

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. 27 Wednesday, October 19, 2011
Serving the Rainy River District for more than 19 years! Read us on line at www.westendweekly.ca

Photographers' showcase



Nature's creatures

This little green tree frog landed on the finger of a young person. One can see just how small these brightly coloured frogs are. Couldn't image how many you would need to have a meal of delicious frogs legs.
by John Veillieux

This is a new spot in the paper in which we invite readers to show off a photo they are proud of. No rules, just provide a sentence or two to describe the picture.

There's a hidden treasure in Alberton



Staff
Alberton's new exercise/athletic park is something to stop and see. It's located on Hill Rd. just north of Superior Propane. The exercise and children's play area are totally unique. Adults can enjoy the wide variety of low impact exercise equipment while the kids have fun climbing, sliding, swinging and whatever their imaginations can think up. While having fun on all the equipment, a family or group could have dinner cooking on the BBQ. There's a big field to

have a game of soccer or just race around in. Then, down at the outdoor hockey rink, which has a cement finish, a basketball game could be in progress using the hoops which are all ready for action in the summer. If anyone has a birthday party planned there or an organization has planned a picnic, just call Beth Logue at the Municipal Office and she'll unlock the washrooms. They also have hot (during winter) and cold running water. Meanwhile the food on the BBQ is ready so everyone can

adjourn to the picnic benches set up in the pavilion. The pavilion was built entirely by volunteers about 8 years ago. The children's play area was constructed three years ago. The adult exercise equipment was put in two years ago and finished this summer although another couple of exercise units are on order for next year. Again, all labour was done by volunteers. Anyone driving by is very welcome to visit and stretch their legs. Overnight parking is not available.

Our local fire departments need YOU!!



Fire fighters are all great people with a common goal. They also enjoy a comradery only found in this type of organization.

Staff
Fire departments throughout our district rely on the hard work and dedication of volunteer fire fighters. In Canada 80 percent of firefighters are volunteers. The volunteer fire department is of vital importance to all communities but due to the lack of volunteers, some of our communities could lose theirs. Health and Safety, under the direction of the Ministry of Labour, is enforcing new regulations which will ensure that all municipal departments are staffed with enough volunteers to ensure their safety. There are a number of jobs which are imperative while attending a fire thus the minimum requirement. According to District Fire Chief Gerry Armstrong, "If we're going to survive in our fire service as we know it, we need to get serious". There simply are not enough fire fighters in all of our municipal departments. Being a member of a fire department is not all hard work. There is social interaction

through community events, fire hall maintenance, meetings and most of all through training. According to Chief Armstrong and Ashley Stamler, a fire fighter from the Rainy River department, training is a really wonderful experience. Partly because you meet up with other fire fighters throughout the district who have quickly become friends. You work together in team situations, sometimes competing to learn a new procedure the fastest. It's also really interesting to learn to use the equipment and procedures. Sometimes it can get complicated. The pumper is an example, knowing the pressures required for each situation and availability of water. If you don't get it right it doesn't work. There are many areas to become expert in but, although it would be optimal, no one needs to be proficient in everything. There are many different jobs needed at each fire scene. First, there needs to be a driver for the pumper. In the old days that could be the first person at the firehall but with today's re-

quirements, it needs to be someone with a DZ licence. That person could also be the one to run the pumper at the fire scene but not necessarily if he/she hasn't received that particular training. The person in charge of accountability could be someone with little training but is in charge of keeping track of all personnel at the scene to ensure their safety. Then there's the incident commander who delegates the jobs and manages the event. Exposure protection is a job for a hose operator who ensures the periphery is safe from the spread of fire. There's the exterior fire attack and the fire fighters who are trained for interior fire attack, search and rescue. The point is though, each fire event requires a minimum of fighters to perform all of the jobs. Fire fighters, being volunteers, usually have jobs which prohibit them from being on call all of the time so duplication of talents is necessary. There are departments in our district which are in serious danger of being closed due to lack of firefighters. This type of decision is not a local one either. Health and Safety regulations may determine fire hall closures based on lack of human or other resources. Once a department is closed, there will of course, be no fire protection and therefore insurance issues become a problem, the least of which could be paying twice as much for one's policy. If you might be interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer, there are two people to contact. Chief Gerry Armstrong at 275-8788 and Ashley Stamler at 276-2495. Both of these people stressed how critical the situation has become and how easily it can be resolved with more volunteers. So if you are not interested, or feel you might not be able to pass the physical (which is now a requirement), perhaps you know someone who might enjoy being a fire fighter. There will be meetings to attend, training, and the need to be on call but there is so much more. There's a huge amount of prestige in being a member of an organization that saves lives and saves all that people have spent their life building...their homes and businesses. And as well as that, there's a great deal of fun to be had in training and working together as a team. Gerry and Ashley have also said that they would be very enthusiastic in organizing group sessions to let people who are interested know just what is involved. They are also happy to talk to individuals. Whatever it takes, volunteers are needed now to save or enhance all of our fire departments.

Police seeking information in unsolved occurrences

Rainy River District OPP has recently investigated incidents involving property damage. The cases remain open and officers are asking the public to notify OPP if anyone has information regarding the following crimes.
Break and Enter - On August 30, 2011 culprit(s) broke into a garage on the 1000 block of Second Street East in Fort Frances. The individual(s) responsible entered the building by forcing entry through the side door of the garage. Items stolen include a camera, a handheld GPS, a yellow Bass Pro Shop bag with fishing tackle.

Mischief - Between August 27 - 29, 2011, culprit(s) attended a gravel pit located on Balsam Street near the Fort Frances dump. A lock was broken off the gravel pit entrance gate and those responsible entered two "sea containers" and discharged a fire extinguisher inside the containers.
Break and Enter - Between August 5 - 23, 2011 culprit(s) entered a residence on Lakewood Drive in the Lake of the Woods Township by prying open a garage window which ultimately allowed access to the interior of the house. Stolen

from the residence were two rifles and a quantity of coins.
Arson - On July 28, 2011 OPP and Fort Frances Fire Department responded to a report of a small fire between two homes located on the 200 block of Elizabeth Avenue in Fort Frances. The fire was quickly extinguished by the fire department but a melted gas can was found at the scene. If anyone has information pertaining to any of these crimes, contact OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477(TIPS).



This training exercise simulates what it would be like entering a black smoke filled building, having to manoeuvre around obstacles to search every corner for inhabitants.



Vehicle extrication, training firefighters how to quickly dismantle a vehicle in order to remove anyone trapped inside.



Martin Dufresne
275-8916
852-4237



Are you paying too much for rural insurance?

Insure a \$175,000 home for less than \$500*

* with \$1,000 deductible and qualifying discounts

Proudly Serving the Entire Rainy River District



Melissa Wiebe
274-6688



Robin Payeur
274-6688



Pam Buttner
274-6688

229 Scott Street, Fort Frances 1-800-289-9917