

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Serving the Rainy River District for almost 22 years! Read us on line at www.westendweekly.ca

Oh No! More Snow...

By: Teresa Hazel

Last Friday people across the District found themselves digging out from another heavy snowfall. It came on the heels of almost Spring-like weather the previous two days and was followed by more cold temperatures dipping well below freezing.

Mother Nature doesn't seem to be giving us a break this winter with another week of cold temperatures in the forecast. Keep smiling everyone!



Chris Cupp was not so happy to be shoveling snow AGAIN.



Sammi Mosley stopped to take a break from shoveling her driveway.



Jesse Adair's smiling, frozen face shows that he wasn't letting the snow get him down.

Feeling the Winter Blues?



Rozi Flatt, Owner and Esthetician at Bombshell checks-in her guests as they arrive for their "Staycation".



Shari Humphrey adds a little sunshine to the hair.



Shawna McRitchie is feeling better thanks to a manicure and hand massage from Rozi at Bombshell.



Tanya and Brad Townson take a break from the cold with an evening out for dinner.



Chris and Sherree Denby have a date night with drinks and a few snacks.



Teagan Kaeming and Peter Garvie were lifting spirits with refreshments, including the popular "Fishbowl Friday" drinks at Boston Pizza.

Photographers' showcase



The first Full Moon of each month is named according to the Farmer's Almanac List. The origins of this List of Full Moons are derived from Native American heritage. On Feb. 14, 2014 the first Full Moon of February appeared on Valentine's Day and was named the "Snow Moon" (aptly named!). This picture was captured just as the Full Moon was rising over the tree line in our back yard.

Photo by Lauri Kangas, Fort Frances

By: Teresa Hazel

Have you had enough of winter and feeling a little restless? What is there to do? Why not plan a "staycation" suggests Rozi Flatt who owns Bombshell in Fort Frances.

"If we can't get away for a vacation, we have to plan a staycation or else we will go insane", laughs Flatt and adds: "If we don't, we'll get grumpy at the children".

What is a staycation? According to Wikipedia, it is a period in which an individual or family stay home and participate in leisure activities within driving distance, sleeping in their own beds at night. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines it as a vacation spent at home or nearby.

At the local salon, guests were arriving from the snow and cold for services they selected from the Bombshell beauty menu including haircuts, highlights, manicures and pedicures.

"Since the sun can't lighten the hair right now, we can do it for you", said Shari Humphrey who works as a stylist at the beauty shop along

with Maureen Lesmesuriers, Heather Dobransky-Johnson, Jana Murray and Terry Hyatt.

Flatt is the Esthetician as well. She brings a cheerfulness and optimism to everyone when they walk in the door.

Shawna McRitchie came in for an esthetic service sporting her Team Canada sweatshirt in celebration of the Canadian Women's Hockey gold, the Canadian Curling gold medals and the excitement of the semi-final men's hockey game where Team Canada beat Team U.S.A.

"I have clients that come in to prepare for vacations away but there are many who come because they aren't going away and need a little pick-me-up", explained Flatt.

I asked Rozi what else she would suggest people do for their staycation?

"Dinner and drinks", she says enthusiastically. "Fishbowl Fridays at Boston Pizza".

So that's where I go to see who else is thinking the same way as Rozi.

Tanya and Brad Townson were out for dinner in the

restaurant.

"We're here to get out of the cold", they explained. "And to take a break from snowplowing", adds Brad.

Meanwhile, Chris and Sherree Denby were having a date night with drinks and a few appetizers in the lounge.

"It's so frustrating, the weather", says Sherree. "We were going to have a skating party in the backyard but it's too windy and snowy so we had to cancel", she adds with her disappointment apparent.

"It helps break the monotony of staying inside", noted Chris Denby as to the reasoning for an evening out. "And...I'm putting off shoveling", he says with a smile.

A few more suggestions for your Staycation: bowling, massage, a pool party at one of the local hotels, a shopping day trip, lunch with a friend at one of the many eating establishments available in Borderland, a spa day at any of the local salons, a movie night, or dinner out with the family.

Bon Voyage...have fun on your staycation at home in the Rainy River District!



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Moos by Kim Jo Bliss

Well, like most everyone else the storm last week was not a welcome sight! What a mess and then with all the drifting I had stuff lost right in my yard. I ended up getting the tractor stuck trying to make my way to feed the heifers - couldn't see my trail and that was it! Thankfully my dad was able to get me out and then he plowed me a few roads so that I wouldn't run into that same problem. Now it sounds like we are in for a rather chilly week. We certainly have been experiencing winter at its finest and it is certainly making for a lot more work, burning more fuel and just plain crabby people - me being one of them. I was trying to be positive the other day thinking well spring will be coming and then I thought we still have to tackle March and it can give us some pretty dirty weather! Ugh!

Calves have been rolling in quite nicely. Again, with the weather I find it is making

more work - maybe not even more work but more worry! I can always analyze a situation to think of the worst thing that could happen. Right as the Men's Gold Medal Hockey game was about to start I had a cow with a backwards calf so that one had to be pulled. All turned out well and her name is "Price-less" after the all star Canadian goalie. I have a poor cow with lots of milk that either stepped on her teat or someone else stepped on it and it is a mess. And as you can imagine it hurts so treating it isn't all that fun. The cows have been huddling trying to keep warm and out of the wind just like summer time when the bugs are bad and something is bound to get stepped on.

Hope about those Olympics!! It appeared Sochi Russia put on an unbelievable show. I am so proud of all our Canadian athletes and their hard work and gold medals in curling and hockey --- whoo

hooo. I am going to miss watching the events now!

I am participating in a few webinars this week. Webinars are a wonderful way to continue learning right from your own home. You simply log into the session on your computer and listen and learn. I am learning about growing hops tonight. I strongly encourage you to participate in this technology - it works great.

Joe Sletmoen, Ray Chartier and Bryan Kelly represented the Rainy River District at the Beef Farmers of Ontario Annual Meeting last week. Joe also sat on the panel discussion about farming in the North. Since I am busy at home with calves (and winter) I cannot attend the annual meeting but many of my friends from the meeting were busy emailing and texting me letting me know what a great job Joe did representing the North! Thanks for making the trip Joe, Ray and Byran.

From the house submitted by John Rafferty M.P.

This week was a busy one which saw me host a pair of town hall meetings on veterans' affairs in Thunder Bay and Fort Frances as the NDP began our push for public consultations on the so-called "Fair Elections Act."

I was happy to have been joined by a special guest, Peter Stoffer, for our town hall meetings. Peter is the Member of Parliament for Sackville-Eastern Shore and the New Democrat Critic for Veterans Affairs. I can think of no one better to have had at our meetings as Peter has served as our Veterans Critic for 15 years and held 10 different Veterans Affairs Ministers to account over that time. He is a tireless advocate for Canada's veterans and has worked on every sort of issue faced by active and retired personnel that you can imagine.

The most common concern we heard from those who attended the meetings was related to the various cuts that have occurred to the Veterans Affairs department, including the cutting of direct program funding, the reduction of staff, and the closing of the nine regional offices including our Thunder Bay office. People just don't believe the Conservatives when they say these cuts will not result in reduced service for Canada's veterans. It defies basic logic and I would say that the people we spoke with know that they are being misled at best, and taken for fools at worst.

These meetings were one of many for Peter as he is touring the country and talking to Canada's veterans from coast to coast. When these meetings wrap, Peter will brief our caucus on what Canadians, and most importantly Canadian veterans, are saying about these cuts and what policies, action, and leadership they are looking for from the next government in Ottawa.

Aside from meeting with veterans and members of the public this week New Democrats also began our push to have public consultations on the Conservative government's controversial new 'Fair Elections Act.' It's bad enough that this bill that makes it more difficult for hundreds of thousands of Canadians

to vote and would change the rules governing elections to help their own party (i.e.: making sure Elections Canada can't investigate future robocall complaints), but the Harper Conservatives have also shortened the time allotted for debate and limited the number of witnesses that can testify about the impacts of the bill. But hey, you know, it's only our elections we're talking about right?

New Democrats think that a bill that fundamentally changes the way elections are held in this country needs a full public debate and to hear from Canadians from all walks of life. Therefore, New Democrat Critic for Democratic and Parliamentary Reform, Craig Scott, has tabled the following motion which will be debated and hopefully passed next week:

"That it be an instruction to the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs that, during its consideration of Bill C-23, An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act and other Acts and to make consequential amendments to other Acts, the Committee shall: a) hear witnesses from, but not limited to, Elections Canada, political parties as defined under the Canada Elections

Act, the Minister of State who introduced the bill, representatives of First Nations, anti-poverty groups, groups representing persons with disabilities, groups representing youth advocates and students, as well as specific groups which have been active in society on elections rules; b) have the power to travel to all regions of Canada, (Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario, Northern Ontario, the Prairies, British Columbia and the North), including downtown urban settings, rural and remote settings, and that the Committee request that this travel take place in March and April 2014; and c) only proceed to clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill after these hearings have been completed, with a goal to commence clause-by-clause consideration on Thursday, May 1, 2014."

So it was a week where I held public meetings locally, while my New Democrat colleagues worked to have public hearings on a proposed new elections bill that restricts the democratic rights of hundreds of thousands of Canadians. I guess if this week had a theme, it would have to be standing up for democracy, which I think was time and effort that was well spent.

Gov't foot dragging endangers Ring of Fire future: NDP

NDP Northern Development and Mines Critic Michael Mantha says the government is trumpeting non-announcements about the Ring of Fire in an attempt to hide years of mismanagement.

"In November of last year, after Cliffs announced it would stop operations in the Ring of Fire, the minister hastily announced the creation of the development corporation," explained Mantha during question period this morning. "Last Friday, the ministry announced that it had hired consulting firm Deloitte to set up a development corporation - the same 'development corporation' that

had already been announced three months prior."

Attempts by Ontario's New Democrats to access information about the new development corporation have been called 'premature' by the Liberal government. The federal government is facing similar difficulty getting information about the corporation. Mantha, the MPP for Algoma-Manitoulin, is worried that the development corporation is a smokescreen to disguise lack of concrete action on the Ring of Fire.

"For the past three years, the NDP has been calling on the government to take a leader-

ship role in creating a real plan that will benefit job creation in the province," said Mantha. "Hiring Deloitte is an admission that the government never had a plan for Ring of Fire development in the first place."

Mantha says the time has come for the government to start taking real action to develop the Ring of Fire before the opportunity is lost.

"How much is Deloitte getting paid to come up with a project that the Liberal government already announced it had created?" asked Mantha. "This government stop giving out consulting contracts to outside firms and do its job by coming up with a serious plan for Ring of Fire development instead of wasting another 5 years?"

Rainy River Figure Skating Club
Presents
Topping the Charts!!
Saturday & Sunday
March 1 & 2

Saturday, show begins at 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, show begins at 2:00 p.m.

Rainy River Recreation Centre
Advance tickets \$6/Adult, \$4/Child, 4 and under Free
Admission at the door \$8/Adult, \$6/Child, 4 and under Free
Advance tickets available at Rainy River Drugs, Roadside Restaurant, Beaver Mills, Wood's Quality Bakery, Ronnings in Baudette

Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB)
seeks all low income households in the Rainy River District needing repairs to their principal residence.

Interested homeowners should apply to take advantage of the Investment in Affordable Housing - Ontario Renovates Program (ORP). The ORP offers financial assistance to low to moderate income homeowners who need to make repairs to their homes. The program is primarily aimed at moderate income home owner(s) who live in substandard dwellings and cannot afford the repairs that are necessary to make their home safer and healthier to live in and/or to make improvements that increase seniors' accessibility and address mobility issues.

Target client group for ORP include but not limited to seniors, persons with disability, victims of family violence, aboriginal people living off reserve, low income singles and families, or residents of remote communities

Qualifying homeowners will receive funding from RRDSSAB to undertake repairs of modest and affordable housing stock as a grant/loan forgiveness at a rate of 10% per year for 10 year period.

For more information contact:
Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board
450 Scott Street
Fort Frances, ON P9A 1H2
Phone # (807) 274-5349 or 1 (800) 265-5349

Canada Ontario Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board

FAIRNESS
ACCOUNTABILITY
CHANGE
TRANSPARENCY

On Thursday, March 6th, 2014
Make your vote count !!

VOTE Armand Jourdain, Sr. for
Chief of
Couchiching First Nation

To the communities of Fort Frances and the Rainy River District and of course the outstanding loyal staff, past and present of NCDS...
On my retirement I thank you for a great 18 years working with NCDS and particularly for my last 10 spectacular years as Executive Director - we achieved so much. Together we helped change so many lives as you changed mine.

Thank you
Jenny Greenhalgh

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Private member's bill would revoke pensions for politicians who steal from taxpayers

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) unveiled a 30-second television commercial that will begin airing this week that encourages Canadians to push their MPs to support Bill C-518 – the Protecting Taxpayers and Revoking Pensions of Convicted Politicians Act.

If passed, the bill introduced by John Williamson, Conservative member for New Brunswick Southwest, would take away the parliamentary

pension from any MP or Senator convicted of crimes like breach of trust, fraud or theft. Importantly, the bill is worded such that if recently charged former Liberal Senator Mac Harb and suspended Conservative Senator Patrick Brazeau are convicted, they would not be able to collect their taxpayer-funded pensions.

"Canadians are sick and tired of watching politicians use their positions to fill their

pockets, only to resign before they are convicted and walk away with a massive pension that was mostly funded by taxpayers," said CTF Federal Director Gregory Thomas.

The 30-second television commercial features former Liberal Senator Raymond Lavigne who was recently released from prison after serving a six-month sentence for breach of trust and fraud. He was convicted of these crimes

after he filed false expense claims and used his parliamentary staff to cut down trees on his property. Lavigne resigned from the Senate shortly before his conviction saving his estimated \$67,600 annual pension. "It will be doubly insulting to taxpayers if this latest band of Senators are convicted of similar crimes and are able to walk away with massive pensions

for life," continued Thomas. "Bill C-518 should have been rushed through parliament the day it was introduced."

In the 30-second commercial the CTF encourages Canadians to visit Taxpayer.com and sign the CTF's petition in support of the bill.

The second hour of debate for second reading of Bill C-518 is expected this week, with the

vote expected within a couple of weeks. A similar bill was passed last year by the former NDP government in Nova Scotia.

The commercial will begin airing this week on CTV News Channel and Sun News Network and will continue for the next two weeks.

You can view the ad here: <https://vimeo.com/87221549>

NDP calls for special prosecutor as OPP raids Liberals

Ontario's New Democrats are calling for an independent, special prosecutor from outside the province to be appointed in the wake of raids by the OPP anti-rackets squad. The raids are part of an investigation into the Liberal government over the gas plants scandal and attempted cover up.

The NDP today pressed the government for answers to the growing list of questions about the OPP investigation, including whether the anti-rackets squad had warrants for the Premier's Office and whether the Liberals had been speaking to the OPP Commissioner about the investigation. When asked if the OPP anti-rackets squad had a warrant to search the Premier's Office, the Premier refused to answer the question.

"Yesterday, the OPP anti-rackets squad executed a search a Mississauga Data Centre for information about the gas plants scandal and cover-up. It's not every day that the government is under investigation by police anti-rackets squad investigators," said Peter Tabuns,

NDP Energy Critic. "I asked the Premier whether the OPP had warrants to search the Premier's Office, and the Premier wouldn't answer the question."

"The appointment of a special prosecutor from outside the province would be a prudent step to ensure independence

and transparency as this investigation by the anti-rackets squad into the Liberal government goes deeper," said MPP Tabuns.

The OPP is already investigating the Liberals' Ornge Air Ambulance scandal in addition to the Gas Plants scandal.

Meet the Muskie's



Shilo Beck #18

Shilo Beck is a veteran hockey player with the Fort Frances Muskie Girls Hockey Team. She wears #18 and is in her third year with the organization. She is a quick skating forward who can score goals.

She is no stranger to hockey and has played AAA with the Northwest Warriors in summer hockey for the past four years. Her commitment to showing up to play for every game

earned her an award for Most Dedicated in grade ten.

What are some highlights for Beck in her Muskie career?

"Winning against Kenora in any game but especially the final for NWOSSA last year", she says. "The Hockey Canada tournament was awesome. It was such a great experience", adds Beck about another one of her high points.

So, how does Beck feel about the game of hockey?

"I love hockey, the thrill, the friendships, and staying in shape. It's what I enjoy".

And enjoyment is what the Muskie Girls are providing this year in hockey action, clinching top spot in NorWOSSA with a perfect 15-0 in the regular season standings.

They began the first round playoffs against fourth place Kenora Broncos on the weekend, winning game one in overtime by a score of 4 to 3. Team Captain, Shelby Tymkin scored the game winner.

Let's go Muskies!!!

A second look

Riverside Community Counselling Services, Fort Frances
Emo, Rainy River. A Caring Group of Professionals

"I'm a male who was sexually abused as a child. I'm wondering if there is help out there for me?"

Absolutely! Riverside Community Counselling Services provides support and counselling specifically for men who have been sexually abused. This service strives to help survivors with their recovery and to cope positively in ways that meet individual needs.

Researchers estimate that at least 1 in 6 men have had an unwanted or abusive sexual experience before the age of 18. There are thousands of

male survivors living in communities across Northern Ontario. Male survivors come from all walks of life and they are all ages, cultures and religions. They are our neighbours, friends, fathers, husbands and sons.

For men, telling someone that they have been abused or assaulted is often more difficult than it is for a woman. Shame is a significant factor for male survivors and increases the likelihood that men will remain silent about their abuse. The impact of sexual abuse varies from person to person. For some, the effects

can impact all areas of life, including their mental and emotional well-being and their relationships. It is important to know that you are not alone, help is available, and there is counselling available in your community. The biggest step is breaking the silence and telling someone. Support for partners, as well as couple's counselling, can also be part of the recovery process.

If you or someone you know would benefit from this service, please contact Riverside Community Counselling Services at 274-4807 and ask for the "Intake Counselor".

Central Canada Hockey Tournament

March 21, 22 & 23



Invitation - 12 Men's Teams and 8 Women's Teams

The Duke Arena, Couchiching First Nation and Ice for Kids Arena, Fort Frances
Friday, March 21 to Sunday, March 23

Games start Friday at 10 am; Saturday & Sunday at 8 am
Admission: Weekend \$25.00; Daily \$10.00

Exhibition Game Youth (TBD)

Texas Hold'em Tournament

Draw for Vegas Trip

Teams Information

Registration:	Men \$1,000	Women \$800
(Payable to Central Canada Hockey Tournament - Deadline date March 7, 2014)		
Prizes:	First Place \$6,000	\$2,500
	Second Place \$3,500	\$1,750
	Consolation \$1,000	\$1,000

Schedules to be posted

Prizes dependent on registration fees received

Entertainment provided by Distant Legacy

Friday, Mar. 21, Dry Social at Couchiching Multi-purpose Building 8pm to midnight, \$5.00
Saturday, Mar. 22, Age of Majority Social 9pm to 1am, cover chg. (watch for poster) \$10.00

For further information contact Tom Big George at 270-2941 or Judy Morrison at 481-9886

Rainy River District 18th Annual Business Awards

Thurs. March 6th
Come Celebrate With Us!

Dinner, Drinks, Prizes & Entertainment

Congratulations to this year's Nominees...

Business of the Year

Sponsored by: 93.1 The Border

Betty's of Fort Frances, Saulteaux Consulting and Engineering
From the Grind Up
Gillons' Insurance Brokers
Cloverleaf Grocery

Employee of the Year

Sponsored by: The Westend Weekly

Christine Krueger, Fort Frances Dental Centre
Elizabeth Petkau, Rainy River Meats
Duane Hicks, Fort Frances Times
Jay McFarlane, Plaza Lanes

Customer Service Award (Business)

Sponsored by: TD Canada Trust

RBC Royal Bank
Tonic Tattoo
Lowery's
Betty's of Fort Frances
Fort Frances General Supply
Northwoods Gallery & Gifts
Tompkins Home Hardware

Customer Service Award (Individual)

Sponsored by: Good Impressions Printing

Kerry Zucchiatti, 93.1 The Border,
Zac Manty, Webb's Power Shack
Adrian Chapman, Investors Group
Alicia Desserre, Simplicity Hair & Body Shop
Donna Lowey, Lowey's Green House
Laureen Luchka, Boston Pizza

Entrepreneur of the Year

Sponsored by: Rainy River Future Development Corporation

Ben Morelli, From the Grind Up
Chad Jackson, Pro-Shine
Paula Jensen, Shear Serenity
Tyler Nordin, Just 4 Fun Power Sports

Business Woman of the Year

Sponsored by: Professional Women's Network

Donna Lowey, Lowey's Greenhouse
Jennifer Horton, Curvy Chick/ Chick With A Camera
Grace Cridland, Gillons' Insurance Brokers
Paula Jensen, Shear Serenity
Jackie Lampi Hughes, Energy Fitness

Small Business Trainer of the Year

Sponsored by: NCDS

Ted DeBenetti, A Buck or Two
Bobbie Parker, Mr. Sub
Ben Morelli, From The Grind Up
Dennis Roach, D.J. Roach Electric

Home Based Business

Sponsored by: M.L. Caron Electric

Inga Friesen, Merge 2
Ken Hawrylak, Digital Dr
Nicke Baird, Chelsey Simpson and Heather Bridgeman, Smashing Tea
Miles Kupila, Kupila's Sound Centre
Diane Gibson, Gibson Design

Tony Beyak Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award

Sponsored by: The Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce

Kayne Shaw
Leslie Danielson

Thursday, March 6th
at La Place Rendez-Vous
Cocktails at 6:00pm Dinner at 6:30 pm

Co-Host and Entertainment

Comedian Ryan McMahon
and Live Music by Entirely Mac

Tickets \$45 each or \$315 for at Table of 8
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601 Mowat Avenue - For more info 274-5773



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