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BASE - PAID PEACEKEEPERS, STILL DND PROPERTY

IPPERWASH

Camp occupiers at war with each other?

There is an ironic new twist to the battle of Camp Ipperwash, original home of the Stoney Point First Nation.

Three Stoney Point elders who were among their fellows who ousted Canadian Forces from the military base three years ago, went public last week with allegations they (the elders) have been pushed off their native land.

Elders Rose Manning and Nellie Rogers told The Standard they were harassed and threatened. At least one other elder, Clifford George, left the camp after enduring the same experience.

OPP Sergeant Doug Babbitt told The Standard that officers of his force visited the Ipperwash camp on Apr. 9 after receiving a telephone call from a concerned "individual".

OPP officers spoke with several persons but took no action because no one made an "official complaint".

Babbitt, based at Western Region headquarters in London, said police heard again from a phone caller expressing concern. "We were told someone was being held against their will," Babbitt told The Standard.

"We couldn't confirm any of that information," the OPP sergeant said. "There are people making all kinds of statements... we've not heard anything yet that would warrant laying any charges."

From her office in Ottawa, Lynne Boyer of the Department of Indian Affairs, confirmed she was aware of "some events" during the week

of Apr. 5-11.

"We were informed by the people in charge of access control that Rose Manning and her family had been told to leave," Boyer said. Judas George had relayed that information to Ottawa, Boyer said.

The Indian Affairs spokesperson said the OPP's Doug Babbitt would have to comment on the ousted elders' allegations of intimidation and lawlessness on the base.

The Standard has been unable to talk to Judas George or others in control of access.

It appears that nearly all of the original participants in the 1993-1995 gradual takeover of the former military base have left the property. One of the original spokespersons, Maynard George and some of his family, are believed to be among an estimated 25 residents still on the property.

Despite the apparent upheaval and allegations of lawlessness, the national defence department will continue to spend money on the Ipperwash property, Boyer of Indian Affairs said.

"The bottom line is it is still DND property. There is a potential risk (from unexploded ammunition) there so access has to be limited. The people living there are fully aware of that risk," Boyer said.

Maintenance of facilities is still required and tree cutting is required to alleviate potential flooding problems on adjacent properties. Some of the work is being done by defence department staff



STONEY POINT First Nation elders Nellie Rogers, left and Rose Manning say they have left the former Camp Ipperwash after being harassed, intimidated and threatened by paid peacekeepers and other young natives who have moved onto the property in the years since Rogers, Manning and fellow Stoney Pointers completed a takeover of the military base in late July, 1995. (Photo by Gord Whitehead)

who still go in there while, native residents also are being paid to do maintenance, Boyer said.

In a prepared statement, Rose Manning and her family allege that

Oneida and Walpole Island 'peacekeepers' on the government payroll are among those threatening and harassing original elders and their families.

Arms: "We have been threatened with arms and we have taken up arms to defend ourselves," Manning's statement said.

"Last week around

midnight five men came to my home. I was there with one of my granddaughters," Manning said.

"They threatened u

Continued on Page