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February 18, 2014 Issue 7 - Volume 18

Financial Relief Coming to Espanola?

*One year after the Domtar
Assessment Review Board
decision, the town may be seeing
light at the end of the tunnel.*

By Chloe Kneer - Espanola Mayor Mike Lehoux was all smiles as he introduced the final motion for council's vote at last week's regular meeting. "This is finally a good news motion," he quipped. Council then voted in favour of accepting a transfer payment from the government. It was a perfunctory vote that the Ministry of Finance suggested be brought forward, leading to speculation that the province will provide the town with a grant to help offset the debt owed to Espanola's Domtar mill after the Assessment Review Board significantly lowered the mill's property assessment a year ago. There was no open discussion of the possible amount of the grant, however, a delegation from the town will be in Toronto next week for meetings with ministry officials. Espanola and six other communities have formed a coalition, as all are faced with the same type of repayment. Thus far, Dryden has been promised provincial money in the form of a one-time grant to help with their burden. Going a step further, Dryden has also commissioned an external service review and is currently working to

Continued on page four...

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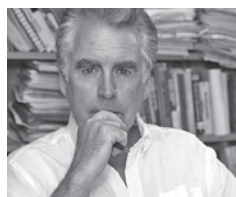
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All The World's A Circus

William Thomas

williamjthomas@gmail.com

Canada Customs - The Front Line Of Funny

They're getting tricky at the border these days, asking odd questions way beyond citizenship, destination and purpose of your trip. Headed for the racetrack at Saratoga Springs, New York this past summer, I entered the United States with my buddy Dan. After the usual flash photo and passport exchange, the female customs officer said to me: "How do you know him?"

"Well," I said, first looking at Dan and then the officer and laughing nervously, "it's kinda complicated."

Wrong answer. Now the woman with raised eyebrows and the holstered gun is looking at me like she's expecting an answer that involves either a gay marriage or a very strange adoption arrangement.

"Well, a long time ago I was married to his sister but I'm not now but he still thinks he's my brother-in-law so once and awhile I take him on a road trip just to keep him happy." That broke her up. She was still laughing when she handed me back the passports and added: "Probably been easier to stay married."

And off we went to the races. That's how it's supposed to work. They ask questions, you give good answers and lickety-split, you're through. According to Bob, a retired customs officer and the source for the following border exchanges, it doesn't always go smoothly. Some of these answers and questions came from people entering Canada for the first time and others from Canadians returning home. (Bob has already denied knowing me.)

Officer: "Where do you live?"

Young tongue-thickened man: "Fishhook."

Officer: "Fishhook?"

Kid: "Yeah, Fishhook. It's at the end of the line, stupid."

Officer: "Okay, pull over. Secondary inspection."

The childishness of today's kids is appalling, obviously unable to handle their alcohol. Why, when we were coming back from over the river, ripped and underage, our standard response was Balls Falls. (This actually exists in Niagara!) Balls Falls? Yeah, it's near Pecker's Point. Okay, pull over. And back then, they would also call your parents.

A young man once explained to Bob why the floor of his car was covered with marijuana seeds: "I had the window down and they blew in from the expressway."

On another occasion Bob's female colleague found several hunks of hash in the underwear of a woman returning to Canada. Explanation: "I don't know how they got there. These aren't even my underwear!"

And no, that man and that woman were not travelling together.

Sometimes Americans entering Canada are confused about the questions. Officer to an American who said he was coming over to his cottage in Canada: "What's the length of your stay in Canada?"

American: "Not too big. Maybe thirty feet by forty."

All officers ask the standard question: "And the purpose of your visit to Canada is pleasure?"

Man, immediately and straight-faced: "Oh, no. I'm on my way to visit my mother-in-law."

Continued on page three...

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Continued from page two...

Sometimes it's a bit of an accent that causes the problem.

Inspector: "What are you bringing into Canada?"

Driver: "Some poo."

Inspector: "Some poo?"

Driver: "Yes, some poo."

Inspector: "And that's for fertilizer."

Driver: "No it's for washing hair."

Woman: "Excuse me, are you a Canadian?"

Officer: "Yes."

Woman: "No, I mean a Royal Canadian."

A good rule of thumb is that customs officers are normally sitting down and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are usually on horseback.

Customs officials also get a lot of questions over the phone. Believe it or not, the most common is: "What is the most satisfactory method of smuggling goods across the border?" Hey, you might as well give it a shot!

Question: "How fast do your speed cops go? In Celsius?"

Answer: "If they're using wind-powered anti-radar detectors, they can do 200 clicks an hour."

Question: "If I bring my dog into Canada, do I need a birth certificate for him?"

Answer: "Heck no. A driver's licence and two pieces of photo I.D. are fine."

Question: "When may I be sure the customs officials are not on duty at the border?"

Answer: "July 1, Canada Day. We close the whole damn country down."

Do customs authorities meet some strange characters in their line of duty? Well, that depends on your definition of strange. In his 30 years of service, Bob has stopped and questioned: King Edward VI driving up in the middle of the afternoon and buck-naked; a 200-pound, four-foot-tall go go dancer named Twiggy; a guy with a carload of snakes on the loose, that he assured Bob, were non-venomous (Bob took his word for it); Saint Peter on a freezing night in January wearing only a robe and carrying a bedroll. (They turned him back when they found a loaded .45 in the bedroll.)

A long time ago they had a woman show up at a Niagara Falls bridge claiming Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was the Agent of Satan and she was going to Ottawa to do God's work. Back then she was a nutcase. Today she'd be a visionary.

So the next time you pull up to the customs booth at any border, remember, the officer has probably had a very long day. Be nice, be clear and you'll be gone.

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

Local Schools Hit the Slopes



Area schools are participating in ski days at Boogie Mountain Ski Hill in Espanola through the month of February. Students get to ski at a discounted rate. Above are grade 7 and 8 students from Webbwood Public School who will also partake in snowshoeing and orienteering this winter, thanks to the La Cloche Mountain Institute, which is sponsoring their activities.

David Wolff, president of the institute, says, "In addition, students will be learning about emergency shelter building, fire building and basic first aid

focusing on winter injuries."

The La Cloche Mountain Institute has been fund-raising by hosting movie nights at Webbwood Public School once a month. March 8 will be a double feature of the Hunger Games. Admission is free, but donations are accepted and popcorn and drinks will be sold.

For movie show times and more information about the La Cloche Mountain Institute, visit their website at www.lacloche-institute.ca or their Facebook page at facebook.com/laclochmountaininstitute.

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News From The Park



**Michael Mantha MPP/député
Algoma-Manitoulin**

This week Ontario's Ombudsman André Marin announced he will conduct a "systemic investigation into complaints about serious problems with billing and customer service at Hydro One". His office has stated that the investigation will focus on the "transparency of the utility's billing practices and the timeliness and effectiveness of its process for responding to customer concerns".

This nine-month probe will focus specifically on whether Hydro One's customer billing practices are transparent as well as whether their process for responding to customer billing complaints is adequate and effective.

My constituency office in Elliot Lake has received an abundance of emails and calls from constituents who are not only outraged but put in financial hardship due to their soaring hydro bills and lack of customer service to deal with their matters. This has been an ongoing concern we have raised with Hydro One and the government. Complaints to the Ombudsman's office have risen quickly over the last year. As of last Tuesday they have received over 1500 new complaints; now totaling over 2100 since the probe was announced.

Our constituency office is working with many of you on this issue however we encourage you to also direct your complaints to Ontario's Ombudsman. Complaints can be filed anytime via the complaint form at www.ombudsman.on.ca and the email address info@ombudsman.on.ca – or during office hours by calling

1-800-263-1830.

This past Friday I had the opportunity along with several federal NDP MP's to travel to the Ring of Fire and meet with First Nations and Miners to discuss the future of the Ring of Fire.

As the NDP's Northern Development and Mines Critic I have been critical of the Liberal government's mismanagement of this file. Last Thursday we sat down with Mattawa Tribal Council and the Ring of Fire Secretariat in Thunder Bay to discuss the current obstacles facing the development of a plan for the Ring of Fire.

The estimated \$50-billion deposits in chromium (stainless steel products) and other minerals were hailed as once in a life time opportunity. Cliffs Resources, the Cleveland-based mining company, spoke optimistically of a 2017 start, as well as promised thousands of jobs and a smelter near Sudbury. Cliffs recently halted all activity citing lack of leadership from the government and failure to create a development plan for the companies and First Nations to work together. Other Ontario companies like KWG and Noront are still currently operating in the region.

Our concerns are not exclusive to the Ring of Fire. Currently there are several mining companies operating within Algoma-Manitoulin. Many local economies in the area are dependent on natural resource extraction to sustain their communities. We also cannot overlook the importance of sound environmental assessments in all current and future explorations, and ensure our environment and wildlife is protected.

My colleagues and I have been repeatedly calling out the Liberal government for misleading the people of Ontario with the promise of fictitious jobs and failure to create a real plan for the Ring of Fire; a development plan that benefits Northern communities, First Nations and Ontarians.

As always, please feel free to contact my office about this issue, or any other provincial matters. You can reach my constituency office by email at mmantha-co@ndp.on.ca or by phone at 705-461-9710/1-800-831-1899.

Espanola & Area Family Health Team

Menopause Evening

Join us Feb 27th 6:30pm-8:30pm for a presentation on menopause by one of our Nurse Practitioners. Get the answers to those hot questions you have been burning to ask. Call 862-7991 to register.

705-862-7991



Continued from front page...

streamline town services to get its entire financial picture in order. Espanola town council, despite promising and budgeting for an external service review, defeated the motion when it came up for a vote, citing that the actual cost of the review would have been approximately \$20,000 over the budgeted figure. Mayor and council deemed it "too expensive" to move forward. In an interesting turn of events at the February 11 meeting, however, a water meter engineering study, initially budgeted at \$20,000,

but actually costing \$43,000, will go forward.

Further to the Domtar repayment, the Ministry of Finance has also legislated that when a large industrial class operation has been reassessed and the new assessment comes in "significantly" lower, a town may then increase its large industrial tax ratio in order to mitigate the tax revenue. Council has passed a motion to pursue this measure in recovering tax revenues from Domtar. The action will result in approximately \$1.2 million being collected from the mill this year.

In The Loop

The Recreation and Cultural Budgets were presented to council during this session. The budgeted recreation expenditure for 2014 is \$1,951,076. Revenues are expected to come in around \$424,900. This means the operating cost to taxpayers will be \$1,526,175 - a reduction of \$171,000 from last year.

Staffing is set at 9 full time, 2 part time and 16 seasonal/casual employees. There will be upgrades to the exhaust fan, fire alarm panel, sprinkler system and overhead heating for spectators. The LED lighting project, roof repairs to the lobby area and pool re-grouting are also included in the budget. A new Zamboni will be ordered. No grants are available for this purchase.

Finally, the 2013 Summer Program saw a total of 16 children registered. There will be no changes to this program for 2014, however staff are working with service providers to get more one week camp-style sessions.

During the Regular Meeting it was noted that the present water rate structure is decades old and commercial charges do not reflect consumption. Council resolved to enter into an agreement with engineering firm EXP to review the municipality's existing water and sewer rate structure; to propose a new rate structure; to include the cost of a water metering program; cost of this study will be \$43,600. The Large Industrial tax rate will see a significant increase. This additional revenue can be used to help repay the amount owing to Domtar and ease some of the burden from the rest of the municipality. Mayor Lehoux stated that during the second meeting in March, Council will announce the decision of the Assessment Review Board. We are hopeful this will be welcome news for the taxpayers and that a grant may be in the works to pay off the remainder of our debt. Keep your fingers crossed!

**Richard Ellis, executive member
Espanola Citizen Group**

The information provided in the Espanola Citizens Group are the written expressed opinions, views and facts collected by the ECG. Around & About does not agree or disagree with the information provided by the ECG.

Help Wanted: Boogie Rush Volunteers

Boogie Rush Mud Run is looking for volunteers to help with the inaugural event being held at Boogie Mountain Ski Hill May 31. For the uninitiated, Boogie Rush is a 5k mud run/obstacle course fundraiser for the Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run which supports Special Olympics.

Coordinator Renee Lalonde says, "We are especially looking for people with their smart serve,

and we need volunteers for every obstacle. We will also be signing off on students needing volunteer hours."

The Boogie Rush committee is holding a meeting tomorrow night, Wednesday, February 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Boogie Mountain Ski Hill. If you can't make the meeting, but want more information on volunteering, join the Boogie Rush Facebook page.

Espanola Hosts Hockey Tournament As Part of Winter Carnival Weekend



Espanola Eagles Novice Blue team won in A Division at the Espanola Minor Hockey Tournament. Congratulations to all players on a great weekend of hockey during the Espanola Winter Carnival.



Massey Predators Atoms attended the Espanola Minor Hockey tournament during Espanola's Winter Carnival February 6-9. The team had an awesome weekend of hockey. Predators had an impressive winning streak going into the tournament with 23 wins and no losses. Massey Atoms won all 4 games, 2 of the 4 were shutouts. Atoms outscored their opponents 19-3.

Late last year, the team attended the Steelblades tournament in Sault Ste. Marie and competed in the Atoms MAJOR division. The team played great and ended up with a perfect record 5-0. The team also recorded 2 shutouts. Predators outscored their opponents 39-7.

Team members for the 2013-2014 Massey Predators Atoms: Joshua Camillo, Jake Toulouse, Dylan Herbert, Kyara Vuorensyrja, Mason Southwind, Drake Stonefish, Kiana Corbiere, Jacinta Eshkakogan, Tyler Seelen, Jayden Ritchie, Draven Abitong, Zander Toulouse. Coaching Staff Sean Camillo, Kim Herbert, Victor Vuorensyrja. (photo supplied)

Espanola Police Report

BY-LAW - SNOW REMOVAL - With the heavy accumulation of snow thus far this winter, the Espanola Police Service has been receiving a number of complaints in relation to the way in which citizens are removing snow from their private property. The Police would like to remind the public that Espanola Traffic By-Law 2030/07, section 32(5), prohibits people from: Obstructing, encumbering, injuring or fouling any highway, street, roadway, laneway or bridge within the Town of Espanola, or causing any such highway to be obstructed, encumbered, injured or fouled, by throwing or depositing or causing to be thrown or deposited thereon any snow or ice.

This section applies to pushing or depositing snow or ice onto municipally owned property, and carries a monetary fine of \$115.00.

Further, section 181 of the Highway Traffic Act of Ontario also makes it a Provincial offence to deposit snow or ice onto a roadway, and carries a monetary fine of \$110.00.

Please be courteous to others, and deposit your snow onto your own property.

Anyone with information on any of these crimes call Espanola Police Service at (705) 869-3251 or remain anonymous by calling Sudbury Rainbow Crime Stoppers locally at (705) 222-TIPS (8477) or toll free at 1-800-461-4899



The Espanola Lions Club would like to thank the Sponsors and Volunteers who made the 2014 Seniors' Appreciation Supper such a huge success.

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Winner of the quilt draw from the Espanola Senior Citizen's Club: Eloise Aho

**This year was our 13th Anniversary!
See you next year!**

Dario Laurenti, Chairman

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- Ensure that program information is available.
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- Identify areas where new programs are needed.
- Supervise and lead activities for various programs.

Education, Knowledge, Abilities and Skills

- Previous experience as a Project Coordinator or related field would be considered an asset.
- Current first aid and CPR certification.
- Ability to safely and effectively supervise staff, volunteers and participants of programs and react to any emergency situation in a competent manner with excellent decision-making abilities and judgement.
- Knowledge of age-appropriate activities and behaviour management strategies.
- Ability to work independently as well as in a team, with a minimum of supervision.
- Proficiency and general knowledge of computer applications.

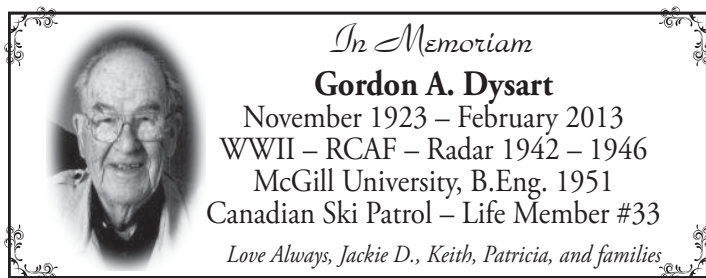
A police background check must also be completed before hiring.

Applications for this position must be received at the Township of Nairn and Hyman municipal office no later than Friday, February 28, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Interested applicants can mail or drop off their resume, with a covering letter to:

Robert Deschene, CAO
Township of Nairn and Hyman
64 McIntyre Street
Nairn Centre, Ontario
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Telephone: 705-869-4232
Email: nairncentre@personainternet.com

IN MEMORIAM



In Memoriam

Gordon A. Dysart

November 1923 – February 2013
WWII – RCAF – Radar 1942 – 1946

McGill University, B.Eng. 1951
Canadian Ski Patrol – Life Member #33

Love Always, Jackie D., Keith, Patricia, and families

Recipe

When I first started making artichoke dip and taking it to parties, everyone would ask for the recipe. The hot cheesy, garlicky dip is hard to resist, so when I saw this recipe, I knew it would also be a hit. It's basically portable artichoke dip on a crusty, yet soft piece of bread that saves you from the tiring process of having to keep dipping.



Cheesy Artichoke Bread

- 1/4 cup butter
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 (14-ounce) can marinated artichoke hearts, drained well and chopped
- 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup (2 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 French bread loaf
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preheat your oven to BROIL. Melt the butter in a skillet over medium-high heat. Add the garlic and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add the artichoke hearts, mozzarella cheese, cheddar cheese, parmesan cheese and sour cream to the skillet and stir to blend. When completely combined remove from the heat. Slice the bread lengthwise. Spoon the artichoke mixture evenly onto the bread. Broil for about 4-7 minutes or until cheese has melted and the bread is hot. Do not walk away. Watch the bread closely or it could burn!

Kids Korner

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- Buttons of all different colors and sizes
- Ribbon or fishing line



Glue three craft sticks together to make the snowflake shape, one on top of the other. If you wish you can decorate the sticks with paint or markers (optional). Arrange the buttons on the snowflake so you get an idea of where you want them to go. Once you have decided, glue them on the snowflake. Use as little or as many as you wish! Remember, each snowflake is unique! To finish, tie a piece of fishing line on the snowflake so you can hang them! These look lovely displayed in a window where they can catch light.



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COMMUNITY NOTES

Meat roll-offs - Royal Canadian Legion, Espanola, Friday nights 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. February 21, 28. In support of junior curling.

Zion Lutheran Church Annual Bean Supper - February 23, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Zion Lutheran Church, Imperial St. South Massey.

Let's Travel - Slide show and travel tips featuring Alaska and Portugal at the Espanola Public Library February 27 at 7:00 p.m.

VON Adult Day Centre - We provide activities, exercise and socializing, every Monday and Wednesday. Please call 705-869-3304 for more information.

Chronic Pain Self-Management Workshop - Free six week workshop for adults of all ages (caregivers welcome) Tuesdays until March 11 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Call Flo to register and for location at 705-865-1209.

Spaghetti Supper - Vegetarian or meat sauces, includes dessert and beverage at the Sadowski Room at the Massey Winter Carnival, Friday February 21 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Catered by St Andrew's United Church.

Fellowship Evening - St. Andrew's United Church in Massey is hosting a presentation by Elly Charette and Rose Buelle of the Espanola Lighthouse, on their mission trip to Africa at 7:00 p.m. on Friday February 21. Coffee and tea provided.

Legion Bursaries - Applications available at the Espanola High School and Legion office for students graduating and continuing their education. To qualify you must be a child, grandchild or "other" relative of an active member of the forces, legion member or ladies auxiliary member. Deadline is April 11 to the legion office or emailed to rcl-39@persona.ca

Toastmasters - Develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth. Mondays 7:00-8:30 p.m. Call Pauline for details 705-869-4016.

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

NOTICE

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THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION SERVICE BUREAU OFFICER



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Anyone wishing information, advice or assistance regarding:

**Veterans Affairs Canada Disability Pensions
Treatment for Entitled Veterans
Application for Poppy/Benevolent Funds
Appeals against unfavourable VAC decisions
Widows**

is requested to contact the Branch Service Officer, or Secretary of the local Branch, whose name appears below to book an appointment.

ROY BEAUDOIN
Branch Service Officer
Telephone# 705-869-3409

L. GAGNE
Branch Secretary
Telephone# 705-869-1711

A free service offered by the Legion

Rivermen Ready For Spring Chores



The Espanola Rivermen are introducing the "Captain's Community Chores Program" to North Shore junior hockey fans and area community members. There is no chore too small or too big. The Rivermen have a posse of 1 or 2 or 20 players that are willing to jump in where needed to do odd jobs for area community members or North Shore junior hockey fans that maybe in need of help in any way.

Team Captain Brad Edwards introduced the team's Community Chores Program by stating, "Espanola & the surrounding area junior fans have come out to support us all season long so we thought with spring coming up, we as players could chip in here and there when needed doing odd jobs that require our assistance for area households."

Rivermen players will be available throughout the spring for community chores and odd jobs. Requests can be made by email on the team website or by calling the team office.

Team Governor Tim Clayden commented on the Captain's

Community Chores Program saying, "We are pretty proud of the group of young men that we have assembled here this season, although we'd like to win a few more games on the ice, winning off the ice is equally important to our entire hockey club. This group is special and their actions in the community all year have been excellent; this program will be no different. As adults, many of the things these lads have learned this season on and off the ice will help guide them in their future endeavours. We encourage the community and our area junior hockey fans to reach out and put these guys to work, they are a lot of fun to be around."

Some chores and odd jobs include: firewood splitting, stacking, and delivery; snow removal and snow shovelling, walkways, driveways and roofs where safe; dog walking; grocery delivery; taxi services; spring clean up; raking of leaves and eaves trough clean up; garage cleaning; dump runs; mowing lawns covering and opening of pools; birthday parties and social gatherings (all ages).

Request your very own Captain's Community Chores on-line at:

www.espanolajuniorhockey.net or call 705-869-1961, ext. 2204.

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Friday, February 21, 7:30 p.m.

Blind River Beavers

Espanola Recreation Complex

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Grade 8 & Under \$5.00 HST included

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www.espanolajuniorhockey.com**

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