

# The Westend Weekly

## Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, 303 Fifth St., Rainy River, ON P0W 1L0 Ph. 852-3815, FAX 852-1863, e-mail: westendweekly@tbaytel.net - Serving the District for over 19 years VOL. 19, NO. 9 Wednesday, June 1, 2011  
If you ever forget to pick up the paper, read it on line at [www.westendweekly.ca](http://www.westendweekly.ca)

### Activity on the Rainy River Locum Housing Project is proceeding rapidly

by Jack Elliott

Following an extremely successful initial fund raising event held in Rainy River on May 14 that brought committed funds to near \$145,000.00, the Main Committee has been forging ahead with the logistics required to bring the project to fruition and will have a status update in the coming days. Keep up to date with the progress of Rainy River House by visiting [www.rainyriver.ca](http://www.rainyriver.ca)

The Fund Raising Sub-Committee has not been resting on its laurels either. A number of proposals to public and corporate sector sponsors have either already been submitted

or will be in the next days and weeks. Again we expect to have some exciting news on that front shortly.

RailRoad Daze will also feature events and announcements focusing on the future of health care in our community.

Plans to have the Rainy River Locum House well under construction and closed in prior to freeze up are still the goal... and it better be because we are going to need it. In association with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine we expect to host a medical resident (with a young family) here commencing Dec 1, 2011 for a four month stint. A resident has

completed medical school and is completing their final apprenticeship on their way to becoming a practicing Family Physician. NOSM residents were recently ranked top of Canada's 17 medical schools in overall performance, and achieved a 100 percent pass rate. Our communities' commitment to facilities like Rainy River House is one of reasons we were able to attract this and future candidates to our area. The kind of professionals we will need to attract to this community in the years to come

Let's build and keep our communities strong

### Lawrence A. Eustace re-elected as bencher on the Law Society of Upper Canada



by Marlene Deschamps

Fort Frances Lawyer, Lawrence A Eustace was first elected as a bencher on the Law Society of Upper Canada on September 24th, 2009 and has just been re-elected for another two year term. This is a great honour and a verification of Larry's (as everyone calls him) skills.

"There's not a more conscientious and committed spokesperson for the profession than Larry. He brings to the table valuable insight into the issues facing lawyers, and has represented the needs and concerns of the profession in a way that resonates with lawyers today. "Larry has been an invaluable addition to our Board, and an asset to CDLPA and the profession" states Michelle Strom, then President and CEO of LAWPRO. Closer to home kudos come from Clare Brunetta who says "The entire local bar association is pleased. Larry has served a long time in different capacities and it is great to see a local bencher who represents the interests of all lawyers in Northwestern Ontario. There are factors that apply to the area that are somewhat unique and Larry makes them aware in Toronto of those factors. Since benchers are elected from lawyers across the province you have to do the job right to get re elected. It is obvious that those who worked with him recognize his contribution and service to re elect him. I am so pleased". Atikokan Mayor, Dennis Brown, said "I have had the privilege of working with Larry for about 25 years. He has a tremendous knowledge of Northwestern Ontario, the law and economic development. During his years as Atikokan's lawyer, Larry has gone on trips at his own expense to check out a business venture. There is no better person to have as a

bencher than Larry and I am so pleased to see he is re elected because he is a great person."

The Law Society of Upper Canada held it's elections on April 29 to elect 40 directors from a list of 106 candidates. Eighteen of the 40 elected benchers are women, tying the 2007 result, which was the highest number of women ever elected. 15,592 lawyers voted in this election representing 37% of the profession. Ontario lawyers elected 40 benchers, 20 from inside Toronto and 20 from outside to sit on the Law Society's governing board—referred to as Convocation. When checking the website to find out just what a bencher was, one finds that the Law Society of Upper Canada is governed by a board of directors who are known as benchers. This board includes lawyers, paralegals and lay persons. Benchers gather most months in a meeting called Convocation to make policy decisions and to deal with other matters related to the governance of Ontario's paralegals and lawyers. The chair of Convocation and the head of the Law Society is the Treasurer. The staff and day-to-day operations of the Law Society is overseen by the Chief Executive Officer and a senior management team. This is quite a lofty group and at the last Convocation (meeting) Larry was the only who spoke about an issue that the Society had already been working on. He said that when female lawyers try to re-enter the field after being away for whatever reason they have a very difficult time. Larry requested they re visit the plan and expand it because it was inadequate and his fellow benchers agreed so they will be doing further work on this. As Larry said, there is usually no problems around this issue in smaller communi-

ties but in Toronto it is really difficult for female lawyers to get back into their field. Larry is know as someone who speaks with wisdom and heart and that is probably one of the reasons he got re-elected. Larry explained that the benchers job is to regulate the profession in the public's interest. One regulation they have adopted is that there has to be a continuing minimum of 12 hours of education per year. He also acknowledged that he was pleased with all the support he got during his re-election campaign from not only across the province but also from Ottawa and Toronto. He presently serves on three committees and they are real estate law, access to justice, professional development and competence. He added that this position is multifaceted and he also works in finance and with the Lawyers Professional Endemnity Commission. He said you have to have commitment to get involved at this level because this is an unpaid post and you have to campaign to get re-elected. He jokingly said 'the cost for an ad in those Toronto papers is really high'. You also have to be away from your practice a certain number of days but he has managed to keep his practice and works around the times he has to be away. Larry mentioned that for the benchers in Toronto and surrounding area, they only have to drive into the city or in some cases walk a few blocks while he has to spent a good amount of time travelling to the Convocations.

During his tenure, Larry supported the recommendations of the Governance Task Force on Bencher Reform; encouraged consultation between Benchers and the profession in the decision making process on issues affecting the profession; understood the issues and the difficulties facing the profession and the public they serve and spoke to these issues; supported initiatives that promote better communication tools for the profession; advanced technology; legal education and legal research opportunities; enhancement of the public's image of the legal profession and recognition of the 'bread and butter' issues facing the profession. He was present with the Bicentennial Award of Merit by the Law Society of Upper Canada for meritorious contribution to public service in the community, and in recognition of his numerous accomplishments, which have worked to enhance the good works of lawyers in society.

Job well done Larry. Congratulations.

### Author Gloria Alcock holds reading at Fort Frances Library



Gloria Alcock with Frances Shelfandtook, local author.

By Marlene Deschamps

Gloria Alcock, the author of "Nurse at the Top of the World" held a reading at the Fort Frances Library on Sunday, May 29th. There was a small but very interested group that heard Gloria relate some of the lighter and funnier excerpts from her book. She also had with her a few of the artifacts she has kept from the years of nursing at the top of the world, close to the north pole. Gloria also had a fun weekend prior to coming to the library. For many years she was the Nursing Coordinator for the Northwestern Health Unit and visited the area many, many times. She had a chance to have lunch with some of her former employees in Emo on Saturday and they had a great time reminiscing.

After doing readings from her book for around an hour, Gloria asked those present if they had any questions. Well, we found out that Frances Shelfandtook, a 98 year old retired English school teacher has a book being printed at this time and will be available sometime this summer. Mrs. Shelfandtook taught for many years and was one of those teachers that all the children loved and over the years those children's children also had the same feeling for their beloved English teacher. When she retired she took the time to do family history research and got so much information that she decided to write about some of the people on that family tree. This first book will be called "Sophia's Journey" and the main character will be her grandmother. She already has a

second one in the works about her mother and said the family tree site has a wealth of information. She even took a computer course at the college to help with her work. Gloria was so impressed that they had a long chat and advice was exchanged. They found out the book was being competed by the same printers and Gloria let her know that they had done a great job for her. Gloria ended up giving her a book and signing it 'one author to another'. When Mrs. Shelfandtook wanted to pay for it, Gloria said that the payment she wanted was a copy of her book when it was completed.

There are copies of "Nurse at the Top of the World" available at Betty's in Fort Frances. It is a great, fun read.

### Hockey fans cheer as NHL returns to Winnipeg

By Marlene Deschamps

At 11:18, the official announcement was made that Winnipeg True North Sports and Entertainment had purchased the Atlanta Thrashers. There were loud cheers from the many people gathered outside the MTS centre and just a large roar from the 1,000s gathered at the Forks. The Forks was flooded with Jets fans, many wearing the Jets Jerseys from days past. There were even many playing a street hockey game and having a great time.

The Winnipeg Jets left for

Phoenix where they became the Coyotes. There were rumours that this team would be returning to Canada and hopefully back to Winnipeg but that wasn't to be. The True North Group have been working quietly over these many past months to purchase the Atlanta Thrashers that they knew were up for sale. Mention was made that part of the Jets problems remaining in Winnipeg was the Canadian dollar which was only worth 62 cents at the time, the state of the arena and no salary caps. Well that has all changed as our

dollar is par or over, the new MTS centre and salary caps are in place.

Gary Bettman, NHL commissioner said that this was a \$170 million dollar deal which had been finalized at 4 am eastern standard time. He spoke of True North's professionalism their perseverance and their persistence in making this happen. He also explained that this was part one and the final step was approval by the NHL Board of Governors which will have this on their agenda at their meeting on June 21st.

Winnipeg will have to start selling tickets right away to prove their viability and the target is 13,000 season tickets sold by that date.

Premier Greg Selinger welcomed the NHL home to Winnipeg. He said "It is great to have you back where you belong". He went on to say that it was a fantastic day for everyone in Manitoba and especially Winnipeg and gave thanks to all the dedication and commitment of the team of people who made this happen. He then told the crowd that his next step was

to buy his season tickets.

Jim Ludlow, president of True North welcomed everyone to Winnipeg-home of NHL hockey and said that there have already been 6.4 million people who attended events at MTS since it opened. It is ranked as the 3rd best venue in Canada and 17th in the whole world. He added he was very happy to kick off the drive for season tickets and announced they would be on sale to the general public at 12 noon on June 4th. There is a web site set up at [dri-veto13.com](http://dri-veto13.com) and announced the

price categories which are comparable to other Canadian NHL city prices. They even have a monthly payment plan people can access for season tickets. So now it is up to the hockey fans to purchase that magic number of tickets so they get approval from the NHL Board of Governors.

Congrats Winnipeg and a big thank you go to True North Sports and Entertainment. There is no doubt you will have fans coming from Northwestern Ontario to watch the Winnipeg Jets.

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