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Helping Hand Food Bank Receives Huge Boost From Smile Cookies



By *Chloe Kneer* - Congratulations to the Espanola and McKerrow Tim Hortons locations for raising \$9000 for the Espanola Helping Hand Food Bank during Smile Cookie Week. The influx of cash comes just before the holidays, which is typically the time of greatest need at the food bank. Last year's campaign raised just under \$7000, but the stores ran out of Smile Cookies before the end of the week. This time around, food bank volunteers made the rounds to area businesses for pre-orders of dozen batches of cookies. The pre-orders made a huge difference in the outcome and ensured that the supply of cookies met demand.

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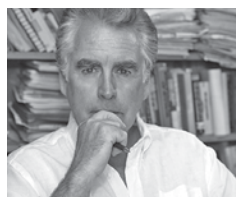
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My Dog Was Both Lovable - And Tax Deductible

Years ago I wrote a book about my dog Jake entitled *The Dog Rules* (Damn Near Everything!) which, by the way of sales in publishing terms, went right through the "Woof! Woof!" In making the rounds of talk shows and public readings, travelling with me on the book tour, speaking engagements and humane society fundraisers, my dog significantly enhanced my income.

Jake dropped the book in Mike Bullard's lap on CTV's *Open Mike* With Mike Bullard and although he'd done better interviews, I want to make it very clear, Jake had nothing to do with the demise of the show. He also gave the food table quite a going over in the green room much to the horror of Mike's producers.

On a 30-minute special on TVO's *Steve Paiken Show*, Jake inadvertently got drunk at the bar with an ex-Ottawa Roughrider linebacker at Captain Jack's Bar in the Beaches area. They cut that part.

At 6:30 a.m. on Breakfast TV, the staff was noticeably grumpy and a junior producer with an accusing look finally told me somebody had eaten all the doughnuts.

"Well it wasn't me," I said. "Who can eat breakfast when it's still dark out?" It was then I noticed the ring of icing sugar around my dog's mouth. Okay, so Jake pretty much ate his way through the book tour.

But food, travel and non-refundable pet deposits (they definitely need a better term for this) at hotels all add up to some

serious cash. Not to mention the medical expenses for two new knees in his back legs which tops anything I've ever billed our healthcare system for.

So I totalled up all my costs of having an expensive but extremely lovable, wage-earning dog and I sent them off to Revenue Canada, which tried to dodge the issue by immediately changing its name to Canada Customs and Revenue Agency.

In a unprecedented fit of logic, the word came back that all expenses which help earn income are tax deductible. Wow! My dog turned out to be the cutest business write-off in the history of taxation. All pets lower our stress levels, mine lowered my taxes,

Apparently we made a little bit of tax history, me and Jake, with the ruling appearing on the CCRA's website under Pet Related Expense Document number 2003-0039147 Income Tax Act 18 (1) (a) 18 (1) (h).

I can't tell you how proud Jake and I were to have created more paperwork for the government. That year we changed the Income Tax Act! Next year we'd overturn it! Yes! Woof! Woof!

Columnist Arthur Drache of the *Financial Post* wrote a piece about the ruling and had a lot of fun at our expense. (Jake sued him for libel. Me, I thought it was quite hilarious.)

According to the column, expenses for assistance dogs have always been

Continued on page three...

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Continued from page two...

deductible and you can claim the cost of transporting pets when you move. (No, horses don't qualify as household pets. Somebody already tried. Also, you cannot deduct airfare for parakeets.)

To quote Arthur Drache: "What made this situation unusual is that the dog was bought as a household pet and that was its primary role, at least until the book was written. CCRA took the position that the individuals, from the time the book was written, had to determine how much of the dog's time was spent as a pet and how much in business activities." (I'm not making this up!)

"Once this was determined, the appropriate portion of food and veterinarian bills could be deducted. Further, when the dog travelled on business, the full cost of travelling expenses, including fares, food and lodging, could be claimed as well as the 'incremental' cost of veterinarian fees."

"The ruling went to some pains to point out that while meals consumed by the human partner would be subject to the statutory limitations of

50 percent of the cost, that provision did not apply to animals, so the full cost of the dog's meal could be treated as tax deductible."

"I wondered as I did when food for guide dogs was first made deductible, whether the tax authorities would have a problem if the dog ate filet mignon and its owner occasionally stole a few mouthfuls of its food."

Ah, Arthur if you don't mind - me and my tax deduction here, the one with the beautiful ears and the bushy tail - we'll do the pet humour. Okay?

Frankly I've never seen my accountant so excited. But then again, he's an accountant. I could hardly get his attention on this matter as he ran off to buy a dog.

Arthur Drache ended his column with the line: "This gives a whole new perspective on the phrase, 'it's a dog's life.'" And a dang good one it was, Arthur. Double dang good indeed!

For comments, ideas and copies of The True Story of Wainfleet, go to www.williamthomas.ca

Espanola High School Hosts Information Night For Grade 8 Students

Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians are invited to information night at Espanola High School Thursday, January 29 at 7:00 p.m. All students are welcome to participate, regardless of which elementary school students currently attend. To help in the process, Rainbow District School Board has produced a guide for students and parents called "Making the Transition - Finding Your Way From Grade 8 to Grade 9." The guide contains information about course codes, levels of study, timetables and tips. The guide can be accessed online at rainbowschools.ca. Copies are also available by emailing info@rainbowschools.ca or

visiting area Rainbow secondary schools.

Rainbow District School Board's secondary schools offer opportunities in arts, athletics and academics, in English and French Immersion, in all program pathways - independent living, work, apprenticeship, college and university.

The board also has four specialized programs - the Arts Education Program, the Science Technology Education Program (STEP), the School of Integrated Technology and the International Baccalaureate Program (IB). Busing to these programs is offered to students within Greater Sudbury. The high school can be reached at 705-869-1590.

Thank You
for bringing smiles
to our community.

Smile Cookies are gone, but the smiles they've left in our community will last forever. Thanks to your support, Tim Hortons will be donating the entire proceeds to the Espanola Helping Hand Food Bank in the amount of **\$9,000.00**



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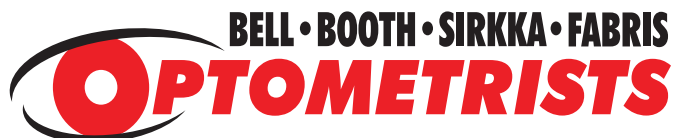
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Support for Stand Up! has been provided by
the North East LHIN.

Espanola Council Report

“Let’s Move Forward” – Councillor Stewart Meikleham



Photo: Councillor Robert Yocom

By Chloe Kneer – Espanola town council met for their first official meeting on December 9. Much of what was on the agenda was perfunctory, but there were a few items of interest that came to the table. Former candidate Rob Sinclair presented his newly founded group Residents For A Better Espanola. Sinclair has been compiling a list of local volunteers who have stated their willingness to help with organizational volunteer opportunities, as well as projects that the municipality itself may have. His hope is to grow his list of twenty-three people to one hundred.

Newly elected Councillor Robert Yocom, who has been following each department closely for the past few years, posed many questions to department heads Dianne Polden (Recreation) and Joel Yusko (Public Works). He asked Polden for a better break-out of the statistics of the actual use of the complex, which she agreed to supply. He also inquired about the new and old Zambonis.

Polden clarified that the new Zamboni has been in use since the spring and that the old Zamboni is still on site and may be used in the future for ice-making. However, the possibility exists that the new unit could be adapted to accomplish this task. In that case, the old unit will be sold. Another topic of discussion was the arena heaters. Yocom said he had been getting complaints from residents that the arena is too cold for comfort. Polden explained that the heaters have all

been repaired and are working, but will be turned off, “if the ice is being compromised.” She noted that this has been the case a couple of times this season.

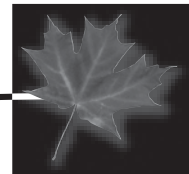
Joel Yusko reports that afternoon and night shifts have begun at Public Works in anticipation of snow removal. Yocom requested that Yusko include more detailed information in his monthly reports regarding significant repairs to equipment.

Council passed a motion to continue with the same services as last year for the outdoor rink. The cost will be \$9400. Deputy Chief Steve Edwards will be sworn in as new police chief January 7. Councillor Ron Duplessis asked that, when the budgeting process begins in the new year, department heads give more detailed line-by-line reports in their budgets, rather than encompassing numbers. And, Councillor Bill Foster made a notice of motion that he would introduce an OPP service costing and an external service review of all departments at the next regular meeting of council on January 13.



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Matheson	January 6	January 13
Kapuskasing	January 7	January 14
Powassan	January 10	January 17
Verner	January 24	January 31
Massey	February 17	February 24
Bruce Mines	February 27	March 6
Mindemoya	March 24	March 31

En Français

Earlton	13 mars	20 mars
Verner	14 mars	21 mar

Environmental Farm Plan - Northeast

Location	Day 1	Day 2
Massey	January 16	January 23
Bruce Mines	February 5	February 12
Powassan	February 7	February 14
Earlton	February 9	February 16
Matheson	February 10	February 17
Kapuskasing	February 11	February 18
Verner	February 21	February 28
Mindemoya	March 2	March 9

En Français

Earlton	27 mars	3 avril
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NEW YEAR'S EVE FUNDRAISING DANCE - Wednesday, December 31 at the Espanola Elks from 8:00 - 1:00 a.m. Tickets available at the CLE Admin Office, 345 Centre St. Espanola.

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THANK YOU

THANK YOU – The Espanola Farmer's Market would like to thank the Queensway Pentecostal Church for the use of their parking lot throughout the market season. 12/16

BINGOS

MASSEY AREA MUSEUM BINGOS – January 5 at the Massey and District Arena. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Bingo starts at 7:00 p.m. \$1825 in cash prizes. 01/13 - R

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Fri. Dec 26 & Jan 2
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Recipe

I haven't really baked cookies for Christmas in years due to limited time and the fact that I'm the one who eats most of it, but I decided I might do some baking this year. My kids will be home from university this weekend, so I asked them what kind of cookies they would like me to make. My daughter requested ginger cookies; nothing hard or fancy about that and because they don't have chocolate in them I may be able to resist not eating the whole container of them. This is one of my favourite ginger cookie recipes that I've been using for years. They are sugary delicious and great served with a glass of milk.



Soft Chewy Ginger Cookies

- 2 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 3/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground cloves
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 3/4 cup margarine, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 Tbsp water
- 1/4 c molasses
- 2 Tbsp sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Sift flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, and salt. Set aside. In a large bowl, cream together margarine and 1 cup white sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg, and then stir in the water and molasses. Add the flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves and salt. Blend together well. Shape dough into walnut-sized balls, roll in sugar. Place 2" apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Flatten slightly. Bake 8-10 minutes. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before removing to wire rack.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Breakfast With Santa - At the Royal Canadian Legion, Saturday December 20, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Pictures also being taken. Please contact the Legion before December 17 if you will be attending with a child 12 and under at 705-869-1711.

Free Christmas Dinner - on December 25, 4:30 p.m. at the Lighthouse in Espanola. Everyone welcome. RSVP by calling 705-869-4415.

Free Christmas Dinner - At the Massey Legion, December 25 at 4:00 p.m. Call Penny at 705-865-2467 or Shirley at 705-844-2511

Christian Musicians Wanted – A non-denominational contemporary worship band looking for Christian musicians. Need bass guitarist and keyboardist. Call 705-665-3455. Email: BruceBirtwistleGODdrummer@yahoo.ca

VON Drivers Needed - To assist clients to their medical appointments. You will be compensated for mileage. Please call 705-869-3304.

Meat Roll-Offs - Espanola Legion Fridays at 7:00 p.m. to support junior curling and Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. for the Espanola Helping Hand Food Bank. Everyone is welcome.

CLE Cash Calendar 2015 Fundraiser - prizes totaling \$7,000.00. All winning tickets are re-entered daily! Tickets can be picked up at the CLE Administration Office at 345 Centre Street. Proceeds will be used towards the purchase of a Snoezelen (multisensory) Room.

Stomp Junior High - Grades 5-8 on Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Queensway Pentecostal Church. There will be fun, games, prizes, friendships and life coaching.

Ride to Church Program - St. Andrew's United Church in Massey is offering rides for area residents to Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m. Call May at 705-865-3455 for more information.

Good Food Box - Fruits and vegetables available in large or small box sizes. Pick-up sites in Espanola (705-869-1700), Massey (705-865-2519) and Nairn Centre (705-222-3551).

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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A.B. Ellis Public School Supports Lions Christmas Toy Drive



Photo: Students from A.B. Ellis Public School purchased toys for the Lions Christmas Toy Drive in Espanola, including, from left, McKenna Perlin, Abigail Phibbs, Cori Gracia Perez, Zena Pregent, Grace Selinger, Perlin Foo and Madalynn Soltys. "Our students have special activity days throughout the year such as pyjama day, hat day, and school colour day," says Principal Lynn MacDonell. "There is a voluntary donation from students to participate. This money is collected and the Espanola Lions match whatever we raise each year." With the matching donation, the students were able to purchase \$1,100 worth of toys, an impressive contribution to the children of the community of Espanola. "Giant Tiger gave our school a 10 per cent discount, so the dollars raised went that much further," says Principal MacDonell. "We thank the Lions Club and Giant Tiger for working with us to share the festive spirit."

Second Annual Lions/Rivermen Teddy Bear Toss



Photo: At the December 5 Espanola Rivermen game, fans were encouraged to bring a new stuffed animal in support of the Lions Club Toy Drive. Over 170 stuffies became part of the second annual Teddy Bear Toss. All toys have now been collected and will be wrapped and delivered in time for Christmas.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

*Wishing You a
Merry Christmas*



*Thank you for supporting
us the way you do.
See you in the New Year*

DECEMBER HOURS:						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
14 10 am - 5 pm	15 8 am - 9 pm	16 8 am - 9 pm	17 8 am - 9 pm	18 8 am - 9 pm	19 8 am - 9 pm	20 8 am - 6 pm
21 10 am - 5 pm	22 8 am - 9 pm	23 8 am - 9 pm	24 8 am - 5 pm	25 CLOSED	26 10 am - 5 pm	27 8 am - 6 pm
28 10 am - 5 pm	29 8 am - 9 pm	30 8 am - 9 pm	31 8 am - 5 pm	1 CLOSED	2 8 am - 9 pm	3 8 am - 6 pm

