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It's Home Sweet Home For  
Two Local Families



**Photo:** Shasha Leonard and Sheldon Lacasse and their children, and Angie Shiels and her son, Logan have their cake ... and eat it too! The two families shared with friends, families and supporters at the Habitat for Humanity Key Turning on Sunday, February 5th, 2017.

**By Rosalind Russell** - The weather was cold, but the well wishes were warm for two families in Espanola at the official Habitat Key turning held Sunday afternoon, February 5th, 2017. About 80 people gathered to attend the official ribbon cutting and blessing of the new Habitat for Humanity duplex on Adelaide Street. Several proponents and chairs of various boards extended their thanks to everyone who donated or assisted with the project.

*Continued on page four...*

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# All The World's A Circus

William Thomas

williamjthomas@gmail.com

## Absurd Autobiographies And The Artful Mangling Of Words

Everybody thinks they can or should write a book these days. Sixteen-year-old punk/pop star Justin Bieber has written a ... wait for it ... memoir. I have a pair of original Saddle Shoes that are older, wiser and more interesting than the kid who is famous for urinating in a restaurant's mop bucket and throwing eggs at his neighbour's house. The autobiography is titled: Justin Bieber: First Step 2 Forever: My Story. The title should be: "Justin Bieber: Two Too Many: Colons."

"Snooki" of TV's Jersey Shores has written four books! Snooki you might recall helped shape the future of American teenagers and steer them clear of a national medical disaster when she warned: "Burning your kook in the Jacuzzi – Meatball Problems." Animal Rights people are hoping her fifth book will address cruelty to crustaceans after Snooki was quoted as saying: "That's why I don't eat friggin' lobster and things like that. Because they're alive when you kill them."

Challenging "The Bieb" and – if I might address her in this manner - "The Snook" for the most unearned, unnecessary and underwhelming autobiography ever written would be "Don't Hassle The Hoff" by the former Bay Watch hunk who once lost a brawl to a burger late one night on his kitchen floor. [This never gets old. Google: David Hasselhoff Drunk.]

So if you have thoughts of writing a book I encourage you to first take the lead of the above mentioned bestselling authors who have nothing whatsoever of importance to say and have a look at the very best examples of incredibly bad writing. Lousy writing when done well is priceless, creative and often more entertaining than serious published works

like Snooki's Confessions Of A Guidette. Every year since 1982 the English department of San Jose University in California has sponsored the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest for writers with the worst opening line of a novel harking back to "It was a dark and stormy night." From the 2016 contest Peter S. Bjorkman's runner-up entry really should have won. "Knowing well the hand signals of his platoon leader, Private James Dawson silently dropped to the dirt, concealed and motionless for what seemed an eternity, a move that he had learned, coincidentally, from his parents whenever the Watchtower ladies would ring the doorbell."

Sacramento's Stephen Lewis Davis also had the animal rights people worried with: "Penguins, damnable penguins, Cooperman muttered bitterly, staring hard into the maelstrom of cheap gin and bargain-basement vermouth swirling hopelessly in the low ball glass he held in his pale, doughy hand, the shards of rapidly melting ice crystals cruelly reminding him of those endless winter nights in the Antarctic weather station, and of Dwakina, with her lithe, lubricious figure, and tuxedo-feathered form."

You want romance? Lisa Liscumb of Oshawa, Ontario wrote: "As she reclined, naked, on the chaise lounge, Constance's breasts looked like two mounds of creamy coleslaw served up on a fine porcelain plate – but the good kind of coleslaw, not the violent, neon-green stuff you get at KFC."

And Marie Gaither of Asheville, NC matched that with: "Osgood knew he wasn't popular, well-liked, or even very good looking, and could suck the life out

Continued on page three...

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*Continued from page two...*

of a room like a fat kid sucking the filling out of a Twinkie, but surely a date with the beautiful blonde in the corner wasn't out of the question, he thought as he licked the cream from his fingers?"

Really bad and most amusing: "The sea rolled like water in a pasta pot about to boil, an apt simile thought captain Samuel Turner, because if they didn't fix their engine soon he and his crew would be floating face down like overcooked manicotti – bloated, white, limp and about to be consumed by something that wishes it were eating ahi tuna instead." - Alex Bosworth, Ketchikan, AK.

Anna McDougald of Winnipeg won in the category of children's literature with: "When your home smells like a three-week-old buffalo carcass, your Mom is constantly being mistaken for a guy, and your sisters keep using your ears as their personal chew toys, life is no laughing matter – at least that's how it seemed to Hubert, the baby Hyena."

LA's Charles Caldwell took the crime/detective prize with: "She walked toward me with her high heels clacking like

an out-of-balance ceiling fan set on low, smiling as though about to spit pus from a dental abscess, and I knew right away that she was going to leave me feeling like I had used a wood rasp to cure my hemorrhoids."

And two of my all-time favourites from previous years. First: "As the dark and mysterious stranger approached, Angela bit her lip anxiously, hoping with every nerve cell, and fiber of her being that this would be the one man who would understand – would take her away from all of this – and who would not just squeeze her boob and make a loud honking noise, as all the others had."

Plus: "Business was kinda slow at the 'If Your Build It' sperm bank."

Writing so bad, it is sometimes brilliant. When "The Bieb," "The Snook," and "The Hoff" all start writing that badly, I'll be buying their books. Sincerely, "The Bill."

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

## Carol Hughes' column

### Government Casts Aside Promise Of Electoral Reform



**Carol Hughes, MP  
Algoma-Manitoulin-  
Kapuskasing**

We should have seen it coming last October when Justin Trudeau told Le Devoir that he no longer saw the same appetite for electoral reform that he did when the Conservatives were in power. What he likely meant was that the Liberals have no desire to change a system that just handed them a majority government with only 40% of the popular vote and that the electoral math they considered so flawed when it benefitted Stephen Harper, was just fine when it helped them.

The Prime Minister quickly backed down from his statement because the optics were so bad. At that time, the Special Committee on Electoral Reform hadn't even reported to parliament after spending months consulting Canadians. But the length of time it had taken the government to get the committee formed was probably the first clue that the government wasn't terribly committed to electoral reform.

Canadians can be excused for thinking otherwise because the Liberals certainly claimed they were going to change the system. It was a prominent feature of their platform in the election and the throne speech that set the blue-print for the current parliament. Apart from the October slip-up, the Prime Minister remained on message and was still talking about electoral reform during his town-hall tour that proceeded the current session of parliament. All that changed with the mandate letter for the new Minister of Democratic

Institutions stating the government will not be pursuing electoral reform.

MPs that spent the last year working on the committee were devastated. New Democrats and Greens made electoral reform a cornerstone in their election platforms. It now looks like the Liberals only included it in their campaign to attract voters away from those parties. Either way, more than 60% of the votes cast in 2015 went to parties who openly stated they would change the system so that, in the Prime Minister's words, "every vote counts."

The government is claiming they couldn't find consensus on the issue, but their survey that followed on the heels of the committee recommendation for proportional representation was widely panned for being vague. What's more, it was never clear they were looking for consensus throughout the process and with the survey in particular.

The problem will now become managing cynicism among voters who thought they were going to change an unfair system. If Canadians need a reminder of how poorly our system can reflect the will of the electorate we should look no further than the 1993 election. That's when the Bloc Quebecois ended up as the Official Opposition, with the second-most seats in Parliament despite coming fourth in popular vote. At the same time the NDP won four times as many seats as the Conservatives, even though the Conservatives had well over a million more votes cast for them.

Promises for electoral reform were seen as part of a progressive platform that encouraged more people to vote in the last election than had in recent years. Back-tracking will be seen as a betrayal of Canadians who thought they voted to do politics differently. Rather than fixing our broken electoral system so it benefits all Canadians, the Liberals are standing-pat because they feel it helps them now. It is a cynical way to do politics and could actually drive down voter participation. Canadians deserve better.

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## February Officially Recognized As Black History Month In Ontario

Ontario first proclaimed Black History Month in 1993 to mark the 200th anniversary of a law banning the importation of slaves into Upper Canada. And last year, the province passed legislation to formally recognize February as Black History Month on an annual basis. And starting in 2018, another woman besides Queen Elizabeth the II will grace a Canadian bank note."

Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, says "Every February, Canadians celebrate Black History Month by acknowledging the remarkable achievements and contributions that Canadians of African and Caribbean descent have made to Canada.

Trudeau adds, "I urge all Canadians to reflect on the bravery and courage of individuals like Viola Desmond, a prominent Black Canadian

businesswoman who changed the course of Canadian history by defiantly refusing to leave a whites-only area of a movie theatre in 1946.

"In recognition of her impact on the civil rights and freedoms movement in Canada, the Government of Canada chose Viola Desmond as the face of Canada's ten dollar bank note starting in 2018.

"This year, as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation, let us never forget the stories of Black Canadians' courage in the face of intolerance.

The Ontario Black Historical Society is the organization in Canada that successfully initiated the formal celebration of February as Black History Month with the City of Toronto (1979), the Province of Ontario in 1993 and the entire country effective February 1996.



**Photo:** Photo of Viola Desmond \$10 bill provided by Government of Canada - media branch

**ESKANOLA EXPRESS VS TOWASSAN VOLVOOS**  
**HOME GAME!!**  
**Friday, February 17, 7:30 pm**

*Continued from front page...*

## It's Home Sweet Home For Two Local Families

Kathy Yusko of Espanola also received a special citation for her seven years of service to Habitat for Humanity.

She oversaw the Family Selection Committee.

Shasha Leonard and Sheldon Lacasse and their children, and Angie Shiels and her son, Logan, the families that have made the duplex their new home, thanked everyone for the opportunity to own their own property.

Since the home was built with donated labour and materials, it is paid for construction wise, so part of the mortgages the new home owners pay go towards property tax and insurance, but the rest goes towards the next habitat project.

For example, their first payments covered the cost of about a quarter of the windows for the next home.

Following the ribbon cutting, everyone headed over the Espanola Royal Canadian Legion for cake and coffee.

**Photos by Rosalind Russell**



**Photo:** Kathy Yusko has been a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity for the last seven years. She has decided to take a hiatus for a year or so. To thank her for her volunteerism, especially as Chair of the Family Selection Committee, she was presented with a special plaque by Sudbury Chapter Chair, Claudette Strom and Habitat CEO for Gateway North, David Morris.



**Photo:** Kathy Yusko, Chair of the Family Selection Committee (left) congratulated the Habitat for Humanity families, Shasha Leonard and Sheldon Lacasse and their four girls, and Angie Shiels and her son, Logan (far right) at the Habitat Key Turning Ceremony on Sunday, February 5th, 2017.



**Photo:** About 80 people attending the Habitat Key Turning Ceremony on Sunday, February 7, 2017 to celebrate the successful construction of this duplex home on Adelaide Street in Espanola.

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## Webbwood School Will Be Closed



Rainbow District School Board trustees made decisions regarding the accommodation of students in six planning areas during a Special Board Meeting, Tuesday, February 7, 2017.

Webbwood Public School will be consolidated into S. Geiger Public School in Massey.

“On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank our students, staff, parents and guardians, members of the public and all our partners in education who provided their input,” said Board Chair Doreen Dewar. “There was a tremendous level of engagement throughout this important process. People spoke about their schools with

passion and with pride, which was very rewarding to us. We appreciate their feedback and our students appreciate their support.”

She added: “In the months ahead, we are committed to ensuring a smooth transition for students as we move towards implementation, recognizing, of course, that some of the recommendations that were approved are contingent on funding from the Ministry of Education.”

The decision brings to a close accommodation reviews in Central Sudbury, Espanola, New Sudbury, Valley East, Valley North and West Sudbury.

## Royal Bank Closing In Massey - Public Meeting Slated For Late March

Over the last couple of days, the people of Massey and area have been talking about the loss of yet another business, this one being the only one in the immediate vicinity.

The royal bank of Canada branch in massey is set to close its doors as of AUGUST 16TH AT 5 PM.

The bank has been a vital part of the Massey and North Shore area for several decades, so the news has been a shock and unwelcome surprise, not only

for the residents, but also for local business owners.

A community information session is slated for WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22ND FROM SIX PM TO EIGHT PM at the MASSEY LEGION.

Once the bank closes, locals will have to decide to travel to either Spanish to access the Scotia Bank there or Espanola where there are several various banking institutions as well as RBC.

## Sacred Heart School Demolished – Next Step Ground Prep For A New Triple School

The demolition process has begun to make way for a new joint triple school in Espanola. St. Louise de France church was demolished last fall and Sacred Heart School in Espanola was taken down over the last couple of weeks. The church opened in 1947, the school in 1919.

The two-storey building was recognized as one of the most uniquely designed structures in Northern Ontario when it was constructed.

But that original design is long gone ... it was gutted by fire in 1945 demolishing most of the building.

Since then, many additions were added.

The English Catholic School Board held negotiations with its French Catholic

counterpart and it was agreed the two boards would build a combined triple school facility with shared spaces.

The demolition of the church and school is the start of the process, which is expected to take up to two years, possibly three, to house not only Sacred Heart, but also Ecole St. Joseph elementary and Ecole Franco-Ouest secondary.

At the present time, Ecole St. Joseph students continue to attend their school, Sacred Heart students are temporarily housed at the former AB Ellis Public School and Ecole Franco-Ouest shares a small space at Espanola High.

If all deadlines are met and construction can proceed, the new school could open its doors in September 2018.

## Ontario Hydro Lawsuit

The Premier and Ministers of Finance and Energy have finally responded to the misfeasance suit, filed against them at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for wrong doing in the sale of shares in Hydro One, with an attempt to avoid a public trial, says Fred Hahn, President of CUPE Ontario and one of the plaintiffs in the suit filed in December.

On December 6, 2016, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), along with individual plaintiffs, CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn, family farmer Dianne Dowling and poverty activist John Clarke, filed a misfeasance suit against the Premier and Ministers of Finance and Energy, for wrong doing over the sale of shares in Hydro One.

The ultimate goal of the

lawsuit is to stop any further privatization of Hydro One.

The Premier and Ministers had until January 31, 2017 to respond to the lawsuit.

Rather than filing their Statement of Defence, lawyers operating on behalf of the Premier and Ministers have filed a Motion to Strike in an attempt to avoid a public trial altogether.

“We will move quickly to have the Court rule on the motion filed by the Premier’s counsel, so that we can proceed to trial,” said Hahn. “In the meantime, we are counting on the Premier to hold off on any further sale of Hydro One shares until the court has been able to hear the case,” said Hahn. “The people of Ontario still own the majority of shares and the vast majority of Ontarians want to keep it that way.”



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**FOR RENT** - 2-Bedroom basement apartment. Barber street, available February 15th. Non-smoking, non pet friendly, first and last month deposit required. \$620.00/month plus utilities, references required. Please call or text 705-662-8203. 2/14

**FOR RENT** - 3 bedroom townhouse in Espanola available March 1, 2017. Non smoking. No pets. Rent \$750.00 plus utilities. First & last months' required plus references. Call 705-869-3223. 2/28

## NOTICE



## Summer Soccer Registration!

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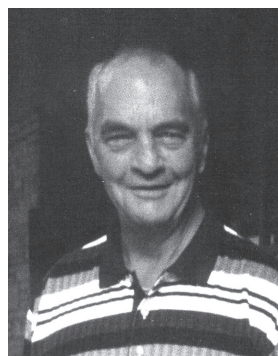
**February 27, 28 & March 1  
6:00 - 8:00 pm at the Espanola Complex**

## OBITUARY



**James (Jim) Tamura** - It is with heavy hearts and great sadness that Jim's family announces his passing to a better place, in his 70th year, at Health Sciences North, Sudbury on Thursday February 2, 2017 with family by his side. Beloved husband (49 years) of Claudette (Tessier). Loving and devoted father of Peter (Sue), Shelley, Ryan (Amanda) all of Espanola. He was a proud Pappa to four grandchildren, Lauren, Molly, Karsten and Payton. Dear son of the late Makota and Flora (Collin). Brother to Nancy (predeceased) and Sandy of Sudbury. Jim

will always be remembered for his entertaining personality, his great love of music, and dedication to his family and friends. He made a lasting impression through his contributions to the community. Jim loved the outdoors, especially the time he spent fishing at his camp. He will be deeply missed by all who loved him. As per his wishes, there will be no visitation. Donations may be made in Jim's memory to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Espanola.



**LAMOTHE, Edward** of Espanola passed away at the Maison McCulloch Hospice, Sudbury on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at the age of 84 years. Beloved husband of Viviane Lalonde (nee Sauve) of Espanola & the late Irene (nee Meloche) Lamothe. Dear son of the late Arthur & Donald (nee Leclair) Lamothe. Loving father of Denise Lamothe, Maurice Lamothe (wife Cindy) & Joanne Lamothe all of Espanola and Bernard (wife Lorraine) of Elliot Lake. Stepfather to Mark Lalonde (wife Karen), Richard Lalonde (wife Laureen), Gilles Lalonde (wife Tammy) all of Espanola, Monique Lumley (husband Roy) of Little Current & the late Diane McCool. Will be sadly missed by grandchildren, Darrell, Nathan, Amanda, Samantha, Ashlee, Spencer, Benjamin & great-grandchildren, Drake, Sebastian, Makayla & Lyrika, 9 step-grandchildren & 9 step-great-grandchildren. Very dear brother of Richard of Sudbury, Paulette Nadon (husband Wayne), John (wife Theresa) & Donald (wife Lise) all of Espanola, Cecile Sylvestri of Copper Cliff, Diane Thibodeau (husband David) of Uxbridge and the late Edmund, Leonard, Lawrence, Gerald, David, Aurele & Gerard Lamothe. Friends called at the Bourcier Funeral Home, Espanola on Sunday, February 5th from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Funeral Mass was held on Monday, February 6th at 10:00 a.m. from St. Jude Roman Catholic Church, Espanola followed by cremation. Interment of ashes in the Espanola Cemetery in the spring. If so desired, Memorial tributes may be made to the Maison McCulloch Hospice.

**PaperWorks has MOVED to  
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## Recipe

These are crazy delicious, simple to put together and perfect for Valentine's Day. Pick up the ingredients today, and serve them for dessert tonight. Of course they can be made anytime of the year, no special occasion is required.

### NO-BAKE RASPBERRY CHEESECAKE BOWLS

Makes 6 single serving cheesecakes

#### Crust:

- 1 cup chocolate crumbs or graham wafer crumbs
- 1/8 cup sugar
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

#### Cheesecake:

- 2 blocks (16 ounces total) cream cheese, softened
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup whole milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1/4 cup raspberry jam
- Fresh raspberries, whipping cream, and heart chocolates to garnish



In a medium bowl, stir together the crumbs with the sugar and melted butter until combined. Divide the mixture into six small dishes (about 4 inches in diameter and 2 inches deep). Press into an even layer with your fingers or a spatula. Place in the refrigerator while preparing the cheesecake. In a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment or electric mixer, beat the cream cheese on high until smooth and creamy. Add the sugar, milk, vanilla, and salt. Beat again until smooth and combined. Transfer the cream cheese mixture into a large bowl and set aside. In a stand mixer fitted with the whisk or with an electric mixer, beat the heavy whipping cream on low for about 45 seconds. Increase the speed to medium and continue beating for another 45 seconds. Increase the speed to high and beat until stiff peaks form. With a spatula, stir about one-third of the whipped cream into the cream cheese mixture and fold it in until completely combined. Add the remaining whipped cream and fold until fully combined. Divide the cream cheese mixture evenly over the six prepared crusts. Smooth the top with a spatula. Finally, in a microwave safe bowl, add the jam and 1 tablespoon of water. Heat for about 30 seconds to make the jam liquid. (Heat for an additional 15 seconds, if needed). Stir to combine. Allow the jam to cool slightly, and then drop small amounts of jam on top of each cheesecake. Use a skewer or toothpick to drag the jam through the top of the cheesecake to make swirls. Refrigerate the cheesecake about 1 hour until firm or up to 1 day. (Cover with plastic wrap if refrigerating for longer than 1 hour.) Garnish with fresh raspberries, whipped cream or chocolate hearts.



## COMMUNITY NOTES

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**33rd Annual Spaghetti Supper/Elimination Draw** – Knights of Columbus Hall, February 10, 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.

**Next Community Kitchen Luncheon** - February 14 & 28 at the Lighthouse in Espanola (across from the Royal Bank) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. NO CHARGE. Everyone Welcome.

**Children's Clothes Closet** – Calvary Baptist Church, Espanola, Wednesday, February 15 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Sizes newborn - 12.

**Spaghetti Supper** - Massey Legion, Friday, February 17 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Home Made Bread And Cinnamon Buns.

**13th Annual Camp Quality Fundspiel** - February 17 & 18. Looking for 16 teams. Dinner & Entertainment. For more info call 705-869-2133.

**Spanish River Snowmobile Club-Poker Run**—Saturday, February 18 starting at 9am ending at 2pm—for more information call Charlene 705-869-8193.

**F.C.F.E Lumberjack Luncheon**—February 23 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the St. Jude Hall. Contact 705-869-1597.

**Espanola United Church Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** - Tuesday, February 28 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Espanola United Church 137 Sheppard Street, Espanola. Tickets available at the door.

**Knit and Stitch** – Do you knit or do stitch work? Would you like to meet others who share your interests? Come join us at the public library on the third Friday of the month from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

#### *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)

## CUPE

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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**QUEENSWAY PENTECOSTAL CHURCH FAMILY DAY:** is quickly approaching on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH.** There will be **SKATING, SWIMMING, ZUMBA PARTY, CARNIVAL STYLE GAMES AND LUNCH** – **ALL FREE FOR FAMILIES** at the **ESPANOLA REGIONAL RECREATION COMPLEX ... FROM 11 AM UNTIL 2:30 PM ... COME OUT AND CELEBRATE EVERYTHING FAMILY!**