

July 22, 23 1989

Powwow serves to bring family, friends together

By Janet Sinnott
Expositor Staff

For Ellie Hill, the Champion of Champions Powwow at Chiefswood Park near Caledonia this weekend put her in touch with a long lost relative.

Mrs. Hill, a Mohawk, was born on the Six Nations Reserve but now lives in Clearwater, Fla.

While visiting the powwow the 85-year-old began talking to a person who turned out to be her cousin.

Meeting her cousin also put her in touch with other distant relatives.

Meeting place

"I found a lot of relatives I didn't know I had," she said.

That's what the powwow has done for others as well. It brings together family and friends.

"It's a social celebration. It's a very social kind of event. You make new friends and meet old friends which is very important to preserve the culture," said Buntly Anquo, a jingle dancer from Oklahoma.

"It's like a big family reunion where Indians gather together to eat Indian food and dance. I just go to dance for the love of the culture," said Rhonda Moore of Windsor who was among the estimated 10,000 people at the weekend powwow.

For many, the powwow is a weekly event; they go to a different powwow every weekend. A weekly powwow is what they've been do-

ing all their lives. Don Morrison, from London, said he once drove to Albuquerque, N.M. for a weekend powwow. His reason: he loves to dance.

The dance competition was the biggest hit at the park with spectators snapping pictures of the colorful costumes and talented dancers. Spectators watched as the teams and individuals competed for up to \$20,000 in prizes.

Visitors sampled Indian tacos, corn soup, and fried bread to the beat of Indian drums while taking in the native culture at the many booths selling crafts, jewelry, wood carvings, pottery, and clothes.

Visitors came from as far away as Toronto to spend the afternoon at an Indian powwow and learn more about the people who occupied the land long before the first white man ever settled here.

Julie Hoover said she enjoyed her first powwow. "It's very nice. They're beautiful, really nice." She said the Indian culture intrigued her very much. "It's something new and different," she said.

Dancers at the Grand River Champion of Champions Powwow competed for almost \$20,000 in the dance competition at Chiefswood Park on the weekend.

Winner of the tiny tot girls category was Jodi King, of Wisconsin while Cory Hindsley, also of Wisconsin, captured first place for tiny tot boys.

Christina Bomberry, of Six Nations, won the girls aged six to 11

fancy and Sonny Phillips, of London, captured first place for boys six to 11 fancy.

Nicole Miller, of London, won the girls six to 11 traditional dancing and Mike Bomberry, of Six Nations, won boys six to 11 traditional.

In the young women's fancy for those aged 12 to 17, Charlene Klein, of Michigan, came out of top and Stan White of Walpole Island won the young men's fancy for ages 12 to 17.

Yanavia Haungooch, of Arizona, captured first place for young women's traditional 12 to 17, and Rick Taylor, of North Carolina, won the young men's traditional in that age group.

Eldon Copenace, of Whitefish Bay came in first in men's grass. Terri Brown, of Wisconsin, won the women's jingle dress competition. Becky Taylor, of Wisconsin, won the women's fancy competition and Darwin Thunder, of Wisconsin, won the men's fancy.

Oralann Caldwell, of Wisconsin, won women's traditional and Jordan Williams of Walpole Island, won men's traditional.

The Sidesteppers won the first ever team dancing competition at the Powwow.

In the singing competition, Young Nation, of New York, captured first place.

The Champion of Champions dancer with the most points for the Grand River Powwow was Terri Brown.

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Taking a break: Delsun Redbird, 23 months, of Wind-sor, takes time out from dancing to cool down with a sno-cone at the Grand River Champion of

Brian Thompson, Expositor Staff
Champions Powwow at Chiefswood Park Saturday and Sunday. More than 100 dancers came from across Canada and the United States to compete. Story and pictures on Page 5.

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Dale Doxtater of the Six Nations performs a traditional dance Saturday at Chiefswood Park during the Grand River Powwow.