

Quiet day without power

BY RON WOLF

NO lights, no stores, and only a few luxuries. Last Sunday the lights went out in Fort Frances from 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Eighth Street transformer station was down in order to get much needed work done. More than 1,000 customers went without power for six hours. The original power outage was set for eight hours

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The second of November is the date that Fort Frances will be getting a Boston Pizza (BP). Franchisees **Dale Fortes** and **Elizabeth Lesishman-Fortes** will be on hand to open their restaurant to excited customers. Boston Pizza is almost completed. Custom millworking, carpeting and electrical work are still to be done.

The restaurant is expected to employ 80-100 full- and part-time employees. Before the grand opening, some lucky individuals will receive invitations to lunch and dinner.

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The struggle continues for Couchiching First Nation residents who are still in search for much needed answers to their life-changing questions.

It seems that the former site of the J.A. Mathieu sawmill is giving off high levels of contamination and has been for quite some time.

The residents will be taking blood tests for zinc chloride that apparently has been seeping into the ground since 1911, as well as many other chemicals known to be harmful to humans and animals alike. Many residents fear they will be forced to move from their homes. Lately, six new chemicals were found in the soil.

This issue will be continuing for



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months if not years.

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A group of six people from Honduras was the focus of interest at Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation last month. The six guests were from the Pech tribe, one of eight remote communities in Honduras. The Canadian International Development Agency's Indigenous Peoples Partnership Program funded the visit. Besides learning about each other's histories, the guests and hosts took part in a sweat lodge ceremony, witnessed a wild rice gathering site and toured the Gizhewaadiziwin Access Centre. The Honduras group was also on hand for **David Bouchard's** book signing which was held at Rainy River First Nations.

Ron Wolf's column appears every other week.



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