

# The Westend Weekly

## Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, 303 Fifth St., Rainy River, ON P0W 1L0 Ph. 852-3815, FAX 852-1863, e-mail: westendweekly@tbaytel.net - Serving the District for more than 18 years VOL. 18, NO. 45 Wednesday, Mar. 9, 2011  
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### Proud and Historic moment for Treaty #3 Police Services



Pictured from left, Deputy Police Chief, Larry Indian, Sargent Mark Bruyere (Couchiching) Constable Terry Allen, Constable Dennis Smith, and in front and centre Constable Tyla Whitecrow.

by Marlene Deschamps

On Wednesday, March 2nd, the new headquarters for Treaty #3 Police Services was officially opened. There was a ceremony with Elders, drummers and dignitaries and people were given a tour of the new building which will now be called home. The Treaty #3 Police have been sharing accommodations with the OPP at their Emo offices for the past three years. The move was made from Couchiching to Emo because of health and safety issues at the old site. When the move was made it was with the understanding that new headquarters back on Couchiching would be a priority. Deputy Police Chief Larry Indian said it was a cooperative effort with

the OPP and the Municipality of Emo. Construction of the new building took around a year.

The new headquarters are modern, and will make it much easier for Treaty #3 Police to fulfill their duties covering 9 First Nations that cover an area from Rainy River to Lac La Croix. The building has four holding units—one for youth, one for males, one for females and what is referred to as a bullpen. There are 23 officers and 3 civilians working at the new site, along with around 8 on call guards and matrons. The Treaty #3 Police are also a part of the Tri-Joint Force Group and although they do not have a drug officer at this time, there is an officer at the Ontario Police

College in Elmer, Ontario, taking the Drug Investigator Course.

Deputy Chief Indian said one of their biggest challenges is the distances involved to service the communities. He also said, "everybody was so proud and it was a historic moment for us—we have a place to call home and it gives us an office on the territory."

The huge majority of the staff are local and there are constables from almost all of the First Nations Communities they serve. The staff are still settling into their new digs but have been operational for the past few weeks. They are a pretty proud and happy group to finally have a permanent home.

### Con College & RRDSB renew agreement



From left President of Confederation, Patricia Lang, Chair of RRDSB, Michael Lewis and Director of Education, RRDSB, Heather Campbell.

By Marlene Deschamps

On Monday, March 7th, there was a formal signing of a corporate agreement and funding announcement between Confederation College and the Rainy River District School Board. This was also a chance to celebrate upgrades to facilities. The location of this event was at the Trades Shops where \$130,000 in funds for the automotive and machine shop equipment was made possible through the Apprenticeship Enhancement Fund (AEF) through the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Don Bernosky, Executive Director Innovation and Skills Development, from Confederation College welcomed everyone and introduced Deputy Mayor, Sharon Tibbs. Tibbs spoke about the Town's role in having the Townshend Theatre at the high school and how her children had attended Confederation College at both the Thunder Bay and local campuses. She told everyone she was very glad they were here and how she couldn't believe 10 years had passed since the initial

agreement. She extended greetings from Mayor and Council and said she hoped this agreement would continue into the future.

Heather Campbell, Director of Education for the Rainy River District School Board said she was glad to celebrate the agreement and told how they now have five year dual credit courses and eighteen different high school and college credits. She mentioned that 200 students have taken the opportunity to participate in these dual courses.

Patricia Lang, President Confederation College, told those present that she was delighted to be here and share on behalf of the Board of Governors all they had accomplished. She spoke of the three sets of priorities they have. The first was to meet the needs of the learners. The second was to allow geographically bound students the flexible supportive opportunity to attend post secondary and the third was to open more doors for native students, noting that 20% of their students are now aboriginal. She went on to say that partner-

ing with school boards allow them to afford learners with options and a chance to see what is available to them prior to leaving high school, thus encouraging them to choose post secondary. "Confederation College has eight regional campuses throughout Northwestern Ontario and at each they work diligently with the community partners to ensure that they are meeting their learning needs. The Rainy River District School Board is a very close ally in the delivery of quality education and training to better ensure learner success." She closed by saying she was delighted to be here to celebrate the investment in equipment and in people.

Michael Lewis, Chair, Board of Trustees, Rainy River District School Board told Lang that she had done a magnificent job since taking over this role and was very pleased that having long distance courses in Atikokan was very much appreciated. He then invited her and Heather to sign the corporate agreement between the Board and the College.

### Shop Teacher shows off new equipment



Bob Guertin, Shop teacher and college instructor with a few of the items produced by his students using the new equipment.

By Marlene Deschamps

After the renewal of the Confederation College and the Rainy River District School Board, Bob Guertin, shop teacher and college instructor gave a tour and explained each piece of new equipment purchased from the \$130,000 funds for the automotive and machine shop.

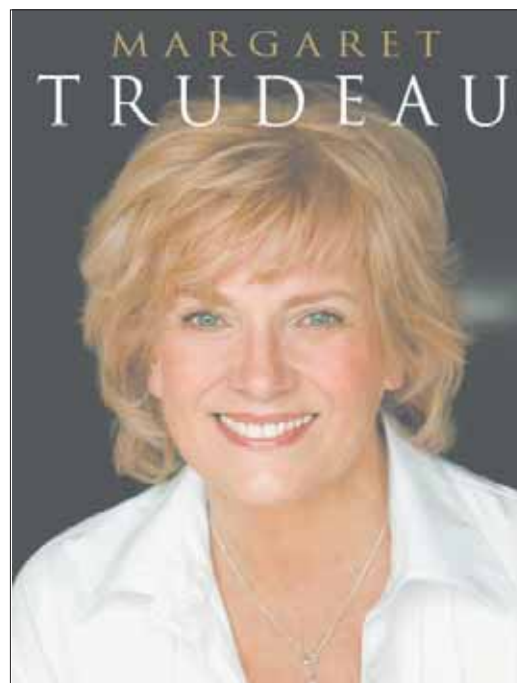
Bob was very excited as he proudly showed off the new

equipment and explained what it was capable of doing. He showed off bicycles his Grade 11 students had made and even posed happily on one for the cameras. He then brought out several of the mini choppers done by his Grade 10 students. They were told to design and build them for a super hero or super villain. They were quite imaginative with colours matching the costumes of their

favourite hero. One had spokes that had inserts that looked like horns. One had grooves that made the handlebars look very real. He said the more they did to the bikes the better mark they got. He explained that one that had already went home with the student had a set up where when something was placed on the seat, the back wheel started to spin. He stated that next year the Grade 12 students would be making a bike with a motor.

Besides the automotive and shop skills the students also learn WIMIS, CPR and First Aid which they can use to go on into jobs. He has 22 grade 10 students, 21 Grade 11 students and 18 Grade 12 students and the passing rate continues to go up. When asked about girls attending the class, Guertin said that they very rarely have girls but when they do they find they are superior because they have more pride in making things not only work but making them look better. During a recent two day tour of shop classes in Thunder Bay schools, Guertin said that he now has more equipment than all but two of those schools. His pride in his shop and his pride in his students was very apparent as he continued his tour for those attending the event.

### Tickets going fast for Margaret Trudeau visit



By Marlene Deschamps

As part of the 30th Anniversary of Canadian Mental Health Services in Fort Frances, they are bringing in Margaret Trudeau to speak at

the Townshend Theatre on Thursday, April 14th. Tickets for this event are \$20 and they are going really fast. Director of Services, Sandy Skirten, said they are going at 30 or 40 a day. You can purchase a ticket at their Scott Street Office located at 414 Scott Street Monday through Friday. People are asked to bring a non perishable food item when they attend and they will distribute them to the food bank.

Skirten said that although they are called the Fort Frances Canadian Mental Health Service, they do facilitate pro-

grams and services throughout the entire district. He is very excited that they are able to bring in Margaret Trudeau to speak as part of the celebration. He pointed out that people are interested and intrigued by her story, her humour and candor in sharing her story and her journey to recovery. He feels very fortunate to be able have her come here. He noted that other people feel the same way when you look at how fast the tickets are going for the event. She will also bring copies of her book so people can purchase them and have her sign them. The cost of the book is \$35. She has spoken openly about having a bi-polar disorder and about how people can still live active and productive lives despite that diagnosis. Skirten expects that all tickets will probably be sold out by weeks end so you had better get yours asap if you want to hear this interesting and fascinating person speak.



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