

Profile This Week

Meet Jane Greer - "What do you need to know?"

For quite a while now the "NEWS" has been publishing a weekly column entitled Northern Affairs. The column is written by our own Northern Affairs Officer in Marathon, Jane E. Greer, (NO, I didn't find out what the E. stands for!)

Jane assumed the position as Northern Affairs Officer for this area, back in October of 1980, having been employed as a staff officer out of the Thunder Bay Ministry office.

Jane is the ideal person for such a position. She is very interested in helping the people of Northwestern Ontario and will stop at nothing in order to assist them. Need to know about Hemlo? Want to become a Canadian Citizen, but don't know the proper procedure? Want info on starting a small business? Having problems dealing with the red tape? Just ask Jane Greer. If she can't answer your questions, she knows of somebody who can. She has solved many problems and answered many questions since she has taken over in Marathon.

Jane's territory covers many miles - from Manitowadge to Mobert on the east, and as far west as Pays Plat. She covers many miles every week, and not just by phone or by paper, but by vehicle.

As can be expected from this type of work, Jane can't conduct regular office hours. Many of her evenings and weekends are spent attending various local and out-of-

town meetings. But she doesn't complain. Her main priority is to help, and if help means evenings, etc., she'll do it.

Jane says that her work is actually very enjoyable. "There's never a dull moment here and each individual case is so different that it's never monotonous."

"I find that my work is not only important to me, but also to others around me who I deal with, plus the communities as a whole."

Not only does Jane work on an individual basis but much of her role as a Northern Affairs Officer also involves local and area councils and various business men. She deals with everything from financial resources to information on unemployment insurance and she also assists the M.T.C. by booking driver examinations and by validating overdue drivers licences if needed. Jane feels that other government agencies should be moving into the Marathon area to assist the residents with their everyday wants and needs. The people of Marathon have a desperate need of a U.I.C. office - not only to assist them in job locations but also to help them with filing U.I.C. claims, and we all know that the pulp and paper industry has been known to issue layoffs.

"The people around here are very money conscious and receiving their benefits on time with no problems is very important to them and their families."

Jane will assist them with their claims, should they need assistance but she feels that with the frequent layoffs, plus all the new jobs that are being created by the Hemlo project - "We need some type of employment centre here, in order to handle everything."

There is also quite a need for a licencing centre in Marathon. "Right now, the closest centre is either Schreiber or Wawa, and that's quite a distance to travel just for a sticker renewal." Under the new system for licence plate renewal, it no longer involves two months out of the year. "With everyone's birthday being different, the need for such an office has vastly increased. Marathon and area is also looking at a population increase which in turn means more and more people will be in need of this type service." Jane says that she can't help out with any form of licence plate renewal but if you haven't received your

licence renewal and it's that time of year, she can stamp (or validate) your licence for an additional 90 days.

Jane hasn't always worked in this capacity however. Upon graduation from secondary school, she entered into nursing school to obtain her R.N.A. After receiving her diploma, she went into the field of nursing at the Port Arthur General Hospital and worked there for four years on a full-time basis.

It was about that time in her life, that Jane decided to further her education and she went back to Lakehead University in order to obtain her Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in psychology and sociology. In the process though, she still continued to work part-time at the hospital. Upon graduating university, she decided to move to Sioux Lookout to work as a native counsellor. In March of '79 she returned to work in Thunder Bay, only this time for the Ministry of



Northern Affairs Officer - Jane E. Greer

Northern Affairs.

When asked what she does in her spare time (when she has spare time), Jane mentioned that she's an active curler, enjoys all types of crafts and likes to get away from it all on the cross-country ski trails.

On top of everything else she is also involved in a variety of community groups. She is the Chairman of the Northshore Interagency Committee. Jane was active in forming this committee which is compiled of various services (eg. Children's Aid, etc.) The committee will assist the people to help themselves and is de-

signed to make all services from Thunder Bay to Sault Ste. Marie available to the people and to provide the residents with contacts to those different services.

Jane also holds the position of Vice Chairman of the Wilson Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, and is also a director of the North of Superior Community Mental Health Board.

When asked what she wanted to be when she grows up (joke!), she thought for a moment and then replied, "If I can't gain advancement within this Ministry, I would seriously consider

going back to university to obtain my Masters in social work or else in Business Administration and Personnel. There are bigger and better jobs out there, but in order to get your foot in the door so to speak, you first must have a Masters Degree."

But right now, Jane doesn't have time to think about all that ... her phone is ringing off the wall and people are lined three deep just to get her advice.

BORED????

"Don't be silly ... I haven't the time!"

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all my friends and family who were all so kind to me during my recovery of my operation. Special thanks to all those who sent gifts, flowers, fruit baskets and cards. A special thanks to Costa's and the staff for their kindness. I will always remember.

Thank you
Susan Fairservice

BLUEPRINT FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment has developed a comprehensive proposal of new programs, controls and regulations for the better management of eight million tons of solid waste and the 60 million tons of liquid industrial waste generated in Ontario each year.

Information meetings to explain this Blueprint for Waste Management have already been held.

Now interested persons or groups will be given the opportunity to make written or oral presentations on the subject at a series of public forums being held throughout Ontario.

PUBLIC FORUM

Wednesday, October 12,
2-4:30 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

Valhalla Inn, Viking Room
1 Valhalla Inn Road, Thunder Bay

Written submissions are preferred but verbal presentations, accompanied by a written summary, are acceptable and will be heard in the order that notices of intention are received.

Advance notice of presentation may be made by writing or phoning your local Ministry of the Environment office.

Regional Office
3rd Floor, 435 James St. South
Thunder Bay, Ont. P7C 5G6
(807) 475-1205



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10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Thursday
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10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Saturday
(Closed daily 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.)

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