

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, 303 Fifth St., Rainy River, ON P0W 1L0 Ph. 807-852-3815, Fax. 807-852-1863, Email. westendweekly@tbaytel.net Vol. 21, No. 47 Wednesday, March 19, 2014
Serving the Rainy River District for almost 22 years! Read us on line at www.westendweekly.ca

Fun in the winter sun at Snoasis 2



Layla (in front) joined her mom Kristen, big sister, Rayna and big brother, Camren for the toonie skate. The family moved here three months from Sabaskong First Nation. Rayna says, "It's a little weird" adjusting to the move although mom says "there a lot more to do".



Friends of the Museum Chair, Duane Hicks, helped place another brick on the wall to build a community snow fort.



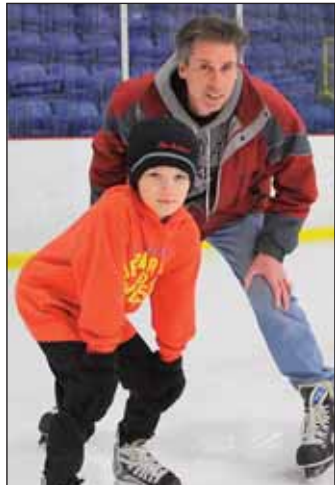
Tatum Ronmark was enjoying her hot dog and then planned to head over to the Library for some hot chocolate.



"Left. Right. Left. Right." This group of girls were working to get the hang of smooch boarding and having lots of fun doing it.



First-time skater Kaydence Canfield who is two and a half made sure her dad held on tight as she made her way around the rink.



Father and son, Paul and Michael Redford got ready to take off for a friendly competition.



Cousins, Kianna Adams and Hailey Bombay were having fun in the pool.



A trio of nine year olds took some time to warm up and roast some marshmallows. From l. Emma Bone, Anna Gagne and Ellayna Kabel.



A dinosaur and a butterfly. Brother and sister, Maverick and Zyla Dal got their face painted at the Library. The family moved here only three weeks ago from British Columbia. "It's a new adventure" smiled mom whose husband is working at the Fort Frances Customs.



Jim Krag, a volunteer with the Rainy Lake Nordic Ski Club helped Ashlee Homer learn how to cross country ski.



Keirsten Ducharme added a couple more bricks to the structure.



Museum volunteers Sarah Marusyk and Mandy Lahti were busy grilling hot dogs.

Photographers' showcase



It was a stormy morning and the chickadees were making a fuss so I went outside to give them more sunflower seeds and discovered this little Boreal Owl hunkered down against the house near the bird feeders. He wasn't concerned with me and eventually perched on one of the feeders before flying off into the bush.

Photo by Dixie Kivi, North Branch



Cheers! Nash Dolny enjoyed his hot chocolate with his mom, Tiffany.

By: Teresa Hazel

The Friends of the Museum hosted a Family Fun Day to wrap up the March Break last Saturday afternoon. Families came out to enjoy a variety of indoor and outdoor activities.

Starting at 11:00, children and parents were at the Ice for Kids arena to take part in the Toonie Skate. Some first-time skaters were there as well as avid skaters who were practicing for upcoming ice shows or racing with their dad.

Meanwhile at the Lion's Park, kids were hauling their ice blocks to help build a community snow fort. Although the sun was shining the wind

remained crisp. Kids didn't seem to be bothered as they played snow bowling, smooch boarding and thanks to volunteers from the Rainy Lake Nordic Ski Club they got to cross-country ski on a track that had been prepared ahead of time.

The Rainy Lake Nordic Ski Club also brought along a fire pit where kids (and this reporter) could be seen warming up, roasting marshmallows and enjoying hot dogs from the grill thanks to the Friends of the Museum.

Back down at the Memorial Sports Centre, starting at 1:00,



Ava White from Fort Frances practiced her sit spin. She is involved with the International Falls Figure Skating Club, which has an Ice Show coming up on March 22 and 23.

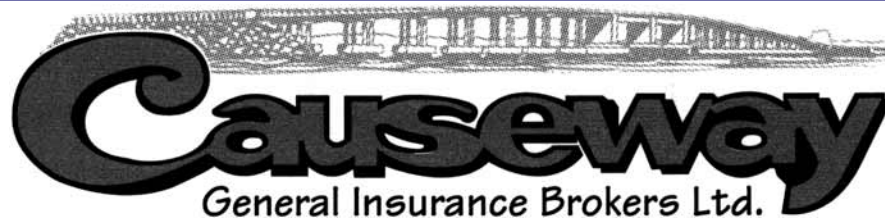
there was a public toonie swim where kids of all ages were making a splash in the pool and having a blast.

After the festivities at the Lion's Park, families were invited across the street to the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre where more Friends of the Museum were on hand to paint faces, and serve free hot chocolate and cookies.

Kudos to the Friends of the Museum for organizing Snoasis 2! A great way to celebrate family, staying active, having fun and community fellowship.



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Was the Afghan mission worth it?

By Lauryn Oates
Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan Projects Director

As Canada's mission in Afghanistan comes to an end, that question is most often asked from the perspective of Canadian self-interest. We look at the number of dead and the cost in taxpayer dollars and conclude that this was an expensive mission in a place far removed from our everyday lives.

Afghanistan is far away from us - in fact, it is exactly on the other side of the world from Canada's most westerly points - and much of what was accomplished there gets lost because of the distance between our two countries.

But the perspective of Afghanistan as far removed from our everyday lives, and as an inherently backward, irreconcilable backwater, is not shared by the thousands of Canadians soldiers who served in Afghanistan - or their families, or the aid workers who worked there or the journalists who covered the war - and became familiar with the country and its people.

It is also not shared by those Canadian companies, investors and employees of private businesses which staked their interests and not insubstantial capital in Afghanistan's emerging economy.

But despite all that, Afghanistan is still poorly understood within Canada. As the last Canadian soldiers leave this month, I regret that we failed to move beyond polarized views of both our mission in Afghanistan, and of

Afghan society.

Canadian coverage of Afghanistan often fell into a vortex of misinformation, myths and memes that stripped the mission of a more nuanced public understanding, focusing instead on the extremes, perhaps a more interesting and easily digestible narrative.

Afghanistan is a land of extremes: the most hospitable people to ever walk the earth juxtaposed with the brutality of the Taliban and of tribal customs that are often antithetical to human dignity; millions of children back in school - the highest enrollment rates in Afghan history - with millions more not in school, many of whom are engaged in child labour; seven-year-old girls married against their will and 14-year-olds dying during childbirth with university-educated married couples who fell in love as adults and have happy, healthy relationships.

You will also find the greatest misogynists to ever walk the earth: for instance, Taliban founder Mullah Omar, who comes from the same region in Southern Afghanistan as Ehsan Ehsanullah, founder of the Kandahar Institute of Modern Studies and one of the most enlightened human beings I've ever encountered. And while conservative forces in the Afghan parliament sabotage legal progress for the protection of women's rights, heroic individuals are working to advance gender equality, the rule of law, education, freedom of expression, human rights, and democracy.

But in all of the soul-searching and analyses expected in

the aftermath of Canada's military involvement in Afghanistan, I hope that at least some attention will fall on the more important question: was it worth it for Afghanistan? When that question is asked, the answer is a resounding yes.

Because, at the end of the day - or the end of the mission - life in Afghanistan is infinitely better today than it was under Taliban rule.

According to the Washington Times, "900,000 Afghan children were enrolled in school in 2001, virtually none of them girls. Today, the number is approaching eight million, and about one-third are girls. During the same period, life expectancy has risen from 42 years to 62. The child mortality rate has fallen from 172 to 97 per 1,000 live births. Electricity now reaches 18 per cent of Afghans. Land line and cell towers provide phone service to 90 per cent of the population. The telecom industry provides about 100,000 local jobs."

These changes are tangible, real, and I believe they will last some what may in the days, months and years to follow the departure of the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan. And that was worth it.

Lauryn Oates manages 12 education projects in Afghanistan, including a teacher training program which recently graduated its 1,500th teacher. She has worked to promote the rights of Afghan women since 1996, and is a PhD candidate in literacy education at the University of British Columbia.

Marking the end of our mission in Afghanistan

Dear Editor,

Canada's flag was lowered in Kabul this month, drawing Canada's military mission in Afghanistan to a close as our troops began their final journey home.

All Canadians extend our appreciation and thanks to the brave women and men of the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP, as well as the public servants and civilians who served valiantly in Afghanistan. We also owe a great debt of gratitude to the

families who supported their loved ones during deployments.

All those who served have made enormous sacrifices during Canada's largest military deployment since the Second World War. Canadian women and men carried out their duties with the utmost professionalism and distinction. We are immensely proud and grateful of their service to enhance peace, stability and hope in a troubled region of the world.

Most importantly, we re-

member those individuals—both military and civilian—who made the ultimate sacrifice during the mission. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and loved ones of the 158 Canadian soldiers, civilian consultants, diplomat, and a journalist who lost their lives in the line of duty. We also remember those who were injured and will forever bear the scars, physical and invisible, of their service.

While Canada's mission may have ended, our responsibilities do not. As a country, we must take the best possible care of all those who have returned from Afghanistan.

Yours sincerely,
Joyce Murray, MP
Liberal Party of Canada Defence Critic

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INSPECTION

Inspection of Approved 2014 – 2015 Annual Work Schedule Crossroute Forest

The Fort Frances District of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has reviewed and approved the Resolute FP Inc. April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the Crossroute Forest.

Availability

The AWS will be available for public inspection at the Resolute FP Inc. and the MNR public website at ontario.ca/forestplans beginning March 17, 2014 and throughout the one-year duration. Ontario Government Information Centres at Atikokan and Rainy River provide access to the Internet.

Scheduled Forest Management Operations

The AWS describes forest management activities such as road construction, maintenance and decommissioning, forestry aggregate pits, harvest, site preparation, tree planting and tending that are scheduled to occur during the year.

Tree Planting and Fuelwood

Resolute FP Inc. is responsible for tree planting on the Crossroute Forest. Please contact Resolute FP Inc. below for information regarding tree planting job opportunities.

For information on the locations and licence requirements for obtaining fuelwood for personal use, please contact the Fort Frances District or Atikokan Area Offices below. For commercial fuelwood opportunities, please contact Resolute FP Inc. below.

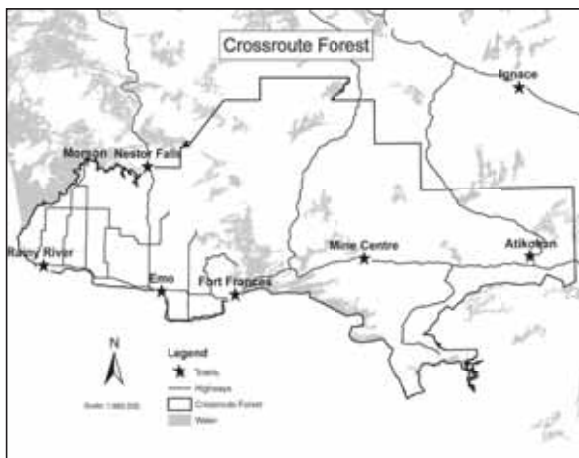
More Information

For more information on the AWS or to arrange an appointment with MNR staff to discuss the AWS or to request an AWS operations summary map, please contact:

Philip Cooze, R.P.F. or Ralph Horn, R.P.F.
Ministry of Natural Resources
922 Scott Street
Fort Frances, ON P9A 1J4
tel: 807-274-5337

Renee Perry, R.P.F.
Ministry of Natural Resources
108 Saturn Avenue
Atikokan, ON P0T 1C0
tel: 807-597-6971

Dave Legg, R.P.F.
Resolute FP Inc.
427 Mowat Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 1Y8
tel: 807-274-5311 ext. 1215



MOOS by Kim Jo Bliss



Well as I was cruising along nearing the end of calving and my getting up through the night - the "s" word hit the fan! S - Being scours. Scours is the same as diarrhea and can be very deadly in young calves. It all started with a busy week. I needed to be away from home for 2 consecutive days last week so I booked my mom as my farm checker. I predicted that my next 2 heifers would likely calve while I was away (which would stress my mom out) or through the night (so that I would get little sleep.) Well it was through the night that it all started. Luckily I have friends that I can call even at 1:30 a.m. and they come and give me a hand with no remorse and we pulled a nice big calf. That same day I had noticed some calves with scours and I treated them that evening. The next morning I treated them again and gave one calf some electrolytes (you cannot let them dehydrate) but really didn't think she was all that bad. I left for my day. My mom sent a text at noon that said things were all fine. Then in the next hour I got a text that the calf was dying and yes, it did. This completely puts you

into panic mode and worse since I was unable to get home until later than evening. Those same friends ended up bringing me over a bottle fed calf to put on my cow - it is going o.k. - but they haven't completely bonded yet. Despite what many think - cows do not let just any calf suck - it has to be their own. Then that evening the other heifer decided to calve and it looked like I was going to need a hand again so once again the same friends came to my rescue. At least this time it was evening and not the middle of the night. Unfortunately we pulled a dead calf. The placenta delivered right with the calf so for some reason it became disconnected and died. But dead is dead and it was more frustrating to have the calf the day before drop dead. So I am still battling the scour problem and I am getting less sleep now than when I was really calving. I haven't had an extreme problem like this so I am stressing and worrying about it. The calves are hard to catch and on a normal year if I had a calf that was hard to catch I wouldn't even worry about it but this year it has made me

more nervous. I am hoping that possibly the Vet will be able to test to see what is going on and then we can either change treatment or prevent it in the future. So sometimes farming is just the "S" word.

The "S" word reminds me of a Marlee story. She came home one day to let her parents know about a word that she had heard. They told her that she shouldn't come home and say that word and in the future she should just use the letter that the word started with. So she went on to say - well she also heard the "A, S and H" word.

The girls had a great March Break in Vegas and have lots of stories to tell us. They had jam-packed days seeing all kinds of neat things. I was lucky to have lots of company over the March Break and it almost felt like Christmas again with the company I had and the weather was similar too. Ugh.

Please attend the General Meeting the Rainy River Regional Abattoir is hosting on March 26th, 2014 at the Barwick Hall - 7:30 p.m. We need to see as many people as possible out!

Horwath to reward job-creators with tax credit for new hires

Ontario New Democrat Leader Andrea Horwath says she has a plan to create jobs for families through a targeted tax credit that rewards job-creators for new hires.

"A Job Creation Tax Credit will help small business and companies that are investing in our communities and creating jobs here in Ontario, not the ones shipping our jobs overseas," said Horwath. "Too many people in Ontario are losing hope of finding a good job and instead of offering change, the government insists the same-old plan is working. We can do better."

The Job Creation Tax Credit would reimburse employers for 10 per cent of the salary paid to a new hire during their first year of employment, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per new hire.

Businesses would have to demonstrate that a new hire is genuine, and provide on-the-job training. US President Barack Obama proposed a similar 10 per cent tax credit for businesses that add jobs.

"We are facing a jobs crisis. We need action. This is one simple achievable step we

could take now to get people working: create a job, get a tax credit. Now let's get moving," Horwath added.

Lost, can anyone please help?



2 lab pups about 5 months old who both answer when called "Puppy", 1 tan, 1 black. Also a terrier cross who is 4 tan and white called "Nacho". Lost on hwy 600, Harris Hill area on March 9. All are very friendly and terribly missed by their family. Please call Hugh Jensen 218-434-0707.



The Rainy River District School Board invites applications for the position of:

Long Term Occasional French as a Second Language Teacher

For more information regarding this position please visit the Employment section of our website at www.rdsb.com.

Heather Campbell
Director of Education

OPPORTUNITY

Emergency Forest Fire Personnel Fort Frances District Fire Management Headquarters

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources requires emergency forest fire personnel on an 'as required' basis in a forest fire emergency.

Positions Available Include

Finance Section:	Clerical and Administrative Support
Ground Support Section:	Drivers with a valid G or DZ Licence
Warehousing Section:	Shipping and Receiving General Warehouse Help Cooks/Cook's Helpers Cleaners

Note: Please indicate how your skills, knowledge and experience relate to the specific positions listed above.

Rates of Pay

Competitive pay rates depending upon position, experience and training – rates available upon request.

All applicants shall have valid Emergency First Aid Training Certificates prior to hire.

1. Work location: Fort Frances Fire Management Headquarters, Forward Attack Bases or Wildfire Base Camps

2. Training/Indoctrination provided (for some positions)

3. Preference given to those applications received prior to April 17, 2014

Please contact Bill Payne, Fire Operations Supervisor at 807-274-8619 for further information.

Applications to be submitted to:

Bill Payne
Ministry of Natural Resources
Fire Management Headquarters
922 Scott Street
Fort Frances, ON P9A 1J4

Personal information is being collected and used under the authority of the Ministry of Government Services Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M. 35, s. 6(2)(c) and the Public Service of Ontario Act, S.O. 2006, c. 35, Schedule A, s. 32(1). The personal information including the application/resume you supply will be used to assess your qualifications against the position(s) you have applied for. Your application/resume will be kept in a confidential file for a period of time required by the Government of Ontario records retention schedule. In the event that you want to withdraw your application or require further information regarding the use of your personal information, please contact Bill Payne, Fire Operations Supervisor, 922 Scott Street, Fort Frances, ON, 807-274-8619.

St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser



Gemma Lamonato and Libby Paleczny showcase the beautiful appetizer trays they helped to prepare for the guests.



Deacon Bob Grynol sold a lucky 50/50 ticket to Monica Hanzuk.



Dino Morelli and Richard Piotrowski prepared the roast beef for the guests.



Gladys Payne purchased penny table tickets from Nicole and Cassie Piotrowski.



Jean Bujold and husband, Bob Mitchelson were up first for dinner after singing, When Irish Eyes are Smiling.



Noah Paleczny brought along his friend, Elmo to the dinner.

By: Teresa Hazel

The St. Mary's Youth Group hosted a St. Patrick's Day fundraiser on Monday at the St. March Church hall. Over 80 people came out to support the youth and were treated to a lovely assortment of appetizers and a delicious roast beef supper prepared by Dino Morelli and his team of helpers. Cherry cheesecake and key lime cheesecake was also served for dessert thanks to Elaine Morelli.

The hall was beautifully decorated by Betty Grynol and Cathy Piotrowski who assist the youth group with their activities. Irish tunes could be heard which added to the festivities and saw people tapping their toes and singing along. Raymond Polz also shared his musical talents during dinner playing a selection of songs on the piano. Guests were asked to sing an Irish tune from their table to get in line first for dinner, which added to the fun.

They also tested whether the 'luck of the Irish' was on their side as they entered tickets in the penny table raffle and bought their 50/50 tickets. As winners were announced, it seemed that a few multiple winners were 'looking over a four leaf clover' much to their delight.

Green punch was served along with coffee and tea. After the winners of the penny table were announced, those who stuck around took part in a sing-a-long of Irish tunes including Gypsy Rover and When Irish Eyes are Smiling.

The vibe was festive and enjoyable. Awesome job everyone!



Trinity Lee and Samantha Halliday brought their "green" spirit to the dinner.



Ava Brunetta enjoyed some green punch.



Beth Paleczny got ready to indulge in the key lime cheesecake.



John Piotrowski welcomed guests at the door.

Off to OFSAA



"Nervous but excited" was the sentiment of these Muskie players pictured from I. Hailey Clendenning, Alexis Perreault, Calie Clendenning and Claire Sandelovich as they served a hot dog to supporter, John Kehler.

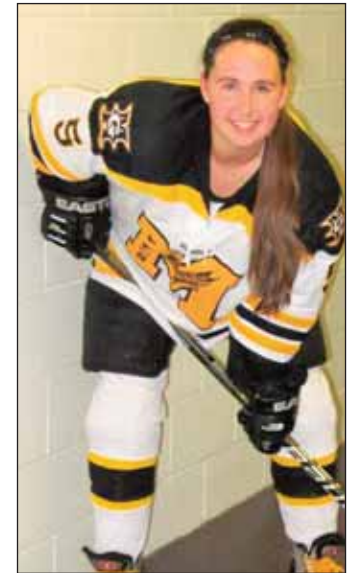


Head coach, Scott Clendenning (far right) joined his assistant coaches, Larry Beck and Michelle Veldhuisen at the BBQ. "Our goal is to win games", said Beck and added that it will be interesting to see the calibre of play at the provincial level.

The Fort Frances Muskie Girls Hockey Team were at Canada Safeway on Saturday serving hot dogs and refreshments to the public for donations to help offset the costs associated with their travel to Sudbury, Ontario to complete at the provincial level. They

were scheduled to board the bus on Sunday morning at 7:00 a.m. with a practice planned for Monday afternoon and their first game scheduled for Tuesday. (Sorry, results of that game were not known as of press time).

Meet the Muskies



Sarah Milling #5

Sarah Milling is a grade twelve student at Fort Frances High School and has been playing Defence for the Muskie Girls Hockey Team for three years. She wears number five on her jersey and brings much dedication and focus to her position with the team.

"I love the game of hockey", she says fondly.

"Participating in the Hockey Canada Tournament in Winnipeg is my favorite hockey memory", she recalls.

A new favorite memory for the team may be happening right now as they are playing for the first-time ever in Muskie Girl's Hockey history at OFSAA in Sudbury. They were scheduled for two games on Tuesday. As of press time, the last tweet on their twitter account had them up by one on a goal scored by captain, Shelby Tymkin against E.S. Enbrum. A further update via text from a "Muskie mom" reported a WIN for the Muskies on the lone goal by Tymkin. "Goaltending was awesome", was further noted. They were set to play their second game on Tuesday afternoon.

Exciting times for the players and coaching staff – play hard girls and bring home the Gold!

Community Economic Development Internship

Rainy River District

Job Description: In this salaried position you will support economic development efforts in the Town of Fort Frances and Rainy River District. You will work with and assist communities and not-for-profit groups in the west end of district. You will be involved in providing support to tourist information and special events throughout the district, such as the July 1st Parade, Harmony of Nations Festival, and Emo Agricultural Fall Fair. Other duties will include project development, administration, marketing and event management assistance. This internship is a one year position.

Qualifications
 Secondary school graduate who recently graduated from an accredited college or university.
 Must have a valid class G license.
 Relevant business experience gained through work and/or education.
 Knowledge of the communities in the Rainy River District.
 Proven technological skills.
 Preferably knowledge of electronic marketing, website development, graphic and design programs.

Application Deadline: Open until suitable candidate is found

Please mail applications to: Attn: Geoff Gillon (807) 274-3276
 601 Mowat Ave. geoff@rrfdc.on.ca
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Riverside Health Care

Help Shape the Future of Healthcare

Join us as a volunteer member of our Board of Directors

Do you want to make a difference to health care in your community? Riverside Health Care (RHC) welcomes applications from community members from across the Rainy River District for the Board of Directors.

RHC's Board Members provide leadership and direction to the organization while overseeing key aspects of performance. To balance the skills of the current Board members, we are looking for people with experience in one of the following areas:

- Clinical health care experience;
- Construction or project management;
- Information technology; or
- Legal experience

We seek applications from people who have an interest in RHC and live in the Rainy River District. For more information and to complete an application form, please visit our website at www.riversidehealthcare.ca.

You may request paper copies of the required forms by calling Brooke Booth at 807-274-4825 and submit the required forms by e-mail to riverside@rhcf.on.ca, by fax to 807-274-2898 or by regular mail to 110 Victoria Avenue, Fort Frances, ON P9A 2B7.

If you have any questions, please call us at 807-274-4825.

The deadline is Friday, May 16, 2014.

We thank all applicants for their interest in serving Riverside Health Care.