

# 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 over 19 years VOL. 19, NO. 7 Wednesday, May 18, 2011  
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### Fort Frances Lions Club celebrate 47th Charter Anniversary



Past president, Jacques Fiset presenting Lion of the Year plaque to Ed Rose.

**By Marlene Deschamps**

The Fort Frances Lions Club celebrated their 47th Charter Anniversary on Friday, May 13th. Following cocktails and dinner, the Lions members and their guests were welcomed by Lion PID, Bud Danylchuk. There was the singing of O Canada led by Lion Flora Danylchuk and a toast to the Queen. Invocation was done by Lion Gordie McBride. A moment of silence was held for the loss of Lion member Val Carrier who recently passed. She was a loyal Lion and a familiar figure to all because of her calling the Bingo numbers up until she could no longer do so earlier this year. Val Martindale and President of the Voyageurs Lions Joyce Zub, along with guests from the newly formed Emo Lions Club Kent and Joanne Ogden were introduced and welcomed.

Lion Bud Danylchuk gave an overview of the past year and their involvement in many programs. He mentioned partnering with the Bill Gates Foundation to pay to distribute 41 million measles vaccinations in Africa. He also passed on the information regarding of 2010 study just released by the World Health Organization, showing blindness had been reduced globally by nine per-

cent, or 26 million people since 2004. Through Sight First, Lions have had a significant role in this achievement, helping to end preventable blindness and restoring sight to tens of millions of people. The local Lions Club provides volunteers when the Eye Van visits in the community and members were busy signing up this evening to volunteer time when it is here within the next month. Zone Chairperson Lion Angela Sharbot, was then introduced.

Lion Sharbot said she was happy to be attending and this was the first and only club she has visited. She congratulated the Fort Frances Lions on their 47th Anniversary and told everyone that she loved being a Lion. She told of how there were 1.35 million members in 206 regions of the world and that the UN had recognized the work of the Lions with the Spring Point Project. This is the Shultz Institute Diabetes Project. She spoke of the 24 million people in the US with Type 1 Diabetes and 9 million in Canada. She went on to say there have been 4 trials so far and cures are expected to occur this year. There will be a plaque placed in the Institute recognizing the Lions contributions to the project. She was very pleased to pass on this good

news and again congratulated the Lions on their 47th Anniversary.

Awards were then given out by President Jeannette Roth after extending her thanks to Sarah and everyone in the kitchen for the great meal and for the decorations. Each and every Lion member was thanked by both Jeannette and Jacques Fiset for all their hard work on this year's bingos. Everyone stepped up when the Lions lost Val and her hubby. For Jacques Fiset this was the first year they had realized a profit that exceeded \$80,000 and it was due to the hard working members who helped out each week. Awards were then given out for 100% attendance; certificates and pins and tie tacks were given for service by various members. All members received "we serve" pins. Certificates were given to Gordie McBride for the parks project and Flora Danylchuk for her Pride Project and the Peace Poster Contest run each year. Special mention was made of Evelyn Metke for her work with Meals on Wheels and how if she can't find a worker to assist her she delivers the meals by herself. George Elliott was given the treasurer pin while the Treasurer's plaque was presented to Paul Patterson. There was not a member present who did not receive a pin or certificate which denoted all their work and how they went beyond the call to make sure all programs run smoothly. The final award, the one most coveted because it is voted on by the members is the "Lion of the Year". This year's winner was Ed Rose and he was presented the plaque by previous winner and past president, Jacques Fiset. There were also door prizes given out before the very pleasant evening came to an end. It is good to know that the Fort Frances Lions are still here to celebrate such a great anniversary and to celebrate how they continue to serve the people of Fort Frances in so many ways.

### Capacity crowd attends fundraiser; \$145,000 committed to date



Dr. David Singleton addressing the audience.

The mood was buoyant and the room was packed at the Rainy River Rec Center last Saturday Night at the kickoff Fundraising Dinner for the Rainy River House Project.

It was a sellout crowd, and the organizers were not able to accommodate all the people who wanted to come. All of the food was donated to the cause, so the entire proceeds of the \$20 a plate event will go to the building fund for locum housing in Rainy River. Including what was raised from the Silent Auction, a 50/50 draw, and personal donations, the evening brought in nearly \$6,500 for the project.

The local Red Hat Ladies looked Royal-wedding-worthy serving the dinner, Elvis a.k.a. Vaughn Murray showed up to host the event, Kitty Gale, Jacquie Dufresne and Victoria Lindal graced the evening with their musical talents and Dr. David Singleton addressed the audience with a 20-minute



The evening was productive yet fun for the packed house.



Our totally entertaining Red Hatters served a fabulous fare.

presentation outlining the project and its importance to the community.

In addition to the money raised at the dinner, other major donors were announced:

- Riverside Foundation - \$5,000
- Mrs. Jean Tooth - \$2,500
- Norma and Jack Elliott - \$1,000
- Rainy River Legion - \$10,000
- Dr. David and Laura Singleton - \$20,000

Jean Tooth bought tickets for four guests and brought her cheque to the dinner, saying, "This is really important -we have to support our hospital. It's the reason we moved here in the first place."

Dr. Singleton: " I firmly believe that Rainy River House is exactly what we need, and that it will make a big differ-

ence in our ability to keep local medical services in good shape. Laura and I are prepared to do everything we can to make this vision a reality for the community we live in. Our experience to date has been that, if people understand the project properly and completely, they support it. The turnout for this dinner is an indication that this kind of understanding is spreading in the area."

Total funds raised to date include \$25,000 in an outright contribution from Big Grassy First Nation, \$25,000 each in "seed money" from the Town of Rainy River and the Townships of Dawson and Lake of the Woods for a total of \$145,000. The Township of Morley has not yet confirmed a seed money contribution of \$12,500.

### Rainy River's 4th Biggest Little Trade Show sees over 400 attending

**By Marlene Deschamps**

It is always fun to travel on down to Rainy River for their special events. The 4th Biggest Little Trade Show in Northwestern Ontario was no exception.

Andrew Hartnell, organizer, said the event went really good with attendance at over 400. They had 35 booths this year and they all had great prizes for everyone. Andrew said the people who had displays and booths were pleased with the show and indicated they sold a lot of their products and would be glad to return next year. The booths covered a wide spectrum of people's life and included art, pest control, real estate, agriculture, religion, politics, personal care, funeral arrangements, health, beautiful flowers and vegetables, financial prospects, service clubs and food. There was a variety of food available and picnic tables set up where people could sit down, enjoy great food and visit. Wood's Quality Bakery had a booth and there were many out of towners that were busy sampling their great tasting products and buy-

ing up quite a bit to take home with them. There were many families that came through the doors and there was something for everyone, no matter their age.

There was a 1947 restored Chevy truck that caught everyone's attention and many peo-



There was lots to see but this old truck was just stunning.

ple were busy taking pictures it. The hours and dollars that went into the restoration looked like a real act of love and pride and there were many who just wanted to touch it.

Loewen's Greenhouse was there with a wide variety of beautiful baskets, plants and vegetable plantings ready for the garden as soon as the weather warms up a bit.

There were several fund rais-

ers for the Locum Housing Project, including half the dollars raised at the penny auction table set up in the lobby, a 50/50 draw and tickets for the dinner happening after the trade show. This project will make it possible for Rainy River to attract and keep doctors—something which other communities in Northwestern Ontario continue to struggle with. What a positive project for the great little community at the western end of the district.

The big winner of the door prize was Milton Kreger. The prize was tickets to the Kicken Up Kountry Concert to be held in Karlstad, Minnesota June 16th, 17th and 18th. What a great adventure that will be for Milton.

Although the 4th trade show is now over, check out what Rainy River has coming up and take the time to travel to this great little community. Watch for upcoming events such as the Relay for Life, Railroad Daze and the Walleye Tournament.

### Fort Frances Tax bills to go out within the week

**By Marlene Deschamps**

At the regular Fort Frances Council Meeting held on Monday, May 9th, two by-laws were passed. One was to adopt the estimates of all sums required for all municipal purposes during the year 2011; the other was to authorize the levy and collection of taxes for all municipal purposes in the town of Fort Frances for the year 2011. The first by-law will see a levy change of 2.5% increase. Because of reassessment, residential taxes will actually see a decrease of approximately

\$3.60 per \$100,000 assessed value. According to Laurie Witherspoon, treasurer, the decrease is because of increase in assessment and decrease in the education tax rate. She said the Town will see a total operating budget increase of \$245,976.

The taxes are to be payable in 2 installments, the first being 50% of the total taxes levied and the second being the remaining balance of said taxes with due dates for payment as follows: first installment due July 29th and second install-

ment due August 31st.

The budget was supposed to be passed and by-laws passed two weeks earlier, but there were glitches with Shaw cable so the public couldn't hear the treasurers report and how the rates were set so Mayor and Council decided to postpone so the public could be informed through the meeting being show on our local TV channel.. Unfortunately, glitches remained and only part of this second meeting was available for viewing and there was no sound to go along with the picture. One would wonder how Shaw continues to ask Mayor and Council for letters of support to retain their license, based on their continuing to have local TV programming, when there is in fact no local TV programming on a regular basis.

### Lets fight back

**by Melissa Jenson**

Relay for Life is a 12 hour overnight, non competitive event that involves teams of ten people who take turns walking, running or strolling around the track.

We are asking for your support. By becoming a sponsor you will be contributing to an inspiring event that brings people together to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer and fight back against this terrible disease.

In 2010 Rainy River raised

approximately \$57 051.00 to help fund the best and brightest Canadian Cancer Society researchers carrying out research into all types of cancer. This year, we hope to surpass this amount and with your help we hope to reach this goal.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and your generosity.

If you have spare time between June 24th @7 pm and June 25th @ 7 am please come and join us at the Riverview School track in Rainy River and give us some moral support.

**Countdown to Rainy River Relay for Life**

**37 DAYS**

Call 852-4551 for info & to register



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