

Independence Day "Bread & Cheese" Tradition Attended By 3,000 Or More



Approximately 3,000 people attended the traditional Six Nations Independence Day "Bread and Cheese" festivities held at the Ohsweken Fairgrounds on Monday, May 19th. Shown enjoying their portion of cheddar cheese and thickly sliced homemade bread are (l-r)—Tanis Ire'and, Grafton Antone and Sandra Antone. Side Henhawk, chairman of the Community Centre Board, said 2,500 pounds of cheese and 1,600 loaves of bread were served at no charge to anyone attending the celebration. About 40 volunteers were on hand to distribute the food. The "Bread and Cheese" tradition began more than a century ago, when Queen Victoria provided money, on her birthday for the distribution of blankets to each member of the Six Nations band in appreciation of their dedicated loyalty to the Crown during the American Revolution. The gift was later changed to bread and cheese due to the increasing cost of blankets. Today the expense for the food, which was estimated at over \$7,000, is paid for by the Band Council.