

The Westend Weekly

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Baileys officially close the doors to the White Pine Inn

By Marlene Deschamps

Sunday, March 13th saw the White Pine Inn hold its final "Last Call" and many former patrons took the opportunity to go down and have one last 'brewski' for old times sake, including former Mayor Glenn Witherspoon. Terry and Darryl Bailey said it was a joint family decision to close and the White Pine Inn is now up for sale. Terry said although there are no definite plans at this time, they are ready to entertain offers or a good proposal. He added that the business has declined over the years, with the arena now having beer sales and people bringing their own drinks under their jackets (although this is illegal) so business has slowed to the point where they want to sell. The brothers operate the Sherbrooke Inn in Winnipeg and if there are any offers to purchase they can be made to them at 1-204-786-5851. He and Darryl are usually there in the morning around 9:30 am. Terry said he would really like to thank the residents of the area for their years of patronage and thank Linda, Cathy and Amanda—the staff that has been operating the White Pine Inn over the last nine years. He also said if any old patrons would care to, they can stop in and say hello to the brothers at the Sherbrooke Inn.



Although it would appear to be the end of it, the White Pine Inn deserves something more considering how it was such a part of the social scene in Fort Frances over these past many years. Thanks to the albums kept by a very special lady, Dorothy Redford, who has since passed away, there is a wealth of information available regarding the White Pine Inn at the Fort Frances Museum. All her albums were given to the Museum when she passed on. This lady kept a record of the history of Fort Frances with newspaper clippings, notes and essays and photos. She had a record of all the hotels that once flourished in Fort Frances from their construction to their demise. The following are

excerpts from some of the articles.

Long before its beer parlour era began, the White Pine was considered a rather elegant stop-over for tourists besides offering board and room to Shevlin-Clarke sawmillers. The sign above the door advertised rooms at \$1 and \$1.50 a night and the broad open verandah, a shady haven for quiet Sundays. The verandah and enclosing picket fence are seldom remembered today. The old hotel, hard hit by fire in the early 80's when it was owned by Bill Bailey was reconstructed.

Original land titles showed

that Shevlin-Clarke originally purchased the building from a Mr. William Pope in 1918 for \$500. The original deed dates back to 1901 but when the building was actually constructed is unclear but its believed to have been shortly after the property was deeded. In 1933 Shevlin Clarke sold the boarding house to Alfred Eggen, a veteran company sawyer, for the sum of \$5,200. He converted the boarding house into a bar. After 13 years it was sold to Alfred George Crawford for \$10,000 in 1946. He ran the inn until his death in 1955 when it was transferred to son Lloyd who in turn trans-

ferred it to Morris. He owned the Pine until 1962 when he turned it over to Euclide Landry. This time the price tag was \$65,000. It passed from Landry to Peter Klook and Joe Kluharic who operated it until it was sold to Bailey in 1973.

From 1973 to not so long ago the White Pine Inn was the sports bar in Fort Frances. People stopped off after work, after games at the arena or bowling alley or for the many baseball teams that frequented the Pine during the summer. It was "Jock Heaven" and their social club. It was also a favourite hangout for the MNR

crews who would come by to watch a game and 'chew the fat with Bill'. Bill was also a sponsor for hockey teams, bowling teams and boys and girls softball teams. There are probably many who still have a White Pine Shirt for the sport they played tucked away in a truck somewhere. One probably recalls how the White Pine was the watering hole for between periods during a hockey game when the fellas came barrelling out of the arena like there was an evacuation taking place and headed to the Pine to get their beer, gulp it down and get back before the next period began.

There were also events such as wedding receptions taking place at the KC Hall across the street at the time where many strolled across the street for a drink hoping their absence wouldn't be noticed. These are just some of the memories evoked when it was learned the Pine was closing and no doubt there are many more. But the above mentioned are just a few along with the information from the news clippings. It just seems that this is a more fitting farewell to what was almost an institution in Fort Frances than just a news brief that a hotel was closing its doors.

Sherry George new Curator for Fort Frances Museum



By Marlene Deschamps

The Town of Fort Frances announced that Sherry George has accepted the position of Museum Curator. Sherry will be replacing Pam Cain who has accepted a position in Thunder Bay.

Sherry has worked as the Museum Assistant since November 2009. During this time she has worked on various projects including last summer's logging exhibit and more

recently, the Fort Frances High School display. Prior to that, Sherry worked as a Senior Administrative Assistant at AbitibiBowater in the areas of Communications and Training.

Since starting at the Museum, Sherry has been taking courses in Collection Management, Deaccessioning, Collections Care and Conservation and is working towards her certificate in Museum Studies. She is very interested in history and hopes

to publish a historical novel some day.

Sherry is a lifelong resident of Fort Frances and the Town is confident that she will bring a great deal of knowledge, skill and resourcefulness to the position and will continue to provide quality services and activities to the residents of Fort Frances and the district.

One of the first tasks Sherry has set for herself is to develop a group of people that will be "Friends of the Museum" - something along the lines of the Friends of the Library group. This group will help with fund raising and with providing Sherry with further information regarding the history of the area. She is well on her way as during the interview, someone came in to offer help in bringing information on the trails used by the fur traders in the area. He spoke of getting this information from old timers who knew about the trails and wanted the information recorded before those that knew about them passed away.

One should really stop by and see the beautiful textile art on display and say "hi" to Sherry, our new curator.

Rafferty's C-501 passes second key vote in House of Commons

Bill C-501, sponsored by NDP MP John Rafferty (Thunder Bay-Rainy River), passed another key vote in the House of Commons on Wednesday by a 164 to 119 margin. The bill, which would secure the severance and termination pay of workers when a company enters restructuring or bankruptcy, has one vote left to pass in the House of Commons before it moves into the Senate.

"I'm very pleased. We are making some good progress on this bill, and I am hopeful that it will be in the Senate before the summer," Rafferty said. "We've worked hard to put workers at the front of the line

of creditor claims when a company fails. We're almost there."

Despite the passage of C-501 at the Report Stage of the bill, Rafferty said he was disappointed that the Conservatives are still running interference on the bill and trying to defeat it.

"The Conservatives just don't get it. They're 10,000 feet in the air and have no idea what families go through when a company fails and their jobs, severance pay and pensions are all lost. We've seen it firsthand in Northwestern Ontario with Buchanan, and I've raised this case repeatedly, but Stephen Harper and his Conservatives are choosing to listen to their well-paid corporate lobbyists

instead."

When originally tabled, Rafferty's C-501 proposed granting pension plans and the severance/termination pay of workers 'secured' creditor status and put them at the front of the line during bankruptcy proceedings, but Conservative MPs teamed with those from the Bloc Quebecois to remove all mention of pensions from the bill during committee hearings.

With the successful vote today just one more legislative hurdle remains for Bill C-501. It must pass the vote at Third Reading in the House before heading to the Senate.

Frank Sheppard appointed new Fire Chief

By Marlene Deschamps

During a regular meeting at the Civic Centre held on Monday, March 14th, Mayor and Council passed a by-law to approve an employment agreement with Francis (Frank) Joseph Sheppard and for his

appointment as Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator for the Town of Fort Frances and, if so appointed by the Ontario Fire Marshall, District Fire Coordinator - the Emergency Management Act. His appoint-

ment was effective March 14th.

Frank is replacing former Fire Chief Gerry Armstrong who retired at the end of 2010. Frank had been appointed interim chief until his appointment at the meeting.



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