

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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OPP celebrating 100th this year



Pictured from left former local Inspector of Rainy River District OPP Detachment, Dave Lucas, Community Police Officer, Constable Anne McCoy and acting Inspector and Detachment Commander, Staff Sgt. Steve Shouldice.

by Marlene Deschamps
2009 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). For 100 years they have provided service to the citizens of Ontario. Over the years, more and more communities have seen the value of replacing local police with the OPP instead of operating under a two fold system. Local police, in they choose, could attend training to switch over and many if not most did and many still served in their home communities.

Over this Anniversary year, we will highlight the different milestones achieved by the OPP.

October 13th is the actual date of the formation of the OPP. It has grown from a small force of approximately 50 members to one of the largest,

deployed police services in North America (8600 members) It has an international reputation for excellence in criminal investigations, traffic management and community policing.

The Rainy River District OPP Detachment consists of 1 Inspector; 1 Staff Sergeant, 7 Sergeants, 52 Constables and 6 Civilian officers.

2008 Statistics show there were: 8,200 calls for service; 698 motor vehicle collisions; 751 property crimes and 391 crimes against persons.

In the past five years, the Rainy River District OPP officers responded to 30,638 calls for service. In the past five years, officers of the Northwest Region responded to 291,209 calls for service.

As Community Police Officer, Constable Anne

McCoy, will send out media releases to local media to help build awareness of the 100th Anniversary and celebrations. She will begin early in June and in the weeks leading up to the Golden Helmets who will be in Fort Frances on July 19th. They will be doing a circle tour of the Northwest. They last time they were here to perform their manoeuvres, they attracted a large audience of people who really enjoyed the show they put on. There is also the possibility of the standard black and white OPP car being in Fort Frances for the Home & Leisure Show. It was published before that the OPP would be returning to the familiar black & whites of the past. You can watch for more info regarding the proud history of the OPP in future articles.

Salvation Army hosts volunteer supper



From left Capt. Tiffany Marshall, Edith A Rawlins, Capt. Marlene Sandoval. back row from left Capt. Les Marshall, Richard Barrett, Jill Pernsby, Curt Summer and Capt. Angel Sandoval-Silva.

by Marlene Deschamps

On Saturday, March 20th, The Salvation Army, Fort Frances Community Ministries hosted a supper for the volunteers who have assisted them throughout the year, especially all the bell ringers for the Christmas Kettle Campaign where they raised \$17,000 for Christmas baskets.

The Master of Ceremony was Captain Angel Sandoval-Silva. He welcomed everyone and told of how they helped close to 250 families over Christmas and 735 families, including 430 children and 45 teens over the past year. He said he hoped they enjoyed their meal and then led everyone in singing the National Anthem before Captain Marlene Sandoval read Grace.

After a delicious meal featuring oriental food followed by pie and ice cream, Mrs. Stacy Gosman did a power point presentation highlighting the work of The Salvation Army Ministries in Fort Frances and the Rainy River District. She spoke of working with the Salvation Army for the past two years and was the Family Services Coordinator. She

mentioned the Thrift Store, the Family Services and food, shelter and Christian Counselling as being the services they provide in communities around the world. She noted that approximately 30 people visit the food bank per month with 1,500 being served on a yearly basis. She also thanked all the dedicated volunteers and said they packed up 210 Christmas hampers with their assistance. She added she wanted to personally thank everyone for helping her fulfill her mission to man the kettles throughout the program.

The Guest Speaker was Captain Les Marshall, Pr Director for the Manitoba and Ontario Northwest Division. Capt. Marshall introduced his wife, Capt. Tiffany and gave an overview of his years with the Salvation Army. He pointed out the miniature red bells that were set at each plate and welcomed everyone to try and see if they actually made a small ringing sound. Indeed they did although they were only about 1 1/2 inches high. He asked everyone to imagine 18,000 of them ringing at a hockey game because that is what they did at

a Rotary sponsored hockey game. He said they could maybe be used for next year's Sabre's games. After a brief history of the formation of the Salvation Army, Capt. Marshall noted how they are involved on a daily basis in helping people and cited the volunteers already working on the flood danger in Manitoba and northern North Dakota and Minnesota. He called for applause for Capt. Angel and Capt. Marlene who have done so much valuable work in Fort Frances and surrounding area. After the thank you's and applause, Capt. Marlene, with the help of Capt. Tiffany presented awards to Enid A Rawlins, Richard Barrett, Jill Pernsby and Curt Summer for their ongoing volunteer work and support throughout the entire year. They were thanked for their tireless hours of time and told their spirit of giving was truly a blessing to the Salvation Army and the community. After each had received their rewards, people stayed around and visited for awhile before leaving the very pleasant event.

F.F.Lions Club holds grocery draw



Pictured in the front row from the left, Al Carrier, Jeanette Roth, June Hamalainen, Jean Fiset, Rose Bird. In the rear, Joe Gervais, Dick Bird and Jacques Fiset.

by Marlene Deschamps

There were a lot of people bunched up at the main entrance of Safeway on Saturday, March 21st waiting to see who won the Fort Frances Lions Club big Groceries for a Year raffle. Lions President Jacques Fiset thanked everyone for coming and everyone for buying tickets for the big draw. It was sold out of the 3,000 tickets printed.

Fiset spoke of the Lions Clubs operating in 240 countries and supplying glasses to one million people in third world countries with the used eyeglasses people donate to Lions Clubs around the world. He thanked Safeway for allowing them to sell tickets there and for supplying the cake and coffee everyone was going to enjoy. He asked for continued support in buying TV bingo tickets and

said that without community support they would not be able to support their commitments to the many programs that the citizens enjoy. Assistant Manager, Mark Cooke pulled out the winning ticket which was held by Loreen Darechuk of Thunder Bay. Fiset then cut the beautiful cake and started handing out pieces of it to all who came to the table.

Business Women's Network to host Fashion Show

by Marlene Deschamps

The Business Women's Network has the date set for their very popular spring fashion show. The date is April 5th. The time is 2 p.m. and the place to be is the Rendezvous. The tickets are only \$8 in advance and you can get them at Rainy River Future Development's office or from members.

Several merchants have already signed on to partici-

pate. They are Northwoods Gallery & Gifts; Threads of Distinction from International Falls; Warehouse One; Marks Warehouse; McTaggart's and Walmart. If any other merchants wish to highlight their fashion items they can contact Tonia at 274-5733. The Business Women's Network is also looking for more models and you are encouraged to give

it a try by contacting Tonia if you are interested.

Entertainment will be provided by Colleen Cote and Louie Haukeness. They were a big hit at last year's event. There will be lots of draws and they might even have a surprise segment dealing with fashion.

Tickets for the show will be a hot item so get yours right away and see you all there.

Kiwanis to hold 16th annual Good Friday prayer breakfast

by Marlene Deschamps

The Kiwanis Club will hold their 16th annual Good Friday Prayer Breakfast at 8 a.m. on Friday, April 10th, at the Rendezvous. This will be a buffet breakfast which is sponsored in part by the Kiwanis. Their guest speaker this year will be Father Wayne McIntosh.

The music will be the Rainy Lake Ringers Community Hand Bell Choir under the direction of Diane Maxey.

Tickets for the breakfast cost \$8 in advance and can be purchased at Lidkea/Elliott/Lidkea's offices at 221 Scott Street or from any Kiwanis member. They will be \$12 at the door. Since the Good Friday Prayer Breakfast tickets are usually sold out quite quickly, you might want to pick yours up as soon as possible.

The Kiwanis Club has been a vital important part of the community for many, many years and just a few of their efforts

have been the operation and maintenance of Sunny Cove Camp; 4-H Clubs and the Library Summer Reading Program. They also award two bursaries; have supported the hospital renovations and cat scan and sponsor the Builders Club at Robert Moore School. They also support any worthwhile program that involves children. Your support of the Kiwanis helps them support many efforts that make Fort Frances a better place to live.



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