

# Activists threaten protests

## Grand R. sewer crossing causes heated exchange at city council

By ROSS MAROWITS  
EXPOSITOR STAFF  
Brantford

The political heat is being turned up over over a planned sewer crossing beneath the Grand River.

Native and environmental activists have threatened to protest against the crossing when work is slated to commence in a couple of weeks.

In a letter sent to Mayor Chris Friel on Tuesday, native spokesman Ken Hill of the Onondaga Beaver Clan urged the city to issue a moratorium on any projects in the Haldimand treaty tract of land.

"Any attempt to procede [sic] without approval from the Six Nations Confederacy Council can only be taken as potentially confrontational, paternalistic, and from a historical perspective, illegal," he wrote.

"I am requesting that you, Mr. Friel, take our concerns very seriously and take appropriate measures to avoid unnecessary problems."

The threat of physical confrontation was also alluded to during Tuesday evening's city council meeting.

→ The meeting saw a verbal battle erupt when Alex Jamieson Jr. of Six Nations berated councillors for their 'racist' actions during a delegation on the sewer issue.

After listening to Jamieson call councillors white supremacists, Friel unilaterally adjourned the meeting before silencing the microphones as Jamieson and a colleague stood at the podium.

"I won't be censored on the island," Jamieson yelled before resuming a verbal sparring match with the mayor once the television cameras had been turned off.

"It's South Africa right in Canada."

### SERVICE INDUSTRIAL LAND

A protest against an underwater river crossing more than three years ago helped to put the entire sewer project on hold. The city needs the sewer to service its northwest industrial land.

Before the meeting was prematurely adjourned, Six Nations environmental adviser John Hanselman tried to explain how drilling method being adopted by the city for the sewer project won't eliminate potential environmental damage.

And he urged the municipality to

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## Sesqui festivities facing financial shortfall

EXPOSITOR STAFF  
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City council may be approached in the coming months to bail out this year's sesquicentennial celebrations.

The organizing committee anticipates having a \$11,000 shortfall despite \$104,000 in donations. Some of that deficit could be reduced with additional sales of sesquicentennial coins.

The original operating budget of \$163,000 was reduced when it became apparent that the fund-raising target could not be achieved, Mayor Chris Friel said Tuesday.

Council could be asked to provide about \$7,000 to offset the costs to produce a color brochure that was distributed outside the community.

With last month's sesquicentennial weekend completed, much of



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After years of delay and some \$17 million in municipal costs preparing the industrial park for servicing, council now has vowed to proceed with the sewer crossing.

Kast Construction Ltd. had been awarded a \$3.1-million contract to construct a sanitary sewer beneath the river bed. The tender follows an agreement between the city and the Six Nations elected council.

The work is expected to be completed within two or three months.

Jamieson said he hasn't started to plan any protests against the sewer crossing but he told reporters that he expects there will be actions.

Friel said the city will deal with whatever protests come its way. He refused to elaborate.

"We've talked with all the appropriate government organizations," he repeated several times.

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With last month's sesquicentennial weekend completed, much of the planning work for this year's festivities has concluded. However, a new committee has been established to continue planning, tourism consultant Bob McConkey told councillors Tuesday.

Unfortunately, the public has an incorrect perception that the sesquicentennial celebrations have concluded, he said.

"This community is not ready to wind it up," said McConkey.

The organizing committee's financial difficulties resulted partially because corporations sponsored individual sesquicentennial events instead of contributing to the umbrella group.

The year-long festivities conclude with a New Year's Eve party, for which a separate committee is hard at work raising money.

Aug 6/97