

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, Rainy River, ON POW 1L0 Ph. 852-3815, FAX 852-1863, e-mail: westendweekly@tbytel.net - Serving the District for 17 years VOL. 18, NO. 32 Wednesday, November 11, 2009
If you ever forget to pick up the paper, read it on line at www.westendweekly.ca

F. F. Legion Auxiliary Branch #29 hold memorable Remembrance Day Tea



Carly Taggard pinning maple leaves around the flag (dollars raised from the sale of the maple leaves go to supplement gift packages to soldiers overseas).



Bea Galbraith manned the craft table.

by Marlene Deschamps
The Fort Frances Legion Auxiliary Branch #29 held their Remembrance Day Tea on Sunday, November 8th.

According to President, Sylvia Gunderson, they were over all very pleased with the support and the response. Sylvia spent time both downstairs and

upstairs greeting people along with Alfreda Easton. At the door to greet those coming in were 1st Vice President of the Branch, Robert Boland and President, Norris Piccinato.

The cookie walk and the table filled with meat pies, along with the perogies and cabbage rolls seemed to be a favorite for those who hurried downstairs before they ran out of these favored purchases. There were several draw tables that peaked the interest of many along with crafts, and of course the big cash draw and huge food hamper. Florence Hill won the food hamper and Peggy Revell won the 50/50 draw which saw her winning \$1,485.

There was a full house upstairs as people sat and enjoyed sandwiches, dainties and refreshments. The walls were decorated with banners, honouring our service men and women and all were reminded to attend services at cenotaphs in their communities on Remembrance Day.

Community Living new owners of Sixth Street School property



Front left, Dan Belluz Board Chair RRDSB handing keys to Steve Latimer Vice President of Community Living Board (CLFFD). In the rear from left, Laura Mills, Board Treasurer-Alice Ivall CLFFD Board member-Alanna J. Barr- Executive Director of CLFFD--Jennifer Greenhaigh CLFFD Board member and Jack McMaster, Director of Education.

by Marlene Deschamps

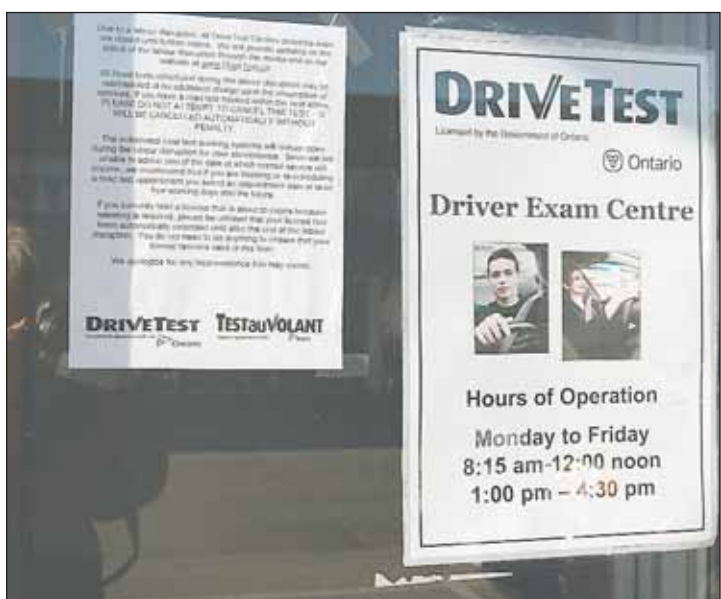
November 6th was a day that saw a long ago promise fulfilled by the Rainy River District School Board to Community Living, Fort Frances and District. This was the day when property was returned to the Association and although it was not the original site, it is a site that will allow the Association to have a resource centre for services and a site that will allow them to provide future services.

The Rainy River District School Board represented by Chair, Dan Belluz, turned over the keys to the building and property to Steve Latimer, Vice President of the Community Living Board. As new owners of the Sixth Street School property, Community Living Fort Frances and District will be making plans for the future development of this property. The suggested intent is that the development of the proposed resource centre will be fully accessible and environmentally friendly, using green energy

and green products. There were no government dollars involved in this exchange and the total cost for this exchange was \$1. Back in the 60's, Community Living transferred the Walker School site to the Board and it was legislated to the Board. There was a promise made at that time that the property would be returned but because of current legislation that was not possible. The Board and Community Living have been looking at alternate sites and have been working on this process since early spring. Everyone at the handing over of the keys event held at the Sixth Street School site were very pleased, positive and all were smiling. Vice President of the CLFFD Board, Steve Latimer said their first job will be to board up the windows and winterize it. Many more windows were broken over the Halloween weekend by vandals and Steve said they wanted the site to be made safe and secure. Arrangements are already underway to have this done.

The plan is to demolish the old school which was in such disrepair that it didn't qualify for government dollars to upgrade it and students were dispersed to other schools in town. Community Living will then build new buildings that allow them to continue to provide services to their client. Steve and Alanna Barr, Executive Director both spoke of all the potential for the future. They will be looking to staff and community partners for support and involvement in this new venture. Both Steve and Jack McMaster, Director of Education spoke of the ease that the team working on this venture developed and how great they were to work with. It will be great for both groups as the School Board has fulfilled a promise and Community Living has a site for their resource centre and for future endeavors they wish to begin to better their lives of their clients who live throughout the district.

Driver's Test Offices remain closed because of strike



This is what you'll see on the door.

by Marlene Deschamps
The doors to the Driver's Test Offices on Mowat Avenue remain closed with only a few signs on the door. The strike which began on August 24th show no signs of ending soon and drivers are becoming frustrated by no access to services they need. The driver's test used to be handled by the Ontario government but this service was privatized under Harris's Conservative government. It

did and still does remain privatized under McGuinty's Liberals. Maybe after all the flack they are receiving daily during question period at Queen's Park, they will rethink the issue and it will once again become a public service.

Services affected by the strike are: vision tests; knowledge tests for Class A, B, C, D, E, F, G, M and Z endorsement. This is the same for road tests; test required for re-rein-

statement of driving privileges; submitting applications to the Ministry; medical reports to the Ministry; license exchanges from other Canadian provinces, the US, Japan, Korea etc.

The Ontario government has approved a temporary regulation under the Highway Traffic Act that provides for the extended validity of some driver's licenses including; novice drivers who are required to take a test to keep their license; commercial vehicle drivers; drivers 80 years and older. This is only available to Ontario drivers who licenses were valid when the strike began. Out of province and out of country license holders are out of luck as they can not legally drive in Ontario and for new drivers there are no services available. In regards to persons traveling outside the country with a temporary extended driver's license, the Ministry is trying to notify all border officials regarding temporary regulations during service disruption. Hopefully this strike will be resolved before the snow birds head south or people start thinking of traveling for the Christmas holidays.

NWHU now offering H1N1 Vaccine to all

The Northwestern Health Unit is ready to offer H1N1 vaccinations to the general public. Dr. James Arthurs, Acting Medical Officer of Health at the Health Unit suggests "Our experience from the H1N1 clinics in the region is that we have reached the priority groups who want the vaccine - it's time to open it up".

Priority groups, including people under 65 with chronic conditions, pregnant women, health care workers, people living in remote or isolated com-

munities, and care providers of people who cannot be immunized are still encouraged to get the vaccine.

Vaccination for pregnant women (with unadjuvanted vaccine) is now available by appointment through the Northwestern Health Unit.

The Northwestern Health Unit expects to get enough H1N1 vaccine for anyone in the catchment area that wants or needs it, and will continue to offer immunizations as long as supplies of the vaccine last. Dr.

Arthurs wishes to stress that "any shortages in the supply of the vaccine will only be temporary. Our perspective now is that the H1N1 vaccine should be in the arms of all Ontarians as soon as possible".

A flu shot is the best protection against the flu. The most up-to-date information about where and when to get the H1N1 flu shot in your community is available at www.nwhu.on.ca or by calling (toll-free) 1-866-468-2240.

OEB approves rate adjustment for Union Gas

Today the Ontario Energy Board (the Board) approved an application by Union Gas Limited (Union) for an annual incremental rate adjustment. The change is part of its multi-year incentive rate mechanism for regulated natural gas distribution, transmission and storage services.

Union's five-year Incentive Regulation Plan began January 1, 2008. Today's approved adjustments, which take effect

January 1, 2010, are based on a formula for incremental costs that include the inflation rate and a productivity factor. Also, the new rates incorporate additional approved costs.

For Union's residential customers, the impact range will be an additional \$6 to \$8 a year for those consuming 2,600 cubic metres (m³) annually. This represents an increase of 0.7% on the total annual residential bill.

The Ontario Energy Board regulates the province's electricity and natural gas sectors in the public interest. It envisions a viable and efficient energy sector with informed consumers and works toward this vision through regulation that is effective, fair and transparent.

For more information on the Board, please visit our website at www.oeb.gov.on.ca

Causeway

General Insurance Brokers Ltd.

Are you paying too much for rural insurance?
Insure a \$175,000 home for less than \$500*

* with \$1,000 deductible and qualifying discounts

Proudly Serving the Entire Rainy River District

Martin Dufresne
275-8916
852-4237

The Fort Frances Team

Robin Payeur
274-6688

Holly Penney
274-6688

Pam Buttner
274-6688

229 Scott Street, Fort Frances 1-800-289-9917