

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Copper River Inn set to open this week



Bryce Campbell, new owner of the Copper River Inn, and Monique Gall, General Manager are ready to welcome guests to the new establishment.



Bistro North offers an upper casual dining experience.



Murals of the northern lights (aurora borealis) were painted on the walls in the Aurora Bar and Grill by Rhonda Campbell.



The Aurora Bar and Grill will feature food and drink specials, with a draft beer tower and frozen drink machine.



Nick Ashworth is ready to start making the Copper River wood-fired pizzas in the beautiful new oven.



Red Seal chef, Tracy Clarke displays the menu for Bistro North.

By: Teresa Hazel

It's been a hectic time for the new owner of the Copper River Inn in Fort Frances since purchasing the well-known hotel from previous owners Don Lee and Vivian Boyd.

Renovations got started immediately after Bryce Campbell and his mother Sheila Campbell took over the hotel in early February. The new décor is beautiful.

"I wanted to give it a north woods vibe to celebrate the area", explained Bryce Campbell, who is also the visionary behind the design.

"We hope everyone will enjoy the vision".

The lounge celebrates the magnificent northern lights and is aptly named, Aurora Bar and Grill.

"My aunt painted the murals", notes Campbell as he points out the lovely paintings of the aurora borealis that don the walls in the lounge.

It is a full-service lounge that

will feature food specials and drink specials including Wing Wednesdays, Steak Thursday and Frozen Drink Fridays.

There is also a pool table, juke box and draft beer tower as well as a dance floor.

"We have room for bands as well", noted Campbell, pointing out where tables and chairs could be re-arranged for the stage.

Construction workers have been extremely busy hauling in new furniture, painting walls, and laying carpet to completely renovate thirty-nine of the seventy guest rooms, the front desk, coffee shop, dining room and lounge.

"Phase two will include a re-furbishing of the banquet room, meeting room, boardroom, three suites and the remaining twenty eight guest rooms" explained Monique Gall who will be the General Manager of the hotel. The completion of the revamped banquet room is planned for

mid-May.

"It's going to be great when everything comes together", enthused Gall who also worked for Campbell as manager of the Walla Walla Inn in Rainy River after he purchased and renovated the motel.

"He's an ambitious guy", said Gall about Campbell.

"I started my first business at the age of fifteen", explains Campbell about his business background that comes from a passion and interest he has always had.

"I developed a business model for a video store, then did it", he notes, adding that he worked there after school. Then, two weeks before his grade twelve graduation, he purchased a drive-in restaurant

"The restaurant was a seasonal business so I started working in hotels during the winter. It came natural to me", says the soft spoken owner, while fielding calls and making decisions as construction workers and staff stop in to ask

questions.

This led to the purchase of a hotel in his hometown of Reston, Manitoba and an apartment block.

Interestingly, his parents come from a farming background.

"They still have some cattle", notes Campbell who adds that they are hoping one of the sons will take over the farm as they think about retiring to this area. His mother, Sheila, has been making regular visits to the hotel and is assisting with the front office set-up that will be managed by Steven Day.

So, what brought them to the Rainy River district?

"We thought Fort Frances and Rainy Lake were beautiful and had lots of potential. We kept driving around and saw the potential", said Campbell adding that timing was on his side when he approached the previous owners about purchasing the hotel.

"They were contemplating selling so we were able to work out a deal". This deal led to Campbell taking over ownership on February 1st.

As we walk through the renovated hotel, it brings me back to a time when the former Red Dog Inn was a great place to work and socialize. It seems everyone has a memory about something they did at the Red Dog whether they were a former employee or a patron.

The menu for the Copper River Coffee Co. will feature specialty coffees, gourmet sandwiches, soup and a bakery. They will also serve hard ice cream and wood fired pizza made in the specialty stone oven that was handcrafted and shipped from California.

"It took us a full day to get the oven through the door", said Campbell who added that it weighs 6,000 pounds with all the stone.

The California-style pizza will be available in both restaurants and the lounge, with delivery also planned.

Some furniture delivery delays have bumped back the opening although both Gall and Campbell were hopeful that the Lounge and restaurants would be open before this weekend.



A close-up of the lovely Bison Meatloaf presentation.

"Rooms will be available starting April 20th", added Gall.

Bistro North (the new Dining Room) offers an upper casual dining experience featuring burgers, salads, steaks and pastas, as well as the wood fired pizza.

Bryce, who also enjoys cooking offered to make me something off the menu, I chose the Bison Meatloaf.

"Delicious. Wow. This is really good", was my immediate feedback after being very impressed with the presentation of the dish.

The delicious bison meatloaf was wrapped in bacon and topped with barbecue sauce. It was complemented with a wild rice pilaf featuring brown rice and cranberries, as well as fresh asparagus with a lovely hollandaise sauce.

"It's a must-have on the menu", agreed Gall who is also a fan of the Waldorf salad and turkey and brie sandwich.

With fifty-seven staff hired, they are all anticipating their start date and many were coming in to check the schedule and help out with final preparations.

Tracy Clarke is a Red Seal chef who moved to the area about six years ago from Al-

berta. "I waited for these guys for six years", laughs the Chef about the opportunity to share her skills.

Nick Ashworth is one of the cooks and was busy preparing pizza dough. He fired up the wood stove oven to show me how it operates. Alyssa Eisner has been hired as the kitchen manager.

The artwork is all very stylish as are the accents that include birch tree walls, built-in fire places and the calming vibe of water and stone.

The pool, although not quite complete, will feature a sauna and whirlpool.

Campbell is excited to open the doors to the public. "We can't wait to meet everyone in Fort Frances and the Rainy River district and look forward to welcoming everyone to our new establishment.

We're very excited to be a part of this great community", he added.

The Copper River Inn is taking bookings for banquets and meetings as well as room reservations. For more information, contact Bryce Campbell or Monique Gall at 807.274.1161 or 807.274.7721. You can also Like them on Facebook for renovation updates.

Photographers' showcase



Just another month maybe?

I took this picture from my deck on Idylwild Drive in Fort Frances. It's sunrise on Sand Bay on Rainy Lake.

Diane Fry, Fort Frances



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From the house submitted by John Rafferty M.P.

This week was a tough one in Ottawa as the Fair Elections Act battle heated up in committee, huge job cuts at the CBC were announced, and Canada lost one of its best parliamentarians.

The Fair Elections Act battle continued in Ottawa this week. The key developments this week came at committee hearings in both the House and the Senate where a host of experts testified as to how this bad bill would undermine our democratic right to cast a vote in free and fair elections. The committees examining bill C-23 heard from several witnesses this week, and not one offered support for this legislation. The most notable witness to testify on C-23 was former Auditor General Sheila Fraser. Fraser retired from her position as Auditor General in 2011 after an eventful 10 years in the position which saw her investigate many government scandals including the Liberal 'Sponsorship Scandal' that was in part responsible for bringing the current government to power.

In her comments before both committees Ms. Fraser was quite critical of bill C-23 and of the conduct of Democratic Reform Minister Pierre Poilievre for remarks he has made regarding Chief Electoral Officer Marc Mayrand. Poilievre has said publicly that he believe Mayrand opposes C-23 because; "He is fighting to retain this power, making some incredible claims, and inventing some novel legal principles to do it." Get that? The CEO at Elections is just a power hungry civil servant, and the Conservatives are out to save democracy. Right.

In her time before the committees Fraser testified said that; "I think it will be very troubling if we see a lot of people being turned away at the polls because they don't have the proper identification. And I think it will start to call into question the credibility of that election." Furthermore, and in response to Poilievre's personal attack on Mayrand, an independent Officer of Parliament like Fraser once was, she said; "It troubles me greatly... disturbs me greatly, to see comments that are made, and I will be quite blunt, by the minister... attacking personally the Chief Electoral Officer. This serves none of us well. It undermines the credibility of these institutions." For someone of Fraser's stature those are pretty harsh words.

Parliament is now on a two-week break, but the hearings on C-23 will continue once parliament resumes. You can support our efforts to stop C-23 by visiting www.saveyourvote.ca to sign out petition and share it with your friends and neighbours.

The other big policy news this week was another round of huge cuts announced at the CBC and Radio Canada. After losing the rights to Hockey Night Canada and the NHL the cuts this week were another staggering blow for our struggling public broadcaster. In all 657 positions were cut this time around and the network announced that they would no longer be bidding to broadcast professional sports such as the CFL or curling. Since Stephen Harper's Conservatives came to power more than \$200 million in cuts have been made to

the yearly budget of the public broadcaster, about half the amount that was cut during the Chretien and Martin Liberal years, but enough to effectively eliminate many local stations and severely affect programming. The latest round of cuts follows the 800 positions eliminated by the Conservatives in 2009 and the 650 jobs they axed in 2012. To say that we may not have a public broadcaster at all soon would not be exaggerating the plight of the 75 year old institution, and I can assure you that New Democrats will continue to fight to stop further cuts.

Finally this week I was shocked and saddened by the sudden loss of former Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty who passed away in Ottawa at the age of 64. Flaherty, who I have personally spent a lot of time criticizing on policy and political grounds, was highly regarded as a person by most people who knew him outside of his official roles. He always made time to chat with MPs of all stripes and was as good natured as they come at the personal level. It seems unfair that he passed away so suddenly just three weeks into his well-earned retirement, but he will be remembered as a tireless public servant and a good Canadian.

So all around it was an eventful and challenging week in Ottawa. As I mentioned earlier the next two weeks are parliamentary break weeks, so I will be home in the riding to celebrate Easter, attend some local events and meetings, and take a small personal break. If you see me around be sure to say 'hi' and have a great week.



MOOS by Kim Jo Bliss



Well we certainly have more snow cover than we did last year at this time and I am almost able to get my big ole' research truck out of the shop! The snow was certainly piled high and so icy that it made it nearly impossible to shovel. I think we are a few days away from doing much field work; especially when you look at the overnight lows for the next few days. Spring is not my favourite time of the year, messy in the barn yard and things look so dirty – but seeing the fields is certainly a welcome sight!

The problem that I have going on in my herd of cattle struck again last week! I was out of town early in the week and my mom was taking care of the farm for me. She noticed one of the younger calves was not quite himself so she quickly gave him a couple of scour boluses. He seemed pretty good the next day but when I got home he was extremely dehydrated. I quickly gave him electrolytes and continued with his medicine throughout the next day. He showed no signs of improvement. I fully expected him to be dead the next morning but he was still alive – barely. I gave him more med's. I left for work feeling quite defeated once again. Having sick animals and not really knowing

what is going on really takes the joy out of farming! Once I reached work and spoke with a few clients and of course I told them my problems it was suggested to me by 3 people to take my calf into the vet clinic and have them put him on I.V. I called and made the arrangements and had my un-paid farm hands load him and take him in! After 8 bags of fluid I drove back up after work to pick him up. He was still weak but looked much better. Once I got him home and unwrapped from his covering – he immediately got up and sucked the cow! He seems to be doing well, I am just nervous about being too confident. Since then, I had another one that I have treated but he seems to be doing o.k. as well – again I am nervous. The Vet Clinic has submitted a poop sample so I am hoping that we learn something from this. The lambs started on the weekend as well and I certainly hope these cute little things don't get anything. Normally a sick sheep is a dead one. So I have not been sleeping well worrying about all the things that could go wrong! I think since I am busy stressing about things I am over-looking other things – like vaccinating but with Easter Weekend approaching I am hoping we can tackle this job!

I think anyone that attended the Open House at the new Dairy Barn last week would agree that the Martins have a beautiful place and they will have many happy years with their new facility. Maddie and Marlee were allowed to miss school so they could attend – they thought it was the best day ever! They had a million questions on the drive home though! Nanny was able to make it as well and like the girls she thought it was a wonderful day as well. Thanks to the Martin family for allowing us to visit!

We had a successful work-
bee at the Sales Barn on Saturday. James, our new manager, had been down blowing snow last week so we had less snow to deal with – but there were still doors and gates to be shoveled out. With most of the snow blown out of the alleys it will allow the rest to melt and run away. Thanks to the group that came out and helped with everything. It is nice to see that we can come together and get a job done!

Wishing everyone a nice Easter and hope the bunny finds you!

1st Cattle Sale – April 26th, 2014 – Sale Time 9:00am
Contact James Gibson for more information – 807-487-2731.

Rainy River Trade Show coming up

Rainy River and District Chamber of Commerce is very excited about our upcoming annual Trade Show on May 10, 2014. Booth rentals and memberships can be purchased online using our web forms at www.rainyriverchamber.ca. Visa, Master card and PayPal are all accepted. Of

course you can still use the included mail in forms as in the past. The booths are rented at a "first come first served" basis so be sure to register as soon as you can so that you get the booth location that you want.

An exciting prize, to be announced later, will be raffled

using the passport system. Participants will visit booths, have their passports stamped and once complete, they are entered in the draw.

There will be draw prizes offered by different booths, food booths and lots to see so mark the date on your calendar and watch for updates.

NWHU reminds public to follow steps to safe needle disposal

With spring weather approaching, workplaces and individuals will be taking steps to clean up outdoor spaces. The Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) would like to remind the public that there is a chance that a discarded needle may be part of the garbage found.

"Knowing how to safely dispose of a found needle is very important. Picking up needles incorrectly can lead to exposure to infections such as tetanus, hepatitis C and HIV through a needle poke injury," says Brittni Trudgen, Public Health Nurse. She continues, "We encourage parents, teachers and adults to remind children to never touch a needle and to tell an adult right away

if one is found."

Follow these steps to pick up a found needle to ensure safety for yourself and others:

- If possible use gloves and tongs to pick up the needle.
- Never put the cap back on a needle.
- Place the needle in a hard-sided plastic container, tightly seal and label "needle".
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer after picking up a needle.
- Return the needle to your local health unit office.
- Never put needles down the toilet, in drains or in the garbage.

During March and April, Public Health Nurses through-

out the region will be distributing educational materials to community partners and schools about what to do if you find a needle.

The NWHU Harm Reduction program provides free resources, training and equipment to community members, organizations and workplaces to support safe needle disposal and minimize the risk of exposure to infections. These services include the provision of presentations, resources and needle pick-up kits.

For more information or to request a presentation, please contact your local Northwestern Health Unit.

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Rainy River Raised

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Rainy River District Stewardship

2014 Tree Sale

The Rainy River District Stewardship Council will be selling white spruce and red pine seedlings at 25 cents each. Trees will be sold in bundles of 20 (\$5.00). Pre-order now. Supplies are limited. Schools and other institutions may be eligible for donations. Pick up will be at the Emo Agricultural Research Station in mid-May.

To order, call Kim Jo Bliss, Rainy River District Stewardship Member at 275-9706.

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Town of Fort Frances welcomes the future with new Brand



Mayor and Council look to the "Boundless" opportunities for the future of Fort Frances with its new brand and logo. Pictured from l. Councillors Paul Ryan, Andrew Hallikas, and Doug Kitowski, Mayor Roy Avis, Councillors John Albanese, Rick Wiedenhoef and Ken Perry.



Chris Fields of Twist Marketing presents the new brand and logo to Mayor and Council.

By: Teresa Hazel

After months of working on a new brand with the assistance of community surveys and interviews, Chris Fields of Twist Marketing presented the new logo and brand to Town Council at its meeting held on Monday, April 14th.

"Welcome to the future", remarked Fields as he began his presentation.

"The future is not the past. You are and must be more than a mill town now and in the future", he added.

The exercise that was initiated by the Fort Frances Economic Development Advisory committee with the assistance of the Rainy River Future Development Corporation and Tannis Drysdale Consulting aimed to determine the identity of Fort Frances and why

we matter to people.

"We are Northwestern Ontario's entrepreneurial heartland", said Chris Fields as to the new identity.

"Fort Frances needs to reinvent itself. It needs a diversification strategy that doesn't rely on one main economic industry, but a variety of smaller markets that could include value-added wood products, and tourist attractions".

Fields also explained that it will be important to have a targeted strategy.

"You can't be everything to everybody", he noted.

"You also cannot rest your laurels on a 'New Gold' mining operation. Diversification is broader than that".

He suggested that more work be done to incorporate cross-border initiatives and partner-

ships with willing First Nations communities. The importance of capitalizing on what sets us apart was also an important aspect to branding.

"You have the cheapest power and cheapest industrial land in Ontario", pointed out Fields as to one of the things that makes Fort Frances unique.

He also suggested a market for 'coming home' initiatives like reunions.

The new brand for Fort Frances is "BOUNDLESS". It is signified with a bird logo that incorporates the two "F's" for Fort Frances as its wings.

"A bird represents freedom and opportunity. The sky's the limit", explained Fields.

The two colours incorporated into the logo are green and grey.

"The green is a spring green representing renewal and revival and the grey represents industry".

Fields went on to explain that there are countless opportunities where the mind and hands can take you.

"When people move out of the self, magic can happen. Human nature knows no bounds".

As part of incorporating the new logo and brand, the stationery will be changed as will the signs at the front entrance of the civic centre. A grant has also been received to revamp the town's website incorporat-



ing the new brand and logo.

Fields also noted that the more ambitious and brave ideas are, the less consensus will be found. He then went on to show some conceptual ads utilizing the new brand.

"The new logo is lovely. It's one of my favourites", said Fields.

"Brand image sells things", he added, questioning where Geico would be without their English-accented lizard.

"A good brand sells the future. It's aspirational", he concluded, referencing a quote from JFK that says, "We go to

the moon, not because it's easy, because it's hard".

Fields also advised about the longevity of the brand.

"It is about the future of Fort Frances and it will require time, effort and consistency.

This is about leaving a legacy for your children and grandchildren", concluded Fields.

The Mayor and Council were very pleased with the new brand.

"Well done", noted Councillor Hallikas.

"It's inspirational", enthused Mark McCaig, CAO. "We will

be a leader to get this out there", he vowed.

Mayor Avis viewed it as a new beginning as he read from a prepared statement.

"The identity we adopt today is not just a new logo; it is the promise of a renewed spirit in our community. This is just the beginning of the story, much is yet to come", he assured.

"Let's get in the canoe and start paddling together", he said before reading the motion that was unanimously carried by Council to adopt the new brand and logo.

Treasure Island coming to Rainy River

Rainy River High School's Owl Theatre is happy to present Treasure Island, a dramatization of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale of pirates and buried gold.

Jim Hawkins is a young boy who lives at his mother's inn, the Admiral Benbow, near Bristol, England, in the eighteenth century. An old sea captain named Billy Bones dies in the inn after being presented with a black spot, or the official pirate death penalty but he gives Jim a secret treasure map before he dies. Jim, his

mother, cousin, Dr. Livesey and Captain Smollett outfit a ship, the Hispaniola, to go searching for treasure. However, the crew turns out to be pirates who take Jim and his friends hostage. Jim escapes and meets Belle Gunn, a pirate who has been marooned on the island for years. Together they make a plan to get rid of the pirates and share the treasure.

We would like to invite you to attend an evening performance Thursday, April 24 starting at 7:00 pm or our Dinner

Theatre on Friday, April 25 at 6:30 pm. Tickets for Thursday's show are \$8.00 and for the Dinner Theatre, which includes a Rib Dinner,

\$20. They are available at Rainy River High School, Beaver Mills Market, and Rainy River Drugs. The production features some energetic singing and acting. Children will enjoy the fast-paced nature of the play and the comedic antics of some of the characters. The play is suitable for all audiences.

Rainy River Hospital Auxiliary report

Nine members of the Rainy River Hospital Auxiliary met in the Board Room at the Rainy River Health Care Centre on April 1, 2014. President Joyce opened the meeting with the Auxiliary Prayer and a Brain Quiz for some fun. The minutes of the last meeting were then read and accepted as amended. Donna McDonald then gave the financial report. We have a closing balance of \$3,113.85 in the General Account and a balance of \$8,105.85 in the Lottery Account.

We received Thank You cards from Mr. A. Katz and from Ida Maryniuk. There were no committee reports available for this meeting.

We discussed the upcoming Secretary Week and the lunch for the Long Term Care Residents on April 7th. Joyce volunteered to make cupcakes and Donna volunteered to serve them to the residents.

On April 12 -14, Donna, Joyce and Elsie will travel to Thunder Bay to attend the Spring Conference.

We then discussed the upcoming Strawberry Social that will be held on Wednesday, May 7th at the Rainy River Legion Hall. Admission is \$3.00 for adults and there will be a door prize, penny table and draws. I hope everyone can attend for a bit of socializing and fun after our long winter.

The Auxiliary members will

set up for the Strawberry Social on May 6th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Legion, followed by an Auxiliary meeting and pizza lunch. Please come out and help set up for this event.

As per the last few years, if you wish to donate an item to the penny table, please drop it off at Hogue's house at 303 Third St. or if you wish, bring it to the Legion when you come to set up. Please phone Carolee at 852-3392 or Dawn at 852-3952 before May 1st with the price so we can add it to the list for the licence.

President Joyce adjourned the meeting and our next meeting will be at the Legion on May 6, 2014 after we set up for the Strawberry Social.

Legion Ladies Meeting News

The Fort Frances Ladies Auxiliary to Branch #29 met on April 9th with 44 members in attendance.

At the March meeting the charter was draped in memory of Shirley Klaas. Also in March, Missy Andrusco was initiated and welcomed as a new member.

Several members attended the district meeting held in Atikokan on March 28-30th where we once again won the most new members in the 'more than 100-member' category with eleven members.

The colour party will be attending a colour school in Emo on May 3rd.

The Auxiliary will be cooking for and entertaining our Veterans on May 3rd.

Plans are forming to help with the museum to honour the 100th anniversary of WW1 and the 75th of WW11 this summer. Details will be distributed to the schools for ages 9-17 to participate in an essay contest which the branch and auxiliary will be sponsoring.

Monthly supper is a Ukrainian Special Supper on April

25th upstairs at the Legion starting at 5:30. Doors open at 4:30 and tickets are \$15.00. Everyone is welcome.

The birthday draw was won by Evie Gosselin and attendance prize by Larisa Curr.

Congratulations to members Janet Lambert and Helen Pohanka on their retirements this spring.

Our next meeting is May 14th at 7:00pm upstairs at the Legion. Any ladies who are interested in joining can contact Linda Larocque at 274-1567.

It's our 22nd Anniversary!!

We have enjoyed every one of the last 22 years producing this paper. This last one was a year of change for us as we said goodbye to Marlene and welcomed Teresa. The one thing we at The Westend Weekly try to keep constant is a positive outlook. We try to feature those people who make a difference in our district, people who look to the future with enthusiasm. And, we try to keep light hearted, have interesting things to read, to see, and to think about.

Each year at this time we have asked those who can afford it and appreciate what we do to send in a "Volunteer Subscription" amount of \$25.00 more or less. As we don't charge for the paper and we don't charge for personal classified ads, we really appreciate your support. We try to sponsor and donate to as many district events and fund raisers as we can so whatever you send is well spent.

Our sincere thanks to our readers

Jacque and the best possible staff: Martin, the insurance guy who gives us a little of his time for sales; Teresa, our fabulous reporter and photographer; Ann, office manager and 24 hour complaint department go to person; Bonnie our distribution manager who through blizzard, heat wave, and two major surgeries, gets the paper out.



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