

# 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



**What's cooking?**

This turtle has been dropping by the McBride family cabin on one of our beautiful area lakes for lunch for over 10 years. The kids call him Snappy. Gord McBride is pictured above giving Snappy his mid day snack.

### Rainy River Mayor speaks to concern over doctor shortage

**By Marlene Deschamps**

Rainy River Mayor Deb Ewald spoke of the most pressing issue in her community which is the need for another doctor. She said that Dr. Singleton, the town's only permanent physician since September, attended the last meeting with Riverside and felt it was a positive meeting. There will be help in recruiting another doctor. Ewald stated that they need another doctor plus locums to spell the doctors. She also gave an update on the Rainy River locum house. The shovel went into the ground in mid September and the sign is posted on site as the future home of the house. The bids are out and there is another site meeting on November 17th. The closing day for the bids is November 24th. Mayor Ewald also cited the need for the district to look at ongoing recruitment for all three sites under Riverside and the need to be sharing of costs of recruit-

ment with all municipalities. She also noted that the funding formula needs to be looked at from top to bottom by the provincial government and the availability and sustainability of doctors and medical services.

Concerning other issues for Rainy River, Mayor Ewald said they still have to keep up with these although the priority is the doctor shortage. She mentioned infrastructure and dollars for the water treatment plant. She also stated that she is very aware that Rainy River's problems are repeated in many small communities across the province. She said that the problem is that any dollars from the two other levels of government are based on 1/3 from the community and many are tapped out. Those that do have some dollars must safe guard them for any projects that cannot wait. She also said there is a big issue regarding jobs and she was pleased that some peo-

ple have gotten jobs from the mining sites in the area and she wants to promote the fact that Rainy River has reasonable real estate costs, hoping that some of the workers involved in those mining sites consider locating to Rainy River. She feels that although they seem to have been designated a retirement town, they do want to keep the younger people there and to do that they must have good job opportunities, good schools and doctors to service the people already there. It was mentioned what a nightmare it would be if there were no emergency services and the other two Riverside sites would be suddenly faced with servicing an additional 3,000 people. Mayor Ewald closed the interview by saying again that the last meeting with Riverside ended on a positive note so she will try and stay positive about this priority for the town of Rainy River.

### Rafferty votes for the people and gets dinged by his party



Despite a busy schedule, Rafferty always makes time to visit his constituents. On this occasion he is at the Remembrance Day Tea at the Legion in Fort Frances.

**By Marlene Deschamps**

MP John Rafferty voted with the government to kill the long gun registry although being warned to toe the party line. The ramifications for this action according to news articles are quite severe so John was asked just what his punishment would be. He said that he was pulled off the Aboriginal Committee and would not be allowed to make any statements or ask any questions in the House. When asked how long these conditions would remain, he said that he felt it would be until the bill is done and out of the House. He is hoping this will be before Christmas. One other NDP MP, namely Bruce Hyer also voted to kill the registry. One NDP MP from the Western Arctic in the Northwest Territories abstained from voting and one left the house before the vote.

The people in the riding made it clear to all candidates that they did not support the long gun registry and that they wanted it to go away. So any candidate, it would seem, should vote on this issue according to the wishes of the constituents that voted for them to represent the riding.

Further information on the issue was published in an article that stated that the Ontario Fed-

eration of Anglers and Hunters has refuted claims by some groups that scrapping the long gun registry will eliminate police access. Police will still have many sources of information related to firearms the organization claims. A spokesperson for the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police said anti gun groups and opposition parties are claiming that the abolition of the long gun registry and all associated data will rob police of a valuable tool to keep track of guns and leave them with nothing to check and noting could be further from the truth as quoted by OFAH director Mike Reader. The article goes on to state that police have sources of information and data other than the long gun registry that enables them to keep track of what they consider to be firearms threats and much of it is available through firearms licensing which ensures that police will know who is legal to own firearms in Canada. The article also states that the long gun registry is and always has been a database of people who have done nothing wrong.

FYI When I first began working for The Westend Weekly there was the push for the long gun registry and the reasons why it was needed. In trying to find what was lacking in the

present system. I went through the process of trying to buy a gun. What followed was a lengthy process which included a questionnaire that included me revealing my entire family history. It even stated that I must inform my ex of my intentions even though I had been divorced for over ten years. By the time they would have received that application every aspect of my life was covered in fine detail. One was not finished at that point but had to make an appointment with an OPP officer who was involved with people trying to obtain a gun license. At this point I was informed that I would need a gun safety course taught by a certified trainer. When a trainer was contacted I was told that I would have to wait until there were enough people wanting the course to make it worth his while. Each of these steps also would have involved some costs. In the end it made one wonder why there was a need for the long gun registry other than it was another source of revenue for the government. But we got the registry anyway. Thank goodness that after all these years and after the millions and millions of wasted dollars it will finally be over with.

### NCDS honoured by Armed Forces



From left Marah Trivers, Crystal George, Bridgett McInnes, Kim Penney, Kim Whalen and Executive Director, Jennifer Grenhagh receiving recognition from Master Bombardier Nathan Cousineau.

**By Marlene Deschamps**

Master Bombardier, Nathan Cousineau was in Fort Frances last week to present NCDS with special recognition for support and positive voice for soldiers rights. Cousineau is out of the #116 Independent Field Battery out of Kenora. He said that as part of the army and military they meet with the public to recognize fair employment and

support for the Canadian Armed Forces. These special recognitions come from the senior level of the Armed Forces. Cousineau is from Fort Frances and he previously worked with the NCDS Transition Centre so he said it was very much an honour to be able to present this award which he nominated them for. He added that they helped out with

recruiting and workshops and while he was at the Transition Centre they allowed him time to keep up with his duties. He cited their recognition of the tremendous sacrifices the armed forces do for all Canadians. Jennifer and many of the NCDS staff proudly posed with Master Bombardier to participate in the presentation.

### Over 4,000 head of cattle pass through Stratton Sales Barn

**By Marlene Deschamps**

As a wrap up for the season for the Stratton Sales Barn, Clayton Teeple said that around 4,700 head were sold during their three Fall Sales. The prices were as good as the eastern or western market. The cattle sold this year came from Thunder Bay, Dryden as well as the Rainy River District. Buyers were from Southern and Western Ontario as well as the Local Feeders Finance ( a co-op) which is a big supporter of the Stratton Sales Barn. Clayton said that it helps that there are two large animal vets as well as a local abattoir. He said that district people are now buying animals and taking them to the

abattoir. Prices have been extremely good, he noted, with them being back up to the 2003 level. This was just before the BSE problems that invaded the cattle industry. It also was the time when the border was closed to Canadian beef. He said they still have a way to go to recover from the mad cow issue but they are now on the way because we now have our own Canadian market which has greatly improved.

When asked about the empty building located in Rainy River, Clayton said they used to have inspectors and used to export cattle to the United States and this was what the building was used for. He said it is still their

asset and will be used again now that the borders are once again open and now that there are two area vets. But he added that there are now a lot of animals that are fed in Canada and that go to Canadian markets so they are not so dependent on animals being exported to the States. Clayton ended the interview saying that he wished to express his thanks to local producers for supporting the Stratton Sales Barn.

People can continue to support the Cattleman's Association, the abattoir and the Sales Barn by buying Rainy River raised beef which is available through different outlets in the District.



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