

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Serving the Rainy River District for over 23 years! Read us on line at www.westendweekly.ca

Celebrating women



Gina Sigurdson is greeted at the door by Josie Schill, luncheon convener.



"Say Cheese-cake" – Members of the Knights of Columbus prepare to serve dessert.



Sister and brother, Callahan and Christian Wiedenhoef perform a musical duet, "Anything you can do".



Sisters, Micaela Jensen, Linda Fleming and Diane Revus have given over 100 years of service to the Catholic Women's League between them.



"Dish Duty" – Volunteers Ryan Brady, John Cole, Kenny Desjardins and Shawn Brady help out at the luncheon.



Callahan Wiedenhoef helped Noah Paleczny perform, "Jesus Loves Me" using sign language.



From l. Diane Oster, Carroll McFayden and Monique Strain are all members of the Catholic Women's League.



Ernie Cousineau serves Lollie Brunetta and Roline Maconachie their lunch.

Photographers' showcase



Our dog Barrett loves to go for a boat ride. He found this boat and sat waiting for us to take him for a spin.

Photo by Ann Craig, Devlin

By: Teresa Hazel

The Catholic Women's League of St. Mary's Parish held their annual "Celebration of Women" luncheon at the church hall on Sunday where over eighty ladies came out to enjoy a delicious lunch served by members of the Knights of Columbus and prepared by Dino Morelli.

The event was convened by long-time member, Josie Schill. There were door prizes

and raffle prizes as well as entertainment provided by siblings, Callahan and Christian Wiedenhoef and their friend, Noah Paleczny.

Diane Revus is the current chair of the League that has been in existence since 1953.

"We celebrated our sixtieth anniversary last year", noted Revus.

They currently have about 215 members with only about fifteen that regularly attend meetings. Like many other organizations, membership has declined over the years and they are always looking for new people to get involved.

They honour Mother Mary and her example of living with faith, courage and love.

"There are women who make things better just by showing up", said Revus in her toast to women. "Women who change the world every day".

The theme for the Catholic Women's League this year is, "We have seen the Lord as women of joy".

The League will be hosting a potluck supper on June 4th where they will honour their long-time members and welcome new members.

They were also looking for a convener for their Christmas Tea and Bazaar and Revus borrowed a quote from Mark Twain to entice the women there to come forward.

"Why not go out on a limb, that's where the fruit is". By the end of the luncheon, two women had volunteered to coordinate the event, which was greatly appreciated by the membership.

Anyone interested in getting involved with the Catholic Women's League are encouraged to contact Diane Revus at 481-9787. Annual memberships are twenty-five dollars.

OPP respond to GPS satellite emergency locator signal

On May 23, 2014, shortly after 8:30 am, officers of the Rainy River District Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were alerted to a distress call through a GPS Satellite Locator Rescue Co-ordinator Centre. Officers verified through the GPS coordinates that the owner of the locator, a Minnesota male, was calling for emergency assistance from his remote/lake only access cabin located in the north west arm of Rainy Lake, ON.

Officers attended the remote area by police vessel and located the male. The male had injured his leg and was unable to return to his vehicle without assistance. He did not have a cell phone or other

neighbours in the area to assist him. Police provided the assistance and the male was able to return home. His injury did not require urgent emergency medical attention from police or ambulance personnel.

GPS Satellite Locator Systems are becoming a popular tool for remote travel. "We would like to remind the public that if they are considering the option of GPS Satellite locator system, to consider inquiring if the system they are using has an additional feature to allow for typing and sending messages", says Constable Anne McCoy. "In addition to the emergency beacon, a type and send message feature allows custom messages to be created from

your device that are delivered over the satellite network to emergency personnel, your personal contacts, or social networks. Any additional information could potentially help emergency personnel determine the nature of the emergency and the necessary resources needed to respond safely, quickly and efficiently."

Planning for an emergency is something everyone should take the time to do, especially if travelling to remote areas. Let people know your destination, method of travel, dates of travel and expected return. Most importantly, talk to your friends and family about what your plan of action will be in the case of an emergency.



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Moos by Kim Jo Bliss



Yeah! Warm weather has arrived. Funny how we can go from 10 degrees to 90 in no time at all! No complaint at all but it is quite an adjustment. I finally was able to do some field work at EARS late on Thursday. It was far from perfect but as the time is ticking I decided to push it a bit. Of course here at EARS there are multiple steps we have to complete before we can start putting seed in the ground. Finally at the end of the day on Friday we had the fertilizer spread, land worked and lines placed for planting – but it was the end of the day and I need 2 people for planting! Thankfully – my boyfriend/partner agreed to help me plant for the evening and then again on Saturday. Of course I had 2 more trials that I would have liked to plant before quitting but I could tell I was pushing my luck so we headed home. It was still a good chunk that we had in the ground. Hoping the weather cooperates this week and we

will have our "important" seed in the ground. Many farm fields are still sticky and it is likely guys that have tilled land or well drained fields have managed to get some seed in the ground. Being this time of the year everyone gets in a rush and it causes a lot of stress for everyone.

Cattle are anxious to get on the grass but I am trying to hold them back at least another week. I am hoping the grass will grow lots this week and I still have some fencing to do. Everything is happening at once now that the weather is better and the list is long and I seem to get tired quicker now. I managed to get another section of sheep fence finished and I let them out on grass on Sunday. They were happy but it sure looks like a lot of sheep when I see them out grazing! I think Maddie and Marlee are going to have to cut their sheep herd back!

The Rainy River Federation of Agriculture is once again

hosting an All-Candidate Meeting this Thursday May 29th at Our Lady of the Way in Stratton. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. Be sure to come out and meet the candidates and get a better understanding of their platforms.

The Rainy River Regional Abattoir Committee will be hosting their Annual Meeting on Wednesday June 25th at the Chapple Hall at 7:30 a.m. Looking forward to a great turnout!

Local Food Week is quickly approaching – June 2nd – June 8th. Everyone is challenged to eat as much local food as possible – have a BBQ, invite your friends over and cook local food! Do your best to make use of our local food and promote it whenever you have a chance! I am proud to say that I have 2 friends that were once vegetarians now eating my locally raised beef! Spread the word and more importantly enjoy the taste of food less travelled!

Resolute contract ratification sets stage for next steps

The first collective agreement between Unifor and Resolute Forest Products has been ratified by all locals covered by the contract.

The agreement, the first major contract negotiated by Unifor in the pulp and paper sector since Unifor was formed last year, was accepted by an overall vote of 86 per cent, and will set the pattern for 8,000 workers represented by Unifor in the primary pulp and paper sector east of the Manitoba border.

"We did not agree to any economic concessions, and the issues of outside contracting and economic improvements were all key parts of this agreement," Lambert said.

This four-year contract is the culmination of more than two weeks of intensive bargaining in Montreal that concluded on May 9. The last of the ratifica-

tion meetings took place Thursday.

Renaud Gagné, Assistant to the Quebec Director, said this agreement was made possible because of the solidarity and determination of our bargaining committee.

"Our members sent us to bargaining to make progress and that was achieved," he said.

In 2010, at the height of the economic crisis, Resolute (then AbitibiBowater) was under the protection of the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) during contract talks, and workers made numerous concessions to maintain jobs and save their defined benefit pension plan.

This contract reflects a brighter future for the industry today.

"The high ratification is recognition of the hard work by the bargaining committee

members throughout this process, and what we were able to achieve in the negotiations," Unifor National President Jerry Dias said.

"It is now time to concentrate on a national forestry sector policy to ensure continued prosperity for this important industry," he said.

Key to developing such a strategy is a commitment from the federal government to establish a national forestry sector council with participation from all stakeholders in the sector, Dias said.

Unifor is Canada's largest union in the private sector, representing more than 305,000 workers. It was formed Labour Day weekend 2013 when the Canadian Auto Workers and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers union merged. Unifor is Canada's largest forestry union.

RR Library goes to "The Cloud"

The Rainy River Public Library is taking it to the Cloud! On June 17, 2014, the library will be moving to a new computer system called Apollo.

Apollo will replace both the library catalogue and the program used to check items out.

Our customers are going to see a whole new level of service with Apollo.

For example, you will be able to have a standing order for every new book by a favorite author – say, James Patterson, or Nora Roberts.

Our Overdrive download service will be folded into the catalogue.

You will see immediately which titles are available, and which ones have a waiting list. Then, you will be able to download our free ebooks and audiobooks – all without having to go to another website.

Readers will also be able to review and rate books, movies and CDs right in the library catalogue. Have your say!

On the staff side, Apollo will make library services faster and more efficient.

Unlike the library's old software, Apollo is "Cloud-based" – meaning, it runs over the Internet.

This way, the system is looked after by technicians at Biblionix, the company that makes Apollo.

By moving to Apollo, Rainy River is leaving the JASI group of libraries running the old Symphony system.

We appreciate everything JASI has done for us since 2007. However, we're convinced it's time for a move.

In the next few weeks, library staff are going to be very busy getting ready for the change.

It's a big job! Starting June 10, you will be able to pick up a flyer explaining our new Apollo services.

There will be a new website address for the library catalogue and a new password for your library account.

The library will also be discontinuing the computerized phone system that calls for holds and overdues.

Instead, Apollo will zip you an email to let you know you have something to pick up.

You can even set up email reminders when you have something due in the next three days. We're all so busy – it's easy to forget.

To work with our Apollo service, please let us know your current email address on your next visit.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

7 safety tips for active outdoor dogs

With the long days of spring and summer ahead of us, now is the perfect time for your dog to enjoy the great outdoors. Taking some precautionary steps will help ensure you make the best of your dog's outings. Here are 7 tips from the experts at Fetch! Pet Care:

1. Sun: Believe it or not, dogs can get sunburned. Dogs with short or predominantly white fur are especially at risk of becoming sunburned and can become at risk for solar dermatitis or even skin cancer. As a preventative, apply a sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher which doesn't contain PABA to the tips of the ears, bridge of the nose, groin area, underbelly, and other places with thinner

fur or exposed skin.

2. Heat: Just as you can protect your pets from sunburn, you can also keep them safe from heat stroke and other heat related problems by bringing them indoors or at least providing a shaded area in the yard. Also, offer plenty of clean water. The rule of thumb is one ounce of water daily for each pound of body weight. But this number increases when your dog is especially active or spends time in increased temperatures. Also, when walking, dogs often have so much fun they forget to take a break and can become overly hot and thirsty, so remember to carry a portable water bowl for summer outings and offer it to your pet

3. Plants: Dogs are susceptible to plant-based irritants just as people are. When enjoying the great outdoors with your canine companion, be mindful of your surroundings, taking note of the different species of plants in the area. Discourage your dog from "grazing" along the trail's edge, as many plants are toxic and can cause a wide range of problems from gastrointestinal disturbances to depression of the central nervous system.
4. Fleas & Ticks: Fleas and ticks are not only an uncomfortable nuisance, they can cause medical problems ranging from flea-allergy dermatitis to Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever; all of which can be contracted by humans as well. For the comfort of all involved, talk to your vet about an appropriate flea and tick prevention program and be sure to examine your pet often, especially after hiking in wooded areas where ticks are common.
5. Critters: Dogs will be dogs and will do what dogs do! This often includes running gleefully after small, fast-moving critters such as squirrels, raccoons, go-pers, skunks and other such critters. When off-leash, dogs can quickly find themselves out of range of worried owners, and many dogs have become lost or even hit by cars and killed this way. Keep in mind that many rodents and other small animals, while tiny, can put up a big fight with sharp teeth, claws and toxic stink-bombing technology (skunks!), so it's best to prevent actual close-encounters whenever possible.
6. Nutrition: Just like active humans, active dogs will burn a lot of calories and energy when outdoors. Be sure to consult with your veterinarian to design the perfect diet for your active pet to match the requirements of their daily exercise routine.
7. Other Dogs & Unforeseen Situations: While you may not be able to avoid all the dangers, there are some basic commands that all dogs should know that will assist you with the prevention of potential problems. Make sure your dog has a good understanding of and is reliable with the commands "Leave it", "Drop it", "Come", and "Stay". These commands can be particularly useful in keeping your dog away from dead animals or feces, or avoiding a harsh interaction with another dog, human or another surprise animal.

All dogs can enjoy the outdoors, but stay safe by knowing the related risks and how to deal with them.

All Candidates Meeting & Discussion

Come & Meet the Candidates!

Thursday, May 29 at 7:00 pm

Stratton Millennium Hall

Bring your questions and a friend.

Everyone Welcome!

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Legion Chat

by **Walter Wagner**, Major
Hughes Br. 54 president

God's country is getting a little frustrating to live in. One day the furnace kicks in, the next day the air conditioner turns on. You don't know which side of the thermostat you should be using.

The applications for the Legion Bursary have been trickling in. Applicants should remember that the Legion is interested in the military and wartime experiences of your ancestors.

This is the last week of May and that means a General Meeting on Wednesday May 28th @ 7:00 pm.

We have Railroad Daze 50/50 tickets available and the Ladies Auxiliary also have raffle tickets out.

The Legion Colour Party will be marching in the Relay for Life Parade.

Until then hope to see you or drop by and say hello to the new Rec Director. His name is Steve.

Let's We Forget