

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, Rainy River, ON P0W 1L0 Ph. 852-3815, FAX 852-1863, e-mail: westendweekly@tbaytel.net - Serving the District for 17 years VOL. 18, NO. 11 Wednesday, June 10, 2009
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It's a green light for the abattoir Dryden, Red Lake, Sioux Lookout Relays for Life raise over \$200,000

by Marlene Deschamps

The Rainy River District Regional Abattoir Inc. President, Steve Loshaw, made the announcement regarding the abattoir at their meeting on Thursday, May 28th. It has been a long time coming and there have been many detours and bumps along the road but the group's perseverance finally paid off.

Cold Box Builders out of Vaughan, Ontario were awarded the contract for construction and they will be using local sub-contractors as much as possible. They are hoping for a start date at the end of June and completion by the end of 2009. The plant will be provincially inspected but could be upgraded to federal standards down the road. It will operate as a not for profit business. The \$2 million, 3,600 square foot 'kill and chill' plant will be located at 26 Byng Street in Emo. Staff will be a manager and two or three part-time workers once it goes into operation. It is anticipated to slaughter 20 animals per week. The facility will handle

beef, pork, bison, elk, sheep and goats.

Funding for the project comes from FedNor, The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund and the Ontario Cattlemen's Association. The local portion of \$360,000 will be raised by RRDRAI. There are currently 108 members and about 900 animals committed. Membership is \$500 and producers who are members get a discount as well as those who have made animal commitments will get an additional discount as well as priority booking. Projected cost to slaughter a cow is \$140.

Steve Loshaw gave those attending the meeting a positive message in that he said they hoped that maybe there is some money out there and that people would like to help reduce the \$360,000 so that it was more manageable. He noted that the use of the facility when it is up and running it would promote local products and added that the district has gone many years without an abattoir and they have to use it. He also

wanted to praise the hard work and patience of the board and the membership. He acknowledged the RRFDC and Geoff Gillon, ag rep Gary Sliworski, Jane Gillon with the Ministry of Northern Development and mines and the townships of Barwick, Emo and LaVallee for their contributions.

Steve said membership is open to all, not only producers and they already have some non-producer memberships as well as some financial contributions from those who support the abattoir. They welcome more as for every dollar they receive that mortgage of \$360,000 becomes a smaller amount. They also appreciate all the work Jeanette Cawston has been doing working with the Rainy River Cattlemen's Association. Their vision is to have branded "Rainy River Raised" beef in all the retail stores in the region. Judging from comments from the public they are ready and willing to buy local and just waiting for the opportunity.



Christie Dufresne was the top fund raiser in the Cuts for Cancer part of the Relay for Life event held in Dryden this past weekend. She raised \$2,560.46 and won a \$50.00 gift certificate from Wal*Mart and a \$300.00 gift certificate from Bearskin Airlines. Christie's team "Rednecks II" raised a total of \$5,228.27 and were the top fundraising team.

Christie is originally from Rainy River but now lives in Ear Falls. Her two ponytails are so thick they will easily produce two luxurious wigs for cancer patients. Her hair was shaved off by her sister Ashley Stamler who is also a fund raiser, having twice made the Polar Plunge in Fort Frances in support of the Rainy River Skate Park. Ashley was quite delighted to be able to shave her sister's head and not be in huge trouble for doing it. (A childhood experience remembered!)

Christie was followed on the hair shaving platform by her partner Kevin Thompson and his son Kole who took part in

the face painting before having his thick head of hair lopped off. Kole, only nine years old, raised \$715.00.

The Dryden event raised just

under \$54,000, Red Lake raised \$76,000 and Sioux Lookout raised \$72,000 bringing their district total to \$200,000.00.

Residential Taxes to increase by 1.1026% in Fort Frances

by Marlene Deschamps

During the Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, June 8th, a Public Meeting was held to have approval of the 2009 Budget. Council had attached materials and Dwayne Allen led Council through the budget with the level and amount of increase for the various categories. This was preceded by Jon Evans, BDO Dunwoody presenting the 2008 Consolidated Financial Statements and Management Letter. The results for the taxpayers of Fort Frances are a 1.1026% increase in residential taxes.

During Committee of the Whole verbal updates were given by G. Bell on current local projects and D. Brown also on current local projects. George Bell informed Council that they just had a meeting with Tom Jones, the contractor for Phase 11, which will see the Tower and Hallett moved to the waterfront by the marina area. According to Bell they have erected fencing at both - where the tower will be dismantled and where it will be re-located. He noted the bike path would not be blocked. They hoped to have the Tower removed by the end of June. He told Council there was a display in the Marina as to what the project will look like along with a brochure. He said the project should be completed by the middle of November. Doug Brown spoke as to the road construction and infrastructure rehabilitation taking place. Work already in progress is a bit ahead of schedule. He told

Council what changes would be made in order for the annual BIA Show and Shine to take place in the usual area. The cars will be displayed in the parking area behind the Post Office. He also said they will give Scott Street and Portage businesses 7 days notice for the Portage Avenue/Scott Street shutdown and it is hoped the work will be completed within a week. They are working with the BIA on this. As to the Portage Avenue underpass, they are expecting to hear from the CN within the next few days. The CN have had the 2nd set of soil anchor tests for over a month and the Town needs their approval for further work to proceed. The Town is still waiting on announced funding from the Minister of Transportation regarding the connecting link work to be done on a section of road in the east end. Although the importance of hearing about the dollars available in a timely fashion because of the shorter construction season in this area had been pointed out to the Ministry, they are still as Mayor Avis stated "in a holding pattern".

Council have set up a committee consisting of Councillors Weidenhoeft, Perry and Albanese and Mayor Avis to look at the Council Remuneration and Travel Expense Policy.

During the Council Meeting, the following by-laws were passed:

By-law 20/09 A by-law to amend an agreement of purchase and sale with 1621623

Ontario Limited.

By-law 37/09 - A by-law to approve a contract with Bay City Contractors (Thunder Bay) Inc. for reconstruction of portions of Victoria Avenue, Nelson Street and Portage Avenue (Tender No. 09-OF-03).

By-law 40/09 - A by-law to adopt the estimates of all sums required for all municipal purposes during the year 2009.

By-law 41/09 - A by-law to authorize capping parameters for commercial, industrial and multi-residential capped property classes and to establish a minimum tax level for certain eligible properties.

By-law 42/09 - A by-law to authorize the levy and collection of taxes for all municipal purposes in the Town of Fort Frances for the year 2009.

By-law 43/09 - A by-law to establish a percentage by which tax decreases are limited in 2009 to properties in the Commercial, Industrial and Multi-residential property classes.

By-law 44/09 - A by-law to authorize the levying and collection in 2009 of a special charge of taxes upon the Business Improvement Area.

By-law 45/09 - A by-law to approve a lease agreement with Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board and agreements with various partners for purposes of an outreach program at 1018 Webster Avenue.

Next regular Council Meeting will take place on Monday, June 22nd.

OPP respond to call for assistance at Young Offender Facility

On June 3, 2009 shortly after 6:30 pm., Fort Frances OPP officers responded to a call for assistance at the Ge-Da-Gi-Binez Youth Centre in Fort Frances, Ontario. The OPP Communication Centre received a call from the manager of the Youth Centre advising police that two Youth Centre workers had been assaulted by

youths who were in custody.

OPP officers attended the Youth Facility and assisted the young offender facility staff. The youths involved in the assault were arrested and an investigation ensued. Two workers who were assaulted at the centre received non life threatening injuries.

As a result of police investigation, one 18 year old male and one 15 year old male have been charged with assault. OPP continued their assistance to the facility by transporting all youths from the Ge-Da-Gi-Binez facility to another young offender facility in Thunder Bay.

Fort Frances Lions Club hold 2nd Annual Dand-e-Lion Festival

by Marlene Deschamps

The Fort Frances Lions Club's 2nd annual Dand-e-Lion Festival was held at Lions Park on Sunday June 7th. It was chilly but the rain held off so the crowd could enjoy a hot dog and pop or hamburger and pop.

The Lions also used the festival as another means of collect-

ing old eye glasses, hearing aids and old cell phones. Anyone donating any of these items were given their choice of a hot dog and pop or hamburger and pop.

Later on during the festival there were thirty plain bricks removed from the brick path leading up to the fountain so the bricks could be purchased by people to honour or in memoriam for a loved one. They usually lay about thirty bricks each spring. The bricks cost \$100 and are inscribed according to your wishes.

Anyone wishing to purchase a brick for next year can contact Luke Schill or Jeannie Fiset. Lions President, Jacques Fiset, had the honour of placing the bricks this year. Many people who purchased bricks were on hand and got to choose where the bricks were placed along the path.

The Fort Frances Lions Club who were chartered on June 6, 1964, continue to do great things for the community and continue to live up to their mantra "We Serve".

RRFDC hires new intern



by Marlene Deschamps
Rainy River Future Development Corporation has a new intern on board for the

next year. His name is Trevor Bonot. He is originally from Stratton and has been attending Lakehead University. He is done for now but hopes to return to university in the future. In the meantime Trevor has his plate full working on marketing and events for RRFDC.

Although Trevor will be helping out with events throughout the district and helping organize some of them, one of his main responsibilities will be to organize the Northern Network

Conference Fort Frances will be hosting in 2010. It has been close to ten years since the conference was held in this area. He will be working with Northwestern Ontario Development Network, the Chamber of Commerce from each area as well as other partners. The conference will be attended by persons from Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota as well as Northwestern Ontario. He will be working out of the RRFDC office in Fort Frances.



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Badminton season winds up in Fort Frances

The Badminton Club Youth Program held their wind-up/awards night at FFHS on Monday, June 1.

The night began with family badminton games. All the Jr./Sr. members played fun badminton games with each other and their families. Then, we headed to the cafeteria for pizza and cake. Everyone was hungry after the exercise and they all enjoyed the pizza slices and cake. The cake had a message on it, 'Excellent Badminton Season, Good Job!' and it was delicious!

Various awards were presented to the members by the head coach, Manami Alexander:

*Top 3 Players for Best Attendance: 1st-Taylor Whitehead(94%), 2nd-Kimika Alexander(92%), 3rd-Jordan Bruyere(87%)

*Jr. Challenge Ladder: 1st-Taylor Whitehead, 2nd-Anika Alexander, 3rd-Jordan Bruyere

*M.V.P.: Jr. I - Taylor Whitehead, Jr. II - Anika Alexander, Sr.- Rory Bagacki, Chelsea Carlson

*Most Improved Skill Awards: Jordan Bruyere(Overhead Stroke), Logan Fedorak(Long Serve), Cam Bowles(High Clear), Sarah Bagacki(Smash Shot),

Adam Taylor(Footwork), Celia Berry(Drop Shot), Tim Desjardins(Doubles Strategies), Kimika Alexander(Backhand Shot), Hannah Taylor(Drive Shot), Jillian Berry(Serve & Receive)

*Coach's Assistant Awards: Jamie Jensen(Best Coach's Assistant), Rory Bagacki(Most Improved Instruction), Kimika Alexander(# 1 Attended), Chelsea Carlson, Hannah Taylor and Jillian Berry each received a "Good Helper's Award."

The Outstanding Graduate Award was presented to Tim Desjardins as he was a member for 8 years and also qualified for OFSAA as a Muskie Badminton player in 2007, 2008, 2009.

Also, his parents, Darlene and Ken Desjardins received the first parent award from the club, 'Outstanding Support 1996 - 2009'. They were very dedicated and supportive parents for their children and the club for all those years.

Head Coach, Manami Alexander's notes:

Darlene and Ken put two of their children, Kenny and Simone, in our youth badminton program when we started in 1996. Since then the rest of their children also joined the program. Darlene and Ken were the most dedicated and supportive parents I ever had. They trusted me to coach and guide their children in the sport. Darlene took care of organizing snacks and lunches for our annual invitational tournament catering 100 some people along with her mother, Helen, and club members' parents throughout the tournament weekend. Their children were all focused on the sport they played and displayed in the practice and tournaments positive attitude and sportsmanship that influenced other Jr. members in the best way to guide them to be good athletes. It was more than a pleasure to have all of their children in the program and create many unforgettable memories. It is sad that Darlene and Ken's chil-

dren are done playing on my team after having been coaching them since 1996. But, Natalie continues to play in Thunder Bay and also help coach their local high school badminton team. That's what I would like to see from my former students. Spreading the seeds of badminton. I was taught by other coaches and students when I started to play badminton. I'm returning what I received from those people. I get excited when I hear my students are still playing badminton and helping others doing the same as I do.

We had a very successful season with our high school players, Tim Desjardins (Gr. 12), Rory Bagacki (Gr. 10), Kimika Alexander (Gr. 9), and Chelsea Carlson (Gr. 10) advanced to OFSAA as Muskie badminton team members in May. Jillian Berry and Hannah Taylor's girls' doubles team won the gold medal at NWOSSAA championships in Thunder Bay in April. Throughout the season, several other Jr. players from the club brought back medals from tournaments in Winnipeg and Thunder Bay. Those players recognized for their achievements were Anika Alexander (Winnipeg Jr. Open U14 Girls' Singles 2nd, Manitoba Jr. Open U14 Girls singles 2nd, NWO Open Ladies Open Singles 3rd and Doubles 1st), Kimika Alexander (Manitoba Jr. Open U16 Girls' Doubles 2nd), Tim Desjardins and Rory Bagacki (NWO Open Men's Open Doubles Cons. 2nd), Tim and Natalie Desjardins (Mixed Doubles Cons 1st)

The Badminton Club Youth/Adult Programs will have a summer break and start up the next season in September. The programs will include Jr. group for ages 8-13 and Sr. group for 14 and up including adults. Anyone interested in the badminton programs can call Manami Alexander at 274-3786 for more information.

Submitted by Manami Alexander

Loveday wheels around to break Ferris winning streak

by Anthony Leek

The weather was cool once again in the Rainy River District and it seemed throughout much of the day that the heavens were going to open up and force a cancellation due to rain. However, it turned out better than expected and even with the low temperatures, drivers and fans alike appeared for the third week in a row at the Emo Speedway.

There were some new faces at the track for 2009. Local driver, yet long distance traveler, Brad Loveday made his way to Emo due to rainouts almost everywhere else in WISSOTA country. John Hettinga returned to the WISSOTA Midwest Modified class for the first time this year. He ran a limited schedule in 2008 and was not able to start until July 19. Starting out much earlier this season, Hettinga was in top form for his heat race, winning it over Ken Anderson. Local driver, Rob Anderson made a return appearance for the first time since 2007. They were able to complete the car just in time for the evening's races but his night didn't turn out very well, finishing last in the heat and the feature. The Street Stock feature experienced a large boost in car counts as racers missing from last week returned. Compared to a total of five last week, this week saw the number more than double to twelve. Dean Martin returned to the scene in the Streets for the first time in 2009, but was unable to start the feature due to the lack of a spare tire. Wes Morriseau also returned from a one year hiatus and finished with a decent top five at the end of the night.

Attendance was similar to the previous two weeks in the WISSOTA Midwest Modified division as a total of sixteen cars were ordered into two heats of eight. In heat two, Dwayne Pihulak continued his dominance in the heat races as he flew past five cars to win over Kendal Gamsby and Christopher Leek. However, it was the feature that proved exciting. On the front row was long distance traveler Bill Reimer on the inside of town local, Christopher Leek. At the start, Reimer moved up high, causing Leek to move up the track to avoid a rub in between the two. A door was left open, and several cars slipped past the starters. The race soon became a battle of the veterans as Ken Anderson held the lead by about half a car length on Dwayne Pihulak. The race was close between the two of them, but there was some distance from second to third place where Chuck Lambert and Kendal Gamsby struggled to catch up to the speed demons. Pihulak was able to get beside Anderson a few times, but was unable to finish the job. Anderson crossed the line with the win, becoming the third different driver in as many weeks to win the WISSOTA Midwest Modified feature.

The WISSOTA Modifieds had a fair share of entertainment too. The twelve cars were split into two heats, with Brad Loveday winning the first heat and Dwayne Pelepetz drove around the track at full speed to win the second heat. In the feature, it was a Brad Loveday and Greg Ferris show. They proved during the entire race to be the fastest and the smoothest. While it seemed many of the

other Modifieds were falling off the track or at least having a tough time maintaining a solid fast groove, Loveday and Ferris made it look easy. The two cars pulled away with Ferris trying to play catch up. With one restart about halfway through the race, Ferris had his best chance to make a move on Loveday, but he was not quick enough to gain any position. The two cars kept at even distance about a car length or so apart and Loveday remained alert, running an almost perfect race. Neither driver missed a beat with the sheer speed of their cars getting the fans fired up. Ferris tried his best using as much as the track as possible to find a faster groove, but could not find enough to beat Loveday, ending his short, but sweet winning streak.

The Street Stocks had a high car count compared to last week with twelve cars appearing instead of last week's five. In the first heat, Scott Messner continued to dominate, as Jeff Wickstrom moved through the field to finish second. In the second heat, Don Bowman and Tylar Wilson struggled to gain a threshold on each other but Bowman held on through the corners to win it. The feature was a war of attrition as eleven started and only five would finish. Due to the invert, both Messner and Bowman started in seventh and eighth respectively. As the green flag waved, Messner and Bowman started to make passes to the front. Soon, there was a battle between Tylar Wilson and Messner, but bad luck plagued Wilson as his right rear axle broke right off and his tire flew across the track into a neighboring ditch, ending his night early. After the restart, the track was noticeably getting faster with every lap and Messner was clear of traffic with Bowman in second. The race was not over with surprises yet as rookie driver Linz Bourre lost some control of her car as a high flying Tyler Wickstrom drove towards her on the backstretch. Bourre could not hold on to the car and Wickstrom's rear tire drove over Bourre's causing him to fly in the air sideways and rollover in dramatic fashion on the track. Thankfully, as the ambulance rushed towards the damaged car, Wickstrom was able to get out on his own power and was checked by the paramedics. Bourre finished her night but found out later there was little damage to her car. The rest of the race was history as Messner and Bowman pulled away from the field. Messner received his second win of the season.

In the chase for the points, it is Greg Ferris in the WISSOTA Modifieds with a strong lead over Brady Caul, while Dwayne Pihulak and Dwayne Pelepetz are only a couple points behind second. But it is in the WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds where the points chase is the tightest ever seen in the class. Three-time defending champion, Kendal Gamsby is in the lead, two points above second place, Tridell

Champlin. Third, fourth, and fifth are tied three points behind the leader, while Chuck Lambert is in sixth spot, four points back. It is anyone's point race currently. In the Street Stocks, Scott Messner of Bemidji, Minnesota is seven points over Richard Visser. The two drivers share the wins so far this season in the division. It will be interesting to see what happens this weekend. The WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds has had some exciting racing with three different winners so far this season. As the summer draws in, car counts will continue to rise which will result in the opportunity of having many more different winners. On June 13, at the Emo Speedway, action heats up again with Car Rides during intermission! Visit www.borderlandracing.com for more information on events, ticket prices, and other up to date information.

SUMMARY

WISSOTA Modifieds Feature - Brad Loveday, Greg Ferris, Bill Witherspoon, Dwayne Pihulak, Brady Caul, Dwayne Pelepetz, Ron Korpi, Bill Reimer, Gary Wilson, Ken Anderson, Rob Anderson, Glen Strachan

Heat 1 - Loveday, Wilson, Pihulak, Anderson, Strachan, Witherspoon

Heat 2 - Pelepetz, Ferris, Caul, Korpi, Reimer, Anderson WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds

Feature - Ken Anderson, Dwayne Pihulak, Chuck Lambert, Kendal Gamsby, Brady Caul, Tridell Champlin, Bill Reimer, Christopher Leek, Steve Nordin, Matthew Mutz, Mike Wilson, Terry Martin, Rick Bourre, Anthony Visser, Andrew Trimble, John Hettinga

Heat 1 - Hettinga, Anderson, Lambert, Champlin, Nordin, Mutz, Martin, Visser

Heat 2 - Pihulak, Gamsby, Leek, Reimer, Caul, Wilson, Bourre, Trimble Street Stocks

Feature - Scott Messner, Don Bowman, Richard Visser, Chris Shine, Wes Morriseau, Trudy Shine, Jeff Wickstrom, Linz Bourre, Tylar Wilson, Daniel Hettinga, Tylar Wilson, Dean Martin

Heat 1 - Messner, J. Wickstrom, Visser, Martin, C. Shine, T. Wickstrom

Heat 2 - Bowman, Wilson, Morriseau, Bourre, T. Shine, Hettinga

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Graduation Announcement



The family of Caitlyn Friesen (Dyck) would like to congratulate her on graduation from the University of Lethbridge on May 29, 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts with Distinction and a Bachelor of Education with Great Distinction. Caitlyn and Charles will reside in Lethbridge, Alberta where Caitlyn will pursue her career as a teacher and Charles has started his own construction business. Congratulations to both of you, we are so proud of your hard work and dedication to both your fields of expertise.

vianet Public Notice

internet solutions June 8th 2009

Vianet Internet Solutions is in the process of erecting a communication tower for high speed Wireless Internet at the southeast corner of Highway 602 and Mutz Road. 48° 31' 43"N 93° 38' 58"W

A new tower will be erected to service customers south of Highway 11/71 in the La Vallee township to the Rainy River. There are currently no towers south of Highway 11/71 that would allow Vianet to supply service to the customers in the south La Vallee area.

Vianet Internet Solutions attest that the radio installation described in this notification package will be installed and operated on an ongoing basis so as to comply with Health Canada's Safety Code 6, as may be amended from time to time, for the protection of the general public including any combined effects of nearby installations within the local radio environment.

Vianet Internet Solutions attest that the radio antenna system described in this notification package is excluded from environmental assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

The tower being erected on private property will be a self supporting 3 legged tower between 100ft (30m) and 150ft (46m) with a base face of 4'5" and tapers to 1'5" at the top and will be equipped with an Anti-Climb panel. The antenna's being used will be low powered Tranzeo Antenna's in the 900Mhz and 2.4Ghz spectrums.

Vianet Internet Solutions is awaiting Transport Canada's decision on the painting and lighting of the tower and/or whether it will be required. If the tower requires painting and lighting a notice will be issued at that time. Questions or comments must be made in writing to Vianet Internet Solutions and will be answered when Transport Canada has reached a decision.

Vianet Internet Solutions attest that the installation will respect good engineering practices including structural adequacy.

General information relating to antenna systems is available on Industry Canada's Spectrum Management and Telecommunications website (<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/antenna>)

Closing date for the submission of written questions and comments is July 8th, 2009.

Send written questions and comments to:

Vianet Internet Solutions
Attn: John DuCharme
240 1st St. E. Suite 101
Fort Frances, ON P9A 1K5

Township of La Vallee
P.O. Box 99
Devlin, Ontario POW 1C0

Industry Canada
4th Floor
151 Yonge Street

Town of Rainy River

Project Labourer Employment Opportunity

The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River is seeking applications for labourer positions for the upcoming sewer lagoon project. Applicants should have experience operating heavy equipment. Applications must be received on or before 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2009. Application forms may be obtained by contacting the municipal office.

"Lagoon Project Labourer Position"
Town of Rainy River
Box 488
Rainy River, ON POW 1L0
Phone: 807-852-3244
Fax: 807-852-3553
Email: rainyriver@tbaytel.net
Web: www.rainyriver.ca

Please note, we thank all those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Personal information submitted will be used for the purposes of this competition only, in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

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