

A march into the future

BY RON WOLF

IT seems that this is the year for endings and new beginnings. First it was Fort Frances Public Library turning into Fort Frances Library and Technology Centre, and now the 97-year-old Robert Moore School closing its doors and a new school is opening right behind it.

Just about anything and everything that has to do with the school of yesteryear will have a place in the celebration to run on the first weekend in July, the same time as the annual Fun in the Sun events.

Robert Moore teacher **Cynthia Donald**, who happens to be a former student, says the event will feature a picture gallery in the gym and people will be able to take tours through the building.

The events are dedicated to all the staff and students who have graced the old but grandiose building, who educated the young leaders, politicians, civil engineers and countless others who have come to serve us.

Stories of yesterday can be sent to Donald by email, regular mail, fax and over the phone. The memories so far include one from Gary Wager, now a resident of New Brunswick, who remembers an open house in 1996 when he surfed the Net.

T-shirts, commemorative mugs and key chains will be on sale as part of the celebrations.

If you have a memory of the school, no matter how big or small, contact Donald at the school, at 807-274-9818.

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Where the deer and the antelope roam is best left in the fields and prairies where room is plentiful, and not at Fort Frances Airport. Discouraging words are probably whispered and perhaps even shouted at the deer who have invaded the runways and byways at the airport.

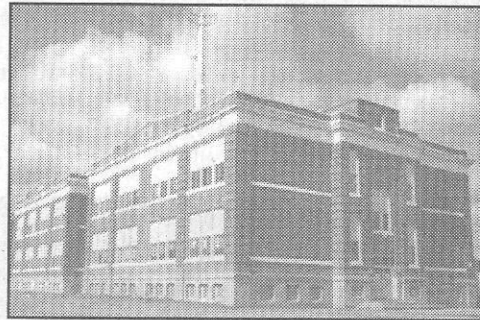
Those cute-looking animals are a nuisance when safety of passengers is concerned. At times the deer are getting hit by planes.

March 31 is the day when the general public is invited to put their thinking caps on to find an answer to the deer problem. The meeting is to take place upstairs in the airport maintenance garage at 1 p.m.

It's not just an airport problem, but exists on a town level as well. **Bill Caul**, airport superintendent, said that the town asked Transport Canada for funding to install a fence to keep the deer out of harm's way.



RAINY RIVER
DISTRICT NOTES



RON WOLF

The 97-year-old Robert Moore School is closing this year.

Thankfully no one has been hurt and no deer have been shot yet.

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The futuristic Fort Frances Library and Technology Centre received one of its first groups of visitors on March 12, just 101 days shy of opening day.

A series of stained-glass windows which adorn the children's department and the central area received a high approval rating from the Friends of the Library.

Even though the work is ahead of schedule and below budget, there is still plenty to accomplish before zero hour. Most of the cabinet work has been completed along with the newly installed fireplace, bathrooms, and a good percentage of the flooring, trimming and painting.

After all the finishing touches are done, a visit from the building inspector will be made to determine where any deficiencies, if any at all, can be found. It has been noted that, if the weather favours the builders of brick and knowledge, the outside can be done by April.

The year 2010 will definitely be one for the history books as Fort Frances proudly marches into the future.

Ron Wolf's column appears every other Tuesday.