Six Nations celebrates historic ties to "Crown" with

By Donna Duric Writer

This year's Bread and Cheese Day celebrations saw some of the largest crowds ever, with thousands of people packing the Gaylord Powless Arena on Monday to receive their annual helping of fresh bakery bread and zesty chunks of cheddar cheese.

Like a well-oiled machine, about 80 community volunteers handed out around \$25,000 worth of bread and cheese (2,500 loaves of bread and 3,000 pounds of cheese) Monday.

Six Nations Elected Chief Ava Hill said it was one of the largest Bread and Cheese Day crowds she had ever seen.

"It's the biggest we've ever seen it."

The annual event stems

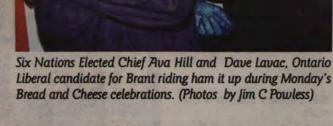


Thousands lined up for the annual Bread and Cheese giveaway at Six Nations on Victoria Day Monday after over 80 volunteers spent hours cutting the blocks of cheese and loaves of bread in preparation for the giveaway that is drawing people from all over southern Ontario, New York and Quebec. (Photo by Jim C Powless)

from the tradition of Queen Victoria giving gifts to the Six Nations community for their allegiance to the British Crown during the American Revolution and War of 1812.

"It's significant in that to co our relationship is still year."

with the Crown," said Hill. "It's a gift from the Crown and we continue to celebrate it every



Thousands came from near and far, with some Six Nations members even trekking up from New York State, Quebec,

Northern Ontario and surrounding towns of Brantford, Hagersville, Caledonia and Hamilton, (Continued on page 3)

Victoria Day Bread and Cheese celebrati



Jascinda Martin-Able home from college, carried a huge Bread and Cheese Day smile through the lines. (Photo by Jim C Powless)

great day, a sunny day, a celebration in itself."

An outdoor midway that accompanied Bread and Cheese Day celebrations was packed.

Johnson, a Vietnam War veteran, said the day is an important reminder to the Crown about Six Nations' allied relationship with the Crown, during both wartime and peacetime.

"It's our association with the Crown and always will be," said Johnson. "We were allies, not subjects, but allies and that's really important to remind people and the



Councillor Helen Miller hands out bread and cheese.



A parade winds its way through the huge lineups at the arena Monday. (Photo by Jim C Powless)

choose the companies to ironically, he said the weather was "too hot." supply the bread and

cooked bread. "This year, it's great," said Johnson.

cheese.Last year, there

were complaints of under-

He said his favourite part of Bread and Cheese every year is seeing old

friends and community members.



Six Nations Councillor Terry General and his wife Cheryl were giving out bread and cheese to the elders when moments later they were swarmed by a crowd of people who made thier way into the arena early through a side door and began taking the bread and cheese. Volunteers ran over to disperse the crowd.

(Continued from page 2)

the community event has begun rival a tourist attraction.

"It's a time for them to reacquaint with old family and friends and make new friends," said Hill,



Yup, love that Bread and

who's been volunteering at the event for over 10 "It's a good day because everyone comes together as one community and that's the message I want to get out there. We're all one community and we want the same things."

The whole process of handing out bread and cheese took about one hour, starting at noon, after a parade led by Six Nations veterans first wound its way through the heart of the community, down Fourth Line, and into the arena parking lot, showcasing floats from various community groups and organizations.

Six Nations Councillor Bob Johnson, who was at the arena at 7:30 a.m. on Monday to start cutting the bread and cheese, said this year's event



Carolyn King, a former new Credit chief, attends the tasty

couldn't have gone better.

as throngs of people sauntered through the arena, chunks of bread and cheese in hand. "I'm more than pleased to be



Crown."

There were no com-

plaints about the quality

of the bread and cheese

event.

"This is terrific," he said

part of this day. It's one



The line-up stretched down Fourth Line almost to Chiefswood Road.

this year, after council undertook a special tastetesting session weeks in advance of the day to

Six Nations Fire Chief Mike Seth, who attended day was "excellent" but,

The funds for the event came out of Six Nations' with his family, said the roughly \$2 million Ottawa Trust Fund.