



## Chad Garlow

*Lives in Ontario on the Six Nations Reserve of Grand River*

*Aboriginal Heritage: Oneida*

*RBC Award Winner: 1996-1997*

*Education: Bachelor of Commerce, Economics Major from McMaster University.*

In high school, Chad Garlow's goals weren't academic. Rather than being the "most likely to succeed" his aim was to have fun. "I just took a little while to grow up," he admits.

Fortunately, maturity led Chad on an educational path that has served him, his family and his community on the Six Nations Reserve, exceedingly well. Today, he is Senior Account Manager at the RBC Ohsweken Branch, the first on-reserve branch opened in Canada, 20 years ago.

With an Oneida mother and a Mohawk father, Chad's family reaches back three generations on the reserve. His family saw Chad's potential and encouraged him to pursue an education but his daughter had the greatest influence. "She was one year old and I thought, 'I brought a child into this world so I better do something for her.'"

Attending McMaster was difficult, admits Chad. "Life off reserve can be pretty intimidating. I ventured out like a baby taking steps. I did what I could and it worked out."

Chad won the RBC Award and was offered part-time work at the branch while completing university. He planned to stay for three years. That was 15 years ago and he's still there. Chad is still sometimes surprised at the significant role RBC has played in his life.

"Corporate culture is the direct opposite of native culture," he observes. "Corporate people give their life to their work. For us it's more like 'who can we help today?'" As Chad drives around the reserve and sees people living in the homes he's helped finance, he is deeply satisfied to know he's helped many.