

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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RR Railroad Daze brought friends from near and far



One of the highlights of Railroad Daze is the Cardboard Boat Race. All ages compete and exercise imaginative design creativity to come up the a craft capable of a non-sinking, speedy, victory. The boat pictured at the top left, with the crew paddling furiously, is the Desrosier Dragon manned by brothers Mark, left, and Colin Pich who are both from Winnipeg. They have been competing since 2004 and this time they finally won the adult division!



Howie Hampton, MPP and John Rafferty, MP were also on hand for the festivities and took time out to present Legion President Gerry Marchuk with a Lifetime Membership to the NDP Party. They also enjoyed meeting friends and constituents at the Legion Steak Fry.

Royal Bank presents picture for Teen Centre



Pictured from left Murray J. Walberg, Regional Vice-President, Northwestern Ontario, Susan Carmody, Heather Johnson, Manager of local Royal Bank Branch presenting Mark Kowalchuk with picture for Teen Centre, Lisa Plourde, Rob Johnston, V.P of Sask/Man/NOW..

By Marlene Deschamps

Dignitaries from the Royal Bank along with local manager Heather Johnson and two employees were on hand at the new Fort Frances Library and Tech Centre to present Mark Kowalchuk with a picture to hang on the wall of the Teen Centre area. The Royal Bank donated \$25,000 dollars toward the Teen Centre section. The furniture is bright and modern

and the color green is prominent. There is a coffee maker set up and the lamp is very modern and looks high tech. The south area of the Centre is all windows so although the space is not really big it appears so because of all the light. There were teens busy using their special place in the new library and it has been so since it opened. The Regional Vice President, Murray

Walberg along with Rob Johnston Vice-President for Sask/Man and Northwestern Ontario were very impressed with the Teen Centre and the new Library. Mark Kowalchuk took them on a tour after the presentation of the picture and the photo ops. They were extremely impressed with the new Fort Frances Library and Tech Centre.

Our visit to the Wildlife Sanctuary was an unforgettable experience



Six month old fawn, Chevy is still being bottle fed, and like all little ones, enjoys sucking on fingers.



Mike Scheibler watches on the left as Marg Jessome gives Blondie a big sticky donut.

By Marlene Deschamps

After hearing about Isaiah X1 Last Days Wildlife Sanctuary and picking up a brochure at the Ontario Tourist Bureau, I call Michael Scheibler and asked for an appointment to view the sanctuary and see the bears. I brought three friends along who were also interested. One of them was Marg Jessome who really wanted to get up close and get pictures of bears. She found them fascinating. She got the thrill of her life when she not only got to see bears up close but got to feed one of them. She said although she was still a little bit apprehensive about the black bears, when she saw Blonde, the big cinnamon bear, she felt very comfortable approaching him with instructions from Mike on how to do this. She cited the day as perfect and said when she looked into the warm eyes of Blonde, she felt very comfortable in getting close enough to hand feed him donuts and even a hand full of peanuts. She added that when Blonde took the peanuts from her cupped hand he was very gentle and made sure none of his teeth even touched her. It is quite a sight to see such a large bear eat so daintily from human hands. Both Marg and Mike were kneeling before Blonde while feeding him. When I walked around to the back of

them, he just looked up with those big warm eyes, noted I was no threat and ignored me as I took many picture of this wonderful experience. Blonde's mate is Flicka and they have two cubs which have been named Hannah and Montana. There is much more to see at the sanctuary but this was the highlight of the afternoon. Blonde is nine years old and showed up at the sanctuary about three years ago. Slightly, but only slightly, less thrilling was being able to bottle feed and pet Chevy, the 6 month old fawn that Mike rescued. The doe who gave birth to her abandoned her because she was born with deformed back legs. With lots of tender loving care and prayers, Chevy's condition improved and one would never know there was anything wrong with her. She jumped, ran and cavorted around the yard all the while we were there. She was bottle fed by both Lorraine and Marg and it was very amusing to watch this fawn and realize what a little smarty she was. She took one bottle from Lorraine and immediately turned to Mike because she knew she always got two. That's when he handed the other bottle that was prepared and hid behind his back to Marg and little Chevy got her second bottle. She approached

all four of us visitors to get attention and lots of petting. We all would have liked to take her home with us - she was such a delight. The amazing thing about the sanctuary is that there are no fences and the bears, deer, raccoon, fox and exotic birds are free to roam wherever they please. Mike said that although there has been a special connection with the 53+ bears that inhabit the sanctuary, we might have to wait awhile to see any because they have been busy gorging on berries. But we were lucky enough to see quite a few anyway. It was really neat that they took time out of their berry gathering to come and view us humans. The first bears we saw were Otis and Milo who are twins just over two years old. Mike feeds the bears dog food, apples, donuts and nuts. They love strawberries but won't eat the commercially grown ones and he said he even saw them eat a strawberry shortcake and spit out the strawberries. But they do love the wild ones. Next up to get his food was Big John. Big John commands a lot of respect and at three years of age, he knows he is important. He strolls up to Mike for food and Milo and Otis just fade away into the background until he gets his fill. The last one

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