



Cayuga Chief Jacob E. (Jake) Thomas suddenly on Sunday, August 16, 1998 died at the age of 76 at the Henderson Hospital, Hamilton.

Local elder "Jake" Thomas dead at age 76

by Scott Smith

SIX NATIONS -- Family, friends and the community at large mourned the death this week of respected elder and Confederacy Chief Jacob E. "Jake" Thomas, who suffered a heart attack at his Townline Rd. home early Sunday evening and later died at Henderson Hospital in Hamilton.

Thomas, whose Chief's title was Teyohowe'tho, the eighth Cayuga title and fortieth overall in the list of fifty Hodenosaunee chiefs, was 76 yrs. old.

He is survived by second wife Yvonne, 14 children and 45 grandchildren.

Thomas was best known as an educator and conservator of Iroquoian languages and culture, both here in the community and outside it. He was the founder and central character behind the Jake Thomas Learning Centre, a language and multimedia centre located in front of his home on Townline Rd.

Thomas also taught the Cayuga, Mohawk and Onondaga languages for many years at Trent University in Peterborough. As well, he offered a class in Iroquoian culture and tradi-

tions that was well-attended by both Native and non-Native students.

Chief Thomas was perhaps the last Six

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