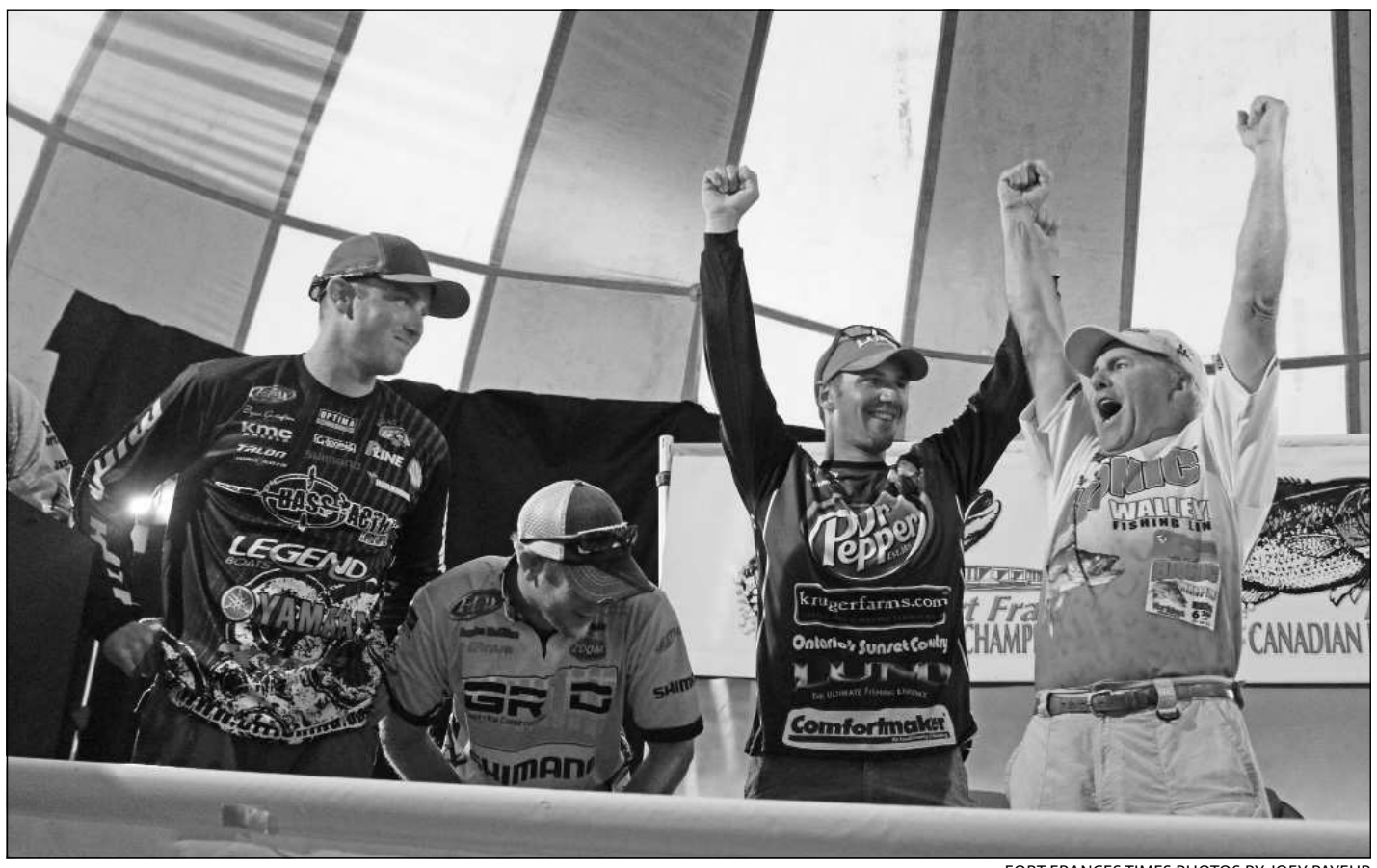
LOCALNEWS

Gustafson, Peterson rule FFCBC again



FORT FRANCES TIMES PHOTOS BY JOEY PAYEUR

Tournament champions Jeff Gustafson, Kenora, and John Peterson, Bemidji, celebrate their victorious total of 57.18 pounds while, on the left, Fort Frances' Bryan Gustafson and partner Brandon McMillan, Clewiston, Fla., suffering the agony of defeat, finishing at 56.96 pounds to lose first place by a mere 0.22 pounds.

BY JOEY PAYEUR
Fort Frances Times

To win back-to-back titles at the Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship usually means having to do even more the second time around to keep one's place on top of the mountain.

Jeff Gustafson and John Peterson did enough — just enough — to make it happen.

It came down to the last weigh-in on Saturday, but Kenora native Gustafson and Bemidji, Mn. resident Peterson's Day 3 leading weight of 20.20 pushed them to an overall total of 57.18 pounds, making them only the third back-to-back champions in the tournament's 20-year history.

"This is one of the highlights of the year for us," said Gustafson, who along with Peterson, picked up $20,000 for their victory.

But nothing was certain until the Day 1 and 2 leaders, Bryan Gustafson of Fort Frances and Brendan McMillan of Clewiston, Fla., brought their final day's catch to the stage under the big tent at the Sorting Gap Marina.

But while their haul of 17.20 pounds was strong, it still left them at 56.96, a mere .22 pounds short of the winners whose championship total of 55.42 from a year ago wouldn't have been enough to get the job done.

"There's nothing we can do at that point," said Jeff about the nailbiting climax.

"We were nervous. But we did the best we could every day," he continued.

"I've been fishing in this tournament for a long time and it's a super feeling to come here and win. Words can't describe it.

"I don't think I've ever won a tournament two years in a row."

The man nicknamed "Gussy" and his Minnesota teammate were second after Day 1 with a mark of 18.76, but slipped to fourth even though they had a great catch of 18.22 on Day 2.

But the pair remained confident due to an exhaustive stretch of pre-fishing in the days leading up to the tournament.

"We've got what we call our 'milk route'," explained Peterson.

"We just keep hitting spots and keep moving until we make contact with the fish."

Gustafson and Peterson aren't shallow individuals by nature, but their philosophy when facing the high waters present on Rainy Lake this year was.

"Everything we caught was in between three and five feet of water," emphasized Gustafson.

"Traditionally, we would catch them in six to 12 feet," he added.

"But because the water is so high, we were fishing right up tight to the bank."

A historical look back at the tournament's most successful team and the last team to repeat, five-time champions Joe Thrun of Annandale, Mn., and Jim Moynagh of Carver, Mn., also helped the current champions' embrace of the shallow water concept.

"Jim and Joe won it three years in a row fishing in a bay close to (Fort Frances)," said Gustafson.

"That opened everyone's eyes up."

Finding new hotspots played a large hand in Gustafson and Peterson's championship journey.

"We never caught one fish in the three days off the same spot we did last year," claimed Gustafson.

"We've all got our favourite spots, but in the end, you have to find the fish."

Gustafson and Peterson were in a mood to celebrate on Saturday, but already had one eye focused ahead on next year as they try to match Thrun and Moynagh's stand-alone accomplishment of three FFCBC wins in a row from 2007-09.

"Absolutely, we will be back next year and be prepared to come and try and win again, for sure," declared Gustafson.

See http://canadianbass.com/history_2014 for a listing of all the results.

Jason Pavleck, International Falls, has some fun with the camerman during the top 10 parade of boats as part of the final day of action Saturday. Pavleck and partner Bill Walls, also of the Falls, were fifth entering the final day, but finished 10th overall with a total of 50.44 pounds.

RANIER PUBLIC NOTICE

OPEN FORUM
PROPOSED UNIFIED LAND USE (ZONING) ORDINANCE
AUGUST 4, 2014 @ 6:30 PM
RANIER COMMUNITY BUILDING

The City Council of Ranier will hold an Open Forum on the City of Ranier's proposed Unified Land Use (Zoning) Ordinance on August 4, 2014 @ 6:30 PM at the Ranier Community Hall.

The purpose of this Open Forum is to provide information and receive public input on the proposed Unified Land Use (Zoning) Ordinance prior to its implementation. Representatives from Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) will be on-site to facilitate the discussions. All persons interested are encouraged to attend the Open Forum to offer their comments. Written comments are welcomed and encouraged and can be submitted at the Open Forum or to City of Ranier, PO Box 186, Ranier, MN 56668 or e-mailed to cityofranier@frontiernet.net.

A COPY OF THE DRAFT UNIFIED LAND USE ORDINANCE CAN BE VIEWED @ www.raniermn.govoffice2.com

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August 2014 Summer Food Service Menu

SFSP menu is sponsored by: Gearhart's Floral & Gifts; Minnesota Department of Education

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Chicken Bites Tater Tots Fresh Veggies Dinner Roll Milk	2
3	4 Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwich Tater Tots Pineapple/Oranges Milk	5 Fish Nuggets Mashed Potatoes Peas & Carrots Dinner roll Milk	6 Sloppy Jo on Bun French Fries Corn Milk	7 Cheese Pizza Peaches Milk	8 Chicken & Cheese Ranch Wraps Lettuce & Tomato Apples Milk	9
10	11 Taco in a Bag Lettuce & Tomato Shredded Cheese Bananas Milk	12 French Toast Strips Scrambled Eggs/Ham Fresh Oranges Milk	13 Chicken Stir Fry with Vegetables over Rice Peaches Bread	14 Hot Turkey Sandwich Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Milk	15 Lasagna Tossed Salad Corn Bread Stick Milk	16
17	18 Macaroni & Cheese Turkey Dogs Peas Apples Milk	19 Hamburger Gravy Mashed Potatoes Corn Dinner roll Milk	20 Mexican Hashbrowns Black Beans Peaches Milk	21 Ham Scalloped Potatoes Candied Carrots Corn Bread Milk	22 BBQ Chicken Tater Tots Apple Crisp Dinner Roll Milk	23
24	25 Grilled Chicken on a Bun Coleslaw Watermelon Milk	26 Roast Turkey Mashed Potatoes with Gravy Green Beans Dinner Roll, Milk	27 Spaghetti/Meat Sauce Caesar Salad Mixed Fruit Dinner Roll, Milk	28 Turkey Subs Lettuce & Tomato Carrot Sticks Pears, Milk	29 Cheeseburgers French Fries Corn Milk	

Lunch served from 11:45 am to 1:15 pm daily
Open Gym 11:30 to 1:30 daily

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Backus Community Center is fully accessible to persons with disabilities. Please call our main office for specific accommodations.