



**Duane A. Jacobs** is from the Cayuga Nation and is of the wolf clan. Duane currently resides with his spouse, Judy, their son Tie and daughter, Alisha.

He has a B.A. in Social Science from McMaster University. He is a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada since May 2003. His hope was to one day practice law in his own firm, in partnership or in association with other Native lawyers and this has already happened. Duane is now practicing as a sole practitioner in association with S. Joy Marr here on Six Nations.

Duane has been very fortunate to accomplish a number of things in his life. Gaining two degrees at University (BA at McMaster and an LLB at the University of Windsor) were huge accomplishments considering he was never an “A” student

in high school. Prior to this he had never accomplished anything in academics, so it was a tremendous challenge, **a challenge he met head on.** His achievements in the game of lacrosse; being part of **three consecutive Mann Cup Championships** is a feat that will not be accomplished again for sometime. There were other memorable moments in the game as well. The game has been good to him and for that he is truly grateful. Duane is now retired from the game of lacrosse that was so rewarding for him. He is proud of his successes in both academics and sports.

**“To me, life is about challenges, we face them every day, some big, some small and some can be overwhelming. However, I was always told when I was younger by my mother and my grandmother that the Creator above never gives you more than you can take on in life.** I’ve taken that advice to heart, so whenever I am faced with adversity, particularly in life, where sometimes life does not seem

fair, I remember that bit of advice and I move forward. It helps me to refocus and overcome.”

“With respect to university, the challenge I faced on a daily basis was communicating and learning the way of life as a university student. For me it was like **two different worlds.** What I was taught as a native person and what I was learning from the mainstream society seemed to be in **direct conflict** with each other.”

The values and principles of **“hard work” and “perseverance”** guided him through school and as mentioned before the fact that **“you are never given more than you can handle.”** Duane believes that **“every person in life on Mother Earth is here for a purpose.”** This would always help him get over the tough times when he found himself in law school and at times asking himself “what am I doing here?”

Duane often thinks about how he can contribute to the

community, but he doesn’t know yet what that will be. He is sure one day it will just be there and he will be doing something that will be beneficial for all.

In Duane’s opinion the key challenge for Six Nations is “the need to return to our own form of government. We cannot continue to adopt or use the government imposed band council system. Look at the number of people who turn out to vote. It is obvious the majority of our people does not accept or recognize this government structure. To me the people are speaking loud and clear that they want change.”

He advises to **“get your education completed as early as possible,** while you are still young. If you are older, **don’t be afraid of the challenge.** When you truly put your mind to something, nothing will stop you from succeeding.”

His wish to everyone in the community is **“good health and all the best.”**