

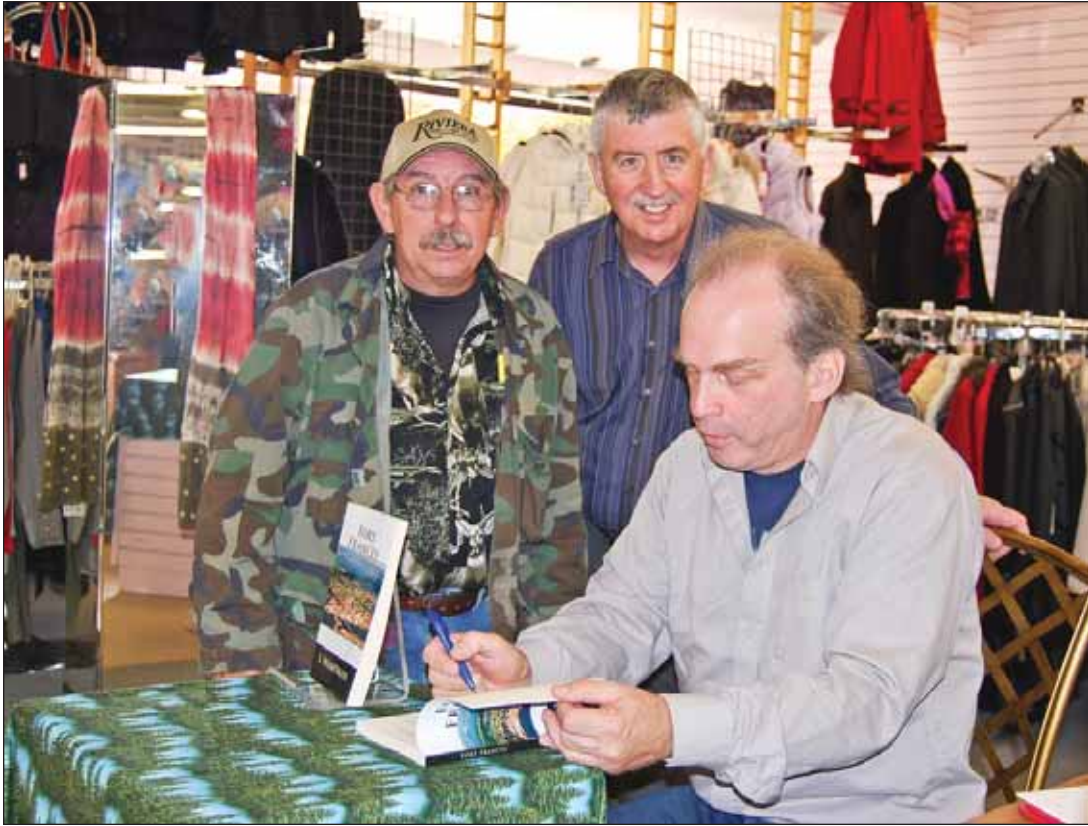
The Westend Weekly

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. 25 Wednesday, October 5, 2011
Serving the Rainy River District for more than 19 years! Read us on line at www.westendweekly.ca

Book launch and signing for S. Wampman's latest book at Betty's



Dale Stamarski, Blair Anderson gave an enthusiastic welcome to author Mike Kemper.

By Marlene Deschamps

On Friday, September 30th, Betty's hosted yet another author for a book launch and signing. The Anderson brothers, Blair and Doug continue to support area authors and entrepreneurs. Author, Mike Kemper was there from 11 am until 2 pm.

Friends of Mikes from the library staff showed up to get their books, along with fellow

artist and singer, Brittany Hayes who also wanted this newest book of his. He was also pleased that friend and neighbour Sheri Stamarski sent hubby Dale in to get the latest book to add to her collection of his other three books.

During the evening, Mike was at the Red Dog Bar where a big crowd showed up and seemed to enjoy themselves. He was also pleased to be able to visit

and catch up with some friends.

Mike's style of writing is definitely unusual as is his grammar on occasion and spelling but you are quickly drawn in to the humour in his stories. It's definitely a fun, easy read that will make you smile.

Regionally, Mikes books are also available from Novel Ideas in Dryden as well as being available at Betty's in Fort Frances.

Mix and Mingle with candidates in upcoming Provincial election



PC candidate, Rob McKay, Liberal candidate, Anthony Leek and NDP candidate, Sarah Campbell. So shake hands contenders, come out fighting and may the winner represent us with strength, courage, and great representation for all of our needs in Northwestern Ontario.

By Marlene Deschamps

The Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce held a Mix and Mingle to give people a chance to hear the candidates in the upcoming provincial election give their party pitch and to let people know what they would do for the people of the riding if elected. Mark Caron, Chamber President was the emcee for the evening.

Around 40 people attended the event. Each of the three candidates who showed up for the Mix and Mingle got a 20 minute time slot to speak. Each spoke of themselves, why they were running and how by voting for them would benefit people from this riding. The event was not televised and neither the Green Party Candidate nor the Northern Ontario Heritage Party Candidates were present. There

were no questions from the floor and instead people just got to talk to the various candidates as they stayed around for coffee and doughnuts.

There was a debate held in Stratton on the following night where people could question the candidates and at this debate, the same three candidates were present along with the candidate for the Northern Ontario Heritage Party, but again missing the Green Party candidate. This debate, along with the Mix and Mingle, were not televised by Shaw. The debates held in Dryden and Kenora were televised and all candidates were present. Thank you very much Shaw for your dedication to local television?

Election day is Thursday, October 6th. It is your responsibility to get out and vote. If you

have not made up your mind, read the platforms each party has put forward. If you have questions, contact their campaign offices and ask them. It was just announced during a CBC broadcast regarding the Prince Edward Island Provincial Election that they usually have a 85% turnout for the vote and they were expecting the same this time around. In comparison, Ontario's turnout is pitiful. Your vote is an opportunity to be heard, all the way to Queen's Park, hopefully. If you don't vote you will have a ruling party chosen by sometimes less than half of the electorate. If this is the case again this time around, woe are the chances for anyone to hear the voice of the north because it will just be a cry in the wilderness. On October 6th make your voice heard. VOTE.

Over 100 visit Sister Kennedy's Senior Centre for Seniors Day



Clara and Hubert Medhurst with MP John Rafferty enjoying cake and coffee.

By Marlene Deschamps

October 1st was Seniors Day across the nation. Communities were encouraged to host events involving seniors on their special day.

Fort Frances hosted a drop in for cake and coffee at Sister Kennedy's Senior Centre. There were 110 people who signed in on that day and who were enjoying the free treat. 103 year old Hubert Medhurst drove wife 98 year old Clara down to enjoy cake. These two continue to amaze and the stories they can relate about the old days show that their chronological age might be quite advanced but their memories are still young

and alive. Hubert was telling this reporter and MP John Rafferty who was sitting with them, about driving down the street in a horse and buggy to go to the movies and how they often got stuck in the mud. Clara divulged about the early days when the Beck's had the cab company and how they often were called on to perform ambulance duty. They just opened the trunk and removed the back seats so they could push a stretcher through. They would then transport the person to the hospital. Rafferty had a second reason for visiting the centre. He wanted a good game

of bridge which he said he was a master of in previous years. He was hoping to get invited to play at one of the three tables set up for Saturday bridge. Mayor Avis also took the time to stop down and have cake and coffee with a table full of seniors. He said he was always glad to visit at the centre and speak with the seniors so he could get the real lowdown on what was happening in the town and advice on solutions to problems. No doubt he would get a lot of really good advice and hopefully bring it forward to Council so they could also benefit from the wisdom of the seniors.

Lucky break for pilot in plane crash

On October 2, 2011 members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Dryden Detachment officers received a report of a 1975 Cessna 152M, 8 miles North of Vermilion Bay in distress. The pilot, 22 year old Sebastian BORSOS from Quebec, was

forced to make an emergency landing. Officers arrived and learned that the pilot had stopped to fuel up in Sioux Lookout. Upon his take off, the plane seemed to lose power but then was fine. The pilot was approximately 20 kilometers from

the landing strip in Vermilion Bay and thought he could make it but he decided to land on the McIntosh Road. He did clip some trees on the landing but landed without injury. He was on his way to Yellowknife.

Fire Safety Week kick-off



Four year old Hunter McLean and his sister, seven year old Rhyan sitting in fire engine.

By Marlene Deschamps

The Fire Safety Week kick-off took place at Canadian Tire on Saturday, October 1st. The fire engine was parked in the parking lot and there were tables set up that held brochures on fire safety information and many other giveaways. There was also an entry box for a major prize of a bike for one lucky winner.

Fire Chief Riches said the kick-off started a week early this year but they will be hosting the same yearly events over the next few weeks. They will be going into all the schools and speaking with 500-600 students. These students will be JK to Grade 3. They will continue to work with the Grade 4-6 throughout the year.

Inside the store there was a table set up with items that had caused fires such as old coffee pots, tea kettles, etc. There also was information on alarms and giveaways for adults.

The kick-off is always well attended and the next edition of the paper will include a picture of the grand prize winner.



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