

The Mississaugas have always been known as an industrious people quite capable of looking after themselves. The band members of today are carrying on that tradition. All are employed and the band's welfare costs are nil. Many are busily engaged, in their off hours, building themselves modern housing.

Many new houses have been built in the past few years and more than a dozen are under construction. A \$500,000 program will rebuild all the roads on the reserve but the program threatens the shade trees which now line the roads.

Top priority has been given by Chief King to the provision of a new community hall, needed to replace the aging, former army barracks building which has served the purpose for 20 years.

The 48-year-old father of 11 children is proud of his people but insists that they help themselves. He refused to dole out wholesale housing grants which are available under a federal Indian aid program.

The program provides that an Indian, with the approval of his band council, may receive a \$7,000 federal grant to build a new house.

"But," Chief King said, "I put my foot down. If you build the whole thing for them they don't appreciate it."

He convinced the band council to give members only \$2,300, not only insuring that those receiving the grants have to help themselves but also getting three housing starts from one grant.

"We told our people that if they were willing to help themselves we were willing to help them, that all they were going to get was \$2,300 and the rest was up to them."

Like residents of many urban communities, some of their land is in the shadow of the plans for a Government agency. Ontario Hydro is seeking a 900-foot wide right-of-way across the reserve to carry power from its new thermal electric generating station near St. Thomas.

The Hydro proposal will necessitate the moving of several houses and farm buildings which lie in its path. Hydro has made no offer for the property but Chief King is determined that the 10 families directly affected receive adequate compensation. He is also seeking a royalty from Hydro for the band funds.

With the help of the group of residents in the new town he hopes to establish a pottery factory on the reserve as a basic industry. A pottery factory will give the younger generation a chance to carry on the traditions of their people, provide additional employment for band members and provide the band with a steady income, Chief King said.

By comparison with other bands, the Mississaugas are poor. But the money they have is directed toward the needs of the people. A \$6,500 Government grant to the band was used to buy a new fire truck for the town of Hagersville and under agreement with the town the reserve has full fire protection.

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Coming Next Week - A letter from a Teen.

Staff:

New Credit: W. LaForme, S. Shantz  
Six Nations: A. & W. Jamieson  
Sour Springs: G. Lewis  
Typist: R. Bender  
Production: Smiles and chuckles

To Whom This May Concern

I'd like to announce the 19th anniversary of my parents on March 26, 1968. Their names are Mr. & Mrs. Albert Smoke. Please wish them lots of love and best wishes from all the kids. We hope they have a hundred more.