

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, Rainy River, ON POW 1L0 Ph. 852-3815, FAX 852-1863, e-mail: westendweekly@tbaytel.net - Serving the District for 17 years VOL. 18, NO. 7 Wednesday, May 13, 2009
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It's National Nurses Week



picture of nurses from St. Andrews Ward who provide medical, surgical and intermediate care, and labour and delivery. Pictured, from left, nurses from St. Andrews Ward, Alyssa Hettinga, Briana Rousseau, Carol Boivin behind are Judy Steinke and Laurie Wepruk. They provide medical, surgical and intermediate care, and labour and delivery.

May 11-16th is National Nurses Week. All across the country there will acknowledge the nurses and their contribution to healing and health. National Nursing Week is an opportunity to promote and show appreciation for the fundamental role nursing plays in the health care system and in the life of every individual touched by the nursing profession. Locally a request for recognition will be brought forward at the Monday Town Council meeting. Lori Maki, V.P. of Clinical Services for Riverside said there are around 200 nurses in the district working for the four facilities: LaVerendrye Hospital; Emo Heath Care Facility; Rainy River Hospital and Rainycrest. Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc. wishes to thank all nurses across the corporation for their continuous hard work and unwavering dedication to the residents of the Rainy River District. The provision of safe and quality patient care by the nurses is a vital component. Posters in recognition of National Nursing Week are up for all to see and they will be having a morning coffee/refreshment break in each of the four sites on Wednesday in celebration of all the nurses and for what they do. Thank you cards have been sent out to these nurses along with an invitation to a "Mix and Mingle" to be held on Thursday, May 14th from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion. The event is open to all Registered Nurses and Registered Practical

Nurses for an evening of food, games, prizes and lots of fun. Lori said the theme this year is "Nursing: You Can't Live Without It" and the community is invited to join in thanking all our nurses for their commitment to excellence in providing quality patient care. Let's meet some of our nurses and note some of the changes in nursing over the years. They have become more involved in patients care and their scope of practice, roles and responsibility have expanded. Alyssa Hettinga, pictured above has been in nursing for 2 years. She was drawn into the field because she felt it would be a rewarding career of helping and caring. She trained in Thunder Bay. When asked how she felt about choosing this career now that she had been a nurse for two years, Alyssa said she found it what she thought it would be and she really enjoys being a nurse. She repeated her feeling about nursing being a very rewarding career. Joyce Pennarun lives in Fort Frances but travels to Emo to work at the facility there. She has been in nursing for 28 years, working first in Fort Frances and then the past 5 1/2 years in Emo. She said she loves working in the smaller facility and added it was wonderful and homey. She said they work with 12 long term care patients and they become part of a family. Joyce added the kitchen, cleaning and all the way up to the administration communicate so well and they work as a team. At the Emo

facility they have 8 RNs, 11 RPNs and 3 Health Care Aids. Heading to the west most part of the area served through Riverside and you can meet Tammy McNally. She also serves as Nurse Manager. Tammy has been in nursing for 24 years. She said she basically graduated and went right into training. She noted an interest in science and helping people so it was a perfect choice. She said it certainly lived up to expectations. She has always been in Rainy River working in the field including home care for 10 years. She has been in management for 9 years now. When asked about change over the years, Tammy said the biggest changes have been in the technology and machinery they now have. She added nursing has become very diversified but the technology is amazing and how they use it to provide better care. She will be joining in with the nurses in Rainy River for an appreciation coffee session on Wednesday. While at LaVerendrye, an opportunity cropped up to speak with one of the doctors about the value of nurses. Dr. Robert Nugent said "They are invaluable. They are basically the front line caregivers and you can quote me on that". Thank you doctor. I sure will. His sentiments are probably echoed across the district and there are surely many across the district who appreciate the care they received at the hands of the great nurses who choose this career of caring. THANK YOU ALL.

You are never too young to learn about fire safety



Two year old Carol Tolley proudly wearing her fire chief helmet could, one day, be driving a much bigger fire truck.

by Marlene Deschamps
The Fort Frances Fire and Rescue Service were at Canadian Tire on Saturday, May 9th to promote its "Spring into Summer, Spring into Safety" campaign. The big new fire truck was out in the parking lot and there were displays with lots of free give aways in the store. The display included

some items recovered from kitchen fires along with brochures promoting safety in the kitchen. There were several of our very dedicated firefighters on hand to talk with the public and they really impressed the youngsters. There is a raffle that goes along with the campaign that includes

a mountain bike and helmet for first prize and fire safety prize packs for second and third prize. Despite the colder temperature and some rain and a little snow, there were quite a number of people that visited the booths and checked out the new fire truck.

Education Week celebrated throughout the district



Hue Eldridge, Cam Keast and Brad Olster cooking up pancakes for students and their families

by Marlene Deschamps
May 4-8th was Education Week. Education Week is an annual event celebrated by school boards and schools across the province. It is a time for students, teachers and parents to celebrate student achievement and teaching excellence. The theme for Education Week 2009 was "Building the Best Education System for the World". Events were held at Atikokan High School, Rainy River High School, Fort Frances High School, Crossroads, Donald Young/Nestor Falls, F.H. Huffman, J.W. Walker, North Star Community, McCrosson-Tovell, Robert Moore, Riverview, Mine Centre, Sturgeon Creek and SCAP as well as in the schools

under the guidance of the Northwest District Catholic Schools. Events ranged from talent shows, speech contests, Jump Rope for Heart, spelling bees, art displays, book fairs, spring teas, community clean-ups, spring concerts, visits and reading with authors, career day, nutrition awareness, culinary workshops, outdoor education presentations, musical productions and film festivals. During Education Week the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence Recognition Presentation was made to Lorie Kuzyk, Education Assistant, for her excellent work and dedication to supporting students. Pancake breakfast were held at schools throughout the dis-

trict which saw teachers and administration getting up at the crack of dawn in order to start breakfasts as early as 7:30 a.m. so that even working parents could attend before they had to head off for their jobs. It might be interesting to see just how many pancakes were made in the district throughout this special week. At Robert Moore, the gym was full from start to finish of their breakfast and staff were kept hopping filling those plates with pancakes and sausages. The aroma in their gym was marvellous and not anything like the aroma you usually get from attending functions in a school gymnasium. It is quite apparent to see the students in the Rainy River District are in good hands.

Heads up for pet safety

by Marlene Deschamps
People with pets should be aware of the possibility of their pets getting sick from eating dead birds who are infected with salmonellosis. According to an article published in a northern Minnesota paper, this past winter has seen salmonellosis being particularly lethal in red polls.??? There have been several of these birds found dead in that area. If cats or other pets eat or come in close

contact with those birds there is a possibility they might develop the disease. It is recommended that you remove bird feeders during the migration time of these birds. They should be washed thoroughly with warm soapy water and it is safer to do this outdoors and not bring these feeders into your home. When contacted, Dr. Dan Pieroz of the Nor-West Animal Clinic, said that there

have been several cats ill with symptoms related to salmonellosis but this has not been confirmed and all the animals recovered quite well. He added basically, it was one of the possibilities of what was wrong with the cats. It is a matter of being aware and removing and cleaning the birdfeeders in any case just to be assured regarding any concerns about your pet's health.



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