

Fort Frances Times

SERVING THE RAINY RIVER DISTRICT



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INSIDE



OPP inspector moving east

After 19 years with the Rainy River District OPP and six years as OPP detachment commander here, Insp. Steve Shouldice will be moving on.

Insp. Shouldice has accepted a position in Smiths Falls.

See story on A2



FFHS staging classic comedy

Fort Frances High School students will be taking on a classic movie monster with their adaptation of the Gene Wilder/Mel Brooks comedy "Young Frankenstein."

The show opens tomorrow night and runs through Saturday at the Townshend Theatre.

See story on A11



Jr. hoopsters hold their own

The Muskie junior girls' basketball team now have shown they can hold their own against the best Thunder Bay has to offer after returning from the annual Tiger Classic tournament last week with a 2-1 record.

See story on B3

Road name to stay as is

By Duane Hicks
Staff writer
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Colonization Road in Fort Frances will be keeping its name.

The majority of town council voted in favour of receiving local resident Dawson Mihichuk's request to change the name of the road and taking no further action at its regular meeting Monday night.

Mayor Roy Avis, along with Couns. John Albanese, June Caul, Ken Perry, and Paul Ryan, voted for the resolution.

Coun. Wendy Brunetta voted against it.

Coun. Caul, who sits on the Planning and Development executive committee which made the recommendation, said it was a tough decision to make.

"I've lost sleep over this over the last few months, and I lost a lot last night," she told the Times yesterday.

"It's been on my mind all day today.

"It's a lose-lose situation no matter what you do," Coun. Caul added.

Coun. Caul said her ultimate reason for deciding to vote against having the road's name changed was that it would affect those living in the 132 residences located along Colonization Road East and West, as well as five business owners.

"When you think about the impact on the people who live in Fort Frances, who pay taxes and voted for us to look after them and do what we thought was best for them, I had to go along with that feeling," she declared.

"We voted for what we thought was best for taxpayers in Fort Frances," Coun. Caul later noted.

"I felt that, at this time, it's not something we should pursue."

Some people might not think it's a big deal to change a name but it is, she stressed.

"Every single thing that proves their existence would have to be changed—that's huge," Coun. Caul explained.

"Never mind senior citizens who would have to go through that, as well," she added, noting it would affect businesses and town departments, too.

She stressed she has respect for—and sympathizes with—what has gone on in the past, has relatives and close friends who are indigenous, and does not want this to become an "us and them" issue.

Coun. Caul said she spoke with one longtime friend who is First Nations, and he said, "Maybe we should consider keeping the name because it is part of history and it's time that history starts to be taught properly in the schools so that all children understand where indigenous people are coming from."

Please see "Road," A7



Kali Brady admired "Fighter," one of the many portraits of breast cancer survivors on display during the "Luncheon of Hope" on Saturday at La Place Rendez-Vous. "The Butterfly Story," an ongoing series of portraits of women each with body art designed to tell their individual life stories, was a highlight of the biennial event.

—Duane Hicks photos

'Butterfly Story' proving therapeutic

By Duane Hicks
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Breast cancer survivor Michelle Blackburn was able to embrace and transform her scars into something beautiful and empowering—and now she's helping other women do the same.

Along with body artist Chantal Hughes and photographer Izabela Pioro, the Thunder Bay trio have helped close to 50 women become part of "The Butterfly Story"—an ongoing series of portraits of breast cancer survivors designed to tell their individual life stories.

These portraits were the highlight of the Rainy River District Breast Health Network's biennial "Luncheon of Hope" held Saturday at La Place Rendez-Vous.

A 35-year-old breast cancer survivor, Blackburn first was diagnosed with breast cancer on Oct. 8, 2010.

She had a mastectomy and 18 lymph nodes removed while also undergoing chemo and radiation treatments, she told the sold-out crowd of 180 women at the luncheon.

"There was sadness, tears, and many fears. But in the darkness, there was also light and hope," Blackburn said, recalling good times and laughter with her family and friends.

After ending her active treatment in May, 2011, she entered a new phase of her journey: one of survivorship.

Blackburn joined the "Dragons of Hope" dragon boat team comprised of cancer survivors, rejoined her baseball team, and met her future husband.

But then, just before their wedding, she had to have a



Rochelle Bird studied "Blossom," another one of "The Butterfly Story" portraits on display. Many women there commented on the inspiring nature of the portraits, as well as the creativity and skill involved in creating them.

second mastectomy and found herself struggling to make sense of what might lay ahead for her.

"I was confronted with this every day when I looked in the mirror and saw the two scars

carved across my chest," Blackburn recounted.

"The scars themselves didn't look that bad but they weren't exactly a thing of beauty.

"I had been through the worst days of my life just when

the proverb, 'Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it turned into a butterfly,' jumped out at me," she added.

And the idea struck her to transform herself through art.

Please see "Butterfly," A5



The Fort Frances Times

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