

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Serving the Rainy River District for more than 19 years! Read us on line at www.westendweekly.ca

Photographers' showcase



Proud mother!

This is Bailey (owned by Bob Ewald in Rainy River), who had a litter of eight purebred scotch collie pups this fall. The snapshot captures her attentive mothering.

Local swim star, Donovan Taylor signs with Indiana University



Mother and coach, Dawn Taylor, and Donovan who is signing letter of intent.

By Marlene Deschamps

Donovan Taylor just signed a letter of intent to attend Indiana University. He will be on an athletic as well as academic scholarship. Donovan has come a long way since he was featured in a small article, complete with a picture of him with his first medal. Just look at him now - the winner of many medals to add to that first one. The high point was at the PanAm Games in Winnipeg where Donovan made such an impression that a profile was sent to recruitment teams in the States. As a result of that profile, 61 schools contacted Donovan. When Donovan visited Indiana, the fourth school in his travels, he made up his mind that Indiana was the school for him. As Donovan's coach, Dawn had to co-sign the letters of intent. She reassured everyone that they had an advantage of the letter being checked by a top lawyer who just happened to be Donovan's very proud Dad, Don Taylor.

A large crowd gathered at the Rendezvous on Wednesday, November 9th to witness the signing of the contract and enjoy expressions of thanks from Donovan and his family for all the support he and they have received.

Dawn, who besides being a proud Mom is also swim coach for local swimmers, thanked everyone for coming and for their support. She said Donovan would make them all proud at a national level. She mentioned that Indiana University has one of the top ten teams for swimming and one of the top national swim teams. It is number 12 in the nation and number 1 in the NCAA Division. It is one of the oldest Universities in Indiana. The team Donovan will be on is comprised of 24 male swimmers. Dawn added that five female swimmers from Canada were also recruited to U.S. universities. These schools are all part of the NCAA Big 10 Conference. Along with his scholarships, Donovan also receives \$3,000 worth of clothes and three pairs of custom made Adidas shoes. She jokingly added that this is a real bonus because he has the biggest feet on the team. They will also pay for him to come home and compete at Canadian meets. He will also be visiting with the local team. He is also on the Canada Games Team for 2013 which will be held in Sherbrooke, Quebec. The University will help him

with that as well. Dawn told the crowd which included most of the members of the local swim club, that if Donovan could do this with our little five lane pool, so could any one of them.

Donovan then thanked everyone for coming and told the other members of the local team that as long as they have a lane they have a chance at achieving their goals. Team members brought up home made cards of congratulations for Donovan which he really appreciated. He donned his red and white shirt from the University before he cut the cake that was waiting to be shared with all. He answered a question of what a Hoosier was which is the name of the sports teams from the University. He said it was something like being a "red neck" maybe. Just before handing out cake, Dawn, on behalf of her family, thanked family, friends, the team and their church family for all their support.

In speaking with Donovan's grandfather, Dalton Taylor, he expressed pride in Donovan but mentioned that he would really miss him. He never missed a practice or a meet and was often at the pool on a daily basis.

We remember the Silver Cross Mothers too



Silver Cross Mother, Jean Legarie laying first wreath at cenotaph.

By Marlene Deschamps

Remembrance Day Services were held across the district on Friday, November 11th. Many watched the services held in Ottawa which were broadcast on TV stations all over the country. They follow the same pattern with moments of silence, prayers and the laying of the wreaths and crosses. Many had bus loads of school children attend the services. Behind the looped chain rail around the local cenotaph were children from local schools, all proudly wearing their poppies and listening in respectful silence.

The first wreath was placed by the representative of the Silver Cross Mothers, Jean Legarie. In Ottawa the first wreath was placed by the Governor General and then the Silver Cross Mother for 2011, Patty Brown who lost her son in Afghanistan. She is given the honour of laying a wreath even before the Prime Minister. This was not always the case. The Royal Canadian Legions were instrumental in including Silver Cross Mothers in Remembrance Day Services since the 1950's. Silver Cross Mothers came into existence sometime in the 1916's when a poet and patriot petitioned the government to present a cross to the mothers of

sons they were losing in WW1. They are engraved with the name of their lost one on the back. He had witnessed the grief that spewed forth from the women when then found out their sons had died overseas. The names were posted on lists and many just received a letter in the mail. There was no repatriation of the lost as there has been for the 158 lost in Afghanistan. No honours and in most cases no return of their loved ones for proper burial. And one must remember that in WW1 soldiers volunteered by the thousands and many families saw two, three or even four and five of their young sons go off to war. 66,000 did not come home. So it was a good thing when the idea of the Silver Cross Mother was born and it was a good thing when these mothers were recognized as being someone who also sacrificed.

Jean Legarie lost her son, Sgt. Major Gordon Legarie 2 years ago to cancer. This cancer was directly caused by exposure to chemicals associated with his service. He was in the service for 32 years. Jean and Gordon's Dad, Roy Legarie spent time at the Legion after the services. The Legion always prepares lunch and provides camaraderie

after the services and this is open to the public. Jean and Roy both spoke of their son and his legacy. Two of his three children are in the service. Jean said her granddaughter Sydney is a Captain and just got back from Spain. Her grandson, Gordie is with the helicopter squadron based out of Edmonton and just completed his second tour in Afghanistan. The other grandchild, Michelle works for the government.

Jean said that when she expressed her concern about military services, he told her, "Mom if we don't stop them then they are going to be here." She said that her grandson said the exact same words when she said she was worried about him being in Afghanistan. When asked how she felt about the combat mission being over and the military coming home both her and husband Roy said they are still in peril over there as the ones remaining behind to train Afghans to form their own army just lost a soldier to a suicide bomb.

While it is important that we continue to remember the fallen and give thanks not only on Remembrance Day but every day, we might want to also give thanks to all those mothers throughout the years that have lost their sons to wars.

RR library offers on-line training

The Rainy River Public Library is using the internet to bring free computer training to the community.

The library's new technology co-ordinator, Charlotte Anderson, is broadcasting to Rainy River from her base in Fort Frances every Friday.

"I'm excited to be a part of such a fantastic new opportunity," says Anderson. "I look forward to meeting with patrons and answering their technology questions on Fridays."

"This service is the way forward for rural and remote communities in the Northwest," says Rainy River Library CEO Michael Dawber.

"Distance is no longer a barrier to learning for people in Northwestern Ontario," he says.

Anderson will be available to help patrons with the library's great selection of on-line resources. These include free downloadable e-books and audiobooks. Thousands of titles are stocked by the library's on-line partner, Overdrive.

Anderson can also answer questions about using our database services. The library also has access to excellent resources like Ancestry.com, KidsInfoBits, Consumer Health Complete, and the Chilton auto repair manuals. All you need to use them is a library card!

Library cards are free for all

residents and taxpayers in the Town of Rainy River, Dawson Township, Lake of the Woods Township and Morley Township.

Cards are also free for patrons of the Big Grassy River First Nation Public Library and the Baudette Public Library.

To book a free on-line tutorial with Charlotte Anderson, call 807.852.3375 or email librari@rr@gmail.com.

Don't forget: the library also offers free basic computer training with internet access assistant Shauna Moen on Fridays and Saturdays.

Phone the library or email rainyap@gmail.com to book your lesson.



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