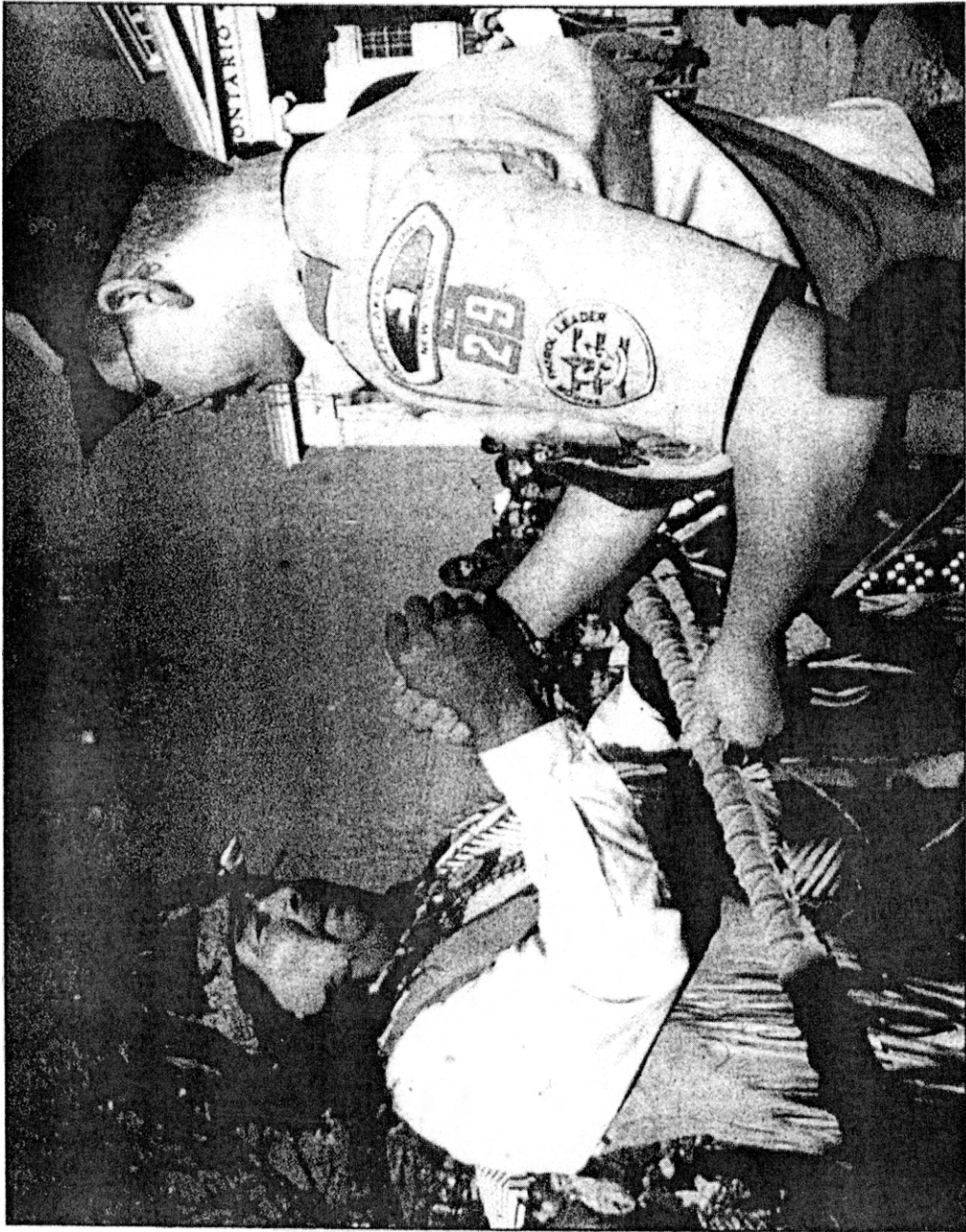




Messenger photo by Kelly Burgess  
 In a climactic moment at the 200th anniversary celebration of the Canandaigua Treaty on Friday, Jay Claus of the Tuscarora Nation and Jeff Gleason of Canandaigua Boy Scout Troop 29 acted as runners, inviting their two contingents to come together in peace and friendship.

# Peace march

## Canandaigua Treaty event draws 5,000

□ People from across the nation celebrate a 200-year-old treaty and the peace it began.

By ANNE JOHNSTON  
 Messenger Staff Reporter

CANANDAIGUA — When the clock on City Hall struck 1 on Friday afternoon, the lawn of the Ontario County Court House lawn was virtually empty.

But slowly over the next hour, people from all over the country began to converge, eventually standing thousands strong to reaffirm and celebrate a pact made on that exact spot 200 years ago.

On Nov. 11, 1794, representatives of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy — the Haudenosaunee — traveled to the settlement of Canandaigua to negotiate a treaty with representatives of the fledgling United States government, led by Colonel Timothy Pickering.

The treaty, which established peace and friendship, has not been broken since.

Although the skies had been gray in the morning, there was not a cloud in sight as people began to line Main Street in anticipation of Friday's gala **TREATY Page 6A**

# Legacy of the Canandaigua Treaty



Police estimated the crowd at Friday's Canandaigua Treaty Celebration, seen here from the roof of a downtown building, to number around 5,000.



Jay Claus of the Tuscarora Nation stands proudly during the ceremony on the Ontario County Court House steps.

# TREATY

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celebration.

Among those waiting for the festivities to begin was 11-year-old Chapin Campbell, a descendant of General Israel Chapin, one of the government officials who witnessed the treaty signing.

Campbell had traveled from North Carolina with his grandparents, mother and brother for the event.

"It's going to be really interesting to see the celebration of the treaty signed by my ancestor — it's the only one that hasn't been broken," he said, pausing to lick his ice cream cone.

"I'm gonna take lots of pictures," he added. "It's gonna be really cool."

His grandfather, Jacob Koonen, agreed: "This is a magic time."

Soon the processions of Native Americans and representatives of the U.S. Government gathered and began to march toward each other on Main Street, stopping at the opposite approaches to the courthouse.

After runners from each side were sent forward to issue invitations to each other, the two contingents joined and walked up to the front steps of the courthouse together.

There, they were welcomed by G. Peter Jemison of the Seneca Nation, the co-chairman of the 1794 Canandaigua Treaty Commemoration Committee.

"You are witnessing history here, ladies and gentlemen," Jemison said, meeting with a hearty round of applause.

After a thanksgiving address from Clayton Logan of the Seneca Nation and a speech from Jake Swamp of the Mohawk Nation, U.S. Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-Fairport, delivered best wishes from President Clinton and told the crowd that she was honored to be the official representative of the federal government.

"Peace has been perpetual," Slaughter said. "Our chains of friendship have been strained and encroachments have been made on land, but every time, the treaty held."

"Let us continue to live in peace and friendship," she said, echoing the wording of the agreement's text.

Also on hand was Ada Deer, assistant secretary for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

A member of the Menominee Nation, Deer said that she feels the weight of history on her shoulders every day, as she does her best to carry out the duties of the government to Native Americans.



Eleven-year-old Chapin Campbell of North Carolina listens intently to one of the speakers. He is a descendant of General Israel Chapin, who did much of the preparation for the treaty signing 200 years ago.

"We must continue to build on the spirit of mutual respect and cooperation which is inherent in the treaty," said Deer, who then presented Onondaga Chief Leon Shenandoah with the muslin cloth promised in the treaty.

Shenandoah and others noted the importance of the children present at the ceremony, some of whom placed flowers on the treaty's historic marker, Council Rock.

"May all our children only know peace through this preservation and honoring of our treaty," said Jane LeClair, a member of the commemoration committee that spent 10 years planning the 200th anniversary celebration.

As the crowd began to disperse, Vernon "Barney" Jemerson, the co-chairman of the committee, said he was pleased with both the weather and the turn-out.

"So many people came here today with the dream of people living in peace," he said.

Though the sun began to set and the air turned colder, some of those people lingered awhile to take pictures or pause to take in the significance of the occasion.

One of them was Sylvia Hanlon, a Fairport art teacher who brought her three-year-old son, Kieran, to the occasion.

"I guess I come here with mixed feelings, because 200 years ago, people were camping around here, probably in our yards," she said. "But at the

same time, this is a wonderful thing to see. There's a lot of beauty to be appreciated."

The historic weekend's events concluded yesterday, with a six-hour symposium titled "1794-1994: Polishing the Rust from the Chain," in the auditorium of Canandaigua Academy.

Panelists included Deer, Seneca historian John Mohawk, and Oren Lyons, a faithkeeper with the Onondaga nation and a professor of Native American studies at SUNY Buffalo.

"It's great to see that today and yesterday, two nations that are clearly defined came together, and shook hands again," Lyons said, noting that the people of Canandaigua should be congratulated for demanding that the U.S. uphold its end of the treaty.

"That shows that although things may be tarnished, they can be polished," he said.

During a question and answer session, one Haudenosaunee man in the audience approached the microphone to ask Deer what message she will carry back with her to government officials in Washington.

"I want to convey to the people in the Department of Interior, and elsewhere in Washington, the beauty and the symbolism of this celebration," she said. "But more importantly, that the treaty is still alive, and we still have important obligations under the treaty." ◀



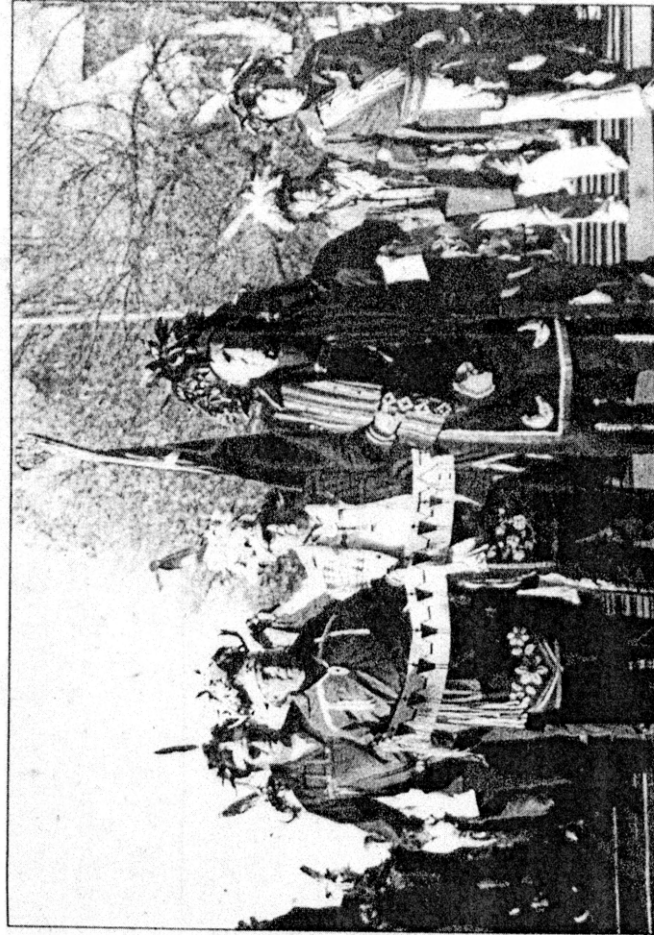


Tuscarora Chief Leo Henry and Chief Emerson Webster of Tonawanda hold a replica of the George Washington Belt, commissioned by the president to be a gift to the Six Nations.



Dressed in period costumes, Mike Woods and Holly Pet-sos of Rochester were among those marching with the federal government contingent.

# 200 years of peace and friendship



The procession of Native Americans, headed by Onondaga Chief Leon Shenandoah, makes its way down Main Street. A contingent representing Americans walked toward them from the opposite direction. The two parades joined at the Ontario County Court House.



U.S. Rep. Louise Slaughter, the official representative of the federal government, greets Chief Leon Shenandoah of the Onondaga Nation.





Randy Vakiener, an employee of the city parks and recreation department, puts down a runner on North Main Street, where the two parades met. The two dark rows represent an American sailboat and an Indian canoe sailing side by side in the same direction. They represent the separate but harmonious ways of life of the two cultures.



Native Americans hold a replica of the George Washington wampum belt in front of the podium on the courthouse steps.