

# 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 18 years VOL. 18, NO. 50 Wednesday, April 7, 2010  
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### Town looking at fencing airport to address deer problem



From left Operations & Facilities Manager, Doug Brown, Brad Houghton from the Sportsmen's Club, Tony Elders from MNR and Bill Caul, Airport Superintendent.

by Marlene Deschamps

A meeting was held upstairs at the maintenance garage at the Fort Frances Airport on Wednesday, March 31st that saw around 15 people attend. That number included MNR staff, Doug Brown from the Town of Fort Frances and Bill Caul, Airport Superintendent. The meeting was called in order to have some input on what to do about the problem deer around the airport. October of 2009 saw two incidents involving a plane and deer. One saw a private plane hit a deer while landing that caused severe damage to the plane while the other involved a Bearskin plane hitting a deer on take-off with no damage. Because of these incidents, a deer removal harassment permit to shoot nuisance deer (a cull) was applied for and granted. The permit allowed for the removal of up to 15 deer but there was not one removed during its duration which was from October until December because of the restrictions of the permit. It allowed for shooting a deer only on the runway and only in daylight hours. As was explained, the deer do not come on to the runway area until dark at which time they could not shoot them. They can also only shoot on the runway because to the south of the runway is town property and you cannot shoot on town property; to the west is Alberton and to the east is private property (The

Sportsmen's Club property) and to the north is reserve land. As was explained by Doug Brown, they were hoping people could share some practical solutions to the problem and said that they are applying to Transport Canada for a fence that would be eight feet high, fixed knot and specially designed to keep out all wildlife. The fence would be 5,800 metres and cost \$300,000. All the cost is paid for by Transport Canada and just such a fence is being installed in Kenora. They applied for the fence last year and so it is assumed funding for a fence for Fort Frances Airport wouldn't come through until next year. This is why they are looking at some solutions to the problem this year.

There will be another request for a cull and there has to be a meeting with stakeholders prior to them making the request. The one issued last year was done on an emergency basis because of the two incidents but the meeting is a requirement for the MNR. The new request will look at an extended area and time frame to cull so they can get to the deer before they get to the runway.

Some suggestions coming from those attending were electric fences, noise cannons and speaking with people from the reserve area in order to work together. One suggestion that appeared to have support was made by Brad Houghton from the Sportsmen's Club. He sug-

gested an archery cull which he felt would be far more effective and had been used elsewhere successfully. He said it would be controlled through the Sportsmen's Club and they had many members who also had a vested interest as they own the property bordering the airport. He had information regarding archery culls from other areas for Bill Caul, Doug Brown and Tony Elders from the MNR to look at. The MNR did share information regarding increased number of deer despite their being an additional 2,000 tags given out last year. He added they would be willing to look at the archery cull and would also look at the other suggestions. It was mentioned by the Andersons who have had an ongoing problem with deer at both their town and country property and how they have done \$1,000 of damage and have exposed citizens to diseases such as Lyme disease and e-coli. They also stated that the Town has not done due diligence as far as the deer and it is their job to get a handle on this problem and at the very least not interfere when citizens try and protect their property. They made note that this is done in many other areas and they can't fathom the reason why it is not allowed in Fort Frances.

The end of the meeting saw a time set up for a meeting with Houghton, Brown, the MNR and Bill Caul to further discuss the archery cull.

### Rainy River's 1st Relay for Life

by Marlene Deschamps

Rainy River will be holding a Relay for Life this year and they are hard at work to make it a success. They have a goal set to have 10 teams. They already have four registered and more than six groups who have expressed interest. They have sent out letters to various

groups, clubs and schools as well as area First Nations communities. They will not be sending letters anywhere east of Emo so they do not take away or interfere with the Fort Frances Relay for Life. The annual Relay for Life has raised millions of dollars that help in the fight against cancer.

It is always great to see that the survivors lap has more and more people participate each year thanks to the new treatments that come available thanks to the dollars raised for research. To find out more you can contact Andrew Hartnell, Events Coordinator, at 852-3244.

### 2010 Trade Show registration deadline approaching

by Marlene Deschamps

Rainy River will be holding their "Biggest Little Trade Show 2010" on April 24th. The deadline for registration is April 15th. Andrew Hartnell said the spots for booths are filling up pretty fast. Last year's

show drew people to Rainy River from across the district and across the border and they all had a great time. It is a short little trip to the other end of our district to meet the great folks in Rainy River and see what

they have to offer people. Circle the calendar for the 24th and bring the family. To get involved you can call Andrew Hartnell at 852-3244 or Don Ricci at 852-3704. See you there.

### It's our anniversary and we are proud to say we've been serving the Rainy River District for 18 Years!



Each year at this time we ask for your volunteer subscription of \$25.00 more or less. As our newspaper is brought to you free of charge, this small yearly contribution helps us immensely.

We hope you enjoy reading our paper, we really enjoy putting it together. If anyone has wondered where Daisy the newspaper reading raccoon came from, she represents an animal who became a good friend and now resides happily with other animals who were orphaned, caught in traps or just need a safe place to live.

Please send subscriptions to The Westend Weekly, Box 66, Rainy River, ON POW 1L0 or drop in.

Sincerely,  
Jacquie and Martin Dufresne and our Star reporter, Marlene Deschamps



### Lakers fish fry fundraiser a success



Taking their turn at frying up the fish were from left Dan Bird, Frank Redford, Milt Strachan, Crowe, seated Coach Wayne Strachan.

by Marlene Deschamps

Friday, April 2nd saw the Couchiching Recreation Centre packed to the gills to enjoy the fish fry which was a fund raiser for the Fort Frances Lakers. Although the event started at 5 p.m., the sold out sign was already on the door. Besides terrific tasting fish, there was baked beans, wild rice, pasta salad and coleslaw, buns & bannock and a table of mouth watering desserts. There was also a penny table as well as a

silent auction where the prizes were quite awesome thanks to supporters, fans and area businesses. Nobody went home hungry from this event and everyone enjoyed a chance to visit with the fan club, the owners and the Fort Frances Lakers. From a rocky start this team developed into a team that provided hours of some pretty exciting hockey and while they weren't considered to be a threat to begin with, their opponents soon found out they were

serious about winning. They made it past the quarter finals and made the Dogs work really hard to get their chance to go on to the finals. Here's hoping the bulk of this team remains intact for the next season because there isn't much doubt they will soon be the team everyone needs to beat to move on. Great job fellows. You're a really nice bunch of young men who really got involved in the community and the community was better for it.

### School Board nixes new tennis courts for now

by Marlene Deschamps

At the March Rainy River District School Board Meeting the Board agreed they were not prepared to recommend moving forward with a request from the Town of Fort Frances for a partnership to rebuild four tennis courts at the St. Francis Field at this time. The tennis courts that were located at the Sport Plex site were deemed in disrepair, not safe and were

closed down some time ago. The area will be used for additional parking spots for the Sports Plex and the new Library. Councilor Rick Weidenhoeft said at the time that they might contact the schools for a joint venture to rebuild the four tennis courts at the St. Francis Field. He had contacted them and although school administration had agreed that the courts would

allow for tennis to be part of the physical education curriculum at the Fort Frances High School and J.W. Walker the approximate \$500,000 price tag comes at a time when there are budget concerns. They did not rule this out as a joint venture some time in the future but for now they will be contacting the Town and letting them know of their decision.



Martin Dufresne  
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