

District hero collects medal



SUBMITTED PHOTO/MASTER CPL. JEAN-FRANÇOIS NÉRON, RIDEAU HALL

Fort Frances provincial police Const. Dan Bailey and Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean are seen Thursday after she presented him with the Medal of Bravery.

BY RON WOLF

MORE than ever the world needs heroes. On Aug. 1, 2006, Fort Frances provincial police Const. **Dan Bailey** risked his life, while off duty, to help two women trapped in a burning vehicle in Elgin, Ont.

Unfortunately, the driver died as a result of the crash, but the passenger survived.

Bailey is no stranger to awards and his most recent, the Medal of Bravery, presented for acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances, took almost four years to come.

Bailey, who has served for 12 years with the OPP, received the medal on Thursday during a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. It was presented by Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean. He was supposed to receive the award last year, but pressing family matters took top priority.

"It's something I didn't expect so it was a true honour to receive it," said Bailey.

He received numerous awards for his role at the scene of the crash: Commissioner of the OPP Award, Commissioner Citation of Bravery, Lieutenant Governor General Award and Carnegie Hero Award. The latter, from the United States, recognizes persons who perform acts of heroism in civilian life in the United States and Canada, and provides financial assistance for those disabled and the dependents of those killed while helping others.

The family of the Elgin survivor nominated Bailey for the Medal of Bravery. There were other officers at the incident when Bailey risked his life. "You're a police officer 24 hours



RAINY RIVER
DISTRICT NOTES

a day," he said. Because of his role in the incident, Bailey was considered to be on duty.

He suffered burns to his arms and face.

...

The \$2-million Rainy River District Regional Abattoir in Emo opened before an audience of 200 people on Jan. 28.

The 3,600-square-foot facility, at 26 Byng St., won't be in operation until more equipment arrives and is set up. About 20 animals a day can be slaughtered at the abattoir when it's fully in operation.

Although the abattoir will offer some employment, it will only run two days a week. There were plans in place for a local abattoir since 2006. The icing on the project is that it came in \$3,000 under budget. No information is given just as where the remaining money will be spent, if at all.

Beef, pork, bison, elk, sheep and goats will be slaughtered at the provincially inspected site which will be operated as a not-for-profit facility.

There is still time to become a member, for a \$500 fee.

Ron Wolf's column appears every other Tuesday.