

GORDON & JULIA THOMPSON

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

Six Teachers Work At Bezanson School

BEZANSON (Correspondent)—The teachers of the Bezanson school are principal, W. J. Maxwell, vice - principal, Mrs. Norean Ford, Mrs. Billy Ford, Mrs. Marie Ames, Mrs. Sadie Saramaga, and Mrs. Marjorie Snider.

The bus drivers for the Bezanson school are Gordon Heasler, Mrs. **Julia Thompson** and Mrs. Rose Ames.

The bus driver from Bezanson to Sexsmith school (public) is Warren Starke. The bus driver from Bezanson to Grande Prairie High School, St. Joe's High School and Vocational School is Jack Laverich and the driver for East Kleskun to Bezanson is David Jobson.

Mr. and Mrs. Jurij Repetowski of Bezanson motored to Edmonton to visit with Mr. and Mrs. James Tebbutt and Mr.

and Mrs. Leon Repetowski. From Edmonton they went to Boyle, Alta., where they visited Mrs. Annie Kudreyneski and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Barranoik. From Boyle they went to Plamondon, Alta., where they visited Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Mishchuck, Mr. and Mrs. Kit Normington and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Kamelchuck.

Mr. and Mrs. George Repetowski of Fort St. John have visited Mr. and Mrs. Jurij Repetowski of Bezanson.

Mr. and Mrs. Greg Stemplowski of Grande Prairie were visiting relatives in Bezanson.

Victor Kaleschuck of Edmonton was visiting with relatives in Bezanson and Grande Prairie.

A new telephone line is being installed north of the Bezanson store. The line is under ground.

Sexsmith Teams Beat Bezanson

BEZANSON (Correspondent)—A volley ball game was held in the Sexsmith Public High School auditorium between the Bezanson teams who were coached by W.J. Morwell and Sexsmith.

The Bezanson boys lost to the Sexsmith boys, and the Bezanson girls lost to the Sexsmith girls. Mrs. Gordon Thompson bused the Bezanson teams to Sexsmith.

A dance was held in the St. Joseph Junior and Senior High School in Grande Prairie. The Jaguars supplied the music. A total of \$148. was collected at the door of which \$130 went to cover the cost of the orchestra. Other schools which were invited were; Sexsmith Public High School, Vocational School of Grande Prairie and Grande Prairie High School. Quite a few Bezanson students turned up at the dance.

A wedding dance was held in the Bezanson Community Hall for Ricky Cooney, a one time resident of Bezanson, now of Grande Prairie.

Also a wedding dance was held in the Bezanson Community Hall for Shirley Ogden a resident of Bezanson.

Officers elected

BEZANSON

Grant Moon has been re-elected president of the Bezanson Community Club and Phyllis Thompson returned to the post of secretary.

Others named to the executive at the organization's annual meeting included Bruce Fenton, vice-president, and Gordon Thompson, sports chairman.

Directors elected include Des Stark, Margaret Moon, Larry Fells, John Sarmaga, Randy Ames, Mark Adams, Laverne Robideau, Roddy McLaughlin, Lawrence Nellis and Harvey Stewart. (CS)



Gathering around to cut the cake from left to right (front): Mrs. Walter Waldner, Mrs. Willis Johnston, Mrs. Gordon Thompson, Mrs. Julian Jobson, Mrs. Harvey Bulford, Mrs. Bohdan Hawryluk, Mrs. Elmer

Bulford, Mrs. Glen Ames. In outer row, Mr. Waldner, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Johnston, Harvey Bulford, Mr. Hawryluk, Elmer Bulford, Mr. Ames.

Eight couples celebrate 25th

BEZANSON

It's a rare thing when anyone celebrates 200 years of married life.

When it happens, it calls for a gigantic celebration.

And that's exactly what occurred here last weekend as eight couples — including two brothers — combined to celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversaries together.

To help them celebrate the occasion, more than 200

local residents, relatives and friends turned out to the Bezanson community hall for the event.

The eight couples who between them have 31 children and five grandchildren: Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Bulford, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Bulford, Mr. and Mrs. Bohdan Hawryluk, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Ames, Mr. and Mrs. Julian Jobson, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Waldner and Mr. and Mrs. Willis Johnston.

Obituary

PODULSKY - Mr. Paul Podulsky passed away December 16, 1972 at the Grande Prairie Hospital at the age of 82 years.

Mr. Podulsky was born in Austria and has been a resident of the Kleskun Hill District since 1913.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife Mary; 6 sons, Stanley of Edmonton, Alex, Ft. St. John, Tony at home, George, Grande Prairie, Myron, Laglace, Paul of Edmonton; 5 daughters, Mrs.

Gordon (Julia) Thompson;

Bezanson, Mrs. Joe (Velma) Lancaster, Edmonton; Mrs. Robert (Caroline) Kulas, North Bay, Ontario, Mrs. Roger (Mary Anne) Halwa, Bezanson, Miss Barbara Podulsky, at home, 27 grandchildren; 1 brother and 2 sisters in the Ukraine, he was predeceased by one brother Nick in July 1932. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, December 20 at 2 p.m. at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Grande Prairie with Fr. McNally officiating, interment will follow in the Glenn Leslie Cemetery. Arrangements were by the Oliver Funeral Chapel.

Engagements

Lux - Thompson

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lux of Grande Prairie are pleased to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their second eldest daughter, Shirley Ann, to Murray Joseph, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. **Gordon Thompson** of Bezanson. Wedding to take place July 7, 1973, at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Grande Prairie.

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Bezanson area book in works

BEZANSON — A long-awaited project for the Bezanson district is rapidly getting off the ground.

A group of area residents have launched an intensive search for background material on the district, one of the first settled areas in the Grande Prairie region.

The ultimate idea is to publish a book.

"We've been collecting material for years and years, but now we've finally got to the point where we're actively searching for information," a spokesman for the local group says.

The project is unique in that it has divided the region from Grande Prairie to the Smoky River and from the Wapiti River north to the Kleskun Hills into 11 regions.

These are based on the small school districts established many years ago. A committee chairman—in some cases two people—is responsible for gathering every scrap of material, including the recollections of oldtimers, from each of the districts.

The material will deal with the schools, the churches, the clubs, social activities, sports, and the people of each district.

The work is headed by president Ralph Girvan of the Crystal Creek district. He headed the Grande Prairie County Agricultural Society last year.

His executive includes secretary Margaret White and treasurer Doug Clarkson.

The people responsible for the individual school districts: Lindsay—L.A. Weegar; East Kleskun—Helen Fenton, Linea Oe; Kleskun Hills—Gordon Thompson; Kleskun Lake—Eleanor Harrison; Bezanson—Elsie Ames, Wanita Patterson;

Somme—Bernice Dorscheid; Crystal Creek—Doug Clarkson; Twilight—Emily Lavalley; Fitzsimmons—Isabel Hessler; Tranquility—Norma White; Five Mile—Mildred Lawrence.

No further meetings are planned for the time being while the gathering work goes on.

Town & Country

The gymkhana meet held on June 15 was a huge success. Gordon Thompson and Cecil Lawrance joined the younger ones in competition. Even though it was a very hot day a large crowd gathered for the pot luck supper. This could become a once-a-month event.

Hamlet's dump saga takes new twist

By PAUL COWLEY
Herald-Tribune staff

The long road to find a suitable location for a Bezanson landfill has taken another turn.

The Public Health Advisory and Appeal Board is scheduled to hear a second appeal on the proposal March 2.

The County of Grande Prairie has been looking for a suitable location for a Bezanson landfill since the previous site filled up seven years ago.

The county has proposed building a landfill about six kilometres west of Bezanson, south of Hwy. 34.

But Bezanson residents Gordon and Julia Thompson, who live within 1.6 kilometres of the proposed site, oppose the location of the garbage dump.

After receiving county approval, the proposed landfill went before the health unit board for approval. Health unit approval is needed before licences to develop and operate landfills can be issued.

But when the health unit approved

"A lot of direct health issues were dealt with in that first appeal. The basic issue of the suitability of the site has been resolved," he said. The issue that's outstanding is whether there's a need for a landfill site."

*— Elmer Spilchen,
public health inspector*

the proposed landfill last year, the Thompsons appealed to the Public Health Advisory and Appeal Board.

The board ruled last August the county should do a needs assessment to determine if a landfill is needed.

A survey of area residents, conducted last September and October, determined a landfill was needed and health unit board once again approved the landfill proposal.

The Thompsons then launched a second appeal arguing the results of the needs assessment.

Julia Thompson refused to comment on the appeals when reached by phone

at her home Tuesday.

Elmer Spilchen, public health inspector, said he believes the appeals board is satisfied that all health issues have been addressed.

"A lot of direct health issues were dealt with in that first appeal," Spilchen said.

"The basic issue of the suitability of the site has been resolved," he said. The issue that's outstanding is whether there's a need for a landfill site."

Bezanson is the only one of the county's 11 districts not to have its own landfill. The hamlet has been taking its garbage to neighboring communities, including Grande Prairie, for disposal

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Neighbors trash proposed dump site

By GUY DeSANTIS
Herald-Tribune staff

Bezanson-area residents pleaded to county council Tuesday to scrap plans for a garbage dump near their homes.

But County of Grande Prairie councillors say they don't plan to stop the project now.

"We can't intervene at this stage of the game," Reeve Roy Borstad told the group of eight people, who came to voice their concerns at Tuesday's council meeting.

The Public Health Advisory and Appeal Board will decide next Wednesday on a second appeal by a group of residents of the hamlet, 32 kilometres east of Grande Prairie.

The residents attended yesterday's meeting to reinforce their concerns about water pollution, property devaluation, litter, and the danger to wildlife that they say a landfill would create.

"We look straight out our living room window and we will see a dump," says Wendy Peters. "How would you like it if you had a dump site within 45 metres of your home?"

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Julia Thompson, who lives a few hundred metres from the proposed landfill, says strong winds would scatter trash in the area, despite any attempt to contain it in the dump.

"The garbage will be sucked out of that pit no matter how high a fence you build," Thompson says.

County council endorsed the proposed landfill site — about six kilometres west of Bezanson, south of Hwy. 34 — in July 1991. The South Peace Health Unit also approved the project.

Public health inspector Elmer Spilchen said he believes the appeal board is satisfied that a

lot of the health issues have already been addressed in an earlier appeal.

The appeal board will decide Wednesday on the merits of last fall's county-conducted survey, which indicated that a majority of area residents believed a new landfill was needed. The board may also look at some health issues in the appeal.

At least one county councillor isn't sure another landfill is needed in the eastern part of the county.

"I don't even think a new location is needed. Teepee Creek and Clairmont both have landfills," says Coun. Ed Czerniawsky.

Several of the residents at Tuesday's council meeting plan to attend the appeal board meeting next Wednesday.

"This is not a case of objecting to a landfill site," says Thompson. "This is a case of keeping this area clean and pollution-free not only for now, but for future generations."

Bezanson is the only one of the county's 11 districts not to have its own landfill. The hamlet has been taking its garbage to neighboring communities, including Grande Prairie, for disposal.

Bezanson petition says can the dump

GUY DeSANTIS
Herald-Tribune staff

Armed with a 150-signature petition, a group of Bezanson-area residents tried Wednesday to shoot down the proposed site for an east-county garbage dump.

But officials with the South Peace Health Unit and County of Grande Prairie stood by a survey conducted last fall indicating most area residents support the site choice, six kilometres west of Bezanson, south of Hwy. 34.

Public officials and several Bezanson-area residents debated the landfill for more than six hours at an Alberta Public Health Advisory and Appeal Board hearing.

The board is expected to decide within a

few days on the appeal by Gordon and Julia Thompson, who live within a kilometre of the proposed dump. A written decision will be ready in a few weeks.

Julia Thompson and Wendy Peters, the closest residents to the site, spent recent days knocking on their neighbors' doors discussing the dump and seeking signatures for a petition.

"When I approached these people I gave them my honesty," Peters said. "I told them our concerns as outlined on this petition. I also told them the public health unit has gone through tests and environmental studies and supposedly everything turned out OK."

"But they were not satisfied with that," she said.

About 150 people — in the same area

targeted in the county's survey — signed the petition, while six people refused, Peters said.

The number of signatures on the petition caught some county councillors by surprise.

Counc. Everett McDonald of Bezanson said he has fielded about 40 calls on the issue, and by a three to one margin, constituents support the proposed site.

"They are saying we want a landfill. We have been waiting for seven years and we are tired of this process," McDonald said in an interview. "They want to know when it is going to get done."

Counc. Richard Harpe said the sudden wave of opposition goes against what residents have said in the past.

"All indications to date have been that residents and ratepayers are in favor of this.

This is the first I've seen of that many who don't want it," he said.

Jim Meagher, manager of the South Peace Health Unit Environmental Health program, said he was concerned with the way information may have been presented to area residents in the petition drive.

A possible "slant" could have altered the residents' views, he suggested.

Public health inspector Elmer Spilchen had to downplay similar concerns from area residents at the hearing about slanting results when he presented the county survey to the appeal board.

That survey revealed that 69 per cent of the respondents (123 people) believe the Bezanson district needed a dump and were in agreement with the proposed site.

Only 18 per cent of the respondents (30

people) said no to the proposed site, further stating that a new landfill wasn't necessary.

"An element of the population in this district do have strong opposition and concerns with the proposed site," Spilchen said. "However, this group is the minority."

Spilchen also pointed to population statistics to demonstrate the need for a landfill in Bezanson.

He said 1,293 people are not served by a waste management facility.

Although the appeal board heard a wide range of concerns about health and safety issues at the hearing, it will decide solely on the need for a dump in the Bezanson area. Health and safety issues were addressed in an earlier appeal.

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Mary Podulsky, 89, of Grande Prairie

Mrs. Mary Podulsky, nee Mary Struhan, passed away at the Grande Prairie Care Centre on Monday, August 19, 1996 at 89 years.



She resided in the Care Centre for the past two years and previously in Heritage Lodge in Grande Prairie. She farmed at Bezanson for most of her life until her retirement in the mid 1980s.

Mary will be especially remembered for her warm personality and her generosity to everyone. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her well.

Mary is survived by her daughters and sons: Julia (Gordon) Thompson of Bezanson, Velma Lancaster of Edmonton, Stan (Lois) Podulsky of Sherwood Park, Anthony Podulsky of Bezanson, George (Ednid) Podulsky of Grande Prairie, Caroline (Bob) Kulas of Barry's Bay, Ont., Myron (Dianne) Podulsky of Innisfail, Mary Anne (Roger) Halwa of Grande Prairie, Paul (Mary Lou) Podulsky of Edmonton, Barb (David) Greentree of Grande Prairie.

She is also survived by her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Paul, her son Alexander and her parents Mr. and Mrs. George Struhan.

Funeral service will be held at St. Josephs' Catholic Church on Saturday, August 24, 1996 at 10 a.m. Father Joe Kot officiating. Interment to be in the Glen Leslie Cemetery.

Prayers will be held at the Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel on Friday, August 23, 1996 at 8 p.m.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE
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The Family of
**Gordon & Julia
Thompson**



invites all family &
friends to an
**OPEN HOUSE
& DANCE**

at Bezanson Hall
Sat., Oct. 25 at 5:00 pm
to celebrate their
**50TH WEDDING
Anniversary**

No
Gifts
Please

Roger Walter Clarence Halwa



With heavy hearts we announce the passing of our dad and papa, Roger Halwa on Monday, December 21, 2009 at the QEII Hospital at the age of 65 years.

Roger was born on March 13, 1944 at Grande Prairie. He was raised in Grande Prairie and attended school at St. Joseph's Catholic School. It was there he met his life-long companion, Mary Anne. He attended Fairview Ag College. He and Mary Anne were married November 7, 1964. They raised their family in Bezanson and Grande Prairie. Roger worked for many years at Proctor and Gamble and then Sexsmith Canola Plant as a steam engineer. He later worked in the oilfield.

Roger was an active and dedicated 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He lovingly served his church and community for many years.

Roger made many life-long friends while being involved in the Grande Prairie Kennel Club. He was very proud of his trophy-winning dalmatians.

After retirement Roger loved to spend time with his grandchildren at the lake lot at Slave Lake. They spent many hours fishing and boating and those times will be cherished forever.

Roger is survived by his wife of 45 years, Mary Anne; their three children, Karen (Tom) Gorman, Cathy (Derek) Allen, Kevin (Colleen) Halwa; seven grandchildren, Mathew, Madisyn, Mitchel Gorman, Carter and Taylor Allen, Nicholas and Kennedy Halwa. He is also survived by his father, Ed Halwa; sister, Doreen (Morris) Lepine and their family; sister and brothers-in-law, Julia Thompson, Velma Lancaster, Stan (Lois) Podulsky, Anthony Podulsky, Carol (Bob) Kulas, George (Eddie) Podulsky, Myson (Diane) Podulsky, Paul (Lou) Podulsky, Barb (Dave) Greentree and numerous nieces and nephews.

Waiting to welcome Roger home is his mom, Rose Halwa; mother and father-in-law, Mury and Paul Podulsky and numerous aunts and uncles.

Prayer services will be held at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Sunday, December 27 at 7:30 pm.

Funeral Services will be held at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Monday, December 28, at 10:30 am.

Memorial donations may be made to the St. Joseph's Church Building Fund or a charity of one's choice.

Condolences may be sent by visiting www.oiversgrandeprairie.com

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

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PODULSKY, Anthony (Tony) - February 17, 1934 - January 19, 2011.

Anthony Podulsky was born on the family farm in Bezanson, Alberta. He lived there for the majority of his childhood, and adult life. He passed away peacefully at the QE11 Hospital at the age of 76 years. Tony attended school at East Keesun School. Tony lived and farmed, raising cattle and planting crops on the family farm until December, 2007. In his early adult life, Tony worked for construction companies mainly as a cat operator. Music was one of Tony's favorite hobbies. He was an excellent self-taught violin player, and could be found joining in playing his fiddle, at special family gatherings to some of the family's favorite tunes. He also loved fishing and hunting. His friend Gordie used to pick him up on many an occasion to go fishing at the lake. Tony leaves to mourn his sisters and brothers:

Julia Thompson, Velma Lancaster, Stan Podulsky (Lois), George Podulsky (Ednid), Carol Kulas (Bob), Myron Podulsky (Dianne), Mary Anne Halwa, Paul Podulsky (Mary Lou), Barb Greentree (Dave) and numerous nieces, nephews and great nieces and great nephews. He was predeceased by his mother and father Mary and Paul Podulsky, his brother Alex, brothers-in-law,

Gordon

Thompson, and Roger Halwa, nephews Laurie Thompson, and Al Podulsky. Prayer service for the late Tony Podulsky will be held on Friday, January 28th at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Grande Prairie at 7:30 pm. A celebration of Tony's life will be held on Saturday, January 29th at 2:00 pm at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Grande Prairie. Interment is to follow at the Glen Leslie cemetery. Lunch and refreshments will follow the service at the Golden Age Center in Bezanson. Memorial donations may be made to the St. Joseph's building fund, or a charity of one's choice.

Oliver's Grande Prairie
Funeral Chapel &
Crematorium