

# MOHAWK TIME

## A VOICE FROM THE EAST

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MAY 96  
AKWESASNE LIBRARY CULTURAL CENTER  
ST. REGIS MOHAWK RESERVATION  
ROUTE 37 - RR1, BOX 14C  
HOGANSBURG NY 13655

### Native Actress Visits Akwesasne And St. Lawrence University

Akwesasne -- She was shot in the neck with an arrow in the film *The Black Robe*, played Cupid to Kevin Costner's and Mary McDonnell's characters in *Dances with Wolves* and helped hold together the passionately dysfunctional family in *Legends of the Fall*. But on a quieter note, Native Canadian film actress Tantoo Cardinal was a guest at St. Lawrence University recently.

Cardinal attended several classes in late March, including a session of the university's First-Year Program and a master class in performance organized by Assistant Professor of Speech and Theatre Randall Hill.

"While answering questions in my French Canada course, she brought us all a new perspective on historical imaging of Native peoples," commented Peter van Lent, associate professor of modern languages and literatures and



faculty liaison for Native affairs. "She really made us understand the privileges and obligations felt by Native actors who depict traditional characters."

An afternoon visit to the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation gave

Cardinal the opportunity to explore the Akwesasne Museum and to enjoy a traditional luncheon at the home of Chief and Mrs. Norman Tarbell. She also visited 10th and 11th grade students at Salmon River Central

School, where many students come from Akwesasne.

"I always enjoy spending time with young Native people and discussing their goals and their fears as they set out into the world," Cardinal commented.

Cardinal's visit was the second major event this year at St. Lawrence University which focused on Native culture. In October 1995, the university community enjoyed demonstrations and performances by the Lakota Sioux Dance Group.

"I am pleased to see an increased involvement in Native affairs at St. Lawrence," commented van Lent. "Being so close to Akwesasne, and having had a long and positive association with students from that community, St. Lawrence is a logical place to promote further learning about Native peoples."

### "Tsionkwani kon ra ient ta" (We Understand) Community Law Workshop

AKWESASNE -- The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne conducted a Community Law Workshop on April 10-11, 1996 at the St. Regis Recreation Center.

The workshop was coordinated by Chief Lynn Roundpoint. In her opening remarks Roundpoint said the workshop would be a learning process for those attending the sessions. She also stated the workshop was being held to educate the Mohawk Council Chiefs, staff and community members why laws and policies are made. The information would provide better coordination in developing laws and policies that effect Mohawk Council programs and services.

Chief Roundpoint coordinates community law workshop

During the sessions Mohawk Council Program Directors would have the opportunity to determine what laws may affect their program or service i.e. Child protection laws, etc.

On hand for the workshop was Micha Menczer, MCA Lawyer. Menczer was presenting information on the definition of codes, regulations and community law. Vuk

Kovinich, also an MCA Lawyer, presented information on the justice organization structure.

Several MCA Chiefs and staff were slated to make presentations. Salli Benedict spoke about the evolution of government in Akwesasne. Chief Mike Mitchell spoke about the St. Regis Band Council resuming jurisdiction, Chief Raymond Mitchell spoke on future community law endeavors.



AKWESASNE -- A fuel spill occurred at the Kanienkehaka gas station on Route 37 in Akwesasne.

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Department is in the process of containing the spill. A spokesman for the Department says that owner James Gray is contacting an Environment

Consulting Firm to complete the clean-up.

The cause of the spill was a leaking underground gasoline pipe. The leaking pipe affected one gas pump. All other pipes have been pressure tested and are fine. All other pumps remain open.