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December 22, 2020 Issue #51 - Volume 24

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Lions And Legion Members Gather For Teddy Bear Toss



By *Rosalind Russell* - Mr. and Mrs. Santa stopped on their way through the North Shore corridor to hand out candy canes to people who tossed their bears and other stuffies!. The event, which took place last Tuesday, December 15th, is a joint effort between The Espanola Lions Club and the Espanola Royal Canadian Legion Branch #39 with toys going towards the Lions Club Annual Toy Drive.

Photos by Rosalind Russell

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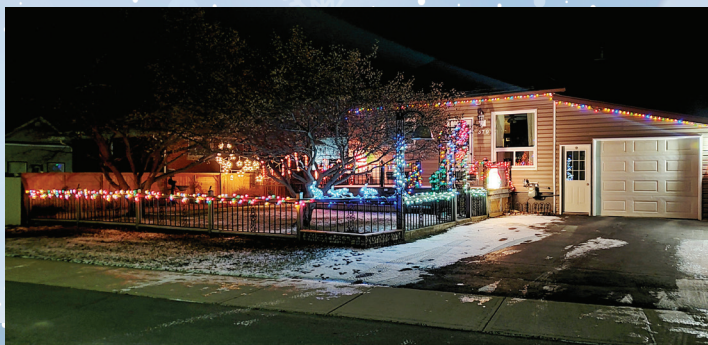
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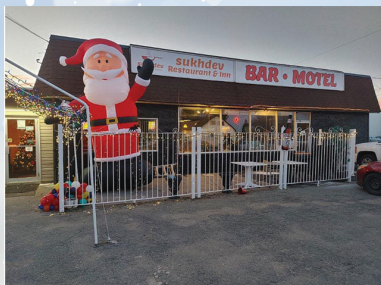
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Judges Choice
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Most Creative
 Barry Innis
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 Sukhdev Restaurant- 585 Centre St.

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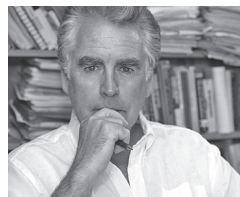
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All The World's A Circus

William Thomas

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I'm Dreaming Of A Black Christmas

Black Christmas? That's actually the title of a funny book by the Daily Show's Lewis Black which also happens to capture the mood of this COVID-19 Christmas season. Yes, it's that special time of the year again when the world celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ and the bank account of Jeff Bezos. Yet, there are some interesting gifts out there this year. If you're shopping for someone you work with, Sweat-Absorbing Armpit Pads For Your Sweaty Coworker is a tad too rude. A four-pack of Dial Soap might be a nicer touch. And for the record, after all these years, a gift-wrapped can of Beano is funny to everyone except the guy who gets it. Days Of The Week Underwear may not be a glamour gift, but at least you'll know when the weekend arrives!

I'm not suggesting Prime Minister Justin Trudeau should send Chinese President Xi Jinping the all-new Super Creepy Revenge Voodoo Doll, but it might be our last hope of getting back the "two Michaels." Watch the pressure mount on Jinping as Trudeau first pushes "serious canker sores" and works his way down to "organ removals." When it comes to Christmas gifts, I usually go with books & booze and except for that one time when I mixed up the tags and my 10-year-old niece took a straw to her bottle of Jack Daniels — it has worked out pretty well.

At the end of a stressful year that has turned teetotalers into two fisters, I'm not surprised that alcohol-related gifts are at the top of many people's lists. Not only does a case of Niagara wine delivered at no

charge to your door make a fine gift, it also keeps your photo off the "Hoarders Board" at your local LCBO. (Every Wednesday I put a note on my blue box full of empties. "Sorry, I just cleaned out the garage." And the driver signs it back, "Yeah, right.")

The Diamond Sterling, the world's most expensive bottle of tequila, is available for \$3.5 million and please, have the checkout clerk double bag it for you. This tequila is so exclusive, the worm at the bottom of the bottle has had work done on its wrinkles.

There's also The Topsy Tree gift for \$66 from which you can hang miniature bottles of everybody's favourite spirit. It comes with a really big candy cane to steady yourself at around midnight. (Made that last part up.)

With Christmas arriving at the same time as "surge two" of the coronavirus, giving books as gifts has become a lot trickier this year. Given the fact that you are not supposed to have anybody come to your house over the holidays, not even Santa, I'm guessing Jean Paré's book Entertaining For The Holidays is an all-time worstseller. What you lose on crowd you might gain on a couple with Jasmine Guillory's new book Party Of Two. Snark! The Herald Angels Sing and Boo Humbug are two books that will insure an early end to that party.

Although Punching The Air is billed an inspirational story for teens, what with this insidious virus enveloping us like a fog, I see nothing wrong with duking it out with our invisible enemy. For that special person

Continued on page three...

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Continued from page two...

in your family who before the COVID-19 lockdown never said anything more profane than 'dang', here comes Tis The Season To Be Sweary.

Be real careful with Martha Stewart's Cookie Perfection now that she and Snoop Dog (if there's a more unlikely friendship it would have to be Lady Gaga and the Pope!) are partners in the cannabis business.

People have been cooped up with their pets for so long this book title almost sounds possible: I Could Pee On This - And Other Poems by Cats. Similarly, with shelter-in-place boredom off the chart, The Joy Of Water Boiling may actually excite some people.

If anybody's buying a gift for Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, who initially claimed masks were not all that important, might I suggest a new audiobook by Beth Evans — I Really Didn't Think This Through.

Leah Johnson's You Should See Me In A Crown is the gift President Donald Trump wants most for Christmas as copies of Sarah Brabbs' So People Say You're An A-hole keep piling up on Rudy Giuliani's doorstep.

In what feels like a race in which the virus is trying to kill as many people as possible before the vaccine kills it, perhaps the one book we can all relate to is Chelsea Handler's Life Will Be The Death Of Me. For those of us who have quarantined alone, I Would Leave Me If I Could strikes a bit of a sad chord.

Although Do You Mind If I Cancel? by Gary Janetti is a satirical take on young royals, given the rising COVID-19 death rate in the province, I'll be sending a copy off to the staff here at Davidson's Funeral Home, where apparently, I'm 'pre-registered.'

And finally, based only on the title, if I could, I would send a copy of The Beautiful Ones off to every doctor, nurse, orderly and nursing home employee in this country. Have a merry, weary Christmas, folks. There is now a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel and no, it's not an unscheduled VIA Rail train.

Any of the ten books written by William Thomas are available at www.williamthomas.ca
Comments: williamjthomas@gmail.com

Front Desk Clerk Position Part Of Job Shuffle At Espanola Town Hall

Espanola will no longer be the only municipality in Ontario without a person at the front desk.

Town CAO Cynthia Townsend says they had to change up some positions following the resignation of long-time employee Paula Roque, whose resignation came into effect on November 26th.

She says the council passed a motion to have her add the duties of Treasurer to her resume adding

the Administrative Assistant will now become the Deputy Clerk. Townsend says she now also has authorization to hire a receptionist for the front desk.

She says both positions are now being advertised and she expects them to be filled soon.

The Town has been without a front desk person for several months following a motion by council not to fill the vacancy when long-time staffer Angela Kelly retired last year.

Whitefish River First Nation using modern mobile app for communication

Whitefish River First Nation has partnered with Aivia Design and Technology Engineering to develop an innovative, cross-platform mobile app for their band members.

Chief Franklin Paibomsai says the app will allow band administration to send out any vital information, especially COVID-19 updates, whether

they live on or off-reserve.

He adds members can also fill out customized forms and surveys to provide feedback to band administrators.

Paibomsai says the Whitefish River First Nation app launched on Apple and Android phones and are available through the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Christmas Schedule for Garbage & Recycling.

**ATTENTION:
Residents of Espanola**

**Garbage Pick-up will change to the following
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Canadian Tire Espanola General Manager Sharon Gaudreau presents donation to President of the Espanola Elks Wanda Ouimette. Received was a \$1000 donation to the Elks Food Hamper Drive.

Lions Toy Drive



By Grant Lewis - Agnes Michon, alias Mrs. Santa Claus, has once again outdone herself. For the past 26 years through illness and good times, Agnes has made, recycled and bought over 10,000 toys for the Lions Toy Drive. And this year her efforts have continued. The Lions Club is eternally

grateful to this incredible lady whose energy, determination and love for her fellow man (especially children) knows no bounds. She represents the true spirit of Christmas. Agnes proudly shows her skill and love to a local Lions member Sue Cairns. Sue's comment was, "I can't believe this!" God bless you Agnes Michon.



By Grant Lewis - On the morning of Tuesday, December 15, five eager shoppers went on a toy buying spree for the Lions Toy Drive.



Kids helping kids...doesn't get any better than that. Thank you staff and students at A.B.Ellis for helping us out. Photos By Grant Lewis



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Who Has Been Painting The Rocks?



Travellers, walkers, tourists, and residents have found painted rocks throughout the North Shore corridor, but

who painted them? Several individuals have taken on different projects during the pandemic to send out

positive messages and one of them is Roselyn Andress of McKerrow.

Andress says she has painted over 600 rocks in the last nine months to help cheer up people and let them know they are not alone.

She says even with winter on its way, she plans to continue her painting adding she is glad to have left her mark on 2020 in such an unusual way.

Andress adds painting the rocks has led her to try her hand at drawing and abstract art.

"It was strange to me, but it started off as an idea in my head and then I had to put it on paper. It is very relaxing and fun. It started out to relieve stress, but now it is a great way to share with the community at large."

Andress says the pandemic

has created strange times and different behaviours, such as masking, staying apart.

"With the pandemic, it is important to go out of our way to be kind, even more so than ever before. It is also important for people to find something that is fun and relaxing. Together we will make it through this."

"I know it is hard to share a smile wearing a mask, so I hope in my own small way, I have made someone feel better and look forward to the future with a positive outlook."

The response to her artwork has been positive with some pieces now available for sale at Remedy's RX, Rebound Therapeutic Services, and Dr. Laurenti's Chiropractic office. As for the rocks, keep looking ... you might be lucky and find one!

Recipe

Are you looking for a last minute, easy to make, delicious cookie to make for Christmas? These are one of my favourites that my mom makes throughout the year. I stock up on peanut butter chips when I'm shopping at Walmart just to make these cookies.



Peanut Butter Clusters

- 2 cups peanut butter chips
- 1 cup milk chocolate chips
- 1 ½ cups dry roasted peanuts
- 1 cup crushed rippled potato chips



In a microwave-safe bowl, melt peanut butter chips and chocolate chips; stir until smooth. Stir in peanuts and potato chips. Drop by level tablespoonfuls onto waxed paper-lined baking sheets. Refrigerate until firm. Store in an airtight container.



Christmas blessings from...

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Thank You

The family of Welly Mowry wishes to express our sincere gratitude to all who delivered food to our homes, flowers, cards, and messages of love and condolences. Your kindness has been greatly appreciated during this difficult time.

OBITUARY



Vale – Walter of Webbwood passed away in his home on December 12, 2020 at the age of 67. Dear son of the late Walter Squires & Mary Vale. Loving father of Aaron Vale (Andrea) of Val Caron. Cherished by grandchildren Serenity and Haven Vale. Dear brother of Ralph Vale and Melanie Vale. Also, will be sadly missed by many friends & relatives. Cremation has taken place with a Celebration of Life at a later date with interment in the Naim Cemetery. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME Ltd, Espanola.

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With heavy hearts we announce the passing of

*Wellington
Bradley
Mowry*

on November 24th after a brief and unexpected illness.

Welly will be dearly missed by his loving wife Carrie-Lou, and his daughters Carrie-Ann (Jeff), Dawn (Steve) and Lacey (Chris). Papa to grandchildren Bradley, Abbie, Grace, Lillie, Mallory, Emily-Ann, Seth, Gerri, Pearl, and Olivia. Special brother to Verna, Jack, Gloria, Basil, and Marlin. Favourite brother-in-law and uncle to many nieces and nephews.

Although first and foremost a family man, Welly left a mark on everyone he met with his humour, patience, and generosity. His love of travel and music led him to countless festivals and concerts where he couldn't help but make new friends. He shared deep connections and lasting friendships with co-workers, and also his beloved co-op students who he took great pride in mentoring throughout his career. "The Welly" lived every day to the fullest and left behind no regrets.

A celebration of life will take place once it's safe to gather with friends and family.

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IN MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory Of Shawn Andress

Born - December 27, 1978 ♦ Passed away - February 19, 2018

Remembering all our cherished memories with you. We miss you, & love you always.

All our love, Your family.

IN MEMORIAM

Snowflakes To Heaven
We send this snowflake with
a hug and a kiss, to those in
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We are sharing this snowflake in
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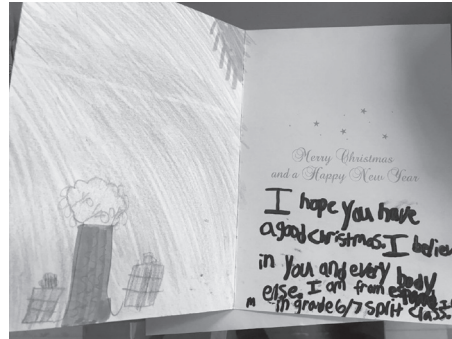
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Scott Ramsay
Brianna Roussy
Gerald Lendrum
Tyler Richer

Thank You For The Christmas Cards



Laura McPherson of the Espanola Royal Canadian Legion Branch #39 helped organize the friendly Christmas Card competition this year. She would like to thank everyone that donated cards to the Legion for the send a wish to our armed

forces initiative. Cards were brought to the three Espanola elementary schools, AB Ellis Public, Sacred Heart Catholic and Ecole St. Joseph where the students wrote notes and drew pictures in the cards supplied. She says others made their own cards totalling over 300. Residents also brought cards to the Legion, with 429 cards and letters sent out to the Canadian Armed Forces. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Photo by Laura McPherson

COMMUNITY NOTES

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Free Espanola Community Christmas dinner - will be happening this year as take out only on Christmas Day at 4:00 pm at the Espanola Legion. Please call to order your hot Christmas dinner. Joan 705-869-1648 or Marlene 705-869-4644.

Massey Community Christmas Dinner - December 25, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Pick-up at Massey Legion by reservation only. Please call and leave your name and phone number to reserve. Mary 705-865-2633 or Lynn 705-862-2726.

Al-Anon Support for families and friends - troubled by someone's drinking. Meetings every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at St George's Anglican Church, Tudhope St. More information @ al-anon.org

Espanola Public Library Expanded Curbside Pick-Up Service - You can now call (705-869-2940) and pick-up library materials for Curbside Pick-Up on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00am – 4:00pm.

Do you have a NOTE for the Community?

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On behalf of The Moose 99.3 FM- CJJM and VISTA Radio, thank you for all your support in 2020. Merry Christmas and look forward to sharing a bright 2021 with you! Happy New Year!