

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Memorial Donation made for Interpretive Trail



From left Irma Armit, Wanda Botsford and Vic Armit at the lookout beside donated bench.

by Marlene Deschamps

Victor C. Raiche was a naturalist, an artist, a musician and he loved the natural scenery in Northwestern Ontario. He often painted from memory and various bogs were one of his favorite subjects. He paid a lot of attention to detail and when someone saw one of his paintings they said they knew exactly where that scene was. He was a prospector, a trapper, a

hunter, a fiddler and worked for the MNR for 17 years. His daughter, Irma Armit thanked the people there for coming to witness the dedication. She also thanked Jeremiah Windego from Naicatchewenin First Nations for coming. The First Nation Community is the home of Kish-Gon-Dug Canada Inc., the company that makes the beautiful cedar patio and outdoor furniture. They made both

the benches that will sit on the lookout at Cranberry Peatlands Interpretive Trail that are the memorial donation from the family. Irma went on to say that her father supported the goals of the trail and left money in his will dedicated to them. She added that the time and effort and heart of the volunteers in developing the trail was dear to her Dad's heart and she was

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Luncheon of Hope a sell out



Jan Gustafson, a Committee member, enjoyed greeting everyone. Even the pumpkins were pink.

by Marlene Deschamps

This year's Luncheon of Hope was held on Saturday, October 24th. The Luncheon was again a sold out successful affair which saw women gather together to celebrate success and courage, honor those lost and enjoy each other company. If there is truth in the adage that laughter can heal and is a health benefit, the crowd at the Luncheon are a great way to gauge the truth of that adage. There was a lot of laughter and smiles from the Rainy River District Breast Health Network Members, survivors, guests and everyone else in the packed room.

There was a half hour mix and mingle before everyone was welcomed by June Keddie, Mistress of Ceremonies. Her

humor is contagious and she soon had everyone laughing with her short welcome. She then introduced Jean Boileau who said Grace before everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch. All throughout lunch there were draws for the dozens of attendance prize donated by members and businesses in the area.

After lunch Eva Thornton thanked the Rendevoez for a wonderful meal and thanked the servers for doing such a great job. They received a well deserved round of applause. Eva then did a tribute to Dr. Audrey Johnstone who recently passed away. It was Dr. Audrey, as everyone called her who was the pioneer in developing what has evolved into the Breast Health Program offered to

women in the district. In 1985 she was aware that throughout the district only self exams were being done and very few mammograms were done and those were in Winnipeg and Thunder Bay. Eva mentioned Anna Busch who saw a need and began the organization. She asked Dr. Audrey to come on board. Not only did she come on board she insisted from day one that everyone be tested-women of all ages. Her futuristic thinking dictated that it was obvious that a mammogram was needed here. While having a coffee at Bonnie Blue and seeing people buying lottery tickets, she approached Louie Cousineau about selling lottery tickets through the Auxiliary. He helped with the necessary papers for the lottery commission and it was a go. With the help of the lottery, 100's of thousands were raised and she got her mammogram machine. It was the first machine in Northwestern Ontario when in 1987 it started making the rounds to hospitals, reserves, gyms, emergency rooms-even kitchens and storage rooms so that it was available to everyone in the district as Dr. Audrey insisted. Eva said she would sit with women in the waiting room and guide them through the process and the women loved her for that. Dr. Audrey received the Governor General Canadian Volunteer Award. Eva mentioned she also worked with Meals on Wheels and the Blood Donor Clinic. She was a woman of substance and worth and whenever she saw a need she just went ahead to alleviate the need. Eva ended by saying

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Local Government Week garners some possible future local politicians



Students took over the Civic Centre with Cathy Lawson and Councillor Rick Wiedenhoef.

by Marlene Deschamps

Local Government Week saw Mayor Roy Avis, Councillors, CEO Mark McCaig and department managers speaking with students from many of the schools in Fort Frances. Monday morning kick-off saw Mayor Avis and Deputy Mayor Sharon Tibbs followed by various Councillors do the morning show on B93. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday saw various Executive Committee members along with the Councillor assigned to that committee on the morning show explaining their roles in the different departments that are responsible for the smooth operation of the local government in providing services to

the citizens.

Mayor Avis addressed the High School Grade 10 Civics Class and Robert Moore's Grade 5 classes. Deputy Mayor Sharon Avis along with Rick Wiedenhoef and CEO, Mark McCaig also spoke at J.W.Walker School, the High School and St. Francis School. On Wednesday, October 21st, two Grade 5 classes from Robert Moore toured the Civic Centre, the Museum, the Court House and Operations and Facilities division. During the tour of the Civic Centre they stopped off to hear from the Treasurer, the Tax department, the By-law Office and CEO, Mark McCaig. They showed a lot of interest at the By-law

office and many of their questions revolved around bears. They were shown both a foot print sample and a spoor sample. When it was explained by By-law officer, Patrick Briere, in Grade 5 language that the spoor was "Poop", they reacted with "ick" and a few other ough words. They asked some very intelligent questions though including what to do if they spotted a bear and most wanted to know what happens when a bear has to be tranquilized. When they were in McCaig's office, they really took to heart his explanation of how important municipal government was to them and how accessible they were all. He explained

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The Great Canadian Chili Cook-Off



Certified Financial Planners Susan Bodnarchuk and Bruce Holmlund were the first place champs.

by Marlene Deschamps

Wednesday, October 21st saw eleven teams vie for the plaque which denotes they won The Great Canadian Chili Cook-Off. The teams and the names of their chili's were: Northland Distributing with "Ice Box Chili"; Edward Jones with "Up It Chilli"; Rainycrest with "Foundation of Youth Chili"; Seven Generations with "Stewed Ent Chili"; TD Canada Trust with "TD Chili You Can Trust"; Fort Frances High School 2 with "Red Dragons"; Fort Frances High School 3 with "Big Daddy's Chili"; B93 FM with "FM Good Chili"; Gillon's insurance Brokers with "Red Hot Gillons' Peppers"; Causeway General Insurance with "Return of Tailgate Caution Chili" and Holmlund Financial Services with "Holmlund's Hot & Wild Chili".

When everyone had their fill of chili and buns and had marked X on the ballot and many were ready to walk away

with one of the close to 25 cakes up for grabs at the Cake Roulette Wheel, the winners were announced. Taking first place was Holmlunds' Hot and Wild. When they were presented with the coveted plaque, Bruce Holmlund said that

although retired for some years, he comes out of retirement to work on the best chili for this annual event. Taking second from the judges and first for People's Choice Award was the Seven Generation who won with Stewed Ent Chili. Rounding out the winners was third place winner, Causeway General Insurance's Return of Tailgate Caution Chili. People's Choice Awards went to, as mentioned above, first to Seven Generations and taking second was Gillon's Insurance Brokers followed by third place going to Edward Jones.

Chamber President, Cathy Emes, was pleased with the turnout. She said the dollars raised would be divided between the Chamber and the food banks. She said many people also brought food donations for the food banks so they did quite well. She gave a big thank you to the Legion for the use of their kitchen and for all the members and volunteers who donated to the cake roulette.



Seven Generations team who won second place and also won the People's Choice Award.

The Fort Frances Team



Robin Payeur
274-6688



Holly Penney
274-6688



Pam Buttner
274-6688



Martin Dufresne
275-8916
852-4237

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