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~~CENTRE FOR NORTHERN~~  
~~STUDIES AND RESEARCH~~

JUN 27 1978

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CAUGHNAWAGA, P.Q. JOL 1B0 — TEL. (514) 638-0880

KAN IEN'KEHÁ:KA

OTIOHKWA

TEWATERIHWARENIÁ:THÁ

MAY 1978



## INTRODUCTION

FOR MANY YEARS NOW WE'VE TAKEN OUR HERITAGE AND LANGUAGE FOR GRANTED. LIKE THE WINNER OF A MILLION DOLLAR LOTTERY, WE'VE SQUANDERED ALL OUR RICHES AND NOW OUR LANGUAGE, CUSTOMS AND HISTORY - OUR VERY IDENTITY IS IN JEOPARDY. WE ARE ABOUT TO GO INTO THE "MELTING POT" AND BECOME LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

OF COURSE THERE ARE SOME WHO QUESTION THE VALUE OF HOLDING ON TO THE PAST. "WHAT WILL MOHAWK DO FOR YOU WHEN YOU APPLY FOR A JOB? WHAT WILL THEY PAY YOU FOR SPEAKING INDIAN"? THEY ASK, AS THOUGH A PRICE COULD BE PLACED ON "THE PRICELESS". THE ANSWER, HOWEVER, LIES IN WHERE WE PLACE OUR PRIORITIES: CHILDREN WHO HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THEMSELVES, WHO ARE CONFIDENT ABOUT THEIR SELF-WORTH, DO WELL BOTH IN SCHOOL AND IN THE WIDE WORLD. SURELY, ANYONE WHO HAS TRIED TO LEARN MOHAWK (AS I HAVE FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS) COMES TO REALIZE THAT THIS LANGUAGE IS SO COMPLEX YET LOGICAL, THAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN A SUPERIOR RACE OF PEOPLE WHO DEVISED ITS STRUCTURES. WE HAVE TO BE PROUD OF SUCH ANCESTORS.

THERE IS ALSO A QUESTION OF RIGHTS. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO SPEAK THE LANGUAGE, THANK YOUR PARENTS. THEY HAVE GIVEN YOU A LEGACY BEYOND COMPARE. DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DENY OUR OWN CHILDREN THEIR TRUE INHERITANCE? WHEN WE DENY MOHAWK TO OUR CHILDREN WE ALSO DENY IT TO OUR GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN AND IN A FEW YEARS MOHAWK WILL BE A DEAD LANGUAGE AS FAR AS CAUGHNAWAGA IS CONCERNED. IS THAT WHAT WE WANT?

PERHAPS YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT HURON VILLAGE, NEAR QUEBEC CITY. FOR MANY YEARS NOW ITS PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN ONLY FRENCH - THEIR LANGUAGE IS TECHNICALLY DEAD. IT MAY APPEAR IN SOME OBSCURE BOOK BUT NOT ONE PERSON IN THIS WORLD SPEAKS HURON. THE PEOPLE FEEL LOST AND I WOULD EVEN VENTURE TO SAY, THEY FEEL LESS INDIAN WITHOUT THEIR LANGUAGE. SOME OF THEM HAVE OBTAINED MOHAWK LANGUAGE BOOKS AND ARE CONSIDERING LEARNING MOHAWK. WILL WE BE IN THE SAME POSITION IN A GENERATION OR SO?

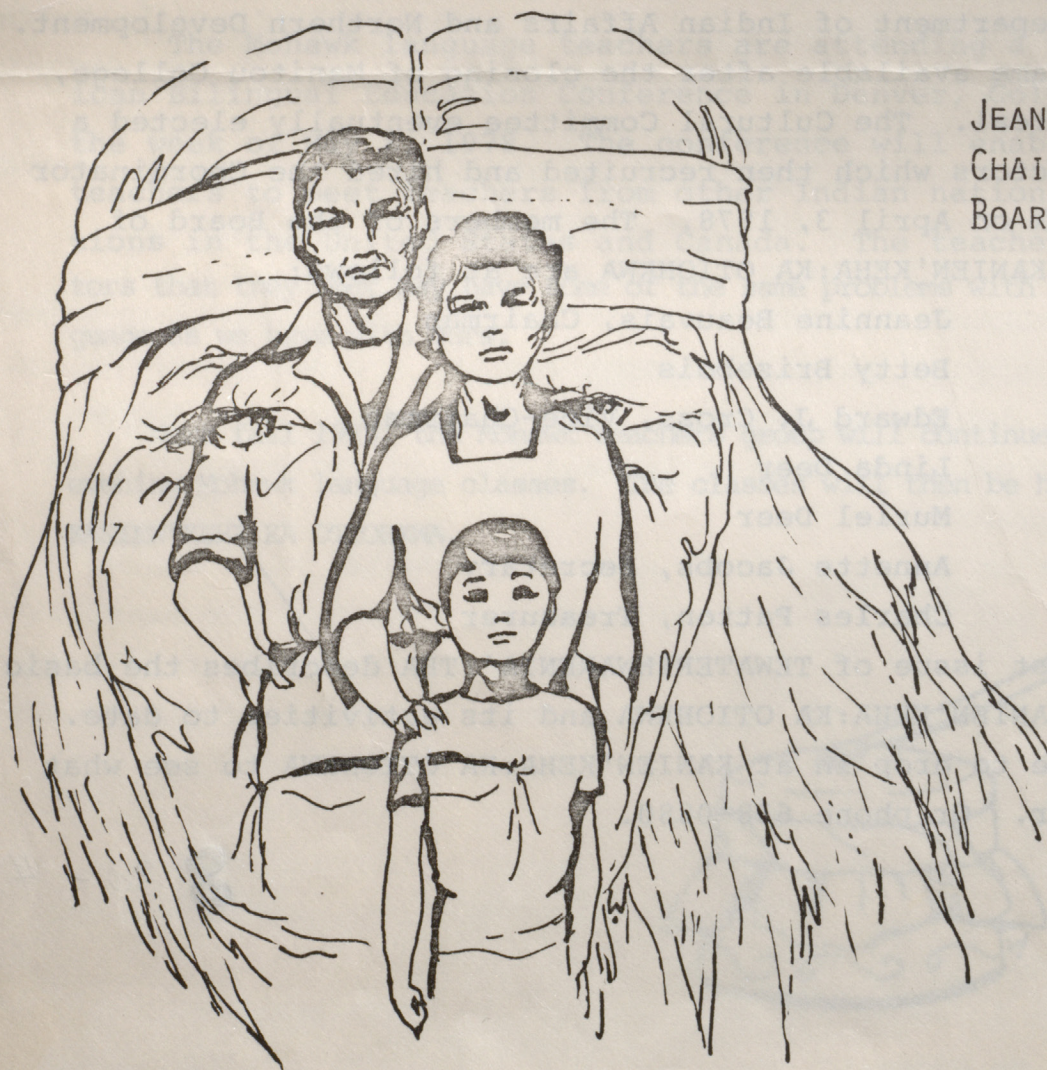
HOW IRONIC  
ARE WORKING



HOW IRONIC THAT WHAT WE ARE THROWING AWAY AS WORTHLESS, OTHERS ARE WORKING TO PRESERVE AS A TREASURED POSSESSION.

OUR NEW CULTURAL CENTER, KANIEN' KEHA:KA OTIOHKWA, HAS BEEN FORMED TO PROTECT OUR LANGUAGE, PROMOTE ITS USE, GATHER PICTURES AND STORIES, AND BRING TO LIGHT THE RICH HISTORY OF OUR PEOPLE AND REVEAL THE ROLE CAUGHNAWAGA PLAYED THROUGHOUT OUR LONG AND ACTIVE PAST. IT IS TIME WE REMINDED OURSELVES AND OUR NEIGHBORS THAT THERE WERE NOT "TWO FOUNDING PEOPLES" BUT THREE.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN IN OUR EFFORTS TO DISCOVER OUR PAST AND BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN PRESERVING OUR LANGUAGE, CULTURE, HISTORY AND HERITAGE. WE CANNOT DO IT ALONE.



JEANNINE BEAUVAIS,  
CHAIRMAN,  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS.



KANIEN'KEHA:KA OTIOHKWA  
(A Cultural Education Center)

KANIEN'KEHA:KA OTIOHKWA just recently began operations to preserve the language, culture, history & heritage of the Mohawks of Caughnawaga. The Center is located on the second floor of the former Caughnawaga Minor Sports Building next to the rink by the seaway. Its staff is as follows:

A. Brian Deer, Coordinator  
Carolee Jacobs, Secretary-Bookkeeper  
Ryan Montour, VTR Coordinator  
Gary Delormier, VTR Assistant

KANIEN'KEHA:KA OTIOHKWA is the result of several meetings of the Cultural Committee which was formed after it became known that funds would be available from the Cultural-Education Centers Program of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The funds became available after the closing of Manitou College, north of Montreal. The Cultural Committee eventually elected a Board of Directors which then recruited and hired the Coordinator who began work on April 3, 1978. The members of the Board of Directors of KANIEN'KEHA:KA OTIOHKWA are as follows:

Jeannine Beauvais, Chairman  
Betty Brisebois  
Edward J. Cross, Vice-Chairman  
Linda Deer  
Muriel Deer  
Annette Jacobs, Secretary  
Charles Patton, Treasurer

This first issue of TEWATERIHWARENIA':THA describes the basic programs of KANIEN'KEHA:KA OTIOHKWA and its activities to date.

Feel free to drop in at KANIEN'KEHA:KA OTIOHKWA to see what we have so far. Or phone 638-0880.

8:30 - 4 PM

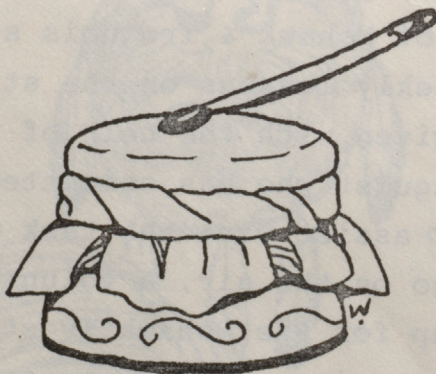


### MOHAWK LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Last summer the Mohawk language teachers group initiated a summer project which employed several students to tape legends, stories and songs from the old people of Caughnawaga. This year, the Mohawk language program will be transcribing the stories from tape to written form from Mohawk to English and from English to Mohawk. Several members of the Mohawk language teachers group have already begun transcribing the tapes. The stories will eventually be brought together in booklet form in a bilingual Mohawk-English format. They will be used by the Mohawk language teachers in their classes and also be made available to the people of Caughnawaga.

The Mohawk language teachers are attending a Native American Bilingual Education Conference in Denver, Colorado during the week of May 8, 1978. The conference will enable the Mohawk teachers to meet teachers from other Indian nations and Reservations in the United States and Canada. The teachers and educators that they meet may have some of the same problems with their own language as we have with ours.

Next fall 1978, the Mohawk teachers group will continue to offer evening Mohawk language classes. The classes will then be held at KAN IEN' KEHA: KA OTIOHKWA.





MOHAWK COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

The Mohawk Communications Center is in the process of setting up a TV station operating within a three mile radius (i.e. the community of Caughnawaga) on a VHF channel. All types of community events will be covered with commentary transmitted on TV in the Mohawk language. Groups and organizations in Caughnawaga and the people in general will also be encouraged to do their own programming to cover their own activities and events. The Mohawk Communications Center will help facilitate the programming and provide the technical equipment and technical expertise.

How long will it be before the Center goes on the air? Technically, it will have the equipment and technical knowledge to go on the air by the end of this summer. However, we will first need to build up a backlog of tapes so that there is enough back-up to have several hours of programs on TV everyday (beginning modestly with two or three hours a day). Also, depending on what requirements the Center may have to fulfill with the CRTC (Canadian Radio & Television Commission) it may be as long as a year before Mohawk TV goes on the air.

In the interim VTR tapes will be available for viewing at the Center and showings will be made in the community.

What kinds of programs will be on Mohawk TV?

KANIEN'KEHA:KA OTIOHKWA is committed to the original proposal that a TV station be set up to encourage the use and preservation of the Mohawk language. Programs will be mostly in the Mohawk language, but will NOT be mere translations of existing English language programs.

In addition to coverage of community events (with Mohawk commentary), possibilities for programming includes for example: animation of Mohawk & Iroquois stories in cartoon form retold in Mohawk; weekly lessons on the structure and grammar of the Mohawk language given with the help of a Mohawk linguist (we have a Mohawk linguist who has committed herself in this regard this summer). To assist with the task of planning and deciding what programs go on the air, a voluntary advisory program board has been set up for the Mohawk TV station.

If there is any group or organization in Caughnawaga that feels it has an event or activity worth covering, please call Ryan Montour, 638-0880.



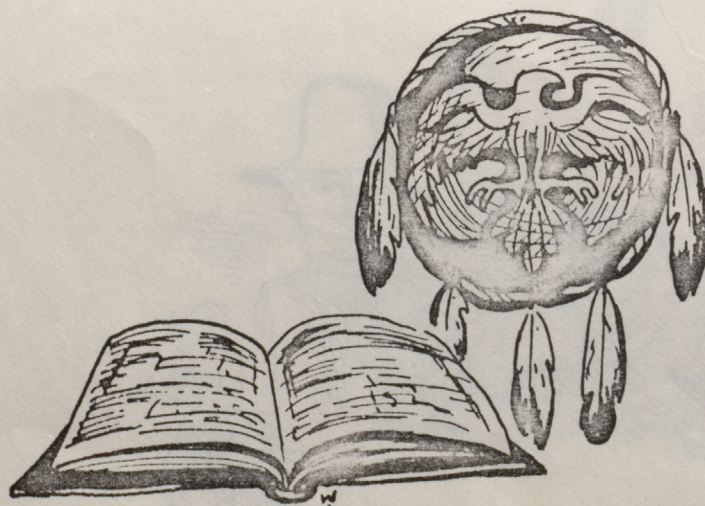
CULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER

The Cultural Resource Center is presently being set up to preserve the history, culture & heritage of Caughnawaga. Too many people think of a resource center (or library) as a place that has a lot of books. This Cultural Resource Center will make available and promote the use of all types of materials including not only books but also pamphlets, Indian newspapers and magazines, articles, archives, unpublished materials, historical photos and prints, films, slides, filmstrips, microfilm, etc.

The Cultural Resource Center will make available the above types of materials on topics concerning Caughnawaga, the Mohawk and the Iroquois, including history, origins, society, language, legends, stories, songs, music and dance, art and crafts, medicine, religion and ceremonialism, etc.

The Resource Center is designed to provide the space for people to come in, look at and use the materials provided in the Center. Most of the books and articles and many of the other materials will be available for borrowing by the people of Caughnawaga. A library-aide will be hired to keep the Cultural Resource Center open on weekday evenings and Sundays so that those who are working daytime, or going to school, may take advantage of its services.

Details concerning the date that the Resource Center will be open and when materials can be borrowed will be provided later.





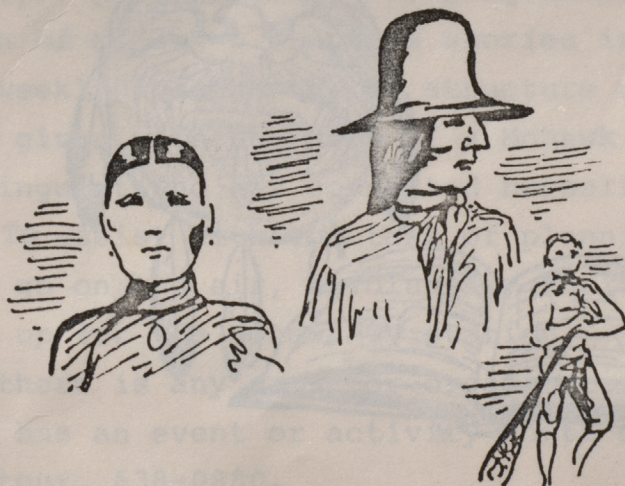
OLD PHOTOS AND PRINTS

A special project of the Cultural Resource Center this summer is the collecting of old photos concerning Caughnawaga and the people of Caughnawaga. The photos would be gathered from the people of Caughnawaga and copied from originals which would immediately be handed back to the owners. We hope to make this as informal as possible whereby certain families or groups of individuals would come into the Center on certain days or evenings to compare and talk about old photos and have them copied.

The Center already has a copy camera and is now in the process of setting up a dark room with equipment to do our own processing. It is hoped within a few weeks we will be set up in such a manner that whenever an individual happens to drop in at the Center with an old photo, it will be immediately copied and the original handed back.

These old photos about Caughnawaga will not only be coming from the people of Caughnawaga, but also from historical libraries in the Montreal area and sources in Ottawa, Quebec City, New York State, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Pennsylvania. We are fortunate to have Dave Blanchard formerly of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago to assist us in securing the photos from outside of Caughnawaga. He's also helping us to coordinate the photo project.

We will notify people when the photo project begins.



Beginning Septe  
offering courses in Ca  
history. These cours  
of Caughnawaga  
also



CULTURAL AWARENESS PROGRAM

Beginning September 1978, KANIEN'KEHA:KA OTIOHKWA will be offering courses in Caughnawaga, Mohawk & Iroquois culture and history. These courses will be offered not only for the people of Caughnawaga who want to learn about their own community, but also for the non-Indian teachers of Caughnawaga's children, and other non-Indian staff in Caughnawaga who would like to learn about the community that they are working in. For this reason, the courses will be offered on a credit and non-credit basis. During the first year, two courses will be offered, in the following manner:

Sept. 1978 - Dec. 1978	1) History of Caughnawaga	Credit
	2) Culture & heritage of the Mohawk	Non-credit
Jan. 1979 - May 1979	1) History of Caughnawaga	Non-credit
	2) Culture & heritage of the Mohawk	Credit

Those who are working toward a degree, or toward accumulation of credits, would want to take the "credit" courses. Those who are taking the courses for their own interest at their own pace would register for the "non-credit" courses.

As much as possible, the courses would be given at KANIEN'KEHA:KA OTIOHKWA to take advantage of the materials and resources in the Cultural Resource Center. Scheduling of the credit courses would be more suited to the needs of the teachers. Time, places, dates will be given later.





IROQUOIS ARTS & CRAFTS

The Arts and Crafts Program under the direction of Linda Deer is expanding on its program to the Boys & Girls Club of Caughnawaga by offering more traditional arts and crafts. Classes which have not been offered before will be in silver and copperware, basket weaving, and woodwork and carving. The club continues to offer classes in beadwork, loomwork and leatherwork.

McGill University Library



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In particular there will be an arts and crafts exchange in the middle of June between Akwesasne and Caughnawaga. The Cultural Committee of "Snye" (Chenail) will be sending some of its members to Caughnawaga for a whole day to learn beadwork from us. In return, Caughnawaga will be sending people the following week to "Snye" for a whole day to learn basketweaving.

We would like to thank the members of the Cultural Committee of "Snye" for their all-out hospitality last Thursday, May 4th, when we went to "Snye" to work out the exchange between the two reserves.

For information concerning the arts and crafts classes, call Linda Deer at the Boys & Girls Club, 632-6601.

