

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 almost 17 years VOL. 17, NO. 47 Wednesday, March 18, 2009
If you ever forget to pick up the paper, read it on line at www.westendweekly.ca

Hallett and Tower to have new home this year



The tenders are already out for the removal and relocation of the Hallett and Tower from Pithers Point to Front Street. The call for tenders closes on March 24th and the new location of both structures will be in the area of the Marina.

Civil Air Search & Rescue Association hold exercise



Al Fraiser, left, and Dale Magee marking out quadrants for various exercises.

Family faces \$6,400 in fines for illegal hunting

Three Mine Centre residents have been ordered to pay fines totalling \$6,400 following two incidents of illegal hunting.

Byron Burkholder, 25, and Ewan Burkholder, 22, were each fined \$700 for illegally hunting a cow moose. The moose was killed in the Atikokan area on October 18, 2008. Both men have had their hunting licenses suspended for one year and must complete a hunter safety course before their licenses will be returned.

In a separate incident, conser-

vation officers discovered Byron Burkholder and Norman Burkholder, 48, on Barber Road in the Rainy River District on December 13, 2008. Both men were fined \$500 for illegally having a firearm at night and \$1,500 for hunting at night. Byron Burkholder was also fined \$1,000 for having a loaded firearm in his vehicle.

Byron Burkholder received a three-year suspension of his hunting license for the December offense, increasing his total suspension for the two offenses to four years.

Norman Burkholder received a two-year suspension of his hunting license.

Justice of the Peace Pat Clysdale-Cornell heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, Fort Frances, on February 27, 2009.

To report a natural resource violation, call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time or contact your ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Union Gas lowers rates

Union Gas today announced a significant decrease in the rates its customers will pay for natural gas. Residential customers(*) who buy gas from the utility can expect a 20 percent decrease in their annual natural gas bill - a \$255 to \$306 average annual savings, depending on location. The rate change, which was recently approved by the Ontario Energy Board, will go into effect on April 1, 2009.

"These lower rates reflect what the company expects to pay for natural gas supplies

over the next 12 months," said Steve Baker, vice president, Union Gas. "Natural gas is a competitive energy choice and continues to cost significantly less than electricity or fuel oil for space and water heating."

Along with lower rates, Union Gas customers can realize even greater savings by taking steps to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Energy conservation is an investment that offers savings and environmental benefits that continue year-after-year.

In order to help customers

save money on energy, Union Gas is offering a number of conservation programs this spring. More information, as well as conservation tips and tools, are available on the company's Web site at www.union-gas.com/energyefficiency.

(*A typical residential customer in Union Gas' service territory uses 2,600 cubic metres of natural gas a year for home and water heating.

Savings are based on the annual bill for typical residential customers who buy their natural gas from the utility.

Road work projects slated for Fort this year

by Marlene Deschamps

Tenders will be opened for a number of projects on Tuesday, March 17th. The Connecting link, Bio-mass road, and Library tenders are three of the projects slated to get started as soon as the weather allows. The government is funding over 90% of the costs for the road projects so it gives the Town a chance to take advantage of

these various government programs to repair and rehabilitate some of its crumbling infrastructure. According to CAO, Mark McCaig, there are still sewer and pipes under the roads that are around 100 years old and are in dire need of replacement. He made note that sometimes some people don't want to put up with the inconvenience of road work, but it has to

be done and the Town will be in much better shape after it is completed. Some of the same people who complain about the state of the roads are the same ones who complain when work is being done on them but this cannot be helped if Fort Frances wants to have modern infrastructure that will benefit future generations.



Pilot, John Hall outside plane, inside navigator, Al Fraser and spotter Tom Park in the rear. A second spotter, Grace Sehedler, is missing in this picture.

by Marlene Deschamps

Civil Air Search and Rescue Associations from Zone 1 in Manitoba and Thunder Bay area held a joint exercise on Saturday, March 7th. There were four planes from Winnipeg and two from Thunder Bay taking part in the 6 simulated tasks set up by Search Coordinator, Jason Hughes, from Thunder Bay. The exercises are usually held every year and the two groups exchange responsibility for them. They are normally held in Thunder Bay or Winnipeg with an occasional exercise done in Kenora. This was a first for Fort Frances.

The Thunder Bay Association has been operating since 1986 and they are a volunteer organization made up of pilots, navigators, spotters and ground people who assist the military and the RCMP. They are trained to their standards. They do some joint operations with the Zone 1 Manitoba group. Jason said they are usually involved with a couple of searches each year, roughly about 25% of the calls. They help in finding missing and downed aircraft, boats and snow machines. He explained the roles of the four people who would be on each plane. The navigator plots the area where the pilot is to fly the plane, the pilot flies in a designated quadrant set up by the persons in charge who have relayed this information to the navigator. The two people in back of the plane are the spotters and

according to Jason, two of the most important people in the plane. They do the visual search working on scanning from one mile out and back towards their flight pattern. They usually fly from 500-1,500 feet above the ground. They are searching for emergency beacons and emergency transmission locators in the case of planes. They let the pilot know if they have to get a close look, mark the spot on the GPS and relay the information to the military or RCMP. They will circle the site for a period of time, depending on their fuel supply and drop down survival kits so they can guide in the helicopters to rescue them.

The exercise began at 9 a.m. and was expected to last until 5:30 p.m. After all 6 exercise tasks were performed all planes would land and there would be a de-briefing. The GPS would show how close to the pattern they were. Flight Operations Officer, Melesa Hane set up the different scenarios which were all within a 20 mile radius of the Fort Frances Airport on the Canadian side. Of the area set up two would have emergency beacons from a lost aircraft and locating those beacons and determining the area accuracy of the search were just two of the exercises. The Rescue Associations were also assisted by local ham radio operators and local ambulance services.

Tom Park from the Winnipeg group said that it would be easier to spot on this exercise

because of the snow and it was much harder in the summer because of all the trees. He said the Zone 1 group were involved in a search last summer near Tuelon when an elderly gentleman with Alzheimer's went missing. They assisted the RCMP who were using infra red sensors and he was brought out alive and well. Jerry Roehn, Deputy Search Coordinator from Manitoba said they had been called our 15 times last year, including helping out with an incident near Duluth on Lake Superior which included spotting for a Hercules Military C-130 air plane.

Grace Sehedler, who was the spotter on the plane pictured above said she has been doing this for 4 years. The pilot has been part of the Association for 11 years, navigator, Al Fraser for 8 and the other spotter, Tom for 2 years. There wasn't too much time to chat as they were already fuelled up and ready to go complete their exercise. They along with the other teams participating are a very dedicated group who are well trained and know just what they have to do to assist with locating downed planes, lost boats and snowmobiles. They are usually part of newscasts when TV stations are reporting on someone lost and someone found. It was a pleasure to meet some of them up close and reassuring to know they are there to help anyone who gets into trouble on the lakes or in the bush, if necessary.



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Giant Colon Tour Kicks Off Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer death in Canada, yet we don't discuss it because it involves parts of the body we don't like to talk about. Last year, an estimated 21,500 Canadians were diagnosed with colorectal cancer and sadly approximately 8,900 died from it. March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and it is time we get over our embarrassment and start talking about our butts.

To launch National Colorectal Cancer Awareness month, this March, the Colorectal Cancer Association of Canada (CCAC) is launching The Giant Colon Tour - inviting Canadians to walk through a 40-foot colon, educating them on the signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer and other diseases of the colon.

The CCAC is celebrating the many great improvements made to colorectal cancer prevention and care in Canada this past year, and is announcing its commitment to build on this success.

"Watch your Butt" takes on a whole new meaning

Over the past few years, there have been some exciting changes to the state of colorectal cancer prevention and treatment in Canada. Although screening has not been implemented on a national scale for this highly preventable disease, some provinces have made significant progress and the population has been encouraged by the CCAC through its "At 50 Watch your Butt" television and radio ad campaigns, to get screened.

This past year, Ontario officially launched their screening program for colorectal cancer across the province, while Alberta and Manitoba are expanding their programs province-wide. British

Columbia, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia are commencing their respective test sites as well, although Quebec and the other provinces have been slow to respond. "Province-wide population-based screening programs are critical to reduce the number of fatalities from colorectal cancer," said Barry D. Stein, President of the CCAC. "The time is now for the rest of the country to get on board and join those provinces that have already taken the first steps to saving lives from this devastating disease."

Helping patients battling colorectal cancer with access to effective medications is equally important to the CCAC. Access to effective medications has seen recent progress in Canada, but not enough according to Stein. "We believe that all Canadians affected by colorectal cancer should have equal access to the most effective medications to fight their disease, regardless of where they live," said Stein. Last year, the CCAC launched a major national letter-writing campaign called "Access to Treatment", urging provincial governments to cover new and effective medicines for the disease approved by Health Canada and this campaign will continue with new energy this year. Following this campaign, Nova Scotia and Ontario announced funding for Avastin, a life-extending medication for advanced colorectal cancer patients. These provinces now join British Columbia, Quebec, N e w f o u n d l a n d a n d Saskatchewan in covering the drug.

"The CCAC is pleased with these decisions, however, we are already looking to the future for colorectal cancer care," said Stein. "Personalized medicine is at our door-step

and we must ensure that all provinces provide access to these newer medications. If we are to cure cancer we must encourage new innovation and technology and ensure that Canadians have access to these new advances", said Stein

Stein is referring to a new generation of biologics and small molecules now approved by Health Canada which allow healthcare professionals to look beyond symptoms, test results and medical history, and consider patients' genetic make-up to help them determine how they will respond to treatment. "Two new products, Vectibix(TM) (panitumumab) and Erbitux(TM) (cetuximab), have already been approved by Health Canada and both represent important new options for colorectal cancer patients whose disease has progressed following standard chemotherapy regimens," said Stein. "We encourage all provinces to approve these new medications to offer these patients who have advanced disease new hope and improve their quality of life," Stein added.

Walk through a colon... Literally!

The CCAC is launching The Giant Colon Tour to inform the public about the signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer and other diseases of the colon. This gigantic, 40-foot walk-through replica of the human colon is an interactive and educational multi-media exhibit where visitors will receive healthy lifestyle tips and explanations of the various diseases.

"It really upsets me to see the statistics when we know very well that colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable and beatable, if diagnosed early" said Stein. "We strongly believe that educating the public is the key to reducing colorectal cancer related deaths and this is why we are so excited to launch the Giant Colon Tour."

The CCAC will work in partnership with the different organizations, health centres, screening networks and cancer agencies to bring this exhibit to communities across Canada. The Giant Colon Tour starts in Montreal in March and has been confirmed to visit Timmins, ON; Sudbury, ON; Sault Ste. Marie, ON; Kitchener, ON and Vancouver, BC, and more sites are in the works.

Obituary

Larry Roger Strachan

On Thursday March 12, 2009, Larry Strachan of Emo, Ont passed away at the age of 67. Larry was born in Emo, Ont on January 6, 1942 to the late Clifford and Edna Strachan.

He began working as a logger for a period of time before being employed by BC Hydro, where he remained and continued to work for over 27 years, later returning to Emo to work with his sons logging.

Larry will be lovingly remembered by his wife Dianne (nee Judson), children Jim (Bev) Strachan, Sheri (Ward)

Maryniuk and Glenn (Tammy) Strachan.

He will be sadly missed by his grandchildren Shannon, Travis, Jayme, Cori, Kailey, Alyssa, Brody, Cassidy and great grandson Jaxon. He is also survived by brother Dale (Marilyn) Strachan, sister Evelyn Hare and many nieces, nephews and many good friends.

A Celebration of Larry's Life was held at the Northridge Funeral Home on Monday March 16, 2009 at 2 p.m. with

Rev. Eileen Bragg officiating. Honourary Pall Bearers were his grandchildren. Reception followed at the Emo Royal Canadian Legion.

Cremation has taken place and a private interment will be held a later date.

If desired memorial donations may be made to the Emo Riverside Health Care Facility c/o Northridge Funeral Home, Emo, Ont P0W 1E0. Online condolences may be offered at www.northridgefuneralhome.com

Snowmobile Safely During March Break

While out on the trails during this March Break, snowmobile riders should make sure their selected route is safe for riding.

Ontario is home to 43,000 kilometres of maintained, interconnected snowmobile trails - the most extensive network of recreational trails in the world.

These important tips will help make your ride safe during March Break:

- Always ride sober: alcohol and drugs affect judgment and increase your risk of fatigue

and hypothermia

- Check local ice conditions before heading out - they can change rapidly

- Avoid travelling on unmarked frozen lakes and rivers - and always wear a buoyant snowmobile suit and carry ice picks to improve your chances of survival if you break through the ice

- Respect the speed limits posted on trails and roadways - the speed limit on trails is generally 50 kilometres per hour

unless otherwise indicated

- Never ride alone - tell someone when and where you are going and what route you will take.

"Snowmobiling is an exciting winter activity. Riders who will be out in great numbers during March Break need to stay in control by avoiding high speeds, checking ice conditions and staying sober," said Jim Bradley, Minister of Transportation.

Science Matters

by David Suzuki with Faisal Moola

A grumpy old man ponders the past

As I approach my 73rd birthday, I've been thinking about my children and grandchildren and what lies ahead for them. We trumpet the enormous scientific advances and technological innovations of the 20th century, but is the world a better place than when I was born?

Reflecting on what we leave to our grandchildren, I have to answer with a resounding no! Yes, things have changed a lot in my lifetime, sometimes for the better. When I was born, there were no transoceanic phone lines, organ transplants, jet planes, satellites, television, oral contraceptives, photocopiers, CDs, computers, antibiotics, cellphones... Today we have seasonal fruits and vegetables year-round, 24-hour television channels, and bottled water shipped halfway around the world. And stuff! My god, the stuff we can buy. We can choose from more than 200 brands of breakfast cereals, and last year's cellphones not only seem old-fashioned, they're designed to be thrown away. Pills not only offer relief from the horror of erectile dysfunction, but they can now be taken daily to make us ready for action at all times. This is progress?

How quaint my childhood seems today. On hearing me talk about what we didn't have back then, children stare in amazement that anyone can remember such a primitive way of life. "What did you do?" they ask, struggling to imagine a world without television, computers, or cellphones. Yes, mine was an ancient civilization, now extinct.

It's not that I don't appreciate many of the advances. When I was a teenager in the 1950s, I

developed pneumonia and was near death when the doctor gave me a shot of penicillin. The next day, I was out of bed running around. It was truly a miracle drug. My first portable computer in the 1980s allowed me to write and send my columns to the Globe and Mail from all over the world. And when my children went away to university in the 1990s, I could stay in touch by email.

Yes, our world now provides a cornucopia of wondrous consumer goods. But at what cost? When I was a child, back doors would open at 5:30 or 6 o'clock as parents called kids for supper. We were out playing in grassy fields, ditches, or creeks. We drank from rivers and lakes and caught and ate fish, all without worrying about what chemicals might be in them. When I was a child, the oceans were still rich with marine life, places like the Amazon and Congo were still unexplored ecosystems, and nuclear weapons and the arms race were still to come.

When I was born in 1936, just over two billion people lived on the Earth. The population has tripled since then. Each of us now carries dozens of toxic chemicals embedded within us, cancer has become the biggest killer, and we have poisoned our air, water, and soil. The human rush to exploit resources or take over territory has devastated terrestrial and marine plants and animals.

Yes, we leave to our children and grandchildren a world of technological marvels and personal hyperconsumption, but at the expense of community, species diversity, and clean air, water, and soil. I don't remember feeling deprived or bored as a child. My friends were neighbours and our surroundings were rich with biological treasures for us to discover and explore. Almost all of our food was locally grown without the aid of chemicals. And growing up, we were attuned to the impact of weather and climate; we looked forward to the seasons and the changes they brought.

Have I become a grumpy old man who sees only the past as wonderful and decries the modern? I don't think so, but I mourn the passing of a time when community and neighbours were a vital part of social and economic life, a time when nature was still rich. I know we can't change the past, but together we can create a brighter future for our children and grandchildren. We know where the problems lie, and science offers many solutions. Now it's time for action. If I've learned one lesson in my 73 years, it's that everyone, including those in government and business, must pitch in if we want to change things for the better.

Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org/77.

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<p>9802 HWY #621, MORSON</p> <p>1.68 acres with 191' frontage. Handyman Special. Some renovations were started, but never finished. Just a stone's throw from Lake of the Woods. Area is noted for the fishing and hunting. Perfect for the sportsman that doesn't want to pay for waterfront property. Check it out. #1977 \$19,900.00</p>	<p>623 RIVER AVE., RAINY RIVER</p> <p>Large 3 bedroom bungalow with attached in-ground pool and bar, 2 car garage, 2 baths, and sundeck, all located on a large lot in an excellent location #1993 \$89,900.00</p>

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