

Sainte Marie to showcase Haudenosaunee story

By Glenn Coin
Staff writer

The Onondaga Historical Association plans to take over the Sainte Marie Among the Iroquois site in January and transform it into a museum that tells the history of the Haudenosaunee, or Iroquois Confederacy.

The museum near Onondaga Lake will be renamed and will focus on the oral history of the confederacy, a group of five and later six tribes that spanned what is now New York state.

Under a contract with Onondaga County, which will continue to own the site, the historical association

hopes to add new exhibits, classrooms, a restaurant and a lacrosse facility.

The OHA is working with the Onondaga Nation, one of the nations in the confederacy, and with Le Moyne College and Syracuse University.

Onondaga County has appropriated \$75,000 of seed money, and the associ-

ation will add an additional \$75,000 to get the project off the ground. Most of that money will be used to hire a full-time museum manager who will run the site and devise a long-term plan for the center.

“It has the potential to be really world class,” said Gregg Tripoli, executive director of the association.