

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 17 years VOL. 18, NO. 44 Wednesday, February 17, 2010
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Royal Bank continues with GO CANADA spirit for Olympics



Enthusiastic employees of Royal Bank waiting to welcome people.

by Marlene Deschamps

The Royal Bank of Canada who sponsored the longest torch run in Olympic history continue with their GO CANADA spirit. They have a large screen TV donated by Howarths that's set up to the Channel that is broadcasting the Olympic events. They invite everyone to come down and watch the events. They will run

all day each day of the Olympics during their regular business hours. They kicked off the Olympic Watch on Friday, February 12th with cupcakes and refreshments and a chance to put your name in for their first of daily draws. There will be a final draw on February 26th and the prize is an Olympic jacket. So stop on down and enjoy the Olympic

competition and root on the Canadians. The Opening ceremonies were spectacular and Canada has finally won a gold medal on Canadian soil. Let's hope there are many more. A big thank you goes to the Royal Bank of Canada for sponsoring the Torch Run and for providing this service for people to watch all the action on a big screen.

Annual Rainy River District Business Awards celebrates success



Employee of the Year, Laurie Witherspoon (in the red) along with her daughter, Kristi Dolcetti.

by Marlene Deschamps

The Annual Rainy River District Business Awards Banquet was held on Saturday, February 13th at the Adventure Inn. The Awards where Success is Celebrated was presented by Bell and the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce. The Emcee for the evening was Harold Wilson, President of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce. Greeting were given by John McEvoy, Regional Manager of Field Services Bell Aliant. He told the crowd that Bell was proud to be partnered with the Chamber for the third year and he hoped everyone enjoyed the evening.

There was a silent auction table set up and those who won their bids were announced throughout the evening. They had many great items up for bid and people kept returning to the table to make sure theirs was still the top bid for the item and/or items they wanted to take home.

After a delicious meal, the crowd enjoyed entertainment by the Fort Harmonies, led by

Diane Maxey. Diane came through with another great presentation as the Harmonies sang a medley of songs from Mama Mia. She invited everyone to sing along with their favorites and many people did as that music is loved and remembered by most. The group got an extended round of applause for their efforts.

Next up was the Awards presentations. They were as follows.

Safety Award-Business or Individual, sponsored by Ainsworth Safety Committee, was presented by Diane Gibson to Peggy Loyie of the Rainy River District Victim Services.

Accessibility Award, sponsored by the Town of Fort Frances Accessibility Advisory Committee was presented by Councilor Ken Perry to Betty Ann MacKintosh of the Supervised Access Program. Unfortunately Betty Ann was not present but someone took the plaque to give to her.

Tony Beyak Memorial Award for Volunteer of the Year sponsored by the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce, was

presented by Tanis Drysdale. The winner was Jack Hedman and he unfortunately was also absent but Tannis will see that he receives the award.

The Employee of the Year Award, sponsored by the Westend Weekly, was presented by Marlene Deschamps to Laurie Witherspoon, Town of Fort Frances. Laurie was very surprised and honoured and happy to have her daughter come visit from Thunder Bay so she could share in her excitement.

Business Woman of the Year Award, sponsored by the Business Women's Network, was presented by Heather Johnson, to Jennifer Krag-L'Hirondell of Moss Yoga & Barnswallow Photography.

The 100th Anniversary Economic Development Award sponsored by NOHFC was presented by Jeannette Cawston to Geoff Gillon and George Emes of RRFDC. In her speech, Jeannette said that the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce Executive was pleased to honour an organization.

Business Awards cont. on pg. 2

Fort Frances Lions initiate six new members



Pictured from left, Leo Penney, Bonnie Penney, Jean Bolen, Valarie Rose, Edwin Rose and Lance Halstead.

by Marlene Deschamps

On Tuesday, February 9th the Fort Frances Lions Club held a general meeting at St. John's Anglican Church and after a delicious meal was enjoyed by all a record number of people were initiated into the Club. President Jacques Fiset said that to his knowledge, there have never been six members initiated at once in the Clubs history.

Various committee reports were read and approved including Project Pride. Project Pride sees Lions members attend the schools for Heritage Day and give the students flags along with a history of the Canadian flag.

Past International Director, Lion Bud Danylchuk gave an overview to the new members of Melvin Jones who began the Lions Club many years ago. The Fort France Lions Club was chartered in 1964.

It was exciting news that the Lions only need two more members for the newly formed club in Emo to get their Charter.

There was a report regarding the mid winter Duluth Convention where they learned that there are 47,000 members internationally despite the fact that they are trying to recruit new members to replace those Charters who are losing members. There was also news regarding the Cando Dogs that are sponsored by the Lions Clubs International. The local Club contributes to this cause. It was explained that it costs \$28,000 to train each dog and there is a lot of need for more trained dogs to assist those with disabilities.

People were also encouraged to pick up and read the literature on Pathways. Spring Point Project. The main aim of the project is to raise pigs in a ster-

ile environment and with the internal breeding program they have a healthy population that is needed for the start of clinical trials. This project is aiming on a path towards a cure for diabetes and Lions International works with many other organizations who are looking to cure diabetes which has become a major problem for a high percentage of the population.

The Lions continue to hold their Thursday night Bingo and they are once again having their Groceries for a Year Draw. The monies they raise go to support many worthwhile causes both locally, regionally, provincially, nationally and internationally. They are a service club that make a real difference in people's lives. They are always looking to welcome new members so if you have a little time to spend with this great group give them a call.

Anderson's looking for a resolution regarding Town charges against them

by Marlene Deschamps

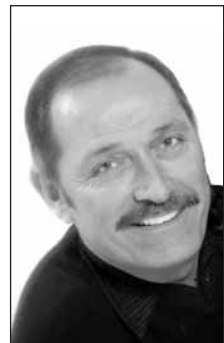
On Friday, February 12th, Marie and Lynwood Anderson were back in court regarding the charges the Town has filed against them over the height of their fence ?? They handed over their information to the Prosecutor and at that point the Town decided they need time to look over the information package. This will see another delay. The information now goes to the Chief Justice in Thunder Bay. They will be having a pre-trial that is set for March 12th depending on the Chief Justice's schedule. It will be done by teleconference with the Andersons and the Town Prosecutor. Marie Anderson said there has already been two J.P.s. who signed off on this and

wouldn't go to trial. She added they just want to see this over with as they have been to court four times and have spend hundreds of hours planning their defense case. She feels the fence by-law doesn't apply to the netting they have that protects their greenery from the deer and the real problem here is the deer, not only inside the town but also at the airport. She noted that the International Falls airport has deer fencing around it's area of use.

Marie also wanted everyone to know that some solutions to the deer problem are addressed in a lengthy report titled whitegreenburgh that can be found on the internet. She said she gave a copy to the Town so they could have access to infor-

mation on how to address this problem. She also noted that this problem won't go away as the wolves are now venturing into town areas. Atikokan was recently featured on Points North or Northwest Newsweek because there are having a real problem with wolves and because they have found out that some, if not many, of the wolves being destroyed there have 'mange' which makes them more of a threat both to people and to pets.

She said her research has also found that deer within town limits are not the responsibility of the MNR but the responsibility of the Town itself and she just wishes they would do something about it.



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