

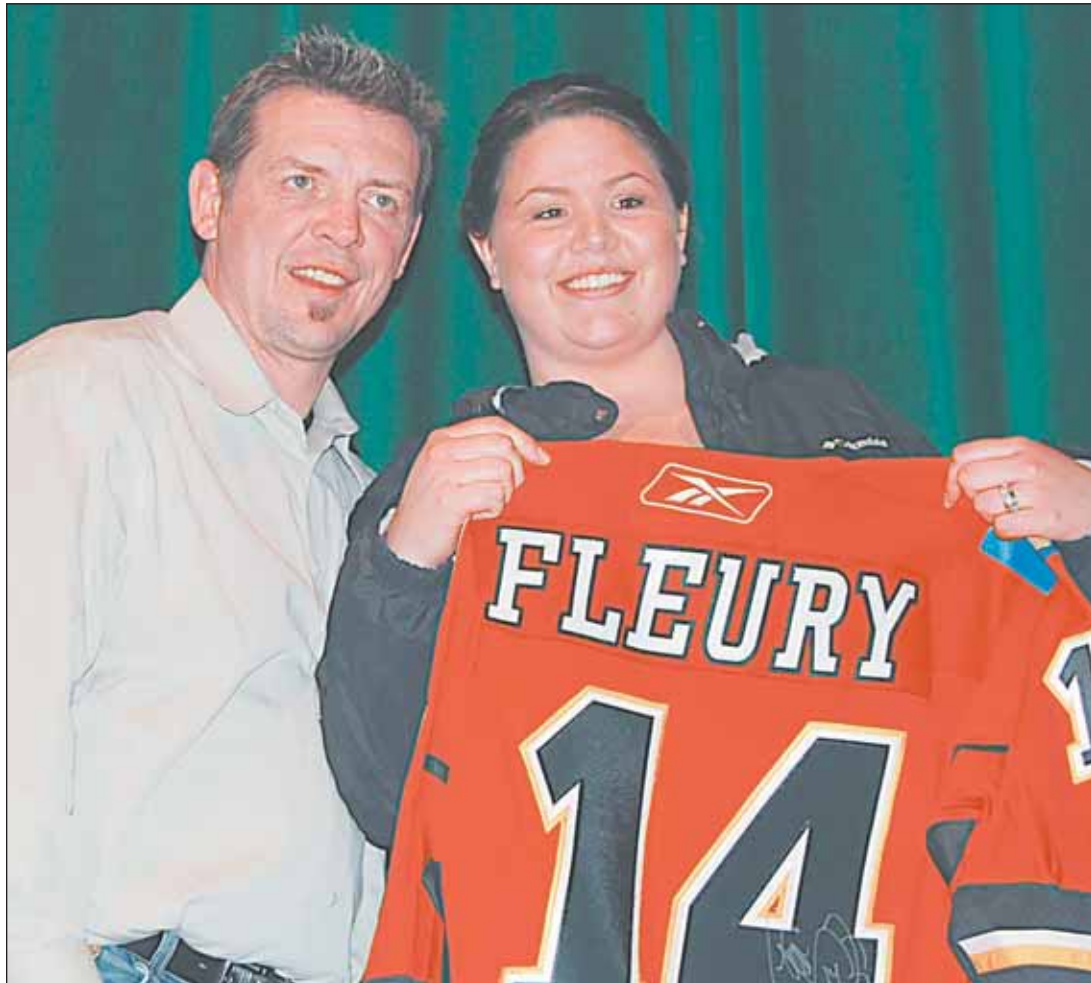
The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Theo Fleury presentation well received



Theo with Elisha Jones who won an autographed Calgary Flames Jersey

by Marlene Deschamps

Stanley Cup Winner and Olympian Champion, Theo Fleury, was in the area on Wednesday March 10th to speak with students and young hockey players about his life, giving them tips on how to succeed and enjoying meeting new people in a new community. One of the first remarks he made during his presentation "Don't Quit Before the Miracle" was how lucky the people of Fort Frances were to live in this community. He spoke of visiting the arena where he had a chance to speak with the various teams playing and practicing on the two ice surfaces the town has. He said he wished the Lakers well in their quest for a playoff spot, he congratulated and wished the Muskies well in reaching their All Ontario Champions goal, and he spoke with both the winning and losing team of a minor hockey game he watched.

Theo's presentation which was held at the Townshend Theatre saw very few empty seats in the auditorium. People came to hear the story of this amazing hockey player who for all intents and purposes should never have a chance to become a NHL player because of his short stature and weight and yet ended up a Stanley Cup Winner and an Olympian. They also

wanted to know about the fall after all his achievements-how he got kicked out of the hockey league-how he got involved with drugs and alcohol and mainly how he turned his life around to stand before them this evening and give a retrospective on his life.

Theo is not a polished, suave speaker and does not sound like he has rehearsed what he is going to say. His presentation is punctuated with a lot of "you know"s which appears to be the substitute of "eh" which he ended up with after he was traded from the Calgary Flames to American based hockey teams. He did a lot of walking back and forth on the stage and several times stated "I almost forgot--I'll tell what led up to the incident." He makes no apologies for his struggles with addiction, his often unhappy childhood and his behaviour that led to his downfall. He mentions all that as a statement of fact and nothing more. He speaks in length about the redemption he sought and found through family and conquering the issues that tormented him. He speaks of how proud and happy he was when he was re-instated into the NHL and mentions playing in charity hockey games. He said he would be traveling to New York City in the next few

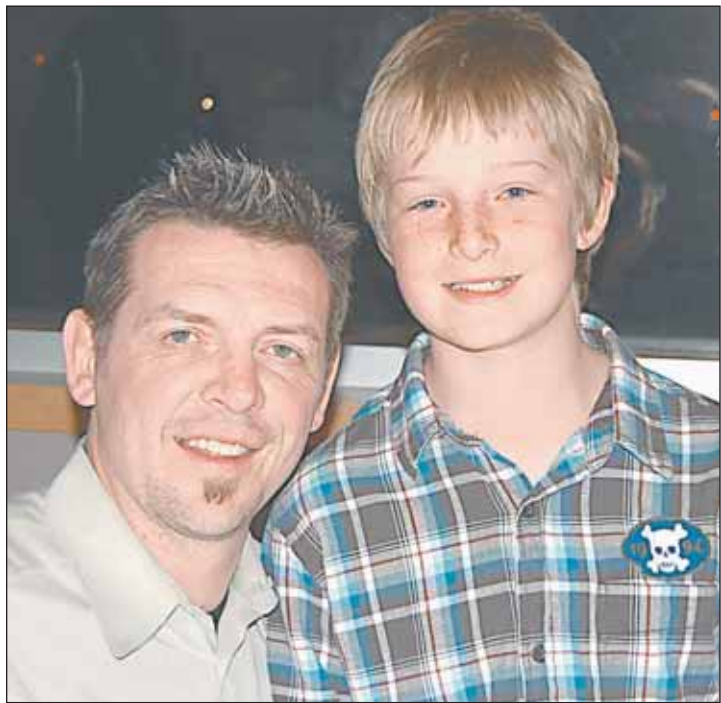
weeks for a large conference and how he belongs to different organizations for survivors of abuse who are in the business of helping other survivors. He made no pretenses about his new mission in life--root out and charge child sex offenders. He feels this is a war that must be won and that it is far more widespread than people realize. Before he had a Q & A he said he had some words for abusers-"I am going to hunt you down". During the Q & A, Theo stated who he thought had a chance of winning the Stanley Cup. He caused some laughs with his predictions and his opinion of the Vancouver Canucks. There were some attendance prizes and the lucky winners were: Autographed picture-Casey Hawrylak-Signed book-Shauna Bell and autographed Calgary Flames Jersey- Elisha Jones.

In speaking with Theo before the book signing, he said that although he puts a lot of emphasis on getting help with addiction, his main focus and drive is to hunt down child and sex abusers and make them accountable for all the damage they have done. He added he felt that was why he survived and that was what he was meant to do.

Theo spent quite a long time signing his book "Playing with Fire" and posing with anyone who asked. He is a very warm and open person and encourages everyone to go for their dreams. The weekend edition of the Free Press has a picture and article about Theo coming to Town to join the older All Star NHL team to play a charity game against the police.

"Playing with Fire" is available at Betty's. Doug Anderson said they cost \$34 and profits will go to the Court Sports Fan Club. He said he would try and have some books signed for those who couldn't attend the event.

Theo Fleury was brought to Fort Frances by the Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre and the Rainy River District School Board. There was no admission charge with complimentary tickets that were available even at the door.



Fleury pictured with 9 year old Jon Busch at book signing.

Want a new house? Sure! Will Wednesday be convenient?



The site is made ready to receive the new structure.

by Marlene Deschamps

There were lot of interested people hanging around the 600 Block of Second Street East on Wednesday, March 10th. The reason they were so interested was because a System Build Custom Modular Home was being set up. The entire process took from just before noon until around 4:30 p.m. in which time both halves of the three bedroom home were set on the lot.

The homes, which are available through NorFab, are custom built to a persons own plan. They take 6-8 weeks to arrive on site and run between \$90-\$100 per square foot. Mel DeGagne of NorFab said the one put up on Second Street would be around \$90 per. He also noted the home is basically ready to be hooked up to sewer and water and electricity. This waits on the owner having the heating installed because this is not supplied. The home which was scheduled to be set up on Monday was done on Wednesday because they had to get a larger crane brought in. This particular crane came from Kenora.

Mel did notice the number of people who came to watch and the many who pulled over their cars on side streets and walked over to get a better view. The 600 block of Second Street was closed for the duration of the process, but considering the few hours it takes to get the job done, there didn't appear to be too much inconvenience for anyone. It sure did provide quite a few people with something new to see and talk about.



Section one is in place at 2:45 pm.



The second section is ready to be placed.



And voila! It's 4:30 pm and a new 3 bedroom home has appeared.

Lakers Shortreed, receives two "Best" Awards



by Marlene Deschamps
Ron Whitehead, President/Commissioner of the SIJHL congratulated and

thanked all winners of the "Best" Awards for their outstanding efforts in making the SIJHL a better league. Coming

up a double winner was Jameson Shortreed who won "Best" for Rookie of the Year and for Best Goalie. Shortreed was also a double winner at the Laker's Fan Club Awards Banquet where he won Fan Favorite and MVP Awards.

In further Lakers news, they won the best of seven in their first round SIJHL playoff series on Sunday afternoon when they defeated the K&A Wolverines in Thunder Bay. They will now wait to see who they next do battle with but it should be some more exciting hockey to watch no matter who they are paired against. Watch for the team they next play and the date and times and don't forget to go out and support and cheer on the Fort Frances Lakers.



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