

MALONEY, Henry

Bancroft's Father Henry Maloney

Priest who became a community

leader to retire soon

By BOB LYONS
For The Intelligencer

BANCROFT--Father Henry J. Maloney, the Catholic priest who has helped shape North Hastings for 19 years--and who was a key figure in organizing Loyalist College in the Belleville area--will retire Oct. 15 due to failing health.

Since becoming pastor of the Bancroft and Haliburton parish in 1957, Maloney has been instrumental in building a new separate school and convent in Bancroft and a new church in Haliburton. And twice he led the community in struggles to keep Bancroft area mines operating--taking the cause

straight to top in government where the family name was well known.

In fact, Father Maloney was born to an influential Eganville family of 11 children. His father, Martin Maloney, was a Progressive Conservative MP for South Renfrew from 1925 to 1935. His brother, the late Arthur Maloney, was also a leading lawyer-politician who became Ontario's first Ombudsman. Another brother, James, was an Ontario cabinet minister whose portfolios included mines.

Father Maloney was ordained in Pembroke in 1941.

In his first summer as a priest he

served in Bancroft as an assistant to the pastor. He returned 16 years later, himself the pastor.

Within two years, he created Bancroft's first separate school, Our Lady of Mercy, which was particularly needed with the influx of uranium miners of Catholic faith. A convent for teachers, the Sisters of St. Joseph, was built next door.

In the 1960s he was active in helping organize Loyalist College, and later served on its board.

When the last of four uranium mines in the Bancroft area threatened to close in 1962 he was chosen to lead a citizens' committee to keep them open. He had a

private lunch with then Prime Minister John Diefenbaker and the two became personal friends.

The committee gained another 18 months of employment for the miners when Diefenbaker dusted off an old British offer to purchase uranium.

Maloney was called to fill the same role in 1980 when the Madawaska Mines operation was again set to close. This time the mine was lost, but both federal and provincial governments contributed bridging money to help the community adjust.

Due to recent health problems Maloney has found it difficult to

handle his large parish, which reaches to Haliburton. He has had two assistants, but now feels he must retire.

"I'm not planning to settle back in a corner and mould," says Maloney, who has always been noted for his fresh sense of humor.

He will return to his family homestead in Eganville and hopes to be able to help in the diocese at its bishop's request.

A service will be held here Friday to honor Maloney and his parishioners in Haliburton are planning a potluck supper for their pastor on Sunday.



FATHER HENRY MALONEY

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