

# The Westend Weekly

## Bringing Communities Together



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## 2011 local Terry Fox Run garners over \$8,000



Pictured at the left during the start of the run is the official Terry Fox flag, centre George Walsh, and right, Bible study children behind the banner they made.

by Marlene Deschamps

The 2011 Terry Fox Run was held on Sunday, September 18th. The run started at the Marina, went to the Seven Oaks and back. There were 81 participants despite the rain that started out just mist and ended up quite heavy. This year survivors were encouraged to participate and they were given free red T-shirts. There were five who proudly donned the shirts and participated. This year's run was dedicated to Betty Fox, Terry's Mom who passed away this year. In tribute to her, each woman was given a red carnation when they returned to the tent after the run. There were around 60 carnations given out. The Church of the Holy Spirit again hosted the run and Cheryl Wolff and Jane and Dick Trivers were the main organizers.

George Walsh, who is pushed in his chair by his brother Sandy has led off the run in Thunder Bay for many years and came to Fort Frances to lead off this year's run. Over the years George has raised over \$100,000 for the Terry Fox Research Foundation. Flanking him were those carrying the official Terry Fox flag and the

Bible study children who had early that morning made a banner for the event.

After the run, there was a delicious lunch for all participants. It was at the Sunset Country Metis Hall and the lunch was provided by the Devlin TOPS chapter. There were around 60 people who enjoyed the lunch. This number was greater than last year but the weather was so nice and warm then that people completed the run and headed for the lakes or their back yards. That was definitely not the case this year. The weather is usually warm and sunny and I can only recall one other year when it rained. Dick Trivers thanked everyone for coming and said the church was proud to have hosted the run again but couldn't have done it without all of those present. He thanked Devlin TOPS chapter, Cheryl Wolff who was the main go to for the run and Dave Brockie for his unfailing support and generosity. He thanked the media present for their continued work in advertising the run and promoting participation. He thanked all the volunteers and cited all the young ones involved this year including the very young who had made the wonderful banner

that was now positioned on the stage. Plaques were given out to the top fundraisers in three categories. Top male was George Walsh who raised over \$1,400—Top female Val Calder who raised \$500 and top child--Samantha Holiday who also raised over \$1,400. They each proudly posed with their plaques after enjoying a great lunch. Kudos to all who participated or helped in any way to make this another successful event. 85% of the money raised at this event will go directly to Terry Fox Research to help realize his dream of finding a cure for cancer and the advances in diagnosing earlier, and treating successfully cancers that could not be beaten even five years ago proves that his dream can become a reality for all. There will still be dollars going to research from the entire district as most schools have events to raise money for Terry Fox. Cheryl couldn't say enough about the Terry Fox Run. Rainy-crest style, that was held this year. She said everyone involved in that event should be congratulated for their effort and to her knowledge it is a first.

## Just imagine...more than a century of memories



Clinton Park, a railroader, family man, jack of all trades, self taught and accomplished violinist and Rainy River pioneer.

Staff

Clinton Park's family came to Rainy River in 1898, settling into a home they built nestled in the crook of Rainy River and Miller's Creek. The creek was named for the homesteaders who were Clinton's maternal grandparents. His parents, Horace and Elizabeth were living with her parents at the time of his birth on March 26, 1904, the year of Rainy River's incorporation.

In those early days there were two sawmills in operation along Rainy River, the CN Railway had completed the link between Thunder Bay and Winnipeg and the population was 2,600. The town was thriving. Between the mills, the railroad and the farming community, employment opportunities enticed people from far and wide. The three storey Alexander School was also built in 1904 and that's where Clinton's education, along with his sister and three brothers began.

The house pictured within this article is the original Miller home on the north west section of Miller's Creek and Rainy River. It was sold to the town in the 30s and part of it is now the town cemetery. The location of the house is now the home of Robert and Elsie Ewald and has been for many years.

The lumber company built a bridge across Miller's Creek (pilings can still be found just beneath the water) and Clinton's father Robert and his brother Stewart who built on the other side of the creek used it to visit back and forth.

One of Clinton's early memo-

ries was of the preparation his parents and grandparents had to make as the great fire of 1910 raged through Minnesota wiping out homes and a large part of Baudette. The pine reserves disappeared and marked the end of the local mills but the homestead was safe.

In 1926 Clinton hired on with the CNR at 30 cents an hour. He saved over the next few years and on October 10, 1933 he and Doris Williscraft were married. In 1943, he left the CNR to work at his father-in-law's dairy farm. After nine years he hired back on with the CNR where he worked in a number of positions until he reached pension age in 1969.

Throughout his life Clinton

kept the hedge trimmed by hand, and it was tall and beautiful in those days. He was a member of the Board of Stewards for many years and was always a regular attendee at services and events.

Nineteen twenty-eight was the year he joined the Ionic Lodge #461 in Rainy River. In 1936 he received the honour of Worshipful Master then received his 50 year pin in 1978, 50 year Past Master jewel in 1986. In 2003 he received his 75 year Member pin and this year his 75 year Past Master plaque. Few people in this country have reached that level. He was always an active member of his lodge and was well known for his remarkable talent for memorization.

Until just a few years ago, everyone had the opportunity to enjoy good morning conversations with Clinton at the Post Office. He wasn't just there to pick up mail for himself and Doris, he picked up mail for his neighbours too. This went on well past his 100th year. Nobody was surprised though, he and Doris still lived in their home and he still did all the maintenance work. He was always available whenever a neighbour needed a hand.

Clinton was always, until his passing 2 weeks ago, interested in current affairs, watching the news every day and reading the paper. He also proved his interest in politics as well as his patriotism by voting in every election all of his voting age years.

Clinton was around for two world wars but was not eligible for either one. He was too young for conscription in WWI and was legally too old for WWII. But he knew the local servicemen who went to war and knew all about what they went through. The Great Depression in the 1930 taught everyone a lesson in economics not easily forgotten. But to put his longevity into perspective, just prior to his birth Marconi sent the first transatlantic radio message. In the year of his birth Wilbur Wright took his first flight and the year after his birth Alberta and Saskatchewan became provinces. Later, man walked on the moon, the computer was born, telephones were

on the go, so many memories.

Locally, Clinton would remember the flu epidemic of 1818, 1819 that took so many lives in Rainy River, Baudette and throughout the district. He would

see the population grow and fall as railroad jobs changed. He witnessed the end of the Round House in 1950, the end of the caboose and then the run through Rainy River. But he also saw two new schools built, a beautiful new hospital and clinic, the marriages of his children, the arrivals of their children, grand children and great grand children.

In the end, we've all amassed many memories but just imagine memories that span more than a century.

## Walleye fishing is more complicated than one might think



Just after baiting his hook, angler John Veillieux realized he had a different kind of fight on his hands. This dragon fly was determined that the minnow (although not a real one) was his. He hung on for dear life despite John's efforts to flick him off. So, in the end John caught a great photo and went home for a can of soup! Come to Rainy River this weekend and take part in the Rainy River Walleye Tournament. It'll be great fun!



was very involved in the United Church and Ionic Lodge. His Grandmother Miller served on the church committee before it was even built. In those days it was the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches but they amalgamated to form the United Church. The Methodist Church was located on Third St. and Mill Ave. and later became the Rebekah Hall but in more recent years was divided into apartments. Carrying on the family tradition, Clinton was always a willing volunteer at the church. Among many other things, he



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