

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Running Horse Ranch rescues another Lac La Croix pony



Brittany Veillieux brushing Tatonka's mane.

By Marlene Deschamps

The latest acquisition at Running Horse Ranch is a stallion named Tatonka. Like several of the other Lac La Croix Ponies, this one was rescued and brought to the Ranch to become part of the Lac La Croix Pony Project. He was from Heaven Can Wait Rescue Centre and was discovered at a shipping auction and came very close to being destroyed. He is an important genetic necessity since there is only two remain-

ing bloodlines, and he is one of them. As shown in the picture he is also a real charmer as he let Brittany brush his mane and later lead him on a leash around the barn area. These ponies enjoy and thrive when they are around people, especially younger ones. They also thrive on working and love having a chance to haul things around. On Sunday, there were five adults and one soon to be teen who hand fed the group and walked around them and took

pictures. When anyone started to walk away the ponies just followed them and several times one found themselves surrounded by the ponies but in no danger whatsoever. You could pet them and stoke them and if horses could talk, you were sure they would say "more".

With another foal expected in a few months, this is a real positive for this unique breed of Canadian horses that were in

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Up, up and away they go



Staff

The sun streamed down, the breeze was gentle as they looped the loop, dove and soared. It was a wonderful weekend for Rainy River's annual air show.

The Rainy River Fun Fly/Fish Fry is hosted by the local club, the Rainy River Internationals, on the third weekend in July every year. The turnout is always great as pilots, who often plan their summer holidays around the event, arrive from Thunder Bay, Mankato, MN, Portage la Prairie, Kenora, Steinbach, Baudette and Atikokan.

Word spreads among enthusiasts and there are always new people joining in. The camaraderie is instant. Everyone has something big in common; a love of flying model airplanes.

Dennis Poulin of Thunder Bay, pictured above, was new this year and he enjoyed it so

much he said he'll definitely be back next year. He brought four of his planes to fly. The one pictured above is a one third scale CAP 232 aerobatic plane. It was valued at about \$3,000.00.

There were 37 pilots this year with 100 planes. Bill Haggarty, with our local club, said that was down a bit from previous years but that is likely due to the economy as well as the fact that the Americans now must have a passport. Three years ago there were 59 pilots at the event. That included a professional, performing pilot from Mankato who paid to fly in Rainy River.

Each pilot flies for about half an hour then sits back to enjoy a gab with the flying fraternity and watch the antics of the next guy.

"It's a friendly group", Kevin McLean said, "we're like family."

Saturday night everyone enjoyed about 45 pounds of Walleye at the traditional fish fry and bonfire. Lots of baking and goodies are also offered along with flying fibs and exaggerations. This group really knows how to have fun.

The sport can run into big bucks as a jet engine unit can go as high as \$20,000.00. But it doesn't have to be. One can start out for as little as \$200.00. Training is essential to begin and our local club, consisting of Bill Haggarty of Rainy River, Kevin McLean of Baudette and Lenny Moen of Morson, have lots of skill and experience to get a novice well on the way.

This is an event well worth watching. It is exhilarating to see what skill can make these planes do. Just like watching fireworks, the oohs and aahs are automatic.

RR Railroad Daze photo contest winners

Contestants chose a scene and a season depicting our wonderful life on the shores of Rainy River.



"Spring" by Corey Dyck



"Summer" by Chalina Abraham



"Fall" by Corey Dyck



"Winter" by Linda Budreau



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