

Jim Clayton

Jim, his wife Ellen (Dolly), their two children Chris and Sharron were born and raised in the Hamilton area. They became friends with David Panabaker and his family when the Panabakers moved to the Hamilton area from Ottawa. The Claytons were invited to a weekend event at the Panabaker cottages on Mazineau Lake. On Sunday, they took a small detour on the way home to visit the farm that the Panabaker's had purchased near some place called Hermon.

The attraction was immediate. The focus of the Panabakers shifted from Mazineau to the farm. The Claytons followed, eventually renting the log structure at the end of the lane for the princely sum of \$75.00 per year, the amount that Dave calculated was the percentage of the tax bill the log structure represented. The balance of the deal was that any improvements were at the Clayton's expense and would remain at no cost to the Panabakers when the Clayton's vacated.

Over a few weekends, a floor was installed, then a sleeping loft, and an outhouse was built. The front was closed in with salvaged windows and once furnished was a comfortable weekend retreat

Almost every weekend was spent at what was now referred to as "The Chalet". The car would be packed on Friday and departure from Dundas was made as soon as possible. The return trip on Sunday got later and later, then became early Monday, timed to arrive just in time for work.

As the weather got colder, a "tin woodstove" was added, then a wood cookstove.

Jim kept saying he would like to move "to the farm". Finally Dolly said "Put up or shut up". The house in Dundas was listed and sold within days a farewell party for family and friends was held and the Claytons were moving.

The move took place in June and by October things were getting cool in the Chalet. There was lots of firewood as that was the year when so many elm trees were killed by dutch elm disease. The Ministry of Natural Resources even paid to have these trees cut down. Sometimes they even paid twice, but that's another story.

As the weather got cooler and the west winds got colder, it became harder to heat the Chalet, eventually Jim wrapped the whole building with ten mil polyethylene and the "chinking" of logs and installation of ceiling insulation began in earnest.

There are lots of stories about that first year.

In the spring, the Claytons bought what was known as the “Haryett” house in Fort Stewart, then moved to Bancroft while building their home on Mather Road and once the two children had moved out to pursue their own lives, moved next door to the house Art Douglas had built. That house has also been sold and the Claytons are renting while waiting for an opening in a senior’s residence.

Work history for Jim includes: Vance Motors, The Hastings County Board of Education, Quinte Broadcasting {CJNH radio}, Combiboard Limited Partnership, J.E.C.S. Partnership, Price Ford, and Lawson Products Inc.

Jim served two, two year terms and one three year term on Mayo Township Council and two four year terms on Carlow Mayo Council, all under the Reeveship of David Panabaker.

Jim was recruited into the Little Mississippi Seniors Club by Ray Hannah about twenty five years ago and has serves on the Board of Directors for about ten years and as Vice President for six years. As the only board member with computer experience, Jim has organized the annual bus trip and made contacts with numerous agencies on behalf of the club.

Other volunteer activities include:

Bancroft Lions Club (Past President).

North Hastings Community Credit Union (Board member).

Bancroft and district Chamber of Commerce (member representing Quinte Broadcasting).

Forestry Committee (Madawaska mines Closure) Chair,

Committee of Adjustments (Combiboard closure) (Chair).

BRAVO (Bancroft Region Achievements Visions and Opportunities)(Chair).

North Hastings Economic Development Committee (Chair).

North and Central Hastings and South Algonquin Community Futures Committee (Board Member).