

# 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 17 years VOL. 18, NO. 21 Wednesday, August 26, 2009  
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### True Up North Mamma Mia a smash hit



Tonya (Katherine Williams) Donna (Lisa Latimer) and Rosie (Renee Martin-Brown) performing at Sophie (Lauren Gurski)'s shower.

**by Marlene Deschamps**  
 Northern Lights Summer Theatre presented True Up North Mamma Mia August 20th-21st-22nd at the Townshend Theatre. All three nights saw a full house of theatregoers praising to the skies the rendition of the very popular stage play and the movie. The play was adapted and directed by Katherine Williams and the only deviation from the original was the references, in dialogue to the Rainy River and Lake of the Woods area.

Many of the performers were familiar to the audience as they have appeared many times in different production from Little Theatre and school plays, but there were a few surprises as some of the behind the scenes people came forward and took roles in this 'feel good' play. Renee Martin-Brown was delightful and it was apparent that she was having just as much fun performing as the audience did watching her. Her sidekick, Tonya (Katherine Williams), was superb in her

role and her direction matched any seen before. Donna (Lisa Latimer) was delightful and many watched Sophie (Lauren Gurski) grow up in Fort Frances as the cast did in the play. She just keeps improving and her hopes to pursue a career in musical theatre should be very successful. It was great to see John Dutton on the stage instead of staging performances and he matched the movie character well. Ken Brown was, as usual, a delight and Brendan Hyatt's performance was a surprise gift as many had no idea of his range of talents and his background in theatre prior to returning to the area. There is just not enough can be said about the strength of the performances from every one and as in the movie they all appeared to be having so much fun performing that it added to the fun for the audience. Those who left the theatre after the performance seemed reluctant to do so and some stated they would like to come back the following night to watch the play again. Alas, the next night was sold out.

The only comments of regret came from people who didn't get a chance to see the play and many expressed the wish for a Sunday matinee performance so they could see what everyone was raving about. Some in the west end of the district expressed disappointment they did not hear about the play because they were familiar with many of those who performed and would have traveled into the Fort for a chance to see the play. The Northern Lights Summer Theatre production of Mamma Mia was such a success it was too bad it couldn't have been taken on the road so everyone in the district could have shared in the fun. Unfortunately, many of the younger performers are now headed away to school to continue on with their education but the Theatre Group might want to consider having two plays next summer. Open with a repeat performance of Mamma Mia and then have a different show later in the summer. If that were the case the only question would be "Where can I get my ticket?"

### First Rider Program well attended



From left Alex Carter-Foster, Noah Armstrong and Jenna Bailey with Transportation Clerk Nikki Armstrong.

**by Marlene Deschamps**  
 The First Rider Program held by the Rainy River District School Board's Transportation Department, gives the chance to youngsters entering school for the first time to see what will happen when the bus stops by to pick them up and bring

them to school. The program was held on August 20th and had two sessions; one at 9 a.m. and one at 11 a.m. Children and parents were welcomed to the First Rider Program. A short Winnie-the-Pooh video was shown, introducing the children

to the safety issues surrounding riding a bus. The children really relate to the video because the characters are all familiar and trusted. Although those initiating the program looked to update the video, no one has come up with anything that matches Winnie-the-Pooh. After the video the children and parents present had a chance to ask questions. Everyone then exited out of Robert Moore in a safe manner to board the bus waiting for them. They were taken for a bus ride around town showing the different school locations, the school entrances that they would be brought to and all the while were receiving information on safe exit of the bus. Proper safe riding issues were also reaffirmed to the youngsters. After the bus ride, the children went back into the classroom where parents and children had the chance to ask further questions regarding riding on the bus, safe pick-up, boarding and exiting the bus.

The children were then each given a certificate for completing the program, along with a appropriately decorated bag full of activity books, games and stickers.

This year saw 53 children take part in the program.

### Thanks to the farming community a valuable program will continue



Joyce Young stands in front of the baling equipment, with her dog Lacey, that was used by Gerald Veldhuisen to get the hay off her property for the Northern Therapeutic Riding Association. Following an unfortunate accident last year, Joyce has had to ask for help, something she hated to do, to save her program. Gerald called to see if Joyce's son Jon had been able to get her hay cut down and when he learned that it was but not raked, he soon drove in the yard with his equipment and began baling while John raked in the lead. Nico Veldhuisen was also raking the other field with Andrew Veldhuisen baling behind. Unable to finish that night, they returned the next day to complete the job. "What a sight to see, all these special people stepping to to make certain the hay was done," Joyce said. "It was like someone lifted a huge weight off my shoulders." Joyce can now get the operation she needs and therapy without worrying about the horses being fed. "And I also know I can continue the "NORTRA" program in 2010," she continued. Joyce said she is also very grateful to Peter, Stacey, Joss, Jess Fuhrer, Alex Shoemaker, Al Mutz, and Kathy Pollender for helping to bring in square bales. A lot of people phoned and offered to help and she appreciates all of their support.

### Youth Action Alliance holds wind-up



Marissa Loveday surrounded by bubbles. group activity with group of children

**by Marlene Deschamps**  
 On Wednesday, August 19th, the Youth Action Alliance held their last event which was a day of fun and games for youngsters at Lion's Park. The games were all geared to promoting the no smoking message they have been bringing to the forefront ever since the program started.

Angie Tyrainen, Advisor for the group, said the whole program is ending on August 28th but they are still hopeful that there will be a replacement program to take the place of the

one which has been operating so effectively. They were pleased with the number of recommendations for the continuation of the program from various municipalities throughout the district. Angie said they are most proud of all the work done on "Flavour be Gone" which will force the tobacco industry to stop focusing on luring young people into smoking by providing flavoured cigarettes. Bill C-32 which deals with this issue will be brought to the floor at Queen's Park when they begin their Fall session. The

group with the help of doctors and Town Council also got passed a by-law which prohibits people from smoking within a certain distance from buildings such as the Sportsplex.

There were quite a few youngsters who attended the event and the weather was even cooperative. The Day Campers from the Sportsplex and their counselors attended and got involved with the face painting, puppet show, obstacle course, bowling, bubbles, water games and various other games children enjoy. There were 23 of the campers who were involved and they had a great time.

The message sometimes reaches the children before it reaches the parents and when asked who had parents or family member who smoked, some spoke up and said yes but they really want them to quit. Some hide their parents or older sibling smokes. Some watch shows that promote awareness. Some begin exaggerated coughing whenever the smoker lights up. Some are busy trying to come up with ingenious ways to get the message across. They want them to quit.

The Smokers Helpline remains active and they can be reached at 1-877-513-5333.

### Final journey for the Hallett



**by Marlene Deschamps**  
 The Hallett went into service in 1941 and over the years brought

in millions of cords of wood to the mills in Fort Frances and International Falls. It retired from

service in 1974 and found a new home at Pither's Point in 1983. Tuesday, August 25th it made it's final journey to it's permanent home located just west of the Marina on Front Street. Hundreds of people lined Colonization Road East and Front Street to watch the event. Many spent the day at Pither's Point and recorded the entire process. It was a day of nostalgia and fond and funny recollections of the hay days of the pulp and paper industry when the Hallett and others like her ruled the waters.



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