

QUINTANIAN TIME

Voice From The Eastern Door

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ATFE Roadside Clean Up 2000



GV students helping to pick up the trash in Akwesasne.

On April 29th, the Annual Roadside Clean Up started out like all the others with one exception, families, groups and organizations throughout Akwesasne showed up!

Since the early 1990's, ATFE has sponsored the Roadside Clean Up. More often than not, clean up teams consisted of Task Force members and their families (and for a several years, the Akwesasne Youth Group partnered with us), cleaning areas that really needed attention. Afterwards, we'd all gather around one grill and donated salads to have a nice lunch.

Maybe it was the new blood that joined the Task Force staff, namely Maxine Cole, Vivian Smoke, Amanda Jacobs and Jari Thompson, that made the difference. As part of the Committee, these go-getters organized the com-

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Gov. Pataki: Confused Over New Mohawk Casino Deal

by Neil Drew

Only last week, it was learned that the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council had signed a secret agreement with the world's largest gaming corporation, Park Place Entertainment, which owns three casinos in Atlantic City, New Jersey and the famous Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas.

The agreement would negate a proposal for building a Mohawk casino at Monticello Raceway in the Catskills in favor of a new location in the Town of Thompson. It was only this past April that the Tribe received the good news that the Monticello project had passed all federal hurdles. That left a final decision in the hands of New York Governor George Pataki and, perhaps, the state legislature. Pataki had been generally in favor of the Monticello concept and was expected to usher it through the final phase.

It was on the extreme edge of final approval for Monticello that the Tribal Council announced its new arrangement with Park Place. As one Hogsburg observer put it, "The Tribal Council managed to grab defeat from the jaws of victory."

The new contract, in effect, would obliterate five years of hard work by the Catskill Development Corporation and would replace Catskill with Park Place. Park would then take over the chore of planning a new Mohawk gambling establishment at a different Catskill location.

And, for a second week in a row, Tribal critics of the pact say the deal is clearly illegal. First, as we first reported last week, it was alleged that none of the present chiefs of the Council were duly elected. Thus, say opponents, the pact is void. Second, says Phillip Tarbell, a member of the St. Regis Mohawk Gaming Authority, the only entity that can legally sign a contract regarding a new Mohawk casino in the Catskills is the Tribe's Gaming Authority itself.

Tarbell pointed out this week that both governments on the U.S. side of Akwesasne, the Tribal Council and the Constitutionals, signed an agreement five years ago turning over all legal and negotiating powers regarding the Catskill project to the Gaming Authority.

The former St. Regis Tribal Chief said the Tribal Council illegally usurped the power of the Gaming Authority when it signed last month's

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Pataki's history lesson HE DOESN'T GET IT:

The governor keeps trying to blame the federal government for New York state cheating the Indians out of their land.

by Rick Hill

It is obvious that Gov. George Pataki must have graduated from public school in New York state, for he has not learned the truth of New York state history. In an April 5 letter of President Clinton, Pataki's mistaken notions of history are so obvious that they are laughable. Rather than deal with the facts, he is pointing the finger everywhere else. In the Pataki version of history, New York state has been a helpless victim of federal government malfeasance. Lo, the poor state!

In the Pataki version of history, the federal government is the sole owner of all the blame for New York state cheating the Indians out of their land. According to Pataki, the federal government is now "attempting to rewrite the long history of the federal government's mishandling of Indian affairs."

He demands that the presi-

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Saiowisakeron Rawenisera

The Centennial Commemoration and Remembrance of Saiowisakeron (The Ice is Floating By)

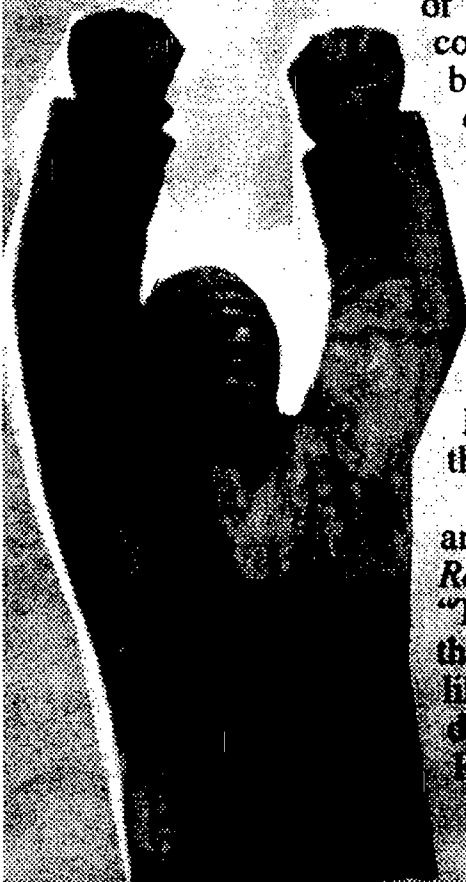
Also known as Jake Ice and John Fire

in Honour of the Ultimate Sacrifice he made in Defense of Mohawk Leadership Culture and Sovereignty on May 1, 1899

In 1888, the chiefs of the Iroquois Confederacy met in grand council at the Cold Springs reservation and decided that Akwesasne would from then on hold the Katsista, or "Fire," of the Mohawk Nation. This was an honour for Akwesasne, which had gone from being one of the smallest Mohawk communities at its inception to one of the largest in only a century and a half of time. Nine chiefs were "raised up" at Akwesasne in addition to six alternates, or sub-chiefs. These men were entrusted with wampum strings that symbolized Akwesasne's status as the "capital" of the Mohawk Nation.

The fire of Mohawk nationhood continues to burn at Akwesasne, despite enormous amounts of wind and rain that have come in the form of external oppression. Those that keep the fire burning are our traditional leaders, known as the chiefs, faithkeepers and clan mothers of the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs. They coexist at Akwesasne with elected councils on both sides of the 45th parallel. These elected councils, conceived by Canadian and American authorities and imposed by force in the 19th century, have evolved over time to reflect the wishes and aspirations of the community. All three councils, to varying degrees, share the responsibility of keeping the fire of Mohawk nationhood burning at Akwesasne, but they have inherited this responsibility from an earlier form of traditional government known as the Council of Life Chiefs.

The Council of Life Chiefs were known among the Mohawks of Akwesasne as the *Rotinonkwiseres* which translates literally as "They Have Long Hair." The "Longhairs" got this name because they wore medals that bore the likeness of a British king wearing a long powdered wig. Although most of these chiefs were Roman Catholic, the Roman Catholic Church



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