

# The Westend Weekly

## Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, 303 Fifth St., Rainy River, ON P0W 1L0 Ph. 807-852-3815, Fax. 807-852-1863, Email. westendweekly@tbaytel.net Vol. 19, No. 29 Wednesday, November 2, 2011  
Serving the Rainy River District for more than 19 years! Read us on line at www.westendweekly.ca

### Photographers' showcase



**Just lookin'**

While sitting on the deck at his home in Burriss Township, Steve Latimer spotted this cute little guy looking longingly through the fence. He just wanted some more sunflower seeds.

Photo by Steve Latimer

We invite readers to show off a photo they are proud of or would be of interest to the rest of us. No rules, just tell us who you are and provide a sentence or two to describe the picture.

### Skills Work for Women Dinner



Attendees from Dryden, student Ali Murray, Principal Kathy McConnarchie and student Meagan Gorden.

**By Marlene Deschamps**  
Skills Canada-Ontario hosts "Skills Work for Women" networking events every fall and winter across the province in support of its mandate to promote careers in the skilled trades and technologies. The event offers young women the opportunity to learn more about careers in the skilled trades and technologies from women currently working in these fields. Local female mentors working in the construction, industrial, technology, service and automotive power sectors along with 38 female students attend the networking dinner held on Thursday, October 27th at the Rendezvous. The students came from J. W. Walker, Robert Moore School and Fort Frances High School in Fort Frances, Crossroads Public School in Devlin, Sturgeon Creek School and Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program Elementary in Stratton, Rainy River High School and Dryden High School. Area female mentors for this dinner were: Kim Jo Bliss—Agronomy Research Technician/Farmer; Devon MacKinnon—Special Events Coordinator; Linda Plum-

ridge—Manager, Internet Development Company; Raeann Watson—Truck Driver; Sheila Helm—Photographer; Chantel McLeod—Early Childhood Educator and Kayne Shaw—Landscape Technician. Following a great dinner, the students got to participate in getting to know you exercises as well as hearing from the mentors about their particular trade. There was a rotation of mentors from table to table as they spoke with all the students. The facts on the skills shortage is allowing for a gender gap that represents a tremendous opportunity for women. At this point men dominated the trades by 97% in 2007. More than 50% of skilled trades personnel are expected to retire by 2018. The Conference Board of Canada estimates Ontario could be short more than 560,000 skilled employees by 2030. Workers are getting older and they will need to be replaced. With more than 150 trades in Ontario, there is a skilled trade for every interest and aptitude. Many high schools now offer specific girls only tech classes and the Ontario Women's Directorate is

funding women only post secondary training programs. There is also industry specific support, advocacy, mentorship and community. In speaking with the two Grade 12 students who came from Dryden along with Principal, Kathy McConnarchie, it was apparent there is a real interest in many skills trades by females. Both soon to be graduates are involved in the Majors Program in Construction or Technology. Ali is hoping to become an electrician and Meagan is interested in carpentry. Their principal said they work in partnership with the Dryden Mission which will see the students help renovate their building and build shelves for storage for the food from the Salvation Army. The students mentioned a former graduate who is in a Windsor trade school to get her certificate to be a plumber. One is now studying to become a licensed mechanic. They both were looking forward to learning a lot about the direction of their futures at the dinner and were happy their principal travelled with them down to Fort Frances.

### Spirit Days continue at St. Francis School



The Pink Team with their poster "Learn from your Mistakes". They, along with the Red Team, were the winners for this month.

**By Marlene Deschamps**

The first Spirit Day for this year was held on Thursday, October 27th. The theme for this month was "Courage". The purpose of Spirit Days is to give all the students of the school the opportunity to have fun together and to build school spirit. There were eleven teams and each had two Grade 7 or 8 leaders who also get the chance to develop their leadership skills. These leaders meet on a regular basis with Mme. Busch and Mrs. Gurski to plan and provide input on Spirit days. Because of the amount of work involved, Spirit Days will be held every second month during this school year. A letter is sent home to the par-

ents letting them know the theme and team colour their child is assigned and they are encouraged to wear clothing of that colour and that prizes would be given to the team which demonstrated the most team spirit. On this first Spirit Day, the halls of St. Francis were filled with students wearing different coloured clothes and it was easy to see they were really in the spirit and wanted to come out the winner. The day started out with Icebreaker Activities where the team leaders introduced themselves and took attendance. They then made team bracelets using a pipe cleaner and beads in their team colour.

The next activity was the Rachel's Challenge mural. It had been originally planned for the murals to be done on a section of pavement outside but because of the weather they were done on large sheets of paper in the hallways and the gym. When this exercise was finished, pictures were taken of each team with their mural. Spirit Day ended with a spoken courage prayer, a sung courage prayer, courage quotes from the spirit leaders, the song "Every Move I Make" and a Flash Dance. The theme for the next Spirit Day is Faith and it will be held Wednesday, December 7th.

### Riverside CEO to retire

On behalf of Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc., the Board of Directors would like to announce the retirement of President and Chief Executive Officer Wayne Woods, effective March 31, 2012. Upon his departure, Wayne will have dedicated 13 years of service to

Riverside. The Board has retained the services of an Executive Recruitment Firm, Odgers & Berndtson, to secure a new CEO for the Corporation. They are confident they will find a successor that will continue to

bring growth to Riverside as well as maintaining its vision and mission. The board would like to publicly thank Mr. Woods for his years of service to Riverside Health Care Facilities and wish him all the best.

### NCDS staff again sport terrific costumes for Halloween



Standing from left, Tim Spence, Kelly Kennedy, Kym Whalen, Crystal George, Kim Penny, Mona-Rose Morrisseau, Jenny Greenhalgh, Jane Carmody, Manami Alexander, seated in front Marah Trivers and Clara Collier.

**By Marlene Deschamps**

The staff at NCDS once again outdone themselves in donning costumes when they came to work on Halloween. There were hippies, fairies, a nun, a ballerina, a lovely Chinese lady just

to name a few and they sure surprised and delighted all the clients that were visiting NCDS on this special day. Two of the staff members also celebrate birthdays on October 31st so

they had a cake and Halloween treats also. This hard working bunch continue to do great work but they also know when to have a little fun.



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