

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together

Box 66, Rainy River, ON POW 1L0 Ph. 852-3815, FAX 852-1863, e-mail: westendweekly@tbaytel.net - Serving the District for more than 16 years VOL. 17, NO. 3 Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Trade show promises to be an exciting event

by Don Ricci

This year's Rainy River Trade show is looking like the place to be on April 26 at the Recreation Centre. With live entertainment beginning on the hour from 11 am to 5 pm, numerous food booths, classic car displays, tons of great food to eat and many great deals to be had at the numerous exhibits.

Much work has been done to ensure that there are many interesting booths, both for great retail deals and for helpful information. The trade show committee is working hard to bring you a great trade show. It is going to be really fun. Make sure you bring the family and come out for a great day at the Rainy River Trade Show,

April 26, beginning at 10 am.

All kinds of food is going to be available, from buffalo to good old hamburgers. I am sure the ladies will be lining their tables with oven warm buns and baked bread, cinnamon rolls or candy apples. Think about a big slice of chocolate fudge or big bag of popcorn, my mouth is drooling already.

Come on down and get your picture beside the numerous classic cars that will be parked among the booths. I hear there will around 15 cars coming up for the day. It will bring back memories of the old days taking the little lady to a Friday night dance.

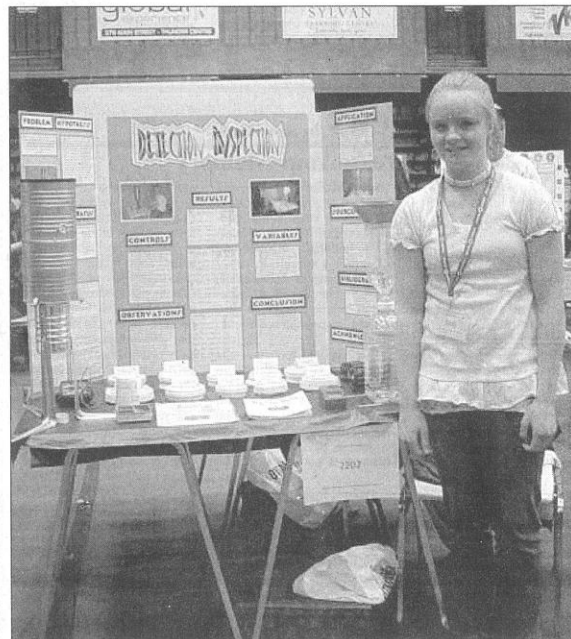
Do you need to get your pictures for your passport,

this is the opportunity. You should be able to walk away with your photos in your hand. The O.P.P. will test your driving skills in their demo car. You might even be able to get a great massage to relax your tired muscles. It's going to be so much fun with so much to do.

Let's make a day of it. Bring the family, Mom and dad, if you need a bit of time, Rainy River Play School, will even look after the kids for a bit while you explore the many booths.

See you all, April 26 at the Rainy River Recreational Centre, An all day family event, sponsored by the Rainy River and District Chamber of Commerce.

Science Fair winner off to Ottawa



Courtney Hansen won the McCrosson-Tovell School Science Fair held on Tuesday, February 26. She went to the Thunder Bay Regional this week. Now she will be going to the Canada Wide Science Fair in Ottawa next month.

Local audiologist equips Townshend Theatre with hearing assistance

Contributing to public accessibility at the Townshend Theatre for individuals with hearing impairment, Brenda Tullio of The Ear Clinic here in Fort Frances has donated a new wireless FM amplification system to the Townshend Theatre. "Now patrons of the theatre who experience hearing loss will have the opportunity to more fully enjoy the vast array of talent showcased there. This is has been a very exciting project," Brenda enthuses.

Brenda muses "we have a beautiful theatre in which many of us are able to enjoy performances showcasing a multitude of local talent, in addition to the wonderful visiting productions that cross the stage here each year. However, many as a result of hearing loss are not as fortunate. Published figures suggest that approximately 30% of the population over 15 years of age have a hearing-related disability. That figure increases to over 50% for

persons aged 65 years and older.

The availability of wireless hearing assistance at the Townshend Theatre promotes inclusion for individuals with hearing related difficulties by improving auditory accessibility there.

Installation of the new Williams Sound wireless FM amplification system was completed and ready to go March 29. Patrons of the Townshend Theatre who require hearing assistance are encouraged to sign out wireless receivers at the box office. Listening options include over-the-ear headphones or neckloop for those who wear telecoil-equipped hearing aids. Users have access to volume adjustments, and use of the system virtually eliminates the effects of distance, reverberation and ambient noise which are detrimental to effective speech reception for listeners with hearing impairment.

"So far feedback from users

of the new amplification system has been positive and that is wonderful to hear."

Brenda notes, "I certainly could not have completed this project without the patient support of Chris Denby, who has been available for consultation and enthusiastically agreed to assist me in the installation for this worthy project. Rhoda Dickson and Marlene McQuarry eagerly volunteered to oversee the care and distribution of the receivers at the Townshend Theatre Box Office. Their time and dedication to this project will ensure that patrons of the Theatre will have continued access to hearing assistance for years to come. Thank you all so very much for your contributions to the important cause of improved public accessibility at our community Theatre!"

Brenda is available for consultation at her 261 Scott Street office. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Old Bags Lunch sold out

by Marlene Deschamps

The tickets for the 2nd annual Old Bags Lunch being held on April 19th at the Fort Frances High School Cafeteria are now sold out. Joan Allison said she was scrambling trying to find tickets for those people that waited to the last minute to get tickets but wasn't sure if she could find any. The Lunch will get underway at

12 noon with a yummy bag lunch. There will be lots of fun and games to bag bags, including last year's popular "Bag or No Bag" game and this year's new game, "Are You Smarter Than an Old Bag". Joan said they have an awesome assortment of bags this year including new bags, old bags, slightly used bags, handcrafted bags, quilted

bags, evening bags and even environmentally friendly bags. All proceeds from the Lunch will support the medical equipment needs at Emo Health Care Centre, Rainy River Health Centre, LaVerendrye Hospital and Rainycrest Long Term Care. So for you lucky people who got your ticket early enough--we'll see you there.

Recapturing our Anishinaabe spirit

By Ronald Wolf
Freelance Writer

The Naicatchewenin First Nation presented "Recapturing Our Anishinaabe Spirit" "Wenji-odaabinin Minogozowin", a four day event where everyone from young and old were welcomed to attend.

Language and sacred items, legends, clan systems, medicine wheel teachings, sweat lodge and traditional roles and responsibilities were just a part of what was taught at the gathering. Other teachings included women teachings; moss bag teaching, 7 Grandfather Teachings, traditional games, aboriginal treaty rights and teachings on dances, songs and drum were the other teachings.

The reasoning behind the event was to recapture what "we were brought up with such as the language," said Chief Wayne Smith.

"The aboriginal youth are losing the language. Even though it's taught in the system, it's not taught the way it's here at the community level. I think language is a

real foundation for culture and traditions. Other important events are some of the roles and responsibilities of men and woman, about life experiences that are shared," explained Chief Smith.

"Today we are winding down with treaty and aboriginal rights. One of the problems we are running into outside first nation community is the lack of knowledge with our aboriginal rights. They were asked to clarify the aboriginal people what the rights mean," noted Chief Smith.

The recent video of the Fort Frances "racist" video circulated into the event. "These decisions (on the gathering) have been going on for quite a number of years. The video only pushed us to pursue what we were doing here. This is a beginning of a strategic plan we're creating here. Once we do an evaluation we're hoping to get an idea of where we go from here," informed Chief Smith.

Gary Smith, community wellness and justice co-ordinator of the First Nations, stated, "The elders gave us

direction on how the topics should be and how the function should run. One of the messages the elders gave us as a people were know our history culturally and our language that will give us the basics to live life."

"Our community here has always been a very traditional community. We have continual ceremonies. At the time we had our consultation with our elders it was their suggestions we invite our surrounding community to come. We weren't thinking of the mass crowds we did get but it was well received by the surrounding communities," added Smith.

Smith said that he hopes the youth will continue seeking knowledge about their culture after the event is over. "We were hoping that the youth would have that curiosity to pursue their culture on their own if we gave them the means and tools."

"This is basically the tip of the iceberg we hope to expand for years to come. It's nothing but positive energy here," exclaimed Smith.