



RAINY RIVER
DISTRICT NOTES

Local soldier back home

BY RON WOLF

AFTER a 10-month tour of duty in Afghanistan, Fort Frances native Lt. **Andrew Curr**, 24, with the 10th Field Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery in Regina, is back in Canada.

Curr visited his parents **Jim** and **Larisa** in Fort Frances earlier this month before returning to Regina.

Curr is a watch keeper of sorts. His job is to make sure different organizations are collecting information and sending it to the appropriate destinations. Not all jobs in Afghanistan are filled with violent and depressing outcomes.

Curr arrived in Edmonton with about 200 others on Nov. 24. The group was well-received with a police escort while people were waving to show their appreciation.

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All the data is not in, but it does look like it was a good year for crops grown in Emo at the agricultural research station.

Among many vegetables, carrots were a big one at the station. They were served at the Rainy River Cattlemen's Association's 50th anniversary party in September.

With the success of the Fort Frances food box program, the station have plans to grow more food.

More information can be had by calling 807-482-2354.

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On Feb. 28, an explosion and fire rocked and destroyed the gymnasium at J.W. Walker School in the wee hours of the morning.

Now, the town is being sued by the Rainy District School Board. This subject was listed in the in-camera section in a town council agenda this month.

The new year may bring answers to questions about the explosion.

An investigator from the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office noted a leaky gas main was the cause of the explosion, which was able to enter the school along a water main where the gas collected in the boys' change room near the gym.

Evacuation of nearby residences and hotels had to be executed, but no one was injured in the explosion or the evacuation procedures.

Ron Wolf's column appears every other week.