



SHEEP AWARDS — **Chuck Stewart** (centre) of Grande Prairie accepts trophy from International Days Queen Betty Chledowski for having the best pen of three sheep. The presentation was made yesterday as part of the sheep competitions at the County Fair. Holding the other sheep are John Young (upper left) and Steven McNally.



Now that's a spud!

Without a doubt, they grow them bigger in these parts. At least that's how **Chuck Stewart** has it figured. In his potato field, located just outside Wembley, he dug up this one potato: with seven potatoes joined to it. Mr. Stewart said he had a couple of potatoes like this fine specimen in his field, but he wouldn't say what his secret is.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

**to all our Customers & Friends
and a Happy New Year**



Back Row — Jeff Brazeau, Wayne Giesbrecht, Al Banman, Gary Moore; Middle Row
Grant Blimke, Rocky Pelletier, Oscar Rinke; Front Row — Cynthia Hemmingsen, **Chuck**
Stewart, Denise Barnes, Wayne Leslie.

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**Merry
Christmas**



Back - Grant Blimke, Gary Moore,
Wayne Gieshect, Wayne Leslie. Front
-Oscar Rinke, Denise Barnes, Rocky
Pelletier, **Chuck Stewart.**

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Police/fire report

Herald-Tribune staff

● Valleyview RCMP are presently investigating a possible drowning of a Grande Prairie man over the weekend.

Charles Bevan Stewart, 59, was last seen fishing alone in a small boat on Snipe Lake early Saturday morning.

Snipe Lake is 30 km east of Valleyview.

A search is currently underway in the area.

The County of Grande Prairie held annual organizational meetings for council and school board recently. Seated (l-r) are: school board chairman Olive Stickney, Reeve Bill Heusman and councillors Phyllis Stewart and Yula Romanko. Standing (l-r) are: councillors Jim Cleave, Jim Tissington, Albert Tomshak, Ray Gilkyson, deputy reeve Adolph Schultz, school board vice-chairman Lavern Sorgaard and councillor Jim Stewart. County councillors also serve on the school board in addition to town representatives (missing) Lois Brent (Wembley), Betty Burton (Beaverlodge), Rick MacDonald (Sexsmith) and Christie Inkster (Hythe).



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5 Cards of Thanks

WE would like to thank the friends who offered their time and boats to aid us in the search for our father, Charles Bevan Stewart at Snipe Lake, and also to the Valleyview R.C.M.P. for their co-operation. All search operations have had to be called off until spring.

Cherry Dionne, Marvin, Shannon & Creston Stewart and our families.

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Historic site designation sought

Bezanson closer to rising again

By KATHY MURRIE
Herald-Tribune staff

The old Bezanson townsite, occupied from 1906 to the early 1920s, has taken another step closer to becoming a provincial historic site.

With an entourage of about 50 people, including several former residents, Smoky River MLA Marvin Moore handed over the "intention to designate a registered historic resource" from Alberta Culture to county councillor Phyllis Stewart on June 14.

The drive to have the area, near the confluence of the Wapiti, Smoky and Simonette Rivers, has been going on for the past year and a half. The Bezanson Agricultural Society has led recent efforts to not only declare the site a resource, but to develop it as a campsite.

At one time a growing hamlet of over 200 people, the site was slowly deserted after an anticipated railway line never arrived. The last residents left in the early 1920s and the site is now barren of buildings, either moved to the new Bezanson seven miles north and east on Highway 34, or left to crumble with time.

But foundations and outlines of the stores, homes and livery stables that once graced the flat stretch of land overlooking the rivers, still remain.

Oldtime residents like Ellis Turner of DeBolt have been helping the society's committee determine where the original buildings were. The plan is to have markers with period photos and capsule histories identify the sites in the future campground.

The designation opens up the prospect of access to provincial funding towards the site as a provincial recreational and tourist area, explained Moore. There could be \$50,000 in capital improvement grants available by next year with \$10,000 annual operating grants also available for care and upkeep of the park.

Coun. Stewart, accepting the designation on behalf of the county (which holds title to the land), addressed the gathering.

"This is a recognition of the people who originally settled here — a dedicated, determined and adventurous lot," she said.



Old townsite visitors outline the foundations of what is believed to be founder A.M. Bezanson's first home, which would have been built about 1906.



Special guests take a ride on Walter Waldner's wagon. He is third from the left, helping Gertrude (Bezanson) Mattinson get seated comfortably, along with Bezanson resident Hazel (Patterson) Weegar. Standing on the wagon are agricultural society rep Janet Sarmaga (left) and county councillor Phyllis Stewart (right), with Smoky River MLA Marvin Moore in the background.

Among the visitors to the site were former residents Gertrude Mattinson, now living in Califor-

nia, and Walter Peterson of DeBolt. Agricultural society committee

chairman Janet Sarmaga arranged the tour, which coincided with the new hamlet's Sports Day.

At 3:30 p.m. Saturday a man's body was recovered from Snipe Lake, 25 km east of Valleyview. The body is suspected to be that of Charles Bevan Stewart, 59, of Grande Prairie who was reported missing on a fishing trip last Sept. 28, 1985.

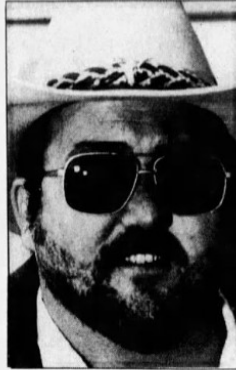
A positive identification has not yet been made by the medical examiners' office.

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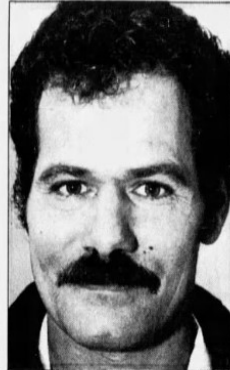
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Profile: Division 1

- Population: 1,349 (1984 census).
- Estimated eligible voters: 780.
- Schools: Bezanson Elementary (Grades 1-9)
- Municipalities: Hamlet of Bezanson
- Mainly rural division with the exception of Bezanson and the western part of the division where there are numerous country residential subdivisions.
- Candidates: Jim East, Gregg LaValley, Phyllis Stewart (incumbent), George Truhn.



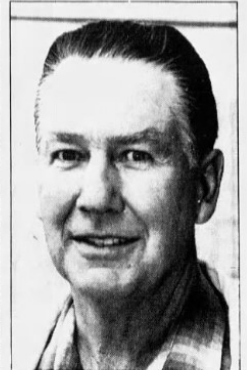
JIM EAST



GREGG LaVALLEY



PHYLLIS STEWART



GEORGE TRUHN

County Election 1989

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For County Councillor
Division #1 - County of Grande Prairie
Vote

PHYLLIS STEWART

on
October 16, 1989
Five Mile Creek Hall & Legion Hut Bezanson

- Accessible • Dependable • Prior experience in Local government.
- Employment commitments compatible with public service • Sincerely dedicated to bringing your needs before Council and Board of Education

Placed by Phyllis Stewart Committee

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Trustee wants students to evaluate teachers

By SUZANNE LUNDRIGAN
Herald-Tribune staff

Students should be involved in evaluating teachers, says county school trustee Kelly Sutherland, and he is calling on the school board to implement a policy that would incorporate student input into the evaluation process.

Sutherland said these student "report cards" should be available to the school superintendents and, if needed, to the board.

Deputy superintendent Vern Berg agreed student input is valuable — the county currently consults students when evaluating principals — but questioned the idea of putting the student reports on the teacher's evaluation file.

"I have difficulty with anonymous questionnaires going to one supervisor," said Berg.

He said the administration would bring the proposal back to the district principals for their input.

"We will discuss with principals how to incorporate student feedback," said Berg.

But Sutherland says the information provided through the student evaluation is of value and should be accessible.

"Originally, that report would only go to the teacher — that's a waste of time, energy and money if it goes to the teacher," said Sutherland.

In calling for student input into teacher evaluation, Sutherland said, "We as a board are missing a portion of feedback — the children."

He said student input should not be seen as a threat by teachers.

"We're not questioning the authority of the teacher or anything else, but we have to recognize that some of the teachers are (being) protected and are not being evaluated properly," said Sutherland.

"It has been apparent some of the principals in the county school system — by the number of experiences I have had personally — should not have been principals."

And citing the county's below-average performance on recent pro-



KELLY SUTHERLAND

'We're not questioning the authority of the teacher or anything else, but we have to recognize that some of the teachers are (being) protected and are not being evaluated properly. It has been apparent some of the principals in the county school system — by the number of experiences I have had personally — should not have been principals.'

vincial exams, Sutherland said, "Notice our provincial graph is not way above."

Board vice-chairman Phyllis Stewart warned Sutherland that he should not be pointing a finger at teachers because of the results.

"It's not quite right to look at marks and zero in on teachers," said Stewart.

"True, but I'd like to speak to that issue," Sutherland said. "Eighty-per-cent of those kids in Grade 12

started in Grade 1 in the county system."

Sutherland wants to know what the students think.

"Has there ever been a report card made by pupils?" he asked.

"Sometimes when they run into a certain style of teacher at a young age they refuse to learn. There has got to be a way to bump a teacher that is no good or move them."

Some trustees questioned what the students could offer in evaluation.

"I question the qualification of students in doing teacher evaluations," Stewart said. "It's the job of the administration to do evaluation."

Trustee Rick Olson argued children would provide a very clear picture.

"Don't you think young children are honest?" he asked.

Sutherland said he assumed the superintendents would take into consideration extraneous factors like class sizes or facilities when reviewing the students' responses.

Trustee Elouise Johnson said student input would be valuable, but said implementing such a policy

"should include teachers and principals . . . from the ground up."

In an interview after the meeting, Sutherland reiterated that teachers should not be afraid of students being involved in the evaluation process.

"Anybody who is afraid of an evaluation is scared of something," he said.

The administration will review the question and bring back a proposal to the board.

Bezanson School Reunion

One-room school remembered

By LEIF SOLLID
Herald-Tribune staff

BEZANSON — Forty-nine long years had passed since eight-year-old Dorothy Mitchell waved good-bye to her departing Grade 2 school teacher, Miss Martha Knechtel.

Saturday, that huge gap in years was forgotten in an instant when the former student and teacher were reunited at the Old Bezanson School reunion, 32 kilometres east of Grande Prairie.

"I recognized Dorothy right away," teased Miss Knechtel, now Martha Tofer, 70, of Grande Prairie. "She was a cute little kid then, and she still is."

"I am so happy to see her," responded Mitchell, now Dorothy Baker, 57, of Edmonton. "I never thought I would see her again."

For Baker and Tofer, and dozens of other Old Bezanson School alumni, the weekend celebration marked the first time in almost half a century that many had seen each other. For some it was even longer.

"I haven't seen her since she left here in 1929," marvelled Bud Stewart, 71, of former teacher Martha Gudlaugson, 83. "But I knew her as soon as I saw her."

"I recognized her when they brought her in the door here," he added of Gudlaugson, who is confined to a wheelchair. "She hasn't changed that much. She is a little stouter, but her face is pretty much the same."

More than 110 people from across Alberta, B.C., Saskatchewan — including one woman from California — came for the reunion, said organizer Polly Patterson, herself a student from 1929-1937.

The participants came back to remember their old one-room wooden school and the friendships they shared. The school, which operated from 1915 to 1951, no longer stands today.

After being replaced by a larger, more modern facility, it was hauled from its site not far from the banks of the Smoky River and turned into a farmhouse. It was later destroyed by fire, Patterson said.

While the school has long since disappeared, its importance to the community and the values it embodied have never been forgotten. Values like hard work, obedience,



Staff Photo by Leif Sollid

Six of the 35 original teachers that taught at the Old Bezanson School were reunited at the school's first reunion since it closed in 1951. The include Marie Ames (back row, left) Vera Rollings, Martha Tofer, Phyllis Stewart, Jean Kimble and Martha Callister (front).

discipline, co-operation and sharing.

Martha Tofer taught at the school only one year, 1940-41. The following year she married Ed Tofer and settled on a farm northwest of Grande Prairie.

It was quite a challenge for the 20-year-old teacher. Armed with only one year of teacher training, she was suddenly responsible for educating 19 children from Grades 1 to 9.

"I guess it was tough, but I had also went to a one-room school so it was a familiar situation," she recalled during an interview at the Bezanson Hall prior to dinner Saturday night.

Baker, a retired dental nurse and mother of three, had high praise for her former teacher, whom she still glowingly refers to as "Miss Knechtel."

"She was very good and very kind," she said, blushing faintly as Tofer, a kindly woman with a gentle smile, looked on from across the table. "What she said was law. When I grew up you respected your teacher."

"I can remember her as a little girl," added Tofer of her former student. "She was one of my favorites. She was a very good little girl. She always did exactly what she was told."

Martha Callister, who taught at the old Bezanson School from 1928-1929 and is now retired in Port Alberni, B.C., said teaching in a one-room school was an enormous amount of work.

Each day lessons had to be prepared for all age groups, classes taught, and assignments corrected. The heavy workload meant that teachers were "never ever finished

with their work. You could work and all night and you would still never be done."

The pay was not great, even in those days. Callister earned \$750 a year.

"It wasn't good money. You paid \$25 a month for room and board," she said, noting board expenses amounted to nearly half her annual income. "You sure didn't save anything."

Patterson said this was the first reunion ever held for alumni of the old school. She said organizers were anxious to hold a reunion before it became too late for the more senior alumni to attend.

"I guess we were just so busy raising our family that we never thought about it," organizer Ann Bulford explained of the 40-year wait.

ELECTION '92

COUNTY OF GP



MILTON HOMMY

Milton Hommy is a 53-year-old self-employed businessman. He and his wife, Patricia, have four children and five grandkids.

His campaign platform is "As a councillor I will strive to maintain a balance between the services provided and the taxes levied for that service. I would also take a strong role in encouraging more communication and co-operation between parents, trustees, educators and legislators, resulting in a balanced growth in education for our children."



PETER KARL

Peter Karl is a 33-year-old agricultural research technician.

He and his wife, Christina, have three children — Brennan, 9; Damian, 6; and Alivia, 2.

His campaign platform is: "School plans today for a sensible child-centred education system tomorrow. Municipal make more use of dialog between parties."



JACK O'TOOLE

Jack O'Toole and his wife, Rita, have three children — Sean, 9; Ryan, 8; and Abbey, 5.

His campaign platform is: "Today's decisions affect county residents for years to come and these decisions must be given careful consideration. If elected, I will be a strong voice for the constituents of Division 4."



ERIN SAWCHUK

Erin Sawchuk is a 23-year-old teacher.

She and her husband, Gerald, have two children — Megan, 7 and Max, 15 months.

Her campaign platform is: "The county must restrict spending in areas that do not compromise our children's education. In these tough times the county must provide an acceptable level of services and show fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers."



LAVERN SORGAARD

Lavern Sorgaard is a 65-year-old farmer.

He and his wife Irene have no children.

His campaign platform is: "For the '90s, do what we can afford, avoid debt, use facts to separate wants from needs and solve problems as a team."



BRUCE McLEAN

Bruce McLean is a 39-year-old self-employed businessman.

He and his wife, Kim, have two children — Davis, 11 and Keely, 8.

His campaign platform is: "Strict budget management, no tax increase, accessibility to voters, cost-efficient policies, good relationship with staff, endorse policies that could improve learning process for non-academically inclined students."



PHYLLIS STEWART

Phyllis Stewart is a farmer and retired teacher.

She has four children — Cherry, Marvin, Shannon and Cristian.

Her campaign platform is: "Education to get the best for the finances available without more burden to the taxpayer. Continue improvement of secondary and local roads. Place more emphasis on biological control of weeds."



RICK OLSON

Rick Olson is a 38-year-old farmer.

He and his wife, Judy, have three children — Carrie, 16; Clint, 15; and Garret, 12.

His campaign platform is: "To continue working for the betterment of Division 5 and the County of Grande Prairie."



BROCK SMITH

Brock Smith is a 49-year-old farmer.

He and his wife, Anita, have five children — Kevin, 17; Jason, 13; Andrea, 12; Christopher, 4; and Darren, 3.

His campaign platform is: "It will be important to address cutbacks in health-care and education to get the best for ratepayers in the County of Grande Prairie."



RAY BOYER

Ray Boyer is a 67-year-old retiree.

He and his wife, Rita, have no children.

His campaign platform is: "To be responsible, approachable and use common sense."



EDWARD CZERNIAWSKY

Edward Czerniawsky is a 54-year-old farmer/radar technician.

His campaign platform is: "I am standing for this election because I firmly believe that disclosure of information, on a continual basis to the electorate, is the only way of achieving accountability in government and that it must start at the lowest level of our governmental structure."



EVERETT McDONALD

Everett McDonald is a 34-year-old farmer.

He and his wife, Tina, have four children — Amanda, 14; Dustin, 9; Ashley, 8; and Austin, 2.

His campaign platform is: "I feel that in these difficult times of fiscal restraint we will need a strong voice in our area to ensure equal representation in council."



EMILY SYLVESTER

Emily Sylvester is a 42-year-old training and employment counsellor.

She and her husband, John Gallagher, have two children — Ebe, 11 and Peggy, 8.

Her campaign platform is: "Better control of taxes. Develop good local jobs for rural families supplementing farm incomes. Develop and follow a fair and acceptable play for county schools, particularly smaller ones."



BERNIE SMASHUK

Bernie Smashuk is a 41-year-old farmer and small businessman.

He and his wife, Beverly, have three children — Angie, 14; Candace, 12; and Ryan, 11.

His campaign platform is: "I feel it's time for a change. A time to face fiscal realities. We need to elect people with a new vision, common sense, responsibility and accountability to the people that elect them."

Senior celebration



The Bezanson Golden Years Club celebrated Seniors Week with a supper and social evening — with music by Ernie Bredeson, Andy Waldner and Marion Waldner and singing by Mabel Bredeson, John Stark and Phyllis Stewart — for the 80-year and over members. Those taking part included Francis Goodland (front left), Hazel Weegar, Art Rees, Maggie Robideau, Willie Munro, Ed Bredeson, Mabel Bredeson and Annie Oe (back left), Peggy Robideau, Claire Irvine, Mildred McPhee, John Stark, Myrtle Fenton, Art Patterson, Edna Anderson, Elsie Ames, Ellis Turner, Billie Ford and Fred Ford.

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