Douglas trial put on hold

By Paul Baswick

BRANTFORD — A clearer image of the events surrounding last year's eviction attempt at the Douglas residence on Mohawk Road began developing in Brantford Provincial Court over the past week, but it won't be until next year that the court is presented a full picture of what actually happened.

The case against Albert Douglas, 26, and Darrel Marr, 44, who face numerous charges stemming from their intervention in an eviction attempt at the home of Arnold's father, Albert, has been put on hold until next April due to scheduling constraints.

The trial will be reconvened at Brantford Provincial Court on 44 Queen St. on April 17, two years to the day of the attempted eviction, and will continue until at least April 19.

Both men face charges of obstructing a peace officer, assaulting a police officer, and assault with a weapon following a violent confrontation with Six Nations Police on April 17, 2000, who were assisting with the eviction order at the Arnold Douglas home.

Arnold Douglas had been charged with assaulting a police officer, obstructing a peace officer, and dangerous driving, but all charges were dropped at the beginning of four days of testimony which got underway Tuesday.

The attempted eviction at Douglas residence marked the first, and so far the only move by Six Nations Band Council to force debtors with Six Nations Housing to vacate their homes and to forfeit them as property to the band. The eviction was never carried out, however, and the attempt quickly escalated into a heated scuffle which left Albert Douglas and a Six Nations Police officer with serious head injuries.

While Marr and Douglas are the only individuals facing criminal charges from the events of April 17, it appeared from last week's proceedings that they are not the only two on trial. A number of questions have been raised concerning not only the actions of Douglas and Marr, but those of the of Six Nations Police, band council, and the Sheriff's Office of the County of Brant in the preparation and execution of the eviction order.

The prosecution has already conceded the order to vacate issued to Arnold Douglas by Sherrif's Officer John Dobson on April 5, 2001 listed an incorrect lot number, and that the eviction attempt almost two weeks later was technically carried out on the wrong property. The property listed on the order was lot 30-7-2, which is adjacent to lot 30-7-1, the site of Douglas' house.

Under cross-examination Thursday, Dobson was