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 April 29, 2014 Issue 17 - Volume 18

Policing & Public Works Costs Discussed at Town Hall Meeting



By *Chloe Kneer* - The Espanola Citizen Group (ECG) held a "town hall" style meeting last week, with long-time resident Bill Foster presenting updated findings regarding contracting with the OPP versus maintaining the Espanola Police Service. Last year, Foster conducted his own five-month study on policing costs and detailed how a switch to the OPP could save the town millions over the next several years. At the ECG meeting last Wednesday evening, Foster explained that a new OPP costing model for 2015, which will likely be unveiled this summer, along with changes to the amount that municipal police services receive in grants, will almost certainly lead to even bigger cost savings.

Continued on page four...

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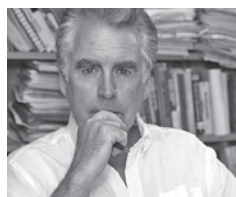
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All The World's A Circus

William Thomas

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Me And The Belmont Hotel - We Have History Together

It's been exactly 25 years since I published my first book: The Tabloid Zone - Dancing With The Four-Armed Man, a badly-titled collection of columns that had appeared in the Hamilton Spectator.

The day after the books rolled off the printing press, my publisher called. "We're going on the book tour," announced Gordon Green with the confidence of a general going into battle. I thought - Vancouver in the fall! Great! Actually Gordon's brilliant marketing idea was to do a couple of book signings at two of my favourite haunts, namely the Dain City Hotel in the village of my youth and Port Colborne's Belmont Hotel in the town of my ill spent adulthood. As the press releases and posters promised, I showed up at "The Dainer" for my late afternoon book signing on a Saturday in May and there were a lot of people there. Many I remembered from the days I lived in the hamlet on the Welland Canal.

Once the table was set up and nobody approached it, I realized that those people were not there for the signing. Those people were always at "The Dainer" late on a Saturday afternoon. Wayne the bartender, seizing a business opportunity agreed to buy 60 books at half price which I dutifully autographed on the spot. These two boxes of books which he was suppose to resell at 100%

mark up mysteriously showed up at Gordon's office in Hamilton two weeks later with an unpaid invoice and one copy missing.

"Things 'll be better tonight at The Belmont," Gordon assured. "That's the big one!"

He was right in the sense that when we arrived at Port Colborne's infamous watering hole, the place was packed ... for "Bob The D.J." Gordon set up the signing table in the next room and briefed Bob on how to introduce me. Bob, coming from an afternoon DJ gig at another hotel was dead drunk. Bob who I have said hello to for about ten years or more could not remember my name.

With two other guys at the bar named Bob, I suggested that we just get another Bob. Gordon talked to the boys but they declined declaring "Bob The DJ" as the one with "the gift of gab."

Gordon presented Bob with a copy of The Tabloid Zone and told him all he had to do was read the title, say "Here he is!" and read the name at the bottom. Mine. Unfortunately Bob didn't have reading glasses and when Gordon asked if he'd forgotten them, maybe in his coat pocket the man says no, he does need reading glasses but he also doesn't own a pair.

Gordon was getting discouraged, I was

Continued on page three...

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Continued from page two...

on my second pitcher of beer but the show must go on. Gordon told Bob to do the best he can and then joined me at a table in the centre of the tap room. Bob started introducing me but the crowd just groaned and shouted at him because his microphone was not on. When Bob turned the mike on, the high-pitched whine causes the older folks to rip their hearing aids out of their ears but silence did prevail.

Bob, holding my book at arm's length swayed back and forth and mumbled. We heard the word 'book,' good and "The Trailer Zone," bad. We heard "Wainfleet," "a funny rider" and something about an "overflowed toilet" in the ladies room.

At this point the crowd was becoming unruly, Gordon has his head in his hands and I'm drinking directly out of the pitcher of draft.

"And here he is ..." Bob yelled so loud the microphone malfunctioned and his words echoed off the back wall.

"Here's the guy who needs no introduction ... Wayne Thompson."

Two people near the stage clapped then quickly quit when nobody else followed their lead.

I got three-quarters out of my seat to acknowledge Bob's

introduction when the coarse voice of a woman in the back boomed: "Shut the F%8! up Bob and play something by Reba McEntire!"

I sat back down, okay collapsed, as Gordon's head hit the table - once, twice, three times and fairly hard too. The place exploded in laughter as Bob staggered backwards, punched his recording machine twice and Rita MacNeil burst into "It's a working man I am." Gordon and I slipped out at the break which came when the music stopped and nobody could find Bob.

The Tabloid Zone was Gordon Green's first venture into the world of publishing. I understand he's in the restaurant business today. Now eight books later, I still can't understand why The Tabloid Zone didn't make it to the bestseller lists. I mean the songs of Reba and Rita were always real popular.

There's a lesson to be learned here for all of us - "The Belmont Rule - know your audience and then avoid it like it has leprosy." And yes, funny you should ask. I do still have copies.

For comments, ideas and copies of The Tabloid Zone go to www.williamthomas.ca

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During the warmer months, we tend to spend more time in our cars. According to Statistics Canada, drivers average 86.7 billion kilometres between July and September, the busiest quarter of the year. So it's not difficult to see that getting your car ready for these summer conditions is crucial for accident prevention and optimal fuel economy.

"Most of us take steps to prepare our cars for winter, but doing the same for summer driving is just as critical," said Mauro Convertini, an insurance expert from Aviva Canada. "Before embarking on a road-trip, drivers

should take a few moments to make sure their car is ready to roam the summer streets."

Convertini recommends the following:

- Check your tires: Use all-season tires and maintain your tire pressure, as both will improve your vehicle's fuel economy in warmer weather.

- Get rain ready: Replace your windshield wipers, which may be cracked or torn from ice, snow, salt and extreme temperatures.

- Check air conditioning: There's nothing worse than losing your air conditioning on a hot sunny day. You could have an issue if it can't produce or preserve temperatures that are 10 degrees Celsius below the outside air.

- Cool your car: Sitting in traffic on a hot day is tough on your car's cooling system. Ask your mechanic to check your coolant levels at the start of the season.

- Fight salt damage: Replacing a salt-clogged air filter gets you more kilometres per litre.

With these tips in mind, you will be ready for your next road adventure. More information is available from your insurance broker or online at avivacanada.com

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Policing & Public Works: Foster Says Espanola Could Save Well Over \$2 Million Per Year

Foster projects the new formula will probably result in OPP costs of close to \$400 per household with no reduction in the number of uniformed officers. The cost for Espanola Police Service (EPS) is projected to be \$1076 per household. The huge savings with the OPP, he says, are the lower administrative fees, not officers' salaries. Foster concluded that Espanola could save over \$1.6 million per year with an OPP contract.

Current Espanola Council promised residents an external service delivery review after last year's announcement that the town was on the hook for repaying Domtar \$4 million when the mill was reassessed at a significantly reduced value. Despite the cost of such a review being included in the budget for

this year, council voted down the measure and no review has been carried out. An external service review looks at each department's budget and services to determine if taxpayers are getting good value for money. Many suspect that good value for money is not something that is on the minds of the current Espanola council. Foster is one, so he conducted his own review of the Espanola Public Works Department (PW) and presented those at the town hall meeting as well. His findings raised more than a few eyebrows.

During his presentation, Foster noted that he targeted two areas specifically that fall under PW: transportation or paved road maintenance and winter control costs. Foster then compared Espanola's costs per km in both of those

categories to sixteen other communities. For paved road maintenance, Espanola is spending a staggering \$19,898 per km. The average of the communities was \$11,384 per km. Foster concluded that over \$1 million stands to be saved on paved road maintenance if efficiencies were found. "These communities are doing something that really improves the cost effectiveness of their operations," says Foster. "Espanola can likely learn a lot from them."

As far as winter costs, Espanola fares well compared to the other sixteen municipalities with a \$1389

per km cost versus the group average of \$1574 per km.

In his summary, Foster pointed out that between these two departments alone (policing and public works), well over \$2 million could be saved by Espanola taxpayers. The lower costs could translate into a 20% property tax decrease for residents, rather than the increase of 1% that's currently a result of the 2014 budget.

On-going freedom of information requests and vote-by-mail were also discussed. Foster's detailed presentation is available online at www.espanolacitizengroup.ca

In The Loop

Since my April 1st In the Loop article originally appeared in the Around & About, I choose to respond here to certain statements Cynthia Townsend, clerk treasurer/administrator took issue with in her letter to the editor of another publication. Ms. Townsend implied that I made three (3) false statements. That definitely was not my intent.

In the first paragraph on April 1st I wrote, *"The Regular Meeting of Council held no surprises for those who attend regularly. The 2014 budget was approved with virtually no discussion. The tax increase for this year will be minimal."* This comment specifically related to the March 25, 2014, Regular Meeting of Council. Ms. Townsend, however, did not include the first sentence of this paragraph in her letter. In doing so she attempted to change what I was trying to say.

The second item that she identifies as false is my statement that, *"The 2013 Federal Gas Tax Funding is now being used in the 2014 budget to help decrease the impact of the Hwy 6 culvert."*

Her reason for calling this false is, "These gas tax funds were identified in the 2013 budget for this project, as the project did not proceed as originally planned, these funds were placed in a reserve fund as required through our funding agreement. These funds will be held until they are required for this project or another project is identified that meets the funding parameters of this agreement." Ms. Townsend may explain it differently, but our message is the same.

Finally, Ms. Townsend states my saying, *"It should be noted residents have also unknowingly been paying higher residential taxes for some years to help offset the Domtar repayment. Council should have been aware of this and if so deemed it unnecessary to inform Espanola taxpayers"* is false.

She indicates that these amounts have been included as budgetary items since 2010. I must be the only one in town who didn't realize that I had been paying higher taxes for years in order to offset a Domtar re-payment. I guess one must examine the budget line-by-line to find these things out. Budgets are available for residents to purchase for \$5.00.

In closing, since Ms. Townsend mentioned that I attended all four of the 2014 Special Budget Meetings of Council, I will provide a summary in next week's In The Loop.

Stay tuned!

Richard Ellis, executive member
Espanola Citizen Group

Note: The views expressed in The Loop are that of the Espanola Citizen Group alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of Around&About.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Ladies Night at the Espanola Seniors' Drop-In Centre - Thursday May 1 7:00 p.m. Homemade natural products. Guest speakers to talk about their mission trip to India. Everyone welcome. Donations appreciated. Call Carol at 705-869-5304.

Fish Fry and Dance - Espanola Curling Club, Friday May 2 starting at 6:00 p.m. Dinner 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., dance 9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. Tickets from members or call Bill Giles at 705-869-6237.

Indoor Yard Sale - Downstairs at the Espanola United Church, 137 Sheppard St., Saturday, May 3 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Monthly Spaghetti Supper - Webbwood F.O.E Ladies Auxiliary 4269 Saturday May 3 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. 3 Centre Street, Webbwood. All are welcome to attend.

A Medley of Music New and Old - Presented by the Voices of Spring, Sunday, May 4, 7:00 p.m. Zion Lutheran Church, Massey Monday, May 5, 7:00 p.m., Webbwood Public School.

Mother's Day Homemade Candy Sale - At the Espanola Mall Thursday, May 8, Friday, May 9, and Saturday, May 10 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Trades/Career Day - Espanola High School, Thursday, May 8 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. If your business would like to participate, contact Dean Riggs at riggsd@rainbowschools.ca

Massey Street Cleaning - Supported by the Inter-church Council on May 10 (weather permitting, May 24 if bad). Meet at the Massey Bible Chapel at 9:00 a.m. Prizes for most bags picked, youngest picker, and oldest picker, lunch supplied.

Next Community Luncheons - May 13 & 27 at the Lighthouse in Espanola (across from the Royal Bank) from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. NO CHARGE. Everyone Welcome.

Espanola and Area Friendship Circle - A support group for people diagnosed with memory loss and their caregivers. Meeting Monday, May 12 from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. at the Seniors' Drop-in Centre, Espanola. For information, call Wendy at 705-869-1137.

Vote For Reilley - Reilley Wilson is a 14 year old quadriplegic boy in need of a new wheelchair van to help him get around. Join the group Vote For Reilley on Facebook and help him win during Mobility Awareness Month.

Good Food Box - Save money on fruits and vegetables. Large (\$17) or small (\$8) available. Call the Queensway Pentecostal Church to order. 705-869-1700.

Family Playtime (drop-in) - Espanola Public Library, starting Wednesday's from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. for children under 5 and their caregivers.

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.

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Recipe

Spring means it's time to do some damage repair from the long, long winter we just had and get ourselves in shape for beach season. I've been trying to incorporate more salads and fruit into my diet and less chips and chocolate. When I'm craving something sweet I like to enjoy a smoothie. It helps keep me away from the "bad" sweets. I usually make the traditional fruit smoothies but found this one online and have been enjoying it. I use local made maple syrup in mine. If you like the flavour of apple pie, you will also enjoy this smoothie.



Apple Pie Smoothie Recipe

Serves 2

- 1 cup unsweetened almond milk
- 1 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 Tbsp maple syrup
- 1 cup ice cubes

Place all ingredients in a blender and purée until smooth, 30 to 60 seconds.

Kids Korner

Rainbow Craft

- Fruit Loops or a similar cereal
- Paper
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Cotton balls



Begin by having the kids draw the outline of a rainbow on their piece of paper. If your children are younger you can draw the rainbow outline for them. Have them sort their fruit loops into colours. This craft is great for reviewing colours and colour sorting. Then cover the rainbow lines in glue. Place matching colours of fruit loops along each line of the rainbow. Once the rainbow is complete make a cloud at the end of the rainbow by gluing on cotton balls.



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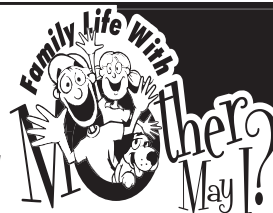
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FOR RENT - 1013 Hopkins Hill Rd, Espanola, upstairs one bedroom furnished apartment \$525/month inclusive, first and last required. No pets, non-smoker. Ideal for one person or a couple. Available May 1. Call 705-869-1726. 04/29

FOR RENT - 2 bedroom apartment for rent \$975/mo. All inclusive, Naim Centre - Includes heat, hydro, cable, internet, laundry. Very quiet neighbourhood. Nice trees in yard. Call 705-869-4040 days, 705-583-2252 evenings or 705-377-5061 weekends for more information. 05/06

FOR RENT– 1 bedroom apartment for rent at 196 Barber St. in Espanola. Close to uptown, non-smoking and not pet friendly. Available May 1st, \$500/month plus utilities. References required. Call 705-865-2413 or 705-662-8203. 05/06

FOR RENT – 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. Available immediately. 45 Arthur Ct, Espanola. Please call 705-869-5989. References required and no pets allowed. 04/29

FOR RENT - Uptown office space, newly renovated. Not suitable for high-traffic business, long or short-term, first and last required. Call 705-521-3077. TFN

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Memorial Services

will be held for Joe Wilson on May 3, 2014 at St. Andrew's United Church, Massey.

10:45 a.m. Masonic Memorial Service – Espanola Masonic Lodge #527

11:00 a.m. St. Andrew's Memorial Service – The Reverend Lyn Heeley officiating

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FOR SALE - Ferment on premises business for sale due to health reasons. Pat's Vineyard for sale, for more information call 705-862-7772. 04/29

SERVICES

FOOT CARE CLINICS - to start May 7 in Webbwood and May 27 in Massey. Call Nancy Bishop Registered Practical Nurse at 705-865-2623 to book your appointment. Gift cert. available. What better way to treat mom for mother's day. Home visit available. Also registered with veterans affairs. 05/20

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ESPANOLA SELF STORAGE – 6x8 and 8x10 Storage Units available in Espanola. Located behind the car wash. Call 705-869-8405. 06/10 - R

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED - Housekeeping staff required. Some experience preferred, but not always necessary. Please bring resume to the manager at the Queensway Motel, Espanola. 05/13

HELP WANTED – Sauble River Golf and Country Club is now accepting applications for one outside worker (driver's licence preferred) and one inside worker to work bar and kitchen part-time. Smart Serve would be an asset. Must be 18 years of age or older. Applications can be sent to P.O. Box 506, Massey, ON P0P 1P0. Only successful applicants will be contacted for interview. 04/29

BINGOS

MASSEY AREA MUSEUM BINGOS – May 5 at the Massey and District Arena. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Bingo starts at 7:00 p.m. \$1775 in cash prizes. 06/03

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The One Tot Stop Day Care is looking for a student for summer employment in Espanola.

Employment will start on July 2nd and last for 7 weeks. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, returning to school in September and must like working with children.

If you are interested, please send your resume and cover letter to

The One Tot Stop Day Care, Box 695 Massey, ON P0P 1P0;
email: onetotstop@bellnet.ca,
or drop off at The One Tot Stop Day Care, 128 Park St. Espanola, ON.

Deadline for applicants is May 5th 2014.



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



NOW HIRING: Registered Practical Nurses

*We offer flexible hours and
exemplary wages.*

*Applicants must be certified in first
aid/ CPR and must be in good
standing and have a current CNO
registration. We service Espanola,
Manitoulin Island and the North Shore.*

TO APPLY CONTACT:

New Direction Health Care Services

c/o Terri Buck-Orr
Box 1004

Little Current, Ont. P0P 1K0

Email: ndhs@outlook.com

Phone: 705 368 3669

Fax: 705 368 0620

NOTICE

Algoma Manitoulin Kapuskasing Conservative Association

NOTICE of Annual General Meeting

at the Hampton Inn in Elliot Lake on

May 10 from 1:00 - 4:00.

All members welcome. For more information call
705-842-1458 or 705-862-0924.

DR. ERIN L. D. CHOUINARD MEDICINE PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

31st of March 2014

The Dr. Erin L. D. Chouinard Medicine Professional Corporation hereby informs you that Dr. Chouinard will no longer be providing services in Espanola effective the 01st of May 2014.

Please ensure you request any required **prescription(s)** in advance. You may request that your pharmacy forward to Dr. Chouinard needed prescription renewals so that Dr. Chouinard can review and renew them as needed, accordingly.

For **any other matter**, patients are directed to attend an available medical clinic at the Family Health Team situate at 801 McKinnon Dr, Espanola, ON, or another medical clinic which may be available to them.

To obtain **emergency or urgent care** in Espanola, please attend the nearest emergency medical department at the Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre situate at 825 McKinnon Dr, Espanola, ON.

If you have been referred to a specialist, that specialist will also be notified.

Dr. Chouinard will follow up with any existing **lab results** for tests that Dr. Chouinard has ordered.

Your **medical records** will remain at the Espanola Family Health Team unless your written authorization, as required by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, is received to transfer them to another physician. Please contact the Espanola and area Family Health Team at 705-862-7991 for further details and/or to verify any associated fees that the Family Health Team may charge.

Patients are encouraged to register with Health Care Connect to help find a family health care provider. To register with the program, simply call 1-800-445-1822. You will need a pen, some paper and your OHIP card when you call Health Care Connect. You can also register for Health Care Connect online by entering your information at www.ontario.ca/healthcareconnect.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a partner in your medical care.
Best wishes to you,

Dr. Erin L. D. Chouinard
Medicine Professional Corporation

NOTICE

Espanola Mill Odour Reduction Efforts

Spring is finally here and we thought this would be a good opportunity to provide an update about our on-going efforts to reduce odour.

Recently we have been focused on reducing odour coming from our effluent treatment system. The effluent treatment system organically treats the mill's waste water or effluent before it is returned to the river. The effluent discharged to the river is non-toxic and is significantly below both federal and provincial discharge requirements. The effluent, however does emit odour which typically worsens during the summer months due to higher temperatures.

We have been working diligently to reduce odour coming from the mill's effluent treatment system. Some of the steps we have taken include:

- improving the reliability of the mill overall which reduces the variation in the effluent introduced to the treatment system
- installing 6 additional aerators in the effluent treatment system over the winter which will help improve performance
- completing a promising trial of odour reducing agents. Over the upcoming warmer months we will be adding the agent to the effluent treatment system.

In addition, as part of our regular maintenance work, dredging activities are currently underway at the effluent treatment system remove accumulated material. During the dredging process odour may escape and we are using odour-reducing agents to minimize this.

Over the summer, we plan to assess the odour reduction improvements made over the past year to determine their success, and identify further opportunities for improvement.

We appreciate your understanding and welcome your comments. Should you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact the Domtar Environment Department at 705-869-2020.



Domtar

www.domtar.com

Espanola Elks Give to Jumpstart



The Espanola Elks raffled off wooden chests that were built and donated by Richard Duranleau. Beth Cassidy and Gary Tennant picked the two winners, Marilyn Orford and Charlie Vollicks, both of Espanola. The Elks donated the \$1463.70 to the Canadian Tire Jumpstart program to help under-privileged kids in the community participate in sports activities.



Boogie Rush Law Enforcement Torch Run

A 5 km "Mud Run" to raise money for the Special Olympics Torch Run.

May 31st, 2014 at the
Boogie Mountain Ski Hill in Espanola, ON
www.guardiansoftheflameendurance.com

ESPANOLA ANIMAL HOSPITAL

SETTING THE STANDARD OF CARE



Heartworm, Tick and Flea Season is Here.

This is a Reminder to our clients that heartworm, tick and flea prevention starts soon. Due to the rapidly increasing prevalence of these and other parasitic diseases we are strongly advising clients to ensure their dogs are protected. Please call the hospital to arrange to pick-up your dog's meds anytime at 705-869-0090.

Phone: 705-869-0090

Fax: 705-869-0092

**138 Tudhope St.,
Espanola, Ont
P5E 1S6**



Girls/Boys Track and Field Club



Tuesdays and Fridays May 6 - June 10, 2014

5:30 pm to 6:45 pm

Grades 6,7,8

Espanola Recreational Complex

Track and Field Area

Head Coach: Dave Gallant

Registration Fee \$40.00

(Fees include a t-shirt. Cheques made payable to Espanola High School)

Registration Deadline:

Friday, May 2

**@ Espanola High School
Main Office.**

**Registration forms are
available at EHS.**