

BASE - STOLEN VEHICLES ID  
 - OPP WILL NOT MOUNTED  
 POLICING AT BASE

L13

## RCMP

"At this time I do not intend to ask the RCMP to police Camp Ipperwash," was the response from OPP commissioner Thomas O'Grady in regards to the request from the Ontario Federation of Individual Rights and Equality (ON FIRE).

A letter received July 29 from the ON FIRE to the OPP asking for Mounted policing of the former armed forces base asked for the reply by August 15.

"We have been requested to consider full media involvement to assist the OPP in this achievement," said Schultz in the letter. In his response O'Grady said that he understands the concerns and frustrations regarding the unsettled environment in and around the area and appreciates the suggestion to improve the situation.

"In spite of the issues that cause concerns to all parties, the OPP, aboriginals, and non-aboriginals must find ways to settle their differences without violence," said O'Grady, "No one wants another tragedy such as that which occurred on Sept 6, '95. Prior to that date it was the intension of the OPP to attempt a non violent approach to policing involving both aboriginals and non-aboriginals in your area. We have not changed that intension." He said they are investigating all reported offences and if appropriate bringing them to the attention of the courts. He asked for understanding and patience of the ON FIRE group.

"I am not satisfied with this," said Schultz, "I was very disappointed with O'Grady's letter." A member of the ON FIRE security said there are many incidents not reported to the OPP because of fear of retaliation. Residents feel more comfortable reporting to the security group and the Community Policing group.

"When natives peer through your windows or urinate on your lawn, you are not likely to call in the police. We are scared. We have a file of over 150 incidents in this area," said a patrol person, "Things have escalated since last Dec but people are just too scared to go the OPP." Listing some of the offences, the ON FIRE member said they have become serious incidents and not misdemeanors. As early as last week a group of cottagers were drinking at about 2 am. when two native men came in and asked for a drink. When the tourists said, "no", they left with the bottle. One of the men has been charged in this incident. Early Wed morning a road block went up near Kettle Point on Old Lakeshore Road at Rawlings Road. When two Port Franks women almost drove into the shopping carts filled with water pipes and 50 pound bags of sand they reported the incident to the OPP. They were told not to worry, it was, "just kids playing a prank." One of the women said the OPP had previous calls of the incident. There is a recent report that a man was hit with a rock through his car window near the army base. There were 52 automobiles stolen from Port Franks this past winter, most of them later found at the base. TVs, VCRs and stereos were also taken from homes this winter. During last week's demonstration at the Sarnia courthouse, an ON FIRE member was threatened within earshot of 80 police officers. He said he was afraid to lay charges.

"At a Community Policing meeting we asked the Forest OPP if they would retrieve our belongings if they knew they were stored at the army base," said Mary Lou La Pratte, "The officer said it was not the position of the OPP to go into the base and their (the resident's) insurance companies would compensate." She said they informed the officer that many people are no longer covered by insurance and didn't they think the companies would wonder why the OPP wouldn't want to salvage the resident's belongings. She said

the officer did not respond. The people are told repeatedly by the police to give identification of the offender when making a report.

" They (OPP) always tell us we have no proof," said the security team. "These people have been threatened in their homes, on the beach, having get together with their children at their cottages. If the OPP are not going to stick their necks out to do anything, why do they think the residents, who don't have billy clubs and guns, are going to?" Schultz has distributed a press release to all media stating the dissatisfaction of the ON FIRE group. It was suggested by the group to approach Sarnia's Chemical Valley, also in a native land dispute for Bosanquet support. -30-

FYI:

**Calling all motivated Kettle Stoney Point people**

An advertisement in an Aug newsletter from the Kettle Stoney Point people is asking for volunteers to clean up toxins and unexploded ordnances at the army base. The requirements of the candidates are:

1. Being a member of Kettle/Stoney Point
2. Being able to read and write
3. Having a valid driver's licence
4. Being motivated to take a training course

They will be hiring an expert to instrument the cleanup at the army base and the volunteers will participate in setting the safety standards.

\*\*\*The newsletter criticised the McKenzie Report asking who the author John Thompson was and how did he come up with the report. It said this was another ploy of misunderstandings and fabrications, another dig at Natives for wanting their land back. They said they are not surprised, if Schultz was the "guiding light...maybe this light should be burnt out."