

# 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. 15 Wednesday, July 27, 2011  
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### St. Georges Ukrainian Orthodox Church still thriving in its 65th year



Father Gene Maxiuk stands before the sacristy inside St. George's.

**By Marlene Deschamps**  
St. George's Ukrainian Orthodox Church located on Third and McKenzie in Fort Frances was built in 1946. Although there was a real connection with the Ukrainian Hall where the church members held suppers, sales of delicious Ukrainian foods, language and dance classes, the sale of the hall will not see the demise of their cultural activities. The St. Anna's Ladies Group is still active and they will meet in the church hall located in the church basement and will continue to preserve their culture. The church celebrated its 60th

anniversary in 2007 and is now in its 65th year. The founding members of St. George's were some of our most active citizens in our community's history and its progress. Walter Andrusco was one of those members and there aren't many older Fort Frances citizens who didn't enjoy all the times he led the Town Band and they played regularly at the band stand at Pithers Point as well as participating and usually leading the parades down Scott Street. Walter is now 104 and still a member of St. George's.

St. Georges is expecting a

new priest to be assigned to the parish sometime in August as Father Maxiuk has been assigned to permanent post in Winnipeg. The congregation got together after services on Sunday, July 24th for a farewell luncheon for him and his family at the Rendezvous. He will be sorely missed and there was a lot of wet eyes during the luncheon. Most of the congregation felt he brought a lot to the church and anytime he was in Fort to hold services the small but beautiful church was filled with worshippers. He left big shoes to fill.

### Naicatchewenin Pow Wow to be part of upcoming documentary



**By Marlene Deschamps**  
Naicatchewenin (Northwest Bay) First Nation held their annual Pow Wow July 22-24th. The participants increased by quite a few from last year as there were slightly over 300 dancers and 9 drum groups who participated in this year's event. There were also 24 different drum groups. They travelled to Naicatchewenin from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Minnesota and from all over Northwestern Ontario. Besides the dancers in their beautiful regalia, and the drumming, people had the opportunity to visit the many different food and craft vendors that were on site. Elder Gilbert Smith opened the Grand Entries held Friday evening and 1 and 7 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Clarence White was the emcee

for the Pow Wow. Gary Smith, one of the organizers said that on Sunday evening they had a big special for all the children under 15 years of age. There were between 70-80 who attended and they all received monetary prizes along with school supplies as well as a new bike for one of the girls and one of the boys. Gary said this was how the committee honoured them. They also had a special event for the elders (anyone over 55 years of age). After some discussion on how many children, especially very young ones now participate in Pow Wows, Gary said this was because more were being raised in their culture and have learned to dance almost from the time they learned how to walk. He said this is a good thing as they are the pride of

the nation. Wayne Anderson from 7 Generations was on site filming the Pow Wow for a documentary. He had with him a young woman who is in her second year of a Film studies and production program. Gary said the purpose of the documentary was to show the evolution of the Pow Wow. Dancers and singers were interviewed and they explained the different styles of dancing. They also showed how it evolved with the participation of more women and children. The dancers were wonderful, the regalia was breathtaking, the drumming was outstanding and the children who danced were delightful. They are such a joy to watch and they brought smiles to all those who were watching, especially the elders.

### Community television in Fort Frances is a joke - but no one is laughing

**By Marlene Deschamps**  
There are many, many people who have expressed their disgust at the level of coverage on local events on the local TV station. This is because there is little or no coverage of these events. When Randy Thoms was so rudely let go and everyone was told local coverage would be done by staff from Kenora, people couldn't believe it. Last year some did come down and cover the Bass Championship and there was a brief (very brief) program on the candidates for the federal election but they did not even stick around for the debate held at the Civic Centre. This was not the case for the debates held in Kenora or Dryden. Our Town Council meetings which are suppose to be broadcast are even hit and miss and until recently the sound quality was so bad that even if you could see them you couldn't make out what they were saying. Over the Christmas holidays everyone was treated to the Kenora Bass Championship parade of boats at nauseum. We are inundated with ads about the upcoming Bass Championship in Kenora but Shaw pulled it's support for the 17th annual Bass Championship in Fort Frances. To rub salt in the wound, while it was taking place all you could watch on our local channel was repeated coverage of the recently held Walleye Tournament in Dryden. A trusted source said Shaw even contributed around \$10,000 for the grand prize. At any given time you can also see the same event on the Kenora TV channel. This is the channel

Shaw switched everyone to instead of CTV Winnipeg which many people watched. So the community of Fort Frances is bombarded with Kenora news on two different channels. Thanks a lot Shaw. The only regular community program available is the Lion's TV bingo which doesn't run in the summer. Even they had problems because they were given a shorter time at a higher cost. Shaw also graciously switched our American channels. We no longer get the stations from Duluth or Minneapolis. Many have friends and family in that state and it was also heavily relied upon for weather reports, especially if there was tornado activity that may affect the area. Now we get our American news and weather from Michigan and Illinois. This is very frustrating as their weather does not affect us and there is little if any interest if there was a fire or another murder on a particular street in Detroit. Were was Northwest Newsweek or Points North when the International Tug of War for Peace took place. This is an international event and yet what did you see on the local channel. Repeats of activities taking place in Kenora or Dryden. You can't even complain to anyone in Thunder Bay anymore because the offices have been moved to Winnipeg. The residents of Fort Frances pay just as much for services as Kenora or Dryden. Why then does the local (ha ha) channel not receive the same amount of coverage of events in their community as these two com-

munities. If and when I get the number for the person who handles complaints for local coverage by Shaw I shall print it so anyone who wishes to protest the way we do not receive local coverage can contact him/her. If this person is swamped with complaints maybe some one at the head office will take notice and give Fort Frances back their local community station. When speaking with Mayor Avis on a letter requesting support for Shaw in their license bid with CRTC, he said he did could not support them and let them know that he would not. It may benefit a decision about local community TV if the person who makes these decisions is required to visit Fort Frances, sit down in front of the TV and see what we actually see, and then try to sell us on the idea that theirs is a better service since there is no longer a local reporter and this is left to the staff from Kenora. Bring aspirin, coffee and a good book to read so you don't fall asleep during the programs from British Columbia, Winnipeg and elsewhere that are repeated several times a day for several days. Mayor Avis provided us with the name of the person who contacted him for the town's support in the renewal of their CRTC licence. Perhaps she would be the person that dissatisfied Shaw customers could contact to voice their disapproval of Shaw's lack of support for the Town of Fort Frances and our district: Shelly Wiseman, telephone 1-204-480-3575.

### Young children are now an important part of the Pow Wow



5 yr. Old Bryson Jordan



2 yr old Kylan Councillor

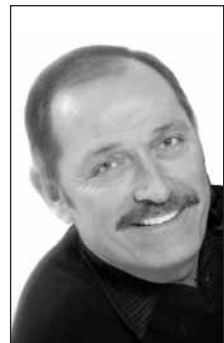


9 yr. Old Bryce Kejick from Shoal Lake

### The Dance Competition continues throughout the 3 days of the Pow Wow



Competitors dance for points and prizes are awarded to the top contenders.



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