

# Courses offered in native studies

OHSWEKEN — One of my neighbors on Indian line, which runs along the southern edge of the Six Nations reserve, is Jake Thomas. For the last few years Jake and his wife, Yvonne, have been striving to build the Iroquoian Institute. For the last couple of years a large sign at the end of their long lane way has proudly proclaimed it as "the future site of the Iroquoian Institute."

The Iroquoian Institute is envisioned by a group of concerned individuals as a learning centre devoted to preserving Iroquoian philosophy, values and traditional teachings.

Jacob E. Thomas, a faithkeeper in the Longhouse and a Six Nations Confederacy Chief, is chairman of the board of directors. He is an associate professor in the Native Studies department of Trent University.

Mr. Thomas will be offering a credit course in Native Studies from the Institute at R1 Wilsonville starting this week. For inquiries regarding this course, contact Yvonne Thomas at 519-445-2097 or Trent University at 705-748-1229. The title for this course is NS 220 Iroquois Culture and Traditions.

Jake will also teach a liberal studies credit course for Mohawk College at their New Credit Campus, just north of Hagersville. It will be a study of the political, economic, kinship and religious institutions of traditional Iroquois society. It will include the prehistoric background, the establishment of the Six Nations Confederacy, the Longhouse religion and their contemporary situation. This course starts on Sept. 25 and goes from 7 to 9 p.m. each Tuesday.

*Sept 13/90*

**Our Town**

George  
Beaver



Starting on Sept. 23, Mr. Thomas will conduct Mohawk language immersion classes from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. From 2 to 4 p.m. he will have Onondaga immersion classes. These classes will be conducted on Sundays at The Iroquoian Institute in Indian line. The fee for the language courses are \$50 each.

A weekend workshop at the Iroquoian Institute, tentatively set for some time in September, promises to be very interesting, as well as unusual.

The workshop will be on the making of wampum. Apparently it is very difficult to make wampum beads. Modern machinery often breaks in the attempt.

Courtney Murray, who will be the instructor of this workshop, is said to know four effective methods of wampum making. The fee for this workshop is \$100.

The Iroquoian Institute is a non-profit organization and donations to it are tax deductible.

If you wish to contribute to it or want more information on courses offered, the address is, The Iroquoian Institute, R1 Wilsonville, Ont. N0E 1Z0.