

Maracle, Brant.

There is a tremendous revival . . . sweeping the Indian people

By STEVE HUMMELL
L-A County Bureau Chief

BELLEVILLE — Lecturing to about 300 Quinte Secondary School students here, Brant Maracle, a 32-year-old author — poet from the Tyendinaga Reservation told of the possible consequence and danger of the vote to the Indian people.

When the majority of native people on the reservations across Canada vote, the government will be in a position to declare the reservation voting constituencies, said Mr. Maracle, a Mohawk Indian.

Then will follow the change of reservations to municipalities with implementation of tax policies for Indian people, he added.

This information, he said, was pointed out to him by a "highly confidential" government source.

He said all Indians are North American subjects and have their own government

in the Six Nations Iroquois confederacy. There are those people, who say by voting the Indians will be in a position to influence parliament and have policy changes made, Mr. Maracle advised.

But with 2,272 reservations in Canada there is only a small block of Indian people in one area which, if anything, would not have much effect on the campaign of a local politicians.

"There is a tremendous revival and awakening sweeping the Indian people," he told the students. "The people are returning to their traditional government."

Mr. Maracle said he has been referred to as a militant but this is not correct.

"I am in favor of our native people entering into meaningful consultation with the federal government and meaningful dialogue with the Canadian people to acquaint them with Indian issues and the Indian cause," he said.



—Steve Hummell
BRANT MARACLE, AUTHOR-POET
"In favor of meaningful dialogue"

Mr. Maracle was instrumental in having the controversial "Stoned Ranger" series of advertisements dropped from the broadcasting program of CKWS radio in Kingston after he said it discriminated against the Indian people.

During the Quinte lecture and ensuing question period many topics relative to the Indian cause were discussed.

These included the importance of a settlement of the Indians' aboriginal and treaty rights, the fact Canadian natives have asked for recognition of the sovereignty of the Iroquois confederacy and other native nations, honoring of aboriginal right of the natives to freely travel across the Canadian-United States border with normal goods and many others.

One student felt that Indian people should be paying taxes on their land.

Mr. Maracle replied that in light of the lands surrendered by the Indians and the

land they were cheated and deprived of, "It will take care of the native and non-native for the next millennium . . ."

It is not my intention to alienate white society but to encourage the active participation of our white brothers," he told the students

Mr. Maracle advised that many non-native peoples support the Indian cause once they are acquainted with the injustices Indians have suffered in the past and are suffering today.

He told the students of the government's accelerated program of assimilation but the Indian is desirous of maintaining his identity, culture, language and social and religious practices.

Many of the students remained after school to discuss Indian problems and showed interest in actively helping with the Indian cause.

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