

Consider the key

Villages in the state were handed a key to self preservation last year when the state Legislature set up a method to ban alcohol use in the villages where a majority of the people vote to outlaw it.

Alcohol use has long been a vexing problems for the Bush communities and one which needs solving.

When St. Mary's voted its 60-day ban on alcohol in the village in May, the number of calls to resident Alaska State Troopers in the villages dropped appreciably according to the troopers. The absense of alcohol coupled with the fishing season in full flower is credited by Mayor Moses Paukan and Trooper Sgt. Glenn Godfrey for the decrease in calls.

St. Mary's will take up the matter of a permanent ban on a referendum in November. Other villages in the area have implemented an emergency ban.

The "key" which was handed the villages to stop alcohol abuse is one which should be looked at by any village which has a problem with alcohol in its midst.

If a problem exists in the village because of alcohol, the leaders should get together to consider banning it. And the population should consider it. It may be one election which gives immediate and far reaching results.