

Grand River Days attract 600 people

June 25/96

OHSWEKEN — Wet weather put a damper on the Grand River Days festival during the weekend.

Organizers had planned to have regular stage shows on Saturday and Sunday, but most of the action ended up in the food tents where visitors could warm up with corn soup, scones and hot drinks.

"It's time for a sun dance," laughed Jan Porter, director of Six Nations Tourism.

Most of the activities were put off until Sunday when improved weather was expected to attract more people.

"We had a lot more people brave the weather," said Ms. Porter. She estimated there was about 600 people attending.

A mini-olympics was held as well as a "gong show" which was a hit, said Ms. Porter. Cherie Smith, 10, got by her jazz dance act without a gong from the audience to win first prize.

Blue grass music band, Echoes of Blue Grass, provided the music and Buddy Big Mountain was also on hand to perform his puppet show and magic act.

"He had them in stitches," said Ms. Porter.

She said the purpose of Grand River Days was to promote cultural awareness in the community.

"We're hoping to build this event in the future to show there are more groups than the Iroquois here," she said. "That's why it was a mixture of contemporary and traditional."



Wayne Roper, Expositor Staff
Haoyadihoh Hill, 7, checks the weather situation outside a plains Indian teepee, one of four erected by his grandfather Jim Sky on Saturday at Grand River Days.