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SERVING THE RAINY RIVER DISTRICT



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INSIDE



WRRD Lions make donation

In addition to other activities the West Rainy River District Lions Club made a donation to the Rainy River Curling Club. The lions have lots of other events upcoming.

See story on **A5**



Anishinaabeg women honoured

Last Saturday seven local women were honoured for their exhibition of character traits consistent with the Seven Grandfather Teachings at a sold-out gala event.

See story on **A8**



Lakers split weekend series

Many players had family and billets in the stands as the Lakers took to the ice Friday night as the Lakers took a thriller in overtime Friday night

See more on **B3**

Emo Council investigated by Ombudsman Ontario

By **Elisa Nguyen**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
enguyen@fortfrances.com

Council for the Township of Emo was found to have not contravened the Municipal Act, 2001 or its own procedure by-law when it held an education and training session, said Paul Dubé from

Ombudsman of Ontario in his report released January this year.

The training session was related to its reformatted budget. In the opinion section of the Ombudsman Report released January this year, Dubé said that the session satisfied the requirements of the "education and training" exception since council received training on the new

budget format and did not materially advance its business or decision-making.

"While this was not a meeting subject to the requirements of the Act and the Township's procedure by-law, I nonetheless encourage the Township to publicly post notice and agendas for training sessions, and to continue to record minutes," Dubé wrote in the report.

The complaint alleged that council's closed session discussion on May 28, 2022 did not fall within any of the prescribed exceptions in the Municipal Act, 2001 and that the Township did not provide proper public notice of the training session.

See "Emo's" **A5**

Fundraising foundation ad hoc begins exploring possible roles

By **Allan Bradbury**
Staff Writer
abradbury@fortfrances.com

At its February meeting the Board of Trustees of the Rainy River District School Board (RRDSB) approved the creation of an ad hoc committee to investigate the creation of a Student Support Foundation. This week, the Director of Education Heather Campbell and Superintendent of Business Meghan Cox have provided some more details about the purpose of the proposed foundation.

The ad hoc committee has been created to explore the possibility of the foundation, because there isn't an existing committee which includes that work in its mandate.

"The Board has the ability to strike an ad hoc committee to look at, investigate or deal with a matter that's within their purview but is not covered within an existing committee," Campbell said.

Campbell added that right now, the purpose of the ad hoc committee is investigatory. No final decisions have been made.

"We'll explore, should we have a foundation? If so, what should its mandate be? What should its focus be? What are the considerations to help it be successful? What are some considerations that might pose challenges for the foundation?" Campbell said, "We're still in the exploratory stage as far as establishing a foundation for the Board."

The committee will be exploring the proposed foundation's possible role as a separate fundraising arm for many facets of school life, school nutrition programming, poverty relief, support of extracurriculars and student bursaries and post-secondary scholarships. Establishing a foundation with charitable status may garner additional school fundraising opportunities, including corporate and legacy donations and larger fundraising events.

Nutrition programs are the focus for the proposed foundation. Last spring, when this year's budget was approved, the Board supported an investment in school nutrition funding for the 2022-23 school year and a significant investment to support a school nutrition fund in the future.

See "Proposed" **A2**

Fun for the whole family at SnOasis 10 this weekend

By **Ken Kellar**
Staff writer
kkellar@fortfrances.com

Pull on your winter clothes, SnOasis is ready to celebrate its tenth anniversary with a day full of fun.

Following some final adjustments and planning, Samantha Manty of the Friends of the Museum revealed the full schedule of events and partners with the Times, which is sure to bring fun for the entire family this Saturday, March 4, 2023. The event will be taking place across multiple locations - a first for SnOasis - which Manty said was to really drive home the point that the day is for the entire family, from youngest to oldest.

See "SnOasis" **A5**



Silver smiles

The Muskie Senior Girls volleyball team put in a solid weekend's work but had to settle for silver in the end. While they kept many of the six sets close against the Westgate Tigers out of Thunder Bay, they lost the best of three series in two matches. Congrats on a great season to all the Muskie court sports teams. For a season recap, see B1.

- Allan Bradbury photo

Community raises over \$30,000 for local girl's fight against Leukemia

By **Elisa Nguyen**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
enguyen@fortfrances.com

Businesses and organizations across the Rainy River District have raised over \$30,000 for Aiyana Cochrane in support of her fight against Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, a diagnosis that came just days after Christmas, and the fundraising is still going.

Proceeds earned at the spa run by Esthetician students at Second Generation Education Institute Fort (SGEI) Frances Campus will be donated to Cochrane and her family. Appointments are available Mondays starting February 6 from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Aimee Beazley, Post Secondary Coordinator at SGEI, said the idea to donate the proceeds to Cochrane's fight against Leukemia came from the Esthetician students.

Cochrane's mother, Melanie Mosher, was a student in the Esthetician program who had withdrawn in the second semester in order to be with her daughter in London, Ontario. When her classmates heard about the situation, they quickly agreed to donate what they earned to the family.

"We all miss Melanie and I hope that we see her again," said Chantelle Spuzak, Esthetics Instructor at SGEI.

Mosher said she was overwhelmed by all the support they have received. She thanked every-



Aiyana Cochrane, left, is battling Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. She got her diagnosis just days after Christmas. The community has rallied to support the family during her treatments, raising \$30,000 and counting, through multiple fundraisers.

- Submitted photo

one who came out to the merchandise BINGO event hosted in January by Rainy River First Nations Chief, Council, and Staff and which raised over \$30,000.

"I could not believe the support of

my little girl, I just could not believe it like it just made me cry. I don't know. I just felt loved," Mosher said. "I just want to thank them for their support."

See "Community" **A3**

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