

# The Westend Weekly

## Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, 303 Fifth St., Rainy River, ON POW 1L0 Ph. 852-3815, FAX 852-1863, e-mail: westendweekly@tbaytel.net - Serving the District for over 19 years VOL. 19, NO. 18 Wednesday, August 17, 2011  
If you ever forget to pick up the paper, read it on line at [www.westendweekly.ca](http://www.westendweekly.ca)

### Horwath attends nomination meeting in Fort Frances



Andrea Horwath

By Marlene Deschamps

On Monday, August 15th the final step in the travelling nominations took place in Fort Frances at the Adventure Inn. NDP Andrea Horwath attended the meeting and spoke with the more than 100 members who were on hand. Also attending were MPP Howard Hampton and MP John Rafferty. After addressing the crowd, Horwath spoke with some of the media in the hall. Prior to coming to the nomination meeting, she met with Mayor and Council and had dinner with them. When asked what was discussed she said that she first listened to what they had to say before she spoke. She let them know that she had been a City Councillor in Hamilton so she had a feel and a recollection of what they had to deal with. She said she understands that people are tapped out with taxes and can't afford their bills anymore. This leads to loss of homes and moving away which is a drain on the tax base. She also told them that the solutions are not coming from the McGuinty government. She said she repeated that she had sat in their chair and wore their hats and she understood the challenges including the one with DSAAB. She said these challenges are not insurmount-

able if all levels of government are prepared to work. She also addressed their concerns with policing and fire protection costs which are ever increasing and she felt the government should leave more room in their budgets to help with the hard negotiations and help with the big cost issues.

Brian McBain, NDP Chair of Organization for Northern and Eastern Ontario chaired the nomination process. He introduced MP John Rafferty who he mentioned had recently been re-elected. He said he was pleased so many turned out. He noted that the NDP were doing so well in Ontario because of the hard work of the leader, Andrea Horwath and the riding MPP, Howard Hampton. He then introduced Horwath, who during her speech, mentioned Howie and his hard work and how this election which would happen within a matter of weeks would change the lives of the people in Ontario. She mentioned they will continue to work for the ordinary families so they aren't left further behind. She said they must care for seniors and prevent more jobs from leaving the province. She mentioned that the jobs that Ontarians get must be decent jobs for decent pay that provide a good quality of life. She said that between 2008-2009 more than 250,000 good jobs were replaced with jobs that had no benefits, low pay and no protected pensions. She then mentioned the HST and how it shifts taxes off the biggest corporations on to families who can least afford it. Because of heating and electrical costs in the north they are the ones who suffered first and suffered the most. She also told the crowd that the top CEO's are now making more money before their morning coffee

break than they are making in a year. She said our natural resources must be processed in Ontario. She ended by saying that the Northern Platform would be unveiled within the next few weeks and all the candidates are ready to get out there and do the work to get elected. She closed by saying that it was time to give McGuinty his pink slip.

Sarah Campbell and Robert Sinding then made their pitches to the crowd and asked for their support. Hampton and Rafferty each addressed those in attendance. One thing Howie mentioned many times over was that he was grateful for all the support and all the hard work and many hours the volunteers had spent working for him and for the party over the years. He hoped that support would continue for the new candidate. After the first round of voting in Fort Frances and the tally was added up from the other four stops, Sarah Campbell was declared the winner. She will be the NDP candidate in the October 6th election. In speaking with Sarah Tuesday morning, she said she is busy finalizing plans to set up her campaign office in Fort Frances. She said the Northern Platform is expected to be ready either by the time she opens her office or shortly after. She said she thanked all her volunteers the night before but wanted to make mention of two long time volunteers — Richard McKinnon from Fort Frances and Mary Aitken from Dryden. She had them come to the front of the room to receive some well deserved applause. Sarah is hoping many will stop by and visit her booth which will be set up at the Emo Fair this weekend and she is looking forward to talking with many of the district residents.

### Visitors from around the world traverse our river



Australian kayakers are ready to leave after an enjoyable time in Rainy River.



From left, Alaine Davin, Terry Bolland and Leonie Cockman.

If you want to meet people from all over the world just sit on the bank of the Rainy River and wait. Soon you'll meet someone paddling along our beautiful waterway which is a direct route across the country.

Vaughn and Melanie Murray, who live at the west end of Rainy River, were doing just that on Saturday when two kayakers pulled in.

Melanie said, "Vaughn and I had the wonderful opportunity to meet with three Australians who flew from Perth, Australia to Canada to paddle a total of 5,000 kms from the Rocky Mountains in Alberta to Montreal."

Terry Bolland has spent 36 years travelling around

Australia and many other parts of the world. He started this journey alone on June 14th and plans to make it to Montreal by September. He was joined by 2 paddling friends, Alaine Davin and Leonie Cockman, who also hail from Perth, Australia. The girls started their trip in Kenora about a week ago.

Melanie said, "It is amazing to listen to their stories. They had their kayaks sent ahead of time to destinations in Canada where they were ready for their arrival. They told us stories about the many friendly Canadians they have met on their travels and the scenery they have seen in our beautiful country."

Terry has a kayak/canoe business in Perth which Alaine works at as well. Leonie is a horticulturist.

"It was Leonie's 51st birthday on August 14 while they were tenting in our yard, the same day as our daughter Jana."

Terry has had many wonderful adventures and has a website [www.canoeingdownunder.com.au](http://www.canoeingdownunder.com.au) which you can visit to read about his vast experiences. He has also written three adventure books and has more to come this winter.

"I'm an adventurer," he told Vaughn and Melanie. He's walked, cycled and kayaked 16,000 kms around America, paddled the lengths of the Mississippi, Missouri, Yukon, Athabasca, Slave and MacKenzie Rivers. He's also spent several months at a time paddling the Kimberly Region in Western Australia. Have a look at his adventures on the website.

Melanie added on Monday that she and Vaughn received a phone call from Emo on Sunday night to let them know the travellers were just fine but the current in the River was stronger than expected and they hadn't gone as far as they thought they would. Their next stop was to be Fort Frances and then they would be off through Rainy Lake.

### Professor presents his research on Aboriginal-White Relations in Rainy River District

On Thursday, September 1 at 7:00 PM, Jeff Denis, a recent Harvard graduate and now Assistant Professor of Sociology at McMaster University, will be making a public presentation at the Métis Community Hall, 714 Armit in Fort Frances.

The presentation will include an overview of the major findings from his PhD dissertation, Canadian Apartheid: Boundaries and Bridges in Aboriginal-White Relations, which was completed in May,

2011. The 453-page dissertation, based on research conducted in the Rainy River District between 2007 and 2009, examines such issues as the sources of conflict and cooperation between local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and the reasons why racism and prejudice persist even amidst many intergroup "bridges," including friendships and intermarriages.

According to Dr. Denis, the purpose of the presentation is

to give something back to local community members who contributed so much to his research and, at the same time, to seek their feedback on his findings and interpretations as he prepares to convert the dissertation into a published book.

The public is cordially invited for the presentation, discussion and refreshments. For more information about the event, please contact Dorothy Friesen, Right Relations Circle 274-0138.

### Permanent Signage at Municipal Beaches

The Northwestern Health Unit has installed new permanent metal signs at municipal beaches across the region. The signs advise the public of the potential for elevated levels of bacteria in the water for up to 48 hours after heavy rain and/or strong winds. The health unit continues to test the water at beaches for bacteria on a weekly basis during the summer months but the time needed to test and read the results means that there could be exposure to bathers using the beach in the

meantime.

Beach users should take the information on the sign into consideration when making a decision to swim that day and especially if allowing very small children, who might inadvertently swallow water, to play in the water.

The permanent beach signs should help reduce the number of beach closures because public health inspectors can include them in their risk assessments when considering

lab results.

However, there could still be circumstances when beach closures will be necessary including test results showing extremely high levels of E.coli or overflow sewage contamination or physical hazards in the water. If these extraordinary circumstances arise and a beach must be closed a red Beach Closed sign is affixed to the permanent post on the beach and bathers are advised to not swim.

### Out with the old...



By Marlene Deschamps

There was a lot of traffic on the 500 Block of Second Street East on Saturday. People went by in cars, on bikes and on foot to watch the wrecking machines start to take apart the original Robert Moore School. Many were taking pictures, a few had hankies handy and there were many comments made regarding the loss of this grand old building. It was,

indeed, built to last as there were three rows of bricks between the floors and between the rooms. It seems a shame that many of the old, solid brick buildings are sacrificed for changing and more modern times. Although necessary, it does not make it any easier for those viewing with nostalgic longing at their old school. Progress takes many turns and they aren't all to everyone's lik-

ing. It does make it a bit difficult when grandchildren visit and want to see where their parents went to school. With St. Mary's, and now Robert Moore and the High School all demolished and replaced one can only point and say that's where their school used to be. Many are very pleased that the old Library is still standing and will be used by Fort Frances Clinic.

# Come To The Fair

## Rainy River District Fall Fair

Thursday, August 18 to Saturday, August 20

#### A few highlights

- The Flatt triplets are coming to the Fair! Earlier this year, Wayne Flatt was surprised with three identical calves born on his farm. This was a VERY rare occurrence.
- Don't miss the Gypsy Vanners at the horse show this year.
- There will be a Song Star Showcase of local talent on Friday and Saturday afternoons on the small stage (music by Joe Carlson of Yowza Music).

There's something for everyone so Emo is the place to be fair weekend!

