

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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2010 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards presented



Recipients stopped for a picture after receiving their awards.

By Marlene Deschamps

On Tuesday May 18th 23 of the close to 70 people who were slated to receive Ontario Volunteer Service Awards attended the ceremony and reception held at the Townshend Theatre.

Miss Lauren Gurski led the crowd in the singing of O Canada.

Program Lead for Ontario Honors & Awards Secretariat, Colleen Moran emceed the awards presentation and informed those in attendance that the program started 24 years ago and it encompasses every sector. To date 10,000 volunteers have been recognized and acknowledged as having an important role in their communities. She added they make their communities a better place to live and they are the cornerstone of those communities. She said they were pleased to pass the 10,000 goal and were especially pleased with all the awards to youth. Moran then introduced the guest speaker, Diane Maxey. Diane explained how she got involved in volunteering and how it was its own reward. She said she was humbled when she was chosen citizen of the year and only agreed to accept if she was allowed to promote volunteerism during any speech she gave. She told those gathered that personal satisfaction was so valuable and they should always celebrate volunteerism and those working with volunteers should treat them like

gold. She added they can and do make a difference and she hoped they would continue on. She ended by congratulating those receiving the awards and telling them to enjoy their special evening. Diane then assisted Moran in handing out the awards.

Following is the total list of recipients. From Atikokan-Brock Bailey; Mrs. Noreen Beauregard; Nelson Boutillier; Dennis Brown; Larry Brown; Mrs. Lauren Brown; Brian Burkart; Randy Cameron; John Charbonneau; Mrs. Lyse Dupure; Mrs. Val Ekstrom; John Herber; Mrs. Art Hiebert; Mrs. Elva Hiebert; Mrs. Sharon Halvorsen; Mrs. Faye McAllister; Mrs. Hilda Shmyr; Mike Shmyr; Ms. Wendy Tutkaluk; Jim Wasylenki; Rick Wiens and Fred Wilson. From Emo; Mrs. Kim Jo Bliss; Mr. Tony Bliss; Mrs. Helen Cates; Mrs. Marcine James; Mr. Leonard Larson; Ms. Lucille MacDonald; Jon McCoy; Mrs. Margaret Rahn; Mrs. Lori Ann Shortreed; Dale Starnski; Mrs. Sheri Starnski; Mrs. Tina Visser and Martin Williams. From Fort Frances; Mrs. Wendy Agar; Mrs. Barbara Cousineau; Ms Nancy Daly; Mrs. Arlene Georgeson; Ms. Alice Ivall; Steve Kosowick; Mrs. Peggy Loyie; Ms. Shirley Malen; Mrs. Gladys Payne; Mrs. Mary Jane Pearson; Ms Jill Pernsky; Mrs. Shirley Stuart; Gordon Taggart; Ms Jane Tyrvaianen and Steve

Latimer. From Rainy River: Mrs. Linda Armstrong; Ms. Deborah Ewald; Mark Husser; Mrs. Terri Anne Lundgren; Mrs. Violet Moore; Mrs. Veronica Nordberg and Mrs. Gillian Stamler. From Halkirk: Mrs. Delores Eyolfson; Orville Eyolfson; Bill Fisher; Lyle Fleming; Mrs. Kami Leatherdale and Mike Leatherdale. From the Rainy River Federation of Agriculture; Ms. Angela Halvorsen; Rick Boersma; Amos Briemann; and Kenneth Fisher; From the 4-H Association- Rainy River District; Mrs. Wanda Heyens Mrs. Susan Irvine and Mrs. Shirley Morrish. If there is anyone receiving an award and was missed just let me know and I will make sure your name goes in the next edition and remember you are still celebrated. Many of these people have spent 30-40 years volunteering with the same group plus volunteered with more than one group. There were two youth recipients this year and they are mentioned above but deserve special recognition. They are Brock Bailey and Jon McCoy. It was estimated that there were a total of 1,177 years of service given by the above mentioned people.

Colleen Moran thanked everyone one more time and thanked Cathy's Catering for providing the lovely food and cake that would soon be enjoyed by all.

Couchiching Toll Booth up and operating



Chief Chuck McPherson giving an update on Friday about unexpected delays in opening the booth.

By Marlene Deschamps

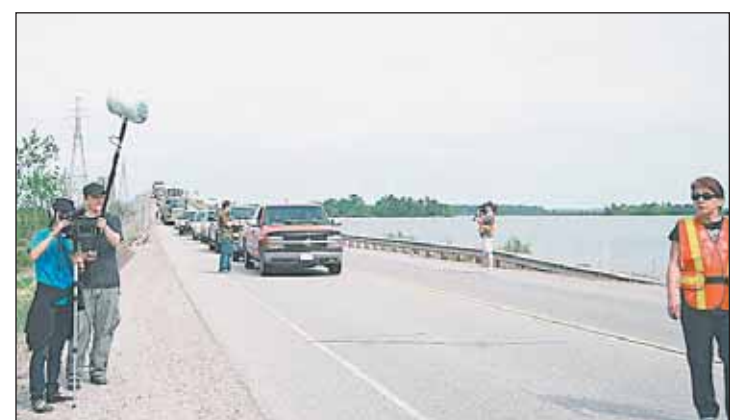
Couchiching First Nations put up a toll booth at the West end of the Causeway on Friday May 21st. The reasons were stated in a previous article published and were also stated in the brochures handed out the days previous to the toll both being set up. People that stopped at the booth were also given a copy of the pamphlet along with a letter they could send to Federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Chuck Strahl. The letter stated: Dear Minister Strahl—I was just inconvenienced by having to pay toll while crossing the Couchiching First Nation. I then learned, through educational material passed on to me from the toll booth operators, that the people of Couchiching First Nation are experiencing hardships in their community due to INAC's mishandling of several important issues. I was appalled to learn of these things and suggest you view TollBoothInitiative.com to learn more about the issues your government and INAC are either ignoring, or failing to act upon. I would also like the money back that I have spent paying toll. This is money I had to spend due to your government's mishandling of First Nations issues and ignoring your fiduciary responsibility to the Aboriginal people of Canada. I expect a quick response. It is not known how many, if any, of the letters were forwarded to Minister Strahl. Although rumors were flying fast and furious about what would happen when the toll booth collected it's first toll, the event was quiet, orderly and went quite smoothly. Just prior

to the placement of the booth, Chief McPherson told the community members that they had finally heard from the Minister and they would be having a teleconference later in the day. The community members were pleased at the news but let Chief McPherson know that they still wanted the booth to go up and stay up until a resolution of the issues. The long line waiting to get through passed by quite quickly. There was an increased OPP presence throughout the day and continues at this time.

The teleconference saw Minister Strahl arrange a meeting between Chief McPherson and the Regional Director General on INAC on Thursday, May 27th in Toronto. With instruction to resolve the issues in an amicable manner. Chief McPherson said the Minister called him again on Monday, May 24th and assured him there would be no more studies but an action plan set up. While in Toronto, Chief McPherson will also be meeting with Minister Beatly, Attorney General and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

Despite most people keeping a cool head and being patient, there has been a site set up with several hundred names that are very aggressive and threatening to the residents of Couchiching. The OPP are looking into this matter and because of the threats of violence, have requested that a meeting that Chief McPherson and Mayor Avis were considering setting up to address citizens on the reasons for the toll booth, be cancelled because it could end up being a prelude to violence. The OPP presence, both uniformed and plain clothes, has been and will continue to be high end and they will be maintaining public safety. They are requesting the public to engage in constructive dialogue instead of violent threats and to have patience so the stakeholders have a chance to get their issues settled in a just and timely manner.

Chief McPherson said that Diane Kelly, Grand Chief of Treaty #3 and Terry Waboose, Deputy Grand Chief of NAN will be on site and manning the toll booth for a period of time today, Tuesday, May 25th



Things started off with a pretty big lineup being recorded by television cameras.

Pair fined for hunting at night

Two men have been fined a total of \$2,900 for various offenses related to illegally hunting at night.

Yves Boissonneault and Donald Boulianne of Moonbeam, Ontario, pled guilty to unlawfully hunting at night. Each received a \$1,200 fine and a four-year hunting licence suspension. Boulianne was also fined \$500 for having a loaded firearm in a vehicle. Both of their guns were seized and will be returned once the fines are paid.

Court heard that on November 9, 2009, a conservation officer was on an enforcement patrol in Morson

Township, west of Fort Frances following up on a tip that someone was hunting in the area at night.

Shortly after 7:00 p.m., the officer stopped a truck on Highway 619 containing Boissonneault and Boulianne. A spotlight and firearms were seized and the men were arrested for night hunting.

Justice of the Peace Pat Clydesdale-Cornell heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, Rainy River, on May 6, 2010.

The ministry reminds hunters that they may only hunt from half an hour before sunrise to

half an hour after sunset, with some small game exceptions. It is also illegal to possess a loaded firearm in a vehicle or vessel, including aircraft, snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle or motorboat. Hunters are encouraged to consult the 2010 Hunting Regulations Summary on the ministry's website at ontario.ca/hunting.

To report a natural resources violation, call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time or contact your local ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)



The first big rig makes its way through the toll booth.



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