



**Steve Williams**  
Chief Councillor

# Glebe sand pit shut off

By David Young  
Expositor Staff

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Mohawk traditionalists have drawn a line in the sand.

No sand, whether it is already piled up or not, will leave the Glebe property until archaeological studies and soil tests of the site are carefully examined by the people of Six Nations.

Earlier this month, Mohawks put a padlock on the gate to the 90-acre Glebe property behind Pauline Johnson Collegiate and moved a camper trailer onto it.

The Mohawks have begun a 24-hour watch to protect the land and those they say are buried in it. Band council says their research reveals no evidence of a burial ground.

The seizure of the land has shut off the elected band council's access to the pit and threatens to put a financial crunch on the council this winter when it comes time to sand roads.

## \$120,000 worth

The council estimates it needs roughly \$120,000 worth of sand this year.

About \$50,000-worth has already been excavated and mixed with salt in a large pile.

Even if band council could retrieve the pile, they would still be short another \$70,000 worth of sand.

Williams said the extra cost would come from the Public Works budget and will probably mean that some road projects won't get done.

Last week, band councillor Winona Johnson advocated getting the sand even if it caused a confrontation.

The Mohawks on the property have said their intentions are peaceful, but if they have to they will fight.

One of the quiet political issues has been exactly whose land it is — not whether it belongs to Six Nations but which of the nations.

A growing number of traditional Mohawks argue that the original grant for land along the Grand River was given to the Mohawk Nation specifically.

The Glebe land, therefore, is Mohawk land that was never surrendered.

But Williams said records show that the land was legally surrendered in 1827 by the traditional confederacy council to the federal government.

The land was later bought back by the band with money from the Six Nations bank account.

That means the land belongs to all band members, said Williams.