

## Elder Brothers Continue Condolence Ceremony

The Elder Brothers met to continue practicing for the Condolence Ceremony. This event will happen for the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs at the Mohawk Nation Longhouse on Saturday, May 6.

### Confederacy News

Over two hundred years ago, the Haudenosaunee split into two as a result of divided loyalties during the Revolutionary War. In 1779, as result of the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign, under the direction of Gen. George Washington, over forty Seneca, Cayuga, Tuscarora and Oneida villages were destroyed and thousands sought sanctuary at Fort Niagara. The Grand Council was temporarily relocated to Buffalo Creek because American Troops had destroyed the Onondaga villages, even though the Onondaga people remained neutral in the war.

At a Grand Council held at the former Buffalo Creek Reservation, the Chiefs of old decided to divide up the sacred wampum belts and take the embers of the Council Fire in two different directions. One group, headed by the Onondagas, returned the Council Fire to the land of the People of the Hills, near Syracuse, NY. This was the original home of the Council Fire. Once again, the Chiefs of the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora Nations would meet under the Great Law of Peace in the ancient place where that law was first codified.

The other embers were taken across the Niagara River and used to rekindle a Council Fire along the Grand River for the Haudenosaunee whom had remained loyal to their English allies. They were provided territory in Canada by Sir Frederick Haldimand in 1784 to make up for their losses to the Americans. Nearly half of the Haudenosaunee left their ancestral homelands and re-established themselves on what would later be called the Six Nations Reserve in Ontario. The Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora allies of the King settled in their own villages along the Grand River, each with their own council house, school and territory.

They would then hold their Grand Councils in the Onondaga Council House.

It was a monumental decision made back then to split the wampum and Council Fire. It was also a fateful decision that has left lingering animosity among the Haudenosaunee.



Pictured here is an informal outing with Mohawk, Onondaga and Seneca people at Kanatsiohareke about the essence of the Council of Chiefs, their roles and responsibilities. The significance of the White Pine and its ability to endure is seen among the woods located at the Mohawk settlement.

Tensions ran deep as the Revolutionary War had seen Haudenosaunee warriors fighting on both sides, at times, against each other. When the Peace Maker established the original Great Law, he had warned the Haudenosaunee of the consequences of bloodshed and sought to replace violence

with reason. But the warriors cast his warnings aside and picked up the tomahawk. The blood they spilt, and the lack of unity among the Clan Mothers and Chiefs, led to the break-up of the once powerful Confederacy of the Six Nations. No longer would there be one

However, that all changed on March 4, 2000. At a historic Grand Council at Onondaga, the two sides agreed to set their differences aside and become one. It was an amazing council. The Oneida Chiefs from London, Ontario took their old seats with the Cayuga and Tuscarora Chiefs. The Mohawk leaders of Akwesasne, Kahnawake and Kanesatake sat next to the Seneca Chiefs. The Onondaga Chiefs from both Councils sat together as one. After much deliberation, these Chiefs decided that from that day forward there would be only one Grand Council, only one set of fifty Chiefs as defined by the Great Law. There are still a lot of issues to be worked out, but the movement toward unity was long overdue. You could see that the people in attendance were pleased to see their leaders sitting together once more.

The first step in that support will be the installation of new Chiefs. In an ancient ceremony, the traditional leaders will pass on the Chief's titles and duties to the next generation. The current vacancies, created by the passing of many old leaders, will be filled. A new spirit of unity will result. The Councils will become stronger and become the moral compass for the Haudenosaunee once more. Only through the unity of all the leaders can we truly find the peace and happiness that we all seek. Negativity must give way to the Good Mind. If we work hard enough we can all contribute the keeping the great inheritance of peace that our ancestors had hoped for us. It is also time that all our people offer whatever constructive assistance they can to build a viable future for the seventh generation to come. [HAUDENOSAUNEE RUNNER, Spring 2000, Vol. 3 No. 1]

mind, one heart, one voice.

Since then we have all been taught to distrust each other. We have all heard and perpetuated stories that kept us apart.

### Water Quality Program to Begin Final Round of Water Sampling in "Area of Concern"

Hogansburg, NY, March 23, 2000 - In the next couple of months the SRMT Environment Division will be collecting water samples for the residents receiving bottled water in the Operation Salt "Area of Concern" to verify where levels of Sodium and Chloride lie at this point. The levels have decreased in many homes and monitoring wells, as seen in the long term monitoring performed since last year. The Division hopes to see the same results in the residential wells at homes already receiving bottled water.

The Environment Division would like to ask for your cooperation in our water sampling collecting efforts. First, if you have dogs, please tie them up on the days we are scheduled to come to your home to take water samples from an outside tap. Also, if you have an outside tap connected to a softener system, please let us know before we take a water sample. Lastly, if you do not have an outside tap, we ask that you contact Shawn Martin or Jim Snyder at the Environment office at 358-5937 and let us know when you will be home so we can collect a water sample. The water-sampling schedule will be as follows:

April 3rd - 7th - Drum Street Road/Phillips Road  
 April 10th - 14th - Cook Road  
 April 17th - 21st - Tarbell Road/River Road  
 April 24th - 28th - Any homes that were missed

### Operation Salt Water Sampling Schedule

Hogansburg, NY, April 5, 2000 - The following is a revised schedule for the final round of water sampling being conducted in the Area of Concern.

Operation Salt Water Tests	Area of Concern
April 3rd - 21st	Drum St./Phillips Rd.
April 3rd-7th	Cook Rd. and McDonald Rd.
April 10th-14th	Tarbell Rd./River Rd.
April 17th-21st	Missing Water Samples
April 24th-28th	

Note: Times are not always going to be correct and if we cannot get a water sample from the home, we will need to make special arrangements. If you feel that we cannot get a sample from someone at home at this time or from an outside hose bib please call. Phone 518-358-5937 and ask for Shawn or Jim.