

Local News

HUD Receives Excellent Ratings

AHKWESASNE: More HUD homes are coming to Ahkwesasne according to Steve Cook, chairperson of the Housing Board. Mr. Cook said, "at a time when the majority of HUD programs are receiving cutbacks, the tribal HUD program received no cuts, in fact, our HUD program will have more homes."

According to Mr. Cook, Hilda Garcia and staff should be thanked for their hard work and for achieving 93% in the rating scale. The community members were encouraged to submit applications for the new homes. "There is no reason why Mohawk people should not be getting a home," said Mr. Cook. He explained that the HUD Board of Directors have worked hard to change the criteria to fit the needs of the community. Applicants can be single, single with children, or a combination of family members. If you have the ability to pay for the home then there is no reason why you can't be a HUD homeowner.

The community is reminded to update their applications on file. Someone asked about a fee. "There is no charge for updating your application" replied Mr. Cook.

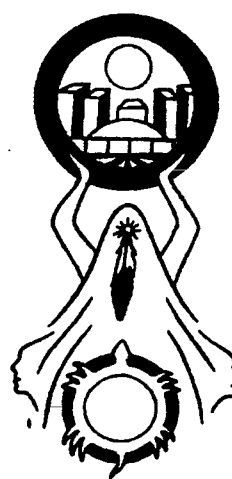
The Board has been working on a loan/mortgage program for the

community. The Board is working with the Marine Midland Bank and Northwest. The approved applicant will receive money to build a new home or for renovating an existing home. The tribal leadership is working with the HUD Board to put the loan/mortgage program in place. Right now, there are 66 Mohawk people interested in applying for this program. "There is no excuse for any Mohawks not to have good housing with these programs, stated Mr. Cook. Of course, there is criteria but the HUD Board has made changes to help the applicants.

A meeting is not a meeting without questions and several people questioned Mr. Cook about their HUD home problems. Some of the HUD homes that have problems are six to ten years old. The HUD office is aware of these problems and they are trying to secure funding to repair some of these problems. The HUD home has a one year warranty but after that the homeowner is responsible for the deficiencies and problems. A recent homeowner summed up the complaints by saying, "as a homeowner we should realize that we will be constantly repairing our homes. We need to pay for some things and not always HUD."

Conservation Report for the Month of March 1996

1. Dog Nuisance	16 Reports
2. Stray Cat	2 Reports
3. Cat Nuisance	1 Report
4. Dumping of Garbage	4 Reports
5. Dead Dog Picked Up	2 Reports
6. Injured Dog (put to sleep)	2 Reports
7. Abandoned Puppies	2 Reports
8. Conservation Vehicle Damaged by Fire	1 Report
9. Injured Horned Owl	1 Report
10. Beaver Damage	1 Report
11. TOTAL	32 REPORTS
12. Joint Canada, U.S.A. and Akwesane Oil Spill Contingency Planning Meetings	
13. Environment Canada, Mud Puppies Survey	



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SUNY Potsdam Native Teachers Association Attend American Education Research Association Conference in New York City



L to R: SUNY Potsdam Professor Pat Burdell, Theodore (Tekahionhake) Peters, Yvonne Peters, Jean Tarbell, Margaret Peters in N.Y.C.

This year the American Education Research Association was held in New York City. Several SUNY Potsdam Native students currently in the process of forming a Native Teachers Association attended the annual event with the hopes of acquiring educational information and to make contacts in support of their efforts.

From April 8 to 12 the conference was attended by well over a thousand people. Many present were A.E.R.A. members who organize the annual event and lot of new people were invited to participate to share their knowledge regarding education and the betterment of it.

Two S.U.N.Y. students, Theodore and Margaret Peters who

are involved in creating the native Teachers Association also attended as presenters for the Akwesane Freedom School. The session was called, *When Language is Threatened: Doing the Work of Language - Vitalization in Indigenous Communities and Schools*. Margaret was invited to talk about the alternative full Mohawk immersion school where she taught for six years and where three of her four children attend. Peters talked about how important it is for educators to realize the significance of teaching children their language and culture within the school system.

Other S.U.N.Y. students who attended were Yvonne Peters

and Jean Tarbell both of Akwesasne. All four students have been involved with teaching in the past years and have come to Potsdam College to receive teacher certification. Yvonne Peters and Jean Tarbell have both worked in early childhood education and Theodore and Margaret Peters have both worked in elementary education.

These students hope to combine the education they receive at S.U.N.Y. with the education they have acquired through their own community of Akwesasne to become accepted as culturally and academically relevant educators.

The four students firmly believe that one need not give up their own culture and language to become good educators to help children survive in what many refer to as "the Real World". The only world there is for Native Americans and other ethnic groups are their world. Once they can survive in their own world and be proud of their own language and culture they can survive anywhere.

S.U.N.Y. Potsdam Professor Pat Burdell, Theodore (Tekahionhake) Peters, Yvonne Peters, Jean Tarbell and Margaret Peters in New York City.

YOUNG MARINES

On Saturday, April 20th there will be an informational meeting for parents and youth - boys and girls ages between 8 and 18 - in the Kateri Hall at 10:00 am. Jeffrey Lazore, the Young Marines Commandant will conduct the presentation.

The participants will learn various applications of Close Order Marching Drills and Definitions and will participate as a marching unit with the Akwesasne Detachment of the Marine Corps League at parades in the surrounding communities. The development of self-discipline and a sense of responsibility toward the community at large, and to instill a system of values and a work ethic which will benefit and continue to serve them long after their school years, is only a small part of the program's curriculum. No military tactics of any kind will be taught.

All interested parties are invited to attend the meeting this week to find out more about the program. Besides young marine candidates there is a need for more adult staff.