

## **What's New at Sharbot Lake?**

### **The Cesspool of Impunity Overfloweth**

September 1, 2009

With so many crooks around, who is there left to prosecute corruption? From the fraudulent native land claim to complicit police to greedy government officials, everyone looks to be involved in the theft and plunder of Mother Earth's riches around Sharbot Lake, 50 km north of Kingston, Ontario. We have repeatedly exposed this piracy and violence yet it continues.

In the summer of 2007, a phoney protest against uranium mining was held at the Robertsville mine site near Sharbot Lake. The lead players were trying to cash in on mining speculation and a fraudulent Algonquin land claim. Many concerned people were caught up in the fight against uranium mining pollution of the land, water and air. One by one, they are learning what was really going on. To date there is no uranium mine.

Two local pretend Algonquin groups, the Shabot "Which Way to Sharbot Lake" Algonquins and the Ardoch "All Chiefs No Indians" Algonquins staged an encampment, later referred to as a blockade. The police run experiment was anything but a blockade! There were many OPP inside the gates, taking notes and monitoring the situation. The only other entrance to the mining area was manned by OPP cruisers. Police were everywhere, photographing visitors and ready to intervene "at their discretion".

What was the price tag for all this law enforcement which involved a big trailer, OPP from other communities and round the clock surveillance? To the credit of everyone involved there was no overt violence but plenty of intimidation against those who questioned the agenda. Hundreds of visitors and supporters came to the site. Many discerning individuals left in disgust at the fraud going on.

At first the Shabot Algonquins, led by Doreen Davis, Earl Badour and Larry McDermott wanted to work with the mining company, Frontenac Ventures Corp. (FVC) led by George White. The Ardoch Algonquins led by OPP and Chief Randy Cota, Harold Perry and Robert Lovelace set up the protest camp in time for the Aboriginal Day of Action on June 29. They sent out a call for supporters. The Shabots had joined them by then.

Some settlers agreed to wage an information campaign and act as support to the Algonquins. They set up an organization and web site, Concerned Citizens against Mining Uranium (CCAMU). Many members of the Green Party were involved including Donna Dillman, member of the National Council of the Green Party. They worked with the Sharbot Lake newspaper, Frontenac News, now owned by Jeff Green to publicize the protest.

The presence of police inside the 100-day encampment was the main overt indication that things were not quite kosher. After we contacted Mohawk Nation News (MNN) at Kahnawake, a series of damning and incisive articles was published by MNN. This could not have been done without the tireless effort and keen insights of local Indigenous who were vilified by the protest organizers.

After the camp was dismantled over Thanksgiving weekend in October 2007, the Shabots again agreed to work with Frontenac Ventures Corp. and the Ontario government. In the summer of 2008, FVC denied exploration drilling was going on. Earl Recoskie, a local settler with a plane, monitored the mining claims and photographed the drill holes while the "NoGonquins" sat in Toronto chatting with Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Michael Bryant and representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Bryant\* later quit and was replaced by Brad Duguid. The Recoskies continued to speak out against the conspiracy but no one appeared to be listening.

An internal Algonquin negotiation document has since been brought to our attention. We thought you'd like to know about this theft of taxpayers money and ongoing denial of Indigenous land rights and sovereignty.

Keep in mind that the area claimed by the Algonquins of Ontario is not entirely Algonquin territory. It's a very complicated picture. This fraud should keep a legal mess going for years. Historically, it is Huron territory. The Hurons and the Algonquins were friends, family and trading partners.

Some Mohawks claim it is held under Haudenosaunee trusteeship since the 1701 Treaty of Montreal. The Indigenous people who occupy the Sharbot Lake area came from Lake of Two Mountains, Quebec near Kahnatesake. Most don't know if they are Algonquin, Mohawk or otherwise. Some members are not Indigenous at all. They have to say they are Algonquin if they want to join any of the nine Algonquin communities set up for the negotiations. The Algonquin community, Pikwakanagan at Golden Lake was established on land purchased by some Algonquins from the Crown around the time the Indian Act was made in 1876.

The Ardochs are not part of these negotiations. They have separate and secret arrangements. Their pow wow will be held this coming weekend at Malcolm Lake near Ardoch on land the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources "gave" to them. The other Ardoch group has been renamed the Snimikobi Algonquins and is led by Randy Malcolm.

The Algonquin Treaty Negotiation Funding Trust was set up to pay for the ongoing land claim negotiations, ie, money-grabbing performance. The trustees are Doreen Davis of Shabots, Davie Joannis of Antoine and Jerry Lavalee of Pikwakanagan. To date, the trust fund has been loaned close to \$10million by the various government agencies, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Ontario ministries of Aboriginal

Affairs and Natural Resources.

How will the growing debt be paid? By the time any claim is settled, the Crown will likely try to "repossess" the land.

A financial statement of the Trust for the year ending March, 2009 was prepared by Kanata Chartered Accountant, W. J. Lamb. For this one year alone, the Trust received \$1.2million. The breakdown of the figures is outrageous!

Travel expenses totaled \$127,633 while meals and accommodation are set at \$67,020 for the 16 Algonquin Negotiation Representatives. Each of the 16 ANRs is paid a \$50,000 base salary with a generous budget for "expenses". Their office expenses total \$402,500, close to \$1/2million for the one year. Wow, they must have some snazzy computers, cell phones and mahogany desks. The non-informative newsletter mailed to members got \$46,000 while the communications program got another \$20,000. With Frontenac News publishing an ongoing series on the Algonquin negotiations, the question arises, "How much did Jeff Green get paid for his role as embedded media?"

Professional services came to \$340,132. This would include Algonquin negotiator and lawyer Robert Potts who was paid at least \$138,938 and history twister, Joan Holmes who got up to \$200,000 for her role in creating a fake Algonquin history and people.

Elders were paid \$50,000 for the "Consultation Program", \$75,000 for the "Negotiations Preparedness Initiative" and another \$25,000 for "Gathering Strength - Reorientation of Self Government", making a total of \$150,000. How much of this money went to respected Algonquin elder and nanogenarian William Commanda of Kitigan Zibi? He frequently brings his wampum to the meetings to help legitimize the Algonquins of Ontario claim.

The accounting and audit fees reached \$57,775. Close to \$74,000 was allocated to dealing with FVC though it is not clear if this was to work with the uranium company or to oppose it.

While real Indigenous people need decent housing and clean water, this handful of renegades live high on the colonial hog. All these theatrics and grand larceny continue. What can be done to stop it? Who is able to put an end to such criminal behaviour.

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\*When this same Michael Bryant was Ontario Attorney General, he wanted Shawn Brant to get 12 years in prison on charges of mischief. Bryant was arrested last night, August 31 after a car accident in Toronto. A cyclist clinging to the side of his car as he sped off, died of head injuries. As of noon today, Bryant has not yet been charged. The cesspool of impunity is overflowing!

Notes:

<http://www.premier.gov.on.ca/team/biography.asp?MPPID=54&Lang=EN>

Michael Bryant was elected as the Member of Provincial Parliament for St. Paul's in 1999, 2003 and 2007. He was awarded Now Magazine's Best Toronto MPP for 2008. As Minister of Economic Development from September 2008 to May 2009, Bryant helped Ontario companies, workers and communities meet the challenges of a global recession. He led the government's efforts to help companies invest in new technology and led a strategy to reduce the amount of regulation faced by Ontario businesses.

Bryant was Ontario's youngest-ever Attorney General, serving throughout the McGuinty government's first four-year term as its Chief Legal Officer. During that time, Bryant legalized paralegals, fixed election dates, banned pit bulls, overhauled the human rights system, re-created the Law Reform Commission, re-established civilian oversight of police, depoliticized Justice of the Peace appointments, called three public inquiries, passed the Same Sex Spousal law in a week, and established Canada's first-ever Organized Justice prosecutor-police operations centre.

As Aboriginal Affairs Minister in 2007-08, Bryant personally negotiated the largest revenue sharing agreement with Ontario First Nations in Canadian history (\$2 billion gaming agreement over 25 years); returned Ipperwash Provincial Park to its First Nation; established the \$25-million New Relationship Fund, and commenced resource revenue sharing agreements with Aboriginal Peoples. As House Leader since 2007, Bryant reformed the legislature rules to establish morning Question Periods and full-day legislative sessions. Born and raised in Victoria, B.C., Bryant was educated at the University of British Columbia, Osgoode Hall Law School and Harvard University.

He practiced law in Toronto, clerked at the Supreme Court of Canada, and taught law and politics at the University of Toronto, Osgoode Hall, and King's College (London). Bryant is married to entertainment lawyer Susan Abramovitch, with whom he has two young children.