

NEW YORK



Allegheny Reservation

Federal reservation
Seneca
Cattaraugus County, New York

Seneca Nation of Indians
P.O. Box 231
Salamanca, NY 14779
(716) 945-1790
Fax: 945-3917

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total area | 30,189.40 acres |
| Total labor force | 470 |
| High school graduate or higher | 68.9% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 3.1% |
| Unemployment rate | 21.5% |
| Per capita income | \$7,671 |
| Population | 7,312 |

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Allegheny Reservation spans 30,189.40 acres along the Allegheny River in Cattaraugus County, near the city of Salamanca, New York; the reservation averages 1.5 miles in width and is 30 miles long. The reservation lies 70 miles south of Buffalo; while the cities of Jamestown and Olean act as smaller, local urban centers in the Southern Tier region.

The 1794 Pickering Treaty established the boundaries of the Seneca Nation, of which the Allegheny Reservation is a part. By custom, the Seneca Nation grants assignments or surface rights to individual members of the tribe. Nearly 10,000 acres, or 32 percent of the reservation, were leased on a 99-year basis to the villages of Salamanca, Kill Buck, Vandalia, and Carrollton. Salamanca leases a total of 3,774 acres. An estimated 2,000 acres have been taken from the reservation for rights-of-way for utilities, highways, and railroads. Approximately 10,500 acres were taken on permanent easement for the Kinzua Dam and Reservoir, which was built for flood-control purposes.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Seneca Indians presently live in four major political and community groups located in the United States and Canada. The Allegany Reservation, along with the Cattaraugus and Oil Springs Reservations, is jointly owned by the Seneca Nation. The Seneca Nation's headquarters alternate between the Allegany and Cattaraugus Reservations every 2 years. The original homeland of the Seneca was located between Lake Canandaigua on the east and the Genesee River on the west, in what is now New York State. The largest group of contemporary Seneca, the Seneca Nation of Indians, has approximately 6,241 members living on the federally recognized Allegany and Cattaraugus reservations in New York State.

Originally members of the Iroquois Confederacy, the Seneca people occupied the westernmost position in the Confederacy. Through a series of treaties made with the United States, beginning with the Treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1784, the Seneca's traditional land base became increasingly diminished. In accordance with the Pickering Treaty of 1794, which established the reservation, the State of New York continues to pay the Nation annually in cloth and cash.

Throughout the 20th century, the Seneca have struggled to retain their independence and rights over their land. The Nation's adamant rejection of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 is indicative of this stance. Their sovereignty was affected when the U.S. Congress transferred criminal and civil jurisdiction over American Indian Affairs to New York State in 1948 and 1950. The Nation's most dramatic loss occurred when it could not prevent the United States from building the \$120 million Kinzua Dam in 1965. The dam flooded more than 9,000 acres of the Cornplanter tract and Allegany Reservation, and created a lake spanning 35 miles. The Seneca Nation was awarded rehabilitation funds in the amount of \$12,128,917 in 1964 for the land lost to the dam. In more recent years, the Seneca Nation of Indians has been preoccupied with renegotiating the 3,000 ninety-nine year leases on their lands in and around Salamanca, New York. In 1990, the Seneca Nation received a \$35 million settlement award from the federal government for its past failures in protecting Indian interest in this matter. In 1992, it received \$25 million in direct and indirect monies from New York State for further compensation. The leases have been renewed under new terms with the city of Salamanca.

The Seneca have asserted their economic self-determination in opposing the state's desire to tax reservation sales of petroleum and tobacco to non-Indians. Seneca people today find employment in the nearby cities of Rochester and Buffalo, and many work for the tribal government.

GOVERNMENT

The Allegany Reservation is governed by an elected tribal council. The Council for the Seneca Nation of Indians alternates its residency between the Allegany and Cattaraugus Reservations. The Seneca Nation of Indians was established in 1848 with the adoption of a written constitution, which created the Seneca Republic governed under a tripartite system. The legislative branch is composed of a single Tribal Council; the executive branch consists of a president, treasurer, and clerk; and the judiciary branch has two separate court systems. Upon abolishing the traditional chief system, the Seneca Nation withdrew from the Iroquois Confederacy.

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Agriculture represents an important use of developed land on the reservation. Agricultural lands exist directly east and west of Salamanca, near Steamburg, and southeast of Salamanca near Carrollton and Vandalia. Non-productive agricultural lands, which were active until 15 years ago, are located south of North Bank Perimeter road. Beans and corn were the main crops under cultivation; straw, hay and oats were grown as feed for the small dairy farms in operation along the Allegany River.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The Tribal Council chartered the Seneca Nation of Indians Economic Development Corporation (SNIEDC), a non-profit public corporation, on June 23, 1993. SNIEDC has established two revolving loan funds which are capitalized with the approximately \$3.1 million stemming from the settlement between the New York State Urban Development Corporation and the tribe. The larger loan fund is used to assist small to medium-size businesses owned by Senecas, or to fund businesses which provide significant employment opportunities to members of the Seneca Nation. The smaller micro-business fund is used to assist Seneca cottage business enterprises.

FORESTRY

The Seneca Nation is currently exploring the commercial development potential of its forested lands. Recent tests show the occurrence of 22 commercial species of trees. Unfortunately, the study concluded that much of the forested area had been previously stripped of its more valuable wood. A minimum of quality timber stock remains; however, there is an abundance of low, quality timber. Smaller concentrated sites of between 30-50 acres were shown to contain a relative abundance of hardwoods, although these areas tend to be remote and not easily accessible. Based on these findings, the Seneca Nation is focusing on cutting and marketing large volumes of lower-grade timber (pine, soft maple and aspen) for commercial uses such as landscaping, farm bedding, fire log manufacture, etc. In addition, the Nation is managing its higher grade timber for later development.

GAMING

The Seneca Bingo facility employs 95 people and is located in Salamanca. Seneca Bingo is open seven days a week and serves as an important source of tribal income and revenue.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER

The Seneca Nation government employs approximately 600 employees, with 31 percent of the employed tribal members working for the government. Most of these positions are paraprofessional service and administrative/clerical positions (60 percent), some are management and professional or technical positions (20 percent), and the balance are semi-skilled labor positions (20 percent).

MINING

Gravel mining represents an important use of developed land on the Allegany Reservation. Seneca Nation lands are endowed with mineral resources such as limestone, sandstone and shale, as well as natural gas and oil. While the Nation currently has no estimate of its gravel reserves, sale of gravel currently provides significant revenue to the tribe.

SERVICES

On the reservation, the tribe owns and runs the Seneca Nation Mini Mart, which employs 30 people. In addition, there are approximately 20 privately owned Seneca enterprises on the Allegany Reservation that sell motor fuel, cigarettes, food and Indian crafts, or are involved in professional services or vocational trades. The sale of gas and cigarettes has become a lucrative market for the Seneca people, principally due to the tax advantage these products have when sold on reservation lands. No state sales tax is charged

on these products; however, federal and state governments have recently renewed efforts to collect tax revenues from the sale of these items.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

The Seneca Nation owns the High Banks Campground, located on the Allegany Reservation, which employs 13 tribal members. The High Banks Campground includes 200 campsites, some with electricity; 50 cabins; and docks and launching facilities. There are several other recreational facilities along the Allegany Reservoir. The Onoville Marina, located in Onoville Bay along the Reservoir, is a public recreational camping and boating facility owned and operated by Cattaraugus County; the Seneca Nation leases a small piece of land upon which the county property encroaches. In addition, the tribe offers guided tours around the reservation, which include a dinner of Indian foods. Tour arrangements need to be made in advance. The Seneca Iroquois National Museum houses a special wampum belt exhibit, replicas of an elm-bark longhouse and a squared log cabin that were used by the Seneca in the 19th and 20th centuries, dioramas by well-known Seneca artist Carson Waterman, and displays of works by contemporary Iroquois artists. The museum offers guided tours and an impressive gift shop.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Route 17, a major east-west highway, runs through the reservation. U.S. Route 219 runs north-south and is accessed at the reservation. Salamanca has regular train, bus and truck services; however, the nearest commercial air service is located in Bradford, Pennsylvania, 35 miles distant.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Seneca Nation of Indians has three community buildings: the Saylor Community Building located in Irving, New York; the Haley Community Building located in Salamanca, New York; and the Steamburg Community Building, completed in June 1972, in Steamburg, New York. The Seneca Nation Health Department provides services to both the Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations as well as the urban Seneca population in Buffalo. In addition, a health center, daycare, Head Start program, Education Department Center, Iroquois National Museum, and a library are located on the reservation. Reservation children attend school in Salamanca.

The 462 housing units located in the Jimersontown and Steamburg area all utilize private waste-water disposal systems (septic), as does the Seneca Nation government building. Water is provided by private wells in the Jimersontown and Steamburg areas; the city of Salamanca has a public system that supplies and treats the local water supply. Gas is supplied by the Iroquois Gas Company. The Niagara Mohawk Electric Company provides electricity to the area.

Cattaraugus Reservation

Federal reservation
Seneca Nation of Indians
Erie, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus counties, New York

Seneca Nation of Indians
1490 Rt. 438
Irving, NY 14081
(716) 532-4900, 532-4907
Fax: 532-9132

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Total area | 21,680 acres |
| Tribally owned | - |
| Federal trust | - |
| Total labor force | 803 |
| High school graduate or higher | 67.3% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 6.7% |
| Unemployment rate | 21.9% |
| Per capita income | \$6,885 |
| Population | 2,183 |

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Cattaraugus Reservation spans 21,680 acres along the Cattaraugus Creek and Lake Erie; the reservation is 3 miles wide and 11 miles long and lies some thirty miles south of Buffalo, New York. The Cattaraugus Reservation is located mostly within Erie County with smaller portions extending south into Cattaraugus County and southwest into Chautauqua County. The reservation is essentially rural with small village centers located adjacent to its boundaries (Gowanda, Irving, Angola, and North Collins). The smaller cities of Silver Creek, Dunkirk, and Fredonia are located within 15 miles of the western border of the Cattaraugus Reservation, along routes U.S. 20 and NY 5.

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CULTURE AND HISTORY

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Originally members of the Iroquois Confederacy, the Seneca people occupied the westernmost position in the Confederacy. Through a series of treaties made with the United States, beginning with the Treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1784, the Seneca's traditional territory became increasingly diminished.

Throughout the 20th century, the Seneca have struggled to retain their independence and rights over their land. The Seneca Nation's adamant rejection the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 illustrates this position. Their sovereignty was affected when the U.S. Congress transferred criminal and civil jurisdiction over American Indian Affairs to New York State in 1948 and 1950. The Nation's most dramatic loss occurred when it could not prevent the United

States from building the \$120 million Kinzua Dam in 1965. The Seneca Nation was awarded rehabilitation funds in the amount of \$12,128,917 in 1964 for the land taken for the dam.

In more recent years, the Seneca Nation of Indians has been preoccupied with renegotiating the 3,000 ninety-nine year leases on their lands in and around Salamanca, New York. In 1990, the Seneca Nation received a \$35 million settlement award from the federal government for its past failures in protecting Indian interests in this matter. In 1992, it received \$25 million in direct and indirect monies from New York State as further compensation. The leases have been renewed under new terms with the city of Salamanca.

The Seneca have asserted their economic self-determination by opposing the state's desire to tax reservation sales of petroleum and tobacco to non-Indians. Currently, representatives of the Seneca Nation are negotiating with New York State officials to develop a program which would undercut the costly bootlegging of tax-free cigarettes and gasoline. The deal would establish the tribe as the only wholesaler allowed to supply a lucrative chain of reservation stores. In return, tribal officials would help the state by using their sovereignty to close down wildcat Indian dealers involved in bootlegging.

GOVERNMENT

The Cattaraugus Reservation is governed by an elected tribal council composed of 16 members, eight each from the Allegany and Cattaraugus Reservations. The Council for the Seneca Nation of Indians alternates its residency between the Allegany and Cattaraugus Reservations. The Seneca Nation of Indians was established in 1848 with the adoption of a written constitution which created the tripartite-organized Seneca Republic. The legislative branch is composed of the Tribal Council; the executive branch consists of a president, treasurer, and clerk; and the judiciary branch has two separate court systems. By abolishing the traditional chief system, the Seneca Nation withdrew from the Iroquois Confederacy.

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Agricultural lands on the Cattaraugus Reservation represents 17 percent of total land mass. Currently, dominant crops consist of vegetables, corn, hay, wheat, and nursery stock. Areas adjacent to the reservation cultivate fruit orchards and vineyards profitable ventures.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The Tribal Council chartered the Seneca Nation of Indians Economic Development Corporation (SNIEDC), a non-profit public corporation, on June 23, 1993. SNIEDC developed two revolving loan funds which were capitalized with approximately \$3.1 million stemming from the settlement between the tribe and the New York State Urban Development Corporation. The larger loan fund is used to assist small to medium-size businesses owned by Senecas or those businesses which would provide significant employment opportunities to members of the Seneca Nation. The smaller micro-business fund is used to assist Seneca cottage business enterprises.

GAMING

The tribe owns the Seneca Nation Bingo facility located in Irving, New York. This facility features a wide variety of bingo, including Letter Bingo, Hammerhead, and Bow-Tie.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER

The Seneca Nation government employs approximately 600 people, with 31 percent of the employed tribal members working for the government. Most of these positions are paraprofessional service

and administrative/clerical positions (60 percent), some are management and professional or technical positions (20 percent), and the balance are semi-skilled labor positions (20 percent).

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Industrial lands constitute about 0.6 percent of developed land on the Cattaraugus Reservation. These lands are concentrated at the Seneca Nation Industrial Park, a 40-acre site located between Route 5 and the Conrail tracks in the northwest corner of the reservation. The industrial park includes a 5-acre parcel containing a 40,000 square foot building designed for light industry. The site includes a 24" storm sewer line, a 250,000 gallon water supply tank and distribution lines, and an access road.

MINING

Approximately 26 acres of land are used for the extraction of sand and gravel on the Cattaraugus Reservation. About 14.7 acres of gravel pits are mined along both banks of Cattaraugus Creek, on either side of I-90. A 12.2-acre sand pit is located at an oxbow of the creek and lies about 1,500 feet east of Buffalo Road. While the Nation currently has no estimate of its gravel reserves, sale of gravel currently provides significant revenue to the tribe. Natural gas production occurs on the reservation and the Seneca have leased approximately 26,000 acres of land to several private firms since 1911 for extractive purposes. To date, all but two of 141 wells were drilled by either Finance Oil or the Reservation Gas Company. Of the 139 wells drilled, 91 were completed as commercial gas wells and 48 were abandoned as dry holes. A recent study suggests that an estimated 544,954 million cubic feet in gas reserves are available from currently producing wells, while another 738,076 MCF in reserves are available from six non-producing wells.

SERVICES

The Seneca Service Mart, owned by the Nation, operates on the Cattaraugus Reservation and employs 37 people. In addition, there are approximately 20 privately owned Seneca firms on the Cattaraugus Reservation that sell motor fuel and cigarettes, food and Indian Crafts, or are involved in professional services or vocational trades. The sale of gas and cigarettes has become a lucrative market for the Seneca people, principally due to the tax advantage these products have when sold on reservation lands. No state sales tax is charged on these products; however, federal and state governments have recently renewed efforts to collect tax revenues from the sale of these items. In addition, the reservation features video rental shops, restaurants, food and clothing stores, garages and tire retailers.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

Beach front property totals 60 acres along Lake Erie. Together, Snyder's Beach, Seneca Beach, Snow's Marina, and Seneca commons land total 12.5 acres of a commercial/recreational area. Hunting and fishing are allowed on the reservation, with permits available at the Clerk's Office. The Gil Lay Sports Arena, an 18,000 square-foot structure, is frequently used for local recreational activities and is located on the Irving Industrial Park. In addition, the Seneca Nation hosts two special events: Education Day, which is held during spring vacation, features children performing traditional social dances; and the Seneca Fall Festival, an arts and crafts show, is held the second weekend in September.

INFRASTRUCTURE

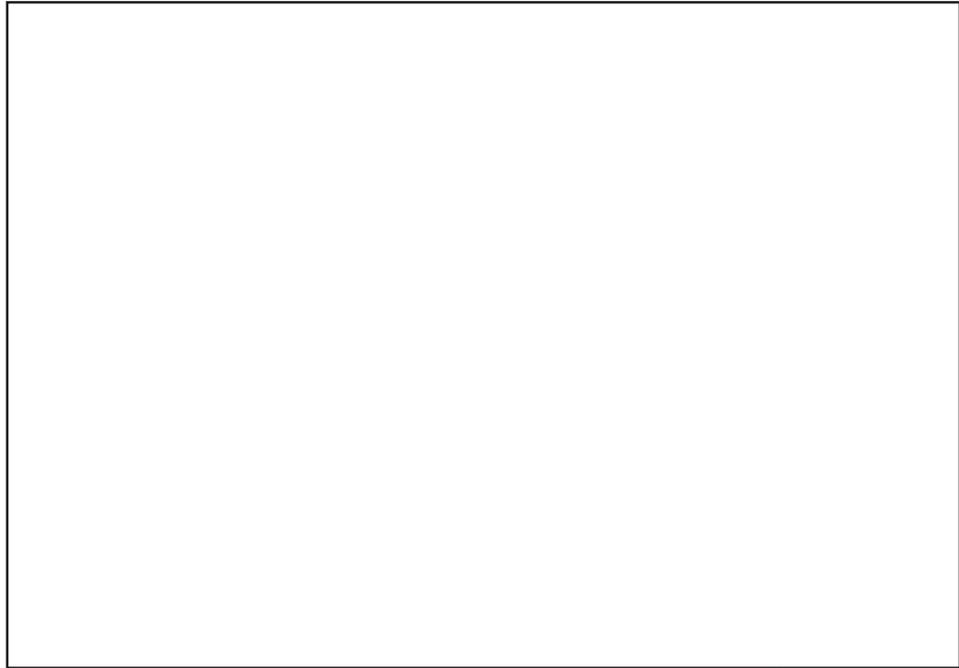
The reservation lies along the New York State Thruway (Interstate 90) and U.S. Highway 20, both of which run parallel to the shore of Lake Erie. State Highway 62 runs north-south just to the east of the reservation. State Highway 438 passes through the reservation southeast-northwest. Commercial bus and truck lines stop on the reservation. Train service is available in Brockton, 15 miles from the

reservation. Residents must go 30 miles to Buffalo for commercial air transportation.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Saylor Community Building and a branch of the Seneca Nation Library are located in Irving, New York. The Wini Kettle senior citizen facility opened December 10, 1993. The Seneca Nation Health Department provides services to both the Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations as well as the urban Seneca population in Buffalo. The Cattaraugus Reservation maintains a health center, day-care, a volunteer fire department, senior housing, and administrative office space. In addition, there is a laundromat facility on the reservation.

Two public waste water systems serve about 20 percent of the reservation population (131 households). One waste water treatment facility is near the Thomas Indian School complex; the other is the Irving Wastewater Service system. Other residential areas use individual waste disposal and treatment systems or lack waste disposal facilities. A water line was recently installed and provides the reservation access to potable water from the Erie County Water Authority. Gas is supplied by the Iroquois Gas Company; electricity is provided by the Niagara Mohawk Electric Company.



Oneida Cultural Center, Built with Pride and by Hand

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Oneida Nation, one of the five original nations of the Iroquois Confederacy, is located in central and New York.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Oneida Nation was one of the five original nations in the Iroquois Confederacy which then increased to six. The Iroquois Confederacy authored the first federal constitution in North America, known as the Gayaneshagowa.

GOVERNMENT

The tribe reaffirmed its sovereignty when it adopted a constitution under the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. Adult enrolled members of the tribe are also members of the Oneida General Tribal Council which meets twice a year. The nine-member business committee administers tribal affairs.

ECONOMY

The Oneida Nation is located in central New York State between Utica and Syracuse and benefits from many visitors to its land. The tribe revitalized its economy with revenues from its thriving businesses, such as its casino, bingo hall, and RV park. It entered into a gaming compact with the state in April of 1993.

GAMING

The nation operates the Oneida Indian Nation Bingo Hall and the Turning Stone Casino; the casino is in Verona. The casino has a three restaurants and a gift shop.

SERVICES

The tribe owns a gas station/convenience store.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

Rated one of the top ten RV parks in the U.S., the Villages at Turning Stone RV Park is located in Verona off the New York State Thruway. It features 175 sites, a sandy beach, fishing, scenic trails, tennis,

Oil Springs Reservation

Federal reservation
Seneca
Allegany and Cattaraugus counties, New York

Seneca Nation of Indians
1490 Rt. 438
Irving, NY 14081
(716) 532-4900, 532-4907
Fax: 532-9132

Total area 640 acres

Oneida Reservation

State reservation, federally recognized
Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Seneca, and Tonawanda counties, New York

Oneida Indian Nation of New York
Route 5, P.O. Box 1
Vernon, NY 13476
(315) 361-6300

Total area 35 acres

basketball, volleyball, and a playground. The tribe also has a cultural center housed in a uniquely built log cabin near the bingo hall. Visitors may purchase art, books, and souvenirs at the Shakowi Cultural Center or at the gift shop in the casino. A 260-room hotel is scheduled to open by the fall of 1996 in Verona.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The bingo hall, cultural center, and residential area of the nation are located off Route 46, south of the New York State Thruway (Interstate 90).

Onondaga Reservation

Federally recognized
Iroquois
Onondaga County, New York

Onondaga Nation
P.O. Box 152
Nedrow, NY 13120
(315) 469-3738

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Total area | 6,100 acres |
| Population | 600 |
| Tribal enrollment | 1,600 |

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Onondaga Nation is located south of Syracuse off U.S. Interstate 81 in central New York. The reservation spans 7,300 acres of glacial basin. The reservation was created in the 1788 Treaty of Fort Schuyler. Subsequent transactions decreased the area.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The nation still practices the Longhouse religion. The Onondaga Nation is a member of the Iroquois Confederacy. Since colonial times, the Onondaga have asserted their sovereignty as a nation. They have challenged the Selective Service Act and believe that the Indian Citizenship Act is unconstitutional. They also resist the State of New York's jurisdiction over their lands; the U.S. conveyed civil jurisdiction to the state's courts and comptroller in 1948 and in 1950.

GOVERNMENT

As a member of the Iroquois Confederacy and according to its laws, an Onondaga should be chief or "Tadodaho" of the confederacy. The Onondaga have a traditional form of government and are governed by chiefs. The chiefs are selected by clan mothers and will govern for life. The Onondaga voted against reorganizing their government under the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.

ECONOMY

TOURISM AND RECREATION

Beadwork, baskets, dolls, and turtle rattles are for sale at the Onondaga Indian Trading Post during the summer.

Poospatuck Reservation

Federally recognized
Unkechaug
Suffolk County, New York

Unkechaug Nation
Community Center
P.O. Box 86
Mastic, NY 11950
(516) 281-6464

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Total area | 60 acres |
| Total labor force | 116 |
| High school graduate or higher | 71.4% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 10.4% |
| Per capita income | \$9,763 |
| Population | 164 |

St. Regis Mohawk Reservation

Federally recognized
Akwasasne Mohawk
St. Lawrence and Franklin counties, New York; Quebec and Ontario, Canada

Akwasasne Mohawk Tribe
Community Building
Hogansburg, NY 13655
(518) 358-2272
Fax: 358-3203

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Total area | - |
| Total labor force | 698 |
| High school graduate or higher | 57.0% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 6.6% |
| Unemployment rate | 18.6% |
| Per capita income | \$6,880 |
| Population | 1,974 |

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Akwasasne Mohawk community literally straddles the border between the U.S. and Canada along the St. Lawrence Seaway, spanning portions of two New York State counties and two Canadian provinces. On the American side of the border the reservation covers 14,648 acres; on the Canadian side, the reservation extends for another 7,400 acres.

Because the State of New York never ceded any land to the federal government following the ratification of the tribe's constitution, the Mohawk Reservation has never been federal territory. New York State granted its portion of the land to the tribe in 1796 under a treaty signed with the Seven Nations Confederacy, to which the St. Regis Mohawk belonged.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Mohawk were traditionally known as the "Keepers of the Eastern Door" of the Iroquois Confederacy. Their original homeland was a section of the middle Mohawk Valley of New York State; their hunting territories extended north into the Adirondack Mountains and south almost to the present-day city of Oneonta. During the late 1600s a number of Iroquois, particularly Mohawk, migrated up to the St. Lawrence River region. Around 1755, a group of Christian

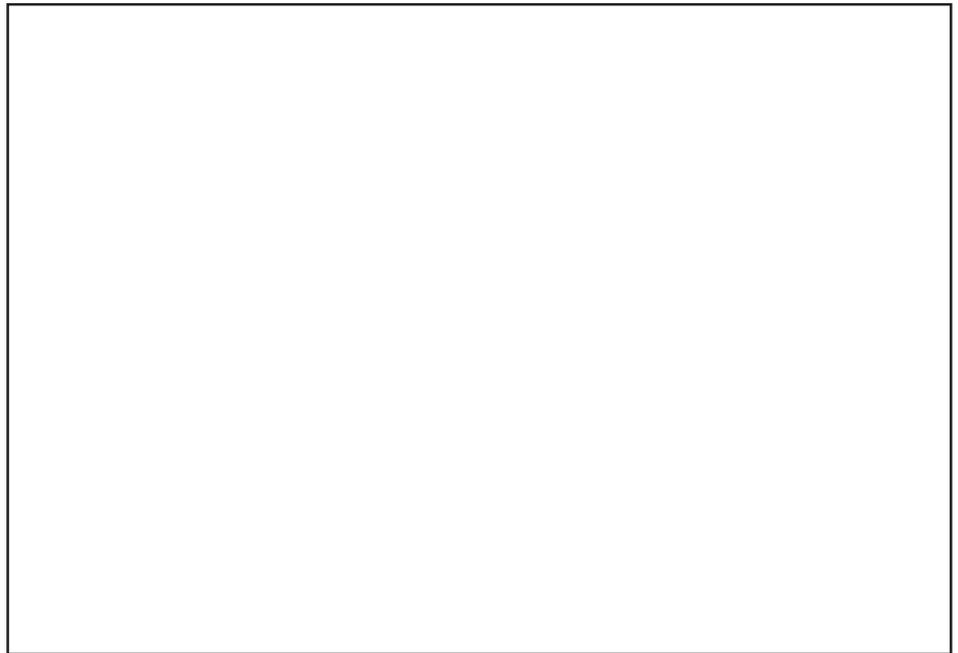
Mohawk from the French Mission of Caughnawaga migrated to St. Regis, New York. The French Jesuits had encouraged the migration of this small party because of population pressure at the Caughnawaga Mission and the need to follow the activities of the British along the St. Lawrence frontier. The St. Regis Mission is the oldest permanent settlement in northern New York, predating non-Indian settlements by almost fifty years.

During the Revolutionary War, while most of the Seven Nations Confederacy supported the British, the St. Regis Mohawk were among the minority who supported the Americans. In 1796 the land claim of the Seven Nations was signed whereby New York State ceded over six square miles and some additional collateral land in return for a promise by the Indians to abandon any further land claims in the state. The state had agreed to pay annuities to the tribe under negotiated treaties; in the mid 1830s it modified the practice by beginning to make payments only to the New York side of the reservation. In the 1930s, the federal government proposed the Indian Reorganization Act, which the St. Regis Mohawk formally rejected in 1935. In 1953 the federal government moved to terminate the reservation, an attempt which the St. Regis successfully overturned.

Prior to the 20th century the St. Regis Mohawk subsisted primarily through farming, fishing, and trapping. Men worked in the Adirondack lumber camps in late fall and winter; women wove the splint and sweet grass baskets which gained them international recognition. Throughout the 20th century, farming, fishing, and logging radically subsided, largely due to declining environmental conditions. In response, many Mohawk men have found employment in the region's steel and iron works, centering around Montreal and Utica, NY. Renewed interest in traditional Mohawk culture and language began in the 1930s, exemplified by the establishment of the Akwesasne Freedom School and the adoption of the Longhouse Religion. The modern day economy is based largely around the service industry and tourism, primarily high-stakes bingo and dirt-track stock car racing. The reservation also capitalizes on its tax-free status on products like gasoline and cigarettes, offering discount prices.

GOVERNMENT

Tribal councils have been devised for both the U.S. and Canadian portions of the tribe. The U.S. council is made up of three chiefs, three sub-chiefs, and a tribal clerk. Each serves a three year term. Elections are held each year in June, with one chief and one sub-chief chosen per election; terms are therefore staggered. The honorary title of Head Chief is given to the chief who is serving in the final year of his present term. The tribal clerk is chosen every third year. The Canadian council consists of a chief and eleven councilors. The councils work in concert to provide jobs, better housing, health facilities, and recreation.



Many Tribal Members Own Businesses. (Above) Restaurant, Gas Station, and Gift Shop in One

ECONOMY AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Though farming was once a thriving activity in the region, there is now only one working farm on the reservation. As stricter environmental controls are gradually enforced on the industries along the St. Lawrence Seaway, some agriculture, particularly dairy farming, might be expected to make a modest comeback.

CONSTRUCTION

Five different Mohawk-owned construction contractors are located on the New York side of the reservation. These contractors provide an important source of employment and revenue for the region.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The tribe has begun execution of the White Pines Plaza project, a proposed tribally owned retail shopping mall. The project should generate approximately 350 permanent and seasonal jobs. A comprehensive feasibility study was completed in August 1994 with overall favorable findings, and construction was slated to begin by late 1994. Additionally, the tribe is in the process of developing on-reservation utility and cablevision services. And finally, during the summer of 1994 the tribe unveiled a comprehensive plan for the redevelopment of the Plattsburgh Air Force Base which will create jobs and bolster the regional economy of northeastern New York state.

FORESTRY

The Mohawk traditionally worked in the Adirondack logging camps. Due to modern methods and overlogging, the timber industry supports only a fraction of the employment that it once did.

GAMING

The Mohawk have been on the cutting edge of gaming, opening the first slot machines for Indian gaming in the 1970s. Billy's Bingo Hall is located in Hogansburg and offers a \$1,000 giveaway every day, a \$3,200 Bonanza, quickie games, warm-up games, and a variety of packages. The Mohawk Bingo Palace also offers high-stakes bingo

and theme nights throughout the year offering cash and prizes. Mohawk Bingo also features a full service restaurant, a no-smoking room, and a gift shop selling souvenirs and discount cigarettes. Games are called in French and English.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER

Since 1973, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council has successfully garnered state and federal funds for an array of tribally administered programs, all of which employ primarily Mohawk people. Currently these contracts and grants fund employment for approximately 200 people.

MANUFACTURING

The manufacture of steel and iron has traditionally employed significant numbers of the St. Regis Reservation membership. Though this industry has recently declined, there are still two tribally affiliated steel erector contractors doing business in the region. Additionally, the reservation boasts the largest manufacturer of lacrosse sticks in the U.S. and Canada.

SERVICES

Tribally affiliated businesses in the region are numerous. They run the gamut from cellular phone systems and computers to smokeshops and construction contractors. Several stores and galleries which feature handmade Indian art objects and crafts are located in the area, including Iroquois Bone Carvings and Mohawk Impressions. Currently the largest revenue-producing businesses on the reservation involve high-stakes gaming and the sale of gasoline and tobacco products.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

The Frogtown International Speedway, a dirt-track stock car racing venue, attracts many visitors to the reservation. The speedway is open from mid-May to mid-September and offers three classes of races. The tribe's Cedar View Golf Course offers an 18-hole course, restaurant, pro shop, and bar. The golf course is located two miles from the Canadian border in Rooseveltown, New York. Many visitors enjoy the Akwesasne Museum and Sweetgrass Gift Shop which features a permanent collection of Mohawk and Iroquois artifacts, contemporary Mohawk and Iroquois artisans' exhibits, special exhibits, demonstrations, and workshops on basket making. The museum offers guided tours by appointment, and carries videos, tapes and books on Native Americans. The gift shop offers baskets, beaded and silver jewelry, sweatshirts, T-shirts and more. In July, the tribe celebrates Friendship Days, with singing, dancing, Mohawk arts, Iroquois food, games, and often canoe races.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Route 37 is an east-west highway serving the reservation. Commercial airline and train services are available in Massena, five miles from the reservation. Truck and bus lines serve the reservation directly.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

A 1992 waterline extension project has established water service to the western portion of the reservation. The eastern portion is slated for imminent development. A comprehensive reservation sewage treatment facility is currently under development. Electricity is provided by Niagara Mohawk. The tribe completed its Health Care Facility in 1991.

Public schools are available in nearby Fort Covington and in Massena. The tribe also runs the Freedom School, which emphasizes traditional culture and language. The Akwesasne Library/Cultural Center is located in Hogansburg and publishes *The Ka ri wen ha ri*, a monthly newsletter. In addition, the Indian Time building houses

the Indian Time newspaper, *Akwesasne Notes*, and CKON radio station.

Shinnecock Reservation

State reservation
Shinnecock
Suffolk County, New York

Shinnecock Tribe
Rte. 27-A, Montauk Hwy.
Southampton, NY 11968
(516) 283-9266

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Total area | 60 acres |
| Total labor force | 116 |
| High school graduate or higher | 71.4% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 10.4% |
| Per capita income | \$9,763 |
| Population | 164 |

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The 400 acres that make up Shinnecock Reservation are located south of Hwy. 27, on the south fork of eastern Long Island, in the town of Southampton, New York. It is a state reservation, tax-free and valued at \$45 million.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

Traditionally a fishing and whaling tribe, the Shinnecock had contact with the Algonquian tribes in Connecticut, traveling the Long Island sound. The Shinnecock, along with the Unkechaug, were part of the Montauk Confederacy. Today, approximately 400 Shinnecock reside on their reservation lands which the tribe has retained since colonial government first reserved them.

ECONOMY

Employment as well as commercial facilities are available in the surrounding communities. The tribe benefits from charging admission to its annual pow wow.

GOVERNMENT

Land trustees are elected every two years, in compliance with Book 25 of the New York State Indian Law, to administer tribal affairs. The governing body consists of a president, secretary, and a treasurer.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

The Shinnecock Labor Day Weekend Pow Wow includes a day of arts and crafts, Indian foods, and traditional dances.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Highway 27-A travels east-west through the reservation. Airlines are 60 miles away in New York City. A bus line passes through the reservation and a train station is located in the town of Riverhead, 20 miles away.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

No public utilities are available on the reservation. Basic needs are met by individual wells and septic tanks. The State Social Services in Southampton provide health care for residents.

Tonawanda Reservation

| | |
|---|-------------|
| State reservation | |
| Seneca | |
| Niagara, Erie, & Genesee counties, New York | |
| Tonawanda Band of Seneca | |
| 7027 Meadville Rd. | |
| Basom, New York | |
| (716) 542-4600 | |
| Total area | 7,549 acres |
| Tribally owned | 7,549 acres |
| Total labor force | 325 |
| High school graduate or higher | 68.3% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 1.4% |
| Per capita income | \$8,274 |
| Population | 448 |

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

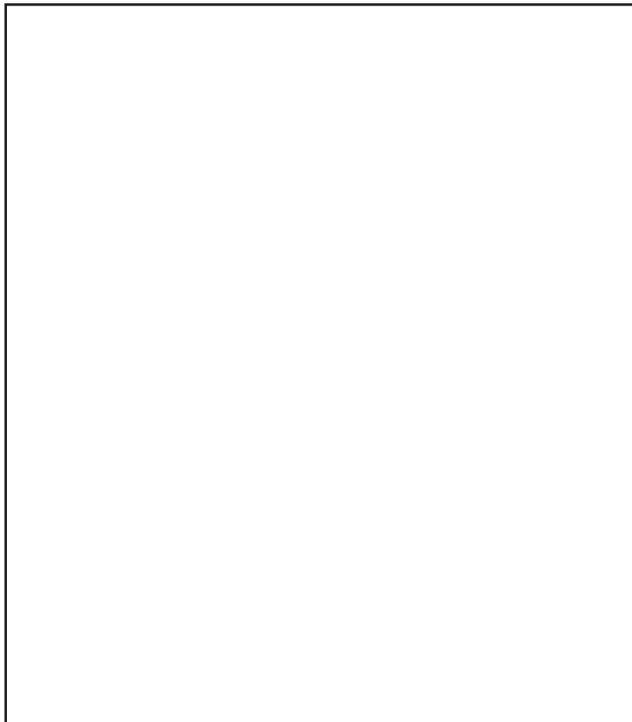
The Tonawanda reservation lies east of Buffalo in northwestern New York State. After relinquishing its land west of the Missouri River to the United States, the tribe bought 7,549 acres in 1857. The land was placed in trust by the U.S., but in 1863 secretary of the U.S. Interior Department conveyed the Tonawanda land to the Comptroller of the State of New York. In 1950 the state courts were charged with civil jurisdiction over the Indians of New York by the U.S. Congress.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Tonawanda Band was a member of the Iroquois Confederacy.

GOVERNMENT

Clan mothers elect the chiefs, who serve on the tribal council for life or good behavior. One-term offices are held by the president, clerk,



Community Building for the Tonawanda Band

treasurer, marshal, and three peacemakers. Only male members whose name appears on the preceding annuity roll vote in the elections.

INFRASTRUCTURE

U.S. Interstate 90 is south of the reservation. Route 267 runs east-west through the reservation.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Wells serve individual homes; electricity is available from Niagara.

Tuscarora Nation

Federally recognized
 Niagara County, New York
 Tuscarora Tribe
 5616 Walmore Rd.
 Lewiston, New York 14092
 (716) 297-4990

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Total area | 5,700 acres |
| Tribally owned | 5,700 acres |
| Total labor force | 228 |
| High school graduate or higher | 70.4% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 9.0% |
| Per capita income | \$9,474 |
| Population | 353 |

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

Tuscarora Reservation is located nine miles northeast of Niagara Falls, near the shores of Lake Ontario. The reservation covers an area of 5,700 acres.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Tuscarora are of the Iroquois linguistic group and indigenous to North Carolina. Infiltration of white settlers forced them into western New York where they were admitted into the League of the Iroquois as the sixth nation in 1718. The treaty of 1784 secured for them the possession of the lands they occupied.

The Iroquois group is made up of nine clans, and continues to rule through a matriarchal system. Only those individuals born of an Iroquois mother are considered members of the tribe. Although the Tuscarora language is taught in the Tuscarora Indian school, the tribe primarily speaks English.

GOVERNMENT

Each clan is governed by a chief chosen by the oldest mother in the clan, who represents the clan on the Tuscarora Council of Chiefs. The council consists of 13 chieftains.

ECONOMY

Many members work in the Niagara Falls and Buffalo areas. The sale of timber is a source of income to the tribe. There are a few businesses on the reservation including a roofing company and a crafts store.

AGRICULTURE

There is a farming cooperative formed by individuals on the reservation.

SERVICES

Tuscarora Reservation offers a grocery store, four car-wrecking yards, two auto repair garages, and Smokin' Joe's Trading Post.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

Special events on the reservation include the Tuscarora National Annual Picnic & Field day, a two-day festival held in mid-July; the Annual Free Border Crossing Celebration, also held in July; and the Community Fair, in October.

INFRASTRUCTURE

U.S. Highways 104 and 31 travel east-west through Tuscarora

Reservation. The nearest commercial airport and train station are 29 miles away in Buffalo. There is a bus line available six miles away in Perkins.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Individual wells provide water for the reservation, and residents must provide their own septic tanks. The Niagara Mohawk Company provides electricity. Health care on the reservation is provided by a clinic. The Niagara Mental Health clinic is also on the reservation. There are hospitals in Ransomville, Buffalo, and Niagara Falls.