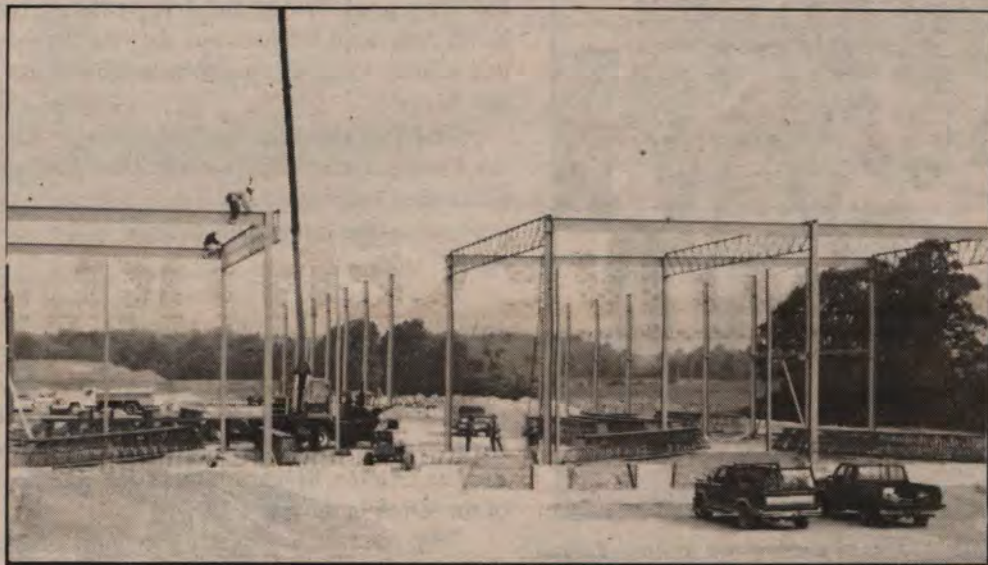


# Oneida Business Park taking shape

Chief Staats says new yarn factory at 4th Line site promises job spin-offs for community

by Mark McEachern



Local businesses are helping in the construction of the new factory and are also making contributions to the entire Oneida Business Park lay-out as well.

Casinadhen says that the Grand River Mills company will manufacture 22,000 pounds of cotton a day into yarn, and the factory will be open seven days a week except for Christmas and July. The factory will create approximately 70

textile related jobs (no experience necessary and five administration and office jobs.

"The spin-off businesses includes the production of paper cones (to wrap the finished yarn on), the production of felt (made from

the bi-products of the yarn-spinning operations) and the selling of excess bi-products (to stuff pillows)."

"I want the very best in quality and productivity," said Casinadhen. "This is the latest technology in this type of textile manufactur-



ing and I don't want to be a guinea pig in all of this. I have to make things work."

"We are aiming for 85% efficiency in our first year, 87% in our second and 90% in our third year of operation," he added.

Casinadhen says that this partnership with a First Nations community was more than just a business decision and he feels good about moving this textile company to the Oneida Enterprise Park site.

"There were other possibilities as to where we could have moved our operations, but I wanted to bring this company to Six Nations and have 90% of the management to be from Six Nations," he said. "My goal in all of this is to one day have this whole operation operated by the people of Six Nations 100%."

Chief Staats says that the Oneida Enterprise Park will bring in business interests from other companies once the factory is up and running.

"You can't help but have spin off for other jobs and businesses to come here," he said. "60% of the

work force here so far has been native and we've had a lot of people apply for jobs at the factory through

GREAT (Grand River Employment and Training)."