

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Healthy action at Stratton Sale



by Marlene Deschamps

The Rainy River Cattlemen's Association held their Spring Cattle Sale at the Stratton Sales Barn on Saturday, April 25th. Manager of the Stratton Sales Barn, Clayton Teeple was a very busy fellow for the days preceding and on the sale date as just over 1,303 cattle were up for sale.

President of the Rainy River Cattlemen's Association, Ken McKinnon, said they saw mostly yearling and fall calves. There were in the 500-900

pound weight range. There were also around 100-200 cull cows and bulls plus a few breeding bulls. Ken said the market is slowing coming up so the prices were as good as anywhere else or better. Prices were ranging around \$1.20 per pound for the good quality yearlings. He said the price depended on the weight and quality of the animal and the better the quality the higher the price per pound.

The Stratton Sales Barn continues to see improvements

made to the structure and outside areas. Ken noted everything went well and the cattle came into the sales ring nice and dry since it was a sunny day. There were new improvements inside that made things better. There will be more improvements made before the fall sale but it is all done by volunteers so it takes time. There will be three more sales this year with the next sale being held the end of August. Ken said to watch for the media ads.

Biggest Little Trade Show lives up to it's billing



Current Mayor Deb Ewald and former Mayor Gordon Armstrong at the Rainy River booth.

by Marlene Deschamps

The trade show that was billed as the Biggest Little Trade Show in the district lived up to and surpassed it's expectations. It was held on Saturday, April 25th at the Recreation Centre in Rainy River.

Economic Development Coordinator, Anthony Mason said the show was a huge success. There were over 593 people who signed in at the door. With volunteers and exhibitors there were close to 700 people at the Recreation Centre. There were 58 booths and over 60 exhibitors. There was a booth from a business in Manitoba that came with a promise for more entries next year. Anthony said he wanted to thank the volunteers and sponsors and said without their help it wouldn't have been as successful as it was. He added there would definitely be a bigger and better trade show next year.

Don Ricci, President of the Rainy River Chamber of Commerce, was a very hard person to pin down. He was kept very busy from start to finish of the Trade Show. He initially coined the "Biggest Little Trade Show" for the event and he was very happy with the results. He said he was pleased with all the volunteers, the committee who helped put the show together and the turn out. He said it was a really good show and it could only get better. So I guess that's a head's up

for next year.

Rainy River Mayor, Deb Ewald, manned the Rainy River booth on and off throughout the day. She joined Gordon Armstrong for awhile and they were both greeting everyone and touting their community, all it had to offer and upcoming improvements through their 5-year plan. Mayor Ewald said she was very pleased and she thought they had around 500 people come in by lunch time. She was glad to see and welcome people from all over the district and said she spotted people from Nestor Falls, Fort Frances, Emo, Devlin and Baudette, Minnesota. She was pleased to see so many exhibitors and even some from the Winnipeg area. She also noted it was nice to see the Iron Age Car Club come down to show their antique and classic cars. She noted the Chamber worked very hard on the show to promote business and they did an excellent job.

The Trade Show was not only a success in the eyes of those who put it on, it was a pleasant treat for anyone who came from out of town to check it out. There was something for everyone. There were crafts, health and government information (including passport photos and forms), food, candles, beautiful artwork, plants and nursery items ready for spring planting and much, much more. Both Provincial

MPP, Howard Hampton and Federal MP, John Rafferty were on hand to talk to citizens about concerns they may have and upcoming strategies for gaining attention and help from the two levels of government. There were many prizes to be won at the various booths and some goodie bags to be had at others. Those who visited Loewen Greenhouses booth received a gift of a pansy planting. After you toured the inside of the Rec Centre which took at least an hour or more, you could go outside and check out the Classic Cars. There was even lots of fun for the kids. The Kid Sport Fun Zone program set up their outdoor sport day to run in conjunction with the Trade Show. On the sports fields, kids could participate in soccer, baseball, golf and t-ball and frisbee throwing. There were anywhere from 4 to 17 kids signed up for the different sports categories and age groups and it was specially fun to watch the little ones swinging at the t-ball and being so happy when they hit it, even though some took many tries before accomplishing their goal. You put on a great show Rainy River and I'm real glad I took time to travel west to see the Biggest Little Trade Show in the District. By the way, I did get my Railroad Daze t-shirt so I can be properly attired to attend those fun events which are coming up later in the summer.

R.R. Hospital Auxiliary "Rocking" for health care



Rainy River Councillor, Gerry Marchuk, donating to the cause. Also featured in the picture is Teresa Hazel from Riverside Foundation.

by Marlene Deschamps

The Rainy River Hospital Auxiliary wanted to give some of their 'bit older' members to be involved in a fund raising project so they came up with "Rocking for Health Care". Members only had to rock in comfortable chairs so it was easy to get volunteers. They held this fund raiser during the Rainy River Trade Show and they rocked from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Patti Bonhomme supplied music to keep them rocking. She had taped a number of songs that all had the work rocking contained in the lyrics such as "Rocking around the Clock", "Rocking Robin" just to name a few.

The Auxiliary were really pleased and the amount raised exceeded their expectations.

When all pledges come in they will add up to around \$2,500. The top money makers were Sophie Arpin, first, Darlene Armstrong, second and Betty Blight, third. A 'bit younger' volunteer rocker, Teresa Hazel from Riverside Foundation, is still trying to best the top pledger and gathering pledges to add to the total. Her pledges may push the total up to and over the \$2,500 mark.

Other Auxiliary news from the west end of the district is you should watch for upcoming fund raising projects slated to get going soon. Watch for them. And put this date on your calendar. May 20th. That is the date of this year's Strawberry Social. It will take place at the Rainy River Legion.

Van available for district senior's medical appointments

by Marlene Deschamps

Last year, 100 vans were made available in Ontario to be used for seniors needing transportation to medical appointments. Eight of those vans were made available for Northwestern Ontario. Although Rainy River applied for a van twice, they did not receive one, but Riverside Health Care Facilities did. The Rainy River Hospital is part of Riverside Health Care Facilities so it's use is available from Rainy River to Fort Frances.

Laurie Cole is the Home Support Coordinator and said the van was given by LHINS to promote the 'aging at home strategy'. There are volunteer

drivers and a schedule set up so that seniors can access the van to get to any medical appointment. Although they do have volunteer drivers, Laurie said if anyone is interested they can contact her and they are willing to accept volunteers. At this point Thursday is open for appointments in Rainy River and surrounding area. They will set up for pickup at designated spots. The van can accommodate 6 passengers. It is not available for wheelchair passengers but will accommodate walkers and oxygen tanks. The fee schedule is: Rainy River to Fort Frances and return - \$10. Emo to Fort Frances and return is \$5. If you are requesting a trip within

your municipality the cost is \$1.25. Although the schedule states it is available in Rainy River on Thursday and Emo earlier in the week, if you have an appointment on a different day, you can still call and they will try to arrange transportation. Laurie said they are working with the doctors at the clinic

so that appointments can be geared to availability of the van when possible. To contact Laurie, you can call 274-3261-extension 2547. This will reach her directly and she said that if you get the machine, you should leave a message because she will check and confirm with you.



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