

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. 25 Wednesday, September 23, 2009
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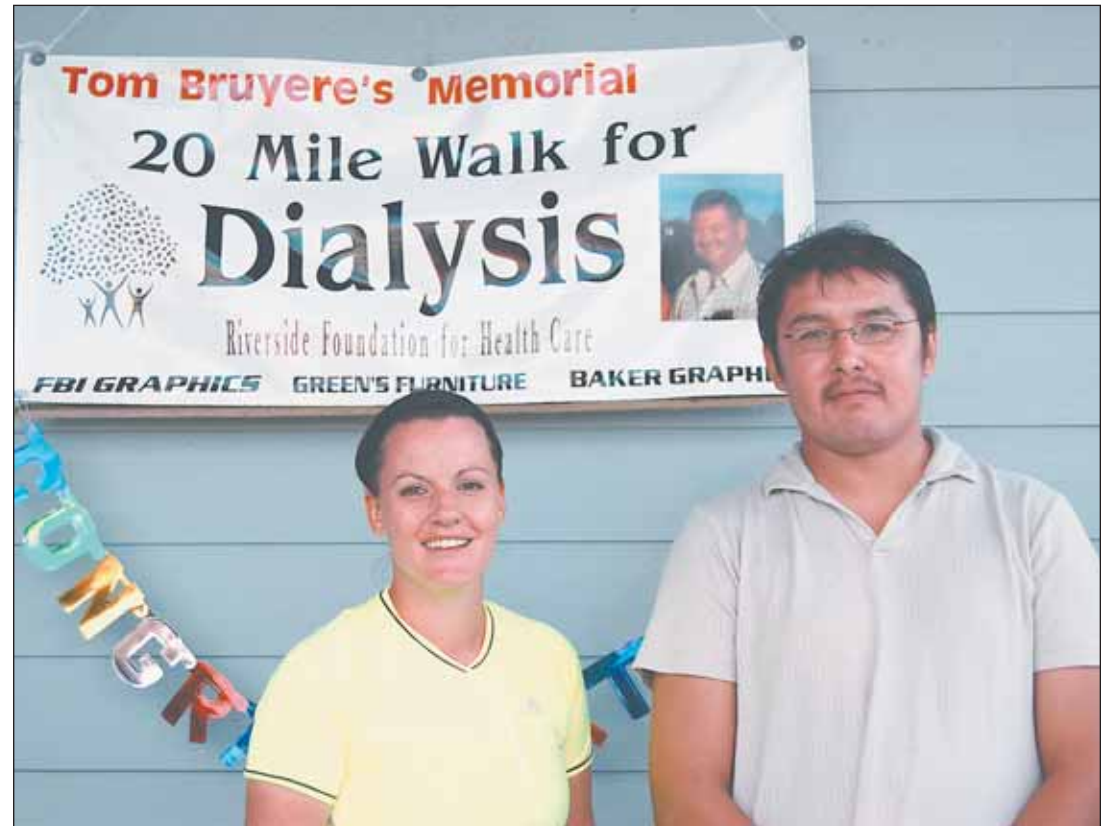
David Bouchard's new book launched

by Marlene Deschamps
Monday, September 21st saw the launch of David Bouchard's new book "The Seven Sacred Teachings of White Buffalo Calf Woman" which will become part of the Rainy River District School Board's character education curriculum. The launch was held at the new pow wow grounds at Rainy River First Nation.
More than 300 students traveled to Rainy River First Nations to be part of Bouchard's book launch. They came from as far East as Atikokan to as far West as Rainy River and all points in between, along with students from Nestor Falls. With teachers, Board Members, dignitaries, parents and interested others, the number of people at the beautiful pow wow grounds numbered probably close to 400-450. Emcee, Dean Wilson, Manager of Administration, kept things moving smoothly throughout the event. There was an honour song done by the drum group of Willie Wilson, Elvis DeBungee, Joe Hunter, Jim Leonard and Marcel Hunter. Elder, Nancy Jones, was introduced to bless the book. She spoke in Ojibwe and then translated into English where she told those present that she offered blessing of the nation through blessing of the four directions to ask for a good life. She asked the children to join in the honor dances that were coming up and asked

rows. He said it was to recognize that in 1915 the seven communities along the Rainy River merged into Manitou Rapids and it symbolized the unity. He noted the seven grandfathers spoke of there only being one peoples in the world and they should try to be one as all have something to contribute.
Director of Education, Jack McMasters, welcomed everyone and spoke a few words in Ojibwe which garnered him a round of applause. He stated that they were happy to recognize the work of David and they were lucky to have this relationship with him and with the Aboriginal community. He thanked David for recognizing our area and congratulated Chief Leonard on the fabulous new facility they have.
Delbert Horton then spoke. He acknowledged the drum and drummers and congratulated David for his newest book. He noted that the book dealt with many important subjects. He thanked Elder, Nancy Jones, acknowledged the Elders and then everyone for coming out and being part of the day. He also acknowledged the visitors from Honduras. He then addressed the teachers in the crowd and told them they have a task ahead of them in that the book talks about the teachings and what they mean and the teachers should also make a point of learning what they mean. It was also noted that

of the Board's own. She is a Kindergarten teacher from Atikokan and is herself Metis. He acknowledged Jason Jones, who did the translation, Elder, Nancy Jones who he said had become a dear friend, Marie Allan who made the beautiful blanket, Willie Wilson, Bessie Mainville, Chief Leonard and the guests from Honduras. He noted the new grounds as beautiful and said he has seen nothing to compare with it elsewhere. He spoke of Brent Tookenay who first brought him to Fort Frances last year and how they have developed a great friendship. He mentioned Jack McMasters, Delbert Horton, along with his wife Laura who have worked very hard and mentioned that Delbert's leadership is valued across the country. He had Kristy Cameron, the artist's husband come forward to show one of the beautiful paintings that were lining the wall behind one of the tables. He then told the students that they would each receive a book and he would sign them when he came to visit at their school. He again acknowledged Brent and presented him with a pipe flute, which he first played to him. He explained he had carved this pipe with wood from a tree from Georgia. He encouraged the teachers to walk by the paintings of the illustrations that appeared in the book. He spoke of the dedication of Brent, Nancy, Dean and Jason.

Tom Bruyere Memorial Walk for Dialysis raises over \$20,000



Melissa "Missy" Nelson and Alex Cochrane in front of Tom's poster.

by Marlene Deschamps
Tom Bruyere's Memorial Walk for Dialysis was held on Friday, September 18th. The walk began, as usual, 20 miles from Fort Frances on River Road. There were around 60 people participating in this very special walk. The weather was great although it was a bit warm for those walking because there was no breeze but everyone started out in a very cheerful, enthusiastic mood. There were memories of Tom floating along River Road accompanying the walkers and joggers the entire way. There were the usual people volunteering by driving vehicles from the start out spot to North American Lumber where the walk ended. They also drove out with coffee, donuts and muffins for those participating. One of the most appreciated volunteers was Wes Morriveau, who traveled along River Road with the port-o-potty donated by Romyn Pumping. He has donated this welcome addition to the walk for several years now and it is greatly appreciated. There was also the perogy tent set up half way down River Road so people could stop and have a break and some food.

and completed the walk and federal Liberal candidate, Ken Boshcoff, also took the time to come and participate. He said he knew Tom and he was a great guy who had done a wonderful thing for people. When Richard Vissar, along with Laurie Green and Ann Bruyere, came across the finish line, it was a very poignant moment. For eight years these three, along with Tom, came in together. There were hugs and tears at that point because for the first time since the walk began, Tom's not being there really hit home for many. This day was also Tom's birthday. It was someone else's birthday

left his mark on health care in the Rainy River District through his tireless efforts to organize the Tom Bruyere 20 mile walk for Dialysis. What started with Tom's personal goal to walk 20 miles and raise \$2,000 in the year 2000 to raise awareness about the need for Dialysis in the Rainy River District resulted in an 8-year journey that inspired others to get involved and ultimately raised over \$100,000 for our renal dialysis program. A remarkable achievement. We extend our deepest sympathy to Ann, Stacey & Chad, Blair and your families and friends. We are forever grateful for



From left, Tom's wife, Ann Bruyere, Richard Vissar and federal Liberal candidate, Ken Boshcoff.

Tom's efforts. We know that he couldn't have done it without the support of all of you and everyone here today. The Foundation will be memorializing Tom's efforts on the donor wall at LaVerendrye Hospital and a plaque will also be displayed in the Dialysis Room. Teresa added she was very grateful for Deb Morriveau coming to her and telling her

that same day-Alyssa McCready-Metta Vissa's granddaughter and Richard had a big birthday cake delivered. This act sort of lifted the mood into one of celebration again since it was Metta who began the whole push to have dialysis available locally and the one who inspired Tom to hold his first walk. These two have left a legacy to the people of the Rainy River District that will last forever. This year's walk raised \$21,360 which was around \$5,000 more than in previous years. This year also saw the first time those participating and the volunteers receiving T-shirts with a picture of Tom and the Memorial Walk and date printed. At the bottom was "Keep on Walkin" which was Tom's sentiments throughout these past eight years.

The following is Teresa Hazel's speech to the crowd: "We are all deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Tom Bruyere on July 30th. Tom was a long time friend and supporter of the Foundation and he will be sadly missed. Tom has

they should have this walk and all her help with the T-shirts and right down to the fridge magnets designed the same as the shirts that she had done up and gave to everyone. She closed by saying "I'm sure Tom is smiling right now, maybe giving a mischievous laugh. We miss you Tom-wish you were here."

After many hugs for Ann, little Alyssa had a chance to be in the spotlight as she was shown her cake before it was cut up and shared. There was both laughter and tears on this day but everyone thought it was a great day and Tom would be pleased-except for one small thing-this year's walk began at about five minutes after 8 am. Anyone who was on the walks with Tom, knows that he started out at 8 am precisely. Not one minute after. Anyone not prepared to start out at that time just had to catch up. Here's hoping the sentiment on the bottom of those T-shirts hold true in the year's to come "Keep on Walkin"--



David Bouchard, author and artist Kristy Cameron.

that they do so in a respectful manner. Then Dean introduced Brent Tookenay, School Board Native Advisor, Delbert Horton from Seven Generations Institute and Director of the Rainy River District School Board, Jack McMasters, Chief Jim Leonard from Rainy River First Nations and Clint Calder, President of Sunset Country Metis. Elder, Nancy Jones presented David Bouchard with a beautiful Star Blanket made by Marie Allan. Dean also acknowledged and welcomed a Sister from the Philippines who had spoken at St. Mary's Church and a group of visitors from Honduras.
Chief Leonard said he was honoured to welcome everyone and gave a special welcome to the visitors from far away. He explained the new complex with the seven sides and seven

October 3rd 1873 was the signing date of Treaty #3. That Treaty included education and added he hoped that schools would acknowledge that day.
Clint Calder spoke on behalf of the Sunset Country Metis and brought greetings from Gary Lipinski, who is now the President of the Metis Nation of Ontario. He said Gary would have enjoyed this day because he was a school teacher before he took on his new duties. He gave a brief overview of his history and the history of the Metis Nations. He thanked the School Board and Seven Generations as he said he did not grow up leaning any of the culture.
Dean then introduced David. He, in turn introduced the young woman who did the art work for the book, Kristy Cameron, and said she was one

He thanked everyone very much for attending and prior to having a soup and bannock lunch for everyone they did a friendship dance led by the dignitaries of the day, followed by a couple hundred of the students who came out of the stands to participate.
When speaking with the artist Kristy earlier, she spoke of how she got involved. Bouchard had to cancel a trip to Atikokan because of a snow storm and she contacted him by e-mail. He asked for copies of some of her work and then asked her to be part of his new book. She said this was something she always dreamed about but never realized it would actually happen. She said the whole experience was surreal and she was just thrilled to be part of this book and part of the whole process.



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