

The Lancaster Herald

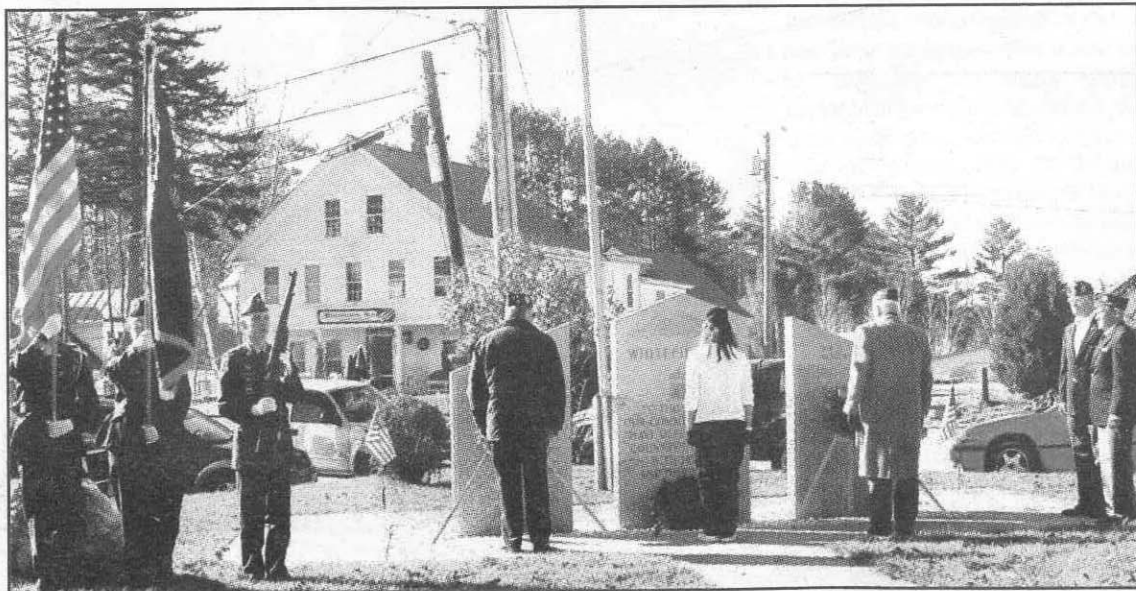
THE GATEWAY TO THE GREAT NORTH WOODS AND THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM

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Groveton's Hopes And Concerns Heard At Forum



On Sunday, the Whitefield American Legion, VFW and JROTC paid tribute to veterans with a solemn ceremony in the Whitefield Common. Tambra Gearhart photo.

By Charlotte Sheltry

The paper mill closures in Coos County are forcing individuals and communities to look at each other in a new way.

At a Citizens Forum in Groveton last Saturday the soon to be displaced workers from Wausau Paper and other interested parties from Groveton

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Campaigning For Wife:

Former President Clinton At WMRHS On Friday

Former President Bill Clinton will be at the White Mountains Regional High School today, Nov. 16, to campaign for his wife, Senator Hillary Clinton, a New York Democrat who is running for the presidency.

President Clinton will appear at the school from 12:45

he will be in Gorham at the Gorham Middle/High School.

Another noted Democrat, (Continued on page 2)

John McCain Coming Here

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Groveton Forum

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ton, Berlin, Vermont, Stratford and other locales pleaded for the barriers between the northern and southern parts of the state and between towns in the North Country be torn down.

"Take the barriers down," said Norman Charest, co-chair of Coos Economic Development Corporation (CEDC). "If we don't unite, we are going down individually. The last shoe has not fallen yet (referring to the Frazer mill in Gorham)."

And Groveton resident Sandra Gagnon, whose mother was a former legislator, said there has been a lack of interest in the southern part of the state for the North Country. "There's a granite curtain that separates the north from the south," Gagnon said. She hoped that it would not continue to be so.

Charest told the audience of the struggles that Berlin faced with the closure of their mill and he called for one community—the Community of Coos—and with it the sharing of jobs, assets, skills, and talents.

He told the audience of about 80 people that there would soon be 300 jobs for displaced workers with the construction of the prison; more jobs with the building of a wood pellet plant; and jobs at the new ATV Park; some 500 projected jobs in all. He encouraged people from Groveton to go and apply. "You are not alone," he said.

Peter Riviere of CEDC told the group of the incoming broadband; Beno Lamontagne of Dept. Resources Economic Development told everyone that Groveton would have a DRED office within 10 days and he would assist individuals in finding work and getting connected to learning new skills; Becky Newton told residents that loans and grants are coming to town as well as business programs, and evaluations for downtown; Holly Fortin, manager of Passumpsic Bank told the crowd not to be afraid to come with their financial concerns. "We don't want your homes or your cars, so if you run into trouble, come and talk to us, and we will work with you," Fortin said. She received a standing ovation.

At the end of two hours, the meeting broke up into four smaller groups where people with specific questions could address personal issues. The forum was sponsored by the Groveton Regional Economic Action Team (GREAT) and facilitated by Brenda Sheltry Dowst, who grew up in town and graduated from Groveton High School in 1962.

She is the director of sustainable communities program of Mt. Spirit Institute that provides communities with leadership and citizenry tools to solve issues in times of crisis. Mt. Spirit Institute, a company based in Sunapee, is a private company that facilitates ones connection to self, each other and the environment.

The money for Lancaster will be used to repair and maintain the building's envelope components including windows, doors, brickwork, cornice, the roof and structural issues. And on the third floor, repairs and restoration to the third floor window units including painting and caulking will be done. The brick keystone above the main entrance to the auditorium and cracked bricks will be replaced where needed. The large roof cornice will be painted and the roof repaired. Requests for proposals to do the work will go out shortly, Newton said.

Also being considered is an improved handicap entrance being either an elevator or LULA in the south west interior corner of the building. This plan would not compromise the historic integrity of the building. Another option would be to install either an elevator or LULA on the southwest corner of the building, which would include reconstruction of back stair that is in disrepair and does not meet current codes for means of egress. Further study is needed to determine which plan works best, states the proposal.

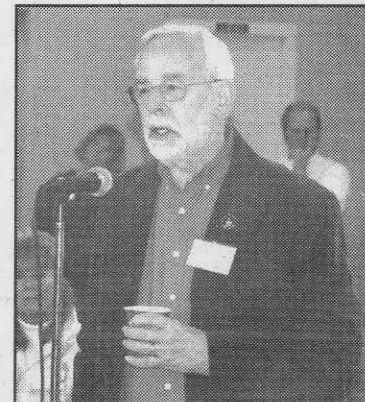
The main focus will be to preserve the historic integrity while keeping the building from falling into further disrepair.

Homebound

(Continued from page 1)
more families signed up then



Executive Councilor Ray Burton said he stands ready to fight for the people of Groveton in their time of need. He addressed the gathering at last Saturday's public forum. Charles Jordan photo.



At last Saturday's GREAT-sponsored Citizens Forum held in Groveton, Elaine Connary and Representative Bill Remick were among the dozen speakers. Charles Jordan photo.

a plan to attract a new company to the Wausau site. The division has also been actively engaged in trying to recruit new businesses to the North Country.

His plan includes a change to the foreign policy saying, "we don't need to be overseas—not in the Middle East, not in Korea, Japan or Europe," and he would bring all U.S. sol-