

# Castor Vote Call Tough Tory Turf Grits Grinding Away

PRESCOTT-RUSSELL

Prescott-Russell MLA Albert Belanger has just logged through one of the most trying campaigns in his 15 years at the helm of the riding.

The vote March 19 will show whether the Sarsfield resident and ex-dairyman slogged hard enough to shake off the cloud of suspicion surrounding his alleged fraudulent involvement with a bankrupt cement company.

He recently succeeded in having prosecution on the charge postponed until after the election. He said he would not be seeking re-election if he did not believe he was innocent.

The charge was laid almost a year ago. The possibility Mr. Belanger could be forced to resign if convicted was seen as the reason behind serious opposition to his nomination as the Tory candidate at a recent meeting of Embrun.

The bumpy beginning to his campaign has fueled the drive of opposition parties to snatch the seat which has historically flown the blue banner.

The Liberals in particular are running hard with candidate Don Boudria, deputy-reeve of

Cumberland. The party, which has traditionally placed second in the riding, sees this election as their best chance in decades to topple Torydom in Prescott-Russell.

Midway through the campaign, Boudria was the most visible candidate with campaign offices in both Hawkesbury and Orleans and posters speckling the riding.

He wants rural hydro rates reduced and more money for farmers who, he says, receive less government help in Ontario than in any other province except PEI. He says a more forceful presence at Queen's Park could obtain more for the riding.

New Democrat Claude Dion, a union organizer who has run federally, says only 12,000 people out of a total work force of 40,000 are employed in the riding. He says new industry is desperately needed.

Mr. Belanger says he has spoken at least half a dozen times on behalf of his constituents this year in the legislature. He says 30 industries have located in the riding in the past decade and that more will come now that essential support services are in place.

He wants French officially recognized as Ontario's second language but agrees with Premier Davis the time is not politically opportune. Better now to foster French in the schools, he says.

About 70 per cent of the riding's 60,000 residents are French-speaking.

## GRENVILLE-CARLETON

Grenville-Carleton MLA Norm Sterling may come on as a soft-spoken Mr. Nice Guy, but he remains the man to beat in the long-time Tory stronghold.

Mr. Sterling, a Manotick resident, was first elected in 1977 with an 8,500 vote majority and is expected to do at least as well when the riding's 40,600 eligible voters go to the polls again March 19.

A lawyer and an engineer, the Conservative incumbent is being challenged by Liberal Paul Raina of Kemptville, and New Democratic Party standard-bearer Alan White, of Richmond.

While Mr. Sterling keeps a relatively low profile, he's considered to be a quietly competent backbencher by his colleagues in the legislature.

In fact, he's said to be in line for a cabinet post should the Bill Davis government be returned to power.

But the member's opponents claim the riding, which includes Osgoode Township, has stagnated under Tory rule and promise to inject life into the local economy if given a chance.

As in many other ridings, the Liberals are insisting they are out to win Grenville-Carleton and not

## Where's S.H.I.T. house?

Where's the little blue outhouse?

That's the question S.H.I.T. lottery organizers are asking as they scour the banks of the Castor River looking for the infamous privy.

The backhouse went under Feb. 19 and hasn't been seen since. Doreen Gowdy of Winchester won \$500 as holder of the ticket coming closest to predicting the actual sinking time. Runnersup were Russell's Teen Campbell and Harry Heymans who each earned \$50.

When they're not looking for the backhouse for use in a similar draw next year, members of the Shure Hope It Tips crowd are planning their next fund-raising event — a Hootenanny May 23.

That event will include Li'l Abner and Daisy Mae look-alike contests, said Angela Burgess. Money raised will go into the swimming pool change room and curling club building funds.

"We should have known better," Angela said when reminded the S.H.I.T. scheme was launched Friday, Feb. 13.

Unexpected warm weather broke up ice on the Castor a month earlier than usual and the outhouse when only 500 of 2,100 tickets printed had been sold. As a result, fund-raisers lost \$100, Angela said.

"But it was very popular and that's why we want to do it again."

She thinks somebody removed the privy from the river.

## Heritage to come alive

A second delapidated structure now sits beside Notre Dame Street in Embrun as plans for a heritage park in the village begin to take shape.

An old New York Central train station made the journey from Berwick to a site near A and R Gercoire several months ago. It was recently joined by a colonial home moved from Carlsbad Springs with the co-operation of the National Capital Commission.

The two buildings will be restored and are the nucleus of a future educational museum. They'll eventually be stocked with artifacts donated by Embrun residents.

Katimavik involves young Canadians across Canada from 17-21 years old. These young people trade their skills for a nine-month immersion course in living with others from varying places and backgrounds. By trading their services with different communities they learn about their country and discover new trades and parts of their self.

Embrun has embarked on an exchange that will mean gains for both the town and the volunteers. Already, much of the work on the railway house has been completed, the interior is entirely finished.

Once the railway house is completed it will be used for a dual purpose. Not only will it make up part of the historical park site, it will also function as an educational museum. The articles in the museum will be old relics of Embrun origin. It is hoped that the people of Embrun will assist by donating antique artifacts.

By creating this project, organizers hope to gain a sense of pride within the community. As well the site will serve an educational purpose and at the same time beautify the village.

## Notice

The Russell Recreation Association presents Lois Walker & The Puppocorns Saturday, April 4th, 1981. F. Kinnaird Community Centre. Admission 75¢. Sponsored by the Russell Playground Committee.

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