

**Submission to the Anishinabek News – November 2010 Issue**  
**By Maurice Switzer**

**We found somebody: Remains support park occupiers**

IPPERWASH – Thousands of words were spoken during an Oct. 15 Remembering- Honouring - Thanking Gathering staged by members of Kettle and Stoney Point communities, but three held special significance.

“We found somebody”, Brandy George – the only fully-trained First Nation archeologist in Canada – told a hushed crowd seated in a striped tent set up about 50 yards from where Dudley George was shot and killed on the night of Sept. 6, 1995. “We found remains in this park.”

Brandy, 36, a Kettle and Stoney Point citizen, said the burial site dates to at least 1,000 years ago, or more than three centuries before Europeans arrived in the area.

“This is the greatest achievement in my life,” she told the 200 people gathered to commemorate the 15th anniversary of Dudley George’s death during an occupation of what was then Ipperwash Provincial Park by a group of unarmed protesters.

“Pierre was with us,” Brandy said, standing beside the man who drove his fatally-wounded brother to hospital the night he was shot by an Ontario Provincial Police sniper. “We offered tobacco and said the words we needed to say.”

She said the discovery validates stories told by community Elders that ancestors were buried in the area, a key motive for the occupation of the park by Stoney Pointers 15 years ago.

George said her exhaustive two-year study – digging holes every five metres – unearthed 11 archeological sites in the park in addition to the burial. Despite a previous assessment that the park had no archeological significance, George revealed that her project – funded by the province’s Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs – produced artifacts dating back 8,000 years.

“The artifacts will come back to the community,” George said, stressing that they are in her personal care and being treated with appropriate respect.

George was introduced by Kettle and Stoney Point Chief Elizabeth Cloud, who wiped away tears as she told the gathering: “This shows that Dudley did not die in vain. The oral history of our Elders is always true.”

Following the announcement, guests left the tent, following flag and Eagle Staff carriers to the unveiling of a monument designed by Pierre which read: “In Memory of Dudley George who made the Supreme Sacrifice Sept. 6, 1995 In Respect of the Ancestors.”

“This is an emotional time and a historic occasion,” Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee told the gathering. “Anishinaabe need to focus on Dudley’s spirit of resistance and resolve to guide us.

“I will be proud to tell my grandchildren that I was there when a memorial was dedicated to a great warrior.”

Madahbee commended Aboriginal Affairs Minister Chris Bentley for “trying to move the yardsticks” on Ipperwash-related issues, such as the drawn-out process to transfer the former provincial park to Kettle and Stoney Point reserve land. “Sometimes we need to get out of our canoe and into a speedboat.”

The Grand Council Chief recognized members of Dudley George’s family, including sister Caroline “Cully” George who, along with brother Pierre are among the Stoney Pointers occupying the barracks at nearby Camp Ipperwash, built as an army training camp after its expropriation by Canada in 1942 and not yet transferred back to First Nation control.

Minister Bentley drew applause when he acknowledged being on the “soon-to-be-recognized traditional territory of the people of Kettle and Stoney Point”, and the efforts of the late Sam George that led to the creation of the Ipperwash Inquiry into his brother Dudley’s death.

Among the 200 guests in attendance was Justice Sidney Linden, who served as commissioner for the two-year inquiry that produced 100 recommendations, including ones calling for establishment of a treaty commission in Ontario and better police training for dealing with First Nations people and issues.

An update on progress being made on responding to the recommendations was presented by First Nations Task Force participants in the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee (IIPAC), whose working groups are examining Ipperwash-related issues such as treaty rights, policing, burial sites, and public education. Task force members, including Union of Ontario Indians policy analyst Nicole Latulippe, fielded a number of questions from Kettle and Stoney Point community members.

The following day was dedicated to community healing, including a traditional condolence ceremony, with the assistance of facilitators Bob Antone, whose experience has included 11 years working with a healing program at Munsey.

“There have been struggles across the country over loss of land,” said Antone. “Have governments learned anything from them?”

“Could we have done anything differently? Not from our side – it was a peaceful demonstration. It was the other side that used force.

“The resistance movement is not over; we’re going to see it again.”