

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. 8 Wednesday, May 20, 2009
If you ever forget to pick up the paper, read it on line at www.westendweekly.ca

RR District School Board receives positive operational review

The Ministry of Education is performing Operational Reviews of the 72 district school boards across the province. Composed of external consultants from Deloitte & Touche LLP and Ministry of Education staff, the Operational Review Team conducted the review over a three day period in January. Four functional areas were reviewed: Governance and School Board Administration; Financial Management; Human Resources Management and School Staffing/Allocation; and School Operations and Facilities Management. The purpose was to assess the extent to which the School Board has implemented the leading practices set out in the "Operational Review Guide for Ontario School Boards".

The review found that the Rainy River District School Board (RRDSB) is well managed. Noted strengths of the school board include a clearly articulated system plan for student success, effective budget management, and a strong and aligned leadership team that communicates effectively and shares a common vision. Management proactively monitors student enrolment and staffing levels, and implements effective fiscal policy in an environment of declining enrolment.

-Operational Review Report March 2009

The report highlights a number of leading practices estab-

lished by the Board, and makes recommendations for key opportunities for improvement.

The Board is noted for key leading practices in Governance and School Board Administration. Two in particular are noted from the report:

- "The school board has adopted a governance structure that clearly delineates the roles and responsibilities of the board of trustees and the senior administration team of the school board."

- "The school board's governance model is further supported by a positive relationship between the Director and the trustees. This positive relationship promotes an open dialogue and contributes to an effective decision-making process."

Chair of the Board, Dan Belluz, was involved in the thorough review and stated that he was pleased with the outcome as it confirms his belief that this Board is functioning as expected in the Education Act: "Our trustees understand their role and work together to ensure that the Rainy River District School Board has the appropriate policies to enhance student success. This review confirms our actions and encourages us to continue to support our staff in our desire to improve learning outcomes for students." One area of improvement from the reports was that the Board should consider consolidating the business functions (such as human resources, finance and facili-

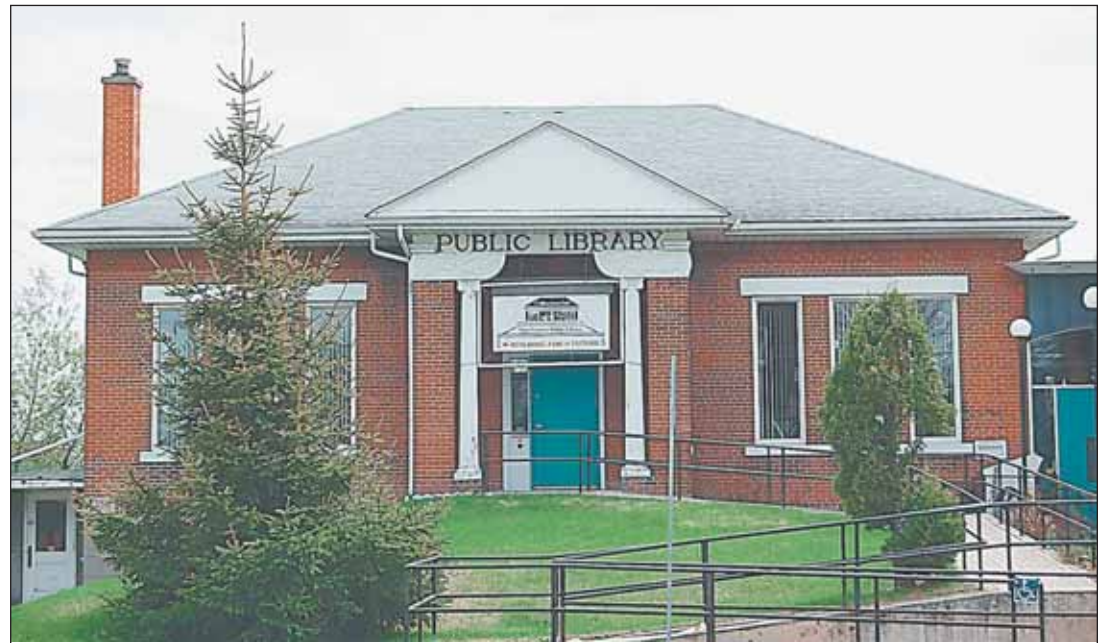
ties) into the board system plan. This will enable the department to link their respective operational plans to the annual plan and we will review our policies and support our staff in an effort to become a stronger organization.

The Operational Review team highlighted that the trustees receive interim financial reports that provide comparisons of actual to budget and to appropriate benchmarks with variance explanations, as a strong and a leading practice in the province. Chair Belluz added: "This Operational Review by the Ministry demonstrates that management and the trustees are working together to ensure the organization supports your child's learning."

This is the third audit that the Board has undergone in a three year period volunteering to pilot the first Operation Review two years ago. The Board also requested that it be one of the first Transportation Reviews, receiving, as a result, an additional \$200,000 annually to meet transportation needs. The latest review reinforces the excellent work between the trustees and staff of the Rainy River District School Board, which is culminating in great opportunities for its learners.

The Board report from the Operational Review can be found on the Board website. The final report from the Ministry will be posted upon receipt at: www.rdsb.com

Stamp Club hears history on local library



by Marlene Deschamps

Mary Pasechko, Secretary/Treasurer of the Fort Frances District Stamp Club, has a fondness for all things historic. She also feels our historical buildings should get their proper respect along with some gratitude shown to those that are responsible for their being built in our town. She did a "Show and Tell" at a recent Stamp Club Meeting that might be of interest to others who also have a fondness for all things historic.

Fort Frances has connection to a U.S.A. stamp. In 1914 an American millionaire gentleman interested in culture and education chose Fort Frances to build a Library. The land was secured/donated by the government. This corner lot at one time was Crown Land, in fact there was a Department of Lands and Forests Fish hatchery next door, which was torn down and is the shared parking lot for the Library and clinic. (We used to run over and peek through the windows, when we were kids, to see the small fingerlings in the fish tanks). Now Mr. Carnegie not only built us a Library, he also

STOCKED it with BOOKS! But how did we thank him for his gesture? I have not seen his picture on the wall. We have Huffman School, Robert Moore School, LaVerendrye Hospital-all called by "name" but why, when or by whom was the CARNEGIE name obliterated from this building? It's called "The Public Library."

Sure the Town has maintained it, but shouldn't the man who gave his fortune to build it be honoured? In my humble opinion I think it should be declared a "Heritage Building" and preserved as a tribute to the construction and style of an almost 100 year old building, in good shape. By the way, the new addition on the West side was constructed in 1967 as a Centennial Project for this Town and was funded by a government grant. So, the Town never built the Library, but now it may go up for sale-and it will be a shame to see it as a "Laundromat" or some other commercial venture. In closing, may I say the citizens of this Town and outlying areas have enjoyed the privilege of a Library, yet we choose to not

honour the man who built it! The Americans showed their appreciation by issuing a Commemorative .04 cent stamp in 1960. Fort Frances doesn't even honour his "name". Information regarding the Library can be obtained by Computer. It is listed under its original name: Fort Frances Carnegie Library.

The note received also includes the information that Carnegie endowed 2,509 libraries and shed 90% of his wealth before he died in also establishing institutions such as libraries, parks and universities that helped people better themselves.

The Fort Frances Carnegie Library was built in 1914. The library was built for \$10,000 received from the Carnegie Foundation and was built on land donated from the Crown Land department. By not acknowledging this gift in 1914 the town and, indeed the entire district, do we not have to consider ourselves "Ungrateful" and try to rectify that by making some sort of recognition of someone who gave so much to so many.

Meet our new Detachment Commander Inspector



Detachment Commander S/Sgt. John Kendrick

by Marlene Deschamps
The OPP have named their new Detachment Commander

who officially took over the post on May 11th. He is replacing

Inspector Dave Lucas who moved to Kenora earlier this year. S/Sgt. Steve Shouldice has been acting superintendent in the interim. Commander Kendrick has served as OPP regional traffic manager in Thunder Bay and has also served in Marathon, Pickle Lake, Lindsey and Owen Sound. He recently finished his stint as regional manager in traffic and marine in the Northwest Region. When asked why he applied to serve in this post, Commander Kendrick said it was an great opportunity and he was familiar with former Staff Sergeant, Hugh Dennis. He added that Dennis praised the programs in the area such as DARE and other detachments modified and used some programs based on programs in Fort Frances. He noted that the area is slightly larger and working on a land border will be something new. He attended the DARE graduation held at St. Francis and spoke briefly to the students and parents.

Relay for Life 2009 all set to go

by Marlene Deschamps

Relay for Life 2009 will take place on June 26/27th and it will again be a go for Pither's Point

Last year \$50,000 was raised despite the rain and lightning that occurred throughout the night. Luminaries were lit and re-lit throughout the night so they could continue to light up the course. Many used umbrellas and the lightning was an issue for some but the weather didn't dampen the spirits of all those participating in the relay and all the volunteers who were there to make the night pass quickly.

The 2009 Relay Committee have already had several meetings with one taking place this week and one the first week in June. They have between 10-12 teams signed up already and of course looking for at least double that. Dwayne Cridland from Gillons is heading a committee and can be reached at 274-7716. Cindy Homer is heading up the teams committee. Luminaries are arriving momentarily and will be distributed this week.

Dwayne Cridland said they will be having something unique this year. St. Francis Grade 8 basketball team

received a challenge from a school in Marysfield, Mass (located near Boston) to have an all night basketball game. According to Dwayne, the St. Francis School's team are taking on that challenge. They will have an electronic link to make sure that they are really playing all night long. Bravo to those teens for getting involved.

Speaking of getting involved, why don't you get together with your friends or your association or your work place and put together a team and sign up. It is one of the most rewarding ventures you will ever embark on.

Charlie A'Court Concert May 28th

Cornell Farms and Little Beaver Snow Park are pleased to be hosting the first concert of the summer season on Thursday, May 28th at 7:30 p.m. at the Little Beaver Snow Park on McIrvine Road North.

Charlie A'Court is one of Canada's brightest new stars. Already an East Coast Music Award winner, Charlie's combination of rich, rhythm and blues with soulful, adult song-writing make for a performance to remember.

According to Kim Cornell, past-programmer for the Tour de Fort Concert Series, "I

heard Charlie a few years ago and tried to get him for Tour de Fort but couldn't get a north-west block together. When I heard he was making a western tour, I booked him, even though the date was a little too early for a concert in the barn."

Other presenters are equally enthusiastic. The Halifax Regional Municipality says having Charlie on their playbill has guaranteed them great audiences at the events. The Kitmat Concert Association has this to say, "You may not be too familiar with Charlie A'Court's

name now; but pay attention as this young man with an amazing voice and incredible guitar technique had the Blues in his Blood".

Opening act for the concert will be local musicians Ross Kircher and Kenneth Kellar. They too have a following all of their own.

Tickets are only \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door and can be purchased at the Fort Frances Public Library, Tichborne's Real Estate, Clover Valley Farmers' Market and Cornell Farms.

District Speech Contest

by Marlene Deschamps

On Thursday, May 14th, eleven students from both the Rainy River District School Board and the NorthWest Catholic District School Board gathered at Robert Moore School to vie for top spot in the District Speech Contest.

The eleven students competed at the school level during Education Week and were sent

on to this next level. Although Mine Centre and North Star schools did not compete it is hopeful they will next year. All schools throughout the district are invited to compete. Winning the plaque for his school and trophy for first place was Ben Mast from SCAP. His top was Skiing. Taking second and winning a trophy and gift

certificate was Angela Cole from St. Francis School for her speech on Conjoined Twins. Third place which also receives a trophy and gift certificate went to Ian Kit from St. Francis School. His top was Animal Abuse.

All students competing at this level receive a certificate and medallion.



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Obituaries

Clarence Olinyk



Peacefully at the Rainy River Hospital on Thursday, May 14, 2009 after a courageous battle with cancer, Clarence Olinyk of Rainy River, Ont passed away at the age of 96 with his family by his side.

Clarence was born in Rainy River, Ont on September 14, 1912 to the late John and Effie Olinyk. He was united in marriage to Bernice Rattigan on October 10, 1949. They lived in Rainy River raising their five children.

Clarence served his country, his community and his church throughout his entire life. He served in the RCAF during the war, a member of the Rainy River Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 54, past mayor and council member for the Town

of Rainy River, past member of the Municipal Advisory Committee and a executive member of the Northern Ontario Municipal Association, life member of Knights of Columbus and Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, past trustee member of the Northwest Catholic District School Board, and Rainy Crest board of management. Clarence was also a custom officer for Canada Customs for nearly 30 years.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Bernice of almost sixty years, children Cheryl Fraser of Winnipeg, Mb, Dennis Olinyk of Rainy River, Ont, Teresa (Dr. Bob) Manness of Morris, Mb, Mary (Tom) Homer of Winnipeg, Mb, and Bill (Mary Anne) Olinyk of Kenora, Ont.

He will be greatly missed by his grandchildren Dr. Ryan Fraser, Dr. Holly Fraser, Phaedra and Cassandra Olinyk, Nicole, Bobbie, and Jeffrey Homer, great grandchildren Anna-Michele, Calvin, Joel and Janine Halverson. Dear brother of Mary Marmus, Blanche Bernier, and also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Clarence was predeceased by

his parents John and Effie, brothers Adam Olinyk, Charles O'Laney, Stanley O'Laney and Michael Olinyk.

Family and friends were received at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Rainy River, Ont on Tuesday May 19, 2009 from 7:30 - 9 p.m. where funeral mass was held on Wednesday May 20, 2009 at 11 a.m. with Fr. Alan Albao Celebrant assisted by Fr. James Panikulam and Deacon George Chojko-Bolec.

Interment took place in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Rainy River, Ont.

Pall Bearers were Dennis Olinyk, Bill Olinyk, Bob Manness, Tom Homer, Ryan Fraser, and Bob Homer.

Honourary Pall Bearers were Lawrence Miniely, Bud Hannam, Bill Marmus, Don Bernier, Art Solomonian, and Jack Rattigan. The Rainy River Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 54 and the Knights of Columbus provided an honour guard.

If desired memorial donations may be made to Our Lady of Good Counsel Building Fund or the charity of your choice.

Online condolences may be offered at www.northridgefuneralhome.com

Darrel Westover



Peacefully on Sunday May 10, 2009 at the Emo Hospital, Darrel Westover of Emo, Ont, passed away with his family by his side at the age of 62.

Darrel was born January 2, 1947 in Fort Frances, Ont to the Late Donavon and Jessie Westover. Darrel was united in marriage to Dorothy Kellar on May 29, 1965.

He began working as a

mechanic in the mines which led Darrel and his family to Ear Falls and Labrador City. Wanting to be closer to family brought them back to Emo, where he worked as a heavy equipment operator. He enjoyed hobby farming, restoring antique tractors, adding his own personal creations to them. Darrel took great pride in his family and enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

Darrel will be sadly missed by his wife Dorothy, their children Darren (Cindy) Westover, Dawn Westover, and Tammy (Brent) Hyatt all of Emo, Ont. He will be lovingly remembered by his grandchildren Tanya Barron (Brad Townson), Angel Low (Kevin), Dawn Gray (Adam), Lane and Thatcher Hyatt. Great grandchildren Chelsea, Brianna, and Matthew Barron, Christopher, William and Ema Low, Nicholas and Jonathon Gray.

He is also survived by his brother Leland (Pam) Westover of Stratton, Ont and numerous nieces and nephews.

Darrel was predeceased by his parents Donavon and Jessie, and brother Cecil Westover.

Funeral service was held at the Northridge Funeral Home, Emo, Ont, on Friday May 15, 2009 at 11 a.m. with Rev. Frances Flook officiating. Visitation took place one hour prior to service.

Interment will take place in Barwick Cemetery.

Pall Bearers will be Shane Westover, Clinton Westover, Clayton Westover, Doug Cross, Brian McCormick, Dennis Pelepetz.

If desired memorial donations may be made to the Emo Health Center or Salvation Army, c/o Northridge Funeral Home, Box 89, Emo, Ont, P0W 1E0. Online condolences may be offered at www.northridgefuneralhome.com

47 district students graduate from DARE



From left Constable Anne McCoy, 3rd place Maryim Seid, 2nd Erin Gustafson and 1st Karleigh Wright from Mr. Black, Ms. Stasiuk and Mme. Vizi's class. 1st place Taylor Hazel, 2nd-Danielle Bois, 3rd Ericka Heil, students from Mr. McCart's class. Representing the Knights of Columbus, Ron Bernardi. We apologize for the picture quality, we are working on a solution to our camera problem.

by Marlene Deschamps

On Wednesday, May 13th, one of the biggest classes for DARE yet, received their diploma's and awards. Principal, Teresa Dennis welcomed everyone and requested applause for Inspector, Kendrick and Knights of Columbus representative, Ron Bernardi. Principal Dennis cited the program as fitting so well into the curriculum and with the values within the Catholic School system. A big thank you was also extended to Gord McQuarrie of Tim Horton's who's continued support and fund raising help to purchase all the DARE shirts and water bottles that are given out to each student. Their last fund raiser garnered \$2646, all

of which went to help pay for the supplies, shirts and water bottles given out on this day.

Students, staff and family members who came to watch the event all sang O Canada together.

Constable Anne McCoy, Community Services Officer, addressed the class and told them they had a really hard time picking winners this time around as they were all excellent. Reading their essays before classmates and parents were the 1st place winners in each of the two classes who participated. From Mr. Black's, Ms Stasiuk and Mme Vizi's classes, winner Karleigh Wright, read her essay. This was followed by 1st place winner from Mr. McCart's class,

Taylor Hazel.

Awards, along with the Dare Lion, were handed out to the top six students who won for their Personal Commitment Essays. Knights of Columbus Essay Competition Awards Presentation was done by Ron Bernardi, Worthy Advocate, Council 2766. The Knights of Columbus has supported the DARE program since it was first brought into the Catholic schools. He, along with Constable McCoy then conferred certificates to all 47 of the students who passed through the DARE course.

Closing prayer was spoken by all before students and parents gathered to enjoy treats and refreshments.

CBC urged to protect local broadcasting

The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and Thunder Bay Members of Parliament met with top CBC brass to reaffirm the importance of regional and local broadcasting to the region and to state their opposition to recently announced service and staffing cuts.

The NOMA delegation, lead by Dryden Mayor Anne Krassilowsky, joined the two MP's to press CBC Vice President for Corporate Affairs Bill Chambers to save local jobs and programming at its Thunder Bay and Sudbury stations. "CBC broadcasting is a strong voice for Northwestern Ontario and assists our communities by connecting us to the rest of the Province and

Canada," Krassilowsky said. "Across the region CBC is seen as an essential service and it is a valuable source of information."

The two MP's, Bruce Hyer (Thunder Bay - Superior North) and John Rafferty (Thunder Bay - Rainy River), helped arrange the meeting and agreed with the NOMA delegation about the essential nature of CBC broadcasting in Northwestern Ontario. "Our rural communities are dependent upon the CBC for news, weather, and entertainment. For many small rural communities, the CBC is the only radio they

get. We cannot lose this essential service," Hyer said. Rafferty agreed and added, "Public broadcasting shouldn't just be about advertising and market share. It is also about our ability to share our stories and connecting communities."

NOMA and the Thunder Bay MP's agreed to continue to work together to stop further job cuts in the two Northern Ontario stations and to protecting and enhancing local and regional content moving forward. "I think it was a good meeting and our message was delivered to the top levels of the CBC," Krassilowsky said.

Let the work continue

by Marlene Deschamps

The road construction season for Fort Frances began just over a week ago. There was a meeting at the Civic Centre a few weeks ago where people living in the affected areas were invited to check out when and how long they would be inconvenienced. There will be work done on Victoria Avenue from

Front Street to Nelson Street on Nelson Street from Victoria Avenue to Portage and on Portage Avenue from Nelson Street to Sixth Street. This later part includes, hopefully, the last year for construction work on the underpass. The work started on May 4, 2009 and the expected finish date is

September 18th which will be 20 weeks of work. These dates, as always, depend on the weather but in the first week of work the weather has been very cooperative. Hopefully the work didn't suffer any real delay because of the past weeks unusual weather we all experienced.



Town of Rainy River

Employment Opportunity for the position of Project Manager

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Please apply by 3:00 pm on May 25, 2009 to:
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PO Box 488
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E-mail: rainyriver@tbaytel.net

We thank all candidates for their interest and advise that only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Town of Rainy River is an equal opportunity employer who is committed to diversity in the workplace.

Personal information submitted will be used for the purposes of this competition only, in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Veldron Vogan, AMCT
Chief Administrative Officer

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Rainy River Playschool Inc.

Railroad Daze Committee



Wednesday June 3rd & June 17th

6:00 p.m.

Rainy River Rec. Centre

Doors open at 5 pm
Early Bird at 6 pm

RAINY RIVER AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Congratulations

to Joan Kreger on winning the Grand Prize at the 2009 Rainy River Trade Show

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 - CIBC
 - Border Service
 - RR Royal Canadian Legion
 - Canada Post
 - The Source by Circuit City
 - Wilson Signs
 - Road Runner Motel
 - Aurora Wind Feeds
 - Naughty Pine Riding Ranch



Town of Rainy River

Notice of Hearing

As required under Section 45 of the Planning Act.

The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River will hold a Public Meeting on Monday June 1, 2009 at 6:00 pm at the Town Office to consider a Minor Variance Application. An application for Minor Variance, amending the existing zoning by-law, has been submitted to the Town Office in respect to allowing an accessory building to exceed the maximum lot coverage required from 10% to 17% at 307 Fifth Street, Rainy River.

The proposed Minor Variance would allow for the construction of an accessory building exceeding the maximum allowable lot coverage within an R1 Zone.

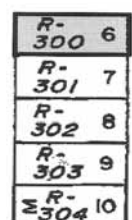
Any person or public body may attend the Public Meeting and/or make written or verbal representation, either in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed Minor Variance. If you wish to be notified of the adoption of the proposed Minor Variance you must make a written request to the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River to the address noted below.

If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River in respect of the proposed minor variance does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River before the proposed By-law Amendments are adopted, the Ontario Municipal Board may dismiss all or part of the appeal.

Further, the information relating to the proposed Amendment is available for inspection during regular office hours at the Town Office of Rainy River.

Dated at the Town Office of Rainy River this 12th day of May 2009.

Veldron Vogan, AMCT
Chief Administrative Officer
201 Atwood Avenue
P.O. Box 488
Rainy River, Ontario
P0W 1L0



Map of Subject Property