

Log hauler floated to new site

BY RON WOLF



RAINY RIVER
DISTRICT NOTES

BOAT-lovers unite! The Hallett has been lifted from its Pither's Point Park site. The 60-foot, 57-tonne log-hauling boat was floated to the Sorting Gap Marina where, on Wednesday, it was lifted onto a platform. The move is part of the Fort Frances Heritage Tourism Project that earlier this year saw the lookout tower moved to the same location. Will this project sink or float? Only time and old man river will tell.

As always, there's good news and bad news. Did you notice that you've had fewer insect bites this year than last? That's the good news. The bad news is that it's due to the fact that the cool weather we've been having this summer is keeping those irritating insects away. It seems the West Nile virus is a thing of the past in Rainy River District.

The real big news for the past few weeks was the 2009 Emo Fall Fair. The name maybe premature since fall really doesn't make its cooling appearance until Sept. 22. What happened at the soggy fair this year? The 4-H Market Steer Auction Sale Grand Champion went to 10-year-old **Nick Teeple**. The steer (Buddy) weighed in at 1,265 pounds. The annual stock car races got washed out. I was fortunate enough to see them last year and their absence this year was a terrible disappointment for many fans. Last but not least, **Taylor Pelepetz** was crowned 2009 fair queen. First princess went to **Marissa Kinnear** and second princess to **Tasha-Lynn McNally**.

"Tennis anyone" and "30-love" are some of the words that won't be uttered at the Memorial Sports Centre anymore in Fort Frances. It seems that the tennis court of old has been torn down to make way for the library of new. The construction of the new library and technology centre is right on schedule.



RON WOLF

The Hallett, a 60-foot, 57-tonne boat was used extensively in hauling logs until 1974, is gently lowered into the water at Pither's Point Park in Fort Frances on Tuesday. She has moved to Sorting Gap Marina.

It wasn't a dig Indiana Jones would find even remotely interesting. An archeological dig at the Fort Frances Courthouse didn't make the grade as piles upon piles of dirt turned up with no historic findings. Some hoped that the bodies of those executed in the 1940s for their part in the horrifying Hot Stove Murder would make their bone-chilling appearance, but no such luck.

Ron Wolf is a freelance writer who resides in Fort Frances. His column appears every other week.

THE REGION

Smoke inhalation cited in fatal fire

The victim in a fatal house fire Saturday in Pickle Lake died of smoke inhalation, a post-mortem has determined.

Provincial police said that the post-mortem was conducted Wednesday in Toronto.

The coroner will be using dental records to identify the victim, police said.

The OPP criminal investigation branch and the Fire Marshal's Office are looking into the cause of the 8:25 p.m. blaze on Ramona Avenue. — Northwest Bureau

Teen stabbed at house party

A man has been charged with aggravated assault after a 19-year-old male was stabbed during an altercation at a house party Tuesday evening in Kenora.

Provincial police said Wednesday that the teenager was treated at Lake of the Woods Hospital for non life-threatening injuries. — Northwest Bureau

Hospital wing all clear

A respiratory illness outbreak at Manitowadge General Hospital's long-term care wing was declared over Wednesday.

Visiting hours, admissions and transfers have resumed, the Thunder Bay District Health Unit said in a news release.

Residents who displayed flu-like symptoms like coughing and fever have recovered, the health unit said.

The cause of the outbreak was not determined. Health officials earlier ruled out H1N1, the virus that causes swine flu. — North Shore Bureau

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