

McHale Calls the Day Historic; Aboriginals Watch Peacefully As Monument Goes Up Outside Douglas Creek Estates

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Third Time's a Charm: Local activist Gary McHale speaks this afternoon as his "Apology Monument" stands outside the gates of Douglas Creek Estates as a group of Aboriginals look on peacefully. (Photo Wendy Gray)

After three tries Gary McHale has gotten what he wants. About 10 supporters of the local activist joined McHale at the gates of Douglas Creek Estates today as he tried for the third time to put his "Apology Monument" at the gates of the site. This time a group of about twenty aboriginals and their supporters stood by and watched respectfully as McHale put the monument at the gates. Six Nations spokesperson Floyd Montour told The Moose they realize that McHale's struggle is not with them but the OPP and they intended to let McHale and his group go ahead and put the monument outside of the property and watch peacefully. After successfully putting the monument down on DCE property McHale called the day a victory because it forced the OPP to do what he says they should have been doing all along. And although he says it's not the same as the OPP issuing an apology for their "inaction" during the occupation five years ago, it is a good first step. McHale says he and the group Canadian Advocates for Charter Equality will be back with the monument for a couple of historic dates to the original occupation of Douglas Creek Estates. He says the group will likely shift its focus to smoke shacks.