



# Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## SUSPECTS ARRESTED IN HATHAWAY INVESTIGATION

*Inter-Agency Police Work Key to Success*

**Akwesasne Territory**— At a press conference held at the Franklin County Court House today at 2:00 PM, law officials announced that two suspects have been arrested in connection with the death of Thomas Hathaway, Sr. The two suspects were taken into custody without incident.

Richard “Dickie” Oakes and Rhonda “Amber” Dufoe both of Snye, Quebec, were arrested early in the morning, Wednesday November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 on Route 122 in the town of Constable. The Akwesasne Mohawk Police then executed a search warrant at the Oakes residence in Snye. They were arraigned in Franklin County court at 4:15 AM and 4:30 AM respectively and charged with second degree murder. Oakes is currently being held in Franklin County jail and Dufoe is being held in Essex County jail. Police officials would not disclose a motive in the crime, but said that it was not drug-related and that it was a “personal matter.”

The death of Mr. Hathaway took place on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and was classified and investigated as a homicide on September 5<sup>th</sup>, following the initial investigation. Although the Mohawk Tribal Police took the lead on the investigation, several agencies worked closely together with the Mohawk Tribal Police to affect the arrests: the New York State Police, the Akwesasne Mohawk Police, the U.S. Border Patrol, the Massena Police Department, the Malone Police Department and the RCMP. Police had over 275 leads in the investigation which was headed up by Assistant Tribal Police Chief Brian Barnes, Detective Sergeant Matthew Rourke and Investigator Pete Barnes. Mohawk Tribal Police Chief Andrew Thomas said that they are not seeking any other suspects in this case.

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Mr. Hathaway was reportedly shot twice in the head before his house was set on fire. Police believe that the fire was set to cover up evidence in the crime, but evidence at the scene of the crime helped lead police to the suspects. No weapon has been recovered in connection with the shooting.

Franklin County District Attorney Derek Champagne also alluded to the possibility of federal charges pending against the suspects, but would not elaborate. Officials would also not discuss whether or not either of the suspects made any confessions at the time they were taken into custody or if they had any prior arrests.

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The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council is the duly elected and federally recognized government of the St. Regis Mohawk People.