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**Espanola Police Chief Suspended – Investigation Underway**



The chief of the Espanola Police Service has been suspended over an alleged code of conduct violation. The Espanola Police Services Board said in a release, a week ago Tuesday, that Chief Steven Edwards has been “suspended with pay pending an investigation,” in accordance with a section of the Police Services Act concerning misconduct. Section 77 (4) of the act authorizes a police board to review a complaint concerning a chief of police and, if determined the chief’s conduct; “may constitute an offence under a law” or misconduct as defined in the act, it can ask the Ontario Police Commission to “assign the chief

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24 10 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 - 6 pm
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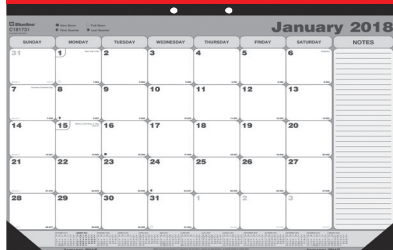
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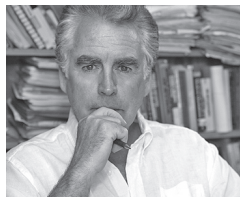
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# All The World's A Circus

## William Thomas

williamjthomas@gmail.com

### Get Lost! Seriously, Go Get Lost!

Apparently, getting lost is good for you. But grocery stores don't count. Not particularly proud of it, but I've been lost on sea and land and yes, even in the air. Flying with a friend at the stick of a single-engine Musketeer out of Orillia and headed home to Niagara, we were suddenly engulfed in thick fog. Travelling blind with no instruments, John dropped out of the clouds, too quickly for my stomach's sake and pulled up before we hit the land. Did you know that unlike commercial airlines, tiny, personal aircraft do not come equipped with barf bags?

So yeah, when it comes to travel, I'm a one-man lost but always found department. I know the word 'where' in 19 languages including Urdu. And honestly, I wouldn't have it any other way. I can't tell you the number of great people I've met, the hidden treasures I've found while travelling where others have not tread. I love pouring over maps, highlighting routes and calculating arrival times. I hate Google maps and GPS. I despise the voice of Siri.

So I've been ridiculously lost at times, but never so hopelessly turned around I didn't know which end was up. But Noel Santillan has. Several years ago Noel was sitting on his couch in New Jersey watching Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano erupt in flames and ash and he said to himself – I gotta go there! Really? Because my recollection of that event was that planes were grounded all over Europe

and North America as most people struggled to avoid that disaster. But not Noel. "Oh look! A big fire! Anybody got gasoline?"

So last February, the 28-year-old Sam's Club marketing manager found himself driving his rented Nissan north out of Iceland's Keflavik airport with his GPS guiding him every mile of the way. His hotel was on Laugarvegur Road, a thoroughfare he could not pronounce let alone find on his own. So he just drove – into daylight, into remoteness, onto icy roads. Noel drove and drove. Sleepy, jet-lagged and hungry, Noel reset the GPS which told him to just keep on driving. So he did because he trusted the technology. Finally the GPS directions ended at a lonely house on the edge of a tiny fishing village that was so forlorn and boring even The Vikings had avoided it in favour of the north shore of Newfoundland. Noel walked up to the house with his hotel reservation in hand where a woman informed him, between fits of laughter, that no, his hotel was 380 kilometres south, in the capital of Reykjavik, actually not far from the airport. This town named Siglufjörður was on Laugarvegur Road, not Laugavegur Road. Expedia misspelled his destination by adding an unnecessary "r".

A few things became abundantly clear to "Noel The Vole." Another hour of driving and it would have been Santa Claus giving him

*Continued on page three...*

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Continued from page two...

directions. Also, the entire country of Iceland could use a serious spell check losing about 37 million 'j's', 'k's', and 'f's' to start with. And man, was he lost! Oh, and the nice woman in the lonesome house at the upper periphery of the planet? (In Icelandic, that's spelled 'þjalfektj' and pronounced "plan-et.") Her name was Sirry.

So Noel checked into the local hotel where his host was a woman named ... wait for it ... Sirry. The first Sirry posted his odyssey on Facebook and Noel woke up the next morning an internet star. Reporters came by for interviews; townfolk flooded the hotel for selfies. Authorities in Siglufjörður opened up their pride and joy, Icelandic Herring Museum, offering Noel a free tour complete with a video highlighting the intricate salting process of fish and I'm thinking – okay, enough is enough! I'm all for punishing the poor bugger for digital stupidity, but for gawdsakes – he didn't kill anybody!!! Pretty soon Noel Santillan was not just the biggest thing to hit Siglufjörður since nylon fishnets, he was featured on BBC and written up in The New York Times.

As The Lost Tourist story went viral, the manager of his hotel offered him a free stay and the town's restaurant gave him a free fish dinner. (Probably herring done in a light, but tasty fjkuljinf sauce.) Some local ne'er-do-wells got him drunk on Brennivin and took him to the local strip club ... where even the strippers knew his name. (In Iceland, it is legal for peelers to strip right down to an open parka

and one mukluk!)

The dark consequences of trusting technology too much have seen a 64-year-old in East Chicago, Indiana drive off a demolished bridge, killing his wife. So many people have died lost in Death Valley, California, officials there refer to it as "death by GPS." After defeating a rebel insurgency in their country, Nicaraguan troops proudly reclaimed the territory by planting their national flag. Unfortunately they were using Google maps and they were actually in Costa Rica.

Nobel Prize winning breakthroughs have discovered that humans have their own natural GPS system in the hippocampus section of the brain and when we use it to figure out things like mapping, directions and navigation, we actually grow the brain by literally producing more grey matter. The more we rely on technology to find our way around this world, the more our inner navigational shuts down and then it's an icy road down to memory loss and Alzheimer's Disease.

So I hate to say I told you so, but all those times I was getting lost like "a Noel in an Icelandic haystack" ... I was getting smarter every time I yelled: "WTF am I?" When it comes to travel, trust me, a map, a compass and a good pair of binoculars and you are good to go ... and get lost.

For comments, ideas and copies of The Legend of Zippy Chippy, go to [www.williamthomas.ca](http://www.williamthomas.ca)

## Radiothon In Espanola And Elliot Lake Helps Out Local Charities



VISTA Radio stations across the country not only met their goal of \$1 million in charity dollars in their individual communities, they exceeded it.

Both local area Moose stations had phenomenal turnouts for their individual campaigns.

99.3 FM CJJM – Espanola collected, \$47,330 in all, with most of the proceeds going to the new Espanola Therapeutic Park to be built on the Espanola Regional Hospital site in the Spring.

Other funds also went to the Shoebox for Shelters Project

supported by Shine and the Espanola Elks Hamper Fund.

Algoma-Manitoulin 94.1 FM CKNR – Elliot Lake held a two-day Radiothon Thursday and Friday collecting \$16,957 in cash donations and another \$13,100 in toy donations for a grand total of \$30,100.

The proceeds will go to Salvation Army Christmas Kids Fund.

Nationally, VISTA stations collected over \$1.4 million dollars collectively in charity dollars.

Photos: Moose 99.3FM CJJM - Espanola



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## Time For Little Ones To Rock It Out On The Rings



If your little one is interested in curling, the New Year is a good time to sign up.

On Saturday, December 9th, the Espanola Curling Club held a Youth Curling Challenge aimed at developing Under 18 curlers.

This event allowed elementary, high school, junior and mixed teams to experience playing in a bonspiel just for kids.

They had 10 teams participate coming from Thessalon to Sudbury.

Espanola was well represented with three teams.

It was a great day of curling with some amazing skills by the youngsters and organizers are hoping to make the event an annual one.

Youth curling is ages 6 to 13 and they curl Wednesday after 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$85. There is a 40% discount after Christmas. Brooms, sliders and grippers are provided.

For more information, call the Espanola Curling Club 705-869-2133 or email Sue Cairns at: [sm.cairns@eastlink.ca](mailto:sm.cairns@eastlink.ca)

Photo supplied: 2017 Youth Challenge Curling Event

Continued from front page...

## Espanola Police Chief Suspended – Investigation Underway

of police of another police force to cause the complaint to be investigated promptly.”

Police Board Chair, Mary-Lou Mick, told Around & About, a complaint was made on Wednesday, December 6th, by a member of the police service, and Chief Edwards was suspended on Thursday, December 7th.

Mick said she would not speak to the specific nature of the complaint at this point in the process, other than to say it falls within code of conduct rules that are consistent for all police services in Ontario, adding the board sought legal advice after fielding the complaint “to find out whether charges should be laid, and according to the lawyer the charges should be laid under code of conduct.”

An investigation will be carried out by the Ontario Civilian Police Commission, she said, as well as by an outside police force.

Once that process is complete, “they will determine what the actual charges are and go from there,” she said. “I can’t tell you what nature they are, because I don’t know where they fall under the police act.” She said ordinarily the board would have turned to the Espanola OPP as an outside source to investigate a matter like this, but since the municipality is in the midst of a review to see if the OPP should take over policing in the town, it was felt there would be a conflict of interest and the integrity of the investigation could be compromised.

“It has to be arm’s-length,” she said. “It could have been the OPP, but because of the costing situation, we don’t feel it is right to bring them in. Council has asked for a costing to determine if we should stay with a municipal force or go with the OPP.”

Instead, the board is engaging

a police service from southern Ontario, she said, to investigate the allegation against the chief. In the meantime, Sgt. William Lamour has been assigned as interim police chief. He is the highest-ranking officer in Espanola and will temporarily fill the position, until the police board can recruit another individual to be interim chief.

“We will be looking to bring in a more permanent temporary chief, I guess you could call it, until everything is resolved,” she said. “We are already in contact with someone and have a tentative candidate.”

Mick said it could take quite a while before the investigation is complete.

“This is going to be a fairly long investigation,” she said. “Everybody will have to be interviewed. I can’t see it happening immediately.”

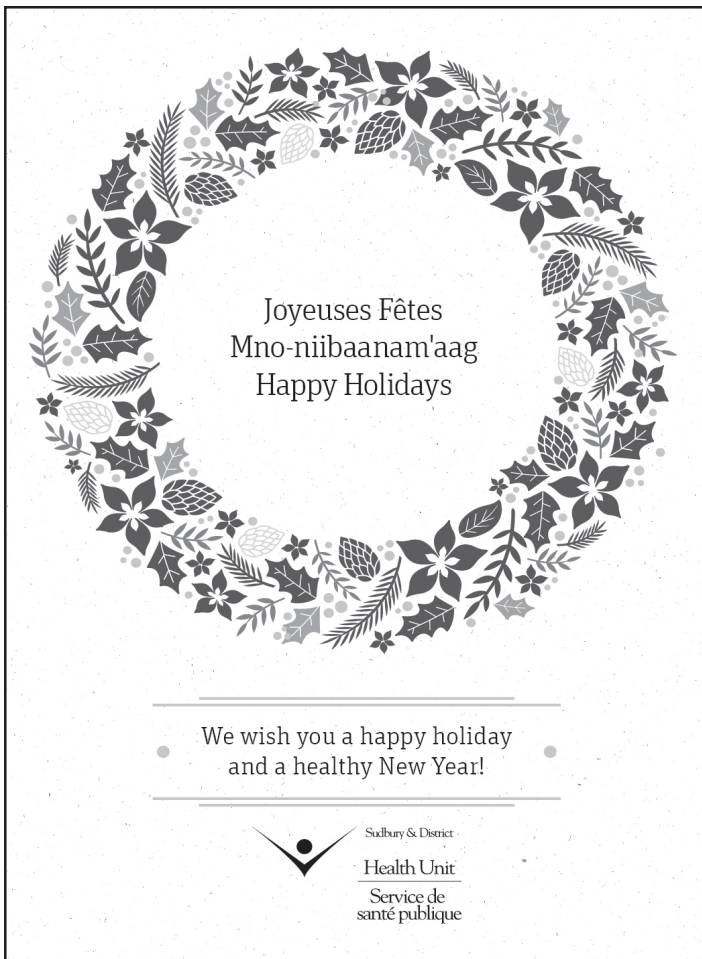
However, by law, the investigation must be completed within six months.

Edwards became a member of the Espanola Police Service on May 29, 1995, re-locating back to the area from London, Ontario where he served as a police constable for five years. In 1999, on the approval of former Chief Ray Freeman, the Police Services Board, and with support of the community, the K9 program was developed with Edwards as the dog handler. Edwards and Jag, his German Shepherd, became a certified police K9 team in April 2000.

On June 1, 2001, Edwards was appointed Acting Sergeant and on January 1, 2007, he was promoted to rank of Sergeant. In 2011, Edwards was honoured with the Governor General’s 20 year Police Exemplary Service Medal.

On January 7, 2015, he was sworn in as Espanola’s sixth police chief.

Photo: [espanola.ca](http://espanola.ca)



## Sables-Spanish Rivers Christmas For Kids

By Joanne Rheault - Each year, the communities of Sables-Spanish Rivers come together to bring a little extra Christmas magic to local families in need. The smiles on the faces of local children are made possible by the generous contributions of the people who make our community so special. In addition to the individual contributors, our local businesses spring in to action to make some magic. Sonnenburg RONA puts up a Tree of Warmth in their store where people are encouraged to bring in warm hats, mitts and scarves to keep little ones warm. Stewart's General Store in Webbwood acts as depot, receiving gifts from the members of their community. The Zion Lutheran Church offers up their basement so last minute

wrapping and organization can take place. Massey Home Hardware acts as our North Pole! They have set up a tree where people can choose a Wish ornament for a child(ren) and bring the gifts back to the Home Hardware. They also take the time to donate their wrapping skills as well as storing all of the gifts that come in!! It's these generous acts that make our community the one we all know and love.

What many may not know is that our local emergency services, Espanola and area OPP and the MDSSAB Massey EMS paramedics, also turn into Santa's elves. Each year, they collect toys, snowsuits, hat and mitts, boots and even boxes of Christmas goods to donate to Sables-Spanish Rivers Christmas for Kids. So

much of the success of the annual Christmas for Kids can be attributed to the very generous nature of the men and women who work to keep us safe! Not to be forgotten, it's the volunteers who put not only their heart and soul, but their time into Christmas for Kids.

From Santa taking time out from his busy schedule to deliver gifts, to the people who help do wrapping, to the elves who accompany Santa... it is because of all of the people who give of themselves, that the magic of Christmas is alive and well in our communities!

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<b>Thurs Dec 28th</b>	2:00-3:00pm (Keep Sharp)
<b>Fri Dec 29th</b>	12:00-1:00pm <i>Tim Hortons</i>
<b>Tues Jan 2nd</b>	12:00-1:00pm <i>Tim Hortons</i>
<b>Thurs Jan 4th</b>	12:00-1:00pm <i>Tim Hortons</i>
<b>Fri Jan 5th</b>	12:00-1:00pm <i>Tim Hortons</i>

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<b>Wed Dec 27</b>	3:00-4:00pm (8-12 yrs)
<b>Thurs Dec 28</b>	3:00-4:00pm (13-17 yrs)
<b>Fri Dec 29</b>	3:00-4:00pm (8-12 yrs)
<b>Sat Dec 30</b>	1:00-2:00pm (Tots Hockey)
	2:00-3:00pm (8-12 yrs)
	3:00-4:00pm (13-17 yrs)
<b>Tues Jan 2</b>	3:00-4:00pm (13-17 yrs)
<b>Wed Jan 3</b>	3:00-4:00pm (8-12 yrs)
<b>Thurs Jan 4</b>	3:00-4:00pm (13-17 yrs)
<b>Fri Jan 5</b>	3:00-4:00pm (8-12 yrs)
<b>Sat Jan 6</b>	1:00-2:00pm (Tots Hockey)
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## TOONIE PUBLIC SKATES

<b>Thurs Dec 28</b>	10:00-11:00am
<b>Sat Dec 30</b>	4:00-5:00pm
<b>Tues Jan 2</b>	10:00-11:00am
<b>Wed Jan 3</b>	12:00-1:00pm
<b>Fri Jan 5</b>	10:00-11:00am
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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

- ROBINSON'S -  
**PHARMASAVE®**

is now accepting resumes for a  
**Full time and Part time Pharmacy Assitant.**

Experience is an asset. Please drop off resume or email  
[mona.lachance3@gmail.com](mailto:mona.lachance3@gmail.com)

## THANK YOU

*I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support.*

As we near the end of our mandate, I believe we have accomplished many of our promises with a couple of major issues left outstanding, namely the OPP Costing and the fire hall, which should be resolved before the end of our term. If you have any concerns or questions about anything, please contact me anytime. All contact info is available on our website [www.espanola.ca/contact-us](http://www.espanola.ca/contact-us)

*Councilor Ron Duplessis.*

## FOR SALE

**FOR SALE** – 5 Snow Tires, 14 ply. 1 Michelin, 4 Bridgestone 225/70R/19.5 on steel Rickson rims. For GMC/Chev 2500/3500 truck. Asking \$1500.00 O.B.O. Call 705-869-2536. 12/26.

**FOR SALE** – Limited amount of dry wood for sale. Call Greg. 705-822-4734. 12/19

## FOR RENT

**FOR SALE** - Dry hardwood/firewood. No delivery, must pickup. \$90.00 / cord. Located in Massey. 705-865-2412. 12/19

**FOR RENT** - Lang Lake Resort – 4 bedroom cottage available. Full kitchen, satellite TV. Call 705-285-4241 for monthly rates. Available December 1. 12/19



**Moose Corner**


The Moose 99.3 FM CJJM Espanola wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Special Holiday Wishes are extended to Around&About and our collaboration to provide local readers with the local news and sports that matter to them. Merry Christmas!

**ESPANOLA EXPRESS VS ELLIOT LAKE WILDCATS**  
**HOME GAME!!**  
**Friday, December 22, 7:30 pm**

**Sacred Heart Daycare Centre**  
**INFANT, TODDLER, PRESCHOOL**  
**BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL**  
**SPACES AVAILABLE!**

Our Children, Our Future  
 Nos enfants, notre avenir

Financial Assistance is available for those who qualify  
 For more information, please call  
**705-869-3171**  
[www.ourchildren-ourfuture.net](http://www.ourchildren-ourfuture.net)

**COMMUNITY NOTES**  
 PROUDLY SPONSORED BY 

**Next Community Kitchen Luncheon - Christmas Dinner** on December 25 at 4:30 p.m. at the Legion in Espanola. Everyone welcome. RSVP by calling (705)869-1648.

**Family Skating Party** – Keep Sharp invites you to join us at the Espanola Recreational Complex on Thursday, December 29 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**Meat Roll Offs** - The Espanola Helping Hand Food Bank will be hosting the meat roll offs at the Espanola Legion every Saturday for the month of January. Fun starts at 3:30 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

**C.W.L.** – We will be collecting slippers, personal items and crafts for the Haven House in Mindemoya. To Donate call 705-869-0629. Next Meeting Tuesday, January 19.

**Toastmasters** - Develop communication and leadership skills. Learn to think quickly and clearly on your feet Mondays 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the Espanola Hospital board room. For details visit our website <http://602922.toastmastersclubs.org>.

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

After several requests for my cookbook this Holiday Season, I decided to print off 25 more Mother May I Recipe Books. If you are needing a last minute gift or if you've been meaning to get one, you can pick one up at Around & About/ Paperworks or at Trail Side Sports. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone. It was a personal project and goal, and I am overwhelmed by the support and kind words that I have received. It does my heart good, to know it is enjoyed and used. Wishing all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy holiday.

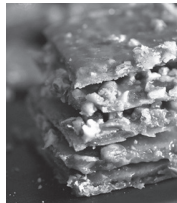


**Recipe**

I just made these delicious squares; they taste a lot like pecan pie and are so easy to make. The recipe contains very few ingredients and the procedure is not time consuming; a perfect last minute addition to your cookie tray for the holidays.

**Pecan Graham Bars**

- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup pecans, chopped
- 20 graham cracker squares



Line ungreased cookie sheet with graham cracker squares. In saucepan, melt butter and brown sugar. Bring to rolling boil and boil for 2 minutes. Do not over boil or it will become sugary. Stir in chopped pecans. Pour over graham crackers and spread evenly. Bake in 350° oven for 10 minutes. Allow to cool, and break squares into halves. Enjoy!



**Photo** - Espanola Lions Club President Grant Lewis presents a cheque for \$5,000 to Louise Laplante, Executive Director of Community Living Espanola.

**Best Teddy Bear Toss Ever!**

Just a few of the 115 teddy bears tossed! Many thanks to the Espanola Express and all the “tossers” for their continued support.