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Huron Central Railway Has Supporters – Strategies Developed

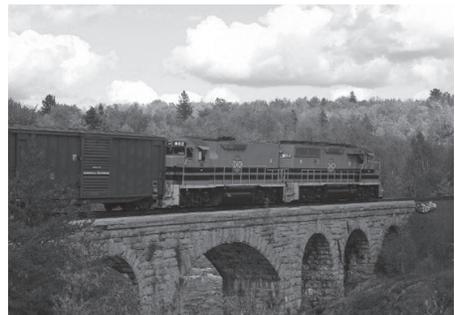


Photo: Huron Central Railway train winds its way through the North. A concerted effort is underway to save the line. Photo provided

By Rosalind Russell - A big-tent strategy session in Sault Ste. Marie brought together supporters behind preserving northeastern Ontario short-line rail service beyond 2018. Sault councillor Steve Butland says management from the Huron Central Railway, industrial shippers and other proponents met on July 25th to devise a plan for approaching Queen's Park for a subsidy to keep rail freight moving between Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury. Citing financial difficulties with needed track maintenance and federally-mandated safety upgrades, Genesee & Wyoming Canada, Huron Central's parent company, announced in May that it intends to discontinue operations on the 278 kilometres line at year's end. The railroad wants \$43.2-million subsidy,

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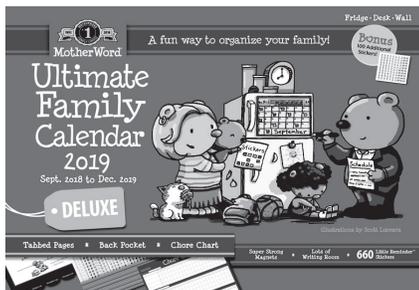
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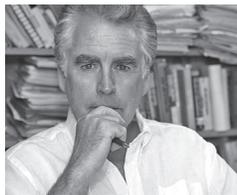


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All The World's A Circus

William Thomas

williamjthomas@gmail.com

Sick? Tasteless? Shocking? Okay. Now It's A Movie.

At the heart of all great humour is pain not joy. John Callahan of Portland Oregon knew both: first the pain of losing the use of his lower body in a drunken car accident and then strangely, the joy of finding a new life as a successful newspaper cartoonist. Although he died in 2010, his life story is now a Hollywood movie directed by Gus Van Sant and in theatres this week.

Typical of a Callahan cartoon is the illustration of a blind man and his seeing-eye dog being escorted across the tarmac to a waiting airplane by a stewardess who says: "We arranged a window seat for your dog so you can enjoy the view."

Funny? Cruel? Possibly. Offensive to sight-challenged people? Some, but not necessarily all.

How about the sketch of a man with two prosthetic hooks for hands being refused a drink by the bartender: "Sorry Sam, you can't hold your liquor."

Funny? Yes. Ghoulish? For sure. Like kicking a guy with no legs when he is down? But it was crucial to understand that the artist who drew those published pictorials didn't have the use of his. Legs, that is.

Too easily dismissed as "that paralyzed cartoonist", John Callahan, the most controversial artist ever to appear in the so-called funny papers, did not care a great deal about what you thought of his work. He cared only that you think. And laugh before you think too much.

Having lost the use of his feet and hands,

John Callahan brought a unique perspective to his penned humour. His drawing of the aerobics class for quadriplegics is captioned by the words of the instructor: "Okay, let's get those eyeballs moving!"

"People always ask how I can possibly make fun of the handicapped." said the 50-year-old, soft-spoken satirist in the telephone interview from his basement apartment in Portland, Oregon that I conducted in the spring of 2001. "Then an editor will usually tell them that I'm wheelchair-bound and the attitude changes immediately."

And don't call him handicapped. He loathes those euphemisms like "otherly abled" for being in a wheelchair, and "sight challenged" for the blind. "Call me a gimp, call me a cripple, call me paralyzed for life but don't call me something I am not." he says.

Callahan remembers little of his senior year in high school, except the brand of gin he enjoyed as an English Major. He was mostly drunk while an orderly at the mental institution, and later as a labourer at an aluminium factory. He was very drunk the night his buddy drove the car into a light standard and condemned John to "that pesky ol' quadriplegia".

With a prior talent for drawing, Callahan found he could now clamp a pen in his right hand and direct it slowly across a sketch pad with his left hand. Labourious work at first, Callahan was soon producing

Continued on page three...

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Continued from page two...

up to 10 cartoons a week this way for Oregon's Willamette Week. Near the end of his life he was syndicated in 75 newspapers.

Callahan seemed incapable of creating a cartoon that didn't offend someone. He once did an illustration of a dark-skinned street beggar wearing a sign: "Please help me, I'm blind and black but not musical." This one managed to infuriate just about everyone except a black man who confronted him in a restaurant and then shook his hand after Callahan admitted the piece was his.

Angry letters claiming to represent four million Americans suffering from dementia responded to Callahan's "Alzheimer Hoedown" cartoon in which a confused square dancer was unable to "return to the girl you just left".

Tasteless? "Hell yes" says the artist, "I think a lot of this stuff is in bad taste. But it's funny." Callahan saw his cartoons as a badly needed, one-man backlash crusade against political correctness. "There is black humour in everybody's life. Many families deal with Alzheimer's or cancer by making jokes about it." He claimed. "So why is it a crime to share this stuff in a cartoon?" So why, I ask myself, do I find John Callahan so darkly funny, cutting-edge and cerebral when

I loathed the woman-hating Dice Clay and I abhor Howard Stern, America's foremost authority on humour that comes with a stench. Because John Callahan is genuinely funny. Unlike Clay and Stern, Callahan is insightful and most of all, he makes you think. Humour is often the knee-jerk reaction to what we fear and have no control over. On a daily basis humour is the shock absorber that gets us down the bumpy road of life. In crisis, it's a shield we throw up against the fearful unknown giving us time to think things through. Humour is the healing balm that soothes the frightened soul, but in John Callahan's case, that word is spelled b-o-m-b. And, like the all great humourists, Callahan's best victim is often himself.

The title of the biop movie of John Callahan's life, played by Joaquin Pheonix, comes from the caption of one of his trademark cartoons which was also the title of his last book. The illustration shows a tired posse that finally comes across a broken wheelchair in the desert. Says one deputy to another: "Don't worry, he won't get far on foot."

For comments, ideas and copies of The Legend of Zippy Chippy, go to www.williamthomas.ca

Collision Report In Espanola

The Espanola Police Service has compiled a report looking at collisions.

The service works in partnership with Accident Support Services International to compile statistics relating to motor vehicle collisions in town.

In the first six months of 2018, there were 23 reportable motor vehicle collisions involving 44 vehicles. These numbers are down significantly from the same time period in 2017

when the police investigated 45 collisions involving 84 vehicles.

All of the collisions were classified as property damage only and 57% of the collisions involved other motor vehicles. There were only two reported injuries, which is down 83% from the same period in 2017. The officers use the information to develop compliance programs with traffic laws and increase awareness in the community.

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Memorial Bench Dedicated To Well-Known Espanola Man



Photo - Bench with family Jamie Richer, Earl, Lisa, Evan and Aiden Lovean. Photo provided

A memorial bench dedicated in memory of a well-known Espanola man, Rolly Richer, was installed at the Black Creek Pier by his daughter Lisa Lovean and son Jamie Richer.

The Espanola Game and Fish Association members agreed

the pier would be the perfect spot since their dad loved to fish there.

Rolly passed away in February and was well known for his big smile, outgoing personality and helping hand.

The bench dedication took place early July.

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First The UK, Now Travelling Across Canada For Heart & Stroke

He already cycled across the United Kingdom and is now travelling across Canada for Heart and Stroke.

Sixty-one-year-old Canadian Gordon Paterson from Edinborough, Scotland says he's raised 3/4's of his 5,000 pound goal in Scotland and nearly half of his \$10,000 goal in Canada.

The money is for the Canadian Heart & Stroke Foundation and its overseas counterpart. Paterson dropped into The Moose studios on Monday, July 16th to share his story.

Paterson adds he cycles for very personal reasons; his mother did not survive her stroke while his father has.

Patterson is heading west and hopes to arrive in Vancouver, B.C. September first.

Photo: Gordon Patterson of Edinborough, Scotland is cycling across Canada for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and its Scottish counterpart and shared his story with Around&About reporter, Rosalind Russell. Photo provided by Rosalind Russell



Greyhound Route Cancellations Highlight Growing Public Transportation Gap

Algoma Manitoulin Kapuskasing MP Carol Hughes says when Greyhound abruptly cancelled several crucial bus routes in Northeastern Ontario and west to British Columbia last week it left a gaping hole in public transportation options for many small communities.

She says in some ways the news is not surprising since public transportation has been in decline in Canada for decades and Greyhound's recent decision is just the latest in a string of developments that have created a crisis for people living outside of urban centres.

Hughes adds in the short-term, New Democrats are calling for a federal funding plan that ensures there is no interruption or reduction in bus service for affected communities.

She says they are asking the government to team up with the premiers of affected

provinces and leaders of affected municipalities to quickly form that plan.

But, apart from the immediate need, the party is renewing the call for the implementation of a National Transit Strategy to expand transport services and ensure that every Canadian has access to transportation.

Greyhound Canada is making drastic cuts to its services across Canada including Northern Ontario.

Stuart Kendrick, senior vice president says despite their best efforts over several years, ridership has dropped leading to the cancellation of routes.

The Toronto route to Sudbury will continue, but not go beyond that stop.

Stops in Whitefish, McKerrow, Espanola, Webbwood, Massey and along Highway 17 will no longer exist effective October, leaving Ontario Northland and its new routes, to pick up the service where it can.

Continued from front page...

Huron Central Railway Has Supporters – Strategies Developed

which would be split evenly between the federal and provincial governments.

The line is a vital part of the transport system for Domtar in Espanola, EACOM in Nairn Centre and Essar Steel Algoma in Sault Ste. Marie.

Butland and the city expects new premier Doug Ford to make good on his campaign promise to fund the railway's track program with money from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund (NOHFC).

"With the premier saying, 'yes we support this,' it's pretty hard for him to go back on this. He made all sorts of commitments for Northern Ontario."

The loss of the railroad would be devastating to a single-mill town like Espanola and would jeopardize the viability of the forest products industry in the region. For the Sault, it would remove one of two Class 1 railways for the steelmaker.

Butland and Joe Fratesi, the city's retired chief administrative officer, are the municipality's point men on this file. In 2009, Fratesi was primarily instrumental in working with the province and the federal government in putting together \$33-million track aid package when the Huron Central threatened a closure within 30 days. That funding pool has since dried up.

Butland said they're proposing to send a delegation to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference in Ottawa in August to lobby on the railway's behalf. The annual AMO conference is a once-a-year gathering where municipal leaders get scheduled face-time with provincial cabinet ministers. Butland said they've also requested a meeting with new Energy, Northern Development and Mines Minister Greg Rickford, who holds the purse strings of the Heritage Fund.

"Hopefully we'll have everything in order at that time, and we'll have the stakeholders there to make our final push."

Earlier this year, the railway's

funding application to tap into the National Trade Corridor Fund was rejected by Transport Canada because it didn't have matching dollars secured first from the province.

A Ministry of Northern Development and Mines spokesman told Northern Ontario Business before the provincial election that Genesee & Wyoming had not even filed a funding application with NOHFC.

If provincial funding can be secured, Butland said he received assurance from Sault MP Terry Sheehan that the railway can apply again to the trade corridor fund.

Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) owns the track but contracts out the operation to Genesee & Wyoming Canada, the Montreal-based parent company of the Huron Central. Though CP pools the freight (mostly steel and forest products) coming off the Huron Central onto its transcontinental line at Sudbury, the responsibilities to maintain the track and bridges are delegated to the short-line operator.

Moreover, Butland said the short-line operator told him that this would be the last time they ask for a government subsidy, that after the next five years the line would be economically sustainable.

Genesee & Wyoming did not divulge their future business plans to him.

"So, this is a ten-year plan as opposed to a five-year plan," said Butland. "It's not a public promise (by the railway), but we will be pursuing that on July 25." Butland hopes Huron Central management remain true to their word, acknowledging that communities like the Sault can't periodically be threatened with rail service withdrawal with a huge ask for millions of dollars. Currently, there is no transportation infrastructure funding pool to assist short-line railroads in Ontario, who fall under the jurisdiction of the provincial government.



Moose Corner

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FedNor Spreads The Wealth On Manitoulin



People, businesses and communities throughout the Manitoulin region will benefit from the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises and the creation of more well-paying, middle-class jobs, thanks to a strategic investment by the Government of Canada of nearly \$5 million.

The announcement was made by Sudbury MP Paul Lefebvre on behalf of the feds and supports the federal government's Prosperity and Growth Strategy for Northern Ontario.

The FedNor funding will

support 17 priority projects being led by 13 Island organizations including the Wikwemikong Development Commission, Waubetek Business Development Corporation and the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation to name a few.

Photo: In the photo are Anong Beam, Executive Director, Ojibwe Cultural Foundation, and Leona Nahwegahbow, Elder & Resident at Ojibwe Cultural Foundation, and Sudbury MP Paul Lefebvre. Photo supplied

Recipe



Chicken breasts are filled with a simple broccoli cheese mixture, seared in a skillet, then baked to perfection. It's easy, impressive and delicious.

Broccoli Cheese Stuffed Chicken Breast

- 3 large skinless, boneless chicken breasts
- salt & pepper
- 1 1/2 tsp garlic powder, divided
- 1/4 tsp paprika
- 1 cup finely chopped broccoli florets
- 1/2 cup finely diced red bell pepper
- 1 cup mild cheddar cheese
- 1 tbsp mayo
- 2 tbsp olive oil

• Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Season both sides of the chicken breasts with salt, pepper, paprika and 1/2 tsp of the garlic powder. Use a sharp knife to cut a slice through the middle of the chicken breasts, but not all the way through, creating a pocket for the filling.

• For the filling, place the broccoli in a microwavable dish and add about 2 tablespoons of water. Cover with plastic wrap and microwave for 1 minute. Drain any excess water. To the dish add the bell pepper, cheese, mayo, remaining garlic powder and salt and pepper to taste. Mix until combined, then divide the mixture between the chicken breasts, using a toothpick to secure if necessary.

• Heat a large, oven safe skillet (I prefer to use a cast iron skillet), over medium heat and add the olive oil. Sear the chicken for 3 to 4 minutes on each side. Cover skillet with foil or place in a covered baking dish and bake in preheated oven for 15- 17 minutes, or until chicken reads 165 degrees. Let rest, covered for 5 minutes before enjoying.



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CELEBRATION OF LIFE



Kevin Nephin formerly of Massey - Celebration of life on August 18, 2018 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Massey Legion

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB), proposed installation of three (3) generators. They will be located in: Gore Bay, Hagar, and Wikwemikong, Ontario.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB invites interested parties to submit bids for the installation of 3 stand-alone 20KW, propane powered generators, automatic transfer switches and all related works to ensure effective operation.

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DOCUMENTS ISSUED

Full details of the location and requirements are available after August 8, 2018 at the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB office: 210 Mead Boulevard, Espanola, ON.

OR

Full details are also available via email from the office of the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB (email tenders@msdsb.net) after August 8, 2018.

BIDS RECEIVED

No later than Thursday August 23, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the Office of:
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Any tenders received after this time will be declared ineligible.

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A **mandatory site visit** will be conducted on Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at **7206 Hwy 17, Hagar.**

THE LOWEST BID OR ANY TENDER WILL NOT BE NECESSARILY ACCEPTED. CONTRACTORS MUST MEET BIDDER QUALIFICATIONS.



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The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board is a municipal service management organization created by the provincial government to oversee the local planning, coordination and delivery of a range of services and programs divested to the municipal order of government. The specific programs our DSB is responsible for are: Ontario Works, Social Housing, Emergency Medical Services (Land Ambulance), and Early Learning and Child Care services.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

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Massey Area Museum presents Discovery Camp – Thursdays, August 2, 9, 16 & 23. children ages 6-12. Hands-on History! Games, role play, crafts, and more. For more info call the museum at 865-2266

Massey-Walford Horticultural Society 55th Anniversary & 54th Flower Show – Thursday, August 9 at the Royal Canadian Legion Massey. Lunch at 12:00, followed by Flower show until 3:00 p.m.

Pickle Ball & Tennis at the Espanola Courts – Courts are open daily. Equipment available at the rec centre.

Clothing Donations – Donations for overseas relief can be dropped off at 80 Withers Rd. Massey. Also footwear, bedding & sewing supplies. Call Ray Brubacher at 705-844-9992.

United Church of Espanola – WE ARE OPEN – United Church of Espanola continues to have worship service every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. with Sunday School. All are welcome.

Do you have a NOTE for the Community?

We invite not-for-profit organizations to submit information on their upcoming events in writing no later than

Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. 25 Word Limit.

E-mail: around@aroundandabout.ca

Sacred Heart Daycare Centre

**INFANT, TODDLER, PRESCHOOL
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL
SPACES AVAILABLE!**

Financial Assistance is available for those who qualify
For more information, please call

705-869-3171

www.ourchildren-ourfuture.net



Carol Hughes' Column - Asylum Seekers Stories Are Being Sensationalized

The government appointed a new minister last week to deal with asylum seekers crossing into Canada from the United States. Many are saying this won't solve any problems and that we need to change our policy on the Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States. Others see the creation of a minister as an attempt to mute criticism from the right which considers asylum seekers as illegal border crossers coming here to take our jobs. What is clear is that the politics of immigration and, by extension, those who seek asylum has become a defining issue of this era. Mostly it is being used as a wedge which is unfortunate for the majority of people who tend to hold moderate opinions on most issues and for the refugees themselves.

Despite that, many politicians use it to whip up fear about jobs, lost identity, and even the

notion that a country as wealthy as Canada will go broke if we help people fleeing oppressive and violent regimes. These same political actors often have little to say about the bigger causes of job insecurity, a diminishing revenue stream due to decades of corporate tax cuts, or why people find they have stagnated economically. Instead, they toss around the notion that asylum seekers are not legitimately entering Canada and are here to take jobs. There is no acknowledgement that we have a well-established process to determine whether someone fleeing to our country deserves to be granted asylum.

What has complicated matters is the political climate in the United States and the notion that people are only coming here as economic migrants. In many instances the migrants originate from Central America where American

foreign policy has supported the oppressive and violent regimes people are fleeing.

In Canada, anyone entering as an asylum seeker or refugee goes through a legitimate process to determine if they will be accepted. Furthermore, long term studies have shown that most refugees have a positive impact on our economy and tend to settle into being productive members of communities and job creators.

But there is often little room for facts in these emotional arguments and we have seen time and again that the politics of America will always have an influence on our own debates. In many ways the current government was not prepared for the extreme politics of Donald Trump, but that doesn't mean they don't have to adjust. New Democrats are encouraging the government to finally face

the fact that under the current administration, the US will never be safe for asylum seekers.

They say the government has been slow to criticize US policies on immigration including the US travel ban targeting Muslims and the policy forcibly separating children asylum seekers from their parents. New Democrats have also consistently called for adequate funding for immigration services and to suspend the Safe Third Country agreement which forces asylum seekers to make dangerous border crossings. The process these individuals will have to go through once in Canada will remain the same. Without an adjustment from the government we will continue to be caught off-guard and allow for a dangerous debate that is taking away from other important issues that affect the lives of many more Canadians.