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**Local Volunteers Wanted**



Photo: Habitat For Humanity held a meeting at the Espanola Public Library on January 21.

By *Chloe Kneer* – The local Sudbury chapter of Habitat For Humanity was established in 1995. Since then, the organization has built five homes in the region. Going into its twentieth year, plans are in the final stages for the first Habitat home to be built in Espanola on a donated lot on Adelaide Street. Ellen Froid, CEO of the newly amalgamated Ontario Gateway North Habitat For Humanity says, “Going forward, we hope to begin building one or two homes a year, many of them in smaller communities, like Espanola.” Froid went on to explain all of the benefits of home ownership for underprivileged families, “CMHC (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation) did surveys

Continued on page three...

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# All The World's A Circus

William Thomas

williamjthomas@gmail.com

## Dogs Riding Public Transit ... Alone!

Several months ago Jeff Young and his black lab were waiting at their bus stop in the suburb of Belltown when the bus pulled up. Jeff needed a little more time to finish his smoke. Anxious to roughhouse with her mates, the lab bolted onto the bus and went to the dog park on her own, four stops away. Now months later, Jeff doesn't always feel like making the trek to the park but the dog sure does. Quite often the smiling black lab will just board the bus and get off at the dog park all by herself. When she's finished running around with her playmates, she takes the next available bus home. Not the most responsible dog owner, Jeff Young is also not good at naming pets. Eclipse is the name of the bus-riding, sidewalk-savvy dog. For a freeloading dog who never pays to ride public transit, "Mooch" would have been an excellent name for this mutt. At the very least "Free Dumb Rider."

I'm not the only one who loves the story, but not the idea of a dog free to roam in the city. Said Jeff Switzer, spokesman for the pet-friendly King County Metro Transit: "Eclipse would be a lot safer if she could keep her owner on a leash."

In the video other passengers on the bus are fawning over the dog, petting her and talking to her despite the fact she always jumps into the best seat available, next to the window. On the ride back home Eclipse is usually exhausted and flops her big head onto the closest lap for a bit of a rest before the bus arrives at the stop right in front of her apartment.

Once there, Eclipse removes a key from her collar, opens the front door of the apartment building, collects the mail, uses the intercom to growl at an old lady on the top floor who's afraid of dogs and then takes the elevator to her apartment where she drags her owner off the couch

and jumps up for a nap. Okay, that part I made up but the fact that Eclipse has never missed a stop going to and from the dog park is a pretty impressive record.

Not to eclipse ... sorry, not to one-up Eclipse but years ago I wrote about the English lady who was taking entirely too much time filling a prescription at the Chemist's in Bath. Her border collie (smartest breed known to man) sat impatiently outside the pharmacy until boredom got the best of him and he got up went home.

He correctly boarded the first bus and ingratiated himself to one of the passengers making the bus driver believe the dog belonged to that person. Off he got at the right stop and then he made the correct transfer to a second bus and was sitting on the woman's porch when she finally did get home. The local newspaper interviewed both bus drivers who confirmed the story and the precise trip the border collie had mastered. I tell you honestly and with a great deal of respect - I played hockey with guys would couldn't make that trip!

At first the Seattle passengers on the bus did not believe Eclipse was travelling alone. They kept looking around for the owner. Even when Eclipse jumped up beside Miles Montgomery, host of KISW Radio and he told the story on air, his listeners thought it was a joke.

Should you ever find yourself riding a bus with a strange dog, here are seven sure signs that the dog is indeed travelling alone ...

- Once you get talking to her, she pulls out her wallet and shows you a photo of her owner.
- She gives up her seat to a little old lady but not before she gets a biscuit.
- When the ticket-taker comes down the aisle, she passes him your ticket and he

*Continued on page three...*

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Continued from front page...

## Local Volunteers Wanted

in 2006 and 2013 and what they've found is that children's grades in school go up after moving into their own homes. They participated more in extra-curricular activities, parents volunteered more. Families were happier and healthier."

There are three basic criteria for qualifying to purchase a Habitat home (yes, purchase, the homes are not given to

families): 1) need – health needs, children with special needs, currently living in substandard housing, etc.; 2) ability to pay – income must be verified and deemed to be sustainable for at least the next three years going forward; 3) willingness to partner – families must put in 500 hours of "sweat equity" on the project and will be educated on home ownership and

how it differs from renting, among other things. There is an income threshold when applicants are considered. For example, a single parent with one child cannot earn more than \$26,000/year. A two parent family with four children cannot have more than \$60,000 in annual income.

Habitat For Humanity's goal is to end the cycle of generational poverty by putting families into decent, safe, affordable homes. As Froot puts it, "It is not a hand out, it is a hand up. Unfortunately, though, many times people who would qualify for a home are nervous, or embarrassed, about coming forward to apply because they are afraid of how the community will perceive them. However, if you're a single parent making \$26,000 a year or less, a bank will not lend to you. Since we hold the interest-free mortgages for our clients, we can do things the banks can't."

Speaking of mortgages, an applicant's mortgage payment is determined by how much they earn and will be capped at 25% of their income. Habitat homes are around 1000 square feet and exceed Ontario Building Code regulations

and are Tarion warranted. Froot says that materials are purchased and all labour is volunteer, so a home can be constructed for approximately \$50,000. Lise Rheault, Executive Director of the Sudbury District Chapter says, "There's nothing better than handing over those keys to a family so that they can move into their new home."

The hope is that the Espanola lot can be rezoned to accommodate a duplex. That way, two local families will benefit. Once that detail is squared away and volunteers are secured, breaking ground can begin (anticipated for this spring). Habitat homes are considered "slow builds," meaning they take about six months to complete. The organization has several committees for which residents can volunteer, including fundraising, marketing, Adopt-A-Day, build, and family selection. Students are welcome, but if they would like to be on the build committee, they must be at least 16 years old. If you would like to volunteer for one or more committees, contact Lise Rheault at [info.hfhs@persona.ca](mailto:info.hfhs@persona.ca) or 705-688-8808.

Continued from page two...

## Dogs Riding Public Transit ... Alone!

kicks you off the bus.

- You offer her half your sandwich and she gives you a tennis ball soaked in drool.
- As she gets closer to her stop, she keeps looking at her watch and wagging her tail.
- Approaching her stop and unable to reach the "Stop Bell" she runs to the front of the bus and bites the driver in the bum.
- Late arriving at her destination she shows her displeasure by taking a leak on the front, right tire of the bus.

For a breed of animal that started out as a wolf in the wild and ended up snoring at the end of our beds, the next

logical step for Eclipse is to try and drive the bus which would be totally insane. Okay, she can sit in the bus driver's lap but must keep her paws off the wheel. Okay, she can steer the bus but not work the pedals. Okay, she can work the brake but not the accelerator. And no, she can never drive the bus at night especially if she's had a few beers. That's illegal. The dog rules ... damn near everything.

For comments, ideas and copies of The True Story of Wainfleet, go to [www.williamthomas.ca](http://www.williamthomas.ca)



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## WANTED

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## FOR RENT

**FOR RENT** - 2 bedroom apartment for rent at 196 Barber Street in Espanola, close to uptown. Non- smoking and not pet friendly. Available March 1, \$620 per month plus utilities. References required. 705-865-2413 or 705-662-8203. 2/3

**FOR RENT** - 1 bedroom apartment at 45 Arthur Ct, Espanola. Available February 1, no pets and references required. Call 705-869-5989. 2/10

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**FIREWOOD** - Limited amount of wood for sale. Call Greg at 705-822-4734. 01/27

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**FOR SALE** - 2004 LXI Chrysler Concord. 163,000 km, 3.5 litre V6 engine, one owner, fully loaded, leather interior, clean excellent condition. Call 705-869-2528. 1/27

## BINGOS

**MASSEY AREA MUSEUM BINGOS** - February 2 at the Massey and District Arena. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Bingo starts at 7:00 p.m \$1825 in cash prizes. 3/10 - R

## TENDERS TAKEN

**TENDERS** - Espanola Golf Course is accepting tenders for kitchen. Applications to lease the kitchen are now being accepted. Closing date March 31, 2015. Please forward applications to: Espanola Golf Course, 309 Golf Course Road, Espanola, ON P5E 1A3. 2/3

## THANK YOU

# Thank You



The Espanola Elks would like to take this moment to give a **BIG SALUTE/THANK YOU** to all the businesses, organizations, unions, church groups, individuals, and members who helped to make the 38th Elks Hamper Fund another success!

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We picked up, packed, and delivered 161 food baskets from Massey to Nairn & Espanola to Whitefish Falls. And let's not forget all the families and individuals that donated. If we forgot anyone, please let us know; we apologize for the oversight.

*The Thursday/Friday/Saturday of the last weekend in November are the sign-up days for families to sign up in person.*

The Elks are still looking for new members. Come to a meeting, ask questions, and find out what we do in the community and outlying areas. To enquire, call the hall at 705-869-1931 or 705-869-4302.

**From all of us to all of you, hope you had a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!**



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## OBITUARY



**Espanola – Lucienne Ellis (nee Menard)**, a long-time resident of the Espanola and Sudbury Region, died peacefully Thursday, January 15, 2015 at the Espanola Nursing Home.

Born the 28th of February 1922 at Creighton, Ontario, Lucie married James Robert Ellis in 1942. For the remainder of W.W.2 while Jim was fighting in Europe, Lucie joined the war effort by making ammunition at Pickering, Ontario.

Lucie spent many years living in Espanola with her family. They moved to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, in 1966 and later to Cranbrook, B. C., returning to Espanola in the mid-seventies. Lucie and Jim spent the later part of their

lives at Southwind Retirement Residence, Sudbury.

Lucie was a devoted wife and loving mother. She was a talented oil paint artist, had a lifelong interest in learning and later on in life became an avid reader, the dictionary being one of her favourites. She will be remembered as being kind, loving and personable to all who knew her.

She is survived by her children, Richard Ellis (Dianne) of Espanola, Susan Brausse (Ken), of Calgary, and Ken Ellis (Cathy), London, England, her brother Leonard Menard, Sudbury and the late Irene Andrews and Valeda Lamont, her beloved granddaughters, Stephanie Hardman, Kara Partovi, Rebecca Austman, Paige Ellis and Kaitlynn Gadzala, and 5 great grandchildren, Melissa, Talia, Racquel, Benjamin and Noelle.

A graveside service will be held at the Espanola Cemetery in the spring.

The Bourcier Funeral Home, Espanola has been entrusted with arrangements. Memorial donations can be made to the charities of your choice.

## Recipe

I almost feel silly putting this recipe in my column yet using this method; it's some of the best asparagus I've ever made. I'm lucky enough to have an old crop of asparagus in my vegetable garden that produces an abundance of asparagus every

spring. I thank the previous homeowners because if you are a gardener you know that it takes years for planted asparagus to produce enough stalks of asparagus for a meal. I have cooked it many ways; steaming it in my steamer, baking it, pureed in soup but the following recipe has been my favourite so far because it turns out perfectly; not mushy or over cooked, buttery and delicious. It's ridiculously easy and some of you may be saying, "duh, that's how I always make it", but this is for those who haven't had it this way. I can't wait to try this with my fresh asparagus in the spring!



### The Best Asparagus in Under 10 Minutes

- 1 lb. asparagus, washed
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 to 1 tbsp butter
- A handful of shredded parmesan cheese
- 1/4 tsp garlic salt
- 1/4 tsp fresh ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp grated parmesan cheese

Chop the woody bottoms off of your asparagus. Put asparagus in a pan wide enough to hold them without bending their heads. They can overlap each other if they need to. Add 1 cup of water and place on high heat on the stove. Cook, covered, on high for 4-6 minutes, depending on the thickness, until asparagus is tender, yet still nice and firm. Carefully shake your spears back and forth halfway through your cook time. You will have steam whistling out of the lid. When the asparagus is finished cooking, discard remaining liquid. (You will be sautéing the asparagus a bit more in the next step, so in this step, err on the side of under cooking so you don't end up with mushy asparagus). Place butter, garlic salt, pepper, and grated Parmesan over your spears, and sauté them over medium high heat until butter is melted and the Parmesan begins to get gooey and lightly browned, but not burned. Remove from heat and place on serving dish. Sprinkle with a handful of shredded Parmesan.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

**Next Community Luncheon** - January 27 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 Horticultural Society Meeting** – Monday, February 2. Guest speaker is organic gardener Stuart McCall from Garson. He will be sharing his tricks and tips to grow organic vegetables in your backyard. 7:00 p.m. at Queensway Pentecostal Church, Espanola. Everyone welcome. Bring a friend!

**Espanola Game and Fish General Meeting** - Wednesday, February 4, 7:30 p.m. at the Elks Hall.

**Blood Donor Clinic** – Monday, February 9, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, Espanola

**Espanola Winter Carnival Spaghetti Supper/Elimination Draw** – Knights of Columbus Hall, February 13, 5:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. Tickets available from any K of C member or call 705-869-3491 (4:00 – 6:00 p.m. weekdays) or 705-869-0692.

**Beaver Lake Winter Carnival** - Friday - Sunday, February 13 - 15. Spaghetti supper Friday evening, Kid Zone Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., pancake breakfast Sunday morning. Call 705-866-1506.

**Bean Supper** - Zion Lutheran Church is hosting its annual Bean Supper on Sunday February 22, from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, Imperial Street South in Massey. For more information please call 865-2020.

**Chess Anyone?** – Espanola Public Library conference room, Wednesday nights from 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. All levels welcome, bring a chess set, no timers required. Call the library at 705-869-2940 or Wayne at 705-936-6369.

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

**VON Adult Day Centre** - We provide respite, activities, exercise and socialization. Open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Please call 705-869-3304 for more information.

**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.

**Meat Roll-Offs** - Espanola Legion Fridays at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

**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).

**Espanola Elks Dart League** – Looking for new players. Tuesdays 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. through May. Call Debbi at 705-869-2925 or the Elks Hall 705-869-1931.

**Weekly Bible Study** - Calvary Baptist Church, 599 Barber St. Espanola Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Bring your Bible to study with us. 705-869-5485.

**AA Meetings At St. Georges Anglican Church** – Tudhope St., Espanola, Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. and also Thursday at the United Church at 8:00 p.m.

**Popcans for Petsave** - If you would like to donate your aluminum cans for a good cause please phone 705-869-6357 after 6:00 pm.

**Espanola Sea Cadets** - Every Wednesday, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Espanola Legion. Free leadership, seamanship and physical fitness training for youth, ages 12-18. Call 705-862-7700.

### 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](mailto:around@aroundandabout.ca)



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## Espanola Rivermen Get Ready To “Shave Their Lids For Kids”



**Photo:** The Crawford/Bond family watch as their son and brother Blake drop the puck at a recent Rivermen game. Blake has been battling leukemia. Photo courtesy of [www.espanolarivermen.com](http://www.espanolarivermen.com)

Several of the Espanola Rivermen Junior A hockey team players are participating in a charity event to bring awareness and raise money for kids battling cancer. The players will be shaving their heads in support of children with cancer.

Those taking part are Austin Hannaford, Brett Cooke, Daniel Nicholas, Adrian Nicholas, and Cameron Anklewich. “Shave Your

Lid For A Kid” happens on February 2, and you can help by donating through the website posted on the Espanola Rivermen Facebook page, or the Espanola Rivermen Shave Your Lid For a Kid Facebook page. So far, the boys have almost \$1,500 in pledges and they would appreciate your help. Like the Espanola Rivermen Facebook page to get updates in your newsfeed.

# NEXT HOME GAME!!

Friday, January 30, 7:30 PM

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## Espanola High School Student Wins at I.C.E. Challenge



**Photo:** Jimmy Stata poses with the medal and trophy he won for inventing the Most Creative Product at the recent I.C.E. Challenge. Stata was also awarded a \$200 gift card to Bianco's. His invention, the Able Controller, helps gamers with physical disabilities.

McKerrow resident and Grade 12 Espanola High School student Jimmy Stata recently took part in and won the award for Most Creative Product at the I.C.E. (Innovative, Creative, and Entrepreneurial) Challenge. Stata, along with about fifty other Rainbow Schools students, attended the event on January 9 in Sudbury. The challenge was sponsored by The Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation.

Stata calls his winning invention the “Able Controller.” Essentially, it is a device to assist physically disabled gamers. Stata himself is an avid gamer, and says he was watching YouTube videos one day when he came across a video about physically disabled gamers. “I realized that something could happen to anyone and that they may not be able to do all the things they used to do,” he says. “That is in addition to the people

who are born with difficulties.” Based on that, Stata decided to do more research into existing devices that help gamers with physical challenges. “I found a few, but my invention helps in a different way,” he explains. The details surrounding the Able Controller are closely guarded, as Stata hopes to move forward with producing a prototype of the controller and securing a patent. “At the I.C.E. Challenge, I was approached by one of the visitors, who asked me if I would like to pursue the production of a prototype,” he says. Stata plans to spend the next year saving money and applying for funding through programs to help get his idea off the ground. He is also busy filming “behind the scenes” at the movie set for the locally produced Aboriginal film *The Darkest Dawn*. Down the road, he hopes to attend acting school in Toronto.



*Espanola & Area*

**Family Health Team**

**Living Healthy with Chronic Pain**

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