

Hello,

My Name is Karen Leinhardt and I normally represent ward three. Today I am before you representing the municipality and the Reeve. He is out of town this weekend and asked me to fill in. With your permission I would like to read a letter with his comments which he has asked to be delivered.

Dear Don:

I would like to congratulate you, your committee and the volunteers on a job, not yet completed, but very well done. The planning and work you have captained has been very impressive. The Barnet Cottage and property has always been a subject close to the hearts of Ward One residents and because of this - it is subjected to a high degree of scrutiny and comment. It also enjoys wide spread support and approval. .

When I look at the cottage - I see the pride and craftsmanship of the past captured by the fireplace. I see the strength of today in the new materials which have strengthened the building. I see the future.....when I think about the many volunteers and groups who support this endeavor with money, materials, time and planning and attending meetings. The development of a plan of repair, for yesterday and tomorrow and a plan of management and future use for when the project is completed.. Each put forward after healthy discussion and in most instances consensus.

As a teen I worked on the property for Mr. Barnet and for the township and yes even on the cottage itself. Don, I know when you were crawling around under the cottage with me last summer I am positive I heard you and John Bonner slagging my engineering and carpentry skills and muttering about my intellectual capacity as well. I may be a middling nail pounder but I can recognize good work and this is good work..

This project has come together as a result of the efforts of many. Mr. Barnet showed his appreciation for the area and our community by entrusting the property and cottage to our community's care. Councils, individuals and groups over the years have affected repairs and alterations to the structure in hopes of bettering it. The function of the cottage and property has evolved until it is now emerging as one of the proud symbols of what Greater Madawaska is becoming.

The Cottage and the grounds will be utilized by respectful residents and ratepayers as a place of rest, a place of celebration, a place of activity, a place of contemplation and a place meeting the many and diverse needs of its users – much like how our community is now being utilized. Most importantly the Cottage and grounds is a place defined by the residents and by its visitors much like our community is.. Greater Madawaska is viewed as a safe, solid, supportive, caring community, a community in the process of being slowly remade, strategically, after much thought, from the days of Mr. Barnet and the timber trade. I don't believe anyone in the 80's when the township acquired the property would have envisioned the activities, the community support and community building that has been attached to the Barnet property over the last 25 plus years. Similarly our community has evolved into many directions at the same time and fills many roles for our residents and visitors. The one constant in this time of change for our community and our cottage has been the efforts of our volunteers to improve their community and they have been extremely successful with our Cottage and with our community. Our cottage is better and our community is better because of all of you.

Don, while I want to ensure we thank you and your committee I hope we can all spare a moment of thanks for the Seniors Club who worked so hard in the mid 90's when the cottage needed work. Also to the Calabogie Lions, CABA and the Lakers for their donations of money and time to facilitate the repair of the building and the opening up of the property. We should also remember Brent Fillator and his volunteers and the businesses and individuals he was able to talk into donating. Rick Fleming should also be mentioned for his donations of material and equipment to the project. I know there are many others to thank and I hope everyone present will take time to speak to those assembled and thank them. There are often many individuals at these gatherings who don't want to be recognized and everyone here should make a point to seek them out and thank them.

Don, I look forward to the next phases of the project under the guidance of your steady and calming hand. I hope all of you here today take a moment reflect on your successes and then please sign for more of the heavy lifting as the building and grounds move to completion.

On behalf of the municipality and all of our residents and rate payers I would like to thank all of you for what has been accomplished Please enjoy the day you have earned it and our gratitude and admiration.