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**The Faded Blue Ribbon**

By Rosalind Russell - I don't know where it is now, in an album somewhere in my memorabilia, but I know I still have it and I can remember so clearly, the first blue ribbon I ever won at the Massey Fair.

I was eight years old and Mrs. Armstrong, one of my mom's best friends, asked if she could take me to Massey for the fair. She loved my paintings and I had done a fair size painting of the NBC Peacock in all its bright vivid colours as only an eight-year-old kid can.

So, off we went, it was all hustle and bustle registering because Mrs. Armstrong had like what seemed a hundred entries for cooking, pickling, quilting, sewing and so much more. A very talented lady, she also introduced me to liquid embroidery and had plenty of that on hand as well.

Registration done, it was time to help her set up the booth to sell her products that were not part of the exhibit competitions.

I was so excited, especially with the Ferris wheel, which I had never seen before. My mother had given me a new two-dollar bill

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Continued on back page...

**MASSEY FAIR**

**AUGUST 23, 24, 25-2019**

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Continued from front page...

## The Faded Blue Ribbon

and I could spend it on what I wanted. The ride was only ten cents ... Wow, that was lots of money to spend back then! You could buy three black gum for a penny, but that wheel called me and I decided to go for it much to my regret. Unfortunately I discovered my life-long dislike for anything that spins or rolls. I'm the grandma who now holds everything for children to indulge in the rides.

But, the fair had plenty of other fascinations to hold for a bright-eyed girl. There were games of chance, I lost, but did buy myself a little corn doll, hand-made and so precious. She lasted many years, but being made of husks and rough play, had to be finally set aside.

Now, Friday morning, the exhibitors were the only ones who were allowed near the exhibit halls. There was another hall way back when, but I can't remember what it was called. What I do remember is the two men, in their three-piece suits, and a lady, dressed as a pioneer woman, bonnet and all, looking at all the exhibits. A young woman walked quickly behind them with a big box and the judges would stop and ask her for a specific colour. There was a tiny space to write down what category the ribbon was for.

I was still not aware of what the ribbons meant. I simply noticed that Mrs. Armstrong's carrots, zucchini, embroidered pillow cases, quilts and MY painting all got a blue ribbon.

I ran back to tell Mrs. Armstrong and she laughed out loud and grabbed me up in her arms for a big hug.

She said she knew I could do it and I had so much talent that I did not know I had and would be able to discover. She was more

proud of me winning the blue ribbon, which meant I was the best in that category, than all her ribbons.

The rest of the weekend was a whirlwind of cows and calves, pony rides, horses running around the pens, chickens and rabbits to feed and the smell of hay, which so reminded me of my grandmother's farm in New Brunswick. There were tractor races back then too, would love to see that come back, but I guess demolition derbies are today's option.

I will never forget that weekend and I proudly brought that blue ribbon home and my family put the painting and the ribbon in the livingroom where it stayed for many years.

I have been back to the Massey Fair many times over the last 50 plus years and have won many ribbons, but that first one is the most precious. Mrs. Armstrong is long gone now, but her legacy lives on with sharing her talents with kids like me.

That's what the Massey Fair is all about ... traditions that are shared from one generation to the next ... and the next.

The exhibits are still there, the midway, the roosters, cows and the smell of hay. So, if your little one has a drawing or talent to share, enter it and build those memories of a blue ribbon. All entries have to be brought in by Thursday evening to allow for judging on Friday, and the opening of the fair; and kick start the memories!!

For the complete schedule of the 113th running of Northern Ontario's largest agriculture fair, check out last week's edition of Around & About, or you can find it online at:

<http://masseyfair.ca/schedule.html>

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## Financial Assistance Sought For Local Area Fireman



Financial help is being sought for a local area fire fighter who suffered injuries on the job. Darcy Shuurman is a volunteer firefighter with the Sables-Spanish Rivers Township. Jillana Goodchild has started a Go Fund Me for his family to help them out while he recovers from a severe injury incurred in the line of duty while filling a tanker on a fire

call. She says he and his wife, Melissa, who is also a volunteer firefighter are both self-employed and raising four children. Goodchild adds he is unable to work for the time being, but is expected to recover. For the link to the fund, go to: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/supporting-schuurman?>

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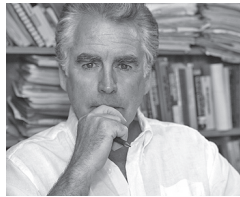
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## Man/Kitten Cycling Story Goes Viral Then Bad

It was only six months ago that a big, burly Scot named Dean Nicholson was cycling up a hill in Bosnia when he heard a squeaky little meow. He was three months into his around-the-world by bike odyssey when he noticed the gray-and-white kitten chasing him and yelling "Wait up!" So he hit the brakes, dismounted and scooped the nervy waif into his arms. Twelve miles from civilization he knew the scraggly little thing had been dumped. Suddenly it's "Two For The Road" on a bicycle built for love.

The Scot with the man-bun and a large Maori tattoo quickly cleared some equipment out of his front basket to make room for the kitten he called Nala. But being a cat, she immediately disagreed with his choice of seating and climbed up onto his broad shoulders where she remained with claws dug into his shirt to steady herself. Things were going swimmingly--Nala found a home on wheels and Dean had a companion for the lonely roads ahead.

In Montenegro Dean found a vet who gave Nala her rabbies shot and a microchip. Then he purchased the cutest little cat compartment that fit in the basket with a cellophane window through which she could see the countryside.

But while he was busy installing the cat box, Nala went next door to the cycle shop and using his credit card bought a 20-square-foot side car for the bike complete with a scratching post, an eco-toilet and some shiny flighty things. Then she threw the safety harness he'd bought her down a sewer grill. Yup! She's a cat alright!

So off they went but now instead of Dean

attracting the attention of locals who would often chat and buy him a beer, Nala is the star of the road show and demanding cat treats at every stop.

By the time they were passing through the ancient city of Budva with its well-worn cobble stone streets and dramatic views of the Adriatics, they were being followed by thousands on the Internet and dozens on the road. When tourists asked for photos, Nala arranged herself in such a way that Dean was cut out of the frame so that it appeared she was biking around the world all by herself. Passing on the cat treats, Nala began demanding money for the photos...in euros. On the way to Tirana, Dean's dream of sharing pasta with her by an open fire in a deserted campsite were dashed when Nala checked them into a Holiday Inn Express and took the bigger bed. Dean thought about just getting back on the bike and leaving the little bitch at the hotel but by this time Nala had taken possession of the key that opened the safety deposit box on the back of the bike which held cash, jewelry and his combination bike lock.

By the time they reached Albania, Nala was using a GPS device and telling Dean where to turn and how fast to go. Their arguments became louder and attracted a lot of attention which meant Nala was now really raking in the money on those photo ops.

They spent Christmas in Himara on the south coast of Albania where Nala complained about his drinking and insisted he attend an AA meeting on New Year's Eve. Unclear as to who craved the attention more, Nala did

*Continued on page three...*

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## You Be The Judge

**By Grant Lewis** - Here's your chance everyone! Another first for the Espanola Gardeners... here's your shot to be part of our first ever Peoples' Choice Award. On Saturday, August 24, Espanola Gardeners will host our Flower and Vegetable Show Part 2 at the Espanola Farmers' Market.

Here's your opportunity to design an arrangement of grasses, weeds, roadside blooms, fungi, foliage, bulrushes, goldenrod, anything goes. Be creative when selecting a container! Old pots, rusted pails, crockery, watering cans... you get the idea! If designing is not your forte, then come on out and vote for your favourite entry for the first ever People's Choice Award. We'll never know if you vote for your own!!!!

The following are the categories for the rest of the show:

1. A collection of at least four different vegetables on a plate or tray.

2. A collection of at least three different leafy greens (purple is good!) in a jar of water.

3. A collection of five different perennials in a clear glass jar

All entries must be dropped off between 8:15 and 9 am. and picked up between noon and 12:15 pm. Keep in mind there is usually a wind at the market, so use an appropriately sized container for your entries. You can add weight to the container with such things as marbles or pebbles to anchor everything down.

So....put on your Judge's cap or show off your prized vegetable specimens and late season perennials and join us. Should be fun....

*Continued from page two...*

a "Candid Conversation With Meghan, Duchess of Sussex" by Skype on New Year's Day. In it Dean was referred to as her "Minister of Transport." She also displayed the ear plugs that saved her from listening to Dean's "man gas noises."

No matter what country they passed through Nala complained about all the stray dogs and cats from her luxury side-car box which by then had AC, a hammock, and a drinking fountain.

Near the Italian border, Dean dropped Nala off at the Humane Society International for adoption but she caused such a scene the police were called and the Scot was arrested for animal cruelty. Nala let Dean spend a week in a cramped jail cell sharing a single toilet with a dozen other inmates before she posted his bail.

By the time they reached Rome, Nala was autographing copies of Cat Fancy International which showed her on the cover in a long gown stepping out of her sidecar condo being helped by Dean who looked both embarrassed and uncomfortable wearing a chauffeur's uniform.

By now, their story was trending

at 4.5 million tweets and Nala was a runaway Internet sensation, famous for...well, being famous. America's Got Talent sent a private jet to have them come to Hollywood and appear on the show. At Rome's International Airport the paparazzi were all over Nala and Dean boarding a chartered Gulfstream IV which they dubbed Nala Force One. Later, footage would show Dean coming back down the steps like he'd forgotten something. Suddenly he makes a hard left and intentionally walks straight into the propeller. Nala citing "the show must go on" is seen waving goodbye through a window of the plane as Dean is wheeled away by first responders in a body bag. Lesson learned--never pick up a stranger no matter how cute she may appear to be. Moral of the story- the cat rules damn near everything including the family dog. (Seriously. Google "Nala's Travels" to follow or fundraise these two pioneers.)

And for comments, ideas and copies of The Cat Rules-Damn Near Everything go to [www.williamthomas.ca](http://www.williamthomas.ca)

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## Splash Pad Idea For Espanola Goes To Community

Espanola Council did not give its immediate approval to the building of a new splash pad in Espanola, but believe the idea has merit.

Local resident Melanie Blais appeared before council Tuesday, August 13th to present a detailed report about the project, which she says can be totally funded by the community through fundraising.

Resident Melanie Blais says she hopes to build a splash pad around 2,700 square feet at a cost of \$220,000 and the ideal

location would be at the Espanola Regional Recreation Complex.

She told council it would need little maintenance and the fundraising would be done by volunteers for financial and in kind donations, as well as grants. She says it would also be accessible to special needs and be eco-friendly.

Council thanked her for the presentation and recommended the report be brought to Community Services and the Recreation Committee for further research.

## Immunizations A Priority For School

Parents are required to make sure their children's immunizations are up to date and Public Health Sudbury & Districts is providing online registration.

Nurse Karyl McGibbon, says the province has introduced Immunization Connect Ontario, a new secure online system for submitting information to health units.

She stresses all children attending school or licensed daycares must have their immunization up to date in time for the new school year.

Letters are sent to parents or students when records are incomplete.

The health unit requires that students be vaccinated to continue to attend school and for parents to send the agency their updated vaccine information, so it can update the Ministry of Health records on each child.

Immunization Connect Ontario is simple to access.

"It is a great alternative to paper records," adds McGibbon. "Parents and students can view their own immunization record online and can report any new vaccinations students received to this online site found at [phsd.ca/reportvaccines](http://phsd.ca/reportvaccines).

"It's like the yellow immunization card, only better. However, vaccination records can also be printed if a paper copy is required."

Immunization Connect Ontario can be accessed at [phsd.ca](http://phsd.ca). The student's Ontario Health Card number is required. Children 16 years of age and older can access and report vaccinations themselves.

For questions about vaccines, how to report them or to book a vaccination appointment, call 705-522-9200, ext. 458.

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The following Employment Opportunity is now available to anyone interested in joining our highly dedicated workforce.

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While all responses are appreciated,  
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**NOTICE / REGISTRATION**

**ESPANOLA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION  
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**Registration Date**

**August 26 & 29 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm**

**Registration Fees:**

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Peewee (2007-08)	\$620 + \$50* = \$670
Bantam (2005-06)	\$660 + \$50* = \$710
Midget (2002-04)	\$660 + \$50* = \$710

**\*\* \$50 fundraising fee \*\***

*Welcome to Local Hippie's weekly tip for living a greener life! Each week we will provide you with a quick tip to help you reduce your carbon footprint and change the world.*



This week's tip: Bring your own coffee cup!

Did you know that half a trillion disposable cups are manufactured around the world EVERY YEAR! These cups are often not recyclable because of their plastic/wax lining and coffee contamination.

In fact, it has been confirmed that in Espanola and surrounding areas, take-out hot coffee cups CANNOT be recycled.

All of this equates to millions of pounds of solid waste being sent to the landfill each year... in just coffee cups!

Here's my simple solution: Invest in a reusable coffee cup AND remember to bring it. I always throw one in my backpack or bag if I'm leaving for the day - just in case I want to grab something on the go!

Have questions? Feel free to forward them to mailto:jaymie@localhippie.net or find me at the Espanola Farmers' Market. Have a happy hippie week!

**COMMUNITY NOTES**

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**36th Annual Jessie Burnside Memorial Art Show** - Runs the whole month of August at the Massey Area Museum Stop in, admire the art and vote for your favorite.

**Espanola Public Library Board Game Night** - NO fee or registration required! Every 3rd Thursday of every month 6:00-8:00 p.m.

**Lighthouse Community Lunch** - Free community luncheon at the Lighthouse, across from the Royal Bank, every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 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)

**Recipe**



I have made and eaten a lot of pasta salad in my life but until last week I hadn't had one made with a sweet balsamic dressing. The addition of a bit of maple syrup adds a nice subtle sweetness. My daughter made it for dinner at her house last week and everyone thought it was delicious. The following recipe is a guideline; you will see I added a couple variations. Feel free to make it your own by adding or omitting ingredients to your liking. It's a great salad to make using garden fresh onions, cucumbers and tomatoes. She used marinated mozzarella balls instead of cheddar cheese which was a nice touch.

**Pasta Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette**

- 1 lb Tricolor Pasta
- 1/2 Cucumber, chopped small
- 1/2 Red Bell Pepper, diced
- 1/2 cup diced Red Onion or Green Onions
- 2/3 cup diced Tomatoes or Cherry Tomatoes halved
- 1/2 cup Black Olives or Kalamata Olives
- 8 oz Cheddar Cheese cubed or Marinated Mozzarella Balls
- 1/8- 1/4 cup of chopped fresh Basil

**Dressing**

- 1/4 cup Balsamic Vinegar
- 1/2 cup Olive Oil
- 2 tbsp of Maple Syrup (add more or less to your taste)
- 1/8 tsp Garlic Powder
- Sprinkle of Onion Powder
- Salt and pepper to taste

Boil pasta until al dente, drain and allow to cool. Combine all ingredients for dressing and whisk until well blended. In a large bowl combine all salad ingredients, add dressing and toss to coat evenly.

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