

Tribune

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West Nipissing This Week

Canadian Tire celebrates



Reduced tags, shorter season for moose hunting... page 4

Leo Lavergne enters North Bay Sports Hall of Fame... page 2

revamped store... page 10



Approximately 100 people turned out for the WN Job Fair on April 16. Job seekers had an opportunity to network with potential employers.

Job fair does its job

BY ALLISON ROY
TRIBUNE

The event achieved what it was meant to do – set up employers with potential employees, as approximately 100 people turned out for the West Nipissing Job Fair on April 16 at the West Nipissing Recreation complex. Job seekers got a chance to make an impression and pass along their resume, while about 30 employers met face-to-face with potential candidates in hopes of filling some key positions, and some even hired on the spot!

Organized in partnership by The Labour Market Group, FedNor, Employment Ontario, Economic Partners Sudbury East West Nipissing, College Boreal, District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board, and the West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce, that's just what the day was aiming to achieve.

College Boréal's Nipissing campus director Claude Dubuc, who sits on the Labour Market Group board, says they are now hoping to repeat the event on

an annual basis.

"There is certainly a viable interest in the community and (...) from an economic development perspective (...), matching potential employees with an employer, having that opportunity to visit such a variety of employers (...) is [great]," Dubuc shares.

"The working committee, very dynamic, pulled this whole thing off, it was a real good team effort," he adds. "So definitely we will be looking at new venues next year, increasing the amount of employer booths or kiosks, increasing the visibility."

Dubuc was pleased to see quite a few job seekers, including a group from Mattawa, and noticed a lot of youth at the event. He also noted that they were well prepared, after attending the Get Job Ready event March 26, hosted by the same group as a lead-up to the job fair.

"I've noticed from the adults that I've seen walk in here, the majority had a portfolio. I was impressed in seeing that, they were prepared and I think

continued on page 2

Larabie wants River Valley bridged replaced now

BY ALLISON ROY
TRIBUNE

An old, single lane bridge on Highway 539a, crossing the Temagami River in River Valley, is causing concern for residents in the community and Rolly Larabie wants it replaced.

The 32-metre bridge is supported by timber cribs and Larabie, who resides in River Valley and represents ward 6 on West Nipissing municipal council, believes that it poses a risk to users. He is asking the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to replace it.

Larabie says he spoke with an MTO representative who told him that the bridge had been looked at this month. He adds he was informed that the bridge is expected to be replaced within five years, and temporary repairs would be done in the meantime to keep it safe and functional.

Larabie estimates that repairs to the bridge will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, a waste of money for a temporary fix, in his opinion.

"I can't see (...) repairing and putting that much money into it then having to replace the whole bridge," he says.

He points out that the bridge was scheduled to be replaced ahead of the bridge in

Hagar, which was replaced last year due to residents in Hagar voicing their frustrations and putting pressure on the MTO.

Larabie thinks it's time West Nipissing also puts pressure on the ministry, not only to avoid wasting taxpayer money on costly, temporary repairs, but also to address the risk to public safety.

According to the councilor, numerous lodges, camp owners, residents and aggregate pits use the road and bridge, and school buses also travel up that way.

"It [moves] so much that the nails come out and we [get] flats," he describes. "If they do just the repairs, they have to replace the whole decking and some work underneath. At the end of the bridge where you get onto the bridge, it keeps washing away, they have to fill that up with asphalt on a regular basis."

Larabie says he has mentioned the situation to the MTO at every opportunity, stressing that he wants the bridge replaced this year. He adds that municipal administration has been made aware of the situation as well, and it is expected the topic will be discussed by council in May.

Larabie says municipal bridges have to be inspected every two years and he is sur-

continued on page 2



Concern is being raised over a bridge on Highway 539a, located just outside of River Valley over the Temagami River.

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Job fair does its job

continued from page 1

they came away from the workshops and they took the time to build their binders," Dubuc enthuses.

Indeed, the College Boréal director was so impressed, he hired two part-time teachers on the spot at the event.

"It's all about timing, it's all about networking, and that is what this is today, it's about networking for employers and job seekers."

Lise Beland, Director of Employment Services for Employment Options, was the keynote speaker for the day, on the topic of innovation and entrepreneurial behaviour.

"The smallest idea can bring the largest innovation, whether you're an employer or an employee, whether you're students," Beland said. "Entrepreneurial behaviour is really the type of behaviour you need to innovate. (...) Innovation belongs to all of us, and I try to encourage everybody to really try to make a difference, and appreciate and value small ideas because they really have big payoffs."

She was also pleased with the event. "It's been a nice steady stream of traffic, I think there were already people here before they opened the door, which is really lovely. It's nice because it's helping fill the skills gap and the employer/employee gap."

Stacie Fiddler, Executive Director for the Labour Market Group, says the event exceeded their expectations, with a variety of individuals walking through the doors.

"The employer feedback has been amazing, they are really excited, they've gotten quite a few applicants and interested people talking to them," she enthuses. "People have said it was a great networking opportunity, overall it's

been very good."

"One of the reasons we pulled this together was because we knew there hadn't been one in West Nipissing for some time," Fiddler adds. She says evaluation forms from participants will help them review the event and regroup to improve on the next one.

Stephane Renaud and Jason Sayer, recruiters with Hinduja Global Solutions, a North Bay call centre, both agree the event was great as they received several resumes from potential employees.

"I'm really looking to find some quality, wonderful, bilingual people," says Sayer, adding that they were looking for 10 potential employees.

He says they were waiting for the community to host a job fair, and they were not disappointed. "I think it was wonderful, the people who did the lunch (...), the lunch was amazing."

Renaud concurs, adding that the event was very well organized and the turnout was great.

Ivan Scalabrini, who moved to Sturgeon Falls from Ottawa, says he attended to see what was available.

"I find that there is a good showing of different companies (...). I find that there are a few options and also services that are available for people who are searching," he recognized.

Lunch for the event was served by College Boareal's dual credit culinary arts class, consisting of grade 12 students taking a college course, who volunteered their time to prepare the meal.

"The real benefit for them is we put them into a real world context," Dubuc points out. "They did awesome, totally blew my expectations out of the water, I mean you just can't get this in a classroom setting."

Larabie wants River Valley bridged replaced now

continued from page 1

prised the MTO has not picked up on the obvious issues that have local residents so concerned.

Gordon Rennie, regional issues advisor with the MTO, confirms that the bridge is inspected every two years under the direction of a professional engineer, with the last inspection having been done in July 2014.

"At that time, the bridge was found in fair condition and the inspection report recommended maintenance work that included replacement of damaged or deteriorated components and tightening of loose connections," Rennie explains in an email.

He adds that since the inspection, high water levels and fast flowing water have collapsed the old concrete abutment on the north bank of the river that was left in place from a previous bridge at this loca-

tion.

"There is no immediate safety issue to the current bridge, but the ministry will monitor the condition of the slope in front of the north abutment on a daily basis and will implement measures to prevent further erosion of the slope," he assures.

According to Rennie, staff routinely undertakes maintenance repairs as recommended by biennial inspection reports.

"For this bridge, the report recommended carrying out the above maintenance work in the 1-5 year period. No significant impact to traffic is expected with this type of work," he adds. "The bridge is currently on our 5-year Northern Highways Program for replacement in 2018. The ministry determines bridge work based on condition, available funds and the relative priority of the work compared with other needs."

Leo Lavergne enters North Bay Sports Hall of Fame

BY ALLISON ROY

TRIBUNE

A former Sturgeon Falls resident will soon be receiving a prestigious award for his contributions to football, not only in West Nipissing, but also in the North Bay and Sudbury areas.

Leo Lavergne has been named the 2014 winner of the Mitchell-Avery Award for his achievements and contributions to football and will be receiving the award at the North Bay Sports Hall of Fame Induction and Awards dinner on May 2nd at the Best Western Hotel in North Bay.

From his residence in Florida, Lavergne spoke with the Tribune about his career and his feelings about this major recognition.

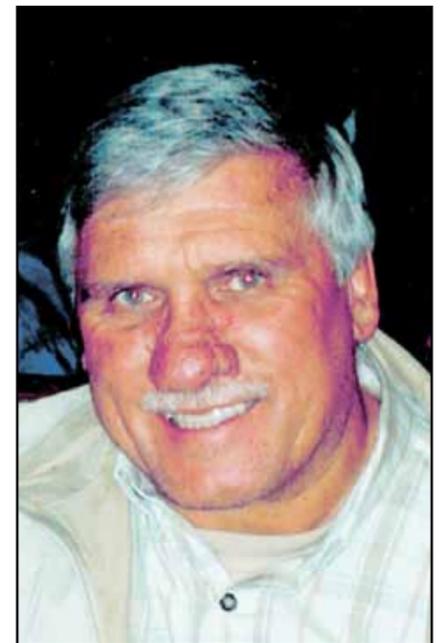
"Well I was quite pleased because I played football over 19 years," he beamed.

Indeed, it was in 1962 that Lavergne began playing senior football for Sturgeon Falls Secondary School, winning MVP honours in 1964. After graduating high school, he attended Laurentian University and played football for the Voyageurs in 1967 and 68.

"What really interested me in football, when I was around 14-15 I think, the Sturgeon Falls Bombers [in 1961, 62 and 63], they not only won the league, they won the league championship in those years, and I was just a young kid (...) and we used to go watch the games and we found it very exciting," Lavergne recalled. "We've had 1000, 2000 fans at the game, from a small community, it was really something else."

From 1965 to 68, Lavergne entered the Northern Football Conference (NFC), playing for the Sturgeon Falls Bombers. As a running back, he set a league record with 20 pass receptions for 597 yards in 1967.

According to Lavergne, they dropped the league in 1968, so he went to play in North Bay. In 1970, Mike Mitchell was his coach and also a scout for Wilfred Laurier



Leo Lavergne will be receiving the Mitchell-Avery Award for football at the North Bay Sports Hall of Fame Induction and Awards dinner on May 2nd.

University. Lavergne was recruited to go to the school, however he accepted a job at the local Beer Store instead.

"Mike was an inspiration to me because he was not only my coach, but kind of my mentor, he gave me the opportunity to play more and it was a process with him," Lavergne shared.

From 1970-79, Lavergne played for the North Bay Tiger Cats, winning several team awards and being named team MVP in 1971. He planned on retiring from the sport in 1976, but returned to the field in 1979.

In 1983, he joined the Sudbury Spartans and won NFC League and Playoff Championships in that year and 1984.

Lavergne's career statistics were rivalled by few in the NFC. He finished with 230 points on 38 touchdowns and one 2-point conversion. He still remains 6th on the

continued on page 9



West Nipissing General Hospital

725 COURSOL, STURGEON FALLS 753-3110

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION 2015

The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Corporation of the West Nipissing General Hospital is scheduled on Monday, June 8, 2015, at 6:30 pm at the West Nipissing General Hospital. The West Nipissing General Hospital invites you to join the membership of the Corporation.

The application form is available from the Administration and must be returned with the applicable fee of \$5.00, payable to the West Nipissing General Hospital, no later than 4:00 PM on May 8, 2015

AGENDA

- Adoption of the agenda
- Adoption of the minutes of June 16th 2014
- Report from the Chair, President and Chief Executive Officer, Chief of Staff & Foundation
- Amendments to the By-laws (Infection Prevention & Control Functions)
- Elections
- Auditor's Report
- Appointment of the Auditor for the coming year
- Closing of the Annual General Meeting

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us by email at administration@wngh.ca or call (705) 753-3110, extension 215.