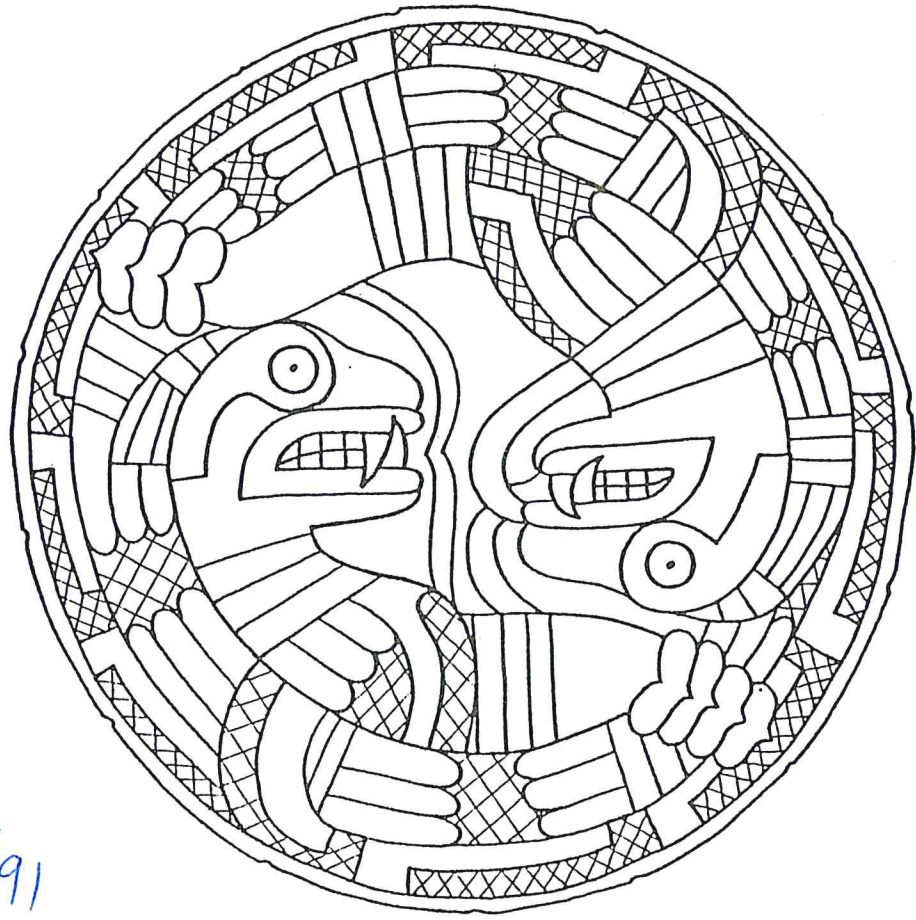




# TYENDINAGA



ENGLISH ISSUE  
: W A  
(MARCH)

6/91

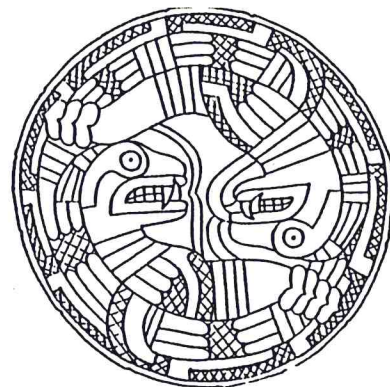
PAUL E. KENNEDY  
FROM: NORTH AMERICAN DESIGN COLOURING BOOK  
DOVER PUBLICATION INC.

# NEWSLETTER



# ~~TYENDINAGA A NEWSLETTER~~

## ★ MARCH ISSUE 6 ★



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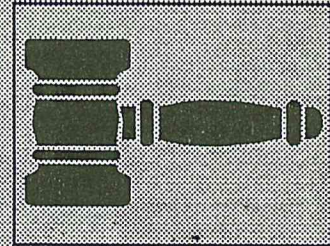


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# COUNCIL CORNER



## FISHING PERMITS

**NOTE:** Fishing Permits are now available from the  
Administration Office  
CHIEF  
AND COUNCILLORS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE HOURS ARE 8:30 AM. - 4:00 PM.

## ATTENTION

Anyone wishing to pick up a fishing permit may come in to  
my Office during working hours.

8:30 - 4:30

ELTON BRANT



## **PLEASE NOTE**

The Next School Committee Meeting

will be held

**MONDAY, APRIL 15 AT 6.00 PM.**

at F.N.T.I.

**(IN THE BOARDROOM)**

---

## **COMMUNITY NOTICE**

**PLEASE NOTE that the QUINTE MOHAWK SCHOOL IS OPEN  
FOR USE BY THE COMMUNITY FOR FUNCTIONS AND MEETINGS  
AFTER 4:00 PM. ON SCHOOL DAYS AND ALL DAY ON  
WEEKENDS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.**

**MEETINGS AT THE SCHOOL WILL BE RESTRICTED TO THE  
TEACHER'S LOUNGE ONLY.**

**NOTE: SMOKING WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE TEACHER'S  
LOUNGE ONLY.**

# **GENERAL MEETING**

---

**ON**

**RESIDENCY LAW**

**APRIL 9, 1991**

**6:30 PM.**

**COMMUNITY CENTRE**

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**A REFERENDUM WILL**

**BE HELD ON**

**MAY 4, 1991**

**AT**

**9:00 AM. TO 7:00 PM.**

**AT QUINTE MOHAWK SCHOOL**

**ON THE**

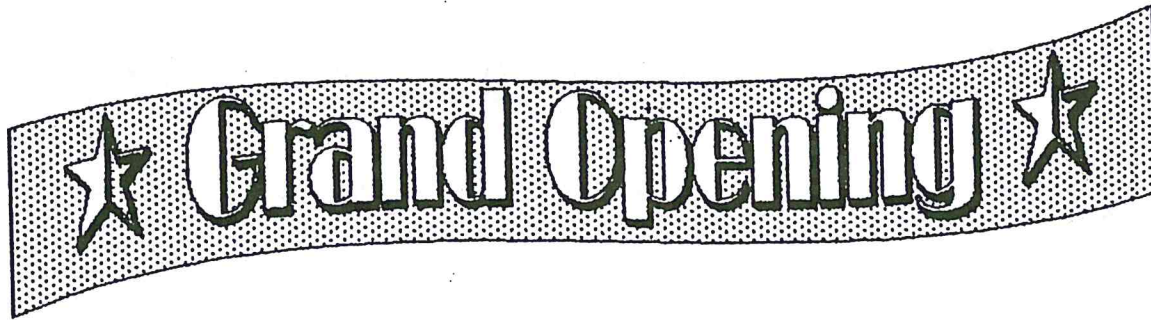
**RESIDENCY LAW**

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MOTION:**

**"The TYENDINAGA MOHAWK COUNCIL agrees that only  
Band Members of Native Ancestry residing on the  
Reserve are to vote on the Residency Law"**

**Carried**





**" MEDICAL CENTRE "**

**" ADDITION TO THE SCHOOL "**

**MAY 17, 1991**

**FRIDAY AT 1:00 PM.**

**This ribbon cutting ceremony will be  
held at the site.**

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND !**

## ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

### REPORTING TO THE COMMUNITY

Here are some interesting facts from The Administration Office's Program Reports of Jan., Feb. 91 that may be of some interest to the community.

#### ADMINISTRATION :

- Incoming calls average 158 calls per day
- Number of purchase orders processed in Jan. 91 were 607
- Number of purchase orders processed in Feb. 91 were 500
- 22 Homes have received renovation loans in 90/91
- 22 new Entries to our Indian Registry

#### ROAD DEPARTMENT :

- 52 hrs of Plowing Snow
- 74 hrs of Sanding and Salting

#### EDUCATION :

##### QUINTE MOHAWK SCHOOL

- Started a recycling program: aluminum cans, cardboard, plastic bottles, and glass only
- Provides education to approx. 260 students
- Students registering increased at a rate of 5% per year
- Attendance rate is approx. 98%
- 80% of Quinte Mohawk School graduates also graduate from Secondary Schools.

##### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (ADMINISTRATION OFFICE)

- Average of 22.6 incoming calls/action requests per day
- 339 Calls for the Month of February
- Working on following ongoing projects:
  - \* Mohawk Language Project
  - \* Staff Training Proposal
  - \* Statistical Report on C-31
  - \* Student Handbook
  - \* Post Secondary Program Pamphlet
  - \* Orientation Night
  - \* Graduation Dinner
  - \* Community Education - Discussion Series
  - \* Revision of Tyendinaga Pamphlet

continued....

### LOYALIST COLLEGE

- Counclilled and Helped Loyalist Students
- Organized and prepared this semesters fund raising activities
- Attended 11 meetings

### LIBRARY

- Recorded membership is 150 members
- 34 Books and 3 Videos were loaned
- The Library was opened on an average of 6 days per month: and we had 39 Visits.

### **POLICE**

- There were 32 reports called into the police for the month of February.

### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

- Diners Club averages approx. 37 Seniors on Wednesdays
- Senior Programs involves an average of 40 Seniors
- Youth Group Meetings involves an average of 12 of our Young People between the ages of 12 and 15 years of age

### **EMPLOYMENT**

- Developed job descriptions and questionnaire for 5 New Community Positions
- Implemented Income Tax Completion Volunteer Program
- Worked on Developing Job Stradegies through the following programs and Organizations:
  - \* Revenue and Excise - Custom Canada
  - \* Corrections Canada
  - \* Plumber and Pipe fitters
  - \* A.I.A.I. "Pathways to Success"
  - \* Local Advisory Committee C.E.C.
  - \* Steering Committee for Band Development Officers Training
  - \* Skills Quinte
  - \* Second Carpenter Trainee's
  - \* Painters Certificate Program

continued...



### HOUSING

- Co-ordinated the necessary subtrades for 6 houses as well as inspections and purchase orders
- Worked with a number of Community Members with regards to repairs and new housing

### ENVIRONMENT

- Continuing to pursue Recycling for our Community
- Continuing on Water Study and follow up
- To Assist with Outside Organizations
- Completing Environmental project proposals for Tyendinaga

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Developed an operating Plan for Economic Development Department
- Worked on:
  - \* Aboriginal Capital Corporation
  - \* Airport Development Project
  - \* Showcase 91, Project



## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE EMPLOYMENT CO-ORDINATOR

MINISTRY OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL  
ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE

**CLERK STENO**  
Office Administration 7  
File S.G. 338/89

**SALARY:** \$14.95 - \$16.41 per hour

**LOCATION:** South Frontenac

**CLOSING DATE:** April 16, 1991

**SUBMIT TO:** The Superintendent  
Ontario Provincial Police  
400 North Front St.  
Box 148  
Belleville, Ontario  
K8N 4Z9  
File S.G. 338/89

ASSOCIATION OF IROQUOIS & ALLIED INDIANS

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Post Secondary Graduate in Management Studies  
an Asset

**SALARY:** **NEGOTIABLE**

**DURATION:** Full-time, permanent position

**CLOSING DATE:** April 12, 1991 - 4.00 pm.

**SUBMIT TO:** WITH AT LEAST 3 LETTERS OF REFERENCE ATTACHED

ASSOCIATION OF IROQUOIS & ALLIED INDIANS  
466 HAMILTON ROAD  
LONDON, ONTARIO  
N5Z 1R9

ATTN: Executive Director Position

THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SUPPORT SERVICES OFFICE

SECRETARY TO PROGRAM SUPERVISORS  
OFFICE ADMINISTRATION GROUP 8

SALARY: \$15.52 - \$17.03 PER HOUR (Schedule 3,7)  
LOCATION: Kingston  
CLOSING DATE: April 9, 1991  
SUBMIT TO: FILE # CSSK 02/91  
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES  
1055 PRINCESS STREET  
P.O. BOX 970  
KINGSTON, ONTARIO  
K7L 4X8

THE MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

REGIONAL FINANCE MANAGER  
(Financial Administration AM-15)

SALARY: \$38,882 - 45,714 PER ANNUM  
LOCATION: OTTAWA  
CLOSING DATE: APRIL 2ND, 1991  
SUBMIT TO: FILE # AG 60A/91  
REGIONAL MANAGER  
MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
SUPPORT AND CUSTODY ENFORCEMENT BRANCH  
161 ELGIN STREET, 5TH FLOOR  
OTTAWA, ONTARIO  
K2P 2K1

O.I. PERSONNEL SERVICES LTD.  
HUMAN RESOURCES SECRETARIAT  
Technology and Information Management Branch

MANAGER - CORPORATE DATA MANAGEMENT SECTION  
for the Technology and Information Management Branch

SALARY: \$55,050 - \$68,876  
DEADLINE: APRIL 5, 1991  
SUBMIT TO: WITH A COMPLETE RESUME WITH 3 REFERENCES IN  
CONFIDENCE  
O.I. PERSONNEL SERVICES LTD.  
SUITE 126  
20 CARLTON STREET  
TORONTO, ONTARIO  
M5B 2H5



THE ST. LAWRENCE PARKS COMMISSION

**REVENUE/ADMINISTRATION CLERK**

**SALARY:** \$14.95 - \$16.41 PER HOUR (1990 RATES)  
**LOCATION:** KINGSTON, ONTARIO  
(Division Fort Henry)  
**HOURS OF WORK:** 36.25 PER WEEK  
**DURATION:** April 8 - October 11  
**DEADLINE:** **APRIL 4, 1991**  
**SUBMIT:** FORT HENRY  
P.O. BOX 213  
KINGSTON, ONTARIO  
K7L 4V8

**GARDENER (2 VACANCIES)  
(Agriculture Worker 1)**

**SALARY RANGE:** \$14.83 - \$15.11 PER HOUR  
**LOCATION:** CHRYSLER PARK SERVICE AREA  
**HOURS OF WORK:** 36.25 PER WEEK  
**DURATION:** April 29-October 25 and April 29-Nov 1  
**DEADLINE:** **APRIL 4, 1991**  
**SUBMIT TO:** HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION  
THE ST. LAWRENCE PARKS COMMISSION  
R.R. 1  
MORRISBURG, ONTARIO  
K0C 1X0

**PAYROLL CLERK  
(Finance, Planning & Administration)**

**SALARY:** \$14.95 - \$16.41 PER HOUR (1990 RATES)  
**LOCATION:** ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
(ST. LAWRENCE PARK COMMISSION)  
**HOURS OF WORK:** \$36.25 PER WEEK  
**DEADLINE:** **APRIL 4, 1991**  
**SUBMIT TO:** HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION  
THE ST. LAWRENCE PARKS COMMISSION  
R.R. # 1  
MORRISBURG, ONTARIO  
K0C 1X0

**MOHAWK ADMINISTRATION OFFICE,**

The following positions are now being posted and applications will be accepted by resume and covering letter.

**Position: Day Care Teacher**

**Location: Tyendinaga Day Care**

**Qualifications: Must have E.C.E. Certification  
Looking for two years experience**

**Salary: Negotiable, depending on experience**

**Position: Community Health Representative Trainee**

**Location: Tyendinaga Health Center**

**Qualifications: Graduated Grade 12 desired but not essential,  
knowledge of I.B.M. or compatible an asset.**

**Salary: Negotiable**

**Deadline for above Positions:**

**April 19th, 1991 before 4:00 p.m.**

Submit applications to:

**Velma Hill-Dracup,  
Employment Co-Ordinator.**

**FROM THE EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT**

**TRENT UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE STUDIES** is once again looking at the possibility of offering courses in Tyendinaga.

In order for a course to be held here, we need to have 20 registered students.

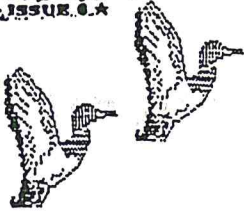
The suggested course would be either Culture & Community or Education and the Native People, both of which are 3rd year course.

The suggested term would be either Spring, Summer or Fall.

**If you would be interested in taking either of these courses please contact Jan or Patti at your earliest convenience and let them know which course and which term you would be interested in.**

The deadline for this information will be **March 1, 1991** in order for arrangements to be made with Trent University.

Thank you for your cooperation.



# ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

## HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH

### DIOXINS AND FURANS

#### Introduction

Dioxins are a family of toxic (poisonous) substances known in the scientific community as polychlorinated dibenzo-para-dioxins. A second family of closely related toxic substances -- known as polychlorinated dibenzofurans -- is very often present with dioxins.

Recent research has indicated that dioxins and furans can significantly damage the health of laboratory animals. The impact of these substances on humans is less certain. Dioxins and furans are therefore the subject of considerable controversy, both in the public realm and within the scientific community.

#### The Chemical Make-up of Dioxins and Furans

Dioxins and furans are by-products of the production of certain chemicals (such as those used to produce some pesticides and wood preservatives) and of the incomplete combustion of materials that contain both chlorine atoms and organic matter. Although they are most often man-made, some natural occurrences such as forest fires are believed to contribute to dioxins and furans in the environment.

#### Where They Are Found

Dioxins and furans can be found almost anywhere in the environment. High levels can generally be linked to a specific source, such as leakage from a chemical dump or industrial discharge. However, because dioxins and furans are products of incomplete combustion, they are found in very minute levels throughout the environment.

In the past, the widespread use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in electrical equipment was an important source of furans. Today most PCBs are stored in contained facilities and are a source of furans only through accidental leakage or fires.



### Exposure

Data show that all Canadians (and people living in industrialized nations around the world) are constantly being exposed to dioxins and furans. Exposure may result from eating food, breathing air, drinking water or coming into contact with contaminated soil or dust.

Scientists believe that to date, food has been the major source of dioxins and furans in humans. Although assessing exposure levels and sources is a difficult and complex task and some occupational exposure has been very significant, all sources are considered important.

### The Results of Exposure

Dioxins and furans can accumulate in the body of living organisms, including humans. However, no long term effects have been found in fish, wildlife or domestic animals exposed to levels of dioxins and furans typically found in the environment. The remarkable loss of reproductive capability in fish-eating birds in the Great Lakes area in the 1970s may have been associated with dioxins and furans. The toxic effects of dioxins and furans on vegetation is not known.

On the other hand, recent scientific studies do indicate that elevated levels of dioxins and furans can significantly damage the health of laboratory animals. Impacts vary widely from species to species. For example, guinea pigs are very susceptible to dioxins and furans while hamsters require 5,000 times as much before they are affected. Dioxins and furans are not unique in this regard; many animals species, including humans, react to different substances in different ways and to varying degrees.

So far in tests of humans who have been exposed to dioxins and furans either through their work or accidentally, only one human health effect has been consistently observed -- a skin condition called chloracne. Chloracne resembles acne and is caused by exposure to various chlorinated organic chemicals. It is not exclusive to dioxins and furans, and usually disappears several months after the affected person ceases to be in contact with the contaminant.

### What is Being Done

Despite the lack of direct evidence that dioxins and furans contribute to health problems in humans, the Government of Canada recognizes that these compounds are undesirable environmental contaminants and that, where possible, their unintentional production should be limited.

Investigations by both government and industry are continuing on several fronts. These include sampling and analysis of air, sediments, wildlife, fish, industrial effluents and sludges and pulp from pulp and paper mills using chlorine bleaching. The Health Protection Branch of Health and Welfare Canada is investigating dioxins levels in a variety of foods, human breast milk, water, soil and some consumer products.

Regulations and guidelines are now being considered for industrial sources of dioxins and furans such as pulp and paper mills, incinerators and smelters. The use of PCBs in new electrical equipment has been banned and their use in existing equipment is being phased out.

### Conclusion

Although much remains to be learned about dioxins and furans, progress has been made in combatting these contaminants.

Regulation of the pesticides industry and clean-up efforts at chemical dumps and industrial sites have had a positive impact. One indicator of this is that levels of dioxins and furans in Great Lakes fish-eating birds has declined.

Nevertheless, the lack of evidence that dioxins and furans contribute to human health problems does not eliminate the need for further study and control of these harmful substances. Indeed, the aim is to reduce the potential for exposure to the lowest level achievable.

DIOXINS AND FURANS IS ONE OF HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH ISSUES PRODUCED BY THE HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH OF HEALTH AND WELFARE CANADA FOR THE PUBLIC, MEDIA AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS INTERESTED IN HEALTH PROTECTION IN CANADA.

Should you wish further information on dioxins and furans or any other chemicals please contact Suzanne Brant at the Mohawk Administration Office - 396-3424.



## The Magna Charter of the League of The Five Nations

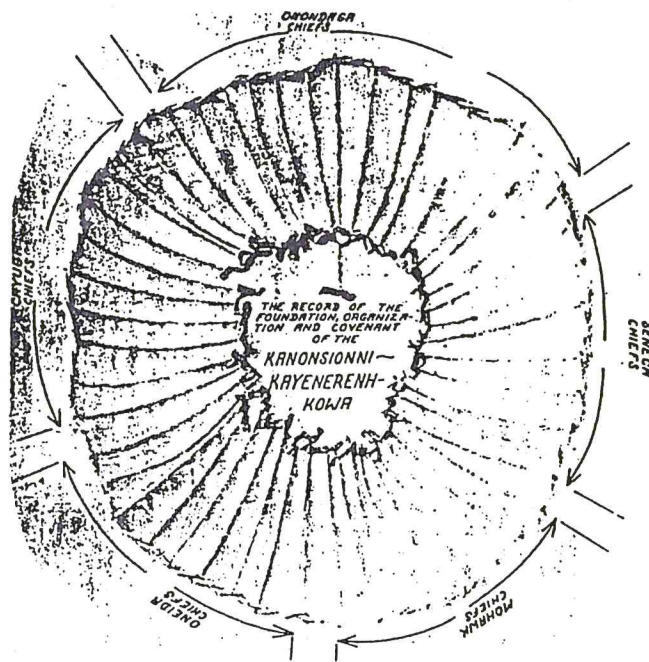
This a record of the foundation of the Confederacy when it was formed around 1452 by the Great Peacemaker and his helper Ayowatha. Of all Iroquois wampum records this is the most sacred. Each of the fifty strings represents one of the chiefs of the original Five Nations. The Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas. When the Confederacy was formed the Peacemaker had each of the fifty chiefs join hands in a circle and he ordained that all should be of equal rank and carry individual titles. So that they should never forget their titles and their positions in the Council House, this wampum record was made.

The First Chief of the Wolf Clan (Sarenhowane) of the Mohawks was appointed to keep this sacred wampum. During the Revolutionary War the keeper of this particular wampum circle was a noted Mohawk warrior called Dewaserageh (Two Axe). For safe keeping Two Axe placed this wampum, along with others, in a brass kettle and buried it under a bush beside Osagundaga Creek which runs into the Mohawk River. For eight years it was thus hidden. When the Revolutionary War was over Mohawks returned and dug it up, carrying it with them to Grand River Lands where it was used to renew the Council Fire of the Five Nations. When the ceremony was over it was again given to the hereditary keeper.

The large circle formed by two entwined strings, means respectively The Great Peace and The Great Law (Kayenerenhkowa) that was established by the Five Nations. The fifty wampum strings represent the fifty Chiefs of the Confederacy. The longer wampum string stands for the seventh Onondaga Chief who bears the title of Hononwiyendeh, who was appointed Keeper of all of the other records of the League. It serves as a guide when the record is read and shows the arrangements of the Chiefs in their proper order. White wampum means purity and peace which also means that Chiefs must never go to war. This sacred wampum is placed as in the above order with all of the fifty strings turned in toward the center. There are fourteen Chiefs representing the Onondagas, eight representing the Senecas, nine for the Mohawks, nine for the Oneidas, and ten for the Cayugas, who were thus to the right of the Onondagas. It was in this same order that the Chiefs took their seats in the Council House.

The Mohawks if they were introducing a question, referred it first to the Chiefs of the Senecas who sat on their right. When the Senecas decided, the Mohawks referred it to the chiefs of the Oneidas and Cayugas. After their decision, the Mohawks laid it before the Onondaga Chiefs, who could express an independent opinion only if the other nations had disagreed.

It is provided thus: There are now the Five Nations League Chiefs standing with joined hands in a circle. This signifies and provides that should any one of the chiefs of the League leave the council and the League, his crown of deer antlers, the emblems of his chieftainship title, together with his birthright, shall lodge on the arms of the Union Chiefs whose hands are so joined. He forfeits his title, and the crown falls from his brow, but it shall remain in the League. A further meaning of this is that if at any time one of the chiefs choose to submit to the law of a foreign people, he is no longer in but out of the League, and persons of this class shall be called "They have alienated themselves," (Tehonatonkoton). Likewise, such persons who submit to laws of foreign nations shall forfeit all birthrights and claims on the League of the Five Nations and territory. You, The League of Five Nations Chiefs, be firm so that if a tree shall fall upon your joined hands, it shall not separate you or weaken your hold. So shall the strength of your union be preserved.



FROM

WAMPUM BELTS BY  
TEHANETORENS

TO THE TYENDINAGA COMMUNITY:

The Native Students of Loyalist College wish to express a sincere thank-you to all those who helped make the "LIP SYNC" CONTEST at Q.M.S. such a great success.

The panel of judges was made up of:  
Velma Dracup-Hill, Native Women's Association,  
Billy Brant, Recreation Committee,  
Ken Crowe, Office Manager,  
had the difficult task of deciding upon the winners.

We want to especially thank all those in the Community who donated money and prizes to the Contest being sponsored by the Native Students:

VILLAGE CAFE  
WARD'S GAS BAR  
SHIRLEY'S VARIETY  
MRS. HERB'S  
NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
PIZZA HUT  
LITTLE CAESARS  
D&S GROCETERIA  
SUZANNE BRANT

A SPECIAL thank-you note will be forwarded to Tom Porter of Akwesasne who made a trip here to act as M.C. for the Contest. All agree that he helped to make the evening a success. He also expressed his interest in returning for our next Contest and bringing with him some contestants from Akwesasne.

The turnout of 80 people was well above our expectations and we are grateful. Everyone enjoyed the evening -- especially the winners. Hopefully, next time more of the Community will participate in the event, either as contestants or as spectators.

So on behalf of Loyalist College Native Student Association, I wish to thank the Community again for their support.

Nia:wen

Bonnie Jane Maracle  
Native Student Counsellor  
Loyalist College



## MOHAWK PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Rev. Russell G. Bates  
396-5329



THE CHURCH THAT CARES!!!!

WE ARE ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY!



### WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10 AM - Classes for every AGE!  
SUNDAY SERVICE - 11 AM - Come & worship with us!  
SUNDAY PRAYER - 6 PM - Wait on God for answers!

NOTE: N E W SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE TIME ---> \* 6:30 PM \*  
(Just in case you have small ones around the house,  
take advantage of our new time on Sunday evenings.)

WEDNESDAY - 7:30 PM - PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY  
"The Beatitudes of Revelations"  
- Kid's Bible Klub - ages 5 - 11

FRIDAY - 7 PM - "RADICAL" YOUTH...Come on out & see what  
young people (12 & up) do for Jesus!!

SENIORS - "SPRING RALLY" - April 11th - 1:30 PM - Kingston  
Gospel Temple...with Rev. Ron Reid - DON'T MISS IT!  
(Please contact Anna Mae Maracle at 967-1540 by April 7  
if you are planning to attend....)

## COMING!

in



APRIL 12 & 13 - Youth Rally - Napanee High School - 7:30 PM

**OUTREACH** - "EVANGELISTIC CRUSADE" with Rev. Gerald  
Morgan, here at MOHAWK PENTECOSTAL CHURCH.  
NEED a touch from God...COME & SEE WHAT GOD CAN DO  
FOR YOU IN THESE MEETINGS.....

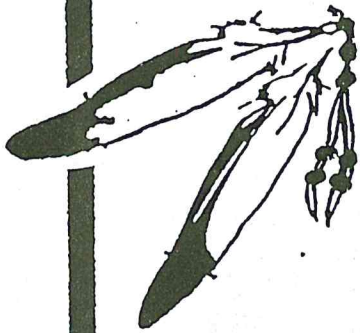
APRIL 21 (11 AM & 6:30 PM)

APRIL 22, 23, 24 (evening services) at 7:00 PM



## "hurting? God Cares"

# ***SIMCOE DEED DAY***



**ON**

**MONDAY, APRIL 1ST  
AT  
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**CORN SOUP  
FISH DINNER**

**\$5.00**

**5 PM.**

**COME & LEARN ABOUT  
SIMCOE DEED**

**SPEAKERS**





## WOMEN'S PRESS & PRESS GANG PUBLISHERS

\*\*\*\*\* FIRST CANADIAN EDITION \*\*\*\*\*

MOHAWK TRAIL  
by Beth Brant

"A gourd is a hollowed-out shell, used (as a utensil. We make our bowls from the stuff of nature. Of life. We carve and scoop, discarding the pulp. Ink on paper, picking up trails I left so many lives ago. Leaving my mark, my footprints, my sign. I write what I know." Beth Brant, Mohawk Trail

Beth Brant is a Bay of Quinte Mohawk from Theyindenaga reserve in Deseronto, Ontario. She has been published in several anthologies and is the editor of and contributor to A Gathering of Spirit.

\$9.95

Reading by Beth Brant

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Ka:nhiote - Tyendinaga P.L.  
(upstairs)  
RR#1 Deseronto  
ON KOK 1X0

DATE: April 10, 1991



## OTHER READINGS

\* FOOD AND SPIRITS

\* A GATHERING OF SPIRIT

READING MADE POSSIBLE BY FUNDING FROM CANADA COUNCIL





## WOODLAND CULTURAL CENTRE

184 MOHAWK ST., P.O. BOX 1506 BRANTFORD, ONT. N3T 5V6 (519) 759-2650

### *PRESS RELEASE*

#### Costume as Communication Opens at Cultural Centre

Brantford (March 12, 1991) An international travelling exhibit of over one hundred handmade textiles from Indigenous Peoples from middle and South America is now on display in the Museum at the Woodland Cultural Centre. The show is contemporary and colourful and offers an overview of a craft tradition over a thousand years old.

Maya and Inca weavers of Peru, Bolivia, Guatemala, and the southern state of Chiapas, Mexico, are represented. Viewers have an opportunity to learn about the cultures and techniques which give rise to the weavings. The exhibition weaves together commentary on geography, past and present culture, farming and animal-tending lifestyles, and a modern weaving and marketing cooperative. Viewers gain an appreciation of living tradition whose roots are ancient.

The strength, resilience and verve of the Indian people of the Americas are reflected in their clothing and other textiles. The mastery of the Maya weavers was recognized by their Spanish conquerors, who sometimes had them pay their taxes with weavings. Today, designs are still woven which tell stories of creation, survival, interactions between people and deities, and history. To an informed observer, the weavers' patterns reveal almost as much as the extensive picture-writings of the ancient, pyramid-building Maya. Through thousands of years of alternating dominance and subjection, wellbeing and struggle, the continuous thread of the weaver has helped preserve and record the Indian culture.

The show combines displays of complete costumes with separate pieces. Serapes, skirts, hair ribbons, ponchos, hats, and other familiar items are shown with other pieces they would be worn with.

-2-

Drawings and photographs of tools, techniques, and weavers are shown near weavings relevant to them. A thorough, in-depth catalogue details this exhibition as well as other textiles, and provides relevant essays.

Costume As Communication is an unusual opportunity to observe the extraordinary textile crafts of some of the best artisans of the Americas. The show continues until April 21st, then moves to New York City.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Tom Hill or Judy Harris  
Woodland Cultural Centre  
184 Mohawk Street  
Brantford, Ontario  
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### MICHAEL CADUTO

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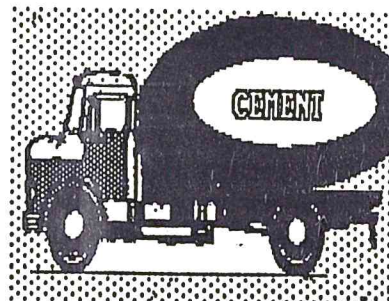
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