



PHOTOS BY ANDREW SPEARIN, SPECIAL TO THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

MTO-hired crews remove blockades — tops of unfinished hydro towers — from the Highway 6 bypass yesterday after natives ended their protest.

Not enough to stop talks

Blockades unlikely to put an end to land negotiations: premier

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Highway blockades erected by native protesters won't push the provincial government away from the negotiating table at which the federal government and Six Nations are the primary negotiators.

Premier Dalton McGuinty said he would not call off negotiations with Six Nations protesters unless instructed to do so by provincial police and the prime minister.

"They'd have to make a pretty compelling argument because the Ipperwash report specifically said, keep talking," McGuinty said yesterday. "The only way to make real, lasting and substantive progress is to keep talking."

Six Nations protesters blocked the Highway 6 bypass in Caledonia to show support for fellow protesters near Deseronto, east of Belleville. A roadblock there was removed Monday after a protest that began on Friday and escalated on the weekend.

Blockades on the Caledonia bypass at Sixth Line, Seventh Line Road and Highway 54 at the Grand



Cleanup crews move in to take away barriers erected Friday.

River were removed yesterday afternoon.

"What was shown is it's not just a band of a few people," said Six Nations spokesperson Brian Skye, who prefers to be called by his Cayuga name of Degonudogeh. "It's not just radicals. We're not

isolated. We're informed and we have direct communication with appointed representatives in Tyendinaga.... The communication directly with those people made this a sustainable action."

Tops of hydro towers were among the items placed across the road.

The large metal pieces were brought from where they lay unused beside unfinished hydro towers adjacent to the highway.

The towers were abandoned after a moratorium on development in the area in February 2006, according to Skye.

Although many Caledonia residents were relieved at the reopening of the highway, one woman was disappointed that the OPP left the situation in Deseronto.

"I wish they had stood their ground in Deseronto," Sharon Macbay said. "I would rather put up with (a highway blockade) than give in to extortion."

She says the blockade is a pain, but she hates to see the OPP back down because she believes it gives the natives more strength to do what they want.

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