

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Rainy River to receive national praise for extraordinary efforts in its Relay for Life



Andrew Hartnell and sister Melissa Jenson announced the totals raised by the enthusiastic participants and sponsors in Rainy River's first Relay for Life. Pledges alone brought in \$44,090.00. Cuts for Cancer \$1,500, Sponsors \$3,200, Luminaries (418 in total) \$2,090 and other miscellaneous amounts brought the grand total to a whopping \$53,330.73. Melissa, Andrew and the rest of the committee should be extremely proud of their efforts.



Kim Gosnell, looking dashing in zebra, is shaved by local hair designer Danielle Levenec. Wally Hartnell, seated at right, loses his hair at the hands of Jamie Hartnell. Jamie has for years wanted to chop off Wally's long hair and finally got his chance.



Taylor Wiedenhoft, guest speaker and participant, raised the largest single amount at \$2,539.00. Taylor was diagnosed with Leukemia as a toddler. She is the granddaughter of Nibbs and Cheryl Kreger of Rainy River.



Rob Barkley, of Fort Frances, led approximately twenty-five cancer survivors who took the first walk around the Rainy River school track to some lively bagpipe tunes. The original goal of the Rainy River event was to enlist 10 teams and raise \$21,000.00. In the end, the 20 teams registered raised \$44,090 in pledges. Rainy River will receive high accolades by the Cancer Society during the Relay for Life Summit in Toronto.

Pony population on the rise



Wausiimo munching in the foreground, Makkons with Kim Shoemaker and the new filly Miigwahn.

By Marlene Deschamps

During a visit to Kim and Rhonda Shoemaker's Running Horse Ranch there was a chance to see the three newest LaLaCroix Ojibway ponies that were born recently. These three bring the total number of the herd to 24. What started out as an attempt to save the breed—one of only three breeds native to Canada—has turned into a real success. The Shoemakers started out with just four of the ponies some time ago and they, along with any more they have managed to save, are registered as the two pure blood lines of this amazing breed. The Shoemakers were pleased that this go around there was a filly born

because it insures the continuation of the herd. It becomes a bit of a problem when one has too many stallions. There is extra expense incurred because too many stallions in any herd leads to problems. These new additions, like the others, are very friendly and love to be noticed, petted and hand fed treats. The little filly is especially frisky and playful. The new ponies names and their mares are: Wausiim (lightening) out of Wawaashkeshi; Makkons (bear cub) out of Gia and Miigwahn (feather) out of Anikeshkage.

It is quite interesting that so many people recall memories of seeing or hearing of the

ponies in the past. Rhonda would like to compile a history of the ponies which include memories of what they meant to people in the area. Just one recollection was made by Dean Cunningham when he heard about the new ponies added to the herd. When he was in his 20's and working with a MNR fire crew up around LaLaCroix, he said he was walking through the bush hauling in some equipment when he heard some clomping noises behind him. The next thing he knew some of the ponies went galloping past him. He said although he was a bit apprehensive, they soon allayed any fears as they just gently brushed past him. He found out at that time that the ponies were used for all sorts of chores during the winter but were allowed to run wild during the summer. He mentioned he never thought of that encounter for years but mention of them brought back that particular memory. It is quite interesting that when the snowmobiles came along to make winter work easier the ponies were no longer used and just allowed to run wild which almost led to their total demise. That would have been a real shame. With all the protection for endangered species and animals in place today, the ponies would probably not have been totally destroyed to the point of extinction. How wonderful it is to know that didn't happen and how they are now thriving and are 24 strong thanks to all the hard work and unbelievable effort of the Shoemakers and their family.



Team Hartnell won the most points for all events held during the night. They are, from left, Brady Heyens, Teresa Caul, Frankie Redford, Healthier Anderson, Paul Heyens, Eleanor Wiersema, Phyllis Angus, Emily Duggan, Dorothy Lienenger, Donna Heyens and Jamie Hartnell.

Fort Frances budget passed

By Marlene Deschamps

During the regular Council Meeting held on Monday June 14th, By-law 35/10 was passed. This by-law authorizes the levy and collection of taxes for all municipal purposes in the Town of Fort Frances for the year 2010. The by-law was passed after the budget was passed and the budget saw Mayor, Council and heads of departments work long and hard to come up with a budget that provided continued services with a minimal tax increase. The increase this year for resi-

dential will be .81898%. The tax bills will go out next week with due dates being July 30th and August 31st. It is a tribute that while many other municipalities are seeing single digit and sometimes double digit increases to balance their budgets that is not happening in Fort Frances.

During the Council meeting the town passed a resolution to supply a letter of support for Pokey's Vans for Public Transportation.

Also during the meeting a resolution was passed to give

Volunteer Recognition to Paul Bock. Paul for many years has volunteered for many events in Fort Frances and was the person who worked so hard with his committee to provide Fun in The Sun events and fireworks. His involvement will be sorely missed. At the next regular Council Meeting, the Town will present Paul with a print of some local landmark to remind him of the Fort and the people here who really appreciated all his efforts. The next regular meeting is slated for Monday, June 28th.

It's Back!! The Schedule You've Been Asking For!

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