

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Rainy River First Nations hosts 40th annual Manitou Fish Fry



MP John Rafferty and MPP Howard Hampton along with Gary Medicine ready to enjoy the feast.



Big smile from Mrs. Medicine as she dishes out some delicious Walleye.

by Marlene Deschamps

Rainy River First Nations has been holding a Manitou Fish Fry for many years. Everyone

from the entire district is welcomed to enjoy a feast of fish, wild rice and bannock. This year's event was held at the new

PowWow Grounds and even mother nature approved as the sun was out and it was a beautiful day after just about a week of cooler weather and rain and even a bit of snow on the previous Thursday. Chief Jim Leonard wandered around the grounds greeting people and talking with them. He was also pleased with the great weather. This year, besides the usual excellent food served up at the fish fry, there was a tray of smoked sturgeon chunks that were delicious. In speaking with Chief Leonard regarding the sturgeon project, the question was posed as to how it was going and if or maybe how the early mild weather affected the fish. He said it was going really well and they were able to retrieve many eggs. He noted they only catch a few so as to build up the stock of sturgeon that once were a part of the fish species that were in the Rainy River. Chief Leonard thought it was a good day and it was great to see so many people come out for this annual event and to see their wonderful new PowWow grounds.

Fort Frances Lions Club hold 46th Charter Anniversary



Past International Director Lion Bud Danylchuk, winner of the Melvin Jones Award, Lion Jack Mutz, and Local Charter President, Jacques Fiset.

by Marlene Deschamps

The Fort Frances Lions Club held their 46th Charter Anniversary at St. John's Anglican Church in Fort Frances on Saturday, May 15th. Welcome and Call to order was made by Lion President, Jacques Fiset. Master of Ceremonies was Past International Director, Bud Danylchuk. The National Anthems The Star Spangled Banner and O Canada was led by Lion Flora Danylchuk. The Lions then said the Universal Pledge of Allegiance. Following toasts to the President of the United States led by Vice President Jeannette Roth, and the Queen, led by Past District Governor from International Falls, Dick Briese, invocation was done by Lion Marlene Sandoval. A very delicious supper was then enjoyed by all with dessert being a piece of a beautiful decorated cake denoting the Lions symbol with wishes for their 46th anniversary.

After dinner there were introductions of the head table which included Perry Sharbot from Atikokan, Angela Sharbot, Zone Chairperson from Atikokan, Lion Bud Danylchuk, Flora Danylchuk, President Jacques Fiset and Jeannette Fiset. Before the evening proceeded there was a moment of silence for Lion Al Carrier. Lion Al Carrier did a lot of work over the years and was a great individual who will be missed by all. His widow, Val thanked everyone for being so kind. Then special guest, Lion Angela Sharbot, addressed the Lions. She congratulated the Fort Frances Charter for 46 years of service and mentioned it was the fourth event she had spent with this club and it had grown each time. She gave an overview of

just some of the many events the Lions hold and just some of their services to the community while at the same time contributing to International causes. She told the Lions members how much everyone enjoyed their interesting articles in the newsletter and how they had a successful healthy club. She applauded their ability to continually getting new members to join the club and how there weren't many communities that had two different chartered clubs, and another one in the district that would receive their charter in June. She also praised their ability to have their club get the good press they get so the community knows who they are and what they do for the community.

Next up were the presentation of awards. There were 16 members who received Attendance Awards. There was a special certificate given to June Hamalainen whose dedication as the phoning committee keeps things rolling, along with special awards given to new members; Valorie Rose, Ed Rose, Bonnie Penney, Paul Patterson, Lance Halstead and Jean Boland. These new members were recognized as jumping into helping out wherever they were needed as soon as they became members. Presidents Appreciation Awards went to: John Pohanka; Jeannette Fiset-Roth; Joe Gervais; Luke Schill; Jeannie Fiset and Val Carrier for her work, taking over Al's place. 3-19 year chevrons were presented to David Beach, Sandy Hill and Lori Elliot with 1-15 year chevron being presented to George Elliot. The Lions were kind enough to present this reporter with a framed certificate of appreciation and honorary membership. Lion of the

Year Award voted by the members and well deserved, was presented to Lion Jacques Fiset. The last and most prestigious award, The Melvin Jones Award, was presented to Lion Jack Mutz. Jack joined the Lions in 1968 and said he never believed he would be so honoured. He mentioned it was 42 years ago he joined and said "thank you-I will cherish this for the rest of my life".

Val Martindale, Governor Elect and part of the Voyageurs Lions Club reminded everyone of the upcoming presentation of a charter to the newly formed Emo Lions which will be held June 4th at the Emo Legion.

There were draws and door prizes which were donated by Lion Paul Paterson and the winners really enjoyed his choices for the draws.

President Jacques Fiset thanked the members for all their help during this very active year. He thanked everyone for what he dubbed a 'fabulous year' and invited everyone to remain and visit for awhile if they would like.

It might be good to note just the major contributions of the Fort Frances Lions Club. They are: Riverside Equipment; CT Scanner-HSC Winnipeg; Riverside Expansion; NWHU Hearing Program; TV Bingo-Community; FFHS Auditorium; DACL Premises; Community Chest; Assoc. for Community Living; FFHS Computer Lab and District Vision Eye Care. There are also recurring contributions 21 other projects the local Lions contribute to as well as being responsible for the Lions Millennium Park that is enjoyed by all.

Rainy River Resources and First Nations sign memorandum of understanding



From left Stu Averill, Leo Berezan, --right side of table back Nelson Baker and Nancy Averill. Standing in the middle Chief Jim Leonard. Please see story on page 2.

Physicians Banquet coming up

by Marlene Deschamps

Mention was made at a Town Council meeting some time ago that maybe there should be some kind of recognition for local family physicians. The idea grew into what now will be a special Physicians Appreciation Banquet that will be held at the Memorial Sports Centre on Thursday, June 3rd. The Fort Frances Physician Recruitment & Retention

Committee worked out details to have an entire week dedicated to appreciating our fine-physician's. Councilor Andrew Hallilkas, Chair of the committee along with Teresa Hazel are encouraging people who would like to share written words of appreciation to contact either of them prior to the Banquet. For further information or how to get involved you can contact Andrew at 274-5201 or Teresa

at 274-4803. The cost for the banquet will be \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 or under. Considering the plight of some other communities, especially those in Northern Ontario, we are lucky to have the number of doctors we have, and the number who specialize in their fields. Many feel it is time to say thank you and we appreciate you.



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