

# 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. 39 Wednesday, January 25, 2012  
Serving the Rainy River District for more than 19 years! Read us on line at www.westendweekly.ca

### Photographers' showcase



This photo was taken at sunset on Waikiki Beach, Honolulu last January. It is a high dynamic photo combining normal, under and overexposure.

Photo by Rene Hogue, Rainy River

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.

### OPP adopt Special Olympian



Seated left, detachment staff member Bonnie Hoskins and Special Olympian Dave Ducasse. Behind from left. Cst. Anne McCoy, Cst. Julie Cecchini, Cst. Greg Johnson, Inspector Steve Shouldice, Cst. Richard Ivanowich and Sgt. Wayne MacIntyre.

#### By Marlene Deschamps

Rainy River District OPP Detachment members are "Adopting An Athlete" through the Ontario Special Olympics program. On May 31st - June 3, 2012, more than 900 athletes and coaches from across Ontario will gather in Kingston, Ontario to compete in the Special Olympics 2012 Ontario Provincial Spring Games.

Participants will compete in the sports of basketball, swimming, 5 pin bowling, 10 pin bowling, bocce and power lifting. Every Special Olympics athlete has a shot at gold, but not all of them have the financial means to get to the games.

The local detachment has adopted special athlete, Dave Ducasse. Dave will be participating in the 5 pin bowling event. The OPP are pleased to support Dave and his dedication to his sport to ensure that he has

the financial ability to attend the Games. The OPP know that Special Olympics not only provide an opportunity to compete, but it also gives athletes a chance to develop skills, demonstrate courage and the chance to travel to a new community and develop friendships.

Anyone interested in helping to support the local "Adopt an Athlete" program can visit the Rainy River District OPP Detachment or go online to [www.specialolympics2012games.com](http://www.specialolympics2012games.com) and under the "Adopt an Athlete" program can search for individual fundraiser "Rainy River District Ontario Provincial Police Detachment".

Many local people know Dave because he has been a Special Olympic Athlete for many years. Anyone who has watched him bowl knows that his skill at the game surpasses many local league bowlers and his average

is higher than many. Dave, as well as other Special Olympians, have done the district proud and are real ambassadors for the program and for the community. We have had world champions come from the local program thanks to their dedication and the dedication of the coaches and the continued support of the OPP. Their annual Torch Run has for years raised money to help the athletes travel to regional, provincial, national and international events. For the size of this community to have produced so many wonderful athletes who have indeed done everyone proud, kudos must be given to many. So log on to the web site or visit the detachment to help the OPP with this latest program they have developed to help Special Olympians achieve their goals and congratulations and good luck to Dave.

### Running Horse Ranch hosts Motivate Canada Event



Darcy Whitecrow and daughter Serene on Lac La Croix pony.

#### By Marlene Deschamps

On Saturday, January 21, Rhonda and Kim Shoemaker hosted a Motivate Canada event out at Running Horse Ranch.

A bus load of 36 youth from Seine River First Nation arrived at the Ranch. Darcy Whitecrow along with wife, Dr. Kim Campbell helped bring the whole event together by working with Motivate Canada representative, Kathy Hare.

There was a BBQ after which the 36 young people got a lesson in riding and practicing for their trail ride from Rhonda inside the huge barn on their property. Rhonda said the kids were really fantastic. Many had never ridden before and yet they took to the idea, were very attentive and all got to ride. They went out in groups of twelve and although the weather was quite chilly, once they got on the trail in the bush, it was much calmer and warmer as they were out of the wind. Rhonda added that as much as the kids were enjoying the ponies, the ponies were enjoying the kids. She gave high praise to Darcy and his wife, Kim. She said they even had a former Metis boxer speaking with the kids. She also gave

kudos to Kathy Hare from Motivate Canada. She said the program provided the food for the BBQ and wiener roast held before and after the event. They also provided hats and mitts for the kids. Darcy is the go to person for events for First Nations youth and she looks to him as a volunteer who knows how to get things done. He added Motivate Canada also provided the bus driver, gas money and honorariums.

Rhonda was so pleased at the success of this venture and apparently so was Motivate Canada because they have support for the next 6 months to repeat the event and possibly run some other programs at the Ranch. The Lac La Croix ponies have such a history with First Nations in the area. Darcy said they are the main reason, First Nations went from the smaller wigwams to teepees. The people could not haul big logs for their homes but with the addition of the ponies, who are adept at hauling, hauled in much bigger logs and thus the teepee was born. He said that Rhonda and Kim have done something wonderful in bringing back from almost total ex-

inction, to now having 35 of the known 65 ponies that are left. And the herd continues to grow. Rhonda said that besides the ponies they did involve two of the Akhal-Teke horses and they were also great with the kids.

In speaking with Darcy you soon find out how committed he is to providing First Nations youth with positive experiences that include their heritage. His wife, Kim who is a Harvard Professor who has 30 years of teaching behind her and who has co authored language texts for the Sioux/Lakota language helped Darcy with developing different programs he volunteers to host. He is now in the process of applying for a grant to Motivate Canada so as to offer the event held at Running Horse Ranch to other First Nations Communities.

Rhonda heard many stories from people who remember the ponies and their role in their communities in the past. She always enjoys hearing about these very special ponies as they make her and Kim more confident that their decision to save and bring them back was the right thing to do.



Prior to going outside, riders saddle up and receive some lessons inside the arena.

### Fort Frances Community Chest Dinner to be held February 12

#### by Marlene Deschamps

The Fort Frances Community Chest will hold its annual fundraising dinner on Sunday, February 12 at La Place Rendez-Vous. Cocktails will be at 5 pm

followed by dinner at 6 pm. Tickets cost \$35 each or \$300 for a table of 10. There will be an auction and anyone wanting to donate an item for the auction can contact Linda Hamiton at

274-3221 or Joelle Blanc at 274-7008. Tickets are usually sold out quite early so if you are planning on attending please contact Linda or Joelle to reserve your chair or your table.



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