

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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MNR hosts Careers in the Forestry Workshop



From left, Michael Spenser, Eli Boshkaykin, Dalton Boshkaykin from 7 Generations School and Spencer Nicholas from Fort High speaking with Fort Frances Office Resource Technician, Alyson Bisson.

by Marlene Deschamps

The MNR hosted a Career Workshop for First Nations & Aboriginal Students from Grades 9-12 on Wednesday, February 24th at the Couchiching Recreational Centre. The students came from Rainy River and Fort Frances High School as well as other First Nations Communities. This is the 3rd annual fair in the MNR series and they host them at a different place each year. These fairs have also been held in Lac La Croix, White Fish Bay, Grassy Narrows, White Dog and Thunder Bay. They were going to travel to Dryden after Wednesday's event was over.

Michelle Novak from the MNR said they extend an invitation to different areas including outlying communities and their presenters are from different backgrounds. On this day there were persons from the private and public sector; non profit; trappers; employment

and academic programs. Booths lined the walls of the rec centre, each manned by a spokesperson who could answer any questions, give out information and encourage them to check out the programs available.

The booths set up included ones from: Lakehead University; Confederation College; 1st Nations Natural Resource Youth Employment Program; Governmental and Private Entrepreneurs; Agriculturist; Ministry of Natural Resources; Quetico (programs offered through Ontario Parks); Ministry of the Attorney General Court Services opportunity; Forest Ecosystem Science; Fort Frances District Trappers Council; Ontario Clean Water Agency; Sumac Forest Information Services; Careers with the Ministry of the Environment; Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada; Northern Ontario

Heritage Funds Youth Internship and Co-op Program, Entrepreneur Program. There were forms to fill out to enroll in many of the different programs and person ready to assist you with this task.

Lunch was served to all over the noon hour before they heard more presenters. The students were given a passport and it required them to interact at each booth and get it signed by the staff. Students who collected 7 signatures had a chance in a draw for door prizes. The Fair ran from 9:30 am until 2:15 pm. Many of the students volunteered the information that they did not know a lot about many of the issues being discussed and some of what they learned peaked their interest enough to look further into considering a career in some area of the outdoors. According to Michelle Novak this is what they were hoping for-to peak interest in considering a career in this field.

Laker's Fan Club hold Awards Banquet



Trophy Winners from left--Fan Favorite and MVP--Jamison Shortreed; Most Gentlemanly - Tyler Stevenson; Most Dedicated - Tim Hennessey; Rookie of the Year--Bryon Katapaytuk; Best Defenseman - Cody Hasbargen and Most Improved Player--Ryan Presthus.

by Marlene Deschamps

Like last year, the Fort Frances Lakers Fan Club (formerly the Sabres Fan Club) hosted an Awards Banquet following the last regular season game. Cocktails were at 5 p.m. with a buffet dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the presentation of the awards. Young Ray Poltz played the piano during the cocktail hour.

Larry Patrick was the emcee for the evening. He welcomed the parents, and billet parents, sponsors, and fan club members along with the Lakers Board Members who were in attendance. He then told a few jokes in between telling everyone what a great group of young men these players were. He hoped the banquet and awards and the knowledge of how important they are to many would spur them on during the playoffs. He mentioned that the whole team were great ambassadors for the Town and a huge success story. He thanked the Board and said all the volunteers should be commended. He thanked the coach and trainers for bringing the group from mediocre to a good solid junior hockey team. He thanked the financial team which were the sponsors and gave special thanks to the billet parents who opened their homes to the young players who came from quite far away in some cases. There was a hip hip hooray from the players to the parents, billet parents and all those who supported them over this season.

There was a DVD like last year put together by Tom Foley for the players with the extras being offered for sale. There were really great door prizes drawn for over the evening and a silent auction for two Team Canada hockey shirts. One was

Iginula and the other was Luango. All the door prizes were donated as well as the two shirts that will no doubt be one of a person's most prized possessions.

The trophies were also donated and the winners were as follows:

Most Improved donated by Super 8 and presented by Coach Bob Mainville to Ryan Presthus.

Best Defenseman donated by Super One Foods presented by Coach John Cooper to Cody Hasbargen.

Rookie of the Year donated by Lowes Furniture presented by Coach Wayne Strachan to Bryon Katapaytuk.

Most Dedicated Player donated by Super Value Food Stores presented by Trainer Dale Cooper to Tim Hennessey.

Most Gentlemanly Player donated by the McPherson Family presented to Tyler Stevenson

Fan Favorite Choice Award donated by the Fan Club and presented by Wayne Herbert to Jamison Shortreed.

MVP Player sponsored by the Royal Bank of Canada and presented by Branch Manager, Heather Johnson to Jamison Shortreed.

Special thanks were given by Fan Club member, Bev Kotnik to Larry Patrick. Larry then presented certificates to the Captain and Co-Captain to give to their fellow players for their adopt a school program that saw different team members attend at area schools to read to the children.

Coach Wayne Strachan made a few remarks where he thanked the Board, the Fan Club, the sponsors, the billets, families, volunteers, staff, and just about everyone in the room for the possibility of the team

flourishing and coming this far. He mentioned many names but rather than misspell them or not get their role right, they know who they are and they were there to get their acknowledgment and applause from the crowd.

Board President Milt Strachan spoke and gave an overview of the formation of the Board and how the Fort Frances Lakers will continue on in the next season. He also thanked and named many people and said what their roles were in molding 20 young men into a team that is called the Fort Frances Lakers.

At the end of all the speeches it was determined that the Fort Frances Lakers are here to stay and here for a long time. They were congratulated on this trying first year and told they should be proud of what they had accomplished. They were wished good luck in the playoffs and told they had a successful season no matter what the outcome. Larry Patrick added they could all thank the generous community, the sponsors, the great base of volunteers and they can only go on to bigger and better things such as the SIJHL Championship and someday the Dudley Hewitt Trophy. Before the final draws and wishing everyone a good evening, Larry said "We'll shoot for the stars,-we are here for the long haul-There is a Championship Team in this room." GOOD LUCK IN THE PLAYOFFS TO THE FORT FRANCES LAKERS.

They start in Thunder Bay on February 11th, returning to Fort Frances for the 12th and then back to Thunder Bay on the 14th. Let's support them and go down to the arena and cheer them on.

March is Red Cross Month



Mayor Avis and District Branch Manager, Shana Hansson.

by Marlene Deschamps

March is traditionally Red Cross month and in keeping with the tradition, District Branch Manager, Shana Hansson, brought a Red Cross flag to be flown at the Civic Centre in Fort Frances. Accepting the flag was Mayor Roy Avis who took some time out between meetings to pose with Shana and the flag. Shana Hansson said they are

looking for volunteer to re-open the local Branch of the Red Cross. They need six persons to form a Branch Council. She added that for Disaster Management they need at least 20 persons and they work with the Municipalities in whatever capacity they are needed. She noted they had responded to three house fires in the Rainy River District over the past year via phone connections. They

provide registration and inquiries, food, clothes and set up shelter along with providing personal service. Anyone interested in re-opening a Red Cross local branch can contact Shana at (807) 223-4751; Fax (807) 2235815; toll free 1-888-277-9089. You can also try shana.hansson@redcross.ca or reach the national site at redcross.ca.

Committee looking at two different names for new school

by Marlene Deschamps

A call was put out by a committee looking into the naming of the new school being built on the Robert Moore School Site. There were 40 submissions which saw "Robert Moore School" receiving the most submissions.

The following recommenda-

tion will be made to the Board of Education. There is a choice between Robert Moore School and "East End Waabanong Elementary School" which represents the entire population of school and means flows well in recognition of the consolidated schools. It will also be recommended that the Board consider

naming distinctive ports such as the primary wing, junior/intermediate wing/ gym or library after Robert Moore and H.H.Huffman.

The matter will no doubt get serious consideration by the Board of Education at their next meeting.



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