

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Riverside Health Care Facilities receives prestigious award



Steve Lawrence of McKesson Canada presenting award to Cindy Cole, Director of Surgical Services.

by Marlene Deschamps
 On Tuesday, November 24th people gathered at the cafeteria at LaVerendrye Hospital to witness the presentation of an award to Riverside Health Care Facilities' surgical services team in being named a 2009 Top Performer-Best Overall Performer-Canadian Non-Academic Hospital. The award was given by McKesson Canada & OR Manager. McKesson is a global company which is the 15th largest in the world. It's focus is on health care and they have 3,000 employees in Canada with a \$9 billion business. Worldwide they have 30,000 employees and a \$110 billion in generated revenue. They recognize outstanding performances in US and Canada. Through their detailed analysis and ranking method, Riverside's surgical team came out as the best overall performer in Canada for a non-academic hospital. Lawrence said it was great to be here to present this award and congratulated the team for their outstanding work.

is very much team oriented and they all work together collaboratively to provide the best patient care and surgical experience. The award and achievement would not have been possible without the excellent team they are so lucky to have. Cindy introduced the surgical team and asked them to come to the front. The team (although a few were not present because they were at the time in the OR) are as follows: Corinne Web; Surgeons-Dr. Spread, Dr. Anderson, Dr. Mackintosh and Dr. Porter; Anesthetists, Dr. Moorhouse, Dr. Shack and Dr. Nugent; Dentists, Dr. Danylchuk, Dr. Begin and Dr. Kennedy; Surgical Services Staff members: Twyla Howarth, Marina Martin, Terry Chambers, Janet Lenart, Julie Loveday, Shelly Gustafson, Cathy Ash, Nicole Sandelovich, Marylss Thiessen, Debbie Lawres and Nadine Armstrong. The team were given a round of applause. Cole went on to explain that the award was based on 5 key performance areas that are made up of 15 performance indicators. They are: start time accuracy, case time effectiveness, room turnover, scheduling

accuracy and utilization. Overall it means that they are running not only a more predictable and reliably efficient OR but also that they have a strong emphasis on quality outcomes. This award is a composite ranking across the 15 efficiency and quality indicators from over 251 eligible subscribers. She added that this data supports that they are always striving to reduce wait time to the OR schedule for surgical cases and making the day of surgery experience as reliable as possible, minimizing not only delays to have surgery but delays on the day of surgery in moving through the system safely and effectively. CEO, Wayne Woods was asked to say a few words and he congratulated everyone, while saying it was nice to be recognized. He also spoke of the rest of the dedicated staff at Riverside and how they all work together as a team. He extended his congratulations to everyone who works at Riverside and especially to the surgical team. After the presentation of the award everyone was invited to stick around for cake and coffee.

L. A. get gift bags ready for Afghanistan



Sue Drew, Clara Stainke and President Sylvia Gunderson standing and Sandy Pruijs sitting, filling small Xmas bags with candy.

by Marlene Deschamps
 November 24th and 25th saw the Legion Ladies Auxiliary Branch #29, busy filling gift bags for Canadian soldiers serving in Afghanistan. There were 35 large gift bags shipped

overseas last year and the number this year was around the same. President, Sylvia Gunderson, said the amount of items donated this year were down a bit but the cash donations to purchase items were

up. Also this year saw a wider variety of donated items as last year they were swamped by the number of Kraft dinners they received. Each of the large gift bags were filled with what the soldiers requested the most such as: books, playing cards, Christmas cakes, Kraft dinners, lip balm, moisture wipes, drink crystals and hard candies plus other assorted gifts to make Christmas away from home a bit easier. Gunderson got the message from officers that the soldiers really enjoyed and appreciated the gift bags last year as they no doubt will this time around. Thanks goes out from the Auxiliary to all the citizens who contributed so generously to this year's gifts to our brave men and women who continue to serve all over the world. They are needed, they are called and they answer the call and they do Canada proud.

TCRC engineers on strike



by Marlene Deschamps
 There are 12 engineers in the area who belong to the TCRC Engineers who as of midnight Friday, November 27th, set up a picket line on 4th Street in Fort Frances. According to local chairman, Rick Tymkin, the strike is due to a breakdown in contract negotiations. He expressed thanks for the support they are getting from TCRC conductors and from the

general public as they pass by the picketed area. In another matter, Tymkin was asked about the trains traveling through the area now that have an engine in the middle of the train as well as at the front. He explained that this allows for longer trains with less chance of separation. A resolution was placed on the floor at the House of

Commons on Monday, November 30th which, if passed, would legislate the engineers back to work and CN and the engineers to adhere to final arbitration. The resolution is expected to pass sometime this week as it was said that this strike hurts the Canadian economy and has the potential to cause many businesses who rely on train service to fail.

52nd Annual Parade of Lights



The Novice Girls Hockey won 1st in the recreational category.

by Marlene Deschamps
 The 52nd Annual Parade of Lights, which was taken over by Causeway Insurance this year was a huge success with close to 2 dozen entries. The judges this year had their work cut out for them as the quality, lighting, decorations, originality and amount of work put into the floats were excellent. Winning for Church Group/School was St. Mary's Church Group. Winning for Recreational were the Novice

Girls Hockey who were all decked out in pink to signify Breast Cancer Awareness month. Business was won by Boston Pizza. Non Profit went to Rainy Lake Conservancy and Individual entry went to Mike Tullio dressed as the Lion from the Voyageur's Lion and riding his motor bike up and down and back and forth through the parade line-up. Cocoa and coffee were served at the Volunteer Depot prior to

the parade and many took the opportunity to warm up before heading out to watch the parade from the start point. The parade was headed off by B93 and Citizen of the Year, Diane Maxey collecting for the food bank. Remarks from those viewing the parade was that it was great and the best they had seen in awhile. Causeway did a great job and hopefully they will carry on the task again next year.



Santa and the Mrs.

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