

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, 303 Fifth St., Rainy River, ON POW 1L0 Ph. 852-3815, FAX 852-1863, e-mail: westendweekly@tbaytel.net - Serving the District for over 19 years VOL. 19, NO. 14 Wednesday, July 20, 2011
If you ever forget to pick up the paper, read it on line at www.westendweekly.ca

17th Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship
runs July 21st -23rd. There is a great schedule of events including weigh-ins taking place at the Memorial Sportsplex. Final weigh-ins slated to start at 3 p.m. Saturday.

8th Lac La Croix pony born at Running Horse Ranch



Taansa, one week old is the newest addition.

By Marlene Deschamps

Took a trip out to Running Horse Ranch during my holidays to both visit family and to see how the ponies were doing. Rhonda had just returned from a trail ride with two other ladies. Her folks, Jane and Herb Snow were also there to help out with all the chores that need to be done when you are running a ranch. Rhonda said they saw some small fawns during their ride and they were with the does and not afraid of them. Note the picture I got of a fawn laying in the grass on the property which also doesn't look too concerned of having it's picture taken.

The eighth pony was born just the week before my visit. Unlike the others born there who all have Ojibway names, this one is call Taansa which in Cree means hello. They decided to do this because when their daughter, Angela Snow/Shoemaker was doing research in Saskatoon she spent two days with an Elder. He told her that the ponies were also in their area and they were called Manitou Spirit Horses. Thus, the reason for the Cree name for this latest addition.

Because Rhonda hasn't been well over the past while, a lot of the work on the ranch has fallen to Kim. He has done a lot of work in the big barn. There are stalls, tack rooms and a classroom area to provide area residents the opportunity to come

out and be able to learn valuable life skills with the horses being the teachers. The ponies have been busy also with trail riding, hauling wood, pulling sleighs, taking part in endurance races and parades and participating in the teaching courses. They are very people oriented and get along with most everyone they meet. Rhonda has built a cabin with posts and corrals at the Wawsaw sight and this is providing a unique adventurous trail ride that is available.

Rhonda and Kim have been hanging on to their dream because of all the help they have received from family, friends and people who are also involved with horses in one way or another. Dave and Jan Halvorson offered part of their farm for some of the ponies so they have enough grazing space. David, Maxine, Darwin and Leesa Hayes have also supported them along with Hieki Lampi, Mamie Herdman, Angela Halverson and Kathy Pollander. Rhonda said they could never have done all they have done alone and they really appreciate the great neighbours and friends they have. Right now they are busy with haying and the haybine broke down and is being repaired but they are hoping to get back to haying pretty soon.

Footnote—since I visited, another pony was born, this one silver in colour. Since it was

born to a mare that hasn't been able to carry full term before, they will name it Meegwich which means thank you in Ojibway. This makes a total of 9 ponies born on the Ranch and what a great thing this is considering that the Lac La Croix ponies were on the brink of extinction. Kudos to Rhonda and Kim, their family and all those helpful friends that you are preserving these terrific ponies. You might want to check out their classes so you and your children can learn all about the Lac La Croix Ponies. That's Running Horse Ranch. 274-9216.



Not far away and not far from the same size, another baby is spotted and is not the least bit shy of the camera.

What's happening? Lots!



Dot Wiersema and Susan Armstrong as wives of CN Alumni were busy at the 'Fishing for Doctors' fund raiser on Friday, July 15 at Railroad Daze. Manned by CN Volunteers and their families, with all the walleye graciously donated by Big Grassy First Nation the event raised over \$2,500.00 in support of the Rainy River Locum Housing Project.

by Jack Elliott

In the last month a number of landmarks have been achieved on our Rainy River Locum Housing Project.

The final initial public information session was held at Bergland. Over 50 residents attended the very positive forum where once again details of construction and the need for Rainy River House were discussed in depth. Thank you to Joanne Moen, Pat Giles and Dr. Singleton for their organization. It was announced a

recruitment committee has also been struck to help fill the permanent doctor position left vacant by the recent resignation of Dr. Chu.

Over the last week Big Grassy First Nation, Lake of the Woods Municipality, Dawson Municipality and The Town of Rainy River have finalized their participation in the Rainy River House project with an official agreement. Purchase of the property is in the final legal phase, and a ground breaking ceremony will be held within

days.

Fund raising is coming along well with the mailing of the information sheet and pledge forms to all residents of the west Rainy River District this past week. Many have been filled in and returned and an update on the fund will be announced next week. The 'Fishing for Doctors' fish fry sponsored by current and retired CN employees during Railroad Daze on Friday, July 15 raised over \$2500.00 through ticket sales. Contributions from the CN Railroaders in the Community, a CN program recognizing volunteer efforts of CN Alumni, will add additional substantial dollars over the year.

"I would like to thank all the guys and their wives for their grand response to the 'Fishing for Doctors' event. And I would particularly like to express our heartfelt thank you to Big Grassy First Nation for their generous donation of all the walleye for the fry. It was delicious!" stated Vaughn Murray who was instrumental in getting his fellow CN comrades together.

So watch for activity in the coming days on River Ave west as Rainy River House moves from a dream to reality.

Rainy River Railroad Daze

By Marlene Deschamps

Rainy River Railroad Daze had something for everyone who either lived there or travelled from the surrounding district or further to enjoy the great show Rainy River always puts on for any event they have. From the kick off event which was a Senior's Picnic featuring local band Hwy 621 to the Culturama Show to the great baseball games, farmer's market, classic car show and fish fry everything went like clockwork. No matter what your interests, there was an event for you to attend. The model air-

plane show on Burns Road is always a popular attraction and again drew a good crowd.

The Saturday night dance held at the dock was a huge success. This is the second year featuring a CCR cover band from Winnipeg and they are very well liked in this area. Although alternate locations were set up in case of rain, even Mother Nature smiled on Railroad Daze as the weather stayed warm and sunny and rain free. Children enjoyed the Inflatable Bounce House as well as watching games and

eating lots and lots of treats.

The weekend came to a close with the annual cardboard/duct tape boat race and it was obvious that a lot of the contestants deliberately flipped their boats into the water to combat the incredible heat! This is always a popular event and as usual was well attended.

It was a great weekend that saw Rainy River residents welcome everyone to their great summer celebration.

In the immortal words of John Fogarty of CCR - "People on the river are happy to give"!

Defending champs take a dunk, beat out by ducks



Defending their title in the adult division of the annual Railroad Daze Cardboard Boat Race, Mark and Colin Pich are off to a somewhat shaky start.



Alas, our heros' craft sinks and they take a refreshing dip. They'll be back next year!



Theme champ duct tape ducks Mitch Haw and Alexis Sharp easily take the lead as the brothers struggle to remain upright and afloat.



And the winners over the finish line. Ducks can fly and ducks can swim but who knew they can build and paddle too!



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