

Smoke Signals Radio Archive Episode 2000-05-06
Segment 5
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Dan Smoke tells listeners about the first Condolence Ceremony taking place at the Mohawk Nation Longhouse, a sacred ceremony that has not taken place since the 1970s. The ceremony raises and elevates Chiefs, Clan Mothers and Faith Keepers of a nation. In the ceremony occurring today, two Chiefs from the Mohawk nation are being elevated.

Host(s): Dan Smoke, Mary Lou Smoke

DAN SMOKE: Aanii! Boozhoo! Koolamalsi! Shekoli! You're listening to Smoke Signals. That was **Jimmy Wolf**. Jimmy Wolf, he was a musician who came to London back in the mid 80s, he tells me. I was talking to him probably about a month ago, and he had just sent us a CD and I was telling him how much I loved it, and he said that he played at the Talbot Inn, I guess it was called, or Mingles? It used to be a blues establishment and he played with a blues band that travelled all through Ontario. So, he's been playing blues for a long, long time. He's now got his own band that he fronts, and if you want to hear him live, he's going to be performing at the **Strawberry Festival** on the **Akwesasne Reserve** on July 1st, which is a fundraiser for the **Mohawk Nation Longhouse**. The Mohawk Nation Longhouse is also the site of the first condolence ceremony, the raising, elevating of the Chiefs ceremony, that's taking place today. As a matter of fact, probably as we speak. Because these ceremonies are very sacred, they take place between the hours of 10 and 2, usually. But because the times have changed, they probably started earlier and they're probably going to go later. But the reason for that is because the sun is at its highest point, the sun is at its zenith on our eldest brother the Sun's skyward journey from the east to the west. And when he's at his highest, that is a time when we do not have anything to hide. We don't cast a shadow, so nothing is hidden. Nothing can hide in our shadow; we have no hidden agenda.

And so, we want the Creator to witness that we are still following his sacred instructions in elevating our ceremonial people and this, today, in Akwesasne at the Longhouse there, there are going to be two Chiefs that are going to be elevated. Two chiefs of the **Mohawk** nation. And I don't know what their names are, but because this is the first one in many, many years, since the 70s that this has been done, there's going to be a couple thousand **Haudenosaunee** people, longhouse people, there to witness the ceremony. The first in a long, long time. So, this is going to be the first of many condolence ceremonies. As I understand it, the **Seneca** are getting ready, the **Oneidas** are getting ready, the **Cayugas** are getting ready, and the **Onondaga** will also be elevating some Chiefs and clan mothers and faith keepers. This millennium marks this new beginning of the traditional awareness and the traditional raising of our sacred instructions. So, we're very, very grateful for that. I know that there are several people going from the London area district. Darlene Richie, executive director of the **Atlohsa Native Family Healing Service Agency**, is down there, and a number of singers, a number of people who have been practicing this condolence ceremony are also there in Akwesasne this weekend. One of our Elders, Jan Longboat, Mohawk Elder from the **Turtle Clan**, she went to go and witness the ceremony because it's so important to the longhouse people, to the Haudenosaunee, that these ceremonies be revived because it revives our tradition, it revives our people. It revives our sacred instructions, and we have a responsibility to pass that on to the young generation, to the younger people, to the coming faces for the next seven generations. It's our responsibility, the responsibility of our generation to do that. This is a really good thing; I'm really glad this is happening. We're very fortunate to be witnessing this.

DS: Okay, another blues group. A blues sensational group, actually. **Indigenous**. They're a **Lakota** family, Indigenous from St. Paul, Minneapolis. This comes from their ***Love in the Mist*** CD. And we're going to close this week with, "**It's One of Those Things**," here on Smoke Signals. Onen ki' wahi, gawaabamin, to everyone!