

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Ontario Ministry of Citizenship honours over 70 volunteers



Vivian Callaghan (10 years), Pamela Makarchuk (25 years), Anne Ostby (25 years), Dianne Hoffman (10 years), Donna Law (10 years), Nadia Felix (25 years)

By Marlene Deschamps

The Ontario Government Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration headed by the Honourable Eric Hoskins heads the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat. Each year they hand out awards to volunteers in various fields in different communities throughout the province. It was Fort Frances turn to host the awards for Northwestern Ontario and on Tuesday, May 17th the event was held at the Townshend Theatre.

There were over 70 names on

the list of volunteers to be honoured and they came from Fort Frances, Sioux Lookout, Atikokan, Kenora, Dryden, Barwick, Emo, Alton, Sleeman, Stratton, Devlin, Keewatin, Barwick, Long Bow Lake and Ingolf. The volunteers come from different areas of service and unfortunately only around 26 could attend this year's event. The ones that did attend really enjoyed the evening and said the stage area was beautifully decorated and the luncheon after was deli-

cious with awesome refreshments and hors d'oeuvres.

This year there were six members of the Fort Frances Horticultural Society who received certificates: Vivian Callaghan, 10 years; Pamela Makarchuk, 25 years; Anne Ostby, 25 years; Dianne Hoffman, 10 years; Donna Law, 10 years and Nadia Felix, 25 years. Kudos to the ladies that brighten up so many of our facilities and sites around town with their planting and keeping up of floral gardens.

Threat Assessment & Trauma Response trainer holds sessions in district



Anita Johnson, TA from Seine River and National Trainer, Mark Allen.

By Marlene Deschamps

Over the past few weeks there have been four two day training sessions on threat assessment and trauma response held in Emo, Atikokan and Fort Frances. National Trainer, Mark Allen spent 34 years with the OPP and served mostly in central and southern Ontario. His new role as trainer has seen him travelling all over the country to hold sessions for various agencies. The Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment & Trauma Response is a division of the North American Centre for Crisis Response. The sessions are funded under a grant from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and eligible parties to receive funding were Police Service Boards. The Boards from Atikokan and Fort Frances teamed with the Rainy River Victims Services and Safe Communities to get

\$100,000. under two available grants. Constable Anne McCoy said she wanted to give Heather Campbell credit for working with her and for writing the grant application. She said Heather is very proactive and she is proud of the relationship between the OPP and the schools. Some of the dollars from one of the grants will be used to develop a community protocol so they can intervene in the pathway to violence.

When speaking with Anita Johnson, TA from Seine River, she said it was a very interesting session and she gained a lot of insights. She, along with 220 plus, attended over the four days. Trainer Mark Allen said all those attending get a training package to take back to their agency or school. The basic concept of the training is to recognize perpetrators, understand the dynamics of violence and through a process,

intervene. He said it was important to recognize the early warning signs and the sessions were all about prevention. He said they had a good response in Emo at the earlier sessions with 42 attending. There were 60 in Fort Frances for the first session and 53 for the second and Atikokan had 27. Over all 220 plus have been trained in the Rainy River District and the next step will be to develop a community protocol to have the information shared legally when someone's safety is at risk.

Attending the training sessions were people from a broad spectrum of societies and agencies who could benefit from the training. They were the Rainy River District School Board, the Northwest Catholic School Board along with the Keewatin-Patricia School Board; Abitibi Bowater; Canadian Mental Health; FACS; Tbay Tel; Big Grassy and Treaty # 3 Police; Rainy River Victim Services; Legal Clinic; Chamber of Commerce; Riverside Health Care; Royal Bank; Fire Departments; Con College; Municipal leaders from Chapple, Emo, Fort Frances and Atikokan. The Police Service Boards from Fort Frances and Atikokan; Seine River; Weechee-it-te-win Family Services; Womens Shelter of Hope; Riverside Counselling; Fort Frances Clinic and 20 OPP officers from across the district.

All who attended appeared to gain a lot of insight into the issue of violence and how escalation without intervention can lead to tragedy and how to look for those signs to intervene at an earlier stage. They also are very interested in continuing on to the next step of developing community protocol.

Big Bike Ride raises close to \$6,000



Walker Wildcats from J. W. Walker School starting out their turn on Big Bike.

By Marlene Deschamps

The annual fund raiser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Big Bike Ride, took place on Thursday, May 19th. There were four teams riding the bike this year and this is about average for the community. The four teams were Riverside Health Care, Community Living, Emergency Response and J. W. Walker School. The four teams raised close to \$6,000 this time around. The Big Bike is a campaign to raise funds for heart research and to promote healthy lifestyles. The Bike holds 30 people and team members must be 14 years or older to participate. Each rider

is expected to raise a minimum of \$50 and there are prizes for those that raise more. For \$100-175 there is a big bike t-shirt; for \$175-300 there is an aluminum water bottle; for \$300-500 there is a Nike hat; for \$500-1,000 there is a High Sierra Duffle bag; for \$1,000-2,000 there is an exercise kit and for \$2,000 plus there is a digital camcorder. Also available is a grand prize for one community in the province: an AED (automated external defibrillator) installed in their community and CPR training for the whole team.

Jack Junkin is the volunteer

driver and he has been doing this for 4 years. He said there are 5 bikes on the go at this time. He added he next travels to Atikokan then Red Lake and then on to Thunder Bay. He left home on May 1st and will return by June 11th. He jokingly added he had it better than others who were driving in Southern Ontario where it was cold and rainy and he had seen nothing but sunshine and perfect weather for his time in Northwestern Ontario. He then hopped up on the bike and gave instructions to Principal Bill Daley and his crew before they pushed off.

Manitou Fish Fry was a big spring feast



Mary Catherine Kelly, Director of Northwest Catholic School Board, Chief Jim Leonard checking out a basket of fish and Bud Dixon, Atikokan Councillor who came down to help out.

By Marlene Deschamps

The Rainy River First Nations holds a huge fish fry each year in May just prior to the opening of the fishing season. Each year hundred of people gather to enjoy this spring feast. There is no charge but only a big jar where people can donate if they choose to help cover costs. If you have no money to put in the jar, you still are welcomed and fed.

This year they had 1,200 plates set out and at the end of the feast which occurred

around 8 pm there were no plates left. Some people went twice to the table of food laid out and a few used two plates so they could cover a plate they were taking home but it is still estimated that between 900-1,000 people attended this year.

Chief Jim Leonard, along with lots of volunteers, started frying up the fish and preparing the rest of the meal which included lots of fish including some awesome smoked sturgeon, wild rice casserole, baked beans, pasta salad,

coleslaw, bread and bannock. He happily posed over one of the many fryers that were on the go with the Director of the Northwest Catholic School Board, Mary Catherine Kelly and Councillor, Bud Dixon, who travelled down from Atikokan to give Jim a hand. He said everyone really worked hard to prepare the big feast but they had fun doing it. It was a great day and even the predicted rain held off until they finished cleaning up at around 8:30.



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