

SIX NATIONS NEWS

PLACE TO PLAY con'd

Councillor Rev. Gordon Hill hastily added that he felt council did not oppose the project.

IT SHOULD DISCOVER why the department of Indian affairs maintains such rigid restrictions against the use of public schools, he said.

Indian Affairs Superintendent Donald Cassie countered that the restrictions were set by the reserve's school committee.

And Councillor Ronald Monture explained that custodians must be paid time-and-a-half for weekend duties and school officials fear damage to equipment.

Mr. Cassie said some compromise may be worked out for the Mohawk Institute's equipment. "It's just a shame that two school gymnasiums are idle," he added.

THE RECREATION committee meets shortly to prepare plans for use of the institute to submit to council's next meeting.

The Mohawk Institute, for over a century a residential school for Ontario's Indian children, closed after the federal government provided increased educational facilities for children in northern regions.

Ottawa promised to turn it over to council when it decided on a use but the matter is still undecided.

NOTE:

It appears strange that those in authority being paid to look after the welfare of the Indian people have not come up with a constructive idea for the use of millions of dollars worth of buildings at the Mohawk Institute. Education, technical and agricultural training and industry should certainly take precedence over recreation. If the former can't see to smarten up by all means let recreation have it. EDITOR

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INSTITUTE MAY BE USED AGAIN

The sound of children's voices may be heard again in Mohawk Institute which has stood empty since the school year ended last June.

The Six Nations elected council decided to let the reserve's recreation commission use the institute's gym for 80 youngsters on Saturdays and some evenings.

The young people would use the facilities for arts, crafts and sports. A formal request will now be made to the department which is expected to charge for extra janitorial service.

The institute was the oldest Indian residential school in the province until it was closed in June. New schools were built in the north to accommodate the children who came from there to attend the school.

The decision, made by the department of northern development and Indian affairs, was criticized by Indians and non-Indian authorities because there was minimal prior consultation between the department and the Six Nations people.

The Confederacy, faction of the reserve began its revolt last summer in the hopes of keeping the school open.

The elected council still has a committee trying to find a full-time use for the institute.

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ARENA MAY TAKE 6 TO 8 YEARS

OHSWEKEN- It may be five to eight years before the Six Nations reserve opens its own community arena, the reserve's elected council was told.

(CON'D)