

# High school grads honored at dinner

OHSWEKEN — A couple of weeks ago, I attended this year's dinner for the 1986-87 high school graduates prepared by the Six Nations-New Credit school committee. For several years, the school committee has had the dinner as a way of recognizing the achievements of the local Indian students who have pursued higher learning. This year there were 54 high school graduates.

Also honored were the Indian students with the highest averages from grades 9 to 13. Scott C. Hill led the Grade 9 boys with a 78 per cent average. Scott is the son of Jack and Janice Hill of the Little Buffalo area of the reserve. Tops for girls was Shannon Monture with 86 per cent.

Kyle Steven Thomas did even better, leading the Grade 10s with a 90 per cent average. Leslie Sault, one of our Mississauga Ojibwe neighbors from the New Credit area, topped the Grade 10 girls with 82 per cent.

David Hill, with 82 per cent, and Shirley Maracle, with 78 per cent, were the best in Grade 11. In Grade 12, Michael Miller led the boys with 77 per cent. This is the same Mike Miller who was leading Brantford's junior hockey team in scoring last week. Leading the girls was Tracy Silversmith, with 73 per cent. Drew Hill, with 78 per cent, and Kathleen Lickers,

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with 80 per cent, led the Grade 13s.

There are now 450 Indian students from Six Nations and New Credit reserves attending area high schools. Some go to Waterford, but most attend Hagersville, Caledonia, Cayuga or one of the Brantford schools. There are about 1,130 students in all, counting the 12 elementary schools on the two reserves

As is common elsewhere, most Indian students ride a yellow bus to school. There are even kindergarten buses for the tiny tots.

For the 10th consecutive year, the C. Ruby Smith-Sears Memorial Scholarships also were awarded. These scholarships go to second-year university or college students. This year, the nine recipients were Rosslyn Skye, Tina Jacobs, Lana J. VanEvery, Darrin Jamieson, Robbie S. Hill, Carole Y. Smith, Toni J. Hen-

hawk, Deneen S. Longboat and Blanche Hill. Each recipient will receive more than \$1,000 in two payments.

The former Ruby Smith from the Six Nations Reserve married into the wealthy Sears family, of the Sears-Roebuck Co. in the U.S. This scholarship fund for Six Nations students is a bequest from her estate, which so far has awarded \$107,950. A scholarship committee selects the winners from those who apply.

One of this year's winners, Blanche Hill, has returned to school after raising her family. Students are not always youngsters still wet behind the ears.

The Six Nations-New Credit school committee has nine members, with a representative from each of the six electoral districts on the reserve and one from New Credit. There is a representative from the Six Nations council. The Indian Affairs Department is represented by the acting superintendent of education, Harvey Longboat.