

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



Rainy River dock structure using high dynamic range photo technique which combines under, over and normal exposure in one photo. Photo by Rene Hogue

Hundreds line Scott Street for Santa Claus Parade



Our jubilant Santa never tires of greeting the excited children.

NCDS holds Job Works Program graduation



Pictured from left, Christopher Berg, Jeremy Andy, Clifton Tuesday, Ahmadou Idrissou, Ryan Goertzen, Alison Brag, Caleb Watts, Hilary Morrisseau, Joseph Fedorak and Cassandra McLellen.

By Marlene Deschamps
NCDS held a graduation for its latest class from the Job Works Program on Friday, November 18th. All those taking the class now have jobs. NCDS is putting in its proposal for the next class and they are hoping to have a continuous intake process so every 12 weeks will see another class of 10 graduating and prepared to go into the workforce. The program is funded by Human Resources Skills Development Canada and is a federal government initiative.

The program sees the students in the class room for eight weeks followed by a 16 week after graduation job placement. Course elements include: interview skills; identifying career interests; employer expectations; communications techniques both verbal and written; advanced computer and keyboard skills and 25 certifications including First Aid- CPR, Smart Server, Ontario Food Handler, WHMIS and complete NORCAT training. Part of the funding also includes dollars to purchase interview clothing and for haircuts that make a better

appearance when seeking employment. In a previous article it was shown that one of the young men who graduated did something that benefited someone else when it came to his hair cut. He donated his hair to the Cuts for Kids Cancer program. Hopefully the funding will come through in a timely fashion so the next Job Works Program can get started. For more information about this program and any other program offered by NCDS visit their office on Scott Street across from the Post Office.

By Marlene Deschamps
The annual Santa Claus Parade took place on Saturday, November 26th. The event, again sponsored by Causeway Insurance, saw 14 floats and most stuck to the theme, A Festival of Trees.

At the head of the parade was the float collecting toys and food and the Sunset Country Metis and Fort Frances Lakers were kept busy running into the crowd to get new unwrapped toys and food items. The Salvation Army were also with this group and collecting cash donations in small buckets. We also got a chance to wave at our newest Citizen of the Year, Nick Wihnan. The Fort Frances High

Muskie boys hockey team helped with traffic control at intersections and the girls hockey team walked ahead of Santa and handed out candy to all the youngsters lining the parade route. There was even someone dressed as a clown walking along with the parade, waving and delighting the children. Problems with police help were worked out to some degree and the OPP led off the parade and the Treaty Three Police brought up the rear guard. The new route appears to have ended up quite successful as hundreds of people lined Scott Street all the way from the Arena to Mowat Avenue where it dispersed.

Winning awards this year were: Best Church or School Group—Fort Frances High School Saving Faces. Best Non Profit—Girl Guides. Best Business—Baduiks Equipment. Best Recreational Group—Dance Makers. Best Individual—Bill & Murray Whiting and Best Presentation of Theme—St. Mary's Youth Group.

Kudos and a big thank you should go to Causeway Insurance for taking over and sponsoring the parade. They have done a great job in seeing that Fort Frances still has a Santa Claus Parade for all the citizens who so look forward to this kick off to the Christmas season.

Unique Girls Beach Party held at St. Mary's



The hula hoop contest is both fun and hard work.

By Marlene Deschamps
On Friday, November 25th, a Beautiful Unique Girls Beach Party was held at St. Mary's Church in Fort Frances. There were 17 girls from Grade 7 to 12 who dressed in beach party attire and had dinner (pizza), slushies, snacks and live music. Each received a gift before leaving to return home.

Four young women travelled to facilitate the Beautiful Girls event. The program is based out of Winnipeg from the Family Life Network but these four came originally from Kenora, Winnipeg, Saskatchewan and Georgetown, Ontario. The four travelled in a van and most are

just out of high school themselves. One of the facilitators shared her life story where she told how having God in her life changed her and what faith had done for her. The facilitators will be returning to Winnipeg for a rest but then will continue to be part of several teams that travel across the country. They have facilitated 9 events to date.

The young girls were really into the spirit of a beach party, dressed in attire that belied the snow and cold outside and they sang and danced and participated in hula hoop contests and limbo contests. They listened very attentively to the young

woman speaking about having faith and the importance of having God in ones life. It was a celebration of life as a beautiful unique girl was successful in letting these young girls know that they were indeed unique.

This is the fourth year for the event taking place in Fort Frances. They will be taking a break in 2012 but the program will return. These events are usually attended by 15-50 girls, depending on the size of the congregation. Most of the attendees at this event were from the St. Mary's Youth Group plus students from St. Francis and Fort High.

Christmas Cash Draw



Auxiliary President Irene Laing and Riverside CEO Wayne Woods making draw.

By Marlene Deschamps
LaVerendrye Auxiliary held their major fund raising Cash

for Christmas Draw on Friday, November 25th. For the second year in a row every last ticket

was sold. The funds from the draw go towards hospital equipment and the Auxiliary just purchased three pain pumps.

The big winners this year were 1st prize of \$,1000 Barb Turgeon; 2nd prize of \$500 Lois Holmlund and 3rd prize of \$300 Calvin Smith.

The other two fundraisers are Rockin for a Reason and the Strawberry Social which were also very successful this year.

Next event for the Auxiliary is their Luncheon Meeting at Raincrest. The date is December 12th and members are reminded that tickets are available at the Gift Shop and at Shoppers.



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