

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. 15 Wednesday, July 23, 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!

Artists unite in Harmony of Nations



Local talent, Myron Hawrylak started the festival playing songs on his keyboard before the opening ceremonies got underway.



Sandra Allan performed her song, Harmony of Nations during the opening ceremonies of the festival.



Harmony of Nations opening ceremonies featured flags from Canada, United States, Metis Nation and First Nations as well as children dressed to represent their country and nation.



Nick Sherman and his band Winterdark from Sioux Lookout, Ontario kicked off the performances at the Harmony of Nations Music Festival.



Jean Paul DeRoover showcased his unique style of music called live looping where he creates layers of music with the use of technology to make a harmony of sound using vocals and beats.



Local rapper from Couchiching First Nation, Jeremy Jordan a.k.a. Mack Sickz played a few songs that he wrote. He was joined on stage by fellow rapper Dubz.



Back on Rainy Lake! Pictured from l. Andrew Mueller (acoustic guitar), Dave Wise (electric guitar), Emily Absolom (fiddle), Alex Marusyk (mandolin), and Marc Lovisa (drums) make up the band, Cornshed. Their music has to be experienced. It is an energetic blend of harmonies that come together to create a joyful energy that requires no drugs. Mueller, Marusyk and Lovisa are all hometown boys that now reside in Vancouver, British Columbia.



Ben Sletmoen a local guitarist showcased his talents between headliners.



Award winning Metis fiddler, Sierra Noble stays true to tradition when playing Metis songs.

By: Teresa Hazel

Organizers of the first-ever Harmony of Nations Music Festival sought to bring artists and audience members from First Nations, Metis, Canadian and American communities in a creative, musical environment. And that they did with an added bonus of Go Local

artists as well.

The festival kicked off with opening ceremonies that featured flags from Canada, United States, Metis Nation and First Nations, as well as children dressed to reflect their nation. Flag carriers were Deputy Mayor John Albanese, International Falls Mayor, Bob

Anderson, Metis Nation of Ontario Regional Councillor, Theresa Stenlund and Chief of Couchiching First Nation, Sara Mainville.

"Music binds us", said Chief Mainville in her opening remarks. "It is so important to all cultures. It is a gift from the Creator and brings us all to-

gether".

Theresa Stenlund was pleased to be there. "Thank you for inviting us to participate and share our talent and culture", she said adding that the festival represented an opportunity to "move forward together, striving for harmony".

Mayor Bob Anderson was there to bring greetings from International Falls. "We have the good fortune of celebrating two hundred years of a friendly border between United States and Canada", he said. "We pledge to work together to bring economic success to both countries".

Deputy Mayor John Albanese was filling in for Mayor Avis who was on a rare one week medical leave. He welcomed the audience and performers to Fort Frances and beautiful Rainy Lake. He thanked the organizers and volunteers and encouraged everyone to have fun and stay safe. "Enjoy the festivities!"

Local singer, songwriter Sandra Allan then kicked off the show with a beautiful song she wrote for the festival titled Harmony of Nations. She was accompanied by talented musician Myron Hawrylak on keyboard.

Then the lineup of performances started, each bringing their own unique style. The common thread was their pas-

sion for music, which was displayed in every artist and musician on stage.

"We're the first band to play the festival" noted an excited Nick Sherman who hails from Sioux Lookout, Ontario adding that he hoped the festival would go on for a long time as he sang his song, A New Ground.

Jean Paul de Roover then took to the stage to showcase his music that he creates through sound looping with the use of technology. It creates layers of sounds that he establishes during the performance using vocals and beats. "This is an awesome tent and an awesome venue", he said about performing at the festival.

Local rapper from Couchiching First Nation, Jeremy Jordan who goes by the stage name Mack Sickz showcased his lyrical talent, explaining that "instead of falling into drugs and alcohol, I began writing lyrics instead". He was joined on stage by fellow rapper, Dubz.

Cornshed was next to the stage. The Vancouver, BC band has hometown roots with three band members, Andrew Mueller, Alex Marusyk and Marc Lovisa all hailing from Fort Frances. Their brand of music is hard to describe and must be experienced. It is high energy and full of joy. All I can say is that it had me smiling,

clapping, and laughing...and wanting more.

The Go Local flavour continued with a short set by talented guitarist Ben Sletmoen before Sierra Noble took the stage. Noble is a Metis fiddle virtuoso and songwriter from Winnipeg, Manitoba. She stays true to her Metis tradition when playing the songs that were taught to her by an eighty year old Metis man.

"There was no sheet music. I just watched and learned", explained Noble. "I like to keep them pure and keep them true". Noble also played some of her own music including a song she wrote as her break up song with New York where she lived for a few years.

It was Mike McCaig who then warmed up the crowd for the Friday headliner, Chad Brownlee. McCaig, who won last year's Quest for the Best, once again wowed the audience with his incredible guitar and singing talent.

Chad Brownlee who is an up and coming Canadian Country artist from Kelowna, British Columbia got the crowd on their feet from the moment he took to the stage. The charismatic, highly talented singer and musician was joined by his band and played a set of original songs and a couple of covers that had the audience

Continued on page 2

Photographers' showcase



The setting sun on Thursday July 17, 2014 from our back yard here in Alberton Township. It was the second evening in a row that the Sun was a remarkable red ball upon setting. Absolutely beautiful and so summery!

Photo by Lauri Kangas, Alberton Twp.



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Harmony of Nations music extravaganza *continued from page 1*



Mike McCaig once again wowed the audience with his incredible guitar and vocal talent.



Up and coming Canadian country artist, Chad Brownlee put on a fantastic show to close day one of the Harmony of Nations Music Festival.



Fans of Chad Brownlee head to the stage to watch the show.



Dancing to the music of Chad Brownlee.



The sound at the Harmony of Nations was fantastic thanks to these guys.



Organizer Shannon Darby joined by volunteer Jim Avis at the event.



The Laker Ladies served hot dogs, smokies and taco in a bag at the festival.



Angele Robichaud and Freda Carmody check out the jewellery at Once Upon a Spoon.



Danis Nanie from Emo was looking at the purses for sale at the Caring Hands vendor table that sells African crafts and clothes, hats and jewellery to help with charitable efforts.



Austin Melnick bought a bracelet for his mom from John Grabish.



The Darbys were enjoying the performance by Chad Brownlee.

tent wasn't filled to capacity, Brownlee played like it was and put on a show that was highly entertaining and fun.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the second day of the festival although posts that I've seen on Facebook are saying it

was a "fabulous" lineup as well. Day two featured Jerome Tuesday, Percy Bird, The Woodpicks, Alex Marusyk, Larissa Desrosiers, Shy-Anne Hovorka, Sandra Allan and Canadian icon, Buffy Sainte-Marie. I was able to attend the

on stage interview with Buffy Sainte-Marie on Saturday afternoon (see story inside).

To everyone involved with the Harmony of Nations Music Festival, thank you for working together to bring this event to Fort Frances. Although the

crowds may not have been as big as hoped for, it is definitely something that could grow and tie in nicely with the Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship.

JULY 23 – AUGUST 24

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Qualifications and Skill Requirements:

1. Post secondary education at a university level with concentration in linguistic training.
2. Be knowledgeable of Anishinaabe culture, heritage and tradition.
3. Possess excellent communication and facilitation skills for the provision of professional development activities for Anishinaabe Language Instructors.
4. Experience in research and development of language curriculum.
5. Experience in researching and developing funding proposals.
6. Possess excellent computer skills and knowledge of various software to support the development of Ojibwe Language resources.
7. A qualified Teacher registered in the province of Ontario is considered an asset.
8. Must possess excellent organizational skills.
9. Must possess a valid Driver's license and vehicle.

Job Description: Available upon request.
Salary: Negotiable related to education and experience
Physical Effort: Heavy lifting may be required
Closing Date: 4:00 p.m. Friday, August 1, 2014

Please forward cover letter and resume to:
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