

the initiative of a Mississauga chief, Peter Jones M. D., son of the Reverend Peter Jones and a graduate of Queen's University. The Grand General Council met at the present New Credit Council House, which was opened on September 15 as part of the Council proceedings. Eight years later the Reserve was visited by the Curator of the Provincial Archaeological Museum, David Boyle, who wrote that:

the whole band numbering 258 (213 in Tuscarora and 45 in Oneida), under the superintendence of Dr. Jones presents a model for imitation by those of Indian origin in other parts of America. Their farms are in a good state of cultivation, and well fenced. The live stock will compare favorably with that of the neighbouring whites; the houses, as a rule, are commodious, clean, and comfortable, and no stranger driving through the settlement could observe anything to indicate that the land was farmed by other than white men.

As late as 1913 a noted ethnologist recorded that "the Indian inhabitants have often won prizes against white competitors at the agricultural fairs. The New Credit Indians ... are the most advanced of the Mississauga and represent one of the most successful attempts of any American Indian group to assimilate the culture of the whites."

Throughout this period of agricultural prosperity and self-dependence, the Mississauga remained concerned over their title to the Reserve land. By 1900 the New Credit Council wanted a more permanent title than the Six Nations' affirmations of 1847 and 1865. In September 1900 a \$10,000.00 purchase agreement was reached between Councils whereby the Mississauga secured "for all time, in settlement of a dispute of many years standing, the right of undisturbed use and occupancy of the land on the Six Nations Reserve" occupied by the New Credit Band. The purchase was authorized by Order-in-Council on July 14, 1903.

Farming declined as the mainstay of the Reserve after the Great War and particularly during the Depression. Faced with the trend to larger farms, heavy capital expenditure, and unable to sell or mortgage reserve land, many farmers abandoned once prosperous fields. Increasing numbers of Mississauga obtained work off the Reserve and now they are employed at a variety of jobs in the surrounding district. The present population of New Credit is about 520, many of whom are direct descendants of the Mississauga who first settled in Tuscarora and Oneida townships. Descendants are also found in other reserves throughout the province, including Alwick, Curve Lake, Scugog Island, and Tyendinaga.