







www.aroundandabout.ca

July 9, 2019 Issue #28 - Volume 23

Espanola Mayor And Fire Chief Open New Fire Hall





By Rosalind Russell - Cutting the hose was a lot easier than expected, but Espanola Fire Chief Mike Pichor says he has been practicing.

The hose-cutting ceremony formally opened the new Espanola Fire Hall.

Pichor thanked Espanola's Lignum Builders who designed and constructed the building and Chris Perry, the project leader for doing a tremendous job constructing the facility through one of the worse winters on record.

He also acknowledged the hard work

Continued on page four...

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My Fan Club May Be Small But It's Also...Disloyal

great to have fans Like the clerk at Coles I autographed 15 copies of Hey! Is That Guy Dead or Is He The Skip? for their "Signed By Author's Section" asked if she could put them in a bag for me she began to ring up the sale.

Like Walter, the only person to show up at a reading I did at the Waverly Library in Thunder Bay who insisted I perform the entire one hour presentation for him as he sat in the front of 79 empty chairs. He also insisted on a Q&A period although he had no questions. And he attended the obligatory book signing that followed although he bought no books.

Like the woman at the Chautauqua Institute in New York, where I taught for ten summers who praised my work profusely before asking me to sign two books for her and her sister. Before she walked away, she asked: "When did you first begin to draw?" Immediately I realized she had mistaken me for cartoonist Jerry Robinson and that I should give back her \$50 bill. But where would I ever sell two books, one signed to Lydea and the other to Eaned?

"Well," I said nervously, "I guess I was three or four, but I wasn't very good at it."

As she disappeared into the crowd going to hear Jerry Robinson speak, I remember thinking about Harry Chapin and that great song Taxi. "I stashed the bill in my shirt."

So fans. I've had a few. But then again, too few to mention.

Recently, I've been trying to buy back some of my own books which are now out of print like The Dog Rules (Damn Near Everything!) and The Cat Rules (Everything -Including The Dog.) I have

As I've said in the past, as a writer it's no idea how this works. I go on Amazon and digitally toss my books into an bookstore in London, Ontario, who, after imaginary cart and they show up in the mail from some obscure, independent book stores in America.

> Interesting that a copy of The Cat Rules arrived from the Thrift Books in Aurora, Illinois wrapped in plastic and stamped "Friends of the Mississauga Library System. Thank You For Your Support." Well, apparently that support goes only one way because when the library got tired of shelving my book they sold it in their remainder bin and the buyer resold it to a book store in the States!?!

> Did I say 'interesting'? No, degrading actually because the book is inscribed: "Merry Christmas Nancy. All The Best. William J. Thomas." Now I've done a lot of speaking and signing gigs in a lot of towns so I have no idea who Nancy is and trust me, it's just as well. But Nancy, if you're reading this column, my new best wish for you is that next Christmas finds you down with the flu as your cat coughs up a hairball on the plate with Santa's cookies and he rewards you with a lump of coal that gets stepped on and crushed on your white shag carpet. The one you bought yourself for Christmas.

> Gee, I hope that didn't sound bitter but there's something traitorous about asking an author to not just sign his book but also personalize an inscription for you... at Christmas time no less and then putting it in a lawn sale or donating it to your local library!

> Another copy of The Cat Rules arrived without it's cover and inscribed: "For Angela And Brian. Best Always, "Best" then but William J Thomas." not "Always." No idea who Angela and Brian are but perhaps by some strange

> > Continued on page three...



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Continued from page two...

coincidence they know Nancy and may she give them both a bout of the flu while her cat uses their shoes for target practice.

But wait, it gets better. A few months ago I happened to be having lunch at Flyers Cafe And Bakery in Dunnville when I spotted a copy of The Dog Rules on a nearby book shelf. It was for sale. Flyers, which by the way, has really good food at reasonable prices used to be the Reader's Cafe where, according to the flyleaf of this book I did a signing on Thursday, December 7, 2000. The book was in perfect condition. It looked like it has never been opened. Which means it had probably never been read by either Cher or Paul as in: "For Cher & Paul. The best friends a writer can have. Thank you, William Thomas."

You see what happened there? The hand extended in friendship just got bitten.

Long gone from today's business, my "best friends" Cher and Paul were the owners and operators of the Reader's Cafe 19 years ago. Today they operate a company which surreptitiously injects X-Lax into the Meals On Wheels being delivered to seniors with mobility issues. Okay, they don't do that. I made that up.

I'm sure Cher and Paul are healthy wherever they are I just hope their today. consciences keep them awake all night...wide awake in the middle of the night which by the way is a great time to cuddle up with a good book... THAT JUST HAPPENS TO BE SIGNED AND PERSONALLY INSCRIBED TO YOU!!!

Oh yeah, I have fans. I even have their names. The problem is they don't remember me! "For sale: pre-owned goodcondition copies of most of my books. Already signed and inscribed to people I'm currently not speaking to."

And for comments, ideas and copies of The Cat Rules go to www.williamthomas.ca

CANADA DAY, EH ...

Shout out to everyone who made Canada Day so awesome ... Photos by Rosalind Russell





















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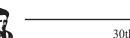
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11:00 am - 6:00 pm - Registration at Massey and District Arena

1:00 pm - Massey Predators Colour Run Registrations

3:00 pm - 1k Colour Run 3:30 pm - 5k Colour Run

5:00 - 7:00 pm: Spaghetti Feast - Cost \$8.00/person, Under Age of 5 is Free

Sunday, July 21

5:00 - 5:45 am: No registrations accepted. Pick up

race packages only.

6:00 am: FULL MARATHON START 6:15 am: 1/2 MARATHON START 6:30 am: CHUTES 10k START 7:00 am: FAMILY 5k START

8:00 am - 11:30 am: Pancake Breakfast

Cost \$6.00/person, under Age of 5 is Free

8:00 am: Awards ceremony will be on-going at the Arena as soon as the runners complete their race









VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ALL EVENTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Contact Brady Ropp 705-862-1426 Email info@masseymarathon.com Website www.masseymarathon.com Continued from front page...

Espanola Mayor And Fire Chief Open New Fire Hall

by the administrative staff of Espanola, public works and his staff who made the transition from the old hall into the new run smoothly.

Espanola Mayor Jill Beer joined him in cutting the hose followed by cake and socializing.

Meanwhile, another Espanola landmark is gone to make way for the new.

Demolition of the old fire hall in Espanola was carried out

earlier in the week.

The fire hall opened in 1970 and prior to that Espanola's fire services were provided by the local pulp and paper mill now owned by Domtar.

The space will now be used for parking for staff of the new fire hall located right beside it.

Public tours of the new hall will take place July 20th from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Photos by Rosalind Russell

Bringing Joy Through Music



Photo: The Sunshine Singers love to entertain, especially seniors at the Long-Term Care Residence at the Espanola Regional Hospital & Health Centre, as well as at the Seniors Drop-in Centre in Espanola. Photo provided by Bessy Budge on behalf of the Sunshine Singers.

By Bessy Budge - The Sunshine Singers like to spread a little sunshine and happiness with their songs.

And, their performances often coincide with special occasions such as Remembrance Day, Christmas, Valentines, St. Patrick's, and Memories of Western Days.

Avid entertainers, they especially love sharing their love of music at the Seniors Drop-In Centre and Long-Term Care Residence at the Espanola Regional Hospital & Health Centre.

They performed for July 1st and the United Church Concert of Choirs.

The choir is under the direction of Mariette Laginski with Joanne Belmore on piano, along with some accompaniment on the guitar (Jerry Rancourt) and mandolin (Carol Ann McGregor).

Joy and happiness are what their music is all about.



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Espanola Council News

No second building inspector for Espanola - Espanola council did not approve the hiring of a second building inspector.

Espanola hired a second building inspector to share with other municipalities a couple of years ago.

That inspector is so busy with the outside communities, they are now not available for Espanola. A third had been hired to cover for another who went on maternity leave, but did not return.

A request was made to hire a second inspector to alleviate some of the workload, but Councillor Heather Mallott pointed out there is an obligation to taxpayers to keep costs down. Council decided a second inspector will not be hired and the town will have to work around the full time building inspector's schedule to get the work done, such as building permits, inspections and other requirements of the position.

Espanola municipal hiring policy fine-tuned - There will be some exemptions to the hiring policy for filling vacancies at the Town of Espanola.

Espanola council has been dealing with the policy since last fall, but is close to the final version.

The matter came up for discussion on Tuesday night with councillors agreeing they want to review all vacant municipal hirings.

Councillor Ken Duplessis moved for an amendment exempting volunteer firefighters and casual staffers from the policy.

Council agreed and the policy will now go back to Corporate Services for final review before coming back for passage as a bylaw.

Audio surveillance removed immediately at Espanola complex - Audio surveillance will be immediately removed from the Espanola Regional Recreation Complex following a motion by Councillor Maureen Vanalstine.

Vanalstine said she was very concerned about the idea of audio surveillance at the complex and whether it is legal or not although video surveillance is clearly visible and advertised in the building.

She put a motion on the floor asking for it be to be immediately shut down after receiving an email from CAO Cynthia Townsend verifying there is audio recording at the complex. There are council records indicating personal information obtained from the site is collected under the legal authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act of 1991.

However, council will be obtaining a legal opinion on the matter and unanimously voted to shut down the audio surveillance immediately



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Duck Race 2019



A McKerrow man is grinning ear to ear following a big win at the Canada Day festivities in Espanola.

Michael Seguin of McKerrrow won the \$1,000 first prize at this year's Duck Race organized by North Shore



Search and Rescue.

The funds raised from the sale of tickets throughout Northern Ontario go towards the unit, which is 100% totally self-supportive.

A huge shout out is extended to all the local area businesses who supported the event once again this year.

Photos by Rosalind Russell and North Shore Search & Rescue files

Recipe

I love peanut butter; in fact
I always say if I had to pick
one food item to take to a
deserted island, it would be
a jar of peanut butter. Put
peanut butter with ice cream



and you have a winner in my books! When it's hot outside there isn't anything better than a big bowl of ice cream. This easy Peanut Butter Ice Cream Topping is easy to make, has just a few ingredients, and is the perfect addition to your summer sundaes.

Peanut Butter Ice Cream Topping

- 1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter don't use a Natural Peanut Butter
- · 5 tablespoons water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract



Place sweetened condensed milk and peanut butter in a small saucepan over low heat. Stir until smooth. Add water and stir until it is incorporated. Remove from heat then stir in the vanilla. Transfer sauce to a jar to cool. It will thicken as it cools. To make it pourable, just heat it in the microwave for a few seconds, then stir and drizzle or pour over your favorite ice cream. Store covered at room temperature.

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CELEBRATION OF LIFE



Celebration of Life for Norman Cormier, July 13, 11:00 a.m. at the Espanola Cemetery. Gathering at the Espanola Legion to follow. PHYSIOTHERAPY
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Saturdays
July to Mid Oct
9:00 am - 12:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY NOTES

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The Lee Valley Autumn Leaves Strawberry Shortcake Social - July 13 at 1:00 p.m. Entertainment by bluegrass band Third Fox. Everybody welcome

Flower Making - Massey & Township Public Library will be making hydrangea flowers out of coffee filters on Monday, July 15th starting at 1:00 p.m. Please call library to register.

Celebrate 100 years of Espanola Public/A.B. Ellis School - Join us on August 2, 3, 4. Register online at https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ab-ellis-espanola-public-school-100th-anniversary-celebration-tickets-61092927591?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

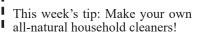
Espanola Public Library Board Game Night - NO fee or registration required! Every 3rd Thursday of every month 6:00-8:00 p.m.

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.

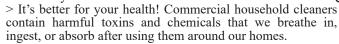
Do you have a NOTE for the Community?

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

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.



Here's why:



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- > 1 cup distined water
- > 1 cup white vinegar (a natural disinfectant)
- > 15-20 drops of your favourite essential oils. We like to use lemon and tea tree oil for their natural anti-bacterial properties.
- If you don't have essential oils, you can soak lemon and orange peels in your vinegar for 24-48 hours and then simply add the water!

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



Moose > Corner

The Moose 99.3 FM CJJM - Espanola is proud to support local charities and organizations. If you have an event you want to share, please call Roz at 705-869-6397 or email your information to: rrussell@moosefm.com The Moose- Espanola's Biggest Variety! Your Station, Your News, Your Stories

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Competition #2019-04-ISS Closing date: July 12, 2019

For position details, visit Job Opportunities on our website at

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While all responses are appreciated, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.



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