

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. 21, No. 45 Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Serving the Rainy River District for almost 22 years! Read us on line at www.westendweekly.ca

A step back in time at the Emo Museum



Russ Fortier, former Reeve of Emo and Neil Grant, long-time resident of Emo enjoyed their lunch and then picked out some treats from the bake table.



Henrietta McCoy signed the guest list as she was greeted at the door by Carol Peterson.



Museum Board members from l. Carol Inkster, Annie van Rozen, Joann Moen and Kristine Carpenter.



Ellie Kooistra, aged 4, brought along her puppy, Bailey, for lunch at the Museum with her Great Aunt and Uncle, Ann and Ralph Fluit.

By: Teresa Hazel

Last Friday, I decided to take a drive to Emo to cover the Rainy River District Women's Institute Museum fundraising luncheon and bake sale. The Women's Institute owns and operates the museum, which is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

Annie van Rozen is the current Chair and discussed the need for fundraising and support to cover the operating expenses.

"We received a grant last year for some capital improvements", explained van Rozen. The renovations included opening up the display area into one large room rather than separate rooms. It also extended the ramp at the entrance to both sides of the

building as well as wider doorways for easier accessibility.

The museum is open upon request during the winter season and more regularly during the summer when it receives some annual funding to operate the local tourist information centre.

"We receive a grant for a student to run the tourism office in the summer", explained van Rozen.

The group is also hoping to find a curator to fill the position that has been vacant for the last two years.

"It's been hard to find a replacement", concedes van Rozen who has been the Chair of the Museum Board for two years and a member of the Board for the past 7 years. She has also been a member of the

Women's Institute for over a decade.

The Board is made up of eight members who work together to plan annual fundraisers including this Heritage Luncheon that is usually held earlier in February although it had to be postponed this year due to inclement weather.

They also have a spring garage sale and bake sale during Spring Fever Days in Emo as well as a July Pie Social. In August, they can be found at the Emo Fair selling pie and coffee at the Women's Institute food booth. To wrap up the year they get involved with Holly Daze in Emo with their bake sale at the Legion.

"We're looking to have more functions this year. More soup and sandwich days held here this year during spring and summer", added van Rozen.

The Board members in attendance all expressed the dire need for support of the museum.

"We need to raise money to keep the building in operation. Somehow, somewhere, somebody will provide the support", said Joann Moen who is Secretary of the Board.

The Museum has many friends and supporters who donate baking and food for their fundraisers, which all helps to make a difference.

The Museum in Emo also has a Kids Summer Program where children learn about history and play old fashioned games.

"We have different activities

like making soap the old fashioned way", noted van Rozen adding that members of the Institute share their knowledge with the children.

The program runs one or two days per week during the summer months and a small fee is charged.

"We've had displays of old tools. Carol Inkster also did a demonstration with her spinning wheel where she makes thread from sheep's wool".

The Board is definitely pleased with the recent renovations.

"We're really happy with the extra room", smiled van Rozen. "We used to have to rent space from the Church to have our luncheons and now we can have them here".

As I sat to enjoy my lunch of assorted casseroles, perogies, coleslaw, fresh salad and meatballs served with punch, coffee or tea, it brought me back to simpler times.

"It's like going for lunch at Grandma's house" said Julie Ball who had stopped in for lunch during her break from Tompkin's Hardware.

After lunch, there were homemade desserts including the delicious cherry, pineapple and coconut crumble dessert that was dee-licious!!!



Julie Ball from Stratton enjoys the old-fashioned lunch at the Museum while on her lunch break.

Meanwhile, people could be seen selecting from a variety of pies, loaves, buns and squares at the bake table where this reporter picked up some date squares and a lemon meringue pie. There were tickets available for a raffle prize and guests could also enter their name for a door prize.

The Museum has copies of published history books including "Connections" and "Further Connections" written by the La Vallee History Book Committee and "We were not worried at dinner time", which is a Township of Dance history

book written by Harl and Kay Dalstrom.

The Rainy River District Women's Institute Museum is always looking for more directors on their Board. If you would like to get involved, want to make a financial donation or lend a helping hand with an upcoming fundraiser, call Annie van Rozen at 482-3941.

Congratulations to the many volunteers who work so hard to ensure that our past is preserved and celebrated in order to understand our present and plan for our future.

Photographers' showcase



The Aurora Borealis were incredibly strong February 18th as they shone brightly despite an almost Full Moon trying to outshine its brilliance. Their reach was amazingly long as they dance amongst the Moon light. These pictures were captured around 2:30 AM at the front of our property on River Road.

Photo by Lauri Kangas, Fort Frances

Golden Girls



The Fort Frances High School Muskies Girls Hockey Team finished first in NorWossa with a perfect record of wins. They did not lose a game this year in regulation play or during the playoffs. They only needed two games to win the best of three series against the Dryden Eagles on the weekend to claim the NorWossa Championship. They will now carry this winning attitude to the All-Ontario's that are being held in Sudbury this year. Way to go Muskies!!!



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From the house submitted by John Rafferty M.P.

This week we saw the Harper government use government levers, once again, to further their own electoral interests through a foreign delegation.

The situation in Ukraine has been astonishing to watch unfold. The people are rising up and demanding an end to the government of Victor Yanukovich that always seemed to put their own private interests, and those of his friends in Russia, ahead of that of the Ukrainian people. In our parliament and in our communities Canadians from all walks of life are hoping, and wishing, and working to help the people of Ukraine establish their own democratic government that will act solely in the interests of the people.

Unfortunately, if the Conservative government actually does care about the Ukrainian people they are not showing it through their petty partisan actions at home. I don't question their individual MPs desire to see a peaceful, prosperous, and independent Ukraine but Conservative MPs and their staff do question mine and those my New Democrat and Liberal colleagues.

This week, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird was putting together a delegation to visit the Ukraine, and regrettably decided to take just Conservative MPs and Senators. No opposition MPs were invited. It should be noted that while opposition parties are often represented on foreign missions (ie: NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair was invited to South Africa for Nelson Mandela's funeral), we have no explicit 'right' to be included in such trips. In this case, the problem is not that we weren't invited but the official reason as to why we weren't invited.

When asked by the media why no opposition MPs were

invited to participate in the delegation Prime Minister Harper's Director of Communications, Jason MacDonald, provided the following reason: "The NDP wouldn't pick a side, unlike our government, which has been steadfast in its support for the Ukrainian people. Until they decide on what they stand for they, like the Liberals, shouldn't be a part of the government delegation." So what was our sin you may ask? No one can be sure, but apparently it was this statement made by our Foreign Affairs Critic Paul Dewar in December; "Canadian parliamentarians of all parties should work together to show that our friendship with the Ukrainian people is a long-term commitment." Pretty outrageous eh?

Unfortunately, this isn't the first time the Harper Conservatives have used public dollars or their offices to advance their own political interests. Just this past January Canadians got to see the same sort of behaviour during the Prime Minister's trip to Israel. In all Mr. Harper took 208 Canadians, including an official delegation of 30 MPs, Senators, government officials, CEO's and some of their family. Not one member of the delegation was from the opposition benches. Mr. Harper even took three unelected Senators, including chief Conservative Party fundraiser Irving Gerstein and Barbara Frum. In fact, they even took Ms. Frum's daughter, but not one democratically elected New Democrat or Liberal MP was worthy of being counted among the 208 travellers.

You may be saying to yourself that this is all 'sour grapes' from your New Democrat MP, and some of it may be, but a sensational event on the Israel trip I believe demonstrated why

these 30 Conservative MPs and Senators were really invited, and why others were not.

When Stephen Harper visited the Western Wall (or Wailing Wall), one of the holiest sites for people of the Jewish faith, a Conservative MP on the trip wanted a picture. However, Conservative MP Mark Adler did not want a picture of Canada's Leader visiting a holy site on a foreign trip, but one of him and the Conservative Leader for his own re-election pamphlet. The transcript of a bizarre exchange that occurred between MP Adler and a Harper staff person goes like this:

<...PM Harper moves up to wall to pray with a rabbi... cameras are clicking>

MP Adler: Jeremy! Can I get in?

Harper Staff Person: No. Adler: Pfff! It's the re-election! This is the million dollar shot!

The whole pathetic exchange was caught on video, and you can watch it here: <http://tinyurl.com/ConAdlerIsrael>

I think that Adler's behaviour and comments tell you all that you need to know about the Conservative Party's motivation for the trip, which is a real shame as most official delegations rise above petty partisan politics.

The people of Ukraine and Israel should know that all Canadians, New Democrats and members of all political parties and walks of life, support their tremendous efforts to live in peace, freedom, and prosperity within their own their borders and with that of their neighbours. I don't know if it is sour grapes, but the fact that a senior Conservative government official would suggest otherwise has certainly left a bad taste in my mouth.

LOW Bears on to the State Tournament



Representing Lake of the Woods School in Baudette, the Bears, Bantam team have finished their season in the number one spot in Minnesota District 16. Now they are on their way to play in the State finals.

Meet the Muskie's



Shilo Beck #18
Rachel Jean is a grade 10 student at Fort Frances High

School and playing her first year with the Muskie Girls Hockey Team. She is a quick moving defence who guards her goalie and wears number 19 on her jersey.

In her hockey career thus far, Jean has played AAA hockey, AA hockey and house league hockey through Fort Frances Girls & Women Hockey Association.

"My best memory was a goal I scored with 0.2 seconds left to win first in a tournament" says the competitive athlete. "I like aggressive games, the excitement of it all".

What else does she like about playing for the Fort Frances

Muskie Girls Hockey Team? "I enjoy the friendships. I love the game and the sport of it...and it helps me to stay healthy and in shape".

Something that the Muskie Girls must all have in common is a dislike for losing because they did not do it once in Nor-Wossa regulation play or the playoffs this year. The Muskie Girls clinched Gold on the weekend in the second round of playoffs against the Dryden Eagles. They will now be bringing their record of zero losses to the All-Ontarios being held in Sudbury this year.

Go Muskie's Go!

Church Bonspiel wraps up

With the cold of winter practically forcing everyone to stay cuddled up on the sofa, twelve teams representing area churches ventured to the Fort Frances Curling Club and competed on Saturday, March 1 to determine curling supremacy for the region. At the end of the day it was the Todd and Laurie Moxham,

Wayne Jewell and Dave Gregory team from Zion Lutheran Church coming out on top. Knox United Church's Reverend Barb Miller and her family team of husband Brent, daughter Myan and son Ben curled into second place and have thus earned the honour of looking after the 2015 Spiel. The friendly competition

was introduced to the area in 1967 by R.V."Rusty" Green and Reverend Harvey Moats and has continued to promote fellowship among area churches for the past 47 years. Winning teams were again presented with awards courtesy of Green Funeral Home in Fort Frances.

Campbell presses MTO minister to uphold highway standards in NWO

Months after Transportation Minister Glen Murray said the government would take action to improve winter road conditions in Northern Ontario, Kenora-Rainy River MPP Sarah Campbell says not enough has been done, and the minister has failed to visit the area as promised.

"Just this month, the minister went on CBC Radio in Thunder Bay and said that the Liberal government would look at bringing some of these services back in-house," explained Campbell during question period this morning. "He also apologized to the Northwest for our road conditions."

Murray's comments came

after years of criticism by northern NDP MPPs over worsening winter road conditions in the wake of privatization of road maintenance contracts. This winter, contractors across the Northwest were fined for failing to meet road clearing standards, but conditions have still failed to improve.

Campbell called on Murray to commit to a timeline for the reversal of road maintenance contracts, asking, "When can Northern Ontario expect to see this government follow through on its promise to reverse the privatization of winter road maintenance?"

"This Liberal government keeps shifting blame. But the truth is that under this Liberal government, privatization of snow clearing contracts has increased and MTO oversight has decreased," said Campbell, who called on Murray to come to the Northwest to see the road conditions first hand, as he had promised at one time but has failed to do.

"Is the Minister planning to wait until spring, when the snow is gone, before following through on his commitment to come and see the conditions first-hand?" asked Campbell.



Moos by Kim Jo Bliss



Winter is certainly the topic of most discussions and right-ful so! -40 and 14 foot snow banks we have every right to talk about it! It certainly is hanging on and all forecasts are indicating that it is going to be cooler than normal for most of March!

I am half done my calving and so far no frozen ears! It has been many more trips to the barn - which means that many more times of getting dressed and tripping over the frozen turds. Today; since it warmed up to -30 many of the calves were out playing and enjoying the 10 degree warmer temperature. For a lot of them it was the first time they left the calf pen that we have built in the shed part of the barn. Nice to see them running and playing. My

biggest (most overweight) cow had a 62 lb calf the other night. This is pretty small so I watched the camera thinking she might have another one but nope, just this little one. Normal birth weights for me range from 80 - 100lbs. No complaints, as long as they are up running and healthy!

Seems like there has been so much going on that the time is ticking away rather quickly. Income tax is piling up and even though I have been crossing things off my list - funny things keep getting added on! My biggest problem is I am starting to drag my butt a bit after getting up every 2 or 3 hours to check cows for the last month! Oh well, it will be over soon - just in time for the sheep to start lambing! Good thing about them is they will

all fit in the barn on the cameras.

Farmers; you will likely be getting a couple of calls this month. The Rainy River Soil & Crop is doing a membership drive so will be doing some calling looking for more members. The Rainy River Regional Abattoir will be hosting a special General Membership meeting and needs to have a great turnout so we will be calling looking for you to attend a meeting on March 26th.

L.A. Quality Foods has been a big supporter and help to our local abattoir. He is based out of Thunder Bay but has been buying many cull cows from Rainy River and has even brought cattle from Thunder Bay to be butchered here in Rainy River. He has come up with a new pricing system for cull cows that will make things more competitive with our live cattle prices. Cows will now be graded and will be paid as follows: D1 - \$1.60/lb D2-\$1.55 D3 \$1.30 and D4 \$1.25. Marg is looking for cull cows right now so please get in touch with her - Cell 276-4580 or Abattoir 482-3038 and leave a message if she is unable to pick up!

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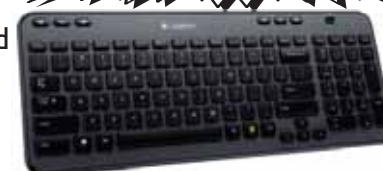
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Coming next week
March Blowout!!

International Falls playwright shares a story about community in "The Mill"



Jeannine Coulombe, playwright and producer stands in front of the gazebo that sets the stage for her play entitled, "The Mill".

By: Teresa Hazel

I decided to take in the play at Backus Auditorium on Saturday night called, "The Mill". It is a fictional account of actual events that took place in 1989 when the community of International Falls was divided over a planned expansion at their Boise paper mill. The Unionized workers were being asked to sign a new contract with concessions and Boise's plan was to bring in non-unionized workers to do the construction.

For many residents of Fort Frances, you will remember when the "Beakers" came to Town. A company named B.E. & K. was contracted to do the expansion and an army-like barracks was set-up across

from where K-Mart is situated. At that time, tensions were high within the community bringing in unskilled and non-union workers. At one point, there was a riot at the barracks where local men set some of the trailers on fire and smashed cars.

The play, written and produced by former resident of International Falls, Jeannine Coulombe very cleverly uses dialogue between neighbours to discuss the issues that surfaced within the community.

It takes place in the backyard of Marty and Beth's home. Marty is a 36-year employee of Boise who has made a good living working for the company. He is grateful for the house that he built himself and

the land that he acquired by the lake. He is now building a gazebo, a structure that the playwright sees as a luxury. "It's something not needed but it is enjoyed by family and friends".

His friend, Case, is a coworker at the Mill and has helped him build his house and is now also helping with the construction of the gazebo. Case is not happy with what Boise is doing and wants to stand up against them by voting down the contract and going on strike. He is angry about the non-unionized workers coming to Town and is irate when one actually moves in next door to his friend.

Although Marty's wife Beth is supportive of whatever he does, she has her own views about being forced to make financial concessions for the good of the community. "Why should I have to give up our dental plan", she argues with her friend and neighbour Luce. Luce is a business owner in the community and sees the bigger picture, one where the Company is investing in the Town by investing in the expansion and that it will be good for the community.

Marty and Luce's teenaged son Rick is home from his first year at college and is conflicted with where he wants to go in his life. His girlfriend Callie loved being away at college and sees bigger horizons. Rick wonders if getting a job at the Mill is his destiny. He's angry when his girlfriend tells him about the "Beakers" flirting with her at the Pamida store where she is working for the summer. He talks with Case and gets involved in the riot where he is ultimately charged and put in jail for a night.

The non-union neighbour, Ignacio is an immigrant from El Salvador where he experienced his father being driven

from his business by the government who took over his land. He is grateful for the opportunity to work and make money in the United States. He confronts Rick after the riot for damaging his car and asks him "Why? It is the only thing I own". He is now afraid to bring his wife and newborn child to live with him in International Falls because they will not be safe.

Each actor delivered a believable character that expressed the emotion and sentiment of the times.

After the play, Jeannine Coulombe discussed her inspiration for the play.

"1989 was a pivotal time in history. The protests in Tiananmen Square in China, the breaking down of the Berlin Wall. People were standing up and pushing for change".

She spoke about the vulnerability involved with change. "We want stability and security although change happens as

human beings", she explained.

Coulombe was pleased to bring her play to the Falls. It opened in Minneapolis at the Playwrights Center in April 2012 to rave reviews demonstrating that the play resonates with all people and although based on events in International Falls, the issues are universal and touch at a much deeper level with all people. As the playwright herself has said, the play isn't about the riot. It's about the everyday working people that live here and the impact of the mill on their lives. "That's why it's called The Mill and not The Riot".

Jeannine Coulombe is a Minnesota native and the author of more than ten full-length plays.

"It's great to be here at the Backus Auditorium. I can still remember being here at three years old watching the Winnipeg Opera. This place inspired me" she reminisced fondly with the audience.

The cast members were able

to tour the Boise mill that remains in operation today and were grateful for the opportunity.

"My leg warmers smell like money" laughed Angela Timberman who played Beth.

Fast forward twenty five years later, with the recent announcements by the mills on both sides of the Border, the issues from 1989 are the same issues affecting us today.

There is the continued power struggle between unions and company, big box stores versus local small business owners and youth wanting to spread their wings and search out their future while holding on to their hometown roots.

Congratulation to Jeannine and the cast and crew who did a phenomenal job with the production. Jeannine's use of humour and paradox to tell a story was both enjoyable and thought-provoking. Bravo!

Kraft Hockeyville 2014 – your vote matters

Fort Frances is once again taking part in an online voting initiative to claim the top prize in the Kraft Hockeyville contest. After an initial nomination round, Fort Frances is waiting to find out if it will be named one of the top sixteen communities who will compete for a share of the \$1,000,000 in prizeing.

Local residents are urged to watch Hockey Night in Canada this Saturday to see if we will be named one of the sixteen finalists and move closer to being crowned Kraft Hockeyville, which includes a grand prize of one hundred thousand dollars in local arena upgrades, a 2014/15 NHL Pre-Season game and a visit from CBC.

If we are selected, voting will start promptly at 9:00 p.m. (CST) on March 8th and continue for forty eight hours until March 10th at 10:00 p.m. (CST). The Chairman of the

initiative, Jonathan Gluehisen is encouraging support from people across the Region to bring the title of Kraft Hockeyville to Fort Frances.

So, everybody, here's what you have to do.

1. Tune in to the Hockey Night in Canada on March 8th and find out if we are named as one of the Top 16 communities.

2. If we are, start voting promptly by going to www.krafthockeyville.cbc.ca. Voters can vote as many times as they are able. The committee is already making arrangements to set-up voting stations at various establishments including the Memorial Sports Centre.

By banding together to support this initiative, Fort Frances can once again demonstrate how success is achieved when everyone works together for the good of our community!

In related online voting news, Ryan Faragher, a local hockey player who is making a name for himself in U.S. college hockey as a goaltender for the St. Cloud State hockey team is vying for the prestigious honour of the Hobey Baker Award. He is currently in second place out of 68 players who are nominated for the award. The voting closes at midnight on March 9th and your vote could really help him take home this honour.

Voters in this contest can only vote once every 24 hours. Go to www.hobeybaker.com and place your vote for Ryan Faragher. Ryan is a 2008 graduate of Fort Frances High School and former goaltender with the Fort Frances Sabres (SIJHL) where he was named goaltender of the year and team MVP. His parents are Darcy and Penny Faragher of Fort Frances.

OPP 2013 traffic statistics point to distracted driving as #1 killer on roads

Irresponsible driver behaviour has the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) concerned about the fate of many road users this year as officers prepare to launch their next campaign against Distracted Driving.

In 2013, distracted driving fatalities surpassed both impaired and speed related fatalities in fatal motor vehicle collisions investigated by the OPP. A total of 78 persons died in distracted driving related collisions compared to 57 impaired driving deaths and 44 speed related deaths last year.

"When you consider the overall impact of these 78 fatalities last year and the 325 other distracted driving victims who have died since 2010, the number of people these irresponsible drivers have had a profound and devastating impact on is in the thousands," said OPP Deputy Commissioner Brad Blair, Commander of Traffic Safety and Operational Support.

"Everyone, from the victims' families and friends to the police officers who attend these horrific collision scenes and have to notify next-of-kin,

knows the emotional impact of one life lost to this senseless driving behavior trickles down to so many people who, sadly, through experience, know how badly this behaviour needs to stop," he added.

The OPP recognizes that the only way to stop people from dying in distracted driving related collisions is to raise awareness of how serious the problem is and to have everyone make a firm, lifelong commitment to helping the police and safety partners eliminate it altogether. According to the OPP, it can be done.

"Over and above every driver pledging to never text or talk on the phone, pledge to be a good passenger and speak up if the driver in your car is using his/her phone or engaged in other forms of distraction. Pledge to regularly encourage your friends and family to not be distracted while driving," said OPP Chief Superintendent Don Bell, Commander of the Highway Safety Division. "Even though our campaign only runs one week, make this a year-round commitment because it is a fail

proof way to help us eliminate the tragic deaths that occur every year because of distracted drivers," added Bell.

The OPP is reminding motorists that on March 18, 2014 the current distracted driving fine of \$155 will jump to \$280 (this includes the increased \$225 fine plus a \$50 victim fine surcharge and \$5 court cost).

The OPP's Distracted Driving Campaign runs from Saturday, March 8 to Friday, March 14, 2014. During that time, the OPP will be doing its part to eliminate the threat of distracted driving through its own awareness raising efforts and focused enforcement of distracted driving laws throughout the province.

The OPP is asking Ontarians to show their support during this important campaign. Go to the OPP's Facebook and/or Twitter pages and let them know how you plan on helping to eliminate distracted driving on Ontario roads. The OPP will highlight some of your entries in a campaign wrap-up news release following the campaign.

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