



Submitted Photo

7th Generation, a trio from the Pentteton Indian reserve, captured the Best Rap or Hip Hop Album award at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards in Toronto, this past weekend. From left are Rob Sawan, Nacomia George and Zane Gold. The group won for their album Self Titled, their ninth independent release.

A hip-hop hit at Aboriginal awards

7th Generation honoured for album Self Titled

By JAMES MILLER
Pentteton Herald

7th Generation, a trio that hails from the Pentteton Indian reserve, won the Best Rap or Hip Hop Album award at this past weekend's Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards at the Rogers Centre in Toronto.

The trio, which features Zane Gold, Rob (Kasp) Sawan and Nacomia (DJ Combz) George won the award for their album Self Titled, the ninth

independent CD release of their career, which began in 2000.

7th Generation was also among the performers at the awards ceremony, sharing the marquee with multiple winner Crystal Shawanda and Lifetime Achievement Award winner Buffy Sainte-Marie.

Also nominated in the rap/hip hop category were FLENIX, based out of Edmonton, for On the Ride and Wabs Whitebird of Toronto for For the Love of Music.

In addition to recording and live performances, the Pentteton trio also does motivational speaking and

addresses aboriginal youth, earning an award in 2001 for promoting social change.

"We can be described as 'conscious urban,'" Gold said in a previous interview. "Our messages are positive . . . perhaps the least offensive form of hip hop music. The songs can be political at times but we're not into writing about drugs or materialistic things."

While the hip-hop artists have a solid base of aboriginal fans, their admirers extend to various cultures and walks of life.

Country artist Shawanda from

Wilkemikong, Ont., (on Manitoulin Island), won for all five categories she was nominated in, including Album of the Year for Dawn of a New Day and best single and video for You Can Let Go.

Sainte-Marie was on hand to pick up her honour. She enjoyed chart success in the early '70s with hits Mister Can't You See and Soldier Blue, but is best known for a recurring role on Sesame Street and for winning an Academy Award for co-writing Up Where We Belong, the No. 1 hit from the film An Officer and a Gentleman.