk Council of
Akwesasne
Co/Chair - Akwesasne
Mohawk Police
Commission

