

NOTICE

**People's
Meeting
Mohawk
Nation
Longhouse
Sunday,
April 16, 2000
10:00 a.m.
Informational
Meeting**



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

April 7, 2000

TO: Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Members

FROM: Chairperson/Melvin J. White

REGARDING: Official Elections and positions

Dear Tribal Members,

In accordance with tribal customs and practices, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Election Board will take the following official nominations on Saturday May 6, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. at the main lobby of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Community Building. Tribal Chief will be three nominated positions for three-year terms.

Tribal sub-chief will be three nominated positions for three-year terms.

Tribal Clerk will be for a three-year term.

In accordance with Tribal Customs and practices, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Election Board shall call for an Official General Election of the Tribal Council Chiefs and Tribal Clerk on the first Saturday of June, which will be held on June 3, 2000 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the main lobby of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Community Building.

Respectfully yours,

signed

Melvin J. White

Election Board Chairperson

Trent University Welcomes Young Akwesasne Speakers



The Department of Native Studies, at Trent University, this past year celebrated its thirtieth anniversary and during these years many First Nation Peoples have come from their communities to share their knowledge with the Native Studies students. Among the diversity of Nations the uniqueness of the Haudenosaunee People has always been well represented at Trent. With each passing year the students, faculty and department benefited from the words and guidance of remarkable people such as Ernie Benedict, Tom Porter and the late Jake Thomas. Recently, two more individuals were added to the honoured list of inspiring Haudenosaunee.

On Wednesday, March 29, 2000, the department held its own celebration of National Aboriginal Language Day. There were stories, singing and displays in the two languages (Mohawk and Ojibway) offered in Native Studies. The event was made memorable by the two guest-speakers from Ahkwasasne. Ahnekate:ni Adams, 9, and Nihahsenna:a Peters, 10, came to Trent University to tell the Creation Story. They were accompanied by Kawannahente Peters, Amanda Adams, Ahnekate:ni's older brother and Ann Deer.

With great ease the Creation Story was told in Mohawk and most impressive was the obvious confidence that these lads knew what they spoke of and were not reciting from memory. It took some time for them to translate the story into English and a surge of pride filled the room in recognition of this because it was evident that their understanding came first from the Ranienskeha language. Talk moved about the room as people spoke of the day when Ahnekate:ni and Nihahsenna:a would be in University and have the ability to use the language in their studies. They were presented with a small token of appreciation from the Rotinohsonni Language Development Centre and Louise Garrow, academic coordinator, gave them Trent University ball caps that only came off their heads during Ohenton Kariwatekwen.

A feast and social were held in the evening and the Ojibway Women's Hand Drum sang a song to honour our guests. The Native Studies Mohawk language class was in attendance and they were amazed with the speaking ability of Ahnekate:ni and Nihahsenna:a. The Ahkwasasne entourage brought a video to show their Tsi Snaihne classroom activities. This video had shown that these lads are among a very special group of willing and dedicated children who are all learning their Ranienskeha language and culture in school.

Ahnekate:ni and Nihahsenna:a recited thirty-two of the fifty Confederacy Chiefs and the titles were from the Mohawk, Oneida and Onondaga Nations. They sang the "Sken:nen Song" which speaks of peace, power and a good mind, the great tree of peace, and the future generations. All this was done in the Ranienskeha language. They explained how to do the Round Dance and afterwards did the closing. The next morning they returned to do the opening for Dan Roronhiokewen Longboat's lecture on Ecolinguistics and once again they sang the "Sken:nen Song." Roronhiokewen presented Ahnekate:ni and Nihahsenna:a with a string of wampum and beaded two-row wampum then the lads closed the lecture.

A debt of gratitude is owed to the Department of Native Studies, especially Louise Garrow, for hosting the event and providing the feast. It is their commitment of promoting First Nations identity, language and communities that allows for an event like this to occur. This particular event could not have happened without the initiative of Roronhiokewen and the Rotinohsonni Language Development Centre (Ranienskeha Division). Their sponsoring, in part, of this visit is just one of many examples of their dedication to strengthening our Ranienskeha language. Niawenko:wa to the Ahkwasasne Mohawk Board of Education for sponsoring these young lads. They are a fine example of Ahkwasasne's commitment to passing the language onto the younger generation in the educational system. The Kanienskeha Nation will benefit tremendously in the future from the Ahkwasasne Mohawk Board of Education and its teachers continuing success and support of our language in Ahkwasasne's schools.

All of Ahkwasasne should be very proud of these two ambassadors for they represented themselves, their families, school, community and the Kanienskeha Nation with great dignity and confidence. Many people commented that what made them extraordinary was the obvious self-awareness that not only did they know about their language and culture but they live it. The Kanienskeha spirit is very much alive in these humble lads. It would be a great honour to have them return to the Department of Native Studies and Trent University to share with us more of their knowledge and language.

Valerie Kahsennanoron Johns,
Native Studies Honours and Psychology student
Trent University, Peterborough,

Environmental Response Team (ERT) Responds to 2 Incidents During Weekend Snowstorm

Hogansburg, NY, April 12, 2000 - The Environmental Response Team of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe responded to 2 incidents during last weekend's snowstorm. The first call involved a sewage overflow concern at the sewage treatment plant on St. Regis Road on Sunday afternoon. The sewage treatment plant technician reported that the sewage level was reaching the top of the holding well and was concerned the overflow could possibly reach the St. Regis River if action wasn't taken. A sanitation company was called in to pump out sewage from the holding well into the influent tank. The situation was under control within an hour. No sewage spilled on the ground or into the river.

The other call received by the ERT involved a fuel tanker truck that had tipped on its side and was spilling fuel oil from its overflow line into the ditch on Cook road. After several failed attempts to remove the truck from the ditch, the next course of action involved pumping out the contents (approximately 1200 gallons of #2 fuel oil) of the ditched tanker truck into an empty tanker truck to minimize any further spillage. Off loading the fuel began at 9pm Sunday night.

Absorbent pads and booms were placed in the ditch to soak up the spilled fuel. The tanker truck was finally pulled from the ditch about 10pm. On Monday morning, an ERT member returned to the site to pick up the saturated pads and place new pads to catch any residual fuel from the ditch. Although it was hard to determine the actual amount of fuel oil that spilled, the ERT reported that surface water and biota were not threatened. If you have any questions regarding these 2 incidents please contact the Environment Division at 358-5937. To report any future oil spills please call our 24 hour emergency response number at 1-800-644-9904, pager # 8752. Niawen.

Roadside Cleanup April 29th

The Akwasasne Task Force on the Environment wishes to announce their annual **Roadside Cleanup** held in celebration of Earth day on: **Saturday, April 15th will be rescheduled to rain date Saturday, April 29th.** Garbage bags, gloves and lunch will be provided at the Akwasasne Library for all who participate. ATFE is sending out a challenge to all organizations in Akwasasne: all Councils, Chiefs, departments, firemen, skating and hockey clubs, lacrosse teams, youth, teachers, veterans, legionnaires and businesses to pick up trash in the ditches in front of your homes, offices, business and common areas in the southern portion of Akwasasne. ATFE will offer \$100 to the organization, team or group that picks up the most trash on April 29th. To be eligible be sure to come the library that morning to get bags, register your group with ATFE and identify the road you will be working on.

Organizations and businesses are being asked to help by:

- Cleaning up the ditches in front of your business.
- Donating prizes that will be given away to participants.
- Helping to advertise the event.

For more information, contact Dave Arquette at 518-358-9513 or Maxine Cole at 575-9967 or 358-9607.