

Plea for Help from the Onyota'aka "People of the Standing Stone"

PO Box 450, Oneida, NY 13421-0450 (315) 363-2304

April 4, 2000

The families on the Oneida Territory extend their warm wishes to their neighbors and friends. You may be aware that new rules and regulations as dictated by the "Oneida Nation of New York, Inc." require families to adhere to self-made ordinances passed without the approval or knowledge of the Oneida people. Many Oneidas have returned to their ancestral homeland after generations of displacement but are now concerned for their lives, families and homes. Under the leadership of R. Halbritter (sanctioned and imposed upon the Oneidas by the US Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs) certain orders are to be issued and will be carried out by non-Native "deputized police" who have threatened to demolish homes and forcibly evict families on the Oneida Nation Territory under the disguise of "beautification" as of JUNE 2000.

We need your help now. Below is a list of items needed:

1. PRAYERS FOR PEACE!!!
2. Send letters protesting this injustice to:
President Bill Clinton, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Wash., DC 20500
US Attorney General Janet Reno, The US Justice Department, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Wash., DC 20530-0001
First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Wash. DC 20500
Kevin Gover, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1849 C. Street, NW, Wash., DC 20240
New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341
Sheriff Ron Carey, Madison County Sheriffs Department, Box 16, Wampsville, NY 13163
New York Governor George Pataki, Executive Chamber, The Capitol Albany, NY 12224
3. Financial contributions made payable to Onyota'aka and donations for:
Repair of Homes on Oneida territory.
Office staff, supplies and expenses.
Telephone, Copying, Postage, Development of Website.
Video Cameras/Cameras, film and developing.
Unity Gathering and Social Dance on May 13, 2000. (location to be announced).
Land and/or homes for relocation.
Contact information for potential contributors
Legal Assistance (Center for Constitutional Rights, NYC, NY).

UNITY SOCIAL & POT LUCK

May 13, 2000

5:00 p.m.

Oneida Village Castle Hall
Route 365 & 5, Oneida Castle, NY
The original meeting place of the Onyota'aka
People of the Standing Stone
A celebration of music and dance
Open to all
Singing groups welcome!
Please confirm by calling 315-363-2304

Modeling Agency Builds Confidence



Kawennaknion Shenandoah, daughter of Donna Rockwell and Tracy Shenandoah as well as Angie Seymour are enrolled in Angie's and Louis Modeling Agency. This agency is located in Cornwall Ontario and works on building self-confidence for the enrollees. A few small shows are held promoting what the students have learned over the year. This year, the Spring Show was held Wednesday, March 15, 2000. Kawennakanion is 15 years old and enjoys modeling. She has been with this agency for two years. She is quiet and shy. Angie is helping her to be more confident about herself. Kawennakanion sported a short's set from AuCotton, Sear's Mall, Cornwall.

The Akwesasne Freedom School

Announces its 2000/2001 School Year Registration

The Freedom School combines solid academics and a strong foundation in the Kahnianekahaka culture. Through knowledge we can gain a better understanding of the traditions and values that our elders preserved for centuries. Values such as self-respect, community, and kinship with the natural world.

The curriculum is based on the Ohen:ton Karihwatekwen or the "Words Before All Else". The "Thanksgiving Address", as it is known, provides guidelines for learning respect and giving thanks to the Creator and all that he has given to us.

Each day begins the Ohen:ton Karihwatekwen which is recited from memory by the students. This process aides in developing the young minds of the future on how to be good public speakers.

Language is the key to cultural survival. The language is taught thematically, and general introduction to vocabulary, semantics and syntax is given. The language is learned through speaking, writing, singing, and reading.

The Math, Science, History and Geography are taught in a way that helps the students understand their way of life from a physical, historical, economic and human perspective.

Kahnian'kehaka Aohsera or that traditional Cycle of Ceremonies is followed and is a vital part of the students' education.

There are various ceremonies throughout the year which includes:

1. Midwinter 2. Okiweh 3. Maple Opening 4. Thunder Dance 5. Maple Harvest 6. Seed Planting 7. Strawberry 8. Raspberry 9. Green Bean 10. Green Corn 11. Harvest 12. Thunder Dance 13. Dead Feast 14. End of Season

Established in 1979, to help revive the traditional Rotinoshon:ni culture and to preserve a rich and diverse language, the Akwesasne Freedom School has proven to be a unique cultural experience for people from Akwesasne and around the World.

Registration for the 2000/2001 School year at the Akwesasne Freedom School is now open. To register your child, stop by the A.F.S. office any time between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FAMILY:

The Akwesasne Freedom School is a year-round school. The parents of the AFS put forward an agreement to remind us that we are all responsible and involved in our children's and in the AFS children's learning process.

Family Agreement

It has been agreed upon that: "Through our language, the Akwesasne Freedom School will support and encourage a process for each child to learn their roles and responsibilities as Rotinoshonni through an understanding of the Ohen:ton Karihwatekwen as the core of their learning experience.

The guiding principles of Skennen, Kasatstensera, Kanikonri:io will thrive and be heard in the voices of our children for the next seven generations."

Understanding the above mentioned "Mission Statement" I agree to help make this a reality by taking a Mohawk language class at least once a week either here at the Akwesasne Freedom School or one that is offered in the community. This will not only help me in learning our language but it will enable me to help my child in her/his studies here at the Freedom School.

In order to begin understanding the curriculum of the school, I will make every effort to ensure that I learn the Ohen:ton Karihwatekwen within the first six months of the school year.

Being a fluent speaker of the language I agree to help support the Mission of the Akwesasne Freedom School by taking one Mohawk class a week to learn to read and write. As I am learning to read and write, I understand that I will be making curriculum material for the Freedom School.

Also, I agree to donate one Quilt and one item for auction at the Annual Dinner which will be held the final weekend of the school year.

To financially support the Akwesasne Freedom School, I agree to work with the other parents to do fundraising activities throughout the school year by coordinating one fundraiser.

Lastly, I will make every effort possible to attend regularly scheduled parent meetings as well as any special meetings that may be called.

For our future, I agree and will do the above.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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- Fruit Blizzard -



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