

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. 22, No. 19 Wednesday, September 10, 2014
Serving the Rainy River District for over 23 years! Read us on line at www.westendweekly.ca. Check out the pictures on line. They are so good!

To the glorious memory of those who died for us



Pictured from l. Sea Cadets, Michael John Nyberg, Terry Newman and Matthew Barron join Branch and Auxiliary members Margie Gibson, Linda LaRocque, Noris Piccinato (Branch President), Priscilla Fedoruk, Ed Haglund, Ed Kivimaki, Bob Bolen, Ken Desjardins, Randi Roth, Jim Marr and Mabel McCarthy.



Ken Newman plays the Last Post while Jim Marr lowered the flag.



Mayor Roy Avis laid a wreath to honour the Merchant Marines while Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Bolen salutes the fallen soldiers.

By: Teresa Hazel
September 3rd marked the 75th anniversary of the declaration of the Second World War. It was during that long conflict that 25,343 merchant

ships, with over 164 million tons of cargo on-board, sailed from North America to Britain on the Atlantic Ocean. The Canadian Merchant Navy alone lost one seafarer in

eight out of the 12,000 who faithfully served their country.

It was on a glorious Sunday morning that the local Royal Canadian Legion Branch #29 and Auxiliary paid tribute to these fallen soldiers. The commemoration took place at the Fort Frances cenotaph at 11:00.

The Branch #29 colour party was there as were representatives from the sea cadets. After O Canada was played, Terry Newman played the "Last Post" on the bugle while the Canadian flag was lowered. After two minutes of silence was observed, Newman played "Rouse" and the flag was raised.

Mayor Avis was on hand to lay a wreath in honour of this occasion as did members of the local branch.

This year, also marks the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I. The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #29 and Auxiliary have many events planned over the next month, kicking off tonight

(Wednesday) with a performance by the Soldiers of Song at the Townshend Theatre.

Also planned is a Wine and Cheese reception at the Fort Frances Museum on Thursday, September 18 starting at 4:30 p.m. to officially open the exhibit - We Remember Them.

Opening remarks are set to begin at 5:00 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

"We have been busy collecting our wartime family histories, adding photos and tying them into events happening overseas", noted Sherry George, Museum Curator. "Those who served as soldiers, medics and support staff are our focus, but important also are individuals left behind to raise families, plants crops and take up roles left vacant by the enlisted", she said.

As I reflect on the First World

War, I think of my 22 year-old great-grandfather who served in the Italian army and lost his life on the front lines, leaving his young wife, and two young boys without their dad.

One of his sons, my grandfather, then served in the Second World War in Italy, where he was held as a prisoner of war before being released to an ungrateful country. His decision to come to Canada with his wife and two sons to escape the fascist regime led to me being born.

Fighting for freedom comes in many different forms. The democracy we enjoy as citizens of Canada and the Constitution of Canada allows each of us the freedom of speech, the freedom of mobility and religious freedoms among other rights and freedoms. Many countries do not have these same rights and

freedoms. What am I doing to uphold these fundamental freedoms? Do I fight for justice? Have I become complacent with what freedom means?

Thank you to all the fallen soldiers and to those who continue to serve in active duty to uphold our Constitution.

"O Canada, we stand on guard for thee...O Canada, we stand on guard for thee".

In related news, a Build-a-Stage fundraiser is planned at the Fort Frances Legion this Saturday, September 13th to build an enhanced stage in the downstairs club room where local bands regularly play.

"It's the bands idea", explained Linda LaRocque, Branch Events Chair, about the upcoming event. "They are all playing for free".

The Family Fun festivities will kick off at 4:00 p.m. with a BBQ. Five local bands are set to play throughout the night until closing, including Thinking of Pinky, Centreline, Phoenix Project, Distant Legacy and The Nighthawk Band.

There will also be karaoke upstairs in the hall from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. "We have prizes for kids under 18 in various categories", noted LaRocque. "After six o'clock, the karaoke is open to everyone for fun", she said.

LaRocque added that kids are allowed in the club room downstairs at the Legion until 10:00 p.m. where the bands will be performing.

Tickets are \$7.00 each for those 12 and over and only \$5.00 for kids under 12. Tickets include a BBQ dinner and entertainment. There will also be some additional draws and prizes during the event.

Sounds like a fun night with a great lineup of entertainment. Hope to see you there!

Photographers' showcase



All alone, in broad daylight, this young raccoon climbed up to our upper deck and was looking through the window at me! The raccoons sometimes visit after dark but not this brave little character who was a cute as can be! Taken in Sioux Narrows June 16/14.

Photo by Karen Andrews, Sioux Narrows

Adam Beach confirmed as key note speaker for upcoming conference

By: Teresa Hazel
The Behavioural Health Services Unit, a program under the Fort Frances Tribal Area Health Services, is pleased to confirm that Adam Beach will provide the opening key note address at their 4-day conference set to begin on Monday, September 15th on the NANICOST Grounds overlooking beautiful Rainy Lake.

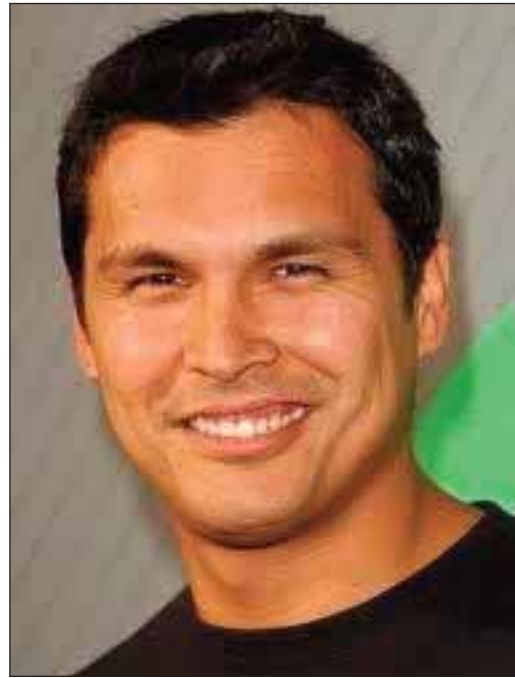
"We are very excited to welcome international celebrity, Adam Beach, to the Treaty 3 Territory", enthused Lori Flinders who is the Director of Behavioural Health.

"Adam has a profound story of healing that includes connecting to his cultural and traditional values", noted Flinders.

This ties in perfectly with the theme of the conference, Wii Kwan De Taa, which translates to - bringing people together for a sacred purpose.

The conference is aimed at celebrating cultural resiliency and promoting healing from the effects of family violence personally and within a community. It is open to elders, service providers, helpers and families.

The conference will begin



Adam Beach, Canadian Saulteaux Actor and International celebrity.

each day with a sunrise ceremony at 6:30 a.m. and the agenda will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Beach is scheduled to speak on Monday at 10:30 a.m.

It is free to all participants and will include refreshments and lunch for the first 200 to register. There is no pre-registration and people are encouraged to come at 8:15 a.m. to register and receive their lunch ticket.

Other keynote speakers include Arnold Gardner (Heal-

ing from Codependency); Dave Courchene Jr.; and a panel presentation on Building and Sustaining Long Term and Traditional Marriages with Kathy Jack and Doug Sinclair and Iris and Steve Jourdain.

Other confirmed presenters include Richard Morrison (Sweat Lodge Teachings); Nancy Jones (Traditional Parenting); George Potson (Teachings and Medicine); and Kaaren Danneman (Medicine Wheel Teachings) among others.

Many exhibitors have been confirmed to share information about services and programs and local artisans and crafters are also encouraged to come and sell their wares.

"There is no charge for vendors although they must bring their own tables and chairs and tents", noted Flinders.

For a full conference schedule or to obtain further information, contact Carmen Atatise at 807-274-9839 at Ext. 4221. You can also check out the Tribal Health website at www.ftahs.com for a complete agenda.



Martin Dufresne
275-8916
852-4237

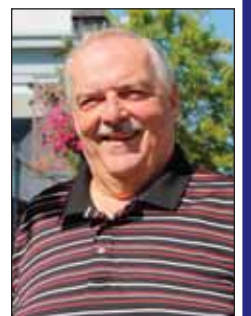


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From the house submitted by John Rafferty M.P.

This week some hard numbers poked some pretty big holes in the Conservative government's rhetoric concerning both Canada Post and job creation in this country.

It was just over a year ago that the Conservatives announced the end of home mail delivery from Canada Post over the next few years. The arguments in favour of ending home delivery are, on their face, bogus. I have heard the following three reasons offered by the government and some constituents on the cuts; a) mail volumes are plummeting, b) the internet has rendered mail useless, and c) Canada Post loses money and I don't want to pay for it.

These arguments are exaggerated at best and flat out false at worst. Mail volumes are up, internet businesses are shipping parcels like crazy, and the profits of the corporation far outweigh the losses. Just this week the Canada Post group's net profit in the second quarter of 2014 was reported to be \$67 million – which is \$67 million that goes directly into our federal bank account. The profit this quarter should not come as a surprise to anyone except those who believe the Conservative spin. The yearly profit for Canada Post by year from 2002 to 2012; \$71 million (2002), \$253 million (2003), \$147 million (2004), \$199 million (2005), \$119 million (2006), \$54 million (2007), \$139 million (2008), \$357 million (2009),

\$142 million (2010), loss of \$226 million (2011), and back to profit in 2012 with \$131 million taken in.

Doing the math, Canada Post has actually passed on \$1 billion in profits to taxpayers over the 10 years ending 2012 – and all while providing timely and high quality service to our door steps and mailboxes. So why are we cutting 5000 jobs and door-to-door service for Canadians again? Because Mr. Harper wants it that way. There is no other tangible reason.

In another shock (to some) Canada's job market took another historical hit this month. While claiming that his government has created "one million net new jobs" since the end of crisis, and conveniently ignoring the fact that more than one million foreign nationals have also become Canadian citizens in this time, Mr. Harper seems very happy to let his record speak for itself and is convinced that history will ultimately tell the truth. Well, history is starting to speak and it's not saying nice things about Canada's job market under the Harper Conservatives.

Statistics Canada reported Friday that Canada lost 118,000 private sector jobs in August – a bit more than the population of Thunder Bay – which is the largest loss in any one month since the agency began collecting statistics. Partially offsetting the record breaking job losses the agency

also found that 87,000 Canadians identified as being newly "self-employed," a category that mixes small businesses, consultants, and those who are working while not being paid by someone else.

The August jobs report was very troubling in that a record number of Canadians lost their pay cheques and decided to roll the dice and try to make some money on their own by going into business for themselves. Of course, why wouldn't they? There are no jobs.

The bogus claims of the Conservatives are starting to add up and cost Canadians dearly. From exaggerating the temporary struggles of Canada Post to the health of our economy and job market Mr. Harper and his government are showing that he offers Canadians nothing but self-serving theories as hard working Canadians lose services, jobs and economic stability for their households.

New Democrats think you deserve better. We will end the lies that are perpetuated to destroy of our national institutions like Canada Post and the CBC. We will restore home delivery for those who are set to lose it, and take active measures to create jobs, improve the skills of young and old workers alike to get the struggling economy back on its feet. In short, we'll deliver the services and programs that you and our economy expect, need, and deserve.



MOOS by Kim Jo Bliss



It sounds like by the time this report reached you the nice temperatures will be ending! I certainly am looking for a few more good days yet. Our grain at EARS is close now and I will be roping in some of my friends and family to hopefully get some of it combined. Even if it is cooler and dry we will still be able to tackle the grain – but the key thing being DRY. My list just keeps getting longer and I use to think I was a pretty good manager of my time but I am starting to wonder. I am hoping that once I get approval to hire someone it will take away some of my stress.

We had a great cattle sale over the weekend. We sold 829 animals or \$1 298 617.72 – that translates into \$1566.49 per head. That includes everything – cull cows, bulls you name it! I have received many positive comments on how pleased people are with their prices. Despite testing our DLMS (on-line selling) equipment on Thursday and everything working fine – something happened and the equipment would not even turn on Saturday a.m. Unfortunately no one was able to bid or view our sale this time around. We always seem to find ourselves challenged but we have no control over certain things. Thanks to everyone who worked, sold cattle and bought cattle – it was a good weekend. Our next sale

is October 4th!

I was finally home long enough on Sunday to move one group of cows to some new grass. They were happy and so was I. They are in a field that has reed canary grass and despite many guys telling me their cows won't eat reed canary grass – mine were loving it. I took pictures so that I can prove it when someone tells me this next time. I will sell some calves at the next sale so I have to start planning a strategic plan to get them all back home again... The animals that I am feeding for my friends and family are really looking good and butcher time is also nearing. There are many big jobs still to complete – like hauling manure and 2nd cut. The critical cutting date ends early next week so I am hoping we will see a few more sunny days for haying. I can't believe how well the grass is still growing and cutting grass is still on the list! Even more so since I darn near stepped on a snake near my steps. I am extremely scared of snakes and you could hear my scream throughout the district. Nancy Miller just sprayed my house

for flies and I am tempted to have her comeback and spray something to keep snakes away. If I could find something to put around my property to keep them away I sure would!

It's an exciting week for our family - my mom turns 65 on September 11th. I feel like a bad daughter because she left me a message asking for me to not plan a party or anything – and the worst part I have been so busy I didn't even think of planning a party! It actually made me feel bad that I hadn't even thought of it! Happy Birthday to my mom – she is an amazing person – kind and patient and very rarely does she complain. Shane and I have been lucky to have such a supportive, giving mom. She is loving being a grandma and I am so happy for her to have her grand-girls so close that she has been able to be a big part of their lives as well. We wish you many more happy years and my only peeve is that fact that people see us together and they think we are sisters! Good for her, not so for me.

Developers once again eager to pave paradise

When we think of Canada's mountain national parks, we often think of pristine, undisturbed landscapes unsullied by human hands. But, just like 130 years ago, developers are once again eager to pave paradise.

The first wave of development came on the heels of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, which was completed in 1885. As it was built, CP looked to offset some of the enormous costs of construction by building a series of lodges and hotels along the route.

Some of that legacy is absolutely worth cherishing, like the world-famous Banff Springs hotel (now Fairmont Banff Springs) in the town of Banff. In other places, the grand ambitions of those early pioneers are nothing more today than remnants in the ground. Such is the ruins of Glacier House, once an exclusive tourist destination located high in Rogers Pass in what is now Glacier National Park.

After the park was legally established in 1886, the first Glacier House was built near the north end of the stunning Illecillewaet Glacier. It grew in size and popularity over the years until the year 1907, when it was described as the most visited glacier in the Americas.

As luck would have it, the hotel's fate was sealed by a series of lethal avalanches. CP finally decided to move the rail line to a less dangerous location, and the number of visitors to Glacier House dropped off rapidly. Within a few years, it closed its doors and was eventually torn down. Today, you can walk among the stone foundations of this once-grand hotel and imagine the hive of activity that once was there.

Today, another pristine national park site is under pressure to develop. A private consortium called Maligne Tours has aggressively lobbied Park Canada to build overnight accommodation on Maligne Lake, a stunningly beautiful lake about 45 kilometres from the town of Jasper.

Although the proposal for a hotel on the site was denied, Parks gave permission to further consider the construction of tent cabins on the lake. Critics fear this is the thin edge of the wedge that will lead to further development and rapid destruction of the lake as we know it. In fact, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) has teamed up with the Jasper Environmental Association to seek a judicial review of the government's decision to

approve the development.

The opponents cite a number of reasons for their objection: under the 2010 Jasper National Park management plan, no new land is to be released for commercial accommodations; at-risk wildlife, like woodland caribou, will be threatened by increased vehicular traffic; and a survey of visitors to the lake found no evidence of interest in such accommodations.

So, why is the government letting the proposal move to the next phase? Parks Canada talks openly about the imperative to attract more visitors to our national parks. It's the same rationale that is behind the approval of via ferratas (a steel cable which runs along a climbing route which climbers can use to limit any fall) and the controversial Glacier Skywalk on the nearby Icefields Parkway. The theory goes that tourists just won't rough it these days to experience the wild, so Parks is entertaining a broad range of ideas to make the outdoors a little tamer in the hopes that visitors respond.

The folly in this logic, of course, is that adding the comforts of home does indeed make these destinations a little less of what we cherish in them so much. To tourists who think

they can have their cake - wildlife and scenic vistas - and eat it, too - i.e. hot showers and cozy beds - the truth is they can't. Taming the wild will always make it a diminished experience.

We've been down this road before, as the Glacier House history reveals. We don't need to go there again. But, to avoid it, Parks Canada will have to reawaken to its mandate - protecting our world-famous natural areas from the forces that would make them less so, all in the name of profit.

The battle line is drawn at Maligne Lake.

Doug Firby is Editor-in-Chief of Troy Media and National Affairs columnist.

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It's going to happen!



Erma Armit, President of the Assisted Living Action Group welcomed the audience.

By: Teresa Hazel

The Assisted Living Action Group is continuing to work hard to bring an assisted living facility to Fort Frances. Over thirty people came out to the meeting room at the Super 8 Motel to hear the latest update from the group that was self-established back in August 2010.

Erma Armit, President, welcomed the audience.

"We're here to tell you where we've come from, where we're at and where we're heading", she said. "We also need your advice on how to move forward".

She added that seeing new faces is encouraging as it brings with them new resources and news ideas so "we can continue to grow".

Robert Schulz is the Treasurer and has been working with the group since the beginning. "There have been a lot of hurdles", he acknowledged although he remains committed to both the short-term goals and long-term goals of the group.

"One of the long term goals

is to decrease health care costs and to increase the quality of life", he noted.

June Caul noted that assisted living does not mean you need a lot of assistance.

"The first phase is to build an apartment complex with 75 to 100 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. These are for people who are able to look after themselves and live independently in their own apartment.

Some may need assistance with medication or bathing and laundry and that will be provided. These facilities are all over Canada, but not in Fort Frances".

The group noted that many surveys and presentations have been completed over the last four years.

"We have received 637 responses, which shows that people are interested in assisted living", noted Caul.

A feasibility study was also completed on a land proposal that was given to the Board of Directors of Riverside Health Care Facilities for their consideration. Although Riverside did not approve the proposal,



Mayor Roy Avis provided words of support and advice for the group.



Pictured from I. June Caul, Diane Maxey and Robert Schulz give out information to interested community members after the meeting.

the action group is continuing their efforts to secure property in Fort Frances that will accommodate both their short term goals and long term goals.

They are currently investigating a site on Eighth Street that is being offered as a donation by a local land owner.

"it's 110 acres of land", noted Caul.

To pursue securing land, there will be financial issues to consider, which brings up the option of finding a private developer.

"It's going to happen", stated Caul during her remarks adding that the Mayor and Council are all supportive of the project and the staff at the Town of Fort Frances have been very helpful.

Although there are no funding commitments to date, the group will need to actively solicit grants, in-kind donations and private investors to push the project forward.

"We have people who want to support their loved ones and who are also looking at their own future. They want to age with dignity", she said.

The group has a current membership of 49 who have paid one hundred dollars to become a voting member.

Diane Maxey, who came on board about a year ago, provided statistics about the baby boomers (born from 1947 - 1966). That group will peak at age 60 in about ten years (2026).

The group also cited changes to building codes that are set to take effect in 2025 that will require current facilities, like Rainycrest, to make major renovations to meet the new accessibility guidelines.

"To do nothing is categorically unacceptable", said an

impassioned Maxey about the need for assisted living.

"We have to support one another and support the cause", she said, adding that, "We must support the solution, not the problem.

"Why don't we have it here? Assisted living with 24/7 personal support. We have to start asking that question at all political levels".

The group then asked those in attendance to consider joining them in a letter writing campaign to Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

"We already have 160 letters signed", they noted.

Copies of template letters were made available for people to sign. They were also en-



Nora Paulenko signed a letter to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, Michael Gravelle asking why there isn't an assisted living facility in Fort Frances.

couraged to take copies and have friends and family sign them.

The floor was then open for questions and suggestions from the audience. Mayor Avis spoke to the Council's support of the goals of the group.

"The median age in Fort Frances is just under fifty. Although we cannot assist with funding, we can provide assistance through our management team, planning and development and rezoning", he said.

"We can also provide tax concessions, and waiving fees for building permits", he added.

He also made a suggestion to the group to consider getting charitable status and offered his assistance with the steps re-

quired to begin that process.

As questions were asked, it did become clear that more work needs to be done to educate the public on what assisted living means. Further, the group will need to address how the short-term goal of building an apartment complex with services will be phased in with the long-term goal of having a multi-site facility that provides for each stage of transition through the aging process.

As this group continues to work together to bring a much needed assisted living facility to Fort Frances, one can't help but think of the acronym of T.E.A.M. - Together Everyone Achieves More. Keep up the good work!

Legion Chat

by Walter Wagner, Major Hughes Br. 54 president

It was nice to see a good turnout at our General Meeting. It was nice to hear people say that they wanted to know what is happening at the Legion. There will be an Executive meeting this week on Thursday September 11th at 7:00 pm.

We have hired Dawn Drennan as Secretary/Treasurer for the foreseeable future. Thanks to Ann Desrosier for her years of service and now no more worries Ann.

Barbs' Beany has promised roast pork sandwiches and home made fries for the Friday night meat draw. The meat will be cooked by Lance and the fries will be manufactured by Mike.

Kudos to last Fridays cooking and serving. Good job Aimee, Ashley, Mike, Barb and Mickey.

We will see you all this week.

Let's We Forget

The Rainy River Figure Skating Club is accepting applications for Assistant Coach of the 2014 - 2015 skating season

The successful applicant may be expected to provide skating skill instruction, to some or all of the following, Beginner, Can Skate, & Can Figure levels in a recreational environment. (Certification not necessary).

Qualifications/Expectations:

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- Participate in the organization of the annual ice show
- Attend and provide lessons 2 - 3 nights a week (as per schedule)
- Take direction from the Head Coach regarding skating instruction plan
- Manage the assistance provided by the Junior Coaches
- Ability to work independently
- Communicate with the Executive and Board Members
- Maintain a fun learning environment for children ages 3-18
- Wage will be based on applicants experience

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