

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, 303 Fifth St., Rainy River, ON P0W 1L0 Ph. 807-852-3815, Fax. 807-852-1863, Email. westendweekly@tbaytel.net Vol. 22, No. 16 Wednesday, August 13, 2014
Serving the Rainy River District for over 23 years! Read us on line at www.westendweekly.ca. Check out the pictures on line. They are so good!

Mud Lake City Music Festival



Larry Jack shuttled guests to the festival site at Mud Lake City using his 1947 Empire tractor.



Carol Alton hopped on the wagon with her granddaughter Courtney Armstrong and great-granddaughter Arya Green who is 2 months old.



Lance Salchert brings a few more guests through the gate to the Mud Lake City Music Festival.



Welcome to Mud Lake City!



June Robertson (Wayne's aunt) from Thunder Bay and Judy Eluik from Atikokan help out at the registration table where everyone was encouraged to sign the guest book.



Live performances were provided all afternoon at Mud Lake Music City. Pictured here are Vern Silver (accordion), Lawrence Bellamy (guitar) and Ken Cooper (vocals and guitar) who hails from Atikokan.



Kevin Scofield was all smiles after checking out Bet's Bordello at Mud Lake City.



John Rafferty, Member of Parliament, was seen chatting it up with Larry and Dove Stahn of Emo at the General Store.



Bob Wepruk played a few country classics.

By: Teresa Hazel

"I can't believe I haven't been here before". That was all I kept saying and thinking as I entered Mud Lake City located on Box Alder Road south of Devlin.

What is Mud Lake City? It is an old western town constructed by Wayne and Betty Salchert using their passion and hobby of collecting old stuff and antiques.

Even the shuttle to the venue was an antique trailer and wagon driven by Larry Jack.

"It's a very rare 1947 Empire tractor", noted Jack who owns two of them. "I use one as a parade tractor and one for a work tractor", he added.

At the drop-off to the site, another old car came cruising by bringing a few more guests in.

The Salchert's have been col-

lecting for a long time.

"It's a lifetime of collecting. It's fun!" noted Wayne Salchert who added that his brother Rod was an auctioneer for years before his passing and they would get a lot of "junk" from him.

For those of you who knew Rod, you might remember the

Elvis bust he displayed in the window of his home for many years on Second Street West in Fort Frances.

The bust is now at Mud Lake City in the window of Rod's Auction Shop where I met another brother, Lance, who showed a picture of Rod dancing at the last Mud Lake City Music Festival, before his sudden passing in 2004. The picture of Rod will now be included in the memorabilia.

Wayne & Betty Salchert opened their little town to the public for many years.

"We did the festival for about ten years then we got worn out and took a break for five years", explained Wayne. After much coaxing from fans of the festival to bring it back, the Salchert's acquiesced. They also used this year's festival as an opportunity to host their "Winter Arizona's", a group of about seventy people who winter together in the south. In the off-season, they each take turns hosting a party. This year, it is the Salchert's turn and they have friends visiting from North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan, Nebraska, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. A pig roast was planned for the following day.

The over eight hundred guests who registered for the festival were treated to free live music and the opportunity to tour the incredible little town. There



David Mutz came out of the Homestead Products store with Madison Godin who wanted to buy a record player. Unfortunately, nothing is for sale at Mud Lake City.

Even though Wayne says it is the last year for the festival and possibly for the biggest little city in the Rainy River district, none of the over eight hundred festival goers want to accept that news.

The L & J Toe Tappers sang an appropriate song for the occasion, "Don't let 'em tear that little old building down cuz there's not another like it in that little old town..."

My sentiments exactly! To everyone involved with the Mud Lake City Music Festival, well done! To Wayne and Betty Salchert, thank you for sharing your passion with all of us. It really is a special place and what an attraction for the Rainy River district.

"I was here five years ago and I heard about it (this year's festival) so I picked up my friends and brought them along", noted Henry Mason from Atikokan.

The Mud Lake story in pictures continues on page 3

Photographers' showcase



This picture was taken just south of Winnipeg on Provincial Road 200 at the canola field I like to photograph at various times of the year. I took this one last night (August 11, 2014), featuring the Super Moon, using a 600mm telephoto lens that makes it look almost unreal.

Photo by Gord Evers, Winnipeg

COME!
TO
THE FAIR

Rainy River District Fall Fair

Thursday, August 14 to Saturday, August 16

**Dabber Bingo, Steer Auction
Beer Gardens, Midway Rides
Stock Car Racing
4-H Exhibits, Competitions**

There's something for everyone so Emo is the place to be fair weekend!