

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, 303 Fifth St., Rainy River, ON P0W 1L0 Ph. 807-852-3815, Fax. 807-852-1863, Email. westendweekly@tbaytel.net Vol. 19, No. 36 Wednesday, December 21, 2011
Serving the Rainy River District for more than 19 years! Read us on line at www.westendweekly.ca

Photographers' showcase



A Blue Jay outside our computer room window awaiting it's daily ration of peanuts.
Photo by Herb Snow, Fort Frances

We invite readers to use this spot to show off a photo they are proud of or just think other readers might find interesting. No rules, just provide a sentence or two to describe the picture and send the highest resolution, not a reduced size for emailing.

Los Posadas held again this year



Mary and Joseph starting out on their search for a room on Christmas Eve



A few little angels joined the procession

By Marlene Deschamps
Although Father Wayne was ill and the lovely lady from International Falls couldn't make it to the event with all her Mexican decor and beautiful eggs, Los Posadas was still held at St. John's Anglican Church.

Los Posadas is the traditional Mexican candle-lit procession commemorating the journey to Bethlehem. Although those attending was a bit down from last year, there were still enough people there to act the roles of the Holy Family, the shepherds,

the angels, the wise men and villagers that accompanied the group to visit at different pre-arranged sites to be turned away before returning to the church. Once again, Mr. Innkeeper was played by Mr. McTaggart and he knows his role well. When the group returned to the church they removed their costumes and enjoyed tacos in a bag, loads of goodies and punch and hot cocoa. The Nativity story was read to the children and there was a pinata for them to try and break after the meal was over

The Westend Weekly will be closed for 2 weeks for our annual winter break. Our next publication will be out on January 11. Happy Holidays!



*To all our readers and advertisers,
Thank you for your support and best wishes for a
Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.*

"Whiteshell Winter" by Dunc Malcolm

District of Rainy River Law Library Association question re-location of judge appointment

By Marlene Deschamps

In the December 7th edition of the area newspapers, Barbara Morgan, president of the District of Rainy River Law Association wrote a lengthy letter to the editor stating their concerns about a recent advisement. They were advised that the judge appointed for the Ontario Court of Justice, in the Rainy River District is relocating in May 2012. The decision was made by the Chief Justice for the Ontario Court of Justice for the Northwest Region to transfer this appointment to the District of Kenora.

The letter they wrote about concerns over this decision was also forwarded to the Attorney General, Marc Bode, the Chief Justice for the Ontario Court of Justice, and the MPPs from the Kenora, Rainy River and Atikokan/Thunder Bay ridings. The entire letter to the editor can be viewed on line at www.westendweekly.ca

In speaking with Barb Morgan, she said that Town leaders should put together a more effective lobby and the statements made by Marc Bode about this being an area that is not growing could become a self fulfilling prophecy that could have an adverse effect on Agriculture

Forestry and Mining. She also made a reply to the letter to the editor that Mr. Bode put in the December 14th issue of the Fort Frances Times which can be viewed on line at the Times web site. She deemed his response unsatisfactory and the delay in cases being heard is already felt. The next day for family court is slated for January 25th followed by March 8th. She questions how applications can be timely with those types of delays. She added that all of Northwestern Ontario should be concerned and Toronto continues to make decisions with adverse impositions on Northerners.

Barb Morgan had requested a public meeting but there has been no response to that request. She suggested that the average citizen can write letters to her, to their MPPs and to the Regional Sr. Justice and Attorney General. Their address are:
The Honourable Marc Bode
Regional Senior Justice
Ontario Court of Justice
Northwest Region
1805 East Arthur Street.
Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7E 2R6.

The Honourable Mr. John Gerretsen MPP
Ministry of the Attorney General

11th Floor
720 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K1
He can also be reached at jgerretsen.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
His toll free phone number is 1-800-518-7901.

Barb Morgan also mentioned that the Rainy River District continues to lose or have a reduction in services. She cited the Ministry of Transportation; the Com Centre where calls are routed through Kenora and the caller has to wait for an Officer to call back; and Children's Aid. She feels enough is enough and we need to work at keeping full services here.

I contacted the OPP to find out if this move would affect them in anyway. I spoke with Staff Sergeant, Steve Shouldice who said they haven't been told of any change in court dates that would be affected as of yet and the OPP are given dates at the beginning of the year and they are looking well into 2012 at this time. But he repeated they have not been notified of any changes yet.

It might be wise for people to consider Barb Morgan's request that they write to the decision makers and to their MPPs so we don't have yet another service reduced.

Emo Council passes resolution to keep Donald Young School in Emo

By Marlene Deschamps

The Rainy River District School Board is presently doing a pupil accommodation review. They are conducting this review on Donald Young School, Sturgeon Creek School and Crossroads School. The first review is on Donald Young School in Emo. They are looking at a number of options and alternatives and solutions through a very comprehensive process which includes building a new school, renovating the existing school, school closure and consolidation. In the case of re-

building, the Board would consider building on the same site or a new site could be chosen. Recommendations, when completed, will be discussed by the director of education and senior administration and the final report should be ready to be presented to the trustees in June of 2012. There are many factors being considered in the review and these will be discussed at public consultation meetings. The final three meetings will be held on January 12th, February 9th and March 7th. Each meeting will be held at Donald

Young School from 7-9 pm. During a Regular meeting of Emo Municipal Council held on Tuesday, November 29, 2011, the following resolution was passed:

Be It Resolved that we hereby unanimously agree to provide the Donald Young School with additional playground property directly east of the existing school (across Boucher Creek on the former OPP property).

Further, The Emo Municipal Council wishes to express their views on the benefits of a public

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