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Boogie Mountain To Showcase As Carnival Hub



The Espanola Ski Club Ltd, known as Boogie Mountain plans to put the winter back in winter carnival in 2018 and be the outdoor epi-centre for frosty carnival fun and frolic!

"We are welcoming the community to add to our roster of outdoor events to create a full slate of outdoor programming," says General Manager Tom Hutchinson. "We're planning our annual BIG air contest and a radar run to determine how fast people come down our mountain."

"In addition, we plan to bring back the torch run and Christmas Tree bon-fire." Building the winter carnival as a community event is in keeping with a new sustainability plan for the ski hill to become an all-season destination venue. The club is considering a return to concerts and is planning a full scale archery event for June that will attract

Continued on back page...

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Continued from front page...

Boogie Mountain To Showcase As Carnival Hub

up to 400 participants. The Town of Espanola endorses Boogie Mountain's vision to become the outdoor hub for the carnival events.

"The ski hill is such a rich community asset," says Espanola Mayor Ron Piche. "A full slate of winter carnival events will show off our ski and snow board hills to both our community and visitors. "As always, the Town will offer

free carnival swims and skates and lead the charge in publishing the community carnival schedule."

The ski hill is extending an invitation to the community to sponsor and plan events at the ski hill. Either contact the hill via email at: GM@boogiemountain.com or ckennelly@espanola.ca if you or your organization have an event to add to the community winter carnival schedule.

Computer Upgrade at Massey Library

Anyone wanting to access brand new computers with all the bells and whistles will be able to do so.

Jake Marion, the CEO of Massey and Webbwood public libraries says there will be all new computers at the Massey Public Library, thanks to a shot in the arm from a bank institution.

Marion says Royal Bank Canada representatives were on hand on

Thursday morning to present a cheque for \$10,000.

The money will be used to improve internet connectivity and new computer workstations with state-of-the-art computers. The computers are available to the public during regular library hours.

The presentation took place at the library on Thursday, December 21, 2017.

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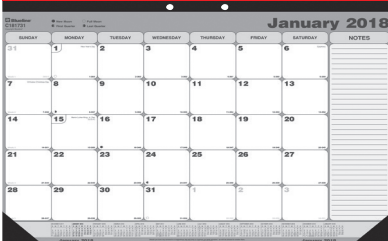
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All The World's A Circus

William Thomas

williamjthomas@gmail.com

Gold Car – The Bottom Feeders Of Car Rentals

Not a good sign – long lines of people at all the other car rental booths but mine. Gold Car. The flight from Toronto to Funchal, Madeira with a stopover in Ponta Delgada, The Azores was a dream. Thank you Azores Airlines. My bag came off first and intact. A sunny, breezy day awaited me outside. All too good to be true, I suspected.

That's when I met Thelma and Louise, two tough-talkin' girls behind the Gold Car desk openly plotting a public crime with me cast in the role as victim. "No, your Visa card insurance is not good with us. You must take out our insurance. It's 17 euros per day." I go through this every time in Portugal. My Visa works and they have to accept it.

"Okay, but if we accept it, you must leave a deposit." I'm prepared to pay the exorbitant 900 euro deposit.

"Our deposit is 1,500 euros." That's more than the car's worth.

"And on top of that, there's a 40 euro service charge." But ...

"And if you put one little scratch on the car, we will deduct 600 euros from your deposit." But ...

"And if you have a flat tire or burn out the

clutch, don't call us!" But ...

"Also if you take our insurance you have Top Priority down at the lot. Otherwise you will stand there for an hour while other people get their cars."

Back and forth and smiling all the while – they were good. Well-trained and completely unconscionable, thick as thieves these two!! But to be fair, I have to add – no weapon was used in this mugging! My problem was twofold. First, I'd booked through the Economy Car Rentals agency and they had my commission deposit. I don't know if you've ever tried getting a refund from anything online but losing weight by eating more is easier. Secondly, I was scared witless of these two Jezebels.

"Okay," I nodded, folding up like a lawn chair. I'd been had and all three of us knew it. Scam completed, bonuses secured, they couldn't be nicer now.

"Now my colleague will give you a much better car than you rented," said Thelma whose mug shot appears in the credits of Grand Theft Auto.


"So I can burn up the clutch now?", I joked.

"You can burn up the car now," replied

Continued on page three...

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Continued from page two...

Thelma amid gales of laughter from her colleague and I thought, oh, oh, she reads minds too!

Mad at myself for not walking away, I hauled my luggage across the catwalk outside the airport to the rental car lots and there he is, Senor Top Priority waiting for me with a set of car keys in hand. And, he's the Maytag Repairman of Madeira. He's happy to see me. He's happy to see anybody! Had I not purchased the Top Priority Plus Package that would have been a really awkward hour – both of us staring at each other and looking at our watches.

He hands me a flat fob, the likes of which I've never seen and points to the very top of the lot where my rental car awaits. Up, up, up I go heaving the big bag into the backseat and placing my backpack on the passenger seat. Climbing into the driver's seat, I buckle up, insert the fob and press a button marked 'Start' and 'Stop.' More stop than start, I have to walk all the way back to the booth where I tell Maytag Man the car won't start.

And he looks at me like I'm the dumbest ass he's ever had to deal with. (After my performance with Thelma and Louise, he may not be far off the mark!)

"You must insert this thing," he says, tapping the flat piece of plastic in my hand. "Got it? Then put the car in 'even'. Neutral, got it? Then you push the clutch to the floor and step on the brake pedal at the same time. Then push 'Start'."

"Oh man," I say, slapping myself on the side of the head. "How stupid of me because that's how we start everything back in Canada ... including

toasters!!!"

So back at the sleek, black upgrade, I do the secret handshake dance and I'm on my way ... to a digitally-operated gate at the other end of the parking lot ... that would not open in much the same way as the car wouldn't start.

There's a small screen from which a voice keeps repeating "Show Your Card." I spot the plastic card attached to the rental swindle, sorry, contract. I keep showing the card to the screen which earns another annoying "Show Your Card!" Now I have to press the "Help" button and who shows up because he's got nothing else to do ... Maytag Man. He points to a tiny square to the top right of the screen. "There, there you show your card." Of course because you need the big screen to show movies to people who are stuck here for hours on end!

I couldn't resist asking him why Gold Car needed a security gate when most customers would not steal a car they couldn't start in the first place. While he's thinking about that, I inadvertently peel out of the lot, screeching the tires as I go. I did not mean to, honest. But for me to make a slow and courteous exit with this car, I believe you must push down the clutch and step on the brake at the same time, honk the horn and fart before stepping on the accelerator.

Gold Car, the most unpleasant surprise you'll ever have on the beautiful island of Madeira.

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

Open-House and Kindergarten Registration at École Saint-Joseph, Espanola

Parents wishing to register their child in a full-time French-language Kindergarten program are invited to come discover École Saint-Joseph (Espanola) during its Open House on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 from 9:15 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. École Saint-Joseph is located at 333 Mead Boulevard, in Espanola.

Come discover the benefits of attending a French language Catholic school. Like all Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario (CSCNO) schools, École Saint-Joseph offers full special needs programs, a quality English language program starting in grade 4 and ensuring sustainable bilingualism, a curriculum instilled with Catholic values, access to state-of-the-art technology, and an environment that nurtures and promotes a sense of Francophone culture and identity. CSCNO schools also attain superior academic results and its students graduate with a high level of bilingualism

and a solid grasp of the French language.

The CSCNO welcomes children of Canadian citizens or immigrants whose first language learned and still understood is French as well as children of Canadian citizens whose grandparents' first language was French. Children from immigrant families where the parents speak neither French nor English are also eligible.

For more information, please call École Saint-Joseph at (705) 869-3530, or visit the website www.nouvelon.ca/maternelle.

The Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario offers a French Catholic Educational Program that is widely recognized for its excellence. The CSCNO provides a quality learning environment and academic program that runs from early childhood to adult education, with some 7,000 students enrolled in 27 elementary and 10 secondary schools.

January 16 & 18: Kindergarten Information Nights for Rainbow Schools

Rainbow Schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin will host information nights for Kindergarten registrations. All parents/guardians and children are invited to attend.

Information Nights will take place from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 for the English Program and Thursday, January 18, 2018 for the French Immersion Program. Schools offering English and French Immersion will host one information night on Thursday, January 18, 2018. Visit rainbowschools.ca for a list of schools and programs offered or call your area Rainbow School. For enrolment in Kindergarten, your child must be four years of age by the end of the calendar year.

When registering your child, please bring his/her identification documents including birth certificate or birth registry/baptismal certificate, proof of residency, Ontario Health Card

and an immunization record.

Parents/guardians can enroll their children in the English Program or the French Immersion Program.

The English Program is exclusively in English and includes a Core French component, which begins in Grade 4. Students learn basic French through songs, games, drama and interactive activities for a specified period of time daily.

French Immersion immerses children in the French language, including cultural experiences, when they begin school. English language instruction is introduced in Grade 3 and gradually builds to an equal balance of French and English instruction by Grade 5. This ensures that students gain effective bilingual skills. This program is designed for English speaking parents/guardians so they may support their children to become bilingual.

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OBITUARY



Champagne - Victor of Espanola passed away at the Espanola Nursing Home on December 21, 2017 at the age of 98. Dear son of the late Alfred & Mary (nee Busch) Champagne. Beloved father of Eddy (late wife Brenda) of Hamilton, Kenneth (wife Joy) of Wahnapiatae, Patricia Brouillette (husband Marcel) of Wahnapiatae and Sheila Champagne (friend Jimmy) of Espanola. Cherished by 17 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Dear brother of Irene Kirkham of Peterborough and the late

Violet Woito. Also sadly missed by dear friends Omer Aubrey and Richard Jeanveau. A celebration of Victor's life will be on January 5, 2017 at the Queensway Pentacostal Church, Espanola at 11 AM. Interment of ashes at a later date. If so desired, donations to the charity of your choice would be appreciated. Arrangments by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Espanola.



Stewart - George Alan of Espanola. It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of George after a short battle with cancer on December 24, 2017 at the age of 63. Dear son of George & Ann (nee Tokar) Stewart. Sadly missed by his wife and best friend Fran of Espanola, his devoted son Scott (wife Tracy) of Searchmont and his pride and joy new granddaughter Cereza. Beloved brother of Beverly Vincent (late Lowell) of Espanola and Gail Peltoniemi (Bob) of Lang Lake. Dear son in law to Ernest

Deschamps of Windsor and Ellen Hall of St. Catherines. Cherished brother in law to Kelly Deschamps (Gabriella) of Espanola and Michelle Hemingway (Andrew Keenan) of St. Catherines and uncle to Bria Pericelli, Shelby Hemingway, Damian Deschamps and Jessie Deschamps. Also, sadly missed by many friends and relatives. George was first and foremost a devoted family man and always was ready to lend a hand to friends and neighbors. He was a lover of the outdoors, fishing, hunting, gardening and carpentry. He always stayed active and gave up his volunteer time. A special thanks to all the Staff at the Espanola Regional Hospital and Northeast Cancer Centre for all your wonderful care and concern. At George's request, no visitation or funeral. Cremation with a graveside service in the Espanola Cemetery at a later date. If so desired, donations to the Northern Cancer Foundation, Espanola Hospital Foundation, Crohns & Colitis Foundation would be appreciated. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Espanola.

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VS



HOME GAME!!

Friday, January 5, 7:30 pm

Recipe

January is here which means it's time for comfort food. Salisbury Steak is basically hamburger patties braised in gravy. This recipe is like mini meatloaves sautéed in butter and then finished in a nice rich mushroom gravy. If you don't love mushrooms you can use onions or a mix of both onions and mushrooms.



Salisbury Steak in Mushroom Gravy

For the Salisbury steak...

- 1 lb. ground beef
- ½ cup finely diced onion
- ¼ cup panko bread crumbs
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 3 Tbsp fresh parsley, minced or 2 tsp of dried parsley
- 1 Tbsp minced garlic clove or shallot
- ½ tsp. freshly cracked pepper
- ½ tsp. kosher salt
- 1 Tbsp butter, for pan frying

For the mushroom gravy...

- 1 Tbsp butter
- 8 oz. sliced mushrooms
- 2 shallots or green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 Tbsp fresh thyme leaves, minced
- 2 Tbsp flour
- 1½ - 2 cups beef broth
- salt & freshly cracked pepper



For the Salisbury steak...

Combine ingredients and form into 3-4 oval shaped patties. Melt 1 Tbsp butter in a large skillet, sauté patties 4-5 minutes per side over medium heat until nicely browned. Remove from pan and reserve.

For the mushroom gravy...

Add 1 Tbsp butter, sliced mushrooms, and shallots or green onion, and sauté for 4-5 minutes. Add the fresh thyme and cook an additional minute. Sprinkle flour in, and cook for 1-2 minutes. The mixture will be thick. Gradually stir in beef broth ½ cup at a time, allowing mixture to come to a boil in between each addition. Add more broth until desired thickness is achieved. Season with salt and pepper. Return steak patties to gravy, reduce heat to low, and allow to braise until patties are cooked through. Serve over mashed potatoes with fresh parsley to garnish.

COMMUNITY NOTES

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



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.

Espanola Area Friendship Circle Alzheimer Support Group - Monday, January 8, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. at the Senior's Drop in Centre. For more information, call 705-869-1137

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.

Drug Problem? - We've been there. We can help. Narcotics Anonymous, meetings are Tuesdays and Saturdays 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. United Church Espanola 137 Sheppard St.

AA Meetings At St. George's Anglican Church - Tudhope St., Espanola, Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. and also Thursday at the United Church at 8:00 p.m.

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

Espanola Blood Donor Clinic

January 30 and March 27
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