

SIX NATIONS NEWS

(This editorial appeared in the Hamilton Spectator November 30, 1970.)

A PARK AT CHIEFSWOOD

CHIEFSWOOD, the elegant estate of Six Nations' poetess Pauline Johnson, rests in one of Ontario's loveliest settings, among wooded hills on the banks of the Grand River.

The Six Nations elected council proposes a development program to turn Chiefswood into a cultural and recreational park. In the estate's 16 acres, there is space for all the amenities being considered by the council - facilities for swimming, boating, camping, sports, a craft house and Iroquois stockade village - without encroaching upon the charming dignity of the Johnson house itself.

No site can claim more significance in Canada's cultural heritage. Any plan to tastefully improve it, to make it inviting and accessible to more people, merits support from the federal and provincial governments.

The Johnson house, restored to its nineteenth century state in 1963 is maintained by the council and kept open to the public from May until November. It is a fitting and gracious centrepiece for a park where people may enjoy themselves and feel the history that surrounds them.

"Unlike Dundurn Castle, Chiefswood is a relic not of a period only but of a people, a family and particularly of a person," wrote James G. O'Neil, in 1969. "It is a more intimate experience. It has a personal appeal. It has a wistful quality strangely its own and the restorers plainly understood this and were subtle enough not to destroy it."

Presumably, the same degree of sensitivity would apply to the proposed park development in Chiefswood's grounds. If the Six Nations' council asks for government help, it should be given.

*

*

*

OHSWEKEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Dr. Sally Weaver, professor of anthropology at the University of Waterloo, addressed the Christmas meeting of the Ohsweken Women's Institute at the home of Mrs. James Skye. Dr. Weaver showed slides of her recent trip through Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

Mrs. Harold Woodward chaired the meeting at which reports from the Hamilton Area Convention and the District Semi-Annual Meeting were given by Mrs. James Skye and Mrs. Earl Jamieson. Mrs. Charles Bomberry gave a report on the batik course and showed samples of the work done. The members voted to give a donation to the Lady Willingdon Nursing home for Christmas decorations and also to the Christmas exchange to provide hampers for three families on the reserve.

Christmas gifts were exchanged by the members and lunch was served by the hostess and Mrs. Charles Bomberry.

The January meeting will be held at St. Peter's Parish Hall on January 7, 1971 at 8 p.m.

*

*

*

SEWAGE SYSTEM FOR OHSWEKEN

The Almas Construction Co. Ltd. of Hagersville has begun the first stage of construction for a sewage system in the Village of Ohsweken.

It is expected that the sanitation project will take 2 years or more to complete. The cost will be in the neighbourhood of \$300,000.

*

*

*

The fifteenth General Meeting of the Thirty-seventh Elected Council of the Six Nations Indian Reserve was opened with a prayer by Rev. D. Hayden of the Ministerial Association, on December 1, 1970, in the Council Chambers, Ohsweken, Ontario, with Chief Richard Isaac, presiding.