

# Ganohkwa Sra Grand Opening

by Leigh Thomas

**OHSWEKEN** -- Emotions ran high during the celebration to officially open the first emergency shelter on Six Nations at Chiefswood Road and Bicentennial Trail on Friday.

The 12-bedroom facility creates a homey atmosphere for women and children left homeless as a result of family violence. The soft colors and comfortable furnishings with a large kitchen area, dining area, lounge areas and play areas for children all serve to make the shelter comforting for those in need. Two of the bedrooms are wheelchair accessible.

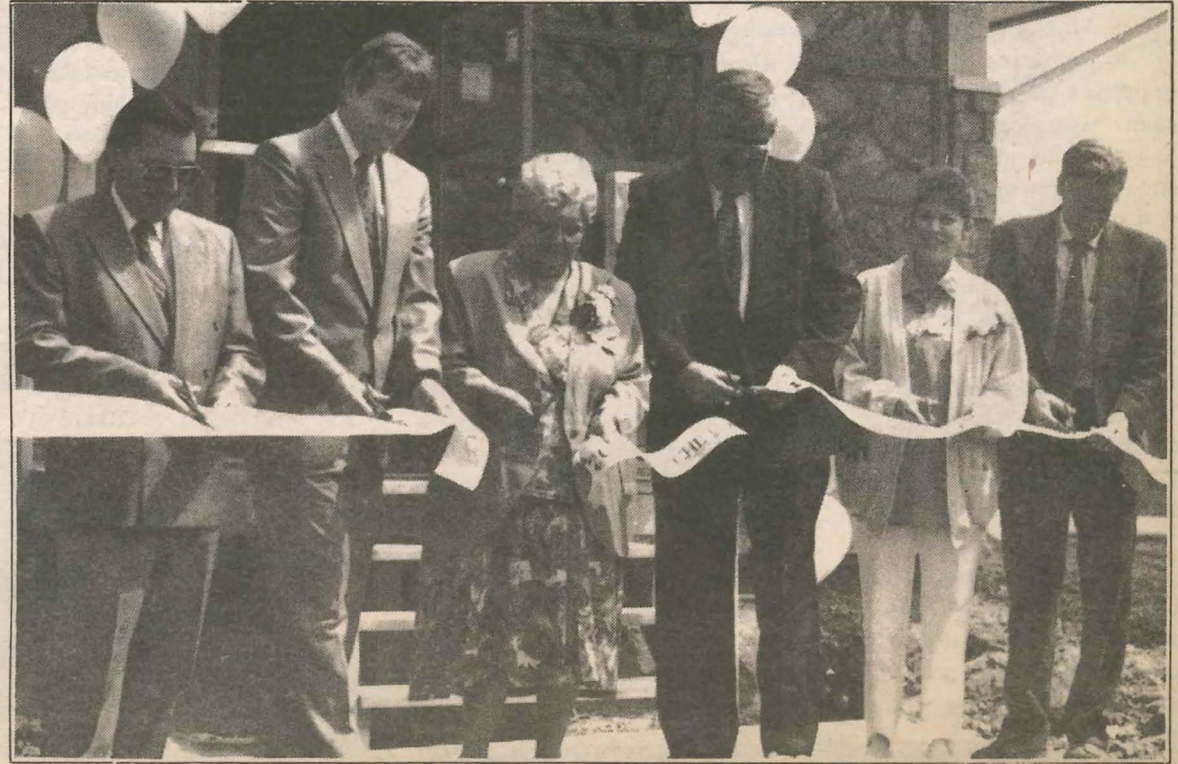
The shelter's name, Ganohkwa Sra, is a phrase in Cayuga Language meaning 'love among

us', and was chosen because it is the goal sought for all families and because it is through 'love among us' the community can put an end to family violence.

"The special needs of Native women and their children will be well served with the opening of Ganohkwa Sra," said Claude Bennett, Chairman of the Board of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. "Victims of family violence need compassion, understanding and time to heal. Ganohkwa Sra will provide a supportive environment, free from the threat of violence," said Bennett.

Ganohkwa Sra will provide shelter, food and support to women

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With Board members Shirley Farmer and Alice Bomberry holding the ends of the ribbon (not shown), Six Nations Chief Councillor, Steve Williams, Chairperson of the Board, Wilma General, Director Reva Bomberry along with Peter Friedmann, CMHC, Bob Brant, INAC, and Tom Goff, Organizations & Systems Development all cut the ribbon to officially open the new shelter.