

Turtle Island News editor attacked by demonstrator while others watch

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Turtle Island News

Turtle Island News Editor, Lynda Powless was attacked by a Six Nations man involved in the Hagersville demonstration last Wednesday.

Powless had arrived at the housing development on Highway 6 in Hagersville and had just greeted the demonstrators when a man approached her and began shouting at her.

Ken Green, a regular in security at the Caledonia reclamation site chastised Powless for coverage of incidents at the site in recent weeks.

The reclamation has been the site of several incidents from fires to assaults to drug use in recent weeks.

Turtle Island News has reported on the events.

Green objected to the coverage along with several other young men with him, who accused the newspaper of "telling lies."

Green pushed himself forward into Powless, shoving her back three times and threatening her as Powless warned Green to stop or he could face assault charges. Green refused yelling "under who's law."

Local resident and elder Floyd Montour intervened and tried to calm Green down.

As the incident accelerated several Six Nations people stood by watching.

As Powless attempted to walk away Green began shouting and came towards her again only to be restrained by Montour.

OPP who had been watching from behind Powless moved forward in a line trying to calm Green down.

Powless said the incident was unfortunate, "it highlights exactly the kinds of incidents that we have been reporting on in recent weeks about incidents occurring in Caledonia."

Powless has not yet pressed charges.

It's the second time Powless has been shoved while covering an event.

A year ago elected chief Dave General pushed Powless into several reporters as they followed General into a press conference. General has never apologized for the assault.

It's the second time a reporter has been attacked by protesters.

Last year a Hamilton TV crew were attacked while filming Caledonia Reclamation site protesters who had left the site and were engaged in an incident at the Caledonia Canadian Tire store.

Last week protesters approached another Turtle Island News reporter in a threatening manner during an incident at the Baptist Church that sits next to the site.