

Confederacy chiefs will assemble in Ohsweken

EXPOSITOR STAFF
Ohsweken

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Six Nations residents will welcome traditional Iroquois Confederacy chiefs from Canada and the U.S. for an assembly at the Onondaga Longhouse on Aug. 19.

Gathering the People has been organized so at least 50 chiefs can relax and socialize, said Wendy Hill, one of about 20 volunteers arranging the event.

"Chiefs only get to come together when there's business," she explained, adding that this is the first purely social gathering in recent memory.

"It's also to show appreciation for them."

The RCMP ousted the traditional council at Six Nations in 1924, imposing the widely re-

sented elected band council system that remains today.

A significant — though undefined — portion of the Six Nations community still looks to the Confederacy council for leadership.

Clanmothers and faithkeepers also will be honored at Gathering the People, and all Six Nations residents can attend. A barbecue and pot-luck meal will be provided.

Festivities begin at noon. A pick-up lacrosse game at 2 p.m. is open to anyone who wants to play.

Food donations and financial contributions from individuals or businesses would be appreciated, Hill said.

Anyone who can help should call Pine Tree Native Centre at 752-5132.