

# The Westend Weekly

## Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, Rainy River, ON POW 1L0 Ph. 852-3815, FAX 852-1863, e-mail: westendweekly@tbaytel.net - Serving the District for 17 years VOL. 18, NO. 47 Wednesday, March 10, 2010  
If you ever forget to pick up the paper, read it on line at [www.westendweekly.ca](http://www.westendweekly.ca)

### Community Chest Fundraiser Dinner garners over \$15,000



Howard Hampton MPP with Diane Maxey, Guest speaker and Citizen of the Year.

by Marlene Deschamps

The Annual Community Chest Fundraiser Dinner held on Sunday, March 7th raised over \$15,000 once again. The sold out event is jointly sponsored by the Kiwanis, the Lions, The Legion Auxiliary, the Knights of Columbus, B93 Radio, Spirit of Christmas, Fort Frances Times and La Place Rendez-Vous.

Larry Cousineau was again Master of Ceremonies but this year he was ably assisted by Joelle Blanc. Joelle who said that the staff had all donated their time, along with some volunteers from the Muskie Junior Girls Volleyball team, called them all out to take a bow and receive a round of applause. She mentioned there were others who were not present but who had spend hours in preparation of the meal they were going to enjoy. She named Chef Nelson. One of those serving was also chosen to lead everyone in singing the National Anthem. This was Lauren Gurski. Father Francis Pudicherry was called on to say Grace.

There was a silent auction, draw prizes, ticket prizes and live auction all set up to raise funds for the Community Chest. These terrific prizes were all donated by businesses and individuals from through-

out the area. Door prizes and raffles were held throughout the evening. Everyone also got the chance to sing happy birthday to both June Keddie and Terry Higgins who were both celebrating by attending the dinner. June Keddie said she usually gets a table for her War Brides pals and the people she works with at the Hospital.

The Guest Speaker was Citizen of the Year and Volunteer Extraordinaire, Diane Maxey. Diane extolled the benefits of volunteerism and noted that among the young from 1999-2005 had more than doubled. She noted that many of the young volunteers continue volunteering throughout their adult years as well. She noted that you need good intentions, kind hearts and the ability to have these intentions turn into actions. She added that she is still humbled by being chosen Citizen of the Year but she is enjoying the opportunity to promote volunteerism on a regular basis. She told the crowd to treat their volunteers like gold because they do make a difference. Diane received an extended round of applause.

Next up was the live auction with several people coming forward to act as auctioneers. First off, because he had to leave

early was Howard Hampton and he raised a pretty penny for the two items he auctioned off. His auctioning skills were so good he ended up purchasing the second item up for bid himself. Fort Frances Lions President Jacques Fiset even dressed the part with a cowboy hat. He also brought a bonus item to be auctioned off. He had a 1913 Model T Ford—a collectors item that was purchased from E-Bay. Other auctioneers who did a great job were Gary Rogozinski, Jim Avis, Paul Noonan, Bruce Armstrong, Terry Higgins and Dale Fortes.

Proceeds from the dinner, March 2009 and Spirit of Christmas was \$16,786.00 and this along with funding raising and in memoriam donations totaled \$135,137.09 after being added to the opening balance of \$75,119.09. During 2009 there were a total of 110 cheques issued to individuals in need totaling \$72,153.03. The Community Chest makes a real difference in the lives of many people throughout the district and it is thanks to the sponsors, the volunteers and Paul and Diane Noonan and the wonderful staff of the Rendezvous that the Community Chest can continue to assist those citizens who really need their help.

### Roses given in recognition of International Women's Day



Alanna Fyfe receives rose from Mary Jane Wolfe.

by Marlene Deschamps

There wasn't any formal event to recognize March 8th as International Women's Day in the District, but volunteers with the Atikokan Crisis Centre did give out roses to women at various grocery stores throughout parts of the district. Mary Jane Wolfe who gave out the beautiful flowers at Safeway in Fort Frances is a student with the Native Child and Family Services Program at Confederation College. She is on field placement with the shelter in Atikokan.

According to the information sheet handed out, countries throughout the world have celebrated International Women's Day since 1909. It is an official holiday in China, Armenia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus,

Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. In some countries, this days sees men honouring their wives, mothers, girlfriends, colleagues, etc. with flowers or small gifts. In some countries, International Women's Day has the equivalent status of Mother's Day. The United Nations says "No enduring solution to society's most threatening social, economic and political problems can be found without the full participation, and the full empowerment, of the world's women".

There has been much progress made in regard to the status of women over the years,

but most realize more needs to be done and a good start would be to re-instate a female Minister responsible for a separate portfolio of Status of Women. With support there are no limits on what women can achieve and all society benefits from those achievements---case in point-the Olympics. Canadian women rocked and together with the men won more gold than any other country at any other time. Great things are accomplished when men and women work together. Maybe next year we can have an event that highlights all the achievements made by women both individually and in partnership with men and point out the issues that we all still need to work on.

### Ex NHL star, Theoren Fleury, to speak to local students

by Marlene Deschamps

Theoren Fleury, who spent around 15 years playing professional hockey with the Flames, Avalanche, Rangers and Blackhawks will be in the area to speak with students in Grade 7-12.

Fleury will speak on "Don't Quit before the Miracle" and promote his book "Playing with Fire" released last fall.

There will be a free public presentation on March 10th at the Townshend Theatre at 6:30 pm. Tickets are available at the Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre and from Brent Tookenay of the Rainy River District School Board. There will be a presentation, question time and an autograph session. He will be speaking on his bat-

tle with drug and alcohol abuse throughout his playing career and how you can find supports within your community.

Fleury won a Stanley Cup in his rookie season with the Calgary Flames in 1989 and an Olympic Gold Medal in Salt Lake City in 2002. He scored 488 goals and had 633 assists in 1,084 games.

### RR Figure Skating Club Ice Show packs the house



This year's theme was "Across the Universe" and the arena was beautifully decorated to reflect an astral atmosphere. Above, skating to "Walking on Sunshine", Andrea Schram, Katelyn Brown, Erika Gerula, Ireland Blakeney, and Micaela Jolicouer.



Coach Randi Carpenter has done a wonderful job creating interesting routines for all the skaters and teaching exciting skills to watch. Mark Mast proved again that he is an enthusiastic and entertaining emcee. Pictured above, Shauna Moen, during a solo routine.



Martin Dufresne  
275-8916  
852-4237

# Causeway

General Insurance Brokers Ltd.

Are you paying too much for rural insurance?

Insure a \$175,000 home for less than \$500\*

\* with \$1,000 deductible and qualifying discounts

Proudly Serving the Entire Rainy River District

#### The Fort Frances Team



Robin Payeur  
274-6688



Holly Penney  
274-6688



Pam Buttner  
274-6688

229 Scott Street, Fort Frances 1-800-289-9917