

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Fort Frances hosts NOMA Conference



Councillor Andrew Hallikas extends appreciation to Stan Wesley for his keynote address.



Doug Murray, CEO of the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission chats with Tim Cosentino who is the City Manager for the City of Thunder Bay.



Louis Roussin, City of Kenora Councillor and Heather Kasprick, Deputy Clerk, City of Kenora.



Exhibitors Adrian Smith, Ann Aikens and Pat Dolcetti with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization.



Gary Gamsby, Township of Morley gets information from Dan Stencil and Ed Arundell about the TransCanada Pipeline and Energy East Pipeline.



From l. Councillor Russ Powers, President of the Association of Municipalities Ontario; Gary Lipinski, President of the Metis Nation of Ontario; and Mayor David Canfield, President of Northern Ontario Municipal Association.



Chief Gary Allen of Nigigoonsiminikaaning presents Premier Wynne with a green light and explains the Green Light Strategy that is being introduced to First Nations communities within Treaty #3 to promote safety from domestic violence.

By: Teresa Hazel

The Fort Frances Memorial Sports Centre auditorium was filled with over one hundred and fifty delegates from across the region that were here to attend the 68th Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association.

The conference theme was, "Roads to Resources... Through Partnerships" and featured a wide variety of speakers who presented on topics ranging from managing severe weather to accessibility legislation.

Keynote speaker, Stan Wesley from the Wesley Group de-



Grand Chief Warren White and Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne.

livered his address to challenge municipalities to understand and appreciate the relationships that aboriginal people have with the treaties they signed and with the land.

"Partnerships mean working together", he said to the captivated audience. "It means understanding roles, my role and

your role".

He concluded his presentation by issuing three challenges to the delegates.

"Declare yourself a Treaty partner. Make a commitment and declaration to native people who live around you", he said and went on to explain that part of being a Treaty partner means becoming educated about the Treaty rights and the sacredness of the relationships and the lands we stand on.

Challenge number two then asked municipalities to invite people to learn about the relationships.

"Have lunch and learn. Include it in your organizational orientations. Establish an Aboriginal Advisory Committee on every municipal council", suggested Wesley.

Challenge number three was to declare a year of reconciliation within the community.

"Examine the wrongs of the past and find solutions. You have to acknowledge the past to move forward", he said.

"It is comfortable to ignore problems. It is harder to stand up and say something is wrong".

Councillor Andrew Hallikas extended appreciation to Wesley for his remarks.

"You touched our hearts, spirits and souls", he said and then went on to make his declaration to the audience.

"I'm ready", he said, before asking the audience, "Are



Mayor Rick Dumas, Town of Marathon, asks Premier Wynne about Ontario Hydro rates.

you?"

The conference is also an opportunity for political addresses from the provincial and federal governments and Fort Frances was pleased to welcome Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne to give remarks at the Annual Dinner on Thursday night.

"Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. To all the municipal leaders here tonight. To Chief Gary Allen and to Grand Chief Warren White.

"Northern Ontario has huge potential", said Wynne.

"I have been to all of the ridings in Ontario. It's important to continue to travel and meet people where they are", said the Premier, adding that it is important to "deliver programs that make communities flourish."

"We need better infrastructure and seamless transportation networks across the Province", she said adding that five billion dollars has been implemented in the budget for Northern Highways.

"We are introducing a budget on May 1st. We are hoping to get it passed", said Wynne about the caveat to the initiatives she was speaking about.

She talked about the importance of partnerships and the tough discussions that are required to form them.

"These are challenging fiscal times", she said.

If an election is called, she put out a challenge to the other party leaders to meet her for a

Northern Leaders Debate.

"I invite the others to come here and take part in it. You need to push us on what we are going to do moving forward".

Premiere Wynne surprised the audience by taking a couple of questions. She then addressed issues relating to Ontario Hydro rates, cost of electricity, OPP billing, and property land tax reform.

David Canfield, who is the Mayor of Kenora and also the President of NOMA thanked Premier Wynne for her attendance at the conference.

"A lot of people listen", he said. "Madame Premier, you hear".

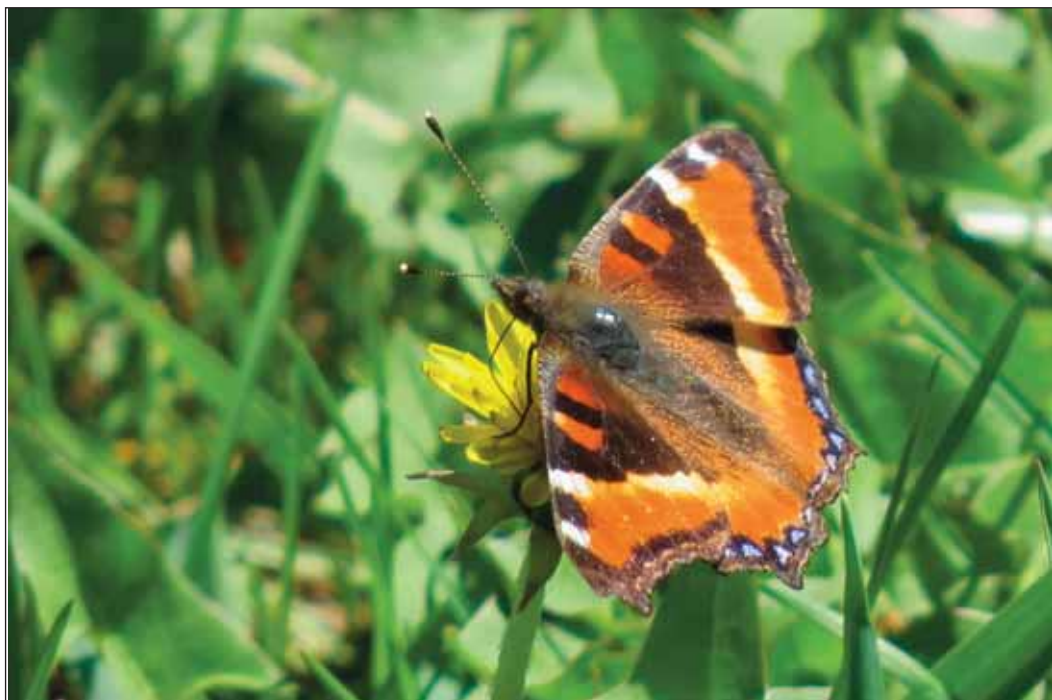
After dinner Mayor Roy Avis introduced the new Fort Frances "Boundless" brand and logo to the audience.

The Annual Dinner closed with a fantastic performance by the Borderland Orchestra which showcased the fine talent in our district. Conductor Katherine Williams directed three pieces and then handed over the baton to John Dutton to conduct the last piece. Bravo!

The conference also welcomed four provincial Ministers to Fort Frances to participate in the Minister's Forum (also known as the 'Bear Pit') that included Minister Bill Mauro - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Minister Michael Gravelle - Ministry of Northern Development and Mines; Minister

Continued on page 6

Photographers' showcase

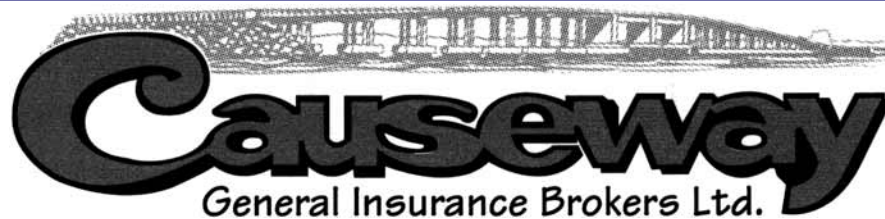


The Milbert's Tortoiseshell is one of the first butterflies to appear in the spring. Milbert's have been seen as early as March 18 in the Rainy River District. This one was photographed near Nestor Falls in May 2013.

Photo by Michael Dawber, Emo



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More Hockey History in Fort Frances



The Fort Frances Lakers are the SIJHL Champions!

By: Teresa Hazel

The Fort Frances Lakers are in Wellington, Ontario to compete for the Dudley Hewitt Cup this week after clinching their first-ever Superior International Junior Hockey League Championship and taking home the Bill Salonen Cup.

It wasn't a cake walk and required all games in the best of seven series against the Minnesota Iron Rangers. The Lakers battled back from a 3 to 1 game deficit, winning three games in a row to claim the cup for the first time in franchise history.

The two teams were evenly matched throughout the series with two games needing double overtime to be decided.

Having a capacity crowd of about 1,200 spectators at the Ice for Kids arena for game

seven definitely helped the Lakers keep up a good energy throughout the game and eventually claim victory in front of the hometown crowd by a score of 3 to 2.

The excitement on the ice was evident as helmets came off and gloves were thrown in the air.

"It's the best feeling ever", enthused Laker captain, Cody Wickstrom. "Winning with this group of guys, couldn't ask for anything better".

They are now set to begin their round-robin schedule in Wellington, Ontario for the Dudley Hewitt Cup. Their first game got underway on Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 CST against the Toronto Lakeshore Patriots, winners of the Ontario Junior Hockey League (score was not known as of

press time). Their next game is set for Wednesday at 6:30 CST against the host team, Wellington Dukes, with their third game getting underway on Thursday at 1:30 CST against Kirkland Lake.

The winner of the Dudley Hewitt Cup will go on to represent Central Canada at the RBC Cup being held this year in Vernon, BC from May 10 to 18th.

Local fans can catch the games via live stream by going to www.fasthockey.com.

Congratulations to all the players, coaches, trainers, managers, league volunteers, Board members, parents and billets on this exciting achievement.

Best of luck at the Dudley Hewitt - GO LAKERS GO!!!

Prevent insect and tick bites, prevent disease

Enjoying the outdoors is an important part of staying healthy. The Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) encourages the public to stay safe while outdoors by protecting themselves from insect and tick bites. Some insects and ticks in our area may carry diseases and can pass the illness on to humans through their bite. There are many ways to prevent bites, reducing your chance of illness.

People can reduce the chance of getting bitten by wearing light coloured long pants and long sleeved shirts, tucking

their pants into their socks, and using insect repellent with DEET. Kurtis Casey, Public Health Inspector at the NWHU provides more tips: "Get rid of as much standing water as you can from around your home and property to remove potential insect breeding grounds, and check yourself, your children and pets for ticks daily".

Although the risk of diseases like West Nile virus from mosquitoes or Lyme disease from ticks is low in our region, a risk is always present. "The

number of disease spreading insects and ticks is low, but any one bug may carry disease. Fewer bites always means lower risk", says Donna Stanley, Manager of Infectious Diseases at the NWHU. The health unit continues their vector-borne disease risk assessment activities this year including tick collection, and mosquito trapping.

For more information about preventing insect and tick bites, visit www.nwhu.on.ca or contact your local Northwestern Health Unit office.

From Queen's Park submitted by Sarah Campbell, MPP Kenora-Rainy River

I need to hear from you about the 2014 Ontario Budget

As you read this, we will all be very close to hearing what's in store for Ontarians in terms of the provincial budget.

This year's budget will be tabled at the same time that Hydro One rates are set to climb again, and on the heels of recently inflated prices for much of what is essential to living in Northwestern Ontario. As I write this column, gasoline has just jumped by at least 12 cents a litre in parts of the region; the cost of home and vehicle insurance has increased by as much as 10 percent, and natural gas has risen by nearly 30 percent. Heating oil, propane and groceries have all followed suit - all while pay raises have been minimal or non-existent for the average NWO resident.

These are the things we need to keep in mind when we take a careful look at this new budget. As the MPP for this area, I am interested in looking

at the whole package in terms of what is being tabled and whether the north is receiving fair consideration.

Expenses that might be acceptable to those living in the southern-most parts of the province are often unmanageable for those in the north where we don't have the option of turning the furnace down when it's 40 or more degrees below zero, or commuting to work on buses or trains.

There are a number of things we should consider when the budget is tabled: How does the province's financial plan affect you personally and as a resident of Northwestern Ontario? Do you feel the government has listened to, and, more importantly, addressed the issues that so many have been quite vocal about for the past year? What do you feel is missing from the 2014 budget? Is the budget a financially responsible proposal

during these difficult times?

To find out which issues I have been working on in the past few months, as well as to hear from you about the answers to some of these important questions, please take a look at my latest Riding Report, which should be in your mailbox very soon.

As always, I need to hear from you in order for me to represent you best. Budget time is even more critical as I will be relying on your direction to inform my decision of whether or not I should support this budget, or reject it and potentially bring us to an election. I truly need to hear what you have to say on the budget - or on any other issue you would like to discuss. Please feel free to stop in at any of my constituency offices or voice your concerns by telephone at 1-800-465-8501 or email scmpp@ndp.on.ca.



Moos by Kim Jo Bliss



Well I am still patiently waiting on warm, dry weather and I am sure we all have similar interests in this. Sounds like once again we received the edge of the rain and snow fall last week but it certainly left us enough to make the Sales Barn a wet, sloppy mess. At least Saturday turned out to be a dry day and it made the conditions a bit more bearable. We sold 869 cattle and the total value was \$1,080,673.58. That works out to an average of \$1250 across the board - we haven't seen prices like that. I had to question the auctioneer a few times - "did you say \$2.12? Like a 2?" So this is a great sign of the huge value Agriculture is - not only to the district but in our entire country. It's a great time to be in the business - but a tougher time to get into the business. It was a tough week preparing for the sale with some troubles

at the barn but they were over-coming and we continued on. It is a challenge when we only operate 4 times per year. It wouldn't happen without the dedicated volunteers that often take time off their regular jobs and their own personal farms to make things happen at the Sales Barn. We also have some great staff that gives 100% to make things go as smoothly as possible. Our new Sales Barn Manager (James Gibson) did an excellent job and we only heard good things about a job very well done. Our next sale is September 6th and we are already excited about it!

I had some excitement on Friday both at EARS and at home! At EARS, the University of Minnesota paid a return visit to my station. It is looking like we might be able to

work together on some canola projects. Having an International partnership is great news for EARS. We still have a long way to go but all of these areas certainly help! At home, Saltee (one of our ewes that many may have met previously from farm tours etc) - gave birth to 4 babies! Yes, 4 and they are all fine. 2 boys and 2 girls. This made for a lot of excitement. This ewe is Maddie's so she was certainly pleased. They are all doing well and at this point mama seems to be having no issues keeping them all full! We are just waiting for the last one and lambing season will be off our list. Next on the list is getting them sheared. As for the cattle, I need to work on a bull plan and get the bulls out this weekend - and here we go again!

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