

Native Paper Reports AK47 Gun Used in Recent Shooting and event started on DCE.

May 29, 2007



In the May 23, 2007 issue of Turtle Island News, native spokeswoman Janie Jamieson stated that there were in fact firearms on the Douglas Creek Estates (DCE) reclamation site in Caledonia, this contrary to previous reports that no firearms had ever been taken onto the site.

Jamieson went on to say that on May 17, 2007, there was an incident in which a firearm was involved at Kanohnstaton, the name given by natives to the DCE site. She stated that as a result of this all persons who want to go onto the site will be subjected to searches in order to both get on and off the site. The supposition is this is to prevent firearms from being both taken on, as well as off the DCE site.

The plan was to build heavily secured gates at entry points onto the site. Also, the Ontario Provincial Police will be allowed to continue aerial searches of the site according to Jamieson. Jamieson went on to state that their Chiefs and Clanmothers would also be doing their own checks and more security personnel would be added at the DCE site.

It appears that the incident with the AK47 was sparked by internal bickering over security at the reclamation site. One woman was quoted as saying that it was people currently on the site who were causing all the problems and that all adults except Carol Bomberry and Janie Jamieson had left the site fearing for their own safety.

The incident involving the AK47 left Donald Leslie VanEvery, 47, of Oshweken, facing charges of attempted murder, use of a firearm while committing an offense, possession of a firearm, uttering a death threat, and pointing a firearm after firing it at a Bald Eagles Nest Smoke shop at about 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, 2007. The smoke shop is located on Highway 6 and Fifth Line.

OPP were quoted as stating the suspect, VanEvery, may have been on the DCE site prior to the shooting.

CaledoniaWakeUpCall was notified by an eye witness who saw the suspect, waiving the firearm and threatening to kill someone. The eye witness reported this to OPP stationed near the DCE, but no attempt was made by the OPP to prevent the suspect from leaving the DCE. Instead the OPP called Six Nations Police to come and handle the situation.

One of the men in the dispute left and drove to the smoke shop. He was talking with Six Nations Police on the phone when VanEvery drove by and attempted to shoot the man. He missed, but continued shooting and as a result hit the smoke shop and shot the employee who was in the smoke shop at the time hitting him in the arm when a bullet came through the plywood wall of the smoke shop. A customer coming out of the smoke shop was barely missed being hit by gunfire as well. Six to ten shots were fired.

The victim was sent to hospital, treated and released.

VanEvery fled and hid in his mother's house on Six Nations reserve. He was later caught by Six Nations Police and turned over to the OPP in Haldimand Region.

The big question, apart from why are we just now 'officially' finding out there are indeed dangerous weapons on the DCE, but why did the OPP not attempt to prevent VanEvery from even leaving the DCE? He had an AK47, was waving it around and threatening to shoot someone with it. If the OPP had acted immediately, rather than calling Six Nations Police, VanEvery could have been detained and the shooting of an innocent man would have been prevented. The reality is more than one person could easily have been shot and even killed.

And the even bigger question is what was an AK47 doing on the DCE? The AK47 is a prohibited firearm in Canada. In plain English, you're NOT ALLOWED to own one. So the only way for this weapon to get onto the DCE was to have been smuggled into Canada. Also, since natives are exempt from the gun registry, any legal firearms they possess are exempt from having to be registered.

There are many residents in Caledonia who's backyards are right up against the DCE, so what if this illegal firearm was discharged on the DCE and hit one of the residents or one of their little children?

Feel safer now?!

Two links to Turtle Island news article:

<http://www.theturtleislandnews.com/newspaper/2007/may/23/page2.htm>

<http://www.theturtleislandnews.com/newspaper/2007/may/23/page6.htm>