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Just Shy Of The Goal:
*Jolene Gets Much Needed Van,
 Still Short \$4200.*



Photo: Jolene and her new accessible van.

By *Chloe Kneer* - The Courtemanche family has pretty well always done it on their own, so at first it was difficult for Sandra Courtemanche to accept the kindness and generosity of strangers. "We adopted Jolene knowing that she had major health concerns," she says. "And then when Dan and I had our own struggles, well, we just did what we had to do. It was difficult and complicated getting government assistance, and in many cases we didn't seem to qualify for a lot." When their accessible van started giving them more problems than it was worth to fix, Jolene had a brainwave. She wanted to do something to help her parents who had given her so much over the years, so she set about fund-raising for a brand new accessible van. The van is a necessity for the family, as Jolene is wheelchair-bound and requires medical attention, often having to travel great distances from home. She enlisted the help of gofundme.com.

Continued on page four...

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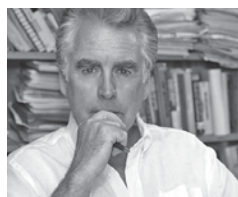
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All The World's A Circus

William Thomas

williamjthomas@gmail.com

Alzheimer's - Where There's Hope, There's Always Humour

Writing in the Toronto Star, columnist Judith Timson recalls the story of a friend taking his 93-year-old mother to buy shoes. The elderly lady used to be quite stylish. But now, the son knew the best thing for Mom was a pair of simple, lace-up walking shoes. However his mother insisted on high heels. Cajoled into trying on the walking shoes, she looked down at her feet and declared that she liked the right one, but wasn't so keen on the left one. The man sat there stymied and then remembered Mom always loved a bargain. So he told her that they were having a sale and if she bought the right one she could get the left one free. She was delighted. The deal was done. Humour 1/Alzheimer's 0. Alzheimer's might be the most horrible disease of our time in that the loss of mental faculties does not go lock and step with physical deterioration. You could walk around in this insidious fog for a very, very long time.

The three things that can make looking after an Alzheimer's patient bearable are the dedication of the caregivers, the timeless attention and patience of the nursing staff and ... humour.

The need for levity and the serenity it brings, however brief and fleeting is about to get a whole lot greater. An impending 'dementia epidemic' will see 1.4 million Canadians with Alzheimer's by the year 2031 and 13 million Americans will succumb by 2050. Currently 750,000 Canadians and 5.2 million Americans suffer from the disease and I truly believe it's humour that gives their family and caregivers the strength to carry on.

When Harold, a gracious man, a retired school principal and a member of my family by marriage came down with dementia in his early 90's, he was inconsolable. He

had always been busy in retirement, sitting on committees and volunteering for good causes. He needed desperately to get back to his work. The problem was meetings - board meetings, parent/teacher meetings, Rotary Club meetings, meetings, meetings. A hectic schedule indeed despite the fact that he had been bedridden for a year and never left his hospital room.

My sister and her husband tried everything to convince him that all those meetings were in the past and he need not be concerned about them anymore. This would only cause him to look at his watch and struggle to get out of bed, late once again for a meeting.

Then the Alzheimer's consultant came up with a brilliant idea - a signing ceremony in which Harold, with great reluctance ... and, after several meetings ... initialled official resignation documents from every committee and organization he had ever belonged to. Presto! The weight was lifted. Harold relaxed and slept better after that.

Somewhere between the tears and laughter, calmness and normalcy can visit the lives of patients of dementia and their loved ones, albeit temporarily.

At Northland Manor where my mother Margaret spent the last two years of her life, humour came often and in very different ways.

Whenever I'd visited I'd usually spot a sweet, elderly lady I had known for years. As a shopkeeper she had been polite and talkative but never profane. And yet there in the corner of the common room she would sit, singing some of the dirtiest sailor ditties I have ever heard. The other residents would be engulfed in finger pointing and embarrassed laughter. In this case, a short memory was a blessing.

Continued on page three...

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Monday, Dec 22nd 9am - 9pm

Tuesday, Dec 23rd 9am - 9pm

Wednesday, Dec 24th 9am - 5pm

ALTHOUGH MALL IS CLOSED CHRISTMAS &
BOXING DAY, FRESHCO, JEAN COUNTRY AND
MARKS WILL BE OPEN ON BOXING DAY

Please use their outside entrances.



Continued from page two...

One day a young staffer began examining her to see if she was wet. The woman stopped her cold and said: "Honey, you want to see that sort of stuff go work in one of them strip clubs. You'll make more money there too!"

One of the staff told me the story of a man who slipped into early dementia after a career as a plant manager and later a tour guide of those facilities in his final years of employment. At Northland Manor, he made the transition from work to retirement seamlessly. It took him only a few days to get the lay of the land and almost immediately became the self-appointed guide of the manor.

"Good afternoon," he would say to visitors as they entered the building. "Now this is the reception area and over there is the games room and through here we get to the park outside."

Once on a flight back from London, England I sat beside a woman, a little older than me. She sat in the window seat reading a book for almost the entire flight. In the aisle seat, I did the same. Somewhere over Ottawa we got to talking about our trips. I had spent five days in the basement of the London Zoo researching a book. She had flown to London to visit her mother who was suffering from Alzheimer's. This woman had not seen her mother in seven years and her siblings

in England had warned her to expect the worst.

The day after she arrived in London she made her way to the nursing home which was in Chelsea, adjacent to the Royal Hospital which Christopher Wren had designed. The woman at the reception directed her to the floor where her mother resided and she was instantly impressed by the brightness of the common room, the airy mood, the nurses making their rounds.

She immediately spotted her mother in a sofa chair in the corner. She looked great, she was smiling the woman told me. She took a deep breath and marched right up to her mother, sitting down on the edge of the sofa.

"Do you know who I am?" she asked and then got very close to her mother's face so there could be no mistake.

When her mother looked blankly at her, she repeated the question only louder: "Do you know who I am?"

Gradually, her mother got this look of satisfaction on her face, leaned forward and whispered: "No I don't, dear. But if you ask that nice lady in the white uniform over there - she might be able to help you out."

For comments, ideas and copies of Margaret And Me, go to www.williamthomas.ca

Giant Tiger And TD Bank Celebrate A Decade Of Partnership For Area Kids



TD Bank "elves" Debbie Marcoux and Karen Thibodeau with Giant Tiger's Jeanno Lalonde. Marcoux and Thibodeau were tasked with spending the \$1000 donation from Giant Tiger in support of the Lions Club Toy Drive. For ten years, the bank and store have worked together to make Christmas brighter for area kids. Lions Club members will pick up the toys the ladies purchase, along with the donated items at the TD Toy Bank on Wednesday, December 10. They will then be wrapped and distributed to needy children just in time for Christmas.



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A.B. Ellis Public School Students Perform "The Problem with Pirates"



On Thursday, November 20 and Friday, November 21, a group of junior students from A.B. Ellis Public School presented a musical play titled "The Problem with Pirates" to the general public and to students and staff from Espanola schools. The play was written and directed by Grade 4 teacher Jason Morrow, a member of the Espanola Little Theatre Guild. The play encompassed everything from rousing music to treasure maps, to seasickness. "Our staff, students, and community members thoroughly enjoyed this remarkable production," said Principal Lynn MacDonell. "We would like to commend the children who practised for over a month to bring this play to life." She added, "Mr. Morrow deserves a special thank you for inspiring the next generation of young performers."

Continued from front page...

Just Shy Of The Goal

a website which facilitates the fund-raising process. Donors can make a contribution with a Visa card. The credit card company and site each take a small percentage of the donations for administrative fees but the rest of the funds are disbursed according to the recipient's wishes. Within a few weeks, several thousand dollars had been raised. The community also got involved in Jolene's mission, with bingos, a benefit concert, bake sales, dances, an ongoing bottle drive, and more.

Through all of this effort, Jolene and her family are proud and thankful to unveil their new

accessible van, which they took delivery of about a week and a half ago. The vanity plate "JOTANKSU" will be a consistent reminder to everyone of how grateful they are for the hard work and generosity of, literally, hundreds of people. The total cost of the van and conversion was approximately \$53,000.

Though the Courtemanches have been making good use of the new van, Jolene is about \$4200 shy of her goal. She plans to continue fund-raising until the van is completely paid for. Her site is still active at www.gofundme.com/help-jolene or donations can be made directly to the family at 259 Algoma Street, Espanola, P5E 1H7.

Cut for a Cause

By Aubrey Fowler, E.H.S. Special Correspondent

On Friday November 28, Sacred Heart Catholic School teacher Jodi Bourcier got her hair cut for charity. Mrs. Bourcier volunteered to have students cut her hair for monetary donations to Team Blake. Blake Crawford is a Sacred Heart student who is battling leukemia. Students and staff have held numerous bake sales to help the Bond-Crawford family with medical and travel expenses

to help little Blake get well. Students bought tickets and if their names were drawn, they got to help cut Mrs. Bourcier's long hair. In total, \$89.15 was raised. There was a lot of excitement in the gym from all the students and teachers and Blake's sister Haileigh, along with Iris Kozachanko, were responsible for the trim. Blake himself came to the event and the excitement increased dramatically. The positive energy for Blake was amazing.



Photo: Sacred Heart School's principal Syndy Withers helps Haileigh Bond.



Photo: Jodi Bourcier, Haileigh Bond, Iris Kozachanko, and Blake Crawford with Mrs. Bourcier's new 'do.

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New Espanola Town Council Takes Office



Area municipalities swore in their new councils last week and Espanola was no exception. Stewart Meikleham (front left) was the only incumbent re-elected. Left to right after Meikleham are Ken Duplessis, Bill Foster, Ron Piche, Robert Yocum, Ray Dufour, and Ron Duplessis. The first regular meeting of Espanola council will be Tuesday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Espanola's Annual Santa Claus Parade



Santa arrived in Espanola on Saturday, November 29 with the annual Santa Claus Parade. Area businesses and organizations once again took the time to create beautiful floats to make the night special. And the results are in... the 2014 parade winners are: Best Community Spirit - Espanola Community Living; Judges' Choice - Yaw Family Farm; Best Commercial - Domtar.

Recipe

Buttery, almond and vanilla shortbread cookies filled with raspberry jam and drizzled with glaze. A pretty and delicious addition to your Christmas cookie tray. This cookie dough requires chilling time and the cookies must cool before glazing so plan ahead when making these. You can substitute the raspberry jam with any other flavour of jam that you prefer but I love the combination of almond and raspberry.



Raspberry Almond Thumbprint Cookies

Yield: about 2 dozen cookies

Cookies

- 1 cup (230g) unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
- 2/3 cup (134g) granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 2 cups + 2 Tbsp (264g) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup (160g) raspberry jam

Glaze

- 1 cup (120g) confectioners' sugar
- 1 tablespoon (15g) cream or milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla or almond extract (optional)



Make the cookies: Using a mixer with a paddle attachment beat the butter on high speed until creamy, about 1 minute. Switch mixer to medium speed and add the sugar, vanilla, and almond extracts. Turn the mixer off and pour the flour into the wet ingredients. Turn the mixer on low and slowly beat until a very soft dough is formed. Cover with plastic wrap to chill until firm. Preheat oven to 350F degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats (silicone mats preferred to reduce spreading). Shape the cookie dough into balls. Approximately 1 tablespoon of dough per ball. Make sure they're nice and smooth. If you find that the balls of dough are sticky and/or have gotten a little soft after rolling- place the balls of dough back into the refrigerator to firm up. You don't want soft dough. Make an indentation with your thumb into each ball. Fill each with a 1/2 teaspoon of jam. (Or however much it can hold.) Bake for 14-15 minutes, or until very lightly browned on the edges. The cookies will puff up and spread slightly. Do not overbake. Allow the cookies to cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack. Allow to cool for at least 30 minutes before glazing. Make the glaze: stir together glaze ingredients until smooth. Add more liquid to thin out or add more confectioners' sugar to thicken to your desired consistency. Drizzle over cooled cookies. Glaze will set within a couple of hours.



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LOST – Man's watch, between the Espanola Mall & Tim Hortons. No value, Sentimental only. Call 705-862-2998. 12/09

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



CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW

CHRISTMAS ART SHOW AND SALE - Meet Debra Lynn Ireland wildlife artist (Facebook) – Saturday, December 13, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Beaver Lake Sports and Cultural Club, 45 Club Rd, Worthington. Free admission. 705-690-8592. www.debralynnireland.com

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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THANK YOU

Thank You

The Courtemanche family extends a heartfelt thank you to all the businesses, organizations, and individuals who generously donated and helped fund-raise for our new conversion van.

We are forever grateful.

Sincerely, **Jolene, Sandra, and Dan**



Thank You



We would like to thank family, friends and co-workers for their heartfelt support during the recent loss of our dear Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Sister, Lizette Gagne. Your Support was very comforting

during this difficult time.

Thank you to the Legion's "Ladies Auxiliary" for donating the lunch and showing such compassion. To all the nurses "Angels" on the fourth floor at Health Sciences North for their kind and caring hearts. To Jamie and Andrew Bourcier and Father Jill for their support and professionalism.

Lizette will be missed but never forgotten.

The Gagne Family

OBITUARY



ZANGARI – Robert of Nairn Centre passed away at the Espanola General Hospital on Sunday, November 30th, 2014 in his 79th year. Beloved husband of Noella (nee Gilbeau) Zangari of Nairn Centre. Dear son of the late Nick & Anna (nee Allo) Zangari. Loving father of David (wife Michelle) of Nairn Centre, Tina Arseneault (Zangari) of Hamilton, Donald Zangari of Pickering & Angela Sims (Zangari) (husband Mark) of Peterborough & Sherri Zangari of Sault Ste. Marie. Robert will be sadly missed by his grandchildren, Jason, Nickolas, Sasha, Michael, William, Shonah,

Justin, Kyrah & Tyler & great-grandchildren, Ruelle, Joshua, Mia & Garen. Very dear brother of Gerry Zangari (wife Heather) of Sudbury, Shirley Beer (Zangari) (husband Robert) of Keswick & the late Benny Zangari. Cremation has taken place. Burial of ashes in the Espanola Cemetery at a later date. Arrangements by Bourcier Funeral Home Ltd., Espanola.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Next Community Luncheon - December 9 at the Lighthouse in Espanola (across from the Royal Bank) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. NO CHARGE. Everyone Welcome.

Espanola High School Christmas Concert - December 11 in the Espanola High School B1 Gym. Silver donation going to the Joan Mantle Music Trust Fund. Bake sale at intermission.

Sables-Spanish 4-H Club Awards Night - Thursday, December 11, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at S. Geiger Public School, Massey. Members completed projects on dog obedience, dairy farming, cooking healthy meals, winter sports, outdoor survival, and more. Members will present a short musical during the awards program. Everyone is welcome. Donations to the local food bank will be collected.

Massey Agricultural Society Annual Meeting – December 11, 7:00 p.m. at the Massey Resource Center.

Food Drive - Manitoulin Sudbury District Social Services EMS is hosting a food drive at Freshco on December 12 from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Spaghetti Supper – Fundraiser for Free the Children at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Espanola. Hosted by students and staff from École secondaire catholique Franco-Ouest, Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 p.m. For tickets, call 705-862-7437.

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.

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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