

Expo honors Native American heritage, lacrosse history

By Sarah Moses

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The Haudenosaunee Wooden Stick Lacrosse Expo honors the history of lacrosse, promotes the sport and educates the public.

Lacrosse is a fast-paced, hard-hitting sport that is growing in popularity across the country, but for Native Americans in Central New York, the game is about peace and tradition. Lacrosse, known as the Creator's game, is a tradition of the Haudenosaunee, which includes the Mohawk, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Seneca and Tuscarora nations.

An opening ceremony was held Saturday. The event, which is free and open to the public, continues today at Onondaga Lake Park.

The expo features exhibition games, youth lacrosse clinics hosted by professional lacrosse players from the Onondaga Nation and a stick-making demonstration by lacrosse stick carver Alf Jacques, a member of the Onondaga Nation Turtle Clan.

The expo, which also features Native American food and crafts, ends with a closing ceremony at 5 p.m. today.

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Steve Thomas of the Onondaga Nation waves to lacrosse stick maker Jack Johnson of Akwesasne as he walks by his booth at the Haudenosaunee Wooden Stick Expo at Onondaga Lake Park. (Mike Greenlar / mgreenlar@syracuse.com)