

Roundpoint con't from front page
the Canadian portion of Akwesasne. Our schools are over crowded and there is no room to take the students that are currently enrolled in the Salmon River School district. However, Mohawk Council is still responsible for the education of these children," said Roundpoint.

"The parents in the community have already told Council that they do not want to see anymore portable classrooms. Therefore, until our current school can be expanded we cannot accommodate all the children currently of school age nor will we be able to accommodate future growth," added the Grand Chief.

Roundpoint said the Regional Director General has assured him that there will be new funding available for these students. Current budgets will not be touched to pay for the tuition for the children attending school in the Salmon River School District.

At the present time the Salmon River School district received funding from tax sources and the government on behalf of the Native American students attending their school. Therefore, the tuition for Salmon River Central is lower than tuition for the St. Regis Mohawk School which doesn't have tax resources.

"I support the Mohawk parents right to send their children to school where they choose to. However, I must say that we have a superior school system within our three districts," adds Roundpoint. Last week, Minerva White from the New York State Education Program, Native American Division told Roundpoint, "Why would children want to attend school in the U.S. when they have such a good school system in Canada?" The Grand Chief said he will continue to support the parents wish to have their children educated in the Salmon River School District as long as there is funding available to pay the tuition. "But I still encourage parents and students to utilize our excellent schools in Snye, St. Regis and Cornwall Island," added Roundpoint.

The Mohawk Council is in the process of entering into an agreement with the Salmon River School Board. "I think it's a real shame that someone had to place a border between our community regarding education," Roundpoint continued. He added, "We are all Mohawks but somewhere in time, at some point somebody said, 'what are those Canadian kids doing in our schools?'. For someone to say that is very insulting to our people," Roundpoint said.

Roundpoint said for years people have placed the blame on Minerva White for initiating investigations into residency of Mohawk children. "Whether or not this is true is something only she can answer," he adds. "We have a good case for going to

court to fight for education for our children both on the American and Canadian portions of our community," The Grand Chief said. "When we win the tuition we will pay out will be returned to us."

Roundpoint said he learned last week that New York State plans more cuts to education. According to Roundpoint New York State plans to cut the post-secondary funding for TAP (Tuition Assistance Program). Many students rely on this funding to continue their education. When this is cut there will be more students relying on Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education to pay for their post-secondary education said Roundpoint. He goes on to say that the State also wants to stop paying for Mohawk children who reside in the hamlet of Hogansburg and those who reside in Iroquois Village in Rooseveltown. "New York State is shirking their responsibility to students if they make these cuts," said Roundpoint. The reason for cutting Hogansburg and Iroquois Village is the State claims this is area outside of the reservation."

It is Roundpoints contention that the three local governments, The Mohawk Council, The Mohawk Tribal Council and the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs must work together to develop plans to provide for our children.

"I believe there is a connection between the current New York State tax battle regarding Indian reservations and the cuts to education funding," states the Grand Chief. "I plan to write to Gov, George Pataki to let him know my opinions on this situation."

Roundpoint says that currently the Mohawk Council provides more education and health-benefits to the Mohawks on the American side than New York State does. He refers to the money the Mohawk Board of Education spends in providing funding for post-secondary students who reside on the American portion of the reserve. He also points out the patient tracking that reveals the number of patients serviced by the Mohawk Council dental services. "If we decide to cut off these services, these people will have to rely on New York State to provide them," said Roundpoint who adds, "The State is not acting very responsible for we are paying for these people in excess of \$1 million per year. The State and the Tribal Council does not hesitate to bill us for any service provided to our residents. Maybe we should act in kind and start billing their residents for our services. This is not a path I want to go down but at some point I will have to protect the residents of Snye, St. Regis and Cornwall Island where funding is concerned."

...Drugs con't from front page
information on drugs and the various instruments that are used. The children were instructed never to pick up syringes, razor blades etc.

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police K-9 Unit was on hand for a demonstration. The children were impressed with the training the K-9

Racing Against Drugs had a fantastic turn out with a large number of parents and business people attending to show their support in keeping our children drug free.

A special thanks goes to all who participated in organizing and sponsoring this event: The Akwesasne



Pictured: Adam Thompson poses with the lucky winner of his autographed jersey.

exhibited.

The biggest attraction was a miniature race track set up in the center of the arena. The first racing event was a "celebrity race". The celebrity race included racers: Grand Chief Russell Roundpoint, Chief Vaughn Phillips, Mohawk Police Chief Lewis Mitchell, Tribal Chief of Police Bradley Shippee, Danny Terrance of Performance Ford, Romaine Mitchell, Principal - TsiSnaihne School and others. The race brought out the little boy in those attempting to win the race as witnessed by the expression on their faces. All participants enjoyed the challenge.

There was plenty of prizes and

Mohawk Board of Education, Akwesasne Mohawk School, Performance Ford, St. Regis Mohawk School, Kanatakon & TsiSnaihne Schools, Freedom School, St. Regis Mohawk Health Services, Community Injury Control Program, Tsiwatakari:at "Lets Get Healthy" Program, MCA Community Health Nursing, MCA Police Commission, MCA Addictions Prevention Program, Akwesasne Mohawk Police, St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police, Raid Program, American Cancer Society, RCMP First Nations Services, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, MCA Social Development & Health Programs, Akwesasne Youth



Deputy Chief Roger Mitchell presents a bike to a lucky winner.

give-aways for the students. Five 24 inch bikes were provided by: The Akwesasne Mohawk Police, The Mohawk Court (2), Grand Chief Roundpoint and Canadian Tire (presented by Brent Casselman). Adam Thompson, Thunder Lacrosse Team donated his autographed jersey.

Council, Ionkwanonhsasetsi, North American Indian Travelling College, Thunder Lacrosse Team, Frogtown Speedway, Kawenoke Recreation Committee, St. Regis Recreation Committee, TsiSnaihne Recreation Committee. Niawen for caring for our children and their future.