

# Dream of library striding towards reality

By: Ross Montour

Since Skawennio Barnes wrote to *The Eastern Door*, voicing a need for a public library in Kahnawake, her dream is closer to becoming a reality. And Barnes has gained unexpected recognition and renown in the process.

In addition to receiving the Peter Gzowski Literacy Award and being chosen as CosmoGirl of the year, Barnes has been invited to Canada's National Library as a special guest of popular children's book author Roch Carrier, whose celebrated book, *The Hockey Sweater*, has been immortalized on the back of the new Canadian \$5 bill. Carrier also grew up in a small town that lacked a library.

Barnes and other members of the library committee will travel to Ottawa to dine with Carrier, who will also escort them on a tour of the National Library where Barnes will have the privilege of picking out some titles for the new Kahnawake library.

In the meantime, those books, along with thousands of other have found a home.

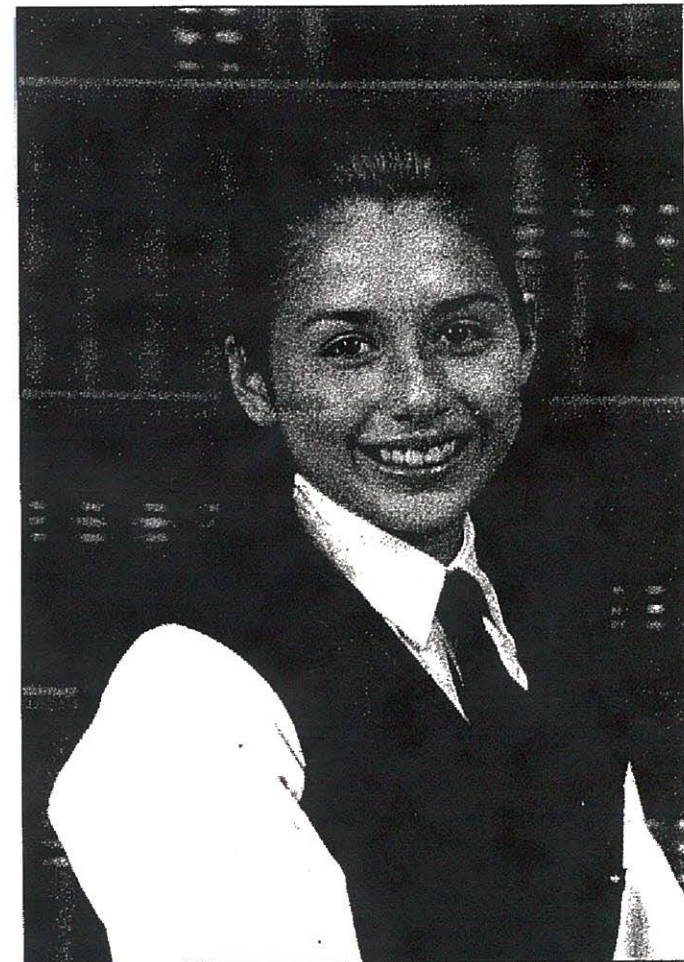
also jumped on the library bandwagon, giving air time for a unique fundraising venture. Businesses which make a \$200 contribution to the Kahnawake Library fund will gain publicity with a one-minute TV commercial or message of support. Local filmmaker Tracey Déer is contributing her time to help film commercials. TV ads, as well as details on the library, will run during one-hour segments over a two-week period. The committee hopes to raise \$6,000 with this venture.

Back to the irrepressible Miss Barnes. It seems the young library champion's efforts have caught the ear of CBC Radio personality Dave Rosen, who spent several years working in the library field. An on-air interview with Barnes will be scheduled and a radio campaign to collect book donations at various libraries in the Montreal area is in the works. Delormier said Rosen is trying to make all of this happen in time to coincide with Barnes' appearance in

the December issue of *CosmoGirl*, which will hit newsstands on Nov. 7. All of this came on the heels of an earlier interview aired on CBC, which prompted numerous calls from interested listeners who wanted to help in some way.

remarking on Barnes' ongoing participation, Delormier said, "Skawennio attends and contributes at all meetings of the library committee. She is also working on the project with her school, Sacred Heart. Her plea for a library has generated great results. The library committee has a mailing address and Skawennio has even received signed copies of books sent by authors."

Delormier adds that the job of sorting and cataloguing books will require much time and if anyone would like to help, volunteers are welcome. Library meetings are held every Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m. at the Kanien'kehaka Onkwawén:na Raotitiohkwa Cultural Center. ■



Skawennio Barnes