

# LOCALNEWS

## Falls challenges the Fort to boat race

BY ERIC MATHEWS  
Staff Intern

Peaceful Border Days will include another friendly international competition as International Falls officials and residents will be a part of the Fort Frances dragon boat races on Canada Day, July 1.

The races, a part of a four-day festival, are a way to promote relations between the two border cities, as well as kick off the nearly week-long celebration. The dragon boat races will take place from 10:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 1, at the Sorting Gap Marina in Fort Frances.

“We are definitely proud to become a part of this growing sport,” International Falls City Councilor Cynthia Jaksa said about the Fort’s third-annual event.

Members of both city councils will go head-to-head in the races to settle a challenge the Falls issued to the Fort Monday during the Fort Frances Town Council meeting, according to Randy Thoms at 93.1 The Border radio station.

Fort Frances Town Councilors Rick Wiedenhoef and Andrew Hallikas were slapped with white gloves by International Falls City Councilors Jaksa and Gail Rognerud, who both wore star-spangled bows in their hair and red, white, and blue leis around their necks.

After the challenge, Wiedenhoef was given a pair of women’s shoes, which he has to wear as a part of a lost bet over last summer’s Peace Pull.

Jaksa saw the opportunity to issue the challenge since the staff of two cities will be racing among councils in the event.

“I Falls challenged, so



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**International Falls City Councilors Gail Rognerud and Cynthia Jaksa challenge Fort Frances town councilors to a dragon boat race at Monday’s Fort Frances Town Council meeting.**

we will prevail against our sister city,” Jaksa said. She later added the Falls team’s strength from eating walleye to be a reason she believes her city will beat Fort Frances in the race.

The International Falls Booster Club, along with one or two Falls High School sports teams, may also compete in the event as a way to raise funds. This would only occur if one of the teams wins the competition, and can collect the prize money as a donation to the booster club.

The boat races involve teams of 15 paddlers and one drummer in long, skinny boats which are shaped like canoes. The boat races got their name from a story originating in ancient China. The tale involves a poet who died in the water, angering the dragons who then needed to be appeased by creation of the annual event.

The participation in the races is said to bring good luck to the community.

“We don’t want to run afoul of the dragons.”

Mayor Bob Anderson said earlier this year about the Falls’ participation in the event.

Dragon boat races are becoming a popular event in Minnesota and Canada. The Fort Frances event drew around 1,500 spectators, 13 competing teams, and four food vendors last year. This time around 18 to 20 teams are expected to take part, including teams from Duluth and Bemidji.

Since the event falls on Canada Day, July 1, Canadian businesses also have a chance to get in on the fun, and businesses have challenged one another during the event in past years.

Although participants under the age of 14 need to sign a waiver, there is no age restriction in the event. People from ages 11 to 74 have paddled in past races. The sport is more about teamwork instead of strength, so it’s incredibly easy for people of all ages to partake in, according to the Montreal-based company 22 Dragons, who will be providing two boats for the event.

## MUST BE SUMMERTIME



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

**A line of vehicles, many towing boats, get into line to enter Canada Friday afternoon. Late in the day the line stretched east on Minnesota Highway 11 to County Highway 155.**

## ABOUT LOCAL FOLKS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Michael Glubka sits in a racing boat owned by Al Shermon, Minneapolis, as his wife Adelia Glubka snaps photos June 1. Glubka purchased a 16-foot Lund from Shermon, who races boats all summer throughout the state. Glubka got a chance to sit and idle in the boat and was invited to be a part of Shermon’s pit crew, reports Adelia.**

## Garden Girls' Plant Sale!

Friday, June 13th  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Ranier Community Building

DOOR PRIZE!

**Roger and Verna Mae Lehmann,**  
*formerly of International Falls, will be celebrating their  
sixtieth wedding anniversary  
with cake and coffee, on  
June 15th, 2014 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Saint Philip's Catholic Church,  
702 Beltrami Ave NW, Bemidji, MN 56601.  
All friends and family are invited to join them for the celebration.*

## City Drug

### Bridal Registry

**Catherine Hebig & Joel Pawelk**  
June 14, 2014

**Rachel Tveit & Andrew Mannausau**  
June 14, 2014

**Amanda Kennedy & William BJ Lahmayer**  
June 14, 2014

**Lucy Nevanen & Ladd Corrin**  
June 21, 2014

**Stephanie Norton & Austin Lockhart**  
July 19, 2014

**Sarah Anderson & Sethen Ettestad**  
August 16, 2014

**Jenny Olsen & AJ Tucker**  
August 30, 2014

**Jamie Pearson & Bruce Conat**  
August 30, 2014

**Kristen Lund & Steffan Tveit**  
September 13, 2014

**Shawna Bolstad and Travis Cochran**  
September 20, 2014

**Melissa Fisher & Nick Hagen**  
September 27, 2014

### Baby Shower Registry

Sunday, June 29

**Parents: Bobbi & Kenneth Mathews**

*Free gift wrapping & a large selection of Hallmark cards.*

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## What advances in technology have been made in hearing aids?

The most recent advance is the introduction of hearing aids that are compatible with selected smart phones. These hearing aids allow the user to hear the sound from the phone directly in the hearing aids. There is an app for altering the sound characteristics of the hearing aids for specific locations and automatically returning to the settings the next time you are in that location.

Most hearing aids now exchange data from ear to ear. If the wind is buffeting one side, the microphone could be turned off and the hearing aid can get sound input from the non-buffed side. A phone can be answered and sound can also be sent to the ear on the other side. The hearing aids can use the 4 microphones to determine the direction of the speech signal and both hearing aids can be coordinated to enhance the reception of the targeted speech.

Hearing aids do not have to be bulky beige chunks in the ear. There are small instruments that have a thin tubes to deliver the sound into the ears. We also have a wide range of colors to either blend into the hair or to make a fashion statement.

We are here to provide the hearing solutions that will help you live a fuller and more enjoyable life. I have over 30 years of experience in helping people get more out of life through better hearing. Call to schedule your hearing evaluation and to start down the road to a fuller life.

**Thursdays,  
June 5, 12, 19 & 26**

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