

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Ken Dryden visits Fort Frances for BBQ and meetings



MP Ken Dryden and Liberal candidate for Thunder Bay/Rainy River riding, Ken Boshcoff

by Marlene Deschamps

Ken Dryden, MP and former hockey great was in Fort Frances on September 3rd and 4th to host a fundraising BBQ for the Liberal candidate for Thunder Bay/Rainy River riding, Ken Boshcoff and to meet with the media and community leaders to discuss issues of poverty and social justice. He is travelling around Northwestern Ontario and holding meetings with the media and local community groups.

On Thursday evening, people gathered at Little Beaver Snow Park to enjoy a BBQ with the two Ken's and while Ken Boshcoff, former MP and current Liberal candidate is well known to everyone in the area, it was Ken Dryden who was asked to sign books, hockey sticks, caps and other sports paraphernalia. Dryden spoke of the Liberal party leaders recent announcement that they would no longer support the Harper government.

Early Friday morning Dryden held an Editorial Board where discussions surrounding possible upcoming elections and various issues pertinent to the area were discussed. On the issue of local Shaw programming, Dryden said it is expect-

ed under the license that they provide local programming and the issue should be addressed. Because the news was so recent regarding Grey Goose eliminating services, Neither Dryden or Boshcoff could make any definitive statement but both said that access should be provided. Since rail traffic ceased in many isolated and 1st Nations communities, it is important to provide access. Dryden explained there was a Liberal policy regarding train travel but changed under Mulroney and never came back to the table. He further explained the it was a balancing act considering that very little service updates had been made over the last 25 years and they must look at a more desirable option. He added there is no policy at present. When asked the question on everyone's mind "Why an election now?", Dryden said "Why not?". If this results in another minority government it will send a clear message that Canadians want the parties to work together and that is not what is happening under Harper. He noted that with the two main parties plus the Bloc being so strong it is hard for anybody to form a majority government. He told

those present that Harper is not running a government, he is running a campaign and he continues to tell the house members --support me or bring me down--. Dryden sated he did not feel this was the way to run a government. He added he has not once shown over the past 3 1/2 years that he is willing to work with others and government cannot function under these conditions. He spoke of no longer wanting to play the other guys game and said the party wants to be the opposition, not the party who gets told to support or bring down the government. He also said this recession shouldn't be just ridden out because the country is not going back to where it was before. He said this country need to be part of the world of the future. Dryden then thanked those who showed up and said he had to attend another meeting before departing. He was set up to meet with municipal leaders and workers involved in poverty programs. He said his main purpose was on how to deliver on the identified formula needed to reduce poverty and he found the best source of information he could get was from the people who related to the issue.

You can't keep a good man down!



by Marlene Deschamps

Mike Freeman has been a part of the media and a big part of the local hockey scene for many years. His broadcasts and commentaries for local teams have been heard by and appreciated by most town people. Some years back, Mike was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Both his parents had this insulin dependent form of diabetes which has a genetic component. He needs to give himself four shots a day. Mike said he learned the hard way the importance of following instruction regarding being careful with extremities. He made note that it was absolutely crucial that people with diabetes check and that every little abrasion must be cleaned carefully so infection does not spread. He lost one of his legs due to infection in his foot from a callus. The second leg was lost because of a stubbed toe. Mike's message to others is that it is important to check these

things out constantly and be aware so they don't learn the hard way like he did. He has put that behind him now and is busy living life with an attitude that endears him to all. His sense of humour is as great as ever and like the energizer bunny he just keeps going and going. He is also still involved in hockey and spent time down at the Sportsplex over the past week helping out with the push to keep a junior team in town. When it comes to hockey, like most other things, when something needs to be done, Mike Freeman is the first to say "How can I help?"

Mike has learned to cope very well with the loss of his legs and has learned to get around on his prosthetics. He is even trying to get back into golf and this is said with a laugh. He has a really neat new bike, unlike any other seen around here. It has a bright yellow section and is streamlined. It was jokingly

mentioned he might be able to go in the Ride for Memories with such an updated scooter. Mike says he still has some bad days but added the more positive a person is, the better off you are. He credits his recovery and his attitude to all the support and love from his wife, Cheryl, his family and the support of the community. His hockey family have been behind him every step of the way also and to make things a big easier, they are having a fish fry in his honour on Wednesday, September 23rd at the Couchiching Rec Centre. The cost is \$10 which includes fish, wild rice casserole, beans, buns and a beverage. The band "Night Shift" will provide the entertainment and there will be a silent auction table. You can get your tickets from Bev Kotnik at 274-2243, Ethel Lowey, Everett Freeman at Laverendrye or Pam Munn at the Times.

50th Anniversary party coming up at the Sales Barn

by Marlene Deschamps

The Stratton Sales Barn has been servicing the Rainy River District for 50 years. To celebrate this occasion, they are

going to have a party on Saturday, September 19th starting at 1 p.m. They are expecting the President of the Ontario's Cattleman's

Association and possibly some Fed Nor officials. There will be a dinner and other events to go along with what looks like what will be a fun day.



This is one Kookie Cuke! And of course it was spotted in the garden of "Old Eagle Eye" Marie Kubera. We've all seen funny looking carrots and tomatoes but how often are two cucumbers joined into one? If you have any interesting pictures to share, we welcome them.

Howie welcomes over 300 to annual pancake breakfast



Howie with Shelly (nee: Grabowski) and Al Douglas.

by Marlene Deschamps

Howie's annual pancake breakfast was held on Saturday, September 5th at Sister Kennedy's as usual. It was a packed house as many came out to enjoy this annual event. The cooks were kept busy fixing pancakes and sausages from early a.m. until 10 a.m. People visited with Howie at the door, both coming and going. Stopping to chat were Shelly and Al Douglas from Winnipeg. Both are former Fort Frances residents and they

spoke with Howie about Gary Doer's recent resignation as Premier of Manitoba and his becoming the newest Ambassador to the United States. Howie told them he would be seeing Mr. Doer later in the day when he attended a fish fry in the Kenora area. He told the two that Doer was a great guy and that he often saw him when he was around the Kenora-Whiteshell area. He laughingly spoke of his campaigning for Howie when he was Ontario's NDP leader.

Howie said it is a lot easier dealing with issues in Northwestern Ontario instead of the whole province and added that the new NDP leader (Andrea Horvath) was doing really great work.

While Howie was in town he stopped by to support the drive to keep the Sabres Hockey Team alive and donated \$1,000 to the cause. The team, if it is a go and it looks like it will, will be called the Fort Frances Juniors.



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