

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, 303 Fifth St., Rainy River, ON POW 1L0 Ph. 852-3815, FAX 852-1863, e-mail: westendweekly@tbaytel.net - Serving the District for more than 18 years VOL. 18, NO. 48 Wednesday, Mar. 30, 2011
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NCDS holds Open House



Pictured from left during ribbon cutting, Gary Gamsby, NCDS Board; Mayor Roy Avis; Gerd O'Sullivan, NCDS Board; Ken Boshcoff, Community Services Committee and Gloria Nejia, Service Delivery Manager, North Region Branch.

By Marlene Deschamps

On Thursday, March 24th, NCDS held an Open House to celebrate their grand re-opening. Over the past months there has been a lot of renovations done with the help of funding from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. The total cost for the renovations was \$126,191 and all the work was done by local people.

The renovations allow for much more space and the entire basement has been renovated for use for meeting rooms, rooms for workshops and private meeting rooms. There will still be a workshop room for life skills upstairs that is handicapped accessible.

Just prior to the ribbon cutting ceremony, Gloria Nejia, Service Delivery Manager, North Region Branch, spoke to those gathered for the event. She congratulated everyone and thanked them for the invite to this wonderful place. She read a letter of greetings from Minister Malloy and from MPP Michael Gravelle. There were Board members on hand as well as Mayor Roy Avis to participate in the ribbon cutting. Ken Boshcoff travelled here from Thunder Bay to participate in the ceremony.

After the ribbon cutting everyone was invited to stick around for snacks and cake and to take a guided tour of the

newly renovated areas. The rooms are now spacious, bright and will provide a much better learning atmosphere. NCDS continues to offer services in the Rainy River District for those seeking a job, employers and people looking for training or upgrading. They have a whole suite of learning services, chance for second careers, employer guides, skill building workshops and eLearning Courses. You can visit their offices in Fort Frances, located at 304 Scott Street or call 274-2282 or toll free 1-888-260-2000 or the office in Rainy River, 334 Fourth Street or call 852-4173.

Sobriety Pow Wow held at Rainy River First Nations



Participants from Onegaming and Brandon, MB



By Marlene Deschamps

The 11th annual Sobriety Pow Wow was held on March 26th and 27th at Rainy River First Nations Recreational Centre.

There were 25 sets of drums and around 150 dancers who came from Minnesota, Manitoba and all over Northwestern Ontario. The event for these past years was organized by Elvis DeBungee and his Pow Wow Committee.

There were several sacred cultural ceremonies held over the two days under the guidance of several Elders from various communities. There were many stories shared of how people survived alcoholism and were in recovery and how tradition and prayer helped in that recovery. They were there with their family and friends to celebrate their sobriety.

The dancers at the Pow Wow ranged in age from the very young of only a few years to seniors and their costumes were made in a beautiful array of colours and items of importance such as eagle feathers,

fringe and fur.

The Grand Opening on each day began with a prayer by an Elder and sacred dance, followed by the flag bearers making their way around the gymnasium floor. Then various dances such as the honour dance followed with everyone joining in. It was two days filled with dance, tradition and tales of survival and Elvis and his committee are to be commended on this annual Pow Wow that usually takes place early each spring.

At the registration table there was a large jar asking for donations in helping locate a young lad who has been missing for 48 days. The 15 year old's name is Jordan Wabassese. He is 6'1" tall and weighs 200 pounds. He is aboriginal and has brown eyes. He was last seen February 7th at 10 p.m. getting off a bus at the corner of Mary Street and Holt Place. He was wearing a grey winter jacket and purple hoodie. He had on a grey Toronto Maple Leafs baseball cap. He had on black pants and was wearing white

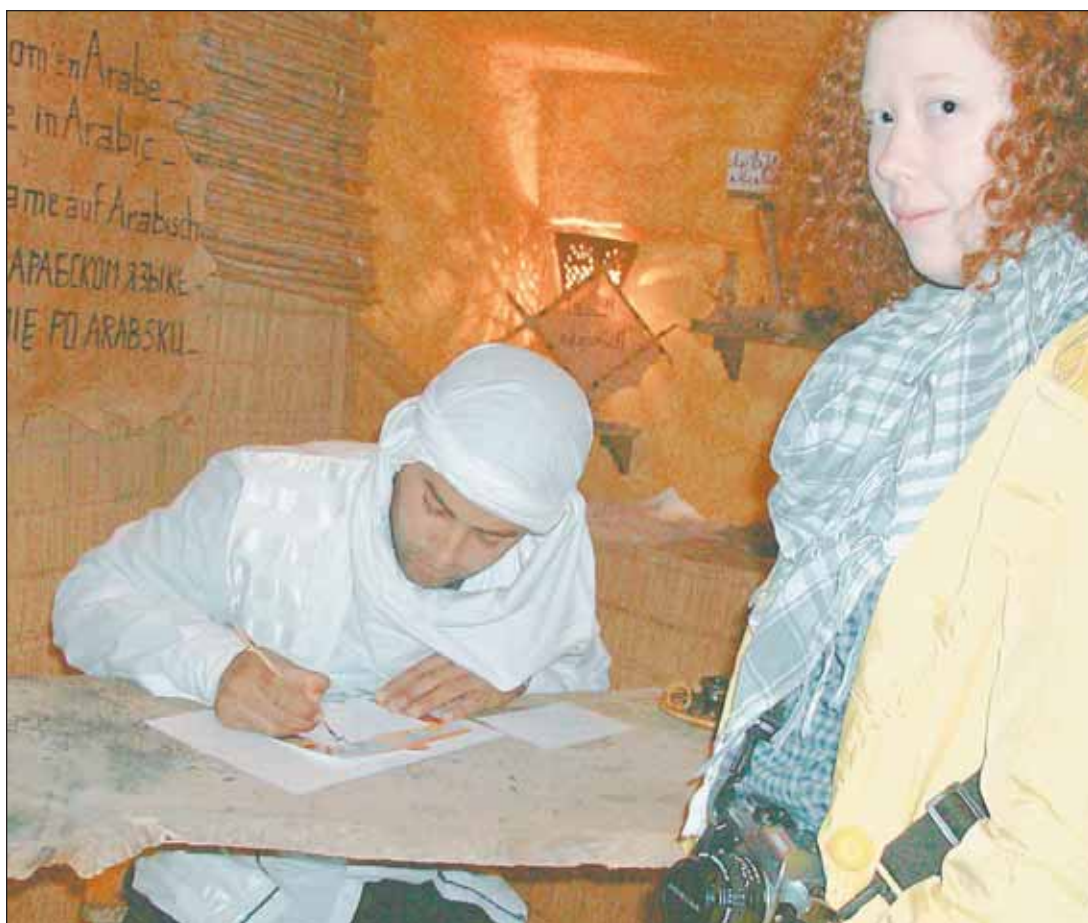
Adidas running shoes. If anyone has seen Jordan they are asked to contact the Thunder Bay Police Criminal Investigation Branch at 807-684-1237.

Missing



Buster is a 2 1/2 years old, tri-coloured Beagle who went missing in the Off Lake area Wednesday evening, March 23. His owners are offering a \$100 reward, please contact them at 482-1388 if you have any information.

Local Teen holidays in Tunisia



Alice Johnston looks on as her name is printed in Arabic for her.

by Marlene Deschamps

Alice Johnston, a 16 year old Grade 10 student from Fort Frances High School recently returned from a holiday in Tunisia. Alice is the daughter of Tannis Drysdale and Owen Johnston. She went to Tunisia with her grandparents and a cousin for a family vacation from March 1st to 9th. Her grandparents had booked the holiday prior to all the demonstrations and upheaval taking place in the middle east. They decided to visit Tunisia because it was beautiful and inexpensive. Alice said it was just set-

ting down and they weren't in the capital where most of the protest took place.

Alice had the opportunity to attend a festival where they ate traditional food and had a chance to watch traditional dancing. She said the food mostly consisted of lamb and couscous and it was great. She added she would certainly go back to this beautiful country. In the meantime she will finish high school and then go on to study to be a bio ethicist. She is a very versatile young lady and the interview took place via

telephone because she was getting ready to head off to Hearst, Ontario to participate in a Karate tournament. She belongs to the Fort Frances Karate Club. This was her first tournament and proud father, Owen, said she earned two bronze medals. There were a small number of women competing at her level (yellow) so she competed against people who had four or five tournaments under their belt. Congrats Alice and thanks for sharing your memories of your visit to Tunisia.



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