

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. 22, No. 16 Wednesday, July 30, 2014
Serving the Rainy River District for over 23 years! Read us on line at www.westendweekly.ca. Check out the pictures on line. They are so good!

Tin Can Tourists complete a trip to Rainy River



Acting Mayor Ashley Stamler passed out bags of souvenirs to the visitors. In the background is a 1948 H.B. McGiness trailer.



A 1956 Ford pulls a 1962 Shasta Trailer. The driver, Don Boneham from Oak Point, Ill., said he's the oldest and slowest in the group usually travelling 60 to 70 km/hr.



A round of applause as the Acting Mayor takes her leave.



The driver of this vehicle travels with an Alien. On one trip everything that could go wrong did so the group decided the only explanation was that they were being followed by Aliens. They got their own Alien and it seems to have worked because the bad luck ceased immediately.



Soon after the departure of the Acting Mayor, Deputy Fire Chief Ashley Stamler arrived with a fire pit for them to enjoy complete with dry wood. "But be warned," she said with a wag of her finger, "I am on call!"



Several of the men lined up to have their picture taken with the Deputy Chief.

by **Jacquie Dufresne**

The Black Fly Caravan arrived on Saturday to culminate its journey down Yonge Street, Toronto to Rainy River. This enthusiastic group of travellers is part of an organization called Tin Can Tourists. It began in 1919 to unite fraternally all auto campers who enjoy having fun with others. The particular group they are interested in

joining has planned a trip somewhere and off they go, exploring new sights and enjoying evenings of camaraderie.

A group of us arrived at 5:00 to welcome them with Rainy River Town Councillor Ashley Stamler who was formally attired in her role as Acting Mayor.

Everyone laughed and chatted

merrily about their travel experiences and Stamler told them all about Rainy River and it's people.

Rick Myer from London, ON is the organizer of the Black Fly Caravan division. Other members hailed from cities in southern Ontario as well as several locales in Illinois. They travel with an assortment of

colourful vintage to new trailers but all share the love of the highway.

Mr. Myer was quite impressed by the Acting Rainy River Mayor (the real Mayor was away on holidays) and insisted on calling her "Your Grace". He asked if she might consider a move to London as their mayor, Joe Fontana, is

currently spending a little time in jail and they could use a really good mayor. Toronto's mayoral situation was addressed as well but Stamler said no, she liked it here and, looking out at the river, he understood completely.

We could smell the aroma of Mulligan Stew brewing so it was time for us to bid farewell.

One of the travellers asked if they could build a bonfire with some of the wood that's washed ashore during the recent flooding. The Acting Mayor said no, but she "knew people" so would see what she could do.

As our welcoming group left the campground there was a hearty applause for the departing Acting Mayor.

Crowds pack the Big Tent at the 2014 FFCBC



Jeff Gustafson/John Peterson take First Prize



Jay Samsal gets a hug from his girlfriend Marne Brynn and his son after day one of the weigh-ins. He's from Kenora and has been fishing in the FFCBC since 2006.



Brian Harris, the Soundman, ensured the entertainment was heard by everyone. He also played for about three hundred kids who came out for the teen dance.

Photographers' showcase



This is one day old Harmony, born June 21st, 2014. Harmony is a Gypsy Vanner horse, a breed created by the gypsies in England to pull their caravans. They are known for their gentleness, colorful coats and extravagant manes, tails and feathers.

Photo by Melody Abbott, Misty Ranch, Pinewood, ON



Pro angler, Brandon McMillan from Clewiston, Florida talks to emcee Jason Gauthier about his first time at the FFCBC. He teamed up with local pro, Bryan Gustafson and brought in a 20-pound bag of bass on day one. They stayed in top spot for two days but a 17-pound bag of bass on day three wasn't quite enough to pull out the win. They ended up with a second place finish.

By: **Teresa Hazel**

Whether you were an angler or a spectator at this year's Fort Frances Canadian Bass

Championship, there was no shortage of bass and no shortage of fun. The tent was packed on Thursday night for

Quest for the Best and for the final day of weigh-ins on Saturday afternoon when Jeff Gustafson and his partner John Peterson were crowned champions of the Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship for the second year in a row with a 3-day combined weight of 57.18 pounds. Along with the glory of being named champions, they also took home a cheque for twenty thousand dollars.

After the prize presentations, it was time to party and Pop Rocks, an entertaining band from Minneapolis did not disappoint once they started to play for the huge crowd. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, they were late in starting but kept a crowd dancing until two thirty in the morning.

Gord Watson, who is stepping down as Chair this year

Story & pictures cont. on pg 2



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From l. Christina Vandermeer, Petri Bailey, Cameron Jolicoeur and Mitchell James-Foy were there to promote the MNR Stewardship Youth Ranger Program. They were displaying invasive species of fish and giving information about the program. Missing from pic. Ashton Dokuchie and Haley Beaudry.



"Plenty of fish at the FFCBC!" – From l. Trevor Anderson and Dan Seckora from Eau Claire, Wisconsin and Connor Berton and Jeff Engstrom from Kenora have a refreshment after day one. They are both first-time teams to the FFCBC. "We're team awesome", quipped Seckora.



Jonah Homer, age 3, was down at the Sorting Gap watching the boats come in. He recently caught a big Northern at a kids' tournament in Nestor Falls two weeks ago. Watch for him in future FFCBC's...



Last year's 2nd place finishers, Karl Wolff and Ryan Hyatt were pleased to be in the top ten after day one. They went to 3rd place on day two and after parading through the tent on day three, they ended up in 11th place this year.

was happy with this year's event. "Everything went well. The angler portion went extremely well", he said, adding that there are definitely some areas that need some work and will require more involvement by volunteers to sit on the Executive committee. "We had more volunteers overall this year than the last four years which was great", noted Watson.

Cheers to the volunteers who made the 2014 FFCBC a success. After twenty years, the

main event of the summer is alive and well. The more people that get involved, the bigger and better our local bass tournament will be. Let's all support the FFCBC and make it the premiere bass fishing tournament in the Region for the next twenty years!!!

Top ten teams were: Jeff Gustafson/John Peterson (57.18 pounds); Bryan Gustafson/Brandon McMillan (56.96); Rene Cadene/Morgan Cadene (54.36); Dennis Barnard/Scott Gobeil (53.70);



"Be all you can be!" Master Bombardier Lynn Danielson from Kenora was at the FFCBC to promote the Northwestern Ontario Army Reserve. There are currently about 45 members from the Region involved in the reserve unit. Those who join go through basic training and are on reserve for the regular force. "One member has been to Afghanistan", noted Danielson.



Volunteer, Shelly Gustafson was all smiles on day one as she updated the leaderboard that saw her son Bryan and his teammate take over top spot.



M.I.L.F. – Former local champions and brothers, Kent and Steve Ballan wear their M.I.L.F. t-shirts (Man, I Love Fishing) a gift from Steve's son. They were joined by Kent's son Gage and Steve's granddaughter Brielle.



LaVerendrye Hospital Auxiliary volunteers, Dixie Badiuk and Susan Robertson teamed up with FFCBC this year and sponsored a boat raffle.

David Doty/Troy Ostby (53.66); Troy Norman/Jay Samsal (51.79); Chad Johnson/John Janousek (51.32); Steve Sandberg/Scott Sandberg (51.29); Glenn Leroux/Trevor Zimak (50.85); and Jason Pavleck/Bill Walls (50.44).

Winners of the La Verendrye Hospital Auxiliary FFCBC Boat Raffle were: 1st prize (14' Lund Fury Boat with 30 hp Mercury Motor and Shorelander Trailer) – Daicya and Mike Munton; 2nd prize (\$1,000.00) – Holly Bruyere; and 3rd Prize (\$500.00) – Jim Krag.

For all the results, go to the FFCBC Facebook page or

check them out at www.canadianbass.com.



"The Dog Days of Summer" – Oakley, a tricolored Springer Spaniel came out to watch the weigh-ins.



"Friends reunite at the FFCBC" – Charmaine Saunders, Jan Ward and Lisa Calder get caught up during the weigh-ins on day one.



Pro anglers sport their sponsors on their trucks and boats.

Legion Chat

by Walter Wagner, Major Hughes Br. 54 president

Volunteering was alive and well on the Railroad Daze weekend. Hats off to the cooks, potato washers, servers, clean up crews and the colour parties. Kudos to a special crew who worked on cleaning up and replanting the Legion garden at the Town Hall. A word of praise to Janet Hughes and Jeannette Wolanicki for their contribution to the back breaking work on the garden.

There will be no General Meetings for the months of July and August.

It looks like we will have a new garbage bin by the end of the week due to the efforts of Glenda and Gary. Thank you!

There will be an Honour Guard for Walter Sandmoens service on August 2nd.

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