



R.J. FROST

DESPITE FEARS that its landing gear would collapse, this twin-engine Navajo Chieftan made a picture perfect landing Saturday at the Sault Airport. Pilot Jason Gerber, bottom left, and co-pilot Steve Culjat were at the controls.

AVIATION

Wing-and-a-prayer landing averts crash

By **RYAN MacDONALD**
The Sault Star

After circling the skies above the Sault Ste. Marie airport for nearly an hour Saturday with landing gear problems, two pilots averted an emergency belly-landing and touched down safely.

The plane, a Navajo Chieftain with Southwest Air out of Windsor, was flying a routine "north run" while on contract for a courier company when the pilot noticed a red warning light indicating that the landing gear had not locked into place.

"Right up to the last moment the aircraft was going to make a wheels-up landing," airport manager John Bell said following the incident, "And then, as he was about to come in, the indicator for the (landing) gear indicated green — which meant it was al-

utes to burn off more fuel.

Then, at 12:53, a warning was issued that the plane would touch down — with its landing gear deployed — in three minutes.

And as the tiny turbo-prop made its final approach, an emergency worker's voice squawked over the police radio: "Say a prayer for this guy, right here."



"When we thought it was relatively safe, we came in with the assistance of the (airport control) tower and a bunch of other people."

He said he communicated with airborne pilots and mechanics on the ground to gather advice and insight before landing. "I talked to a couple buddies (from the tower) that I flew with previously and that really helped."

Co-pilot Steve Culjat, 27, of Pickering, said they worked together to bring the twin-engine plane in safely. "We work very well as a team. I think that's really what made the difference here today."

Culjat is a graduate of Mount Royal College in Calgary.

City police closed off Airport Road at Second Line West for about an hour, allowing traffic to pass periodically as the plane circled to burn fuel.

FIRST NATIONS

Saugeen claim huge stretch of Huron shoreline

By **LISE THORBJORSEN**
Owen Sound Sun Times

OWEN SOUND — Saugeen First Nation has claimed control over the waters of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay around the Bruce Peninsula.

Chief Richard Kahgee made the declaration Saturday at the International Joint Commission meeting in Duluth, Minn., invoking his Ojibway band's "sovereign" status under international law.

Kahgee said the band's jurisdiction covers about 300 kilometres of shoreline 11 kilometres out and includes fisheries, lands and minerals above and below the lake bed.

Major government operations along the shoreline include the Bruce Nuclear Power Development, Fathom Five National Marine Park and the ferry dock in Tobermory. Hundreds of privately owned docks also dot the shoreline.

"Obviously anything that's in the water becomes property of the Saugeen. It's pretty straightforward," said Kahgee in a Saturday night telephone

interview from his Duluth hotel room.

Saugeen is reaffirming its inherent right to these waters and won't accept financial compensation from the Canadian or provincial governments, he said.

"For us it's really an issue of getting back into the position we were pre-European settlement in this area," he said.

'What we expect from the federal government is for them to acknowledge that they have no rightful claim to our waters and to peacefully vacate'

— Chief Richard Kahgee

"We never relinquished our right to these waters under any treaty or agreement," he said. "It's like Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We come and somebody's sat in our chairs and ate our porridge and slept in our beds."

Kahgee said he is telling — not asking — the Canadian and Ontario

governments to withdraw their authority over the waters by Jan. 1, 1997.

"What we expect from the federal government is for them to acknowledge that they have no rightful claim to our waters and to peacefully vacate," Kahgee said. "What we're talking about is an orderly disengagement of federal encroachment and provincial encroachment in our territories."

More 'SAUGEEN' — A2

DIONNE QUINTUPLETS

Sex abuse scarred childhood,

Saugeen claim shoreline

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A formal signing of the declaration is slated for Oct. 2 at a public ceremony in Saugeen. The band will then immediately begin to determine fishing seasons and quotas, set dates for issuing commercial and sports fishing licences and analyse resources, Kahgee said.

Kahgee said he expects sports fishermen to recognize the band's authority. "You don't go to another country, basically, and disobey their laws," he said.

Kahgee said he would like to see sports fishing associations help Saugeen achieve some objectives in managing the fishery. But that doesn't mean non-native fishermen will have a political voice, he said.

"When we talk about management of the fishery we're looking at the in-

terest of the fishery itself, not of the users."

Kahgee said he took this action because negotiations with the Ministry of Natural Resources over the last five years went nowhere.

"They had opportunities to enter agreements with us. They had a lot of time to reflect upon our claims and they've done nothing. Therefore we have to take this action in order to preserve our rights."

Saugeen will be delivering its declaration as a sovereign nation to the prime minister of Canada and the Department of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa, Kahgee said. "It is our belief and good faith that the process of withdrawal by the governments of Canada and Ontario can occur in an orderly manner."