



RAINY RIVER
DISTRICT NOTES

Perfect evening for parade

BY RON WOLF

THE 52nd annual Parade of Lights successfully lit up Scott Street on Saturday. The parade hit downtown at about 5:30 p.m. and lasted just over 20 minutes. This year's weather was almost perfect for a parade, unlike last year's bitterly cold temperatures.

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The Ministry of Natural Resources has pegged the 2009 forest fire season as boasting the second lowest number of forest fires in Ontario in the past 50 years. The record was set in 2008.

Even though it was the second lowest, 20,656 hectares of land were burned by 384 fires. The season officially ended on Oct. 31.

Science and information resources, forest management, fish and wildlife management, land and waters management, Ontario Parks, aviation and forest fire management, and geographic information are just some of the responsibilities the MNR has.

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Not only was the community's hearts in the right place, but their wallets were as well. Rainy River Health Centre wanted to purchase a \$44,000 ultrasound machine for its emergency room and have it set up by January or February.

Thanks to the staff and the great people of the community, they received a \$57,000 machine ready to help those in need, this year, right now.

The life-saving device can check for fluid around the heart, clots in veins, fetal viability and more. Faster and better health service is now achieved in Rainy River thanks to the caring community. The ultrasound machine will be shared with Emo.

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The Adopt an Angel campaign is off and running for its seventh season. Family and Children Services (FACS) is hoping 134 children will have a brighter Christmas this year. The children are foster children or children in need of being served by FACS across the district. The public can drop off money or gifts at either the Fort Frances Wal-Mart or Tompkins Hardware in Emo.

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Joy of Giving Hope is this year's Salvation Army Christmas campaign theme. Monetary donations are accepted or people can help out through Adopt-a-Family and Sponsor-a-Family hamper programs. The Kettle campaign started Tuesday and runs until Dec. 24 at Canada Safeway, Canadian Tire, Wal-Mart, the LCBO and banks. Volunteers are needed for all venues.

Ron Wolf's column appears every other week.



Diane Maxey, Fort Frances Citizen of the Year, participated in the Parade of Lights with driver Albert Carrier of the Fort Frances Lion's Club.

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