

# The Westend Weekly

## Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, Rainy River, ON POW 1L0 Ph. 852-3815, FAX 852-1863, e-mail: westendweekly@tbaytel.net - Serving the District for 17 years VOL. 18, NO. 22 Wednesday, September 2, 2009  
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### Marvin Windows patriarch dies



William S. "Bill" Marvin, who led the growth of Marvin Windows and Doors from a regional lumber company to a world-renowned manufacturer, died August 31, 2009, at his home in Warroad, MN surrounded by his family. He was 92 years old.

Bill was born on August 25, 1917, in Warroad, Minn., the eldest son of George and Almira (Gibson) Marvin. He graduated from Warroad High School and the University of Minnesota.

After graduating from the University of Minnesota, Bill worked briefly for General Mills before returning to Warroad in 1939 at the request of his father, George. He joined the Marvin Lumber and Cedar Company as its eighth employee. Not long after Bill's return, the company began building custom wood window and door frames to keep the company busy during the winter season.

Bill later pushed to expand the offering to complete windows and doors and led what is now known as Marvin Windows and Doors to become the world's largest premier made to order window and door manufacturer. Bill assumed the company's presidency and chairmanship in 1960. Under his leadership, the company grew every year except 1961, when the Warroad factory burned to the ground. Bill most recently served as Honorary Chairman of Marvin Windows and Doors.

Bill was widely recognized for his multitude of business and civic contributions. He was inducted to the Minnesota Business Hall of Fame, Twin Cities Business magazine's 2007 Minnesota Business Hall of Fame, received the Distinguished Minnesotan Award from Bemidji State University and was named to Builder magazine's 100 most

influential building industry leaders of the twentieth century, 1988 Moorhead State L.B. Hartz Professional Achievement Award, 1990 Bemidji State University Distinguished MN Award, 1992 University of MN Outstanding Achievement Award, and 1995 Warroad High School Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award.

Bill was a past President and a member of the Window and Door Manufacturing Association for 45 years, and also served on the Board of Directors. He was involved in the Northwestern Minnesota Manufacturing Association and served as the Director of the National Woodwork Manufacturers Association from 1979-1981, as well as being a member for a number of years. He was on the Board of Directors of the American National Bank and Trust in St. Paul, Minn. He was a lifelong member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Warroad.

Along with his involvement in these industry organizations, Bill also devoted much of his time to community organizations. He served as the Warroad Commercial Club President during the 1940s. He was also a member of the Warroad Hospital Board for more than 30 years, and served a number of years as Chairman. Bill volunteered his time and services to the Warroad Fire Department and served as Chief for a number of years. He was also elected Secretary of the Lake of the Woods Property Owners Association. Bill and his wife, Margaret, will also be remembered in the community of Warroad for their recent endowment of a \$15 million scholarship fund to benefit graduates of Warroad High School seeking higher education.

The funeral service will be held on Friday, September 4, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. at the Warroad High School Gymnasium with Reverend Myrna Major of Emo officiating.

### Taking advantage of last days of summer



The Fort Frances Skate Park has been a hub of activity throughout the summer producing some very accomplished athletes.

by Marlene Deschamps

Anyone driving down Second Street this summer has seen that the skate board park is a well used site for many who ride bikes, use skate boards or roller blades. The group of fellas out on Sunday, August 30th said they are there almost every day that the weather allows during the summer and will probably be out every weekend

after school starts. When one was asked what he would do if the park wasn't there he said he would probably be getting into trouble because he was always chased away from any place he tried to use his board. One of the older fellas said he thought every town should have some sort of park so those who enjoyed this sport could do so safely. He added it didn't have

to be this big and even one half it's size would be great. A lot of people agree with that statement because they were concerned about safety for all those who bike, roller blade or use skate boards to get around. Some of those who use the skate park regularly can really perform some awesome manoeuvres and it is pretty exciting to watch.

### 7th Annual Alzheimer's Ride For Memories



Wayne & Joanne Brown with MP John Rafferty on the right.

by Marlene Deschamps

The 7th Annual Alzheimer's Ride for Memories was held on Saturday, August 29th. This year Mother Nature cooperated and the riders had beautiful weather for the annual fund raiser. Last year saw the riders brave rain, wind and hail and their ride was anything but pleasant. This year the sky was blue the wind was gentle and the temperature was perfect for the riders.

Last year there were about 150 riders and they raised a total of \$32,000. Also last year, they took a ride through Rainy River—a first. Many of the riders had never been there before and it gave them to chance to see this neat place at the west end of the district.

This year the ride went to Red Lake and they ended up having their steak dinner there. The ride was not only a chance for a ride for a good cause, but it was a chance to learn more about the geography of the Sunset Country which we all know is some of the most beautiful country in the world.

More than a dozen riders took off from the Harbourage at around 9 a.m. to join their counterparts from Kenora, Dryden, Red Lake, Atikokan, Fort Frances and municipalities west of here all the way to

Rainy River. One of those couple came from Atikokan to stay at the family farm in Stratton and start the ride in Fort Frances. That couple was Wayne and Joanne Brown. They were introduced to the fun of this annual fundraiser three years ago by Sheree Danby, niece, and Chris Denby. Since Wayne lost his father to Alzheimers around that time he felt he should get involved. Wayne said he rode as a teenager but got back into it when these family members told him about the ride. So now Wayne and wife Joanne come down each year around this time and do some work on the family farm and then take part in the ride. Wayne said he feels he is riding for his Dad and added most bikers like any excuse for a ride and this is a great excuse. They, along with the other riders, looked great as they roared out of the Harbourage parking lot in groups of two, three and four.

At the end of the day when the prizes were given out in Red Lake there were a lot of happy, satisfied but tired people who gave rounds of applause to the winners. The top fund raiser was Brian MacDonald from Dryden. He raised \$4,610. His chosen prize was the Northern

Harbour Sailboat charter out of Kenora. Raising the second highest amount was Kevin Kennedy from Pinewood. He raised \$4,232 and his chosen prize was time at the Tomahawk Resort in Sioux Narrows. Coming in third was Bob Gordon of Kenora who raised \$1,525. His prize was a stay at the Lakeview Lodge in Nestor Falls. Now Gordon runs a lodge so he very generously turned his prize back in. It was auctioned off and raised an extra \$300 for the event. Runner up and deserving honourable mention was former Kenora Mayor, Dave Canfield who raised \$1451.

The winner of the Poker Hands were: 1st-Phil Rempel of Kenora. He wins time at the Super 8 in Fort Frances; 2nd-Destiny Glushek of Dryden. She wins time at Days Inn in Kenora; 3rd- Shane Anderson of Dryden. He wins time at the Best Western in Kenora. Winning 4th was Robin Nairn from Kenora who gets time at the Riverview Lodge in Dryden.

There were well over 100 bikers who took part and Executive Director, Margaret Schonewille said it looked like they could meet or beat the amount made last year.

### Plans underway to deal with a possible second wave of H1N1

by Marlene Deschamps

Dr. Jim Arthurs, the Medical Officer for the Northwestern Ontario Health Unit has been on the job since January 2nd of this year. On contacting him for the latest news on the H1N1 virus, he said there have been 73 reported cases of H1N1 in the Northwestern catchment area since late March. None of these cases have been fatal.

The Northwestern Health Unit is not aware of any new cases diagnosed for several weeks. There is no approved vaccine available at this time but it is expected to be ready for late October or early November. Studies are ongoing to verify the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine they have developed before it is offered to the public.

Dr. Arthurs said there is current concern around the globe that there is the potential for a second wave of this flu which has been declared a pandemic. They do not know if the second wave will follow the path of the first cases or if it will be worse. The science has indicated this happening but with all the con-

cern there is a need to plan without creating panic and fear. In the case of the NWHU, they put together a working group about four months ago. It consists of an epidemiologist, an infectious disease manager, the director of health protection and Dr. Arthurs, of course. They have been having weekly teleconference meetings with the Ministry of Health out of Toronto, MOH personnel and 1st Nations representatives. They were holding these meetings daily after the first outbreak but now meet weekly. He added it is all about planning for the possibility. They have identified the most vulnerable persons at high risk for catching H1N1. They are: otherwise healthy young adults; infants and small children; pregnant women; those with chronic diseases; those with compromised immune systems and those who live in a compromised environment with poor living conditions, no running water, crowded living quarters and poor sanitation. The priority list is set by the Ministry.

Dr. Arthurs said they have left many of the elderly on the high

risk list and he feels it might be because of the collection of immunities they have because of having the flu previously and regular or seasonal flu shots.

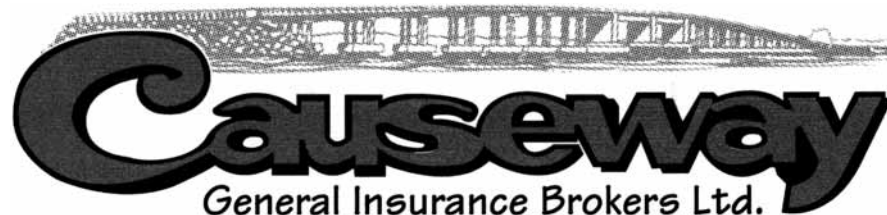
The symptoms for H1N1 are much like those of the seasonal flu such as: a feeling of fatigue and general malaise; fever & headache; generalized aches and pains; sore throat; cough and in rare cases (except among the very young) nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. It is suggested a person stay home if they don't feel well and seek medical advice if the symptoms are persistent and more severe and continuing over time.

Dr. Arthurs said they will continue to have weekly meetings and getting input from stakeholders. They will meet with groups and health teams around Northwestern Ontario, school officials and essential services to create a common thread of communications between Health Canada, Ontario Ministry of Health and communities across Northwestern Ontario. He said this would give a clear picture for making

Please see H1N1 on page 3



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