



RON WOLF

Newly elected La Verendrye Hospital Auxiliary president Noreen Robertson presents former Fort Frances mayor Dean Cunningham with a \$25,000 cheque during the annual fall tea on the weekend.

Round-the-clock helpline kicks in

BY RONALD WOLF

THERE is a new service in Rainy River for those in need to call. The service is called 211, and it's a 24/7 helpline which is expanding across Ontario.

The service was officially launched for Rainy River residents on Monday. 211 services are available through the three-digit phone number, 2-1-1, and a website, www.211north.ca. Both the phone and website connect people to programs and services that can help them with a multitude of challenges that could range from finding employment services, and utility and rent assistance, to accessing emergency food programs. The call is free, confidential and multilingual.

The Ontario government has committed more than \$13 million over four years for Ontario 211 Services Corporation to expand the 211 hotline province-wide by 2011 to 2012 with the help of various community partners.

From 2012 onward, as announced in the December 2008 Poverty Reduction Strategy Report, the government will provide \$4 million annually to maintain the 211 service.

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The La Verendrye Hospital Auxiliary, Fort Frances, hosted its annual fall tea on the weekend at the New Beginnings Fellowship Church.

Noreen Robertson, president of the auxiliary, presented a \$25,000 cheque to former Fort Frances may-



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or (1982-1985) Dean Cunningham which he accepted for Riverside Hospital, and which fulfilled the auxiliary's pledge of \$500,000 to the Care Close to Home fundraising campaign.

The aims and objectives of the La Verendrye auxiliary are to provide services and care that benefit our hospital and its patients in a non-medical way.

I was lucky to be informed of this event which I found to be professionally planned. The planning committee waited for all local media, including yours truly, to arrive.

The fancy sandwiches were tasty and the desserts and dainties were out of this world.

Well over 100 people showed up at the event

The bake table also was a big attraction, along with a cookie walk and the Lucky Dozen table.

As well, tickets for the Christmas draw were sold at the tea. The beautiful quilt (which is the second prize) was on display.

Ron Wolf's column appears every other Tuesday.