



Ontario teachers on a travel-study safari to Indian communities from Ontario to British Columbia are pictured as they clustered around former Chief Ernest Tootoosis at the gravesite of the famous "Reconciliation" Chief Poundmaker at Cutler, Saskatchewan.

Teachers Study Indian Life

By MARGARET LADE
A Richmond Hill teacher was one of a group of 41 public and high school teachers, four non-academics, and two leaders who travelled more than 7,000 miles in August visiting Indian leaders and their people on reservations, in universities, and at museums and historical sites related to Indian history.

Miss Ann Scott of Don Head Secondary School, reported to "The Liberal" that what appeared to be merely a unique way to earn a university credit resulted in a fulfilling experience for every member of the group.

Leaders of the course were Art Solomon and Professor Edward Newberry of the Sudbury College Laurentian University. The aim of the course was "To understand justice in relation to the native people of Canada", and in attempting to fulfil this aim the group travelled 5,000 miles by chartered bus, 150 miles by ferry and 2,000 miles by air.

SPONSORED BY OTF
The venture was sponsored by the Ontario Teachers' Federation, organized by Laurentian University, and the cost of approximately \$800 each was born by the teachers. The party visited 21 centres across Canada, six of them university programs, and interviewed 38 Indian leaders. Major concern was about justice to the Indian peoples, especially in the areas of education, language, land, law and economic and spiritual liberty.

Highlights of the journey were awareness of the excellence of native leadership in every province, meeting such people as William Sault and Xavier Michon in Thunder Bay; Chief Michano at Heron Bay; Sharon Thomas, Manitoba Indian Brotherhood in Winnipeg; Don Paterson, Impacts program, Brandon, Manitoba; Rodney Soonias and Cecil King, Indian Cultural College, Saskatchewan; Dr. Joe Couture, Indian Association of Alberta; Lawrence Ear, Morley Reserve, Alberta; Alvin McKay, College of Education, University of British Columbia; Flora Baker and Chief Jim Sewid of Alert Bay, British Columbia.

STORY OF CUTKNIFE HILL
Unforgettable moments were an afternoon on the Cutknife battlefield with Ernest Tootoosis, grand nephew of Poundmaker, the great Cree chief in Saskatchewan. The class sat around him beside Poundmaker's grave and the students were enthralled as he recounted the events of the battle of Cutknife Hill.

Another was at the Stoney reserve at Morley in Alberta where the students spent the night in tipis. That evening, under the starry sky, with the mountains looming over them and the Bow river at their feet they listened to the quiet voice of a Stoney Elder as he spoke in his native tongue (translated by his son, sitting at his feet) of the traditional wisdom of his people.

DEDICATE TOTEM POLE
Again at Alert Bay in British Columbia the party arrived just in time to witness the dedication of a great new totem pole (177 feet tall) and were invited to the feast which followed and to the Great House for dancing after that. Premier Dave Barrett of British Columbia was also in attendance.

The department of extension at Laurentian broke new ground when it accepted the proposal from the OTF to offer its "Amerindian Studies" course in travel form. The senate of the university agreed to accept the course for credit and other Ontario universities agreed to equate it with appropriate offerings in their departments of anthropology and sociology.

The plan for the project involved a pre-course reading assignment, a week's orientation on campus, followed by the cross-Canada travel study which reached its western and northerly finale at Alert Bay on Cormorant Island off the northern tip of Vancouver Island. Huron, Iroquois, Ojibwa, Cree, Assiniboine, Salish, Nootka and Kwakiutl tribal groups were visited.

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evaluating their work students were requested to report closely on one of the conferences attended. These reports will be collated and made available to interested people. Also a series of film strips with sound track and manual is being prepared for publication and sale.

One of the strong impressions resulting from the journey, the teachers report, was the excellence of native leadership encountered. They were thrilled by the well-administered projects they encountered and by the wise and imaginative leaders they saw in charge of them. They report also that they were frequently disturbed by the imposition on these projects and leaders of a standard of judgement foreign to their spirit, but upon which their funding precariously rested.

FUNDS RAN OUT
One project that they considered especially fine reported that it had funding for only one more week of operation. Another said that it had been entirely wiped out and had to start again when funds once more were made available. Twice the students felt impelled, literally on the spot to let government authorities know that they considered this situation unjust.

In an interview with "The Times-News" in Thunder Bay, Professor Newberry told the reporter, "The response we got was very significant. Many applied for the course, and we could have had two bus-loads, but you can't work with a group of 100 people." The group travelled west by bus and flew back to Ontario.

An elementary school teacher from Elliot Lake observed, "This type of practical learning experience is a much better way to teach a course than most universities do." She explained at her school children are based in

from reservations, adding, "I want to know about their culture and their background. It gives you a better base to work with."

INDIANS MORE AFFLUENT
From an account published in the "North Island Gazette" datelined Alert Bay, the teachers reported that they found relative affluence among the British Columbia natives in comparison to those in Eastern Ontario, citing Kenora and other outlying Northern Ontario communities.

In the same publication of the "North Island Gazette" James King Tlakwagala of the Kingcome Band is reported as announcing at the totem pole ceremonies that he would be holding a potlatch in honor of his recently deceased sister, the potlatch to be held at Gilford Island starting at 11 am September 7. All members of the Kwakwaka'nan nation were invited to attend. The Victoria "Daily Colonist" also reported on the study trip.

PLAN SECOND PROGRAM
In a brief summary of her impressions of the travel-study course, Don Head's Ann Scott writes:

"It was generally felt that what was learned about the philosophies and world view of our native people, as imparted to us by a number of Indian leaders and tribal elders across Canada gave us insight into another set of values."

"It is certain that these values and view will be remembered whenever members of our group cover "The Canadian Indian" in their social studies or history classes. In turn, students in these classes are sure to receive a richer program as a result of their teachers taking part in this course. Due to the unanimous approval of the 40 odd participants, the OTF is planning to run this program again next year."

Book Sale

The next two Saturdays will be bargain days at two branches of North York Library, with second hand books being sold at 25¢ a copy.

Large numbers of books are withdrawn from the system each year, many in worn condition, others because of date. They have become of limited use to the library and are replaced by newer works.

"It is proposed to collect some of these books together periodically," explains Reg Rawkins, the library's director of public services, "and offer them to the public in a general second-hand sale."

The first such sale took place Saturday at York Woods Branch in Downsview.

This coming Saturday there will be a sale of both children's and adult volumes at Don Mills Branch, 888 Lawrence Avenue East, and on November 3 there will be a sale at Willowdale Library, 5126 Yonge Street.

Doors will be open from 9 am to 5 pm at both locations.

Will House Snorkel Richvale Fire Hall

The new aerial platform or snorkel being purchased for the Richmond Hill Fire Department will be housed in the Richvale Fire Hall, on Spruce Avenue, council learned at its Monday meeting.

To accommodate the large piece of equipment which will be of extreme value in evacuating several persons at a time from a burning building and will provide a vantage point from which the firefighters can pour water on a blaze, alterations will have to be made to the existing building. In particular the doorway will have to be heightened, at a cost of less than \$1,000 according to Ward 5 Councillor Louis Wainwright, chairman of council's fire and personnel committee.

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Town of Richmond Hill PROCLAMATION STANDARD TIME

Notice is hereby given that Daylight Saving Time will terminate in the Town of Richmond Hill at 2:00 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 28

and that at that time all timepieces will be set back one hour, to Eastern Standard Time.

William C. Lazenby Mayor M. Clement Clerk
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