

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. 17 Wednesday, August 6, 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!

Tourist for a day



Service with a smile! Kelsi serves a Canadian tradition – coffee at Tim Horton's.



The beginning of my "Tourist for a Day" excursion.



Caitlin Hogan was a great ambassador for the Town of Fort Frances at the Tourist Information Centre. My friend Lori McLean signs the guest book.



Welcome to Canada!



Denise and Kevin Fossen from Blackduck, Minnesota walked across the border to see Canada and check out the Fort Frances Museum.



Bill and Marie Whiting of Emo came down to the Sorting Gap Marina to view the Lookout Tower and the Hallett with their relatives Sharon and Ken Whiting who were visiting from Tisdale, Saskatchewan.



Will she take the Climb? 100 foot tower – 115 steps to the top.

By: Teresa Hazel

What is there to do on the August long weekend in Fort Frances? Call a friend?

"Hey, do you want to hang around with me today and be tourists for a day?"

"Sure", she replies. "Where do we start?"

Good question. We decided a

good start would be Tim Horton's, which has become a Canadian tradition of sorts.

Kelsi is our pleasant server at the counter. "We have lots of Americans through asking what to have because they've never seen a Tim Horton's before", she explains.

So, what do they have?

Photographers' showcase



The tiny Acadian Hairstreak butterfly is a regular (but hard-to-spot!) visitor to the Rainy River District. This one was photographed July 17, 2014, near Burriss.

Photo by Michael Dawber, Emo



I did it!!! (Sorry, so excited to get to the top and nervous about venturing back down that I didn't take any additional pictures of the view from the top.)

"Earlier today, they had the English toffee and Tim Bits".

I go with my regular coffee with cream and now in hindsight I'm thinking I should have had an English toffee with Tim Bits to get the true tourist vibe.

On we go to the Tourist Information Centre that has been

re-opened this summer

through a lease arrangement with the Town of Fort Frances and the Province of Ontario. The Ministry of Tourism operated the centre for many years before closing it and many others across Ontario a few years ago, citing a decline in usage.

As we drive there, we are hoping its open on the August holiday. It is!

We walk in the front doors and find a variety of brochures and information about Fort Frances and the surrounding region, as well as Go Local buttons and Canadian flags.

We then go inside and speak with summer student, Caitlin Hogan who was hired in May and has been in the building since June.

What's it like working at the Tourist Information Centre?

"I've met a lot of interesting people", smiles Hogan.

Where are they from?

"I've met people from Germany, France, and Australia. Lots of Americans. People from Texas are funny", she adds.

"We were so busy in June and the beginning of July", she notes about the people still coming to check out Tourist bureaus. There is a guest book for people to sign in.

Ok, so where do you tell people to go in Fort Frances?

"To Rainy Lake Sports for

fishing licences".

Check. We were already planning to go there.

"People want to have pickerel (walleye) while they are here so I send them to the Fish and Chips place on Scott Street".

Ok. We'll have to see if it's open today.

The Lookout Tower and the Hallett are two other attractions in Fort Frances that Hogan points out to tourists.

We are going there for sure. Ok, here's the scoop. This reporter is afraid of heights. Since a little kid, it has been a goal of mine to climb the tower. I tried once before and got to the first platform and had to come back down. "Today is the day", I explain to Hogan. "I'm going to face my fear". (Stay tuned)

"I also suggest they have to have lunch at the Harbourage", adds Hogan. This restaurant is located along the La Verendrye Parkway with a beautiful view of Rainy Lake. And, it's right next door to Rainy Lake Sports.

Where are the tourists heading when they come to Fort Frances?

"They are mostly going fishing", replies Hogan. "They need directions to Kenora, Sioux Narrows or Highway 502".

Hogan also meets many tourists who are first-timers to Canada.

"Some people are visiting International Falls and decide to walk across the border to see Canada", explains Hogan about the variety of visitors she gets. "I send them downtown to the Museum, Northwoods, and Betty's. They would like to see other places too but it's difficult because they are walking".

We discuss the idea of possibly having a golf cart-type shuttle so visitors on foot could check out the waterfront and travel a little further.

Hogan adds that people are looking for places to pick blueberries and there are many requests from people looking to see the waterfalls located by the hydro dam. We all agree that these would be good additions

to the tourist attractions in Fort Frances.

"People ask what our main industry is", smiles Hogan who tells them that historically it was logging although we are in a state of uncertainty with the closure of the paper mill and Kraft mill.

Hogan adds that tourists are interested in the native culture although many feel that the mounds located at the Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre north of Stratton are a bit far or out of their way. (Reporter's note: Still a great place to check out if you have the time.)

As we are leaving, we meet a couple from Blackduck, Minnesota who were visiting family in International Falls. They have walked across the border to see Canada although were somewhat disappointed that it was a civic holiday and many of the stores within walking distance were closed. Fortunately, the Fort Frances Museum was open, which was one of the places they were hoping to visit.

Tourists also want to drive over the Causeway, which Hogan warns them is currently under construction so to prepare for some possible delays.

After checking to see if Betty's or Northwoods was open on this holiday Monday and snapping a pic of the couple from Blackduck heading into the Museum, we carry on to the Sorting Gap Marina to check out the attractions.

Bill and Marie Whiting from Emo are hosting relatives from Tisdale, Saskatchewan and brought them down to Sorting Gap to see the Hallett and the Tower. The charge to tour the boat and climb the tower is a toonie for each attraction.

Courageously, I walk in and buy tickets for both attractions for my friend and me. As we walk toward the tower, I am starting to lose confidence. It is my lifelong friend, Lori, who encourages me. "You can do it Teresa". After reaching the first platform, I attempt to turn back

Continued on page 5



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From the house submitted by John Rafferty M.P.

There is a deeply tragic series of events that has led to economic exclusion and physical endangerment of the people of the Grassy Narrows and Wabaseemoong First Nations on their own territory. It is completely unacceptable and the fault for this lies exclusively with the Crown.

As we all know, relations between the Crown and First Nations have been unnecessarily complicated and disrespectful since colonizers from Britain and France first arrived in this territory hundreds of years ago. The people of Canada are not alone in these struggles as they exist everywhere that expansionist colonies were established around the world, but we have all the means necessary here to start the process to make things right for those who have shared their territory, fought alongside the Crown in mutual defense, and who share a very intertwined and hopefully healthy, peaceful and prosperous future with those whose ancestors arrived after them from abroad.

Unfortunately, the circumstances surrounding the territorial rights and health concerns of the Grassy Narrows and Wabaseemoong First Nations are a stark and sad example of all that is wrong with the current relationship between the Crown and Canada's First Nations. The two dominant issues in this particular case, territorial rights and the physical health of the people of the Grassy Narrows and Wabaseemoong First Nations are both related and extremely serious.

The more immediate issue of the physical health of the people in these affected First Nations is one that is different

from other similar situations across Canada. To summarize this urgent health matter in this short space; the people of the Grassy Narrows and Wabaseemoong First Nations have suffered for years from Minamata disease caused by the contamination of their traditional territories with mercury from forestry operations in Dryden during the 1960's, the provincial and federal governments have known this for some time thanks to reports that they have commissioned and others they have read, and both governments – representing the Crown – have done little to nothing to assist these residents, end the mercury contamination and poisoning, or prevent such a catastrophe from occurring in the future.

In a 2010 report entitled "Mercury Pollution in First Nations Groups in Ontario, Canada: 35 years of Canadian Minamata Disease," researchers examined the health of 160 adults from Grassy Narrows and nearby Wabaseemoong First Nations. The research found that "33.7 per cent [54 people] of the target group would be diagnosed as Minamata Disease patients," and that "a total of 58.7 per cent [94 people] was affected by mercury." In short, the people of Grassy Narrows and Wabaseemoong First Nations are the innocent victims of bad corporate behaviour tolerated by an indifferent Crown which first failed in its obligation to protect, and is now failing in obligation to redress.

What could possibly make this situation worse for the people of Grassy Narrows and Wabaseemoong First Nations?

The answer is the exact same scenario playing out, again, today. Just last week the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the Province of Ontario, representing the Crown, has exclusive jurisdiction over the logging and forestry rights of much of the land that is occupied and territorially belongs to these First Nations. The only protection for these people is the caveat that if this ruling results in the loss of their meaningful right to hunt, fish or trap in relation to these territories then a potential action for treaty infringement will arise.

Unfortunately, as a result of this Supreme Court ruling the same exact scenario must play out today if there is ever to be change – Crown approved industrial activity and contamination, the poisoning of a population, and loss of traditional way of life. This is a morally reprehensible and unjust ruling and situation for the people of these First Nations.

In closing, we must remember a few important facts. It was the Crown that allowed industrial activity to go unchecked in Dryden, which led to the mercury contamination, and the Crown that ignored the large scale Minamata poisoning of the people of the Grassy Narrows and Wabaseemoong First Nations. It's also been the Crown that has done nothing meaningful to assist those who are suffering, the Crown that is now set to allow new logging on the territory of these First Nations, and rest assured it will be the Crown that will bear all responsibility if this shameful cycle repeats itself again.



MOOS by Kim Jo Bliss



As I left work last Friday I quickly called the kids over to take a look at what I was looking at on the computer! Of course, it was a weather site and it predicted nice weather for the next week; well it did say a slight chance of 1-3 mm of rain on Saturday! 1-3 mm is pretty much like what we receive for dew these mornings. I happily told my dad; "it's going to be a great week, let's keep cutting!" Then Saturday rolled around and I had decided to mow my lawn first thing as it was missed the week before. And what should have been 4 or 5 hours of lawn mowing turned into 10 - since the 1-3 mm of rain turned into 17.5 mm! I think it rained on me 5 times and while it rained I whizzer snipped and once it stopped I just kept cutting - despite the conditions, I was getting it off the list. So Sunday was supposed to be square baling day but of course conditions were too wet. My vet cousin and I spent most of the day working / clipping our fair animals. They are far from ready to go but at least they are sporting nice new haircuts.

Every year I wonder why we bother - taking cattle to the fair is a big job. They spend most of their life just being cows and then we expect them to act like a dog or a horse for 2 or 3 weeks of the year. Sure hope that I can work with them every night this week - after haying. We are in our last field but of course it is a big one and when you only get to work at things part-time it takes longer and again - the weather plays a huge role! I had a great crew of help on Monday and we made over 300 square bales. I fed every last one this spring so it was a must that we at least get some made before the fair. My Uncle Bob, cousins Darren and Stacey and my mom made that job pretty simple and it was certainly appreciated by me!

We had a great Soil & Crop Tour last week. I think it was likely one of our best ones. Horst Bohner, the soybean specialist, was a real asset to our soybean growers and they all felt they learned a few things. Our entire special guests contributed and I am

proud of all our producers that allowed us to come visit their farms. We have a lot going on in the Rainy River District in Agriculture and it is nice to share it with others. As well thank you to all that attended the Open House at EARS. We appreciate the support we always receive and are happy to share what we have going on. I am thinking I will try organizing a pasture tour later this fall - so watch for details.

I encourage everyone to pick up a Fair Prize book and check out all the ways you can participate in the Fall Fair. It is open to everyone - to enter baking, arts, crafts or some flowers. It is a great way to enjoy the fair that much more and it's a great way to get your kids involved! My Great Aunt Ruby got me started many years ago and every year as I struggle away trying to get stuff ready my girlfriend always teases me - "Why do you do this? Just for Ruby?" Partly yes, and partly because participating in your community is just a great thing to do!

The Bookworm Sez by Terri Schlichenmeyer

"Dead Lil' Hustler" by Victoria Houston



Sometimes, it's not just about the catch.

Sometimes, the reason you're on the river with a rod in one hand and line in another is to hear birds, feel the sun, or watch the water. You're there to lay a feather on the surface, to drown a worm, or to get away. There are days when it's about challenge just as much as it is about the catch. And sometimes, as in "Dead Lil' Hustler" by Victoria Houston, what you might catch is a killer.

The kayakers up in Nicolet National Forest were understandably nervous.

It's not every day that a snowmobile suit full of bones is found, but that's what they'd discovered and Loon Lake Police Chief Lewellyn "Lew" Ferris figured she knew the identity of the deceased. Earlier in the year, a bank executive had been reported missing and, since few people ever ventured that far into the heavy wilderness, the list of missing persons was short.

Word travels fast, however, and when businessman Jake Barber learned that a body was found, he headed north. His son, Liam, hadn't been heard from in days, which was unusual. Liam was an avid fisherman, and the skeleton had been floating near where Jake fig-

ured Liam might practice a new-found skill.

He hoped Liam was merely lost.

Once upon a time, Paul Osborne had retired from his dental practice but he was easily enticed by Lew Ferris into working as back-up coroner for Loon Lake. Not only did Paul truly like Lew, but her smile made him feel as though the world were his alone. Yes, they'd had a little romance going for awhile, but Paul thought they'd been discreet. It concerned him some, therefore, that Bud Jarvis was asking so many questions about him and Lew.

Years ago, Bud and Nancy Jarvis were the wealthiest couple in northern Wisconsin. Their house was the envy of Loon Lake's residents; Bud controlled a local bank and Nancy controlled several committees and bridge clubs. They'd made no bones about having money – so why was Bud interested in a long-dead pile of bones?

With more than just a little delight, I somehow hear in my head the theme song to "The Andy Griffith Show" every time I read a Loon Lake Mystery – which is a very good thing. "Dead Lil' Hustler" and its predecessors always transport me to quiet small-town life, only with dead bodies.

Life is far from bucolic these days in Loon Lake though; there are murders here, just like there are in every mystery, but drugs have found their way north. Still, author Victoria Houston allows her characters several chances to take their rods and reels to the rivers and lakes nearby, which makes for a nicely balanced novel and an all-around pleasurable read.

Yes, this is part of a series, but the Loon Lake Mysteries can be read alone and out of order. If you're up for a gentle whodunit with no profanity or gore, "Dead Lil' Hustler" is a book to catch.

c.2014, Tyrus Books \$24.99 / \$27.99 Canada 206 pages

Legion Chat by Walter Wagner, Major Hughes Br. 54 president

I want to acknowledge our volunteers this week. Good work at Walter Sandmoens' service to the Honour Guard-Jerry, Judy, Ron, Brent and Janet.

I also want to praise the quilters for their work on the Railroad Daze quilt raffle.

There will be an Executive

Meeting this Thursday at 7:00.

The Nite Hawks will be holding a dance on Saturday August 9th in the Banquet Hall.

There will be a Labour Day Ball Tournament and the Legion will be having a \$1 000.00 Dance. Tickets are available from Walter or at the

Legion bar.

It is very nice to see the ceremonies commemorating the start of WW I. The footage is amazing. We have some items from this war in our Memory Corner

Lest We Forget

Letter to the editor

Duffy facing 31 charges, so why no consequences for others?

Dear Editor:

While the RCMP laid 31 criminal charges against former Conservative Senator Mike Duffy, his prosecution is far from the end of the ethics scandal at the heart of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's office.

Duffy fell from grace a long time ago. Yet the most important questions about the scandal remain unanswered and there are far too many people who were involved in questionable activities who have not faced any consequences.

This entire affair is the result of Mr. Harper's poor judgement. He was the one who put Mike Duffy in the Senate, despite not having lived in PEI for decades. He was the one who

fostered a culture in the PMO where his inner circle thought it was okay to write a \$90,000 cheque to Mr. Duffy.

Despite the Conservatives' claims that one man—former PMO Chief of Staff Nigel Wright—is solely responsible for the entire mess, RCMP documents allege that a dozen senior Conservatives were heavily involved. Many knew about the \$90,000 cheque, but did nothing to alert the proper authorities; indeed, the documents attest that some helped facilitate the payment and its terms. The RCMP's evidence suggests that some were allegedly involved in interfering with the independent audit, changing an independent Senate report and engaging in a cover-up of the entire affair. None have been

disciplined or demoted.

A year ago Ethics Commissioner Mary Dawson suspended her study of the scandal so as to not interfere with the RCMP's criminal investigation. Now that charges have been laid, Liberals are calling on Ms. Dawson to resume her investigation into all those over whom she has jurisdiction. An ethics investigation is essential to help repair the damage this scandal has done to the dignity and integrity of our public institutions.

The bar for what is acceptable conduct in the Government of Canada should not be whether or not the RCMP has laid criminal charges against you.

Yours sincerely,
Geoff Regan
Liberal MP for Halifax West

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The Wedding Announcement

Jeff Woolsey and Rebecca Witherspoon are Getting Hitched August 9, 2014 at 864 Hele Road Barwick, Ontario Ceremony begins at 4pm Dinner at 6pm, Dancing to follow Family and Friends of the Bride and Groom please except this as your invitation

Notice to Creditors and others

All persons having claims against the Estate of Ernest William McKelvie, also known as "Ernie" late of the Town of Fort Frances, in the District of Rainy River, who died on or about the 11th day of November, 2013, are hereby notified to file same, duly verified with the undersigned Solicitor or Estate Trustees on or before the 06th day of October, 2014, after which date the estate will be distributed with regard only to claims which have been received.

DATED at the Town of Fort Frances, in the District of Rainy River, this 06th day of August, 2014.

Blake James McKelvie, Estate Trustee With a Will by his Solicitor LAWRENCE G. PHILLIPS 406 Church St. Fort Frances, Onatio P9A 1E2

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