

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 almost 17 years VOL. 17, NO. 44 Wednesday, February 25, 2009

District Municipalities receive CPR-AED Awareness Event infrastructure dollars

by Marlene Deschamps

In the summer of 2008, Ontario signed the Building Canada Plan Framework Agreement with the federal government. Under this agreement, Ontario receives 3.09 billion as part of the Building Canada Fund. Ontario's matching contribution results in a \$6 billion investment towards revitalizing the province's infrastructure. The Fund is divided into two components which are #1-the Communities component, where the federal and provincial governments work in partnership with municipalities in communities with 100,000 or fewer residents-each contributing to project funding on a 1/3 share basis. #2- The major infrastructure component for larger strategic projects of national and regional significance.

In this first round of dollars awarded, nearly 85% of project applications were approved for

funding and in this first round the federal and provincial government are contributing a total of more than \$670 million. It had been stated by both levels of government that they wanted to first fund infrastructure money to those projects where the shovel is in the ground already. As a result applications that were approved but put on hold were the first to benefit as is seen by the dollars awarded to the municipalities in this district and region.

Those receiving money are: Alberton--\$250,836 for road surfacing for Domanski and Kehl Roads; Atikokan receives \$1,631,124 for an airport project; Bear's Pass receives \$54,122 for local road improvements; Dryden receives \$9,966,666 for wastewater infrastructure; Fort Frances receives \$256,630 for wastewater infrastructure;

Kenora receives \$1,000,000 for water infrastructure; Rainy River receives \$666,667 for water infrastructure; Sioux Narrows/Nestor Falls receives \$830,640 for regional and local airports and Watton local Roads Board receives \$10,000 for local road infrastructure. The amounts listed above are from the federal government- and those amounts will be equalled by the provincial government so each amount is doubled for use for the individual projects. This leaves municipalities to fund the other third of the cost of the project. Again, applications for these projects had already been submitted to the various levels of governments for approval.

The aim of the release of all these dollars to the municipalities is to create jobs, help stimulate the economy and to situate them so they can move forward.



In front holding AED is Deputy Mayor, Sharon Tibbs and Trillium rep, Linda Hamilton, behind them Patti-Jo Ledrew and RRDSB Chair, Dan Belluz. Standing just behind is Donna Dittaro, Manager RRDSAB, Gary Gamsby, Chair, Land Ambulance Committee and Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager.

AbitibiBowater Fort Frances operations takes period of downtime in March

AbitibiBowaters Fort Frances mill will temporarily curtail operations through March on a scheduled basis.

Paper machine #6 will be temporarily down from March 1st to April 4th. Machines #5 and #7 from March 22nd to April 4th and the Kraft Mill Operation from March 22nd to April 4th.

The curtailment is due to continued depressed market conditions.

John Harrison, General Manager of the Fort Frances operation, indicated that the commissioning of the biomass boiler will continue throughout the curtailment. "We continue to test the operational performance of the new biomass boiler and will continue to proceed through the commissioning phase, bringing it to full and optimum operation in April.

The Fort Frances operation employs 650 people and manufacturers 475,000 tonnes/year of commercial printing papers and kraft pulp.

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Rafferty disappointed by Fort Frances layoffs

Member of Parliament and New Democrat Forestry Critic John Rafferty (Thunder Bay - Rainy River) expressed disappointment and frustration in the announced layoffs at Abitibi's Fort Frances pulp and paper mill and at the Harper government's inaction throughout the prolonged forestry crisis.

"This layoff is a great blow for workers at the Fort Frances mill, their families, and for the rest of the town that depends on the operations at the mill," Rafferty said. "The workers should know that my office is open and ready to help them and their families gain access to federal assistance during this period."

The Fort Frances mill is a highly efficient pulp and paper mill that is presently testing a biomass generator to further reduce energy and operating costs. The 650 layoffs at the mill are the second round in just the past three months.

Sixty-seven percent of local economic activity in Fort Frances is linked to the forestry industry.

Rafferty also expressed frustration and anger with the Harper government's lack of action for the industry and affected families throughout the prolonged crisis. "Forestry is in its own six-plus year recession and tens of thousands of families have been affected by this crisis. How can this government offer more than \$4 billion to the auto-sector and just \$170 million for the forestry sector?" Rafferty was also deeply concerned about the lack of assistance for families affected by the forestry crisis. "It's not right to make families wait two weeks before submitting an EI claim, and then wait weeks more benefits to flow. They should have fixed this loophole a long time ago," he said.

The forestry industry is an

\$84 billion a year industry that directly and indirectly employs 864,000 Canadians from British Columbia to Newfoundland and all provinces in between. There have been 45,000 job losses or layoffs in the forestry sector in the last five years, and about 5000 this month alone.

Rafferty remains committed to helping the affected workers in the riding and the forestry sector at the national level. "Our offices are always open to help our workers access benefits, and I will continue to push the federal government to ensure the industry remains afloat during this economic crisis and prosperous in the future."

Workers in Fort Frances who require assistance can visit Mr. Rafferty's Fort Frances constituency office at 140 4th Street West or contact Christine Eisenzopf or Richard Mackinnon at 274-9313.

Northwestern Health Unit discontinues hearing aid dispensing services

The Northwestern Health Unit Board of Health passed a resolution on Friday, February 20, 2009 to divest the hearing aid dispensing services of the Audiology program in Kenora, Dryden and Fort Frances areas, effective immediately.

Donna Cutler, Director of Health Promotion noted: "It is with regret that we are unable to continue this service for our clients. We will work with and support the Canadian Hearing

Society and private practitioners in the region to ensure client services continue. Current clients and those on waiting lists will be contacted and offered options for their hearing health care needs."

Mark Perrault, Chief Administrative Officer stated that this was not an easy decision. "Client needs were certainly paramount when considering the consequences of

divesting the program.

The health unit's mandate, however, is to promote, educate and encourage healthy living. Maintaining a hearing aid dispensing business detracted us from that focus."

The Northwestern Health Unit will continue to provide regional Audiology services for infants and youth up to 18 years of age and will deliver hearing health promotion.

because they had been proven to save lives.

Linda Hamilton, on behalf of the Trillium Foundation, said this was her first appearance on behalf of Trillium and it was a pleasure to be able to give away monies instead of always asking for it. She added she hoped Trillium would be able to help more as they go across the district.

Dan McCormick told those gathered that 35-40,000 people die each year from heart attacks. There is a 5% survival rate for the 7,000 that occur annually outside of hospital. Immediate action through the use of CPR-AED's increases the survival rate dramatically. He was to work with all municipalities so that 6-8 of their personnel have the skills to use these live saving methods.

People were then requested to open the kits they received upon registration where they found their own personal dummy which they could inflate and use for the instructional part of the afternoon. Mats were set up around the auditorium and 17 persons went through the CPR training led by Ed Carlson. On hand to assist with questions were EMS co-supervisor, Trevor Johnson, and Primary Care Paramedics, Chris Wielinga, Gabriel and Marty Emond and Kim Cousineau.

After the CPR session, everyone was shown the usage of the AED and were encouraged to ask questions about anything they were concerned about. The AED's lead a person through the whole process and instruct you in usage step by step. It tells you when to apply CPR, when to stop, when to apply shock and when to resume or desist with the CPR. A person cannot make a mistake in dealing with the victim unless they ignore the instructions given them by the device.

For anyone not familiar with the term AED it means Automated External Defibrillators. This is a life-saving tool and will make public facilities in the Rainy River District safer places for the cit-

izens. The AED's will be installed over the next few months in high traffic public sites, selected in conjunction with the Rainy River District EMS. In the first year training and equipment will be provided. As stated above 6-8 trained personnel will be available at each AED location to assist someone who is having a cardiac arrest.

Identified locations in eight of the ten municipalities will be as follows: The Township of Lake of the Woods at the Bergland Community Centre and the Morson Community Centre; The Town of Rainy River at the Arena/Community Centre and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #54; The Township of Morley at the Community Resource Centre and the Stratton Community Centre; The Township of LaVallee at the Municipal Office Complex and the Community Centre; The Township of Emo at the CurlingRink/Municipal Offices, the Arena and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #99; The Township of Chapple at the Municipal Office Complex and the Community Centre; The Township of Atikokan at the Arena/Municipal Offices, Swimming Pool Complex, Community Centre and Royal Canadian Legion #145; The Town of Fort Frances at the SportsPlex-arena area and SPorts Plex-pool & gym area, the Civic Centre and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #29; Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board at the Training and Meeting Rooms.

The afternoon ended with everyone grateful for the training and pleased to bring their kits home which included the dummy and a DVD to allow people to provided this same beneficial information and the opportunity for their families to learn all about CPR. Through the province wide promotion people do indeed learn that they already have the tools to save a life and with the help of these dedicated people we can learn how to use them.

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