

JOHN & SADIE SARMAGA

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

First Home And School Meet Held

BEZANSON — The first Home and School meeting of the season was held Thursday night at the school. Nominations of a new executive took place. Officers elected were: president, Lee Snider; vice-president, John Sarmag; second vice-president, William Maxwell; secretary - treasurer, Mrs. Phyllis Thompson; social convenor, Mrs. Polly Patterson; program committee chairman, Mrs. Charlie Ford; publicity convenor, Mrs. Marie Ames; membership convenor, Mrs. Rose Ames. Among other things discussions were held regarding a shelter belt for the school grounds and a skating rink. Glenn Ames was asked to figure out the approximate cost of the proposed rink. Lunch was served by the teachers.

Mr. and Mrs. Irving Coffey and daughter, Ila of New Westminster, B.C. and Mrs. E. Inkman of Agassiz have been visiting with the Ames', the Fords and other relatives.

Donald McArthur of Grande Prairie is staying with his sister, Mrs. Bonnie McLaughlin and attending school here.

Bezanson^N

The Bezanson Home and School met March 6 in the school. There was a very small attendance to mark education week, however those who were there enjoyed the grade nine panel discussion on the proposed new type report cards. The panel discussion was followed by guest speaker John Shepp, vice-principal of Swanavon School in Grande Prairie who spoke on the new type report cards which are in use in the Swanavon School.

Marlaine Thompson and Neil McLaughlin have both returned home from the University Hospital in Edmonton.

Mrs. Dina Goff who has been away cooking in the High Level area had the misfortune to fall and sprain her leg. She has a cast on and is presently visiting with her son Lorne and family at Slave Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Maxwell and son Tommy are home from U. of A. this week visiting with their parents the Sarmaga and Maxwell families. Also visiting the John Sarmaga family are their daughter Donna Bedard, husband and baby from Whitehorse.

Hectic curling pace picking up

The South Peace heads into a hectic two-month curling pace during February and March as local rinks cram in their various spiels.

In addition, zone, district and provincial playoffs will be taking up time in some of the rinks, notably the women's and senior women's Alberta finals in Grande Prairie next week, and the Alberta junior men's finals in Fairview in mid-February.

Last weekend, in addition to Wembley, two other area spiels were held.

Donna McDonald captured the West Smoky Legion spiel at Bezanson with a decision over Danny Patterson in the first event. Dale Woolsey was third and Chris Miller fourth.

Henry Ford took the second event, defeating Larry Fells. Andy McNally was third and David Kimble fourth.

Gary Sarmaga won the third event over Gordon Heasler with Grant Moon third and John Sarmaga fourth. There were 16 rinks in all.

The Bezanson women's spiel is scheduled this weekend with a 20-rink limit. Entries can be phoned to Larry Fells at 532-6596 or 532-7734. The men's spiel is planned Feb. 16-18.

DEBOLTWINNER

Brian Moore defeated the Stad Enterprises rink skipped by Jack Robertson in an all-local final at the DeBolt men's spiel Sunday. Robertson, down one with last rock

coming home, missed a takeout to drop the closely-played game. Marv Moore was third and Tom Couchey fourth in the first event.

Bev Reddicopp defeated Dean Robertson in the second event final with Keith Widdifield third and Lonnie Moore fourth. Stan Johns of Grande Prairie won the third event over Ray Garon. Gale Resources was third and Greg Moody fourth. There were 18 rinks in the competition.

The next major spiel for DeBolt is the women's annual event planned Feb. 16-18. Entries can be phoned to Heather Moore at 957-3742. There is a 20-rink limit.

That same weekend, two other specials are on tap. The

Wanham women's spiel goes Feb. 15-18 and entries can be phoned to 694-3910 or 694-3960. The Hythe men's spiel is Feb. 15-18 and entries can be called to 356-3824 or 356-3064.

Meanwhile, the deadline for the city Saturday afternoon commercial league spiel is Saturday. Entry fee is \$20 and includes a Saturday evening banquet. This is the last regular week for the league. Entries can be given to Wade Webb.

The Sexsmith Ladies Bonspiel will be held Feb. 17-18 at the Sexsmith club with evening curling scheduled for the evenings of Feb. 15-16 as well.

Phone entries to Audrey at 568-2271 or Lenora at 568-3884.



Retiring teachers

Retiring teachers Margaret Sharkey (second from left) and Sadie Sarmaga (second from right) were honored at a dinner given by local Alberta Teachers Association members at the Trumpeter Motor Inn Friday after having been in the profession for a combined total of more than 57 years. They are flanked by ATA provincial president Mac Kyrzanowski (left) and local president Bob Zahara (right).

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Prescription awards

Cleaning out the home medicine cabinet resulted in prizes for five South Peace residents. The contest, sponsored by area pharmacists urging people to throw out old prescriptions, was won by John Sarmaga of Bezanson (left) with a prescription from 1920, Anne and Harold Perry of Beaverlodge who turned in 65 old prescription containers, and Swannie Sawchyn of Grande Prairie who won the general draw. Lorne McVittie, Grande Prairie General Hospital's pharmacy director, presented the winners with certificates for a dinner at the Golden Inn hotel. There were 51 entries and 331 containers in the contest.

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"Who's Cooper?" respond people in street poll

Most of those who know say he's done a good job



Renate Busch



Al Hughes



Esther Shura



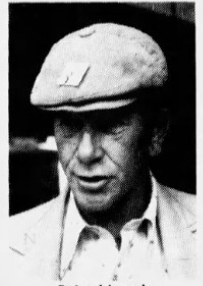
Sadie Sarmaga



John Witschen



Michael Lazorko



Robert Lynch

By SUSAN CUTHBERT
of our staff

Albert who?

In this constituency that question could almost rival its predecessor "Joe who?" used to refer to the then little-known new leader of the Conservatives, Joe Clark a few years ago.

In an on-the-street survey Thursday at the Prairie Mall a majority of the 30 people stopped didn't know who MP Albert Cooper is or what he has done for this constituency, in his first term in office.

"I haven't followed him. I don't know whether he

did a good job or not," Al Hughes, 52-year-old firefighter for Transport Canada said.

"I haven't read much about him in the paper."

The answer was typical but his next phrase probably spelled it all out.

"Alberta is pro-Conservative, so it doesn't matter who runs they would probably get elected anyway," he said.

Those who have followed politics and Mr. Cooper indicated that he had done a good job.

"Yes I think he's done a good job. Overall, he seems to be well aware of the facts and aware of what the situation is," according to Renate Busch, who works in the delicatessen at the Prairie Mall.

She added, "I hope he continues."

"For a new member of parliament, I could say he definitely has done a good job," realtor Michael Lazorko said adding, Mr. Cooper was on quite a few committees.

Homemaker Sadie Sarmaga said she thought Mr. Cooper had done a good job, though she wasn't able to point out anything in particular that he had done.

He seems to be easy to get hold of though, she said adding, that she had received a letter from him (campaign literature) telling citizens if they had any concerns that he would be happy to hear them.

"I think he is trying at least," farmer Esther Shura said.

The remaining two people questioned weren't as quick to just praise the MP.

"I think he's done a very hard job of representing (his constituency), but whether or not I agree with his policies is quite another thing," John Witschen, a teacher at St. Joseph high school said.

"I like some of the things he's done and I don't like some of the things he's done," said Robert Lynch, who is in the gas field business.

"There is still room for improvement," he added.

A closing comment by Mr. Lynch on the matter: "I think we need more public-minded and spirited citizens".

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Taught school in 1927

50 years were forgotten at nostalgic Bezanson reunion

Submitted by
Elmer McLaughlin

A spur-of-the-moment reunion of former students and their spouses was held Aug. 23 in the Bezanson Legion Hut in honor of a former teacher and his lovely wife.

Murry and Martha Skinner of Thunder Bay, Ont., returned for a brief visit to our community where he had taught from 1927-31 in the old Lindsay School, 2½

His classes were from Grade 1 to 8, with as many as 72 pupils in a large one-room school, and his salary was \$1,000 per year.

The first hour of the reunion was a happy time of getting re-acquainted, then moved on to reminiscing about many hilarious incidents which took place at school. As if by magic, 50 years dropped away, we were kids again and the Hut literally rocked with

Lunch was served and all too soon we said goodbye to this warm, loving couple which we hadn't seen in over 50 years.

Their story is on page 386

in our book "Smoky River to Grande Prairie" and is worthwhile reading. We all wish them the very best of health and happiness for many years to come.



Gathering for the nostalgic evening were (front row, l-r) Dorothy Allen, Evelyn Gammon, Murry Skinner, Martha Skinner, Alice Weegar, Dorothy Ringle; (middle row, l-r) Elmer McLaughlin, Nick Smashnuk, Bea Fells, Annie Oe, Grace Menard, Louise Kimble; (back row, l-r) Fred Ford, Bohdon Hawryluk, Alfred Robideau, John Sarmaga and Stan Sarmaga.

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Obituary

ANNA HERRICK

Mrs. Anna Herrick passed away at the University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton, Alberta, on Friday, November 21, 1986, at the age of 60.

She was born in Bezanson, Alberta, and had resided in Grande Prairie for the past 10 years, formerly of the Bridgeview district.

She is survived by her brothers: John (Sadie) Sarmaga, and Stan (Nita) Sarmaga of Bezanson; brothers-in-law: Bill Herrick, and Cliff (Harriet) Herrick of Woking; five nieces, six nephews, two uncles, two aunts, and numerous cousins. She was predeceased by her loving husband Robert Herrick, and by her parents Steve and Mary Sarmaga.

Public visitation will be held at the Oliver Funeral Chapel on Tuesday, November 25, 1986, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Funeral service for the late Anna Herrick will be held at the Oliver Funeral Chapel, Grande Prairie, Alberta, on Wednesday, November 26, 1986, at 11 a.m., with Pastor Jake Thiessen officiating. Interment to take place at the Spirit River Cemetery at 2 p.m.

Memorial donations to the charity of one's choice would be appreciated by the family.

Funeral arrangements by Oliver Funeral Chapel & Crematorium, Grande Prairie. Telephone 532-2929.

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Spirit River wins Bezanson tourney

Contributed by BEA FELLS

BEZANSON — Spirit River Club was the winner of the big trophy when Bezanson Golden Years Club hosted the South Peace Crib Tournament Nov. 15.

Second-place winners were Willie Monroe and Frances Goodland as a team.

The 60 crib players from the six clubs attending had a very friendly and enjoyable afternoon.

Thank you all for coming and making it the success it was. Also, thanks to our kitchen help. They did a real good job. Helpers were: Allie Weegar, Lorna Nellis, Betty Ford, Molly Lavrick and Anita Sarmaga.

The doily raffle was held, with Dorthea Mansfield winning the first and second draws and Hazel Weegar the third draw.

Bezanson school boys won the volleyball tournament for the county schools this year on Nov. 15. Congratulations Boys!

The Wild meat supper Nov. 22 was a big success. Some of the dishes were very tasty. They had moose, deer, alligator, squirrel, cougar, bear, frog legs, and quite a few different kinds of fish. There was also beef, ham, turkey and chicken.

A card party on Nov. 25 had six tables. The winners were: Ladies' High — Ruth Patterson, 145; Low — Molly Lavrick; Men's High was Art Patterson, 145, and Low, Willie Monroe.

SYMPATHY TO SARMAGAS

Deepest sympathy to John and Sadie Sarmaga, also Anita and Stan Sarmaga, on the passing of their sister Annie Herrick, also an old school friend of many from Bezanson.

The G.Y.C. held their annual meeting Nov. 27 with 19 members in attendance. There was much discussing our drop-in centre, which is beginning to shape up for the near future.

We had our annual seniors' Christmas Party last night. Supper and social evening, card playing, carpet bowling and shuffleboard.

The curling rink at Bezanson opened with a mixed bonspiel on Nov. 26. The rink is open to anyone wanting to get in the square draw. Get in touch with anyone on the ag. board.

The Jim Fells Memorial Crib Tournament was held Nov. 29 with 29 players. The winners were: first - Edna Anderson, second - Bell Heasler, third - Pete Dorksen of DeBolt. It was an enjoyable afternoon.

Sis Welander from Edmonton spent the weekend visiting her mother Bea Fells, also new great-nephew Tyler Fells; also Louise and Herman Kimble (aunt and uncle), and Grace and Wilfred Menard. We all joined in a card game at Menard's.

Sun greets Sports Day

By Dorothea Bulford

BEZANSON – The Bezanson Sports Day, originally scheduled June 10 and postponed due to rain, was re-scheduled to June 17 when sunshine accommodated the many outdoor events.

Following the mid-morning brunch at the Golden Years Centre, a parade assembled at the Community Hall and travelled to the north ball diamond. The imaginative designs of the entries made a difficult job for judges Dianne Goff, Ray Boyer and Phylis Stewart.

Gymkhana, volleyball and horseshoe events went throughout the afternoon.

Practise paid off for Mel Bulford in the horseshoe competition as he captured the singles title and paired with John Sarmaga to take the doubles title.

The hamburger barbecue supper was delicious and allowed everyone an opportunity to recoup their energies for mutton bustin', the greasy pig chase and ball games. There was a variety of games for the under-six crowd as well as matches designed for family teams.

A '50s-'60s theme dance wound up the activities. Many thanks to the numerous volunteers for their donations of time, energy and food. You made the day a fun time for all.

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JOHN & SADIE SARMAGA

All friends and relatives of John and Sadie Sarmaga are invited to an Open House in honour of the 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, October 30 at Bezanson's Golden Years Centre. Cold buffet at 6:30 p.m. Program to follow. No gifts please. The Sarmaga Family.

John Sarmaga

1919 to 2005



With deep sadness, the Sarmaga family said goodbye to John Sarmaga on Saturday, April 23, 2005 at the age of 85 years. John was born on May 21, 1919 at Kleskin Hills, Alberta and passed away at the QE II Hospital in Grande Prairie.

John is predeceased by his father, Stephen Sarmaga (2 August 1981); mother, Mary Sarmaga (2 March 1984); sister, Ann Herrick (21 November 1986); and brother, Stanley Sarmaga (1 September 1989).

John leaves to mourn: his loving wife of 62 years, Sadie; children: Maxine Maxwell (Dave), Donna Bedard, Grant Sarmaga, Gene Sarmaga (Karen), Audrey Curran (Rick); grandchildren: Tom Maxwell, Rudy Maxwell (Allison), Michelle Lynn (Glenn), Jamin Bedard, Angela Bedard, Jeremy Sarmaga, Daron Sarmaga, Clint Sarmaga, Jerad Sarmaga (Nicole), Steven Sarmaga, Isaac Curran, and Jonathan Curran; great-grandchildren: Christina Bedard, Maria Maxwell, and Jenna Maxwell; and sister-in-law: **Juanita Sarmaga**. John will also be sadly missed by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and close friends.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2005 at 2 p.m. at the Bezanson Community Church. Interment at Glen Leslie Cemetery with luncheon to follow at the Bezanson Community Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of John may be made to the West Smoky Legion No. 244, Box 11, Bezanson, Alberta; Canadian Cancer Society; or a charity of one's choice.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE FUNERAL
CHAPEL & CREMATORIUM**