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**Alarms Donated To Nairn & Hyman Fire Department**



By Rosalind Russell - Enbridge Gas and the Nairn/Hyman Fire Department are working together to improve home safety and bring fire and carbon monoxide-related deaths down to zero. Luke Skaarup, the director of Northern Region Operations for Enbridge Gas says in early October, the Nairn & Hyman Fire Department received 72 combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms through Project Zero. He says carbon monoxide is known as the 'silent killer' for a reason, and they have proof that prevention saves lives by avoiding carbon monoxide exposure. He says the alarms are a critical second line of defense to protect against carbon monoxide poisoning. Project Zero, a public education campaign, will provide 7,500 alarms to residents in 35 municipalities across Ontario. Fire Chief Richard Austin thanks the utility for the donation adding everyone needs to have working alarms in their homes. He says when professionally installed and maintained, combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms help provide

Continued on back page...

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## Alarms Donated To Nairn & Hyman Fire Department

the early warning to safely escape from a house fire or carbon monoxide exposure. Austin adds carbon monoxide is a toxic, odorless gas that is a by-product of incomplete combustion of many types of common fuels. "The objective of Project Zero is to deliver combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to Ontario communities who need them the most," says Jon Pegg, Ontario Fire Marshal. "It's a program that fire departments can adopt to help educate their communities about the requirement for all Ontario homes to have a CO alarm if they have a fuel-burning appliance or an attached garage." "Smoke alarms save lives," adds Austin. "In light of a fire in one of our elderly homes in the municipality in March of 2020, it was proven that if a smoke alarm were not present, the outcome could have been tragic. Everyone needs to have working alarms in their home for the early warning needed

to safely escape a house fire or exposure to carbon monoxide." The Nairn/Hyman Fire Department is a volunteer department that covers two townships. With two stations and 18 volunteers, the department provides protection to its community in the way of medical calls, auto-extrication, and fire. For a small municipality, the Nairn/Hyman Fire Department is fortunate to operate with up-to-date equipment and vehicles. Enbridge Gas, formed on Jan. 1, 2019 from the amalgamation of Union Gas and Enbridge Gas Distribution, is Canada's largest natural gas storage, transmission and distribution company based in Ontario. Enbridge Gas is owned by Enbridge, a Canadian-based leader in energy transportation and distribution. For more information on , visit [www.enbridgegas.com](http://www.enbridgegas.com) or follow us on Twitter @ EnbridgeGas.

## SABE Forms A Corporation, Presents A Petition And Is Set To Carry Out A Feasibility Study

The Save A.B. Ellis Public School Committee has been busy over the last year forming a legal entity, gathering petition signatures and setting up a feasibility study. The school temporarily houses students and staff of Sacred Heart School who are expected to move into their new school in January. Once that happens, the Rainbow District School Board has stated the building must be sold or it will be demolished. Committee Co-Chair Fred Yackman presented council with a petition signed by 1,075 people and letters of support, including the Domtar Mill, asking council to consider the building be

kept for alternative purposes instead of being demolished. Yackman also told council the committee has formed the Rainbow Community Non-Profit Housing Corporation, a legal entity to move the project forward. He adds the corporation received an anonymous donation to finance a feasibility study to look at converting the building to rental housing. Angela Roy of ARC Management Services has been hired to carry out the study and told council her team will hire an architect and appraiser to review the design plans and costs of conversion to residential housing. They will report back to council in early 2021.

### COMMUNITY NOTES

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**Massey Museum** - Keep an eye out at the Massey Museum for pumpkins. We have tons and are asking for donations only.

**Espanola Helping Hand Food Bank** - now accepting monetary donations by Interac e-Transfer. [ehhf87@hotmail.ca](mailto:ehhf87@hotmail.ca)

**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](mailto:around@aroundandabout.ca)

### Recipe



I have made different spinach dips throughout the years but I think this one is my new favourite. I made it last weekend for my kids and they loved it. It contains simple ingredients with the red pepper adding a nice flavour. A crowd pleaser full of cheesy goodness.

### Hot Spinach Dip

- 2 - 8oz packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 small red pepper, diced small
- 1 package of frozen chopped spinach, thawed and excess liquid squeezed out
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 green onions, chopped small
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- Additional shredded cheese to cover the top
- Dried parsley flakes



Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Grease a small casserole dish. With a handheld mixer cream the cream cheese. Stir in red pepper, spinach, 1 cup of cheddar cheese, green onions and garlic powder. Spread into a small casserole dish. Cover with shredded cheese. Bake for 20 minutes until bubbly. Sprinkle with parsley flakes. Serve with baguettes, crackers or tortilla chips.



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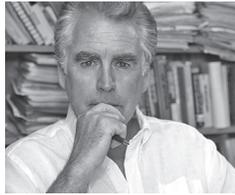
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# All The World's A Circus

William Thomas

williamjthomas@gmail.com

## A Stable Of Horses And A Gaggle Of Geese – My Worst Audience Ever!

So I get an email from Patricia of the Canadian Consortium On Neurodegeneration In Aging inviting me to be the guest speaker at their October 15th National Conference.

My first thought was that these medical minds must be studying the nervous system of the greatest degenerate of our time – President Donald Trump.

But no, the CCNA with its 400 members from coast-to-coast are waging a tough but brave battle against the scourge of aging Canadians – dementia. As noble as their mission is, my second thought was – I don't want to do this gig. I voiced every objection I could think of... can't speak with a mask, don't do 'Zoom' and no, I'm already spending way, way too much time in my office.

However, Patricia is a very persuasive woman. "Here's your fee as well as the name and number of a Toronto videographer who will come to Niagara and tape your presentation anywhere you like."

Well, there was only one answer to that: "How's Friday, October 9th?"

Two things I know a little something about... humour (which does not work without an audience) and horses.

Enter Joanna and Jay Latimere, owners of a beautiful, quaint horse farm near Ridgeway, Ontario. Whereas most people would have run me off their property after hearing my silly, okay ridiculous proposal they said, "Great. Let's go look at the barn."

So we did a bit of a rehearsal... great natural lighting, four electrical outlets and plenty of room for two cameras. A large gaggle of big, fluffy Sebastopol geese were scurrying around and tripping over each other while a smaller batch of caged "Call Ducks" were quacking for food and it sounded like they were laughing. All perfect.

Directly in front of my podium which I borrowed from the local Lion's Club Hall is my audience. There's Mr. T., the black stallion and alpha horse of the farm. Next to him Dandy, a Palomino mare and over my right shoulder was Cassie, a full-figured Paint.

So 'shoot day' arrives along with terrific fall weather and a filmmaker named Sebastien Auger.

The geese are fluttering around the barn, the "Call Ducks" are laughing and Barney, the rooster, is going off like clockwork. Mr T is beating an empty feed tub to death while Cassie is looking at my notes over my right shoulder... strongly disagreeing with everything she sees.

It's perfect – just the right amount of chaos to jar 400 bored CCNA members out of their Zoom-infused tedium. I started by warming up the audience.

"Okay, cameras rolling, whenever you're ready." That's when an amazing thing happened... nothing!

As soon as I said "Good afternoon" the whole damn farm went quiet. It was as if Old McDonald himself had suffered a stroke and died before our very eyes.

I plunged ahead of course, telling the group I was lucky even to be here today because the night before I was achy with a fever and breathing hard... until I took the Trump Cure!

"I tossed back two shooters of Chlorox Bleach and slept with a UV light in my @\$@ and boy do I feel great today! Oh sure, I'm walkin' kind of funny but I'm feelin' real good!"

Nothing. The ducks didn't laugh. The rooster remained silent. Not only was there no reaction from the horses, they seemed somewhat offended. Joanna giggled off camera but I knew Sebastien would dub that out.

"Hey" I said, looking right at Mr. T, "Why the

*Continued on page three...*

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Continued from page two...

long face?" I know, lamest horse joke ever but this is not exactly a sophisticated audience.

That's when I went a furlong too far: "Why are horses such lousy dancers?" Silence all around and Poppy, the farm's dog, lay down with her paws over her eyes.

"Two left feet." Then I repeated the punch line even louder. Nothing. I could imagine Sebastien laying the sound track of Paul Simons' "The Sound of Silence" over my presentation.

I did that stand-up gag, tapping the microphone: "Hey is this thing on!?" It wasn't, of course, I was using a lapel mike. Where was that freakin' rooster when I needed

him?

Now I have died in front of an audience before but I've never been ignored by a group that eats from a bucket, drinks from a trough and poops in public.

I had no choice but to throw up the Hail Mary of horse jokes: "What did the horse say when it fell down?" Not even a nod. "I've fallen and I can't giddyup."

I looked all three of them in the eyes and they stared right back at me. Honestly, at this point, I'd have settled for a loud fart.

I glanced out the barn door and even the gander, Gaston, who would normally be sexually harassing his gaggle of ladies was sound asleep.

In a bit of bad timing, Dandy, the mare, had gone into heat the night before. Nobody had to explain this to Mr. T. Lunging for her and looking menacing at me – the black stallion was more than eager to do his duty if only we'd shut the damn cameras off!

That's when I bailed. No way I'm going out with the headline: "Humorist crushed to death by two rutting horses." Message to

Patricia: "A do-over, please. Zoom. My office. And yes, out of sheer embarrassment, I will be wearing a mask."

W.C. Fields was right – "Never work with children or a rooster who won't crow on cue."

Any of the ten books written by William Thomas are available at [www.williamthomas.ca](http://www.williamthomas.ca)  
Comments: [williamjthomas@gmail.com](mailto:williamjthomas@gmail.com)

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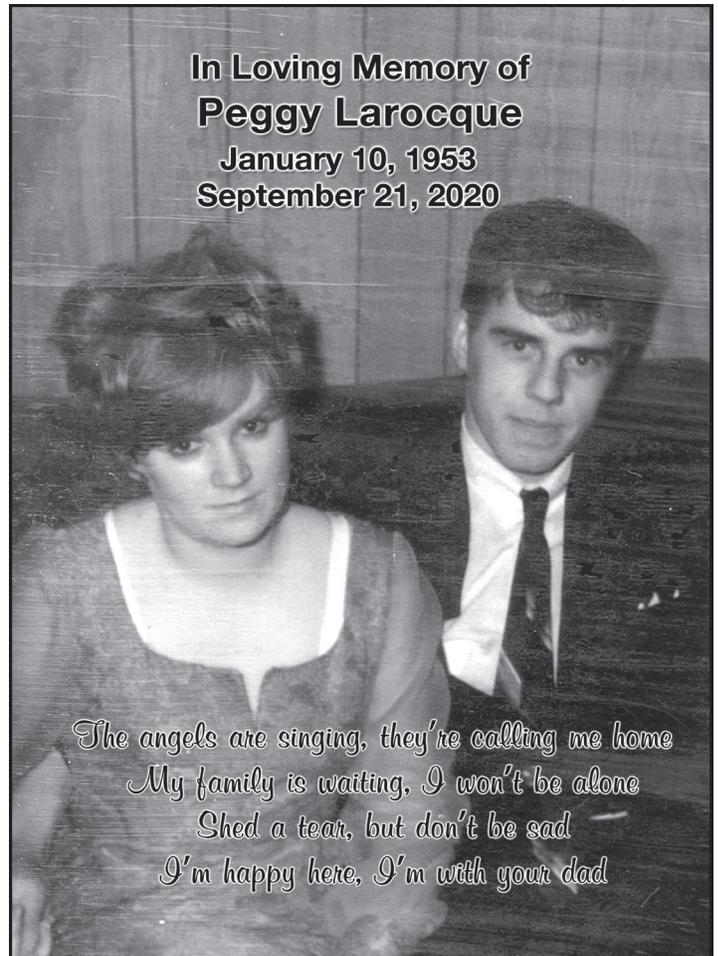
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### OBITUARY



The Tricco family announces with sorrow the passing of their mother **Anita Tricco**, on October 1, 2020 in her 82nd year. She will be sadly missed by her kids, grandchildren, & great-grandchildren. A gathering (Interment, graveside service) will be held at the Catholic Cemetery in Massey at a later date.