

# Fort Frances Times

SERVING THE RAINY RIVER DISTRICT



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## INSIDE



### Second Iraqi family has left

Nearly one year after first arriving here in Borderland, the second family of Iraqi refugees—comprised of Rami Canoon, his wife, Fivyan Shamoon, and their two daughters, Fbaana, and Oryana—has moved away to southern Ontario.

See story on A3



### Recording studio helping students

There is a strong group of musically-talented individuals at Mikinaak Onigaming School and they recently were given an outlet to express themselves.

See story on A7



### Ryll relished 'kickoff' project

Getting to showcase his talents among some of the best youth football players across the country is an experience Jaykob Ryll will never forget.

See story on B1



### 'Fill a Sleigh Day'

Bargain Shop interim manager Dawn Gray, left, her son, Sam Gray, First Student supervisor Tracy Mose, and local Salvation Army Lt. Ryan MacDonald helped load more toys onto the First Student bus Saturday at The Bargain Shop. Saturday was "Fill a Sleigh Day"—and

the final day of the ongoing toy drive at The Bargain Shop—where 10 percent of all toy sales, either bought as gifts or donated directly to the toy drive, was donated to the Salvation Army.

—Duane Hicks photo

## Fourth intake for nursing program offered next fall

By Duane Hicks  
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District nursing students will be able to get their education closer to home starting next fall. Confederation College will be offering a fourth intake of the Community-Based Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) program in September, 2019.

The program, in partnership with Lakehead University, will be supported at a selection of regional campuses, including Fort Frances, Dryden, Lake of the Woods (Kenora), and Sioux Lookout.

Local resident Heather Johnson said she "couldn't be happier to hear the news" and hopes to get admitted to the program next September.

"It's absolutely amazing that the college is able to offer this program locally in our district, as well as our surrounding communities," she told the Times.

"A group of us who are taking our university stream pre-health sciences have been expressing interest to take this program," Johnson noted.

"Now that it's a reality, the next step is to secure an offer of admission.

"This announcement couldn't have come at a better time with our final exams coming up over this week and next," she added. "It's really made me want to

buckle down with studying to ensure my marks are as high as I can get them for entry."

Confederation College president Kathleen Lynch said the college is "thrilled to be able to bring this important program back to our regional communities," adding the last intake for the four-year BScN program was in 2014.

"We know there is a clear need for qualified individuals in health care across Northwestern Ontario," she noted.

"We look forward to bringing this educational opportunity to students where they live, to support them in attaining the skills and knowledge required to successfully pursue careers in their home communities," Lynch added.

The Community-Based Collaborative BScN program was started back in 2006 "to provide access to people in the region and assist local health-care organizations, especially hospitals, grow their own talent and retain nurses," Lynch explained.

Prior to then, nursing students would have to relocate to Thunder Bay.

Lori Maki, vice-president of Health Services and Chief Nursing Executive for Riverside Health Care, said the program has been valuable for local health care.

Please see "Fourth," A12



### 'Stuffed' ambulance

Paramedic Katie Stearns of the Rainy River District EMS found a place in the back of the ambulance for yet another food donation during this year's "Stuff-a-Cruiser" campaign held Saturday at Safeway, The Place, and Walmart here, Cloverleaf Grocery in Emo, and Beaver Mills Market in Rainy River. No information as to how many cruisers were stuffed was available prior to press time today. See more photos on A6.

—Duane Hicks photo

## Council to mull retail pot sales

By Duane Hicks  
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Whether or not town council will allow cannabis stores to operate in Fort Frances will be decided next month.

Town council agreed at its meeting Monday night to refer the matter to the Planning and Development executive committee for review and its recommendation, as suggested by Coun. Douglas Judson.

In a report from Fort Frances CAO Doug Brown, he noted there's three main options for council to consider:

- Opting-out and not allowing recreational cannabis retail stores within town limits;
- Opting-in and allowing recreational cannabis retail stores within town limits, with the option to consider developing a policy statement in regards to cannabis retail store locations;

•Do nothing and the town automatically will allow cannabis retail stores within the community and no policy statement will be created.

Brown said that from an administration perspective, the town allowing for recreational cannabis retail stores means more taxes and more jobs.

But he also admitted "it's a sensitive issue."

"The whole debate over legalizing cannabis in Canada went on for six months longer than it should have. It's sensitive," he remarked.

"There's a lot of extreme views at both ends of the spectrum, so I think bringing it to Planning and Development to discuss it makes sense," Brown added.

Mayor June Caul said "it's a big decision for council to make."

"Yes, we've had lots of material to read already but I would like to suggest to council that because this is still so new, and because we don't have to worry about opting in or out until Jan. 22, that maybe we just gather more information and have more opportunity to discuss this whole matter before or during our next meeting on Jan. 14," she noted.

Coun. Andrew Hallikas said there's many issues involved in allowing cannabis retail stores within the community.

"I think you'll find that everybody on council will have some varying views on this," he noted.

"I think Mr. Brown hit one of the big nails on the head which is the economy," Coun. Hallikas added.

"If we don't allow sales here, then it's very likely our neighbours will allow sales, or some of them at least.

"As well, something to consider is it's not legal for our neighbours to the south," he said. "There's a very real thing called 'marijuana tourism' going on and that could be an economic boost for our town.

Please see "Council," A12

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