

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Dirt flies at Emo Speedway! Highlight of the year...Prom!



Tylar Wilson (#55) and Kendal Gamsby (#33) fight for position during a heat race at Emo Speedway. Both Wilson and Gamsby are feature winners in the WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds this season, Wilson winning on May 29th.

By Anthony Leek

Another beautiful weekend emerged at the Emo Speedway as the WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds, Street Stocks, and WISSOTA Modifieds took to the high-banked oval for the Amsoil Dirt Track Racing Series.

The evening started off with the traditional driver introductions, which took place in front of the grandstand with the cars and drivers in attendance coming out to introduce themselves and thank their sponsors, fans and volunteers for all their support. The fans then received ballots to decide who they thought was the Best Appearing Car in each class for 2010. The award will be presented to the lucky winners during the Annual Awards Banquet.

The WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds started off the evening once again. Split into two heats of six, the first heat had Kendal Gamsby starting out front and finishing at the front, beating fourth place starter Christopher Leek to the line. Anthony Visser rounded out the heat in third. In the second heat, Ken Anderson continued his consistency by winning with a bumper length advantage ahead of John Hettinga while Tylar Wilson finished third.

The Street Stocks started with their lowest car count of the year so far with only seven in appearance. Scott Messner took advantage of his low point average to take the win while Ron Westover finished second and Daniel Hettinga taking the third position.

The WISSOTA Modifieds, for the first time this season were split into two heats. Back at the track for the first time this season were veteran drivers Dwayne Pihulak and Jason

Anderson. In the first heat, Gary Wilson cleaned up against Pihulak, while Denny Trimble finished third. In the second heat, Dwayne Pelepetz narrowly beat Anderson in an exciting race.

The features were uneventful only in the fact that there were no wrecks, but there was plenty of speed and action on the track. The WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds went flag to flag for the first time this year. Starting on the front row was Tylar Wilson and Chuck Lambert. Off the get-go, it seemed Lambert was going to run away with this one, but Wilson stuck right to his bumper in second. On the fifth lap, Wilson made a move, got by Lambert and was passed back in the next corner. Wilson wasn't about to give up as he took another shot at the lead and held on for the checkered flag. Lambert stayed in second but seemed to be smoking a bit as the last few laps closed in. Anthony Visser and Christopher Leek rounded out in third and fourth, while last week's winner Kendal Gamsby finished fifth. After two weeks of bad luck and mechanical issues, Wilson took his first win in the WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds in only his third start of his rookie year in the Midwest Modifieds. Anderson continues to lead the standings by a slim margin over Kendal Gamsby.

In the Street Stocks, Scott Messner manoeuvred his way through traffic, making it three wide on several occasions, finally taking the lead and pulling away from the field. The race went green to checkered as well, with only one not finishing as Messner and Lindsay Bourre made some contact resulting in Bourre having a tire go down, forcing her to retire to the infield. Daniel

Hettinga, who started fourth, completed the race in second place once again, with Terry Martin in third. Ron Westover still claims top spot in the standings for the Streets.

The WISSOTA Modified feature was fast and furious with only a couple of cautions. Denny Trimble led the early going after starting on the front row beside Rick Bourre. However, within a few laps, Gary Wilson pulled himself up to compete for the lead with Trimble. The two were side by side for a few laps until Wilson established himself as the proven leader. It seemed that the race would be over as quickly as it started, but a caution flew just over halfway due to something broken on Glen Strachan's car. On the restart, Wilson proved to be the fastest by pulling away from the field. Once more the caution came out for Dwayne Pihulak in turn four. Dwayne Pelepetz had worked his way through the field from fifth to second spot. On the ensuing restart, Wilson and Pelepetz swapped positions until an interesting slide job from Pelepetz secured the lead and the eventual win. He also was having rear end troubles, which were more apparent when the right rear tire was rubbing in the corners, smoking up the track. This was Pelepetz first win in several years. Glen Strachan maintains his lead in the points with Wilson only two points back.

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone that has been coming out to enjoy stock car racing at the Emo Speedway! Next week is the Candy-man during intermission so make sure to bring the kids out. Please visit www.borderlandracing.com for more information on schedule, results, standings, and more!



Little girls at heart...Dana Drennan, Sam Brown, Jessica Roen and Chelsey Craig cool off in the water before the Prom Party at La Place Rendez-Vous.



Part of the fun is to arrive in style! Shaun Bullied picked up his prom date Jessica Roen in a really big rig!

Couchiching removes toll booth

"Our Community is claiming victory" says Chief Chuck McPherson, "we have received a commitment to relocate 8 home-owners from contaminated lands to newly serviced lots on our reserve, and also a commitment to negotiate suitable compensation for the highway claim."

After receiving a firm commitment from Minister of Indian Affairs, Chuck Strahl, the community has decided to remove the toll booth from the portion of Highway 11 they assert is their reserve land. A \$1.00 toll has been collected from over 14,000 vehicles travelling over the highway in the last 10 days since May 21, 2010.

"I am happy that no one has gotten hurt and that our community has done the removal of the toll booth very peacefully" stated Councillor Ed Yerxa who

was a fixture at the toll booth site just east of the Noden Causeway. "Community members have been on a constant watch of the toll booth since threats were made against the toll booth, our community and the toll booth operators." Many of the toll booth operators were young men and women from the community and strictly followed the instructions not to engage in debates with passing motorists or force those unwilling to support the toll booth initiative to pay the \$1.00 toll.

"We don't recommend this as anything but a last resort for First Nations," explained Councillor Sara Mainville, "our members have been ostracized by our neighbours in the Town of Fort Frances, there were incidents of blatant racism and overt hostility towards our cause. But, there is a 132 feet

on that highway that is legally ours and it was our strong belief that only direct action would bring the Federal Government to the table in a real way. Despite receiving strong assurances to deal with the highway, we were most pleased with Minister Strahl's firm commitment to move the homeowners now residing on contaminated lands."

With the toll booth initiative now a part of the region's history it is time to move towards efforts to deal honourably with land claims. "We joked at a recent community meeting that the next action is regarding Pither's Point park," stated Sara Mainville, "I don't think you'll find a more united First Nation community than Couchiching at this point in our history, taking away the toll booth is not going to change that."

Hallett Grand Opening



By Marlene Deschamps
 Although the Hallett and the Tower have been open for over a week the Grand Opening for the two tourist attractions will

officially take place during Tourism Week. These celebrations are just a small part of everything going on around town for this celebration. You

can check out the times and locations of all the events at the museum which has lots of great plans for a fun week for everyone.



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