



by Lori Thomas

The Indian Springs Lodge hosted the 2007 Potawatomi Language Conference this year on August 5-8, 2007, which kicked off the entire week of the Potawatomi Gathering.

Guests were able to check in on Sunday, August 5, with a friendly game of "shi shi be" (language Bingo) that started the three day conference.

The following three days involved many speakers on various language topics including Kevin Jacobson, FCP tribal member, who spoke about language

dialects; Dr. Johnnie P. Flynn, who spoke about "From Manido to God: The Impact of Christian Missions on the Potawatomi Language", Darryl Baldwin with "Language Revitalization", and Stewart King on "Potawatomi Homonyms" - just to name a few.

Tom Skenandore, Grey Fox Productions, presented the long-awaited DVD/CD Rom of the language project that the museum staff had been working diligently with Skenandore in producing. Skenandore, along with people that had worked on the DVD providing their voices for the project, explained

how they accomplished what is now a 99 percent finished product.

With that, Michael Alloway Sr., told everyone in attendance at the language conference that they would all be receiving a copy, along with all tribal members of Forest County.

The program, which is named after Gte Ga Nēs Preschool (Little Garden), has five interactive animated scenes, "In the Classroom," "Mealtime", "Outside Activities", "Matching Games" and "Text Only". All language spoken in this CD is the traditional writing system that Jim Thunder teaches at the

FCP Cultural Center, Museum and Library.

In closing, Thunder spoke to the general audience in regards to the language being around in 20 years. He stated, "It is up to the youth of the community to keep the language alive."

Meals were provided throughout the three-day event and a giveaway was provided on the last day of the Language Conference.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU:
 JIM THUNDER, BILLY DANIELS, MARY WENSALT, AND MARY JANE THUNDER FOR WANTING TO DO THIS IN 2003 ALONG WITH HELP FROM THE MUSEUM STAFF; JERILYNN AND CHRIS KROENING; THE PRESENTERS FROM ALL EIGHT BANDS OF THE POTAWATOMI NATION; INDIAN SPRINGS LODGE AND CONFERENCE CENTER; AND SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY FOR ALLOWING US TO COORDINATE AND HOST THIS IMPORTANT EVENT.
 -FCP CULTURAL CENTER, LIBRARY AND MUSEUM



Above: Tom Skenandore, Grey Fox Productions, presents the long-awaited and very much anticipated Gte Ga Nēs Language DVD. People that helped with the project were: Virginia Jacobson, Jim Thunder, Michael Alloway Sr., Kim Wensaut, and Kevin Jacobson. Below: Kevin Jacobson during one of the break-out sessions.



Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Make Donation



Kevin Daugherty, Pokagon Band, presents the donation to the Language Conference to Jim Thunder, FCP Elder and language instructor, at the FCP Cultural Center, Library and Museum.

submitted by Michael Alloway Sr., Director, FCP Cultural Center, Library and Museum

Kevin Daugherty, on behalf of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians of Dowagiac, Mich., presents a \$5,000 donation to the 5th Annual Potawatomi Language Conference to James Thunder, Language Instructor at the Forest County Potawatomi Cultural Center, Library and Museum.

The annual conference, which

began in 2003, was incorporated as a means to familiarize and encourage language efforts among the eight bands of the Potawatomi Nation. From a small gathering of 75 participants, the conference has grown to almost 200 and has become an important part of the annual Gathering of the Potawatomi Nation.

The 6th Annual Potawatomi Language Conference will be hosted by Walpole Island First Nation, Ontario, Canada, in 2008.