

# The Westend Weekly

## Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, Rainy River, ON POW 1L0 Ph. 852-3815, FAX 852-1863, e-mail: westendweekly@tbaytel.net - Serving the District for almost 17 years VOL. 17, NO. 45 Wednesday, March 4, 2009  
 If you ever forget to pick up the paper, read it on line at [www.westendweekly.ca](http://www.westendweekly.ca)

### Fort Frances Jr. Sabre Fan Club host 'Power Lunch' for the team



Sitting, from left on far side of table, #44 Brendon Baumgartner (Edmonton, Alberta) #71 Mitch Cain (Fort Frances), #27 Kenny Carpenter (Likely B.C.). Standing behind the players Fan Club member Jane Johnston and seated on near side of table #96 Dan Usiski (Rainy River)

by Marlene Deschamps

The Fort Frances Jr. Sabre Fan Club held a 'Power Lunch' for the team on Friday, February 27th. The Club members cooked up a high carb-high protein lunch with salad, garlic bread and plenty of gator-aid to make sure the players were powered up to go for the evening game. These young fellows are sure polite and soft spoken when they are off the ice and among their fans or out volunteering at various schools, but they can turn on the fire when they get out on the ice.

Unfortunately they lost to the Fort William North Stars on the Friday and Saturday night games but both games were close and well fought.

The Sabres next games will be March 3rd against the Sioux Lookout Flyers and March 5th & 6th against the Schreiber Diesels. These are all home games so if you haven't had a chance to watch this team this will be your chance. You will get a chance to see some pretty exciting hockey.

The Sabres' Fan Club big EasterHome Furnishings Raffle

Draw is coming up soon. The draw date is Friday, March 6th. You can get your ticket at any of the home games or from members of the Fan Club. These great prizes are not donated as previously printed by mistake but have been purchased by the Fan Club. You also have a few days left to get your tickets for Award Night, hosted by the Fan Club. The big night is Saturday, March 7th. You can also get these tickets at the games or by calling 274-9679.

### The fate of Pither's Point still in litigation



by Marlene Deschamps

Back in September of 2008, an article was published noting the end date of the lease for Pither's Point Park. That date was May of 2009.

Recently, an open letter was published in the media which was to Fort Frances Mayor and Council and indicated the 4 chiefs involved (Chief Chuck McPherson of Couchiching First Nation--Chief Gary Allen of Nicickousemenecaning First Nation--Chief Wayne Smith of Naicatchewenin First Nation and Chief Janice Henderson of Stanjikoming First Nation) proposed an extension of the 99 year lease until such time as litigation was finished and the issue could be resolved. The letter indicated that the annual rate of \$35 was no longer acceptable and that fair market value would be sought. The letter stated that The Town's stewardship of their lands as a park over the last 99 years had been found commendable.

After an extended in camera meeting held at the Civic Centre on Monday, March 2nd,

prior to the Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting, the Mayor indicated they had a drafted letter in response to the one from the Chiefs and that it would be mailed out to Fort Frances residents along with copies for the media. In Mayor Avis's letter he acknowledges the letter from the Chiefs and is in agreement that the cessation of the lease (held by the Government of Canada) as a park would serve no practical purpose at this time.

The letter also states that by way of background, the Municipal Park was created based on recommendation of the Minister of Lands, Forest and Mines. The Minister and the Ontario Cabinet in 1908 passed an Order in Council granting the Town of Fort Frances land for a municipal park that had been surrendered as part of a treaty signed by the bands of the day in 1873.

It goes on to state that in it's dialogue with other levels of government, has sought to protect its proprietary interest in Pither Point Municipal Park.

He has met with senior decision makers from the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to support the community's desire to secure the future of the Park by the Government honouring the original promise and the Order of Council designation or the exploration of other options that would in any event secure the future of the Park once and for all.

Mayor Avis states that over the coming days and weeks, he will be in further communication with officials from both levels of government to advance a solution that will ensure the future of the park for the benefit of all citizens. He also states they remain committed to working with members of the First Nations communities to achieve a solution as quickly as possible, but in any event, prior to May of 2009. Residents will have a chance to read the full letter when they receive it through the mail.

Here's hoping for an amicable solution.

### Sacred Heart student receives Recognition of Excellence



Northwest Catholic District School Board trustee Cathy Bowen hands certificate to Lana Anderson.

Lana is a grade 8 student attending Sacred Heart School in Sioux Lookout, Ontario.

Principal Margot Saari, in presenting Lana to the Board,

noted that Lana lives as a discerning believer formed in the Catholic Faith. Lana is a reflective, creative and holistic thinker. She makes good decisions and shares her God given talents as a family member, a Catholic community member and as a student. Lana is a self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner...she has maintained an overall 'A' average through her ten school years at Sacred Heart School. Lana is a collaborative contributor in the area of school fund raising and participating in community events, and as an ambassador of Sacred Heart School at both the Volleyball and Basket ball tournaments this school year.

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Cathy Bowen presented to Lana a certificate of appreciation for her contributions to her school, parish and municipality.

### RRDSB March recognition of excellence

by Marlene Deschamps

During the regular March Rainy River District School Board's meeting, the Recognition of Excellence will be presented to the Donald Young and Nestor Falls Schools.

The "Me to We" Philosophy in a part of the actions that focus on and support character development. The theme for the month of March is "Integrity". The students and staff of Donald Young School and Nestor Falls School have shown great 'integrity' in being socially conscious, responsible, and engaging in daily acts of kindness to build meaningful relationships with others.

Within Donald Young and Nestor Falls, students and staff, led by the Student Councils, have actively practiced the "Me to We" philosophy by putting integrity into action. The "Me to We" philosophy originated with Marc and Craig Kielberger. (These two young fellows appeared on Oprah promoting this philosophy and it

was well accepted by both Oprah and her audience). It is based on a life philosophy offering us a way to live and wisdom that develops over our lifetime. Specifically, this philosophy embraces the idea that we can build a better life, and an ideal world, through reaching out to others.

The staff and students recognized that living "We to Me" means working toward goals that unite us all in engaging together to create a better world. At both school sites, students and staff have shown community support in the following ways:

\* Salvation Army Food Drive at both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

\*Donations toward local charities.

\* Using Casual Dress Friday contributions to support a local family who lost their home and belongings to a fire.

\* Supporting Environmental initiatives-promoting recycling through the school Green Team.

\*Participating in the Classrooms Care reading program in partnership with Scholastic.

The staff and students also looked outside their local community, making a commitment to considering the benefits for "We" when making decisions. They have supported: the Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research; the UNICEF Halloween campaign and the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund which supports children facing challenges in Africa and Operation Christmas Child which provides essential supplies to students around the world.

Donald Young students briefly explained the different initiatives and how the school and community supported them. Putting integrity into action through this philosophy offered the Donald Young and Nestor Falls Schools with opportunity to mobilize their collective strengths for the good of all and garnered them the Recognition of Excellence for March.

### Minimum wage is going up in Ontario

Ontario is raising the minimum wage to \$9.50 on March 31, 2009. This is the sixth increase since 2004. The province of Ontario started implementing annual increases early in 2003, raising the general minimum wage from \$6.85 in 2004 to \$8.00 in 2007. By 2010, Ontario will further increase the minimum wage to \$10.25.

Phasing in these increases

balances the needs of hard working families with the needs of small businesses that create jobs.

Increasing the minimum wage is part of Breaking the Cycle: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy which will reduce the number of children living in poverty by 25 per cent over 5 years - lifting 90,000 kids out of poverty - by boosting benefits for low-income

families and enhancing publicly-funded education.

"This increase in minimum wage puts over \$1300 a year in the pockets of our lowest paid workers. This is another way that we're continuing to move forward with our poverty reduction strategy and our commitment to improve opportunity for all Ontarians."

### Snowmobile fatalities continue to rise

Snowmobile fatalities continue to rise. The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is concerned with the increase in fatal snowmobile incidents so far this season. The number of related deaths investigated by


the OPP has risen to 17 from the high of 13 last year to this point in the season.

The repeated causes of these tragic deaths have been constant and predictable. Either alcohol or excessive speed has

played a direct role in nearly every fatal crash investigated by police.

"The result means that 17 people have died since December that had some measure of control over the circumstances that led to their senseless deaths," said Larry Beechey OPP Deputy Commissioner for Traffic Safety.

**Sunday is International Women's Day and, Back to Daylight Savings Time! Yes, Spring is only Moments Away!**




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