

Bancroft Village Council

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far produced 25 tons for sale.

STATION STREET
Something will soon happen with Station Street, from the Shell station to the Corner Store. Work is expected this August. Total cost will be \$832,341, of which the Town will pay \$290,000. There is still a hassle over whether this is a Connecting Link project.

The Council cannot take the lead in building a snowmobile bridge near Station

Street, although Councillors agree it is a great idea. Yes, "We will assist - to the extent of \$40,000 - in 1996 or when needed. But we are not the leading player."

BELL MOBILITY
Council heard that Bell Mobility is "more than pleased" with the reception they have received. Council had heard, "The numbers make it affordable to go ahead with the project."

STATION
Council passed a

by-law "to authorize the construction of certain amenities in 'The Old Station'." This means better washrooms, accessible to the public without walking the length of the Chamber of Commerce office. Cost is not to exceed \$23,000.

MADAWASKA ST.
Turning lanes will be built "very soon" at the corner of Hastings and Madawaska Streets - one block north of the Station Street corner.

Wildlife Preservation Urged

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bility and to help develop workable alternatives to forestry based on regional needs and resources.

The project will run for 2 years. It began in August 1994 so only has 1 more year to work out its aims.

The project has been collecting economic and land use information about the local forest area. It is consulting with local people to share their ideas. It is preparing and distributing fact sheets focusing on local issues. It is encouraging open discussion and creative problem solving among the people of the area. It is helping to develop cooperative initiatives among local communities, integrating forest sustainability with community economic development.

The Forest Diversity / Community Survival Project has been initiated by the Wildlands League and funded by the Richard Ivey Foundation of London, Ont.

Fact sheets distributed at the

Tamarack meeting were about the changes in the forest industry due to changes in the forests which are due to modern methods of harvesting trees.

They also study the effects of road networks on the forests and wildlife.

Some facts on the use of forests in the Bancroft area were brought out by women at the meeting. People with training in the use of plants for medicinal purposes collect plants locally and prepare natural medicines.

Concern was expressed about the way road crews seem to have little concern for the affect their work has on the natural environment.

Women's involvement in the forest industries is usually as office staff. Service industries which cater to tourists are predominantly run by women.

On the topic of timber management planning it was pointed out that the Ministry of Natural Resources controls the Crown lands but has no

control over the use of private forests.

Stan Seitz and Kara Mitchell emphasize that education is the key to improving land use. They want to motivate people to treat the land so that it will regenerate naturally.

Selective cutting maintains natural soil conditions to aid natural regeneration of trees and cause less disturbance of wildlife and natural vegetation. This takes long-term planning.

For more information contact Seitz at R.R.#1, Ompah, Ont., KOH 2J0, or phone (613) 479-2855.

Cabinet Ministers

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service in OMAFRA had extended over some 20 years. Noble and Ken will serve rural Ontario and the agriculture industry very well," Buchanan said.

Buchanan said he was also pleased to see that the rural parts of Eastern Ontario would also be represented

By Stewart Smith

"I took the job very seriously," considers Elmer Buchanan, who was defeated on June 8 as M.P.P. for Hastings - Peterborough, and also lost the Cabinet post of Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs.

Now weary, and at last able to respond to weariness, Elmer Buchanan promises, "I am going to take July and August as a real holiday, and have a real summer."

Beyond that, he is unemployed from now until next January or February. Yes, he will likely be looking for something during those months.

Come early 1996 his situation becomes more certain. "I'm on leave as a Vice-Principal." He is already talking with the Hastings County Board of Education, explaining that the time has come for him to return to their employment.

"In a few years, reflecting back on it, I'll be able to say that I made a contribution to Ontario history," Elmer sums up the last 5 years. "For me it was very much work."

He speaks of his trip to Geneva,

Switzerland. "I guess there was a lake there. We flew over it at night." He and officials of other governments saw the inside of their meeting place - a downtown hotel, where they had 10 meetings in 2 days. Such was his overseas excursion.

For others, including Noble Villeneuve (new Minister of Agriculture, etc.) and Chris Hodgson (new Minister of Natural Resources) he warns, "I don't think anyone has any comprehension what [being a Cabinet Minister] entails."

With special personal interest, Elmer is watching Noble Villeneuve (Stormont - Dundas - Glengarry), "a friend of mine," and considers that "He'll probably do a good job - if he doesn't get his budget cut too much."

"It takes a toll," he muses. Take a look at the pictures of the N.D.P. Cabinet members in 1990, and then in 1995.

Of the Bob Rae government now, he suggests, "We tried to fix too many things. We tried to do too much - in very tough times, too." He explains, "Whenever you fix something, some people are alienated."

Looking ahead, Elmer Buchanan the N.D.P. stalwart quickly emerges. "It's important that we not backslide in rural Ontario." He notes, "A lot of our new



beach-heads are in rural south western Ontario." Yes, "We will have a presence at the Plowing Match in Wellington in September."

Elmer liked, of all his titles, "Elmer - the friend of farmers in Ontario." But he must not be the only friend in the N.D.P. that farmers can find.

"Nobody's really calling for his head," Elmer says of former Premier Bob Rae. But he is less charitable with the Toronto Dailies and the C.B.C., which did political assassinations on the government of which he was a part, and are already starting on the new Mike Harris government. "The media likes negative journalism so much," he accuses.

The size of his own defeat was "a kick in the pants," Elmer admits. "We worked on their behalf." He speaks of about 5000 case files handled through his Constituency office. After that, "I was sort of surprised at the size of [my defeat]."

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