

LOCAL

Timeline for trouble

A calendar of key events in the Caledonia land dispute



Feb. 28, 2006
A small group of Six Nations protesters occupies a residential building site called Douglas Creek Estates.

March 5
Developer Henco Industries obtains interim injunction ordering protesters to remove barricades and allow construction to resume.

March 16
Ontario Superior Court Justice David Marshall, right, sets March 22 deadline for protesters to leave site in order to avoid arrest for contempt of court.



April 20
Dozens of OPP officers catch sleeping native protesters off guard when they swoop into the site at 4:30 a.m. Police withdraw after about four hours when dozens of natives and supporters march on the property. Natives set large fires as well as blockades on Argyle Street, Highway 6 bypass and a rail line.



April 24
Hundreds of angry Caledonia residents gather at the Argyle Street South blockade to vent frustration over protracted dispute. As many as 100 OPP officers separate the mob which surged against a police line standing between them and native protesters.

May 22
Violent clashes between natives and residents on Victoria Day as an attempt by natives to remove the Argyle Street barricade is aborted. Hundreds take to the streets and fights erupt in a nearby field.

May 23
Argyle Street South reopened after natives remove barricade. Barricades on the Caledonia bypass and rail line are also soon lifted.



June 9
Two CH-TV camera operators who taped footage of a confrontation with an elderly couple in an Argyle Street parking lot are taken to hospital after a scuffle with native protesters who confiscated a camera. Seven arrest warrants are issued over the next week and include an attempted murder charge against a Six Nations man accused of trying to run over an OPP officer with a stolen U.S. Border Patrol vehicle in a separate incident.

June 22
Ontario agrees to pay Henco Industries \$12.3 million for the Douglas Creek Estates property. The amount later is announced as \$15.8 million, plus \$4 million to builders who were building, or were to build, homes on the site.

Aug. 8
Superior Court Justice David Marshall tells Ontario to halt negotiations until the court order to remove the native occupiers from the site is enforced.

Aug. 22
Talks resume after an appeal court judge rules there is nothing to stop them.

Aug. 25
Ontario Court of Appeal says natives can occupy Douglas Creek Estates site for at least another month.

Aug. 29
The Spectator reveals Ontario negotiator and former federal Liberal cabinet minister Jane Stewart is being paid \$1,300 a day to handle the Caledonia dispute.



Aug. 30
Three hurt in a fire in an unfinished house on Douglas Creek Estates. Premier Dalton McGuinty says he does not want protesters to settle in for the winter.

Aug. 31
Mayor Marie Trainer tells Premier's chief of staff that neighbours of Douglas Creek Estates want province to buy them out.

Sept. 26
Conservative Leader John Tory says Ontario taxpayers have spent more than \$55 million to deal with Caledonia dispute. Premier McGuinty won't confirm it.

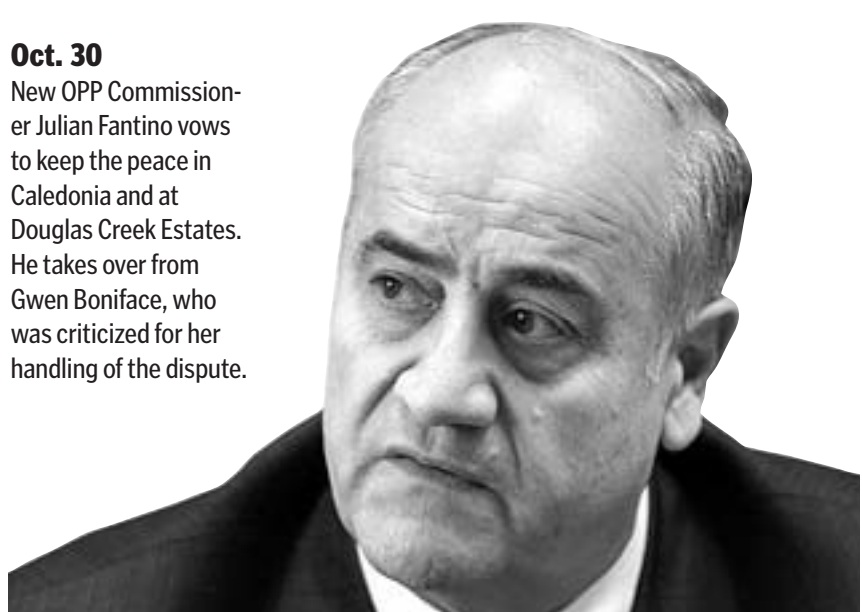


Oct. 15
About 400 attend a contentious rally organized near Douglas Creek Estates by Richmond Hill man Gary McHale. He claims OPP are exercising two-tier justice by treating natives and non-natives differently. He had called for 20,000 to attend.



Oct. 20
Federal negotiator Ron Doering tells a Caledonia meeting that Ottawa has informed Six Nations it does not have legal title to Douglas Creek Estates, based on documents from the 1840s. Natives dispute that.

Oct. 30
New OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino vows to keep the peace in Caledonia and at Douglas Creek Estates. He takes over from Gwen Boniface, who was criticized for her handling of the dispute.



Oct. 31
Federal Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice bails out of important meeting with Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Ramsay because of criticism levelled at Ottawa by Ramsay and Premier McGuinty.

Nov. 3
Six Nations land adviser says an 1844 document indicating surrender of lands outside the present boundaries of Six Nations was signed under duress by about 50 chiefs.

Nov. 29
The Spectator reveals Ottawa is paying federal negotiator and former Conservative cabinet minister Barbara McDougall \$1,600 a day to work on Caledonia dispute.



Dec. 3
Second rally held by people who want to raise a Canadian flag near Douglas Creek Estates. Only 30 attend.

Dec. 14
Ontario Court of Appeal quashes injunction ordering protesters off Douglas Creek Estates and says Judge Marshall erred in his earlier ruling. It says the injunction could only be in effect before the province bought the land.



Dec. 16
Two protesters, including Gary McHale, arrested at third rally held to hang flags. Rally attracts about 150 people.

Jan. 3, 2007
Mayor Trainer reveals huge residential project by Oakville developer Mattamy Homes is scuttled, partly because of occupation. It would have involved 2,500 homes. Also that day, Fantino says Ontario government is giving OPP \$22 million to help pay for policing costs.

Jan. 9
Fantino announces Haldimand OPP will double in size with the addition of 50 more officers.

Jan. 20
Gary McHale holds another controversial rally to plant flag near occupied site. Turnout is about 50 people.

Jan. 25
Ottawa tells Six Nations its Douglas Creek Estates land claim would fail in a Canadian court. Natives not impressed and point out dispute is not to be settled in court, but at negotiating table.



Jan. 17
Public meeting on Six Nations hears government offered to create a 6.4-kilometre agricultural belt around the reserve to try and settle Caledonia dispute. Offer was made in April-May of 2006. Province later denies it.



Feb. 9
Six Nations man Trevor Miller released on bail after six months behind bars. His incarceration became a cause for many natives who said he was a prisoner of war and being treated unfairly by the justice system.