Tutela Heights story from page 4



tela Heights proposed construction site, and it shows nine specific areas of archaeological significance, and three more very close by.

"It was an ideal location for the Tutelos," says Kraemer, "overseeing the river and allowing them to see for miles from that vantage point."

In the 1700s, fear of their bitter Haudenosaunee enemies, especially the Seneca, and European settler pressure in their original homeland in the Virginia and West Virginia area caused them to join with the Saponi Nation and eventually move north to seek protection under the Iroquois Confederacy.

The Tutelo, or Yesan, Yesah or Yesang, as they called themselves, were adopted as a Nation under the Cayugas in 1753 and suffered loss of life and land in their adopted new home with the Haudenosaunee during the Sullivan raids of 1779, following the American Revolution.

Their village of "Coreorgonel" was located near present-day Ithaca, New York and Buttermilk Falls State Park.

After joining the Confederacy and moving to Brant County, the Tutelo were eventually absorbed through marriage and decimated by Cholera. Many Cayugas have Tutelo blood somewhere in their genes. The last known full blooded and language-speaking Tutelo was Nikonha or Waskiteng ("Old Mosqui-



Quite the variety of artifacts have been found in the Tutela heights area where a development is planned.

to"), who died in 1870 at the age of 105. The last known mixed blood Tutelo speaker was John Key, or Gostango ('Below the Rock'), whose Tutelo name was Nastabon ('Cne Step'), and who died in 1898 at age of about 80.

In recent years, others have found thousands of small beads, indicating the Tutelo were very interested in bead working.

"Years ago there was a young man who dug up a skull from that area, took it home and put it under his bed," recalls Kraemer. "When his mother found it, she was horrified and told him to get rid of it."

She does not know what ever became of it.

"At the very least there should be some kind of plaque or something on it to recognize the Tutelo," Kraemer says. "What I and others have found is only a bit of what is there," she says. "I hate to see it developed."

Six Nations Elected Council is in consultations with Walton and along with ASI, will conduct a second information meeting at the Six Nations Community Hall set for November 23rd, at the Sports Den room, between 3 pm and 7 pm.