

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Local lad really Plays It Forward



Mitchell Riordon

By Marlene Deschamps

Last Fall we featured Mitchell Riordon in an article where he was trying to raise \$1,000 to provide water and a sanitation project which would mean clean drinking water and latrines for an entire village. He had originally planned on a gift of goats through Plan Canada when he found out he could do so much more. With mom and dad by his side, he made a list of 50 people that may help in his endeavours. Mitchell babysat, shovelled snow, forfeited lunches out (for that money went into "the envelope"), gave up his allowance as well as making phone calls to family and friends asking them to donate to this worthwhile cause.

At Christmas Diane Maxey asked Mitchell to narrate the Christmas Cantata. After agreeing to do this, she thanked him with a card and a gift of money knowing that he had an important goal to reach. Other members of the Cantata heard what he was doing and started handing him money. His quest for dollars also hit the papers because it was at this time his name and his goal was passed on. The cheques started coming and coming and coming. The

family even found a very generous cheque that had been placed between their front doors.

By April, 2011 Mitchell had exceeded his original goal by \$370. He was able to raise \$1,370. There were then choices to be made. Mitchell stayed with the \$1,000 Water and Sanitation for a Community and in keeping with the water project, decided for \$300 to supply an entire school with clean drinking water and latrines.

Knowing that his family also supports "Because I Am a Girl" project through Plan Canada, he bought two Home Birthing Kits for \$25 each as well as two blankets to "Wrap a Newborn". Once his decision was made his Mom called Plan Canada to see the best way of getting this money in, asked about tax receipts and told them Mitchell's story. Plan Canada then explained to Mom, Tammy that CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) matched some of the gifts Mitchell purchased. They explained that for one water and sanitation for a community CIDA matched it to a ratio of 4:1 for a total of 5 communities in Columbia who would have clean drinking water and latrines. By purchas-

ing one Clean Water for a School, CIDA would match it to ratio of 5:1 for a total of six schools in Malawi who would have clean drinking water and latrines. For the two birthing kits CIDA matched it to a ratio of 10:1 for a total of 22 home birthing kits going to Bolivia. Two blankets to wrap a newborn, CIDA again offered 10:1 ratio for a total of 2 blankets for these newborns in Bolivia.

The tears were flowing at both ends of the phone and Tammy went to school to give Mitchell the wonderful news.

So, with the thought of a 12 year old boy from Fort Frances, the foresight and perseverance and the love he has for complete strangers in need, he along with all those that donated helped change a small part of our world. Between his parents, The Northwest Catholic School Board and St. Mary's Parish, Mitchell has been raised with the knowledge that it's important to give.

Mitchell would like to thank each and every one of you who had faith in him and supported his project. As for tax receipts, Plan Canada will be sending them to Mitchell's home in February 2012 and he and his mom will deliver them personally. For anyone who helped Mitchell achieve his goal they can give themselves a pat on the back for catching his giving spirit and making it a part of their lives. Plan Canada has many program where people can help people all over the world. You might want to contact them and find out just how you can help. Mitchell has shown us the way of how you can play it forward for the benefit of many.

We were glad to be a small part of everything Mitchell did and all the people he helped. If any other young people are involved in trying to make the world a better place we are more than happy to promote their cause. It seems that the young are showing adults the way so maybe we should listen.

Rainy River House Groundbreaking



Over three dozen area residents took part in the groundbreaking ceremony for Rainy River House this past Tuesday, August 20, 2011. Rainy River Healthcare Committee members representing all the partnering local governments - Big Grassy First Nation, Dawson Township, Lake of the Woods Township and the Town of Rainy River were on hand to see their hard work finally come to realization.

Everyone crowded around the newly erected sign on River St W announcing this to be the 'Site of the Future Rainy River House' raising their hands in a lusty cheer celebrating this happy event. Evidence of the future construction is a large quantity of fill obtained at little

or no cost from other construction excavations in the town this past month. Seizing opportunities like these helps reduce our overall costs.

Following the groundbreaking all were invited to the Senior's Depot for cake and coffee. Rainy River Mayor Debbie Ewald thanked everyone for coming and praised all the hard work on the project and Greg Wilson for his donation in kind of the signage for the project.

Laura and Dr. David Singleton cut and served the cake.

There is still a lot of work to be done. The building committee is still finalizing plans and tenders for construction should be ready within days. Fundraising continues apace with funds to date raised as well over the

\$200,000.00 mark.

The canteen at the Morson Bass Tournament operated by the Forest Women's Institute raised over \$750.00 for the project according to W.I. treasurer, Eleanor Wiersema.

In addition, the Evangelical Covenant Church ran the canteen at the Beller's auction sale this past weekend raising close to \$1000.00 for Rainy River House reported volunteer Jeanette Armstrong.

The Rainy River Walleys Tournament will see more Fundraising activities for Rainy River House including operation of the canteen and a Fish Fry Supper.

Watch for more details as a community vision becomes firm reality.

Hampton holds one last free Pancake Breakfast



Howie, NDP candidate Sarah Campbell and Colleen Gustafson.

By Marlene Deschamps

Howard Hampton, who announced his retirement and his plans to campaign for NDP candidate Sarah Campbell had not originally planned on holding his Labour Day Free Pancake Breakfast. Many people requested that he hold one last one and he bowed to those requests.

The Sister Kennedy Senior Centre who have provided the

breakfasts over these many past years again put their members to work at the crack of dawn to provide a delicious meal which consisted of pancakes, sausages, juice and tea or coffee. And as in the past the centre was packed from 7-9 am with people from the area. There were young and old, families and singles and people from all politi-

cal parties that attended. Howard, as always, was on hand to greet everyone but this time he was not alone at the door as he had invited Sarah Campbell to attend and have a chance to meet people.

So-thanks Howard for this one last free pancake breakfast on Labour Day that so many have enjoyed over these many years.

Gordon Calder receives National Award



Gordon Calder at Pithers Point

By Marlene Deschamps

While attending this year's Metis 18th Annual General Assembly in Parry Sound, Ontario with his daughter Roz, Gordon was the well deserved recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award. He was honoured with

this award while on the Island Queen Cruise Ship Touring the 30,000 Islands of the Georgian Bay, among 500 other Metis members. The Suzanne Rochan-Burnett Volunteer Award was presented to Gordon by Gary Lipinski, Metis Nation

of Ontario President. Gordon said the whole Assembly was a great time and run very well. He got to meet people from South and Central America who face the same struggles as they do in trying to get recognition and funding to help keep beneficial programs going.

Gordon diligently helps out at the Metis Office and Hall, always having coffee on for the girls when the come to work, sidewalks are always shovelled, and the grass is mowed. He also runs errands for the organization. Gordon makes sure things fun smoothly around both places. All staff say he's a great man to have around.

Caught up with Gordon at Pithers Point where they were holding the Annual Labour Day Horseshoe Evert. This is an event that Gordon has made sure happens each Labour Day over these past many years. He is well deserving of this prestigious award. Congrats Gordon.

Missing person on LOW update

On Saturday August 27th 2011 the Kenora OPP were advised of a missing person in the Obabikun Bay area of Lake of the Woods. The missing man was identified as 68 year old Bill AMASON, a resident of Florida who lived seasonally in Morson. It was believed that he

may have tried to swim to his boat after it drifted away. A search of the shorelines and area was conducted by friends and family and the Kenora OPP Marine Unit was called in.

The OPP Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USRU) were mobilized and began to search the area on August 30,

2011. On August 31st, 2011 the body of Mr. AMASON was located by the Kenora OPP Marine Unit in the water close to his last known location.

A post mortem examination is scheduled for September 1st, 2011 at Lake of the Woods District Hospital.

NW Catholic appoints new Vice Principal at Sacred Heart

"The Northwest Catholic District School Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Patricia Vinczeffy to the position of Acting Vice Principal at Sacred Heart School in Sioux Lookout", states Board Chair Anne-Marie Fitzgerald. The Board expresses that they are very pleased to have Patricia

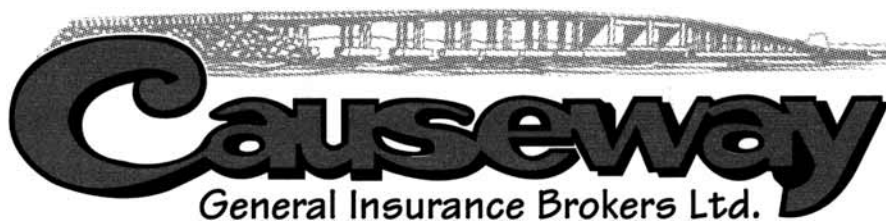
Vinczeffy move from Teacher to Acting Vice Principal for the 2011-2012 school year. Mrs. Vinczeffy began her teaching career in 2004 at Sacred Heart School. She brings a broad range of experience and knowledge to the position of Acting Vice Principal. She is eager to serve the staff and students of

Sacred Heart School in her new leadership role.

"I know that the community will join us in sending Mrs. Vinczeffy congratulations and best wishes in her new position with the Northwest Catholic District School Board", said Chair Fitzgerald.



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