

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Something for everyone at the Gun and Hobby Show



Scott Stafford with his son Ty was displaying his collection of guns including an Alberta Tactical Rifle (pictured) that he was selling for a friend.



Paul Fischer checks out a rifle with his daughter Kathryn.



Gun & Guitars – Evelyn Bragg was selling this vintage mandolin for her husband Ray, an avid collector.



Linda Hall and Bob Tuggle from Pinewood were checking out everything Loewen's Greenhouse had to offer.



Sara Loewen, owner of Loewen's Greenhouse with her son, Kemuel.



Pat McPherson sits on one of the vintage snowmobiles that he was displaying for Spud's Snowmobile Specialties.



Stan and Christine Barta from Manitoba enjoy taking part in the show every year.



Ruth Gerber of Nature's Heart Photography displays her photography.



Carla Jack was selling her Crafty Creations at the show.

By: Teresa Hazel

The Fort Frances Curling Club was a busy place on Saturday as the 7th Annual Gun and Hobby Show organized by Scott and Tasha Stafford welcomed over six hundred and sixty people who came to check out the sixty exhibits ranging from collector guns to antique guitars, vintage snowmobiles, gardening supplies and handmade laundry soap.

Gun enthusiasts were there to buy, sell or trade their col-

lectibles including an Alberta Tactical Rifle that was going for \$4,500.00.

The family-run show attracts exhibitors from Thunder Bay, Manitoba and Minnesota.

"We are supported very well from across the District too", noted Scott Stafford.

Visitors could be seen checking out the various rifles that are used for hunting, target shooting and collecting.

Evelyn Bragg was helping her husband Ray who is a

"collector of everything", she said.

Loewen's Greenhouse was there with a display of flowers and plants to prepare for the upcoming season of flower and vegetable gardening and Pat McPherson was promoting his 3rd Annual Vintage Snowmobile Show/Swap coming up this fall on September 6th at the Point.

He had a collection of vintage snowmobile parts, including snowmobile suits.

"I became obsessed with snowmobiles" he said as to his motivation in collecting old snowmobiles.

"I would like to restore the vintage snowmobile club in Fort Frances", he explained adding that he has the original patch for the group.

Gary Somerfield came from Thunder Bay to display his collection of military medals.

"It's a fascinating hobby", he enthused as he showed me his grandfather's World War I medal.

He has medals dating back to 1843 from the Victorian years, engraved with the name, rank, serial number and unit of the celebrated soldier.

Other exhibits included Nature's Heart Photography, Steeped Tea and a fundraising bake sale for SCAP. The Emo Walleye Tournament was there to promote their upcoming event and Stan and Christine Barta travelled from Manitoba to showcase their variety of collectibles.

"We've been coming every year for the last five years", said Christine who also travels with her husband to various shows in Manitoba and Calgary.

"We really enjoy coming to this one", she said. "I come for the plants from Loewen's. They have the best patio tomato plants. Very nice. Very healthy", she enthused.

Mike Dressaire was visiting from Dryden and came to see the show for the first time.

"I've never been to a gun show before so I came to see



Adam Esselink from Devlin checks out a rifle from Joe Roussin of Moosehill Sports in Thunder Bay.

what it was all about", he explained. "I picked up some hats and sweatshirts but no gun", he added.

There was ammunition and books for sale and tickets for upcoming raffles to win an ATV or a brand new truck.

Home-based business Scentsy was there as was Carla Jack who was selling her Handmade Crafts including handknit dish cloths and homemade laundry soap.

The popular laundry soap can also be purchased at the Main Street Market in Devlin.

"I had to go to a bigger size because it was selling so quickly", she reported.

She also noted that she created a Facebook page named "Carla's Creative People" where people can buy and sell

their handmade items.

"The items must be handmade in order to sell them on the page", she explained adding that the site is doing very well with 560 members to date.

Door prizes were won by Allen Thydean (International Falls); Murray Gerula (Stratton); Tyrell Griffith (Sioux Narrows); Brittany Ballon (Fort Frances); and Erica Gerula (Stratton).

Congratulations to the organizers of the Gun and Hobby Show. It was a great family-fun event. Looking forward to next year!

For more information about the Gun & Hobby Show, contact Scott Stafford at 807.275.7523 or email sc-stafford@live.com .

Photographers' showcase



This is a photo I took last spring. There were five deer in my yard at Strachan Place in Fort Frances and they ignored me as I unloaded my vehicle and stopped to take a couple of shots. Photo by Dave Erwin



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