

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Local Lawyer, Lawrence A. Eustace, reaches pinnacle of his profession



by Marlene Deschamps
Fort Frances Lawyer, Lawrence A. Eustace, is a bencher on the Law Society of Upper Canada. This latest step up which brings him to the pinnacle of his profession took place on Thursday, September 24th.

Eustace, better known as Larry, has been Chair of the County & District Law Presidents Association since late 2000. That was the first time such an honor was given to someone from Northwestern Ontario. Larry again has brought honor and distinction to Northwestern Ontario for his profession. There are forty lawyers who sit on the bench of the Law Society of Upper Canada. Twenty of them come from Toronto and twenty from outside. Those twenty from outside usually come from Southeastern Ontario, from places like Ottawa and other big centers. Larry joins a very elite group of three that come from outside Toronto and the area surrounding it. He joins benchers from Manitoulin Island and Iroquois Falls as the only ones from smaller communities that hold such a prestigious honor.

Larry was featured in previous articles when he was elected Chair of the County & District Law Presidents Association and again when his activities with the Pro-Bono China Outreach Project came to light. That program saw Larry collecting computers, hospital equipment, warm clothes and tools which he stored in his garage and then in September of 2004 shipping a container (40' X 8' X 8') full of

all he had collected. He appeared on CBC TV and CBC Radio in regards to the project. He also sponsored a student from Fort Frances to China who worked on the medical clinic rebuild for six weeks. The program promotes Larry's philosophy which is to help the poorest of the poor and to bring not just help, but hope.

Larry has and still does sit on many Boards and has been founding father of several corporations and committees that are still active today and all of which promote a better business atmosphere and a better quality of life for those in the Northwest.

Larry has also written numerous articles on a variety of subjects. He has prepared articles that deal with practicing law entitled "Practicing Law at the Other End of Yonge Street" which describes the nature of legal practice in Northwestern Ontario. Fort Frances is approximately 1,800 km. up Yonge Street.

This is just an overview of some of the highlights of Larry's career and his involvement in various projects and ventures. One of the best ways to find the real measure of a man is to talk with those who have known and worked with him over the years. The rest of the article is about just what others think of Larry and their experiences of working with him.

From Toronto-Laurie H. Pawlitza, Associate Lawyer who is on the bench. "I have known him for at least 5 years. He has great judgment and is very practical. He wants to get the job done. Since 2004, I

have sat on some Boards with Larry. It is just terrific he is being a bencher and it's an important step in his career and with us at the Law Society. It is especially important considering all the travel time involved with being on the Board. I have a 10 minute walk to be involved with some of my duties while Larry has a commitment of 3 days for the same work. This time factor is amazing and says a lot of his commitment. The lawyers here are elated that with the 20 lawyers from Toronto and 20 outside, often from communities in the south. We rarely have someone from Northwestern Ontario and now Larry joins some one from Iroquois Falls and Manitoulin Island. All the time and energy needed makes this a remarkable choice as Larry is very outward looking and we are grateful. Larry is also the first Past Chair we have had on the Board." "We all congratulate Larry"

Also from Toronto-Bill Ross, current President of the County & District Law Presidents Association. "Larry will be an excellent bencher. He has given great service to the legal community for a long time. He has great practical knowledge and the capacity to represent lawyers. He is aware of issues of lawyers at the grass roots level and the small town approach is very important. I want to extend my congratulation to Larry".

From Atikokan-Mayor Dennis Brown-"Larry is most deserving of this. In his years of work with us, he goes out of his way and has given extra help in economic development for Atikokan. He knows how to get thing done and it was great to have him working as our solicitor. Congratulations Larry. He will represent Northwestern Ontario in that position. He is most deserving and I am very pleased. He is 1st class and I'm glad to see him receive this."

And now closer to home we hear:

Larry Phillips, Senior Member of the Rainy River District Bar Association-"This is a long time coming. Larry has done a great deal of work for the Bar in our area and in Ontario with his involvement and his articles when he was a Director and at County & District Law Presidents Association. He is vocal for the interests of lawyers and an

Please see Lawrence Eustace on page 2



Winners of the Rainy River Walleye Tournament for the third year in a row, left Oliver Gibbins, right Jason Gibbins and between them, the official Weigh Master John Gibbins. See all the results and weights at www.rrwalleye.com.

New Chamber Manager, Anthony Mason, enjoys first major event



by Marlene Deschamps

New Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce Manager, Anthony Mason, just finished setting up the first major event since he took over from former Manager, Dawn Booth. The event was the 2009 Fall Meeting of the Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce (NOACC) which was held on September 24, 25, 26th at La Place Rendez-Vous. It was especially significant since the Fort Frances Chamber is celebrating 100 years as the Voice of Business.

Somewhere between 40-50 people attended, each representing the Chamber in their community. Anthony said the meeting went off without a hitch and all the speakers brought in by NOACC made presentations pertinent to the changing economy of the Northwest. He accompanied The Honourable John Wilkinson, Minister of

Revenue, after his presentation on the soon to be harmonized sales tax, to visit with local businessman, Bill Gushalak of General Supply. He toured his outlet and explained to him the advantages, as he is putting forth, of harmonizing the PST and GST into one tax, the HST. According to the Minister, the new HST will be good for business as it will remove paperwork and see a return from the Federal Government. The members also heard from Deputy Minister, David Lindsay, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines; John Rafferty, MP: John Harrison, General Manager from AbitibiBowater; Garry Clark, President, Ontario Prospector's Association; Marg Scott, Executive Director, North Superior Workforce Planning Board; Randy Hillier, PC Critic Labour, Northern Development, Mines & Forestry and Geoff Gillon,

Regional Economic Development Officer from the Rainy River Future Development Corp.

The meeting brought together Chambers to discuss issues and strategically plan for the future. Anthony said they were in the process of working toward the future and have planning groups already set up working on these plans. What has been worked on to date was brought forward and they will continue to work further on these plans. When completed they will forward all the information to the various Chambers. Local business, along with the Town of Fort Frances sponsored the meals, coffee breaks and networking breaks.

Anthony appears to have stepped smoothly into his new role. He was the former Economic Development Officer from Rainy River so he does have experience in working with NOACC. He added that they brought in the speakers and he had great support from the local business community. He is glad to be here and said he faces new challenges and more responsibility in a different atmosphere but it is a step up in his career. He has moved to Fort Frances and said he does miss Rainy River and the great people he worked with but he was glad he went for this new opportunity.

Next up for the Chamber is the annual Great Chili Cookoff slated for October 14th and following that the Annual Business Awards to be held on November 7th.



Just a little peek at our fall colours for those who don't have the opportunity to take a drive out in the country. The maples are stunning.



Visitors at the mare's pen during the TimberRidge Sporthorses open house. Please see story on page 2.

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