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December 13, 2016 Issue #50 - Volume 20

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Habitat for Humanity Partner Families and Community Work Together to Build a Better Tomorrow



We all ring in the New Year with hopes and aspirations for a bigger and brighter future. A future where the year ahead is free from the challenges and tribulations of the previous year, and a future where we forge ahead with high hopes for what lies ahead. For two Espanola families, the future does indeed look bright.

Over the past two months Jeff Lapierre, Build Chair for Habitat for Humanity Ontario Gateway North's local Chapter, the partner families, and dozens of volunteers have been working feverishly to bring the Habitat for Humanity Espanola project to completion. To date, the side of the semi-detached home which will be occupied by the Scheel family is finished, right down to the finishing touches. The side which will be occupied by the Leonard/Lacasse family is also rounding the bend. With

Continued on page four...

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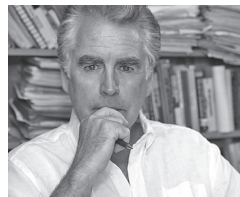
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All The World's A Circus

William Thomas

williamjthomas@gmail.com

Fidel Castro – El Gato With 638 Lives!

What the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States of America failed to accomplish in 50 years of trying, Father Time quietly took care of last month. Fidel Castro died in his sleep on November 25 in Santiago de Cuba at 90 years of age.

In 2007 a set of CIA documents code-named "Family Jewels" were declassified thereby revealing that the agency had attempted to assassinate the Cuban dictator 638 times over the terms of ten presidents of the United States. There's something darkly ironic about a man whose life had been in mortal danger 638 times, dying of old age.

If you searched 638 haystacks you would eventually find the proverbial needle but no, "The Company" proved incapable of killing the dictator Fidel Castro. Or as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau liked to call him "Crazy Ol' Uncle Fidel."

From a young and naive liberator, Castro morphed into a vicious tyrant who jailed, killed and exiled his own people. Last year alone, 60,000 Cubans fled the island, the highest number in decades.

James Bond proved to be as difficult a man to kill and believe it or not, President John Kennedy actually sought the advice of Bond creator Ian Fleming on how best to whack El Presidente. In retrospect, all those presidents would have been better off talking to Seymour Reit and Joe Oriolo the creators of Casper the Friendly Ghost.

In half a century of cloak and dagger intrigue, Washington's "gang that couldn't shoot straight" tried to poison Fidel, gas him, blow him up, shoot him, denude him and drown him. Still the last TV footage I saw of Castro showed an agile man in a track suit doing light, upper body exercises.

Desperate, the CIA recruited Mafia boss Johnny Roselli, who was good at such tasks, but even his boys couldn't get close to Fidel. The CIA spent hundreds of thousands of dollars embedding a camera in the forehead of a cat that ostensibly would befriend Fidel and pinpoint his location for a missile attack. Testing the camera in a park near CIA headquarters near Langley, Virginia, the cat was run over by a taxi. (The incident itself is not nearly as odd as the actual name of CIA headquarters: the George Bush Center For Intelligence!

Knowing Fidel was a keen scuba diver, the CIA had a friendly diplomat give him a gift of a wet suit that had been laced with a deadly fungus. Fidel never wore that suit. The plastic explosives shaped like seashells and placed near his favourite dive site never went off.

They once supplied Maria Lorenz, one of Fidel's many mistresses, with poison pills – the 'ol femme fatale trick – but Fidel discovered the drugs and reportedly gave her his gun, daring her to shoot him right there and then. She declined. They reclined. El Comandante scores again.

They somehow got an aide to Fidel to put hair removal powder in his shoes so that his beard would fall out and in the eyes of the Cuban people, his power would disappear like that of Samson the ancient Israelite who slew an entire army with only the jaw bone of an ass. (No, I checked. The CIA never tried "the jaw bone of an ass" trick on Castro.) Conclusion: hair removal powder in your shoes makes your feet real itchy. But it's not fatal.

Fearing more deadly chemicals being placed in a more delicate place, Fidel always had his underwear burned instead

Continued on page three...

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Continued from page two...

of sending them to the laundry. Apparently by then Fidel was well aware of the code name "Family Jewels."

In another attempt to bring down Fidel by humiliation, the CIA hatched a plan to pump an LSD-type gas into a radio studio while the dictator was doing a live broadcast. It was supposed to make him go all gaga and lose face in front of his people. (It too failed, but somewhere in Cuba that day there was a punchy DJ screaming about bugs crawling all over his body.)

When a dozen packs of poisoned cigars loaded with botulinum toxin went unsmoked by Fidel, they resorted to the ol' exploding cigar trick. (They may have consulted Groucho Marx on this one.) They packed enough TNT in Fidel's favourite Cohiba Esplendidos to blow his head off. He switched brands. (Fortunately for his aides, Fidel was not a 'regifter'.)

The agency rigged a ballpoint

pen with a spring-loaded syringe of poison that would kill Fidel as he pressed it to the page in front of him. He wrote a different ending to the plot.

Simply indestructible, surviving more than 13 assassination attempts a year by the most powerful nation on Earth, in the end Castro looked more like a cartoon character than a mortal human being. Like the terminally bewildered Elmer Fudd walking confidently down a street fraught with land mines and stopping to light a cigar as the piano lands a few feet in front of him.

About it all, Castro once joked: "If surviving assassination were an Olympic event, I'd win a gold medal." And then he'd refuse to accept it of course, knowing it would be polished with polonium-210.

For comments, ideas and copies of The Legend of Zippy Chippy, go to www.williamthomas.ca

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CUPE represents over 30,000 social services workers in the Province of Ontario. We work hard to provide care to people with developmental disabilities, providing child care, working with families in crisis and delivering programs such as Ontario Works. Government cuts force cuts to the people we serve. Social service workers are leading campaigns to defend our work.

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Sunday, December 18th	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Monday, December 19th	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday, December 20th	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday, December 21st	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Thursday, December 22nd	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Friday, December 23rd	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

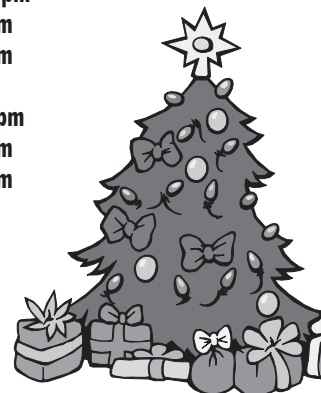
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Monday, Dec 19th - 23rd	9am - 9pm
Saturday, Dec 24th	9am - 5pm
Sunday, Dec 25th	CLOSED
Monday, Dec 26th	11am - 5pm
Tuesday, Dec 27th - 28th	9am - 6pm
Thursday, Dec 29th - 30th	9am - 9pm
Saturday, Dec 31st	9am - 5pm
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Good Eats Make Great Fundraising Gains



Photo: The Webbwood Eagles Ladies Auxiliary presented the Shakespeare Fire Department with a cheque for \$1,000 on Sunday, December 3. The proceeds came from their weekly spaghetti suppers. Pictured left to right are Remi Goodchild, Trista Stewart, Alex Sago, John Goodchild, Bev Gilbert, Jody Goodchild, Joan Leeson, Jake Goodchild, Betty Fairbairn, Bev Stintson, Leslie Barnes, George Goodchild Sr and Marie Harris.

Correction: The Royal Giving photos that ran in the December 6 issue of the Around&About were courtesy of Sheri Commission. We apologize for the oversight.

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Continued from front page...

Habitat for Humanity Partner Families and Community Work Together to Build a Better Tomorrow

the upstairs now complete, contractors and volunteers are concentrating on framing the extra bedrooms needed to house the six member family. At the end of the day, when the contractors and volunteers have gone home, you would likely find the families at the site working late into the night to do their part in helping toward the build and contributing sweat-equity hours they need in order to take possession.

Both families have added the finishing touches to their homes in their own style and form. Beautiful countertops, flooring, and paint finishes polish their homes in style -- and within budget! A floor plan designed to meet the needs of their growing families was essential and both families put a tremendous amount of effort to ensure their space was laid out to maximize the size of their moderate homes.

The families are thrilled to see the finishing product come together and beyond ecstatic to be taking possession soon.

Building one home takes effort, building two side-by-side is a feat in itself and one that would never

have been accomplished without the sponsorship and support of our major sponsors: Espanola Home Hardware, Espanola Lions Club, Eacom, Reliance Home Comfort, and the many volunteers who attended the site to lend a hand. Habitat and our families are extremely grateful for your tremendous generosity and support.

It won't be long before the unveiling of these two homes is made public and the keys are turned over to the very excited and deserving families. The New Year does in fact look very bright. For it will mark a new beginning for two families presented by way of a home where their hopes and wishes will be fulfilled.

As we round the end of our project we would like to wish the Lacasse/Leonard and Scheel families all the wonderful nuggets life has to offer in 2017 and in the years to come. To the residents and community of Espanola, thanks for all your support and be proud of your accomplishment. You've helped contribute to the success of two families and created a brighter future for all.



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“Birds I View”

By Bob Rigby - I have no doubt that some readers have already seen evening and pine grosbeaks at their feeders. I have seen small flocks of both species myself. As I mentioned last week I was going to take a long hike to see what birds may be wintering in the vicinity. I saw two small flocks of snow buntings consisting of about 50 birds per flock. The unmistakable black and white bird really contrasted well with the light dusting of snow that still remained on the ground. As I wandered into the forest near House Lake, I was beginning to think I may not see anything at all. After an hour of walking, I came across a pair of pileated woodpeckers who appeared unconcerned at my presence as they pecked away at the base of a decaying cedar. Then a group of chickadees

appeared, making quite a racket, which in turn set the pileated woodpeckers into a call frenzy. I am not quite sure what predator was present but it certainly stirred up the forest. Within minutes, I saw some tree sparrows and common redpolls, I must mention I also spotted two ruffed grouse, not the greatest of days in terms of bird watching, but thoroughly enjoyable nonetheless.



Photo: Pileated woodpecker.

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18 10 am - 5 pm	19 8 am - 9 pm	20 8 am - 9 pm	21 8 am - 9 pm	22 8 am - 9 pm	23 8 am - 9 pm	24 8 am - 5 pm
25 CLOSED	26 10 am - 5 pm	27 8 am - 9 pm	28 8 am - 9 pm	29 8 am - 9 pm	30 8 am - 9 pm	31 8 am - 5 pm

CLOSED New Years Day, Reg Hours Resume Jan 2



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Thank You



We wish to express our most heartfelt thanks to all of our family, friends and neighbours for your prayers and words of comfort and for being there for us during this difficult time. We also wish to express our sincere thanks to all that travelled from afar, sent cards, flowers, gifts of food, masses and charitable donations in memory of George. The abundance of online tributes and expressions were so beautiful and heart-warming. We are especially grateful to Dr. Poenn, Dr. Barss, all of the Nurses, PSW's and staff of the Manitoulin Health Centre and Manitoulin Centennial Manor for their extra special care. George was treated with such dignity and respect. Our most sincere thank you to our very special angels Diane Musgrove, Shannon Gagne, Carol Sisson and Catherine Gray. Your care and compassion has touched us so deeply and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. An extra special thank you to Andrew for his loving and caring ways in preparing such a beautiful & heartfelt piece for the online edition of the Around & About. Also an extra special thank you to Arielle as she put in many loving hours creating the most amazing and beautiful keepsake video that will be treasured always. We would also like to thank Mr. Faulkner and express our sincere appreciation to him for travelling to Espanola to do the service. It was so very beautiful. Thank you to the Bourcier Funeral Home for helping us through our loss and to the Ladies of the Royal Purple for the lovely lunch.

Rita Meier & Family

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FOR RENT - Two bedroom house for rent in Espanola available December 15. Non-smoking and no pets. First and last month's rent and references required. \$750 plus utilities. Call 705-869-1639. 12/20

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Recipe

You can't go wrong with a chocolate and peanut butter combination; it's always a favourite. These are a popular and delicious addition to a Christmas cookie tray. The original recipe calls for plain, old shortening (which you can use) but using the butter flavoured shortening gives them a little richer taste. Butter can also be used, but you will have to chill the dough before rolling it into balls.

Peanut Blossoms

- 1 cup butter flavoured shortening or butter
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup white sugar for decoration
- 2 (9 ounce) bags milk chocolate candy kisses, unwrapped



Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Grease cookie sheets. In a large bowl, cream together the shortening, peanut butter, brown sugar, and 1 cup white sugar until smooth. Beat in the eggs one at a time, and stir in the milk and vanilla. Combine the flour, baking soda, and salt; stir into the peanut butter mixture until well blended. Shape tablespoonfuls of dough into balls, and roll in remaining white sugar. Place cookies 2 inches apart on the prepared cookie sheets. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes in the preheated oven. Remove from oven, and immediately press a chocolate kiss into each cookie. Allow to cool completely; the kiss will harden as it cools.



COMMUNITY NOTES

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Children's Clothes Closet - At Calvary Baptist Church on Wednesday December 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Newborn to size 12.

EHS annual Christmas concert - December 20 for some Christmas music and fresh baked goodies. Christmas concert will start at 7:00 p.m. in the A.B. Ellis gym (Former EHS B1 gym). Admission is by donation to the Jazz Band or the Helping Hand Food Bank. There will be a bake sale at intermission.

Free Christmas Dinner - The Lighthouse free Christmas dinner is being moved to the Espanola Legion on December 25 at 4:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Call Joan 705-869-1648 or Camilla 705-869-4415 to join us or for a ride.

Victim Services Curling Funspiel—Saturday, January 7 at the Espanola Curling Club. Contact Victim Services for more info at 705-370-3378.

Al-Anon Meetings For Families And Friends of Alcoholics - Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., St. George's Anglican Church, Espanola. Call 705-869-6595 or 705-869-2505 for more info.

Good Food Box - Supported by United Way, the Good Food Box makes it easy to access affordable fresh produce. Serving Espanola, Nairn & Massey. Visit goodfoodboxsudbury.ca for info.

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.

E-mail: around@aroundandabout.ca

A New Way To Call For Help: Text With 9-1-1

Thursday, December 1 was Text With 9-1-1 Awareness Day. Text with 9-1-1 (T9-1-1) is a service for Canada's deaf, deafened, hard of hearing and speech-impaired community that provides 9-1-1 communications centres with the ability to communicate with citizens who are hearing or speech impaired via text messages during an emergency.

pleased to inform citizens that this service is available; however, those wishing to use it must register. Registration is completed through your wireless provider.

For more information on how to register, sign language videos about how the service works, and an up-to-date listing of all communities where T9-1-1 service is available, visit www.textwith911.ca.

HOME GAME!!

Friday, Dec 16, 7:30 pm



VS



FAVOURITE FOOD: PIZZA
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: N/A
FAVOURITE MOVIE: STEP BROTHERS
HOBBIES: HOCKEY, WORKING OUT
FAVOURITE TEAM: PITTSBURGH PENGUINS
FAVOURITE PLAYER: SIDNEY CROSBY
NICKNAME: TESS
MOST MEMORABLE HOCKEY MOMENT: WINNING GNML CHAMPIONSHIP
FAVOURITE QUOTE: HEIGHT DOESN'T MEASURE HEART
MESSAGE TO SCOUTS: I HAVE ALL THE HEART IT TAKES
GOAL AFTER JR. HOCKEY: PLAY COLLEGE HOCKEY
MOST MEMORABLE LIFE MOMENT: SUMMER 2014



CONNOR TESSIER
AGE: 18
CENTER
5'10" 190 LBS
SHOT: LEFT



GP	G	A	PTS
24	1	9	10



Thanks to everyone for their support and pledges of Radiothon 2016 where we are raising funds for a new park for long-term care patients at the Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre. It means so much to so many. Have a Very Moose Christmas and a Happy New Year!