

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. 20 Wednesday, August 31, 2011
If you ever forget to pick up the paper, read it on line at www.westendweekly.ca

Alzheimer "Ride for Memories" raises over \$30,000



Dave Beasley with 10 year old granddaughter, Carly Rae who was the youngest rider this year.

By Marlene Deschamps
The annual Alzheimer Society "Ride for Memories" was held on Saturday, August 27th. This year the ride ended with a steak supper at the Adventure Inn in Fort Frances. Thirty seven bikes took off from the Harbourage at 9 am Saturday. Among them were Dave Beasley and his 10 year old granddaughter, Carly Rae. Carly was pretty excited about being part of this event. She also came well prepared with plenty of snacks, a phone and an ipod in her pack. She was all smiles as she anxiously waited to get started on this big adventure with her very proud grandpa. Fort Frances raised over \$7,500 dollars from the thirty seven riders. Things went really well with this year's ride with 160 riders participating (the most ever). The riders got a surprise when they made a short stop in Atikokan. Mayor, Dennis Brown had arranged a wonderful snack for the riders. They had deep fried shrimp and desserts and practically the whole town came out to wave at the riders as they left. There was a great BBQ lunch provid-

ed by IGA in Dryden before the riders moved on from there. Christa Perry from B93 emceed the supper and she related to the crowd her personal experience with Alzheimers disease. Executive Director said "The Ride for Memories is always an exciting event and lots of fun for the riders. This year we raised \$31,332. The proceeds from this event make a huge contribution to the success of the Alzheimer's Society and enable us to support and provide services to families, and the people suffering from Alzheimers and dementia related diseases." 'Alzheimer's disease is quickly increasing in the Kenora and Rainy River Districts, affecting not only the individual with the disease, but many others that care for them. Statistics show that for every person with Alzheimer's disease, ten to twelve others are directly impacted; family, friends, co-workers and neighbours.' The Alzheimer's Society is committed to improving the quality of life of individuals who are affected or who may become affected by Alzheimer's disease or a related

dementia and their caregivers. Lynn thanked the riders, sponsors and community that made this event such a huge success once again. Winning top honours were Mayor Dave Canfield from Kenora who raised \$3,620. Prize was 1 week stay at North Star Village. He generously auctioned his prize to raise additional funds for the Society. 2nd top fund raiser was Brian McDonald from Dryden who raised \$3,000. His prize was 2 nights at Tomahawk Lodge. Coming in 3rd was Patty Labbe from Emo who raised \$2,225 and won 1 night of accommodations at Travelodge in Winnipeg. Winning Poker Hands went to Brian McDonald who won a stay at Riverview Lodge. Patty Labbe won a stay at Pinewood Lodge in Whiteshell and Ken Saville who won a trolling motor donated by Nestor Falls Marina. Next up for Alzheimer's Society is the Walk for Memories to be held in Fort Frances in October and the Chef's Dinner to be held in January, 2012.

The audience and bands absolutely "Rocked" on the River last Saturday



Night Shift performing on stage under the big tent.

By Marlene Deschamps
The Nite Hawk Band's 5th Anniversary and "Rockin'" on the River Music Fest held at the Point Park (Seven Oaks area) on Saturday, August 27th was a great success. Five bands from both sides of the border thrilled the crowd of more than 400 as well as some solo musicians. James Eastman, of Nite Hawk, spearheaded this celebration and said that musicians approached him and asked to participate during the event. This had been his hope and the intention was to showcase as much local talent as possible. James was still excited and thrilled on Sunday, finding it hard to settle down. He said he became quite emotional when thanking everyone. It was wonderful to see how successful the music fest was. The donations from individuals, businesses and organizations were generous, to say the least. Volunteers, too, were just great. Some stayed for the whole performance pitching in where needed. The event ran from 2 pm until

midnight. Boats were anchored out in the water enjoying the music. Without even being asked volunteers stepped up to the plate and got the free BBQ underway. James said they gave out close to 400 tickets for the supper and the free draws they had for both the kids and adults. Prizes were donated by generous businesses and individuals from all across the Rainy River District as well as from across the border. He also wanted to acknowledge Judy Morrison for all her help. As well as Nite Hawk Band, other bands that had the audience dancing, snapping and tapping were Night Shift, Kings of None, Ira Johnson Band, Thinking of Pinky and Late Night Jammers. There were also a number of solo acts. James said that because of all the encouragement they received, excellent feedback, generous donations, volunteers' enthusiasm and the sheer enjoyment of everyone, they will definitely hold this event

again next year. Whether sitting under the big tent or on the grass outside, people really enjoyed themselves. Many children and some adults danced to the music either alone or with a partner in the area in front of the bandstand. There were people from Fort Frances, Lac La Croix, Kenora, Rainy River and all the way to Thunder Bay so this celebration of music really put Fort Frances on the map as the place to be for a Music Fest. We spoke to James when he was first proposing a local band showcase and he told us he had been playing at music festivals for around five years and everyone enjoyed themselves so much that he thought "Why not do this in Fort Frances so the people here could experience a music happening." Well James, from comments heard all I can say is a great big thank you to you and everyone who helped you make this happen. And like many said, "Can't wait till you do this again next year! We'll be there!!"

Provincial honours

By Marlene Deschamps
On Friday, August 5th, the Fort Frances Horticultural Society held a dinner at the Adventure Inn to recognize Donna Wasykowski of the Fort Frances Horticultural Society and to present the trophies won at the annual show. President, Nadia Felix presented Vicky Wishart with the Grand

Aggregate Trophy and the Flower Show Trophy. As reported previously, this is the third year Vicky has won both of these trophies. Nadia also presented Donna Law with the Vegetable Trophy. Presentations were also made to Rookie of the Year to Sue Drew with honourable mention going to Magnus Trembath.

The highlight of the evening, of course, was the honouring of Donna Wasykowski. She has been a valuable contributor to the promotion of horticulture in the community. Donna has actively participated in the local Society for 35 years. During that time she held the position of Secretary several times as well as treasurer. She remains an active Board Member who attends the general membership meetings. As well, she acts as an accredited OHA Judge and is an active exhibitor at Flower Shows. Members will also see her actively engaging as a Volunteer at public plantings. Donna is also involved with the Church and Hospital Auxiliaries. The District Service Award recognizes an individual for effective, long service in the cause of horticulture. This is the highest award that may be given by a District. Shirley Robson, District #14 Director, presented the District Service Award on behalf of the Ontario Horticultural Association to Donna Wasykowski, much to the delight of all the members of the local society. Congrats Donna.



Nite Hawk Band, pictured from left, Glen Towes, Les Martin, Blair Whitefish, James Eastman, John McEvoy, Kurt Savinkoff and Wes DeBungee.



District #14 Director, left, Shirley Robson presenting plaque to Donna Wasykowski of Fort Frances

Jack Layton says goodbye

In lieu of my weekly column I would like to offer Jack Layton's letter to Canadians. Please consider his words and join me in remembering a great leader and a great man.
Submitted by: John Rafferty M.P.
Dear Friends,
Tens of thousands of Canadians have written to me in recent weeks to wish me well. I want to thank each and every one of you for your thoughtful, inspiring and often beautiful notes, cards and gifts. Your spirit and love have lit up my home, my spirit and my determination. Unfortunately my treatment has not worked out as I hoped.

So I am giving this letter to my partner Olivia to share with you in the circumstance in which I cannot continue. I recommend that Hull-Aylmer MP Nicole Turmel continue her work as our interim leader until a permanent successor is elected. I recommend the party hold a leadership vote as early as possible in the New Year, on approximately the same timelines as in 2003, so that our new leader has ample time to reconsolidate our team, renew our party and our program and move forward towards the next election. A few additional thoughts:

To other Canadians who are on journeys to defeat cancer and to live their lives, I say this: please don't be discouraged that my own journey hasn't gone as well as I had hoped. You must not lose your own hope. Treatments and therapies have never been better in the face of this disease. You have every reason to be optimistic, determined and focused on the future. My only other advice is to cherish every moment with those you love at every stage of your journey, as I have done this summer. To the members of my party: we've done remarkable things

Continued on page 2



Martin Dufresne
275-8916
852-4237



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

* with \$1,000 deductible and qualifying discounts



Robin Payeur
274-6688



Pam Buttner
274-6688

Proudly Serving the Entire Rainy River District

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