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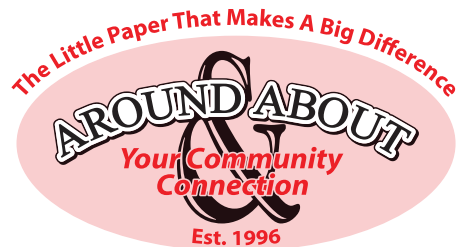
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January 28, 2014 Issue 4 - Volume 18

Go Snowmobiling
Snowarama
for Easter Seals Kids

Sunday, February 16

The Espanola & District Snowmobile Club along with snowmobilers and winter enthusiasts will hit the trails on Sunday, February 16, for the 36th Annual Espanola-North Shore Snowarama for Easter Seals Kids. Taking place on Ontario Federation of Snowmobile clubs (OFSC) groomed trails, this annual event encourages winter sport seekers to raise funds to support children and youth with physical disabilities.

This year's event will begin at Tim Hortons in Espanola for registration, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A ride to the Massey Fire Hall will begin at 10:00 a.m. Photographs will be taken of all participants and coffee and hot chocolate will be served. Riders are invited to have lunch at Tim Hortons in Espanola, partially paid through a \$5 coupon donated to all participants. Following the day's activities, a dinner and awards ceremony will take place at the Espanola Elks beginning at 6:00 p.m. Advance tickets only will be available until February 12, for the turkey and roast beef dinner. Cost is \$15 per person. For pledge forms and dinner tickets, please contact Theresa Land at 705-869-1597 (Espanola) or

Continued on back cover...

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All The World's A Circus

William Thomas

williamjthomas@gmail.com

My Mother's Two-Word Turkey Recipe

It was only after the turkey season was behind us that I remembered my mother's two-word recipe for not cooking this big, dumb bird.

My mother was a woman of very few words, mainly because my sisters never gave her a chance to talk. But when my mother spoke, particularly in a crisis situation, the message was clear and concise while the meaning carried weight well beyond its words.

I will never forget the Thanksgiving Day in Dain City near Welland, Ontario when, for no apparent reason, my father decided he would take an axe and slaughter the turkey himself, as the Pilgrims used to do. Since he was not a history buff, I could only assume the Pilgrims were a Welsh rugby team that killed and cooked their mascot after home games. No fan of B. J. Bird or the San Diego Chicken, I think my father might have been onto something back then.

Like all my father's best ideas, this one was bad, conceived with a bottle of Hudson's Bay Rye Whiskey. Yet somehow this particular brain-fart survived the hangover and managed to surface the next afternoon.

My mother was dead against this plan, but it happened before she could stop it. Given some warning my mother could almost always derail my father's bad ideas by subtly planting other bad ideas in his mind - ones that did not involve an axe.

I was six, standing with my mother and my dog, Penny, on the side porch of

the house on Forkes Road as my father removed this squawking fowl from the trunk of his car and walked past us to a spot behind the garage where he had strategically placed an axe and a chopping block stump topped with kernels of corn. From where we stood, we could not see the sacrifice. For this my mother added: "Thank God!" Then she crossed herself. That's when the seriousness of the situation dawned on me. My mother was no idle genueflector. When my mother crossed herself it was either a respectful salute of gratitude or a sober signal to God that if He wasn't too busy He ought to have a look down here, right now.

Penny was a friendly, midsized, reddish blond mutt, a male with a female name, which is why young boys should never entrust their older sisters to name the family dog.

We stood still, the three of us, listening intently for a very long time. I was holding Penny by the collar; he was agitated and whining. When the turkey let loose a particularly piercing screech, the dog bolted free. I moved to follow him, but my mother's grip was unrelenting on my shoulders.

Growling, Penny ran full-tilt towards the back of the garage and then all at once we heard a thud, a scream, a yelp, and a man yell: "Goddammit!" My mother's hands flinched and tightened around my neck and I had to pull at them in order to breathe. Still she never said a word. We

Continued on page three...

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Continued from page two...

waited, stiffened by tension and silenced by fear.

Suddenly Penny appeared around the far corner of the garage. He fell to his knees, his face and chest soaked with blood.

"Good God, he's killed the dog!" my mother wailed, shoving me into the kitchen through a door that wasn't quite open. That was a mouthful for my mother. By this point both of us believed there were very few irrational acts my father was incapable of committing - but murdering the family pet with an axe broke new ground. I climbed up onto the kitchen sink where I watched the drama unfold through the window.

My father came to the porch proudly holding a headless, limp turkey in his right hand, blood splattered up both sleeves and the front of his white shirt. Never an easy thing to do, my mother ignored my father and walked towards Penny, bloody and hunkered down on the lawn. As she got closer to the dog, he barked and growled, his way of protecting the prize head of a turkey he held between his teeth.

My mother's shoulders fell in relief. Nobody who wasn't supposed to die, did.

"Clean it!" my father said, smiling as he offered her the turkey. Standing there dripping with blood and grinning, he

looked like the world's worst butcher.

My mother walked by my father and the turkey, passing with an icy stare that froze them both in place. She walked slowly up the porch and on the top step she turned and offered up her recipe for fresh-killed turkey.

"Stuff it!" she said. Then she entered the house and locked all the grief and gore outside with a flick of a deadbolt. Ah, yes, brevity, the soul of wit, and nobody comes by it more honestly than the Irish.

I didn't get a beating, which is how I know my father did not hear me laughing on the other side of the door.

He never killed a Thanksgiving turkey again, of course. Like the rest of us, he was dumbfounded that he had managed to do it even once without incurring heavy neighbourhood casualties.

Add to that experience the incident in Carey, North Carolina, a few years ago in which a woman artificially inseminated her sister with a turkey baster and, well, I'm pretty much a glazed-ham guy when it comes to major holiday dinners. Amen.

This is an excerpt from the bestseller Margaret And Me.

For a copy or a comment go to www.williamthomas.ca.

ANNOUNCEMENT

D. PETER BEST LAW OFFICES

Peter Best, Barrister and Solicitor, is pleased to announce that as of January 6, 2014 Amy Best has joined his law practice as an associate.

Amy graduated with Honours from the University of New Brunswick Law School and for the past year has practised law in London, Ontario.

Our Espanola office is presently located at 383 Centre Street.

On March 1st, 2014 our office will be relocated to 121 Barber Street.

Amy and I look forward to being of further service to our valued Espanola and North Shore clients.

383 Centre Street, Unit 2, Espanola P5E 1E4
Telephone: 705-869-0955 Fax: 705-869-4414
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COMMUNITY NOTES

Meat roll-offs - Royal Canadian Legion, Espanola, Friday nights 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. January 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28. In support of junior curling.

Beautiful Ladies Winter Tea - Thursday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m. at Queensway Pentecostal Church. All women are welcome for an evening of fun, food, giving back and celebrating womanhood.

Webbwood Eagles Ladies Auxiliary 4269 - Monthly spaghetti supper, Saturday, February 1 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

OFSC Young Driver Snowmobile Training Course - February 5 & 6 in Espanola, participants must be 12 and up. For more info. call Roxanne at 705-222-3568 or Lisa at 705-865-1441.

Espanola Hospital Auxiliary Snowflake Luncheon - Friday, February 7 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Espanola Recreation Complex.

1st Annual Paul Zahorec Memorial Seniors Supper - February 8, 2014 at the Rec Complex. No charge. Tickets available at the Natural Choice, Seniors Club, any Lions member or call Espanola Chiropractic at 705 869 2737.

Senior Men's and Women's Region 5 Play Downs - Espanola Curling Club January 31, February 1 and 2. Two Espanola men's teams are entered. Contact Jack Tait at the club 705-869-3122 for more info.

Meat Roll Offs - Every Saturday starting at 3:30 p.m. at the Espanola Legion. The month of January is hosted by North Shore Search and Rescue. Everyone is welcome!

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 February 4 - March 11 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Call Flo to register and for location at 705-865-1209.

Massey Winter Carnival Sculpture Contest - February 21, 22 & 23. To register or for more info call Steve at 705-865-1865. Every entry wins a prize

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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FOR RENT – Brand new office space for rent in Espanola. Could easily be converted to another use. Located in the KFC Plaza on Highway 6. Available March 1, 2014. For more information, call 705-869-1742. 02/18

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BINGOS

MASSEY AREA MUSEUM BINGOS – February 3 at the Massey and District Arena. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Bingo starts at 7:00 p.m. \$1525 in cash prizes. 02/11

HELP WANTED

Espanola Golf & Country Club is now accepting resumes for positions in Bar (smart serve preferred), Pro Shop, and Grounds. Also tenders for kitchen lease are being accepted. Mail to: 309 Golf Club Rd., Espanola, ON, P5E 1A3. Closing date March 31, 2014. Successful applicants will be contacted for an interview. 02/11

DANCE

WEBBWOODEAGLES – Valentine's Day Dance - Friday, February 14th, 8:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. Featuring The Back Road Country Band. 50/50 draw and light lunch 11:30 p.m. - midnight. An age of majority only event, \$10.00 per person. Advance tickets available at the club, #3 Centre St., Webbwood. For more info. call 705-869-4269 after 3:00 p.m.

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Applicants are invited to submit a resume of education, employment and other relevant information to the undersigned by Friday, February 14, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

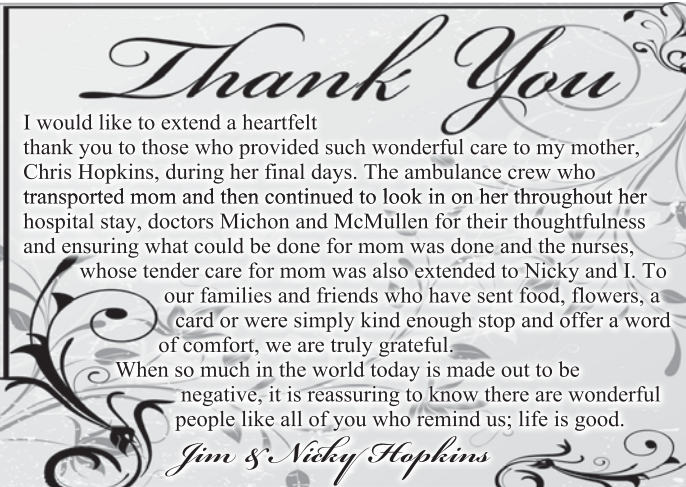
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Thank You

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to those who provided such wonderful care to my mother, Chris Hopkins, during her final days. The ambulance crew who transported mom and then continued to look in on her throughout her hospital stay, doctors Michon and McMullen for their thoughtfulness and ensuring what could be done for mom was done and the nurses, whose tender care for mom was also extended to Nicky and I. To our families and friends who have sent food, flowers, a card or were simply kind enough stop and offer a word of comfort, we are truly grateful.

When so much in the world today is made out to be negative, it is reassuring to know there are wonderful people like all of you who remind us; life is good.

Jim & Nicky Hopkins

Recipe

It's easy to pick up ready-made coleslaw but making your own really is worth it sometimes. Make it for your next gathering or potluck and people will notice.



Homemade Coleslaw

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 green pepper (diced or sliced thin)
- 1 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup vinegar
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 onion (diced or sliced thin)
- 1 small head of Cabbage (shredded)
- 3 Carrots (shredded)

Mix the vinegar, mayonnaise, sugar, salt and pepper in a large mixing bowl. Add all of the remaining ingredients and thoroughly toss until all of the vegetables are evenly coated. Refrigerate for at least two hours and toss before serving. You may have to adjust amounts depending on the size of your cabbage and how saturated you like your coleslaw. Do not use Miracle Whip; it makes the dressing too sweet.

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Continued from front page...

Snowarama For Easter Seals

Lisa Richer at 705-865-1441 (Massey).

All participants are required to have a trail permit and must raise a minimum of \$25 in pledges. The OFSC will host its "Ontario's Family Day Long Weekend - Try Our Trails Permit at No Cost" from February 15 -17, 2014. You can get your "Try Our Trail Permit" online at www.ofsc.on.ca and print a NO COST TRY OUR TRAILS permit. Bring this permit with you as it must be presented at the event and affixed to your sled when you ride.

"We are thrilled to support Easter Seals Ontario in this annual event, which allows us to promote snowmobiling in a safe and environmentally responsible manner, all for a great cause," said Brenda Welsh, OFSC President. "Snowarama has become an indelible fixture across Ontario and we're proud of this established partnership that makes a significant difference in the lives of children and youth with physical disabilities."

Snowarama for Easter Seals Kids has become one of the most successful

winter season fundraisers for Easter Seals Ontario. This year, snowmobilers from 16 communities across Ontario including Espanola-North Shore and Sudbury, will enjoy winter festivities in this daylong, family-friendly event. Funds raised at Snowarama help children with physical disabilities achieve their potential and independence.

It can cost families an additional \$10,000 to \$40,000 a year to raise a child with a physical disability and most families can't do it on their own. For more than 90 years, Easter Seals has played an important role in providing support for children and youth with physical disabilities from all ethnic and religious backgrounds. Thanks to its generous donors, Easter Seals continues to offer programs to allow kids to experience freedom, independence and a sense of accomplishment. Easter Seals helps by providing financial assistance for mobility equipment, communication devices and summer camp opportunities at its two properties, Camp Merrywood and Camp Woodeden.

Espanola Horticultural Society Says: *It's Time To Think Spring*

The Espanola Horticultural Society will be holding a free picture presentation about "perennials that work." Sheila Pope and Grant Lewis will host the event in the basement of the Queensway Pentecostal church on Monday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m. They will cover a number of topics including: blooming times, colour, sunlight requirements, water requirements, texture, and more, of over forty perennials that can be grown in northern gardens. This is a great review for veteran gardeners and a great start

for beginners. Refreshments will be available afterwards and all your questions will be answered. If they don't know the answers, they will find out. This presentation is open to everyone, Horticultural Society members and non-members. So bring a friend or, in fact, the neighbourhood with you. Books and magazines will be available for the taking. The regular meeting will follow if you wish to stay. A great way to get over the winter blues and dream about what is lurking just below the surface.

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