

Douglas Creek Estates Demonstration
Chronology of Events
Haldimand County

Feb. 28/06 – Occupation/demonstration begins.

- March 4/06 – Meeting at Caledonia library called by Six Nations Band Council to discuss the occupation issue. In attendance Six Nations Council members, OPP, County Council members, and Henco representatives. Confederacy representatives had been invited but did not attend.
- Issue between demonstrators and landowners. A number of court actions ensue, ultimately resulting in contempt orders against occupiers and directions that OPP enforce court orders. County monitors the situation and has a representative of the County's Solicitor attend one session of court.
- March 24/06 – Evening conference call between Ministers Prentice and Finley, Mayor Trainer, Deputy Mayor Patterson, Councillor Ashbaugh and Chief Administrative Officer Pearce. County requests speedy resolution to issue and compensation for builders and developer. Agree to have a follow-up face-to-face meeting.
- March 27/06 – Mayor Trainer, Councilor Ashbaugh and CAO Pearce identified by Council as County representatives to meet with Ministers Prentice and Finley in Ottawa.
- April 7/06 – County representatives meet with Ministers Prentice, Finley and Staffs and Brant MP Lloyd St Amand. County presents the following proposal regarding the Douglas Creek Estates demonstration:

Requested Action from the Federal and Provincial Governments

- A public commitment by the Federal Government with a timeframe to expedite the land claims settlement process regarding the Six Nations claims.
- A clarification of the legitimacy of the crown deeds and how it affects the ownership of land by individuals or corporations. This is needed to restore faith in land ownership within Haldimand County.
- A stated position on the legality of the present occupation.

- Compensation or some type of immediate financial relief for affected developer/builders to allow time for the OPP to continue further negotiations.
- A clarification of the roles of the Federal and Provincial governments with respect to land claims and settlement processes.
- A comprehensive education program, either separately or jointly with Six Nations, regarding the land claims issue and what it means to existing or potential land owners in Haldimand County.

What Haldimand County is willing to do (subject to full Council approval)

- Look at maintaining official plan agricultural land designations between urban Caledonia and the Six Nations reserve to address Six Nations concerns about urban expansion that may impact the Reserve.
 - Assist with any land claims education programs established by Six Nations and/or the Federal Government.
 - Participate in programs intended to restore any broken relationships between Six Nations and Haldimand County residents resulting from the Native demonstration.
 - Meet with Six Nations leadership to identify and discuss common issues (e.g. water supply, land use issues) and work towards their resolution.
- County delegation emphasizes the need to recognize the Confederacy, expedite the land claims process and compensate developer and builders.
- April 10/06 – Council-in-Committee Meeting – In-camera session with OPP representatives, Six Nations elected Band Chief David General and British Columbia Native Chief Stewart Phillip to discuss Douglas Creek Estates demonstration.
- April 11/06 – County representatives summoned to Brantford to talk to Provincial representatives. Re-iterate proposal presented to Federal government on April 7/06. County delegation asked to attend preliminary negotiations with all affected parties in Brantford on April 12/06.
- April 12/06 – County representatives attend first day of preliminary negotiations and put on the table proposal (same as submitted to Minister of Indian Affairs) to identify County's contribution to help resolve issues.

- April 13/06 – Continuation of preliminary negotiations. Canada and Ontario table proposal to resolve issues (much of which is similar to what County asked the Federal Government to do). Includes proposal from County to establish a buffer zone between Caledonia and Reserve. Senior government levels and Six Nations leadership decide to continue negotiations based on government proposal.

- April 20/06 – OPP removes protesters but is not able to secure Douglas Creek Estates. Protesters re-occupy the property plus other areas, and close up south part of Argyle Street, Hwy #6 By-pass south of the Grand River and Rail America short line from Grand River to Hwy #6.

- County activates part of its Emergency Control Group, which sets up a base at the Caledonia Satellite Office, establishes detours around barricaded areas, prepares contingency plans for emergency services and monitors situation.

- April 21/06 - Emergency Control sub group (ECSG) continues to monitor situation and respond to requests from OPP and Ministry of Transportation (MTO).

- April 22/06 – Emergency Control sub group meets in morning to review the situation.

- April 23/06 – Emergency (closed) Council meeting. Staff brings Council up to date as to the status of the situation and County actions taken to date. Council discusses various issues resulting from the blockades.

- April 24/06 – Emergency Control sub group continues to meet and discusses planned citizen's rally to be held in front of Satellite office. Emergency (closed) Council meeting held to discuss rally. Council meets with rally organizers and convinces them to re-locate rally to fairs grounds. County pays rental fees and backstops fair grounds board from any liability that could result from the rally.

- Doug Carr, Provincial Assistant Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs briefs Council on negotiation progress to date. Council recommends that Province establish a 1-800 number to provide information to residents (Province follows through with this proposal). Council passes motions asking for observer status at negotiations and designating CAO as County representative.

– ECSG on standby regarding second demonstration at police line in front of barricades on Argyle Street South. ECSG monitors situation with OPP. Demonstration eventually dissipates.

April 25/06 – ECSG continues to operate at Caledonia Satellite office. Emergency (closed) Council meeting held from which a number of resolutions are passed to address Mayor Trainer's statement on national television.

Delegation of Council members apologize to Six Nations members and other Natives at the barricades.

- April 26/06 – ECSG stands down base of operations at Caledonia Satellite office to meet for status report up-dates on a bi-daily basis.

- April 27/06 – County advised that it has been granted observer status on working group sub-committee dealing with the Douglas Creek Estates occupation.

- April 28/06 – Emergency (closed) Council meeting to hear from Provincial Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs John Burke and Assistant Deputy Minister Neil Smith of Economic Development. Deputy Minister Burke announces \$100,000 in provincial funding to help the County deal with communications regarding the demonstration and economic development recovery for Caledonia and area.

- ECSG is re-activated for another planned citizen's demonstration at the police line near the Argyle Street South barricades. A significant OPP presence helps keeps the situation under control.

- April 29/06- Province announces that David Peterson has agreed to step in and try to resolve short term issues (e.g. occupation of roads and railway).

- April 30/06 – Senior County staff meet with John Burke and Neil Smith in Brantford to provide background information. Also meet with Doug Carr and David Peterson (separately) regarding the blockade situation.

- May 1/06 – Regular Council-in-Committee meeting – closed session – discussions with David Peterson.

- Meeting of Douglas Creek Estates Working Group in Brantford.

- May 5/06 – Council emergency meeting attended by Deputy Minister Burke to provide an up-date on negotiations.

- May 6/06 – Part of ECSG is activated for another planned evening demonstration at the police line.

- May 11/06 – Council meeting with Deputy Minister Burke and Assistant Deputy Minister Smith. Council decides to hold a special Council meeting on May 15th to discuss the road and rail closure issues.

- May 12/06 – David Peterson meets with Council representatives and leadership of newly formed group called "Caledonia Citizens' Alliance", to provide an up-date on negotiations and identify the possibility that the barriers could be

removed within a week based on statements made by Confederacy Chief McNaughton.

- May 15/06 – County Council holds special meeting and receives up-dates from Deputy Minister John Burke, and Assistant Deputy Minister Doug Carr. Council provides chronology of events listing County involvement in the issue. Council also makes a public statement encouraging removal of the barricades to show good faith on the part of Six Nations leadership and help re-build and improve relationships between Six Nations and surrounding communities.

- May 16/06 – EMS Managers and CAO allowed to check out blockaded part of Argyle Street to determine if EMS vehicles can traverse road blocks. It appears that only minimal roadblocks exist (e.g. can be easily dismantled or moved).

- May 22/06 – Native occupiers remove barricade on Argyle Street but non-native protesters block road and halt traffic. The situation escalates. Caledonia transformer station is damaged resulting in widespread power outage.

- Council gathers at the Caledonia Satellite office and holds an in-camera Council in Committee meeting to discuss the latest events. David Peterson joins the meeting for a time. Because of the power outage the meeting was moved to the Haldimand Hydro offices that had back-up power. The Mayor declares a State of Emergency due to the power outage.

- The Haldimand County Emergency Control Group is then formally activated and moves to the Cayuga Administration office where power back-up exists. This group meets until after midnight to plan for contingencies to deal with the power outage. (The group continues to meet on a daily basis.)

- May 23/06 – Council meets to discuss the latest events (as part of its regular Council in Committee meeting). The Emergency Control Group also continues to meet throughout the day. David Peterson is involved in Council discussions.

- Argyle Street opened to traffic in mid afternoon. OPP clear non-native demonstrators from road to allow unimpeded traffic on Argyle Street. Council advised of all of these actions.

- Provincial staff recommend establishment of Provincial/Municipal Liaison Table to keep current with occupation events for information sharing purposes. Membership is as follows: Mayor Trainer and three Councilors (Ashbaugh, Dalimonte and Boyko), County CAO, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs; Assistant Deputy Minister, Economic Development; OPP; Aboriginal Affairs/negotiating team; Caledonia Citizens' Alliance representatives.

- May 24/06 – first meeting of Liaison Table, Brantford

- May 25/06 – second meeting of Liaison Table – Minister of Economic Development attends and announces \$500,000. Initial emergency financial assistance program for Caledonia businesses.
- May 26/06 – County and Provincial staff meet to plan details of financial assistance program
- May 29/06 – Meeting of Liaison Table. In evening at Council meeting, Council approves Communications and Business Recovery Plans.
- May 30/06 – Emergency Financial Assistance Program office opens in Caledonia.
- June 1/06 – Justice Marshall reconvenes court on DCE issues. County's solicitor participates.
- Provincial/Municipal Liaison Table meeting.
- June 7/06 – Mayor lifts State of Emergency.
- Provincial/Municipal Liaison Table meeting.
- June 8/06 – Province announces \$160,000 in funding for business recovery marketing plan proposed by County Council on May 29th.
- June 9/06 – Some Native protestors move off-site and apparently commit various assaults. County Emergency Control Sub-group activated for evening.
- June 12/06 – At Council-in-Committee meeting, council discusses latest issues regarding DCE and passes resolution to request Provincial and Federal Governments to cease negotiations with Six Nations leadership until all barricades are removed, the rail line opened and occupiers of DCE are moved a safe distance (to be determined by the County) from populated areas around DCE.
- Co-incidentally that evening the barricades are removed and rail line opened and by mid-afternoon of the 13th, the Highway #6 by-pass is opened to traffic.
- June 14/06 – Meeting of the Liaison Table.
- June 16/06 – Province announces agreement in principle to purchase DCE, an additional \$1,000,000 to fund an expanded business assistance program and a financial relief program for individuals and families directly impacted by the DCE situation.
- June 19/06 County staff meet with Provincial staff to assist with the structuring of the residential assistance program.

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