

Jim Black retires Apr. 30

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Two former Colborne reeves both spoke highly of Jim Black.

Walter Rutherford was Reeve of the Colborne council which hired Mr. Black.

He attests to the fact Jim was a "really good employee of the village".

"We had a pretty good reputation for snow removal. We got a lot of compliments. Jim had a good reputation. It worked out really well for the village," Mr. Rutherford says.

Former Reeve George Boycott voices similar sentiments.

"Jim was a good guy who worked hard for the village, the guy who'd bail you out. He was so capable, he could do almost anything. He can fix anything. When you are a small village, you need someone who can do a lot.

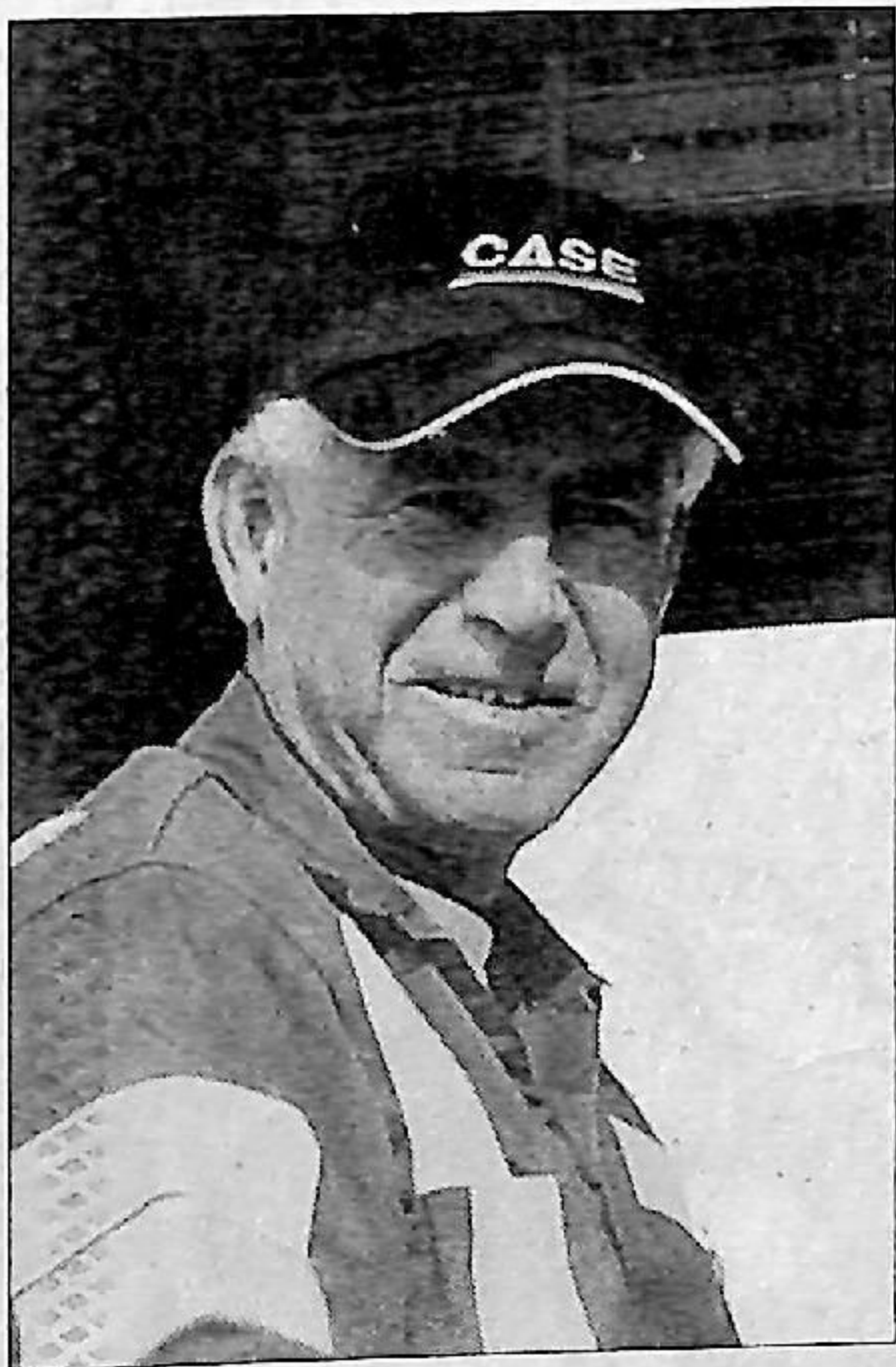
"You could always count on Jim. He was always around when needed," Mr. Boycott says.

Current Cramahe Twp. Mayor Marc Coombs adds his praise for the departing employee. "He is, without a doubt, the most conscientious and hard-working individual we have and he takes enormous pride in the community and making sure it looks the best it can.

"There are numerous stories about Jim going beyond the call of duty at all hours, making sure the community is well taken care of, whether that's been checking to make sure garbage cans aren't overflowing after events, checking to make sure

flooding hasn't occurred during heavy rainfalls, etc.," Mr. Coombs says.

"I've never heard a negative word about him in what is a very public and demanding job, with various levels of expectations from residents of the service they expect. Jim has managed for 30 years to meet those expectations and even exceed them. I've been impressed with his conscientious approach to the work required and the leadership he's



Jim Black

always shown. Council and the community will certainly miss his presence and dedication."

There have been many upgrades of equipment over the years. Marilyn Black reminds her husband that he was always pleased to get new machines. He's quick to agree: the equipment is much better now than when he started.

It was when he was working in one of those machines that he had one of his more memorable mishaps. He was moving snow and lost his wallet out the back of the tractor. So, he moved all the snow to the municipal yard and sifted through, finding it in an unlikely lump of snow.

The thought of snow took him back to December 1992. He had a machine he thought could move anything. But, this time the snow was deep, wet and very heavy. He couldn't do it. In the same snowfall, he towed the ambulance up Division Street.

The Blacks have come a long way since they rented for five years on King Street.

The rent never increased while they lived in that beautiful big apartment, but it wasn't long before their little family was increasing.

The couple lives, for the time being, on Church Street in the village. Their three daughters are now grown and raising families of their own.

Jim and Marilyn chuckle when asked what the girls do - they're all on maternity leave.

Cindy works for HD Supply and lives in Grafton. Hailey is on leave from IBM and baby Lindsey waits tables in Bancroft when she's not on leave.

Jim and Marilyn won't be far from their baby.

Marilyn is joining Jim in retirement, concluding 29 years at the Colborne IGA and now Foodland. Once their home is sold in Colborne, they are off to their 100-acre camp near Bancroft.

It's long way from where Jim grew up in Dundonald, but it's a dream come true.

He's been in the public eye for 30 years. He wants to sit back a bit, take some time for himself and do some hunting and fishing.

He and friends from Bancroft have a spot on Hogan Lake in Algonquin Park. It's a 10-hour trek into the camp, but it's worth it: the lake trout fishing is fabulous. They set camp the first night, catch enough for dinner, fry it up in lard and then spend the best part of the week pulling the big ones out.

When he's not out reeling in the fish, Jim will help build the 24x28-foot addition to their winterized home, doubling its square-footage. The autumn will find him with a gun in his hands instead of a shovel. In the winter, he'll turn over the engine on the tractor and dig himself out of his 500-metre lane. It's not much different than what he does now - except now he will do it on weekends.

He'll lay a little brick when his Bancroft friends need some help, but it won't be regular employment. He has too many other things to do.

He admits it's a little scary and he'll miss workmates Greg Davey and John Jakab, but it's time to move forward, he says.

Marilyn has a hard time containing the pleasure she is anticipating as she curls up to read a good book. She donated 300 books to the Bancroft Library and expects she'll be borrowing a lot more. Daughter Lindsey is there and Marilyn has made friends in the many years they have spent there.

Asked about his years, Jim smiles, happy his time on the job is done. He's looking forward to the years ahead and he has a good pension. He's only 55 and there is lots he wants to do, at his own speed, he says.

Jim's last day before he quietly waves goodbye is April 30.

Colborne
CMB WILLY
APR B 24/08

Letters To The Editor

14 acres adjacent to Castleton P.S.

To the Editor:
In regards to your article on the Accommodation Review Committee meeting, *Colborne Chronicle*, Apr. 17, 2008, there was some information reported that needs clarifying.

Castleton Public School sits on 9.7 acres with the Castleton Sports Club Field (not Castleton Playing Fields) providing 14-plus more acres adjacent to the school site. Should the new school be built on this site, the students would be able to continue their school day/studies with little to no disruption. As well, Kawartha Pine Ridge District Board of Education Associate Director of Education Sherri Summersides stated the demolition of Castleton Public School is included in the funding if this site is chosen. There are also two access routes to the Castleton site - County Road 25 and the road access between the school and the cemetery.

Whatever the outcome, I believe the trustees' decision will be based on the facts presented to them and what is in the best interests of the children.

**Karen Nicol /
Cramahe Twp.**