



PHOTOS BY RON WOLF

Youngsters get involved in the Parade of Boats held in conjunction with the Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship.

Anglers reel in the bass

16th annual championship draws 111 teams

BY RON WOLF

ANOTHER year has come and gone for the annual Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship. The 16th championship officially kicked off July 18 with the Safeway KidPro Anglers competition. Then came the hunt for the big prize money, which drew 111 teams, down from 124 last year, in the quest for the first-prize payout of \$25,000 from the \$107,500 purse.

The championship is a two-person team format. The teams, after paying a \$1,000 entry fee, fish for three days, and their weight of fish caught is added up. Top weight gets top prize. Joe Thrun of Annandale, Va., and Jim Moynagh of Carver, Mass., hauled in a total of 57.76 pounds of bass.

For 15 years the championship was based at the Sorting Gap marina in huge tents. This year, Fort Frances Memorial Arena played host to the event. Much needed air conditioning was added along with a lot more leg room, making the arena the perfect site to hold the event.

This year, The Rookie prize increased to \$3,000. The prize goes to the top rookie team — a team in which neither partner has fished in the tournament in the previous three years. In addition to the cash prize, the team got their entry into the 2011 tournament paid for.

Due to road construction last year, the Parade of Boats was cancelled. This year, more than 30 boats participated in the parade. Most anglers, who sat or danced on their boats, threw candy to the crowds as they made their way down Scott Street to the arena. One angler used a water blaster to cool down the crowds.

Other events included a Much Music video dance party, doughnut eating contest, a road hockey tournament, silent auction and bobber table. Live entertainment was provided by a variety of singers including George Canyon. A Name That Tune contest was held as well.

The land schedule included a colouring contest, face painting, parachute games, Thomas the Tank play table, arts and crafts, and a Play Safe Arena for ages up to six. A toonie swim, Grampa Magic show, minnow races, teddy bear picnic, loonie sandbox, scavenger hunt, watermelon eating contest, and a singalong with Charleen Gustafson were among the other events which took place.

Was the championship a success? It seems it was, but the official statement is yet to come.

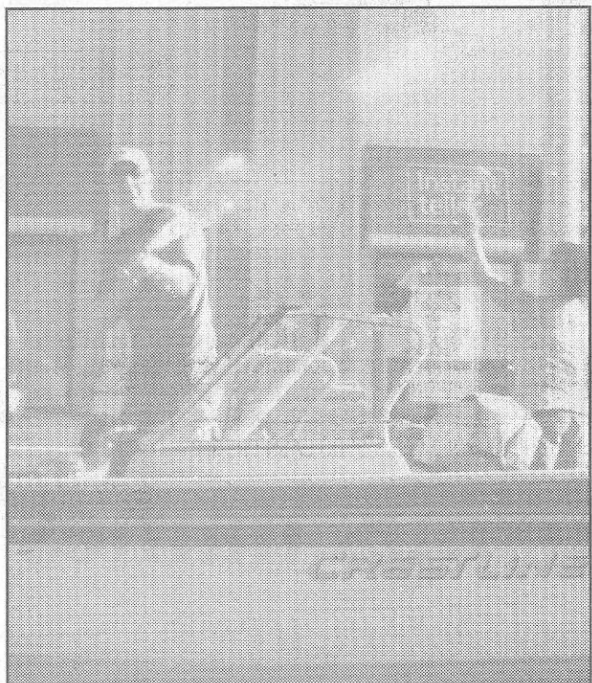
Ron Wolf's column appears every other Tuesday.



RAINY RIVER
DISTRICT NOTES



Fort Frances father-son team Jon, centre, and Dave Evans, right, await their fish weight total.



A water blaster was used to cool down an overheated parade crowd.