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Espanola Fire Department Unveils New Rescue Van



By *Chloe Kneer* - The Espanola Fire Department took delivery of their new rescue van on December 7 and it is now in service. "The old van was thirty years old," said Fire Chief Mike Pichor. "We are really fortunate and happy to have this new piece of equipment." Fire department volunteers and public works employees helped in getting the van road ready. "We had to unload all of the equipment from the old van and figure out the best way to fit everything into the new one," Pichor explained. New equipment will not immediately be purchased, but is a long-term goal of the department, as the equipment is also thirty years old. The new van is actually a modified truck with an extended cab that allows those who respond to rescue calls to sit in the front, whereas the old unit had volunteer firefighters

Continued on back page...

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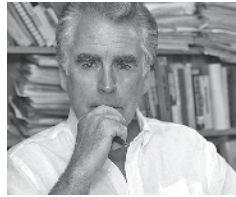
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All The World's A Circus

William Thomas

williamjthomas@gmail.com

The "Men Are Idiots" Study? No Way, Jose

Today I proudly present to you a staunch defense of men. Or more than likely "your man" since your special guy is probably outside at the moment looking for his hair after an unfortunate incident involving Christmas lights, a rain barrel and a six pack of beer.

A new study published in the British Medical Journal has revealed what every woman in the world dating back to apple-eating Eve have always suspected - men are idiots and do stupid things.

Conducted at England's Newcastle University, the Male Idiot Theory is based on the behaviour of past and passed Darwin Award winners. These awards are given annually to people who die in such a moronic manner that "Their action ensures the long-term survival of the human species by selectively allowing one less idiot to survive." The study presents a kind of self-cleansing of the gene pool scenario with a bonus of black humour.

University personnel examined 318 cases of risky and bizarre deaths of which 282 of the deceased were men. That's 88.7%. If you're keeping score, 88.7% also represents Joaquin Phoenix's functioning IQ when he's being interviewed by David Letterman.

The authors of the study cited several glaring examples of male-dominated insane behaviour such as the construction worker who worked for two days demolishing a three-storey car park without going near the support beams holding it up. Office workers watching from the adjacent buildings were engaged in animated discussions about how he planned to remove the core steel structure and bring the car park down safely. On the third day, they realized he did not have a plan. One good bump to a single support beam brought the entire structure crashing down, flattening his mini-excavator and killing him instantly.

In his defense I would say he accomplished exactly what he set out to do and that the only

thing lacking in his demolition plan was a quick exit strategy. And as usual, men dying publicly and stupidly are never given credit for "high entertainment value." Plus what guy wouldn't die to operate a tow motor and knock things down in front of a live audience? Cue Frank Sinatra: "Regrets. He had just one ... he did it his way."

Another example of deadly acts described in the study was the guy who settled an "Is not! Is too!" argument with a friend over a sci-fi "spy pen." In order to prove it was indeed real, the owner of the pen shot himself in the head with it. Yes he did die but in doing so he won the bet and the admiration of James Bond fans everywhere.

The authors of the study also cited the Darwin award winner who designed a joyride that unfortunately went off the rails. The man hitched a shopping cart up to the back of a freight train only to die three kilometres down the track where the engineer finally managed to bring it to a stop. Again, dead? Yes. Bizarre? Okay. But I say what if it worked.

What man wouldn't want to see the world from an open-air grocery cart, his feet sticking through the child carrier with snacks and beer in the back?!? Seriously, they start putting air bags in travelling grocery carts and you can sign me up! The pièce de résistance of the Newcastle University study may well be the terrorist who attempted to deliver a bomb to his victim through regular mail. Unfortunately he failed to put enough stamps on the package and when it was returned to him marked "Insufficient Postage," he ... he ... he opened it. Dead? Yes. Sometimes rather than mock idiotic male behaviour, this sort of tragedy needs to be applauded and encouraged. As is often the case with terrorists, their fatal flaw lies in ever having seen even one episode of Wiley Coyote.

There is no doubt that alcohol plays a key role in

Continued on page three...

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Continued from page two...

the fatal male behaviour. "Booze," claims the study, "makes men feel bullet-proof." In 1999 the Darwin Award had to be shared by the three guys who invented their own version of Russian roulette using an unexploded Cambodian landmine. Each man took turns knocking back a shot of liquor and then stomping on the mine. Inevitably the landmine exploded killing all three of them. It's the gender unfairness of this heroic act that upsets me most. Lady Di got all the credit for eliminating the world's landmines but these three guys, they were the boots on the ground!

To the Male Idiot Theory I say "No way Jose" mainly because a study of men behaving like half-lit twits is completely flawed without the mention of former baseball star Jose Canseco. Never mind all the bizarre incidents involving weapons, steroids, fertility drugs, the demolition derby with his wife and the possession of rocket fuel (rocket fuel???) - two months ago Jose Canseco shot off the middle finger

of his hand while cleaning his gun. This of course means that without a middle finger, Jose can never again drive in New York City.

Opting not to have reconstructive surgery, Jose said he intended to sell the finger on eBay suggesting it could be used as a "stirring straw for drinks." Jose also planned to sell the offending weapon - a .45 Remington gold-plated handgun that will come with the following instructions: "First unload gun. Then clean gun." May this man never be allowed to operate a tow motor. "First, shut off ignition. Then replace fan belt."

No, this "Men Are Idiots" study will have no credibility whatsoever unless the authors name Jose Canseco as their "poster boy" and admit that the guy who died in the grocery cart was a freakin' genius. Men - we have the right to remain stupid.

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

Espanola High School Students Reach For The Top



By **Aubrey Fowler**, *Espanola High School Special Correspondent* - Espanola High School's Senior Reach for the Top team came in second place at a Reach for the Top tournament at Lasalle Secondary School. Reach for the Top is a Canada-wide general knowledge competition between high schools divided up into regions. Espanola's team falls under the

Sudbury region. Team members are James Walker, Breanne Beer, Elisabeth Caldwell, Sina Cuthbert, Levi Vermeer, Logan Emiry, Matthew Mailloux, and their teacher Mrs. Walker. The team is hosting an upcoming fundraiser Friday, February 27 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. bagging groceries at Winkel's Grocer. Great job Spartans, and don't worry, there is no pop quiz.

Espanola & Area Family Health Team

Staff and management at the Espanola and Area Family Health Team would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas & a happy and safe New Year

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Although the Mall itself is closed on Boxing Day, you can still shop at FreshCo 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mark's 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please use their outside entrances.

On New Year's Eve, the mall is open from 9 to 5 p.m. and closed on New Year's Day.

Have a safe and happy holiday from your friends at the Espanola Mall.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for shopping at the Espanola Mall and hope to see you all in 2015.

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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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FOR RENT – 2 bedroom apartment downtown Espanola \$700.00 /month plus hydro. Available January 15. Call 705-869-0645. 12/30

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THANK YOU

Thank You

How do I even begin to thank so many wonderful people for their immense kindness during my illness. I thank you for visits, phone calls, meals, food, flowers, books, cards, candles lit, masses said and many prayers. I thank my P.S.W.s, and my nurses for their dedication. I appreciate all the help and encouragement given to me during this time. I want to thank my coffee friends, my friends from St Jude, my extended family, my immediate family, especially my children and eldest granddaughter who gave up so much of their time for me, and especially Valerie & Rick. What would I have done without all of them.

*Thank you, God bless
Love Lillianne*

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The Espanola Lions would like to thank the following groups and individuals for their amazing support for our Lions Christmas Toy Drive, and Christmas Party.

Dorothy Gillis
Verna Eadie
Sue McCombs
Sheila Pope
Sharon Petrus
Judy Pogue
Rachelle Penney
Carol Pickard
Barb Reynolds
Doug Reynolds
Nicki Bouchard
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Service Ontario
Sacred Heart School
Espanola Rivermen
Espanola Chiropractic
Rec. Complex Employees
Toronto Dominion Bank
The Pinewood Motor Inn
Around and About

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of all these events!

Recipe

Green bean casserole is a traditional recipe that I make every Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's simple to make and adds a creamy vegetable dish to the meal. I have used frozen, frenched green beans over the years that just need to be thawed and added, but I think I may try using fresh beans this year by simply parboiling them for 20 minutes before adding them to the casserole. Most green bean casserole recipes call for French's fried onions on the top which I'm sure is delicious but I have always used toasted almonds. I have included both in the recipe so use whichever you'd prefer. They both add a nice flavour and crunch to the dish. I will take this moment to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and happiness and good health in the New Year!



Green Bean Casserole

- 1 can mushroom soup
- ½ cup milk
- 1 tsp soya sauce
- Sprinkle of pepper
- 4 cups cooked green beans
- 1 1/4 cup sliced toasted almonds OR 1 1/3 cup French's fried onions

Mix soup, milk, pepper, beans and ¼ cup toasted almonds OR 2/3 cups fried onions. Put into a buttered casserole dish. If using almonds sprinkle remaining almonds on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes. If using fried onions, remove from the oven after the 25 minutes and sprinkle with the remaining onions. Bake 5 minutes more.

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Photo: Santa made a surprise visit to the Espanola Seniors' Drop-In Centre, handing out presents to students of école St. Joseph. The choir performed Christmas classics before the annual seniors' Christmas supper on December 15.

COMMUNITY NOTES

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. and Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

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.**

Fax: 705-869-3342 or E-mail: around@aroundandabout.ca

Sacred Heart Royal Reporters On The Beat



By Hannah Anderson & Randy Kneer - At Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School, Mr. Clarke's grade 6/7 class has been making a monthly school newspaper called the Royal Report. The newspaper is made by the 6/7s and is organized by Mrs. Bourcier. All of the information is gathered by the students with very little help by the teachers. The students write about the popular things around the school, school wide surveys, comics, fundraising, and much more.

We have a history team that writes about the past of the school, like how they found out the school burnt

down in 1945 and, also has a book of archives of the school. Adrian Morgan tried to look up the school on Google, there was no information on the school so she went to our local library. We have a survey team that does things like monthly top 10's. We do comic strips like Hannah's comic "The Adventures of Boltcat", and Randy's, "Billy The Brickhead". We have been fundraising for our own Blake Crawford, 'Team Blake'. We also do product reviews and interviews of staff and students around the school. Our newspaper has two published editions, and the students and staff love them.



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Continued from front page...

Espanola Fire Department Unveils New Rescue Van



sitting in the back. It is more comfortable and safer. The new van's cost was around \$140,000. It was ordered through Northern Ford, who helped with a donation and some of the shipping of the chassis, which had to be sent out west for customization. The

Anishinabe Spiritual Centre also donated towards the cost of the van, and Giant Tiger Espanola issued a check for \$1000 to help as well. Chief Pichor says any and all business or individual donations are welcome. Pichor can be reached at 705-869-3888.

Giving Back For Cardiac



By Chloe Kneer - Being a good corporate citizen means giving back to the communities where you do business. To that end, Vista Broadcasting, owner of Moose FM 99.3, Espanola, set a goal of raising \$1,000,000 or more combined in all of the radio markets they serve. Rosalind Russell, morning show host on the Moose, hosted a Radiothon December 12 to help raise money to fund new cardiac equipment at the Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre. She was on the air for nearly 12 hours straight, calling on the public to donate. During the



Radiothon, the community came together, with pledge challenges, students performing on-air, and business donations. In the end, over \$2200 was raised in one day to benefit the ERHHC. Vista operates thirty-eight radio stations across three provinces. With all fundraising efforts focused on the week ending December 12, each Vista radio station selected its own local charity to support. From food banks to churches to hospital foundations to soup kitchens, all Vista radio stations and all three hundred radio staff participated. A big congratulations to the Moose and the Hospital Foundation.

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



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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