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RAINY RIVER
DISTRICT NOTES

New eatery on tap

BY RONALD WOLF

THE taste buds in Fort Frances will have a new menu to explore as the 5,400-square-foot Boston Pizza is to open Oct. 19. The **Fortes** family — **Dale, Elizabeth Leishman** and their daughter **Isabella** will return to Fort Frances to run the restaurant. Dale, a former assistant manager at Safeway in Fort Frances, is currently director of retail support for Canada Safeway in Winnipeg. He said the family will be back after seven years due to the timing of the opportunity. He noted that Boston Pizza, like Safeway, has a sense of community. Elizabeth will be participate in the restaurants' operations while expanding her nursing career in Fort Frances.

The ground-breaking ceremony is to be held today with Tom Veert Contracting of Fort Frances at the controls to build Boston Pizza which will employ between 75 and 100 full-time and part time staff.

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The Rainy River Federation of Agriculture (RRFA) annual spring dinner and dance last week honoured two local residents with the Bill Gibson Award. The award, named for a past RRFA president, went to **Trish and Colin Neilson** who have made outstanding contributions to the agricultural community in Rainy River District by means of volunteering. Trish is known for her time and efforts in the Rainy River Future Development Corp. and as the president of RRFA. Colin was honoured for his efforts as first manager of CropChek North, now the Emo Agriculture Research Station. Today, the Neilsons operate a farming and forestry operation north of Stratton. MPP **Howard Hampton** and MP **John Rafferty** were on hand for the ceremony.

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Former Thunder Bay OPP Staff Sgt. **John Kendrick** is the new OPP detachment commander for Rainy River District. Kendrick left his previous post as OPP regional traffic manager in Thunder Bay on May 11. Kendrick, who brings 25 years of police experience to his new position, said he is excited about the new job and participating in his new community. A native of North Bay, he grew up in Pickering and made Owen Sound his starting point in police services.

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Visitors travelling from International Falls will now be greeted by new posters. A wind storm wiped out the huge four-year-old posters that once graced the Lap Building (part of the AbitibiBowater plant). New posters promoting Rainy River District went up last week.

Ron Wolf is a freelance writer in Fort Frances. His column about Rainy River District activities appears every other Tuesday.