

PHOTOS BY RON WOLF

Tour de Fort treasurer Tara Hamilton and vice-president Ken Avis greeted visitors at the Fort Frances festival.

Volunteers Michael Brady and Kali Hamilton sell their wares at the festival.

Festival for all ages

BY RON WOLF

TO say that the view from the hill was picturesque is an understatement to say the least. The Little Beaver Snow Park played host to The Second Annual Fort Frances Folk Festival last weekend and the sun was shining, the bands were playing and everyone who attended had a great time. The gates opened at noon with the help of great volunteers.

More than 20 acts were on the bill, including Thunder Bay's The Auditor General and Kenora's The Me Monster.

Other bands and performers included Sean Ashby, Angus Jourdain and Mud Lake City Boys.

Myron Hawrylak, a native of Sioux Lookout, has a long history of musical entertainment.

"I started piano lessons when I was five years old. I've been in bands since high school," Hawrylak said.

Although his current age is unknown, one of the songs he played was The Hippie's Turnin' '60.

Hawrylak's bio states that he is self-employed and runs Cre8Arts Studios in Fort Frances.

He plays with a nameless band that is made up of Hawrylak on keyboards, **Bill Shine** on drums, **Chris Denby** on guitar and **Alex Marusyk** on bass.

The band Johnny Riverboat also played. Its lineup is made up of Winnipeg native **Daniel Falloon**, who now resides in Fort Frances, on acoustic guitar and vocals; **Ian McAmmond** on banjo and vocals and **Stephen Challes** on violin and vocals.

Their bio states that the band is influenced by many musical talents including Leadbelly, Phil Ochs, Bob Dylan and Odetta.

One of the displays on hand for the event was Tour de Fort.

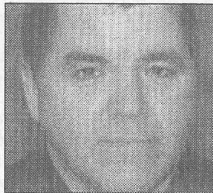
According to its website, Tour de Fort is dedicated to presenting the Rainy River District high quality professional entertainment with a Canadian emphasis at an affordable cost.

All money raised goes back into the community.

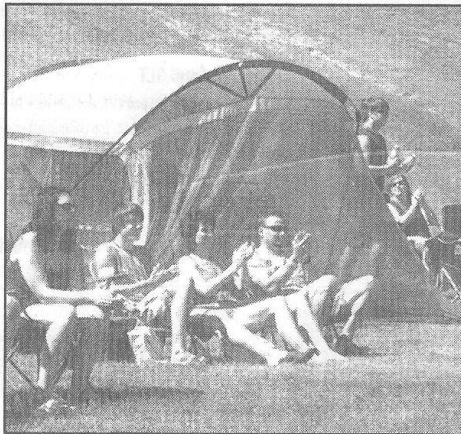
A kiddies' tent was on hand to entertain the wee ones. Some of the activities were supplied by the Fort Frances Museum.

Free yoga lessons were offered and vendors sold homemade arts and crafts.

Food that was available included favourites like fudge,



RAINY RIVER DISTRICT NOTES



People in the festival crowd clap along with one of the bands that performed.

candy apples and cotton candy. Shirts and buttons sporting the famous Fort Frances Folk Festival logo were available for purchase and a licensed patio was available.

The festival was created by Lindsay Joy, Carson Webber and Rochelle Amanda Bird.

Ron Wolf's column appears every other Tuesday.

