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## Indigenous Minister Tours Birch Island



By **Rosalind Russell** - Federal Indigenous Minister Marc Miller was given a tour of Whitefish Falls First Nation highlighting new infrastructure and facilities.

On Friday, February 14th Miller was greeted with the smoking of the Peace Pipe and gifts, followed by a tour of the new daycare at Shawanosowe School and the new Elders' facility, which is nearly completed.

Continued on page four...

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# All The World's A Circus

William Thomas

williamjthomas@gmail.com

## Statistics That Will Make Your Eyes Pop Out!

And before we get started, 50% of people who have Graves disease also suffer from Proptosis, an ophthalmology condition in which your eyes pop out.

Statistics--meaningless and boring facts that are ruining everything we watch, read or listen to. Baseball writers can't insert enough anagrams into their articles like OPS, ISO, GIDPs etc. To me it's a load of BB SH. That's Base On Balls and Sacrifice Hits.

In weather the "RRR" is a double crossing pacific high pressure system that causes droughts in California. The "Ridiculous Resilient Ridge." And you don't want to get caught in the extratropics between a 500hPa and a AGP even if it is PV-detected. In every source of information, we are being numbed by numbers and stupefied by statistics and befuddled by facts. Which is why whenever I come across a real statistic-- a valid, old-school, understandable and relevant number- I'm taken somewhat aback.

Weatherwise, the glaciers in Antarctica are melting at a rate that has shocked even the scientists who monitor them. Pine Island Glacier, a chunk of ancient ice the size of Paris, is about to collapse and melt triggering a global sea rise of four feet! Hello Kilimanjaro. Goodbye Key West.

The heating up of the planet is causing stronger and more frequent winds even at the top of our atmosphere where last week a British Airways passenger jet set a speed record on their New York to London route. Pushed by a phenomenal tailwind, they made the flight in four hours and 56 minutes. I can hear the global warming deniers now: "See! Faster travel! Hotter summers! And waterfront property in downtown Hamilton!"

Animal wise, the pangolin, a small "so ugly he's cute" anteater from Asia is the world's most illegally trafficked mammal. So sought after for the medicinal property of

its scales, the pangolin makes up 20% of all the illegal wildlife trade. It might have been a pangolin somebody ate that started the Coronavirus. It's scales are made of keratin so you get the same medicinal benefit as you would if you ate your fingernails. Also keratin.

Healthwise, once again Canada falls embarrassingly short when it comes to the "doctors per capita" statistic. According to the highly respected Commonwealth Fund, Norway has the best ratio at 4.8 and Canada barely beats out the United States with a dismal 2.7 practising physicians per 1,000 people. Canada also has the fourth highest suicide rate among the 11 richest countries in the world. That's one way of avoiding the long wait times for surgery or convalescing in a hallway of a hospital but still, it's not right. The United States at 13.9 people per 100,000 had the highest suicide rate of all 11 countries tracked and that statistic is expected to double if President Trump gets re-elected.

Sportswise, Major League Baseball is testing all sorts of new rules to reduce the length of games which average about three hours. No wonder baseball is referred to as a pastime because the total time when something is actually happening on the field is...17 minutes and 58 seconds. What MLB should be worried about are their playoff games which start at 8pm, end about midnight and are effectively killing off their next generation of fans...the kids.

Following professional hockey, I just assumed that after 15 seasons in the NHL, considered the best of his era, Sydney Crosby would naturally be the most prolific scorer with 451 goals. As of this writing, Alexander Ovechkin has 241 more goals than Crosby over the same number of games.

In basketball, the free throw for seasoned professionals should be a 'no-brainer.'

Continued on page three...

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*Continued from page two...*

Standing 15 feet from the basket with the play stopped and the crowd quiet, it should be automatic--up, one and done. Most NBA players who occasionally sink a basket from half court can't hit the free throw with any regularity. The great Shaq O'Neal at 52.7% made the free throw only half the time. The amazing Wilt Chamberlain who once scored 100 points in a single game was even worse from the free throw line at 51.1%.

So you have to shake your head watching the YouTube video of 72-year-old Stuart Robbins hit 16 free throws in a row to get himself into the Guinness Book of World Records. Stuart relied heavily on his walker between shots, he was wearing white socks and sneakers and oh, yeah one other thing--he was blindfolded! Shouldn't the Raptors sign this guy? There's no telling how many he might sink with that blindfold off!

But here's the best. I'm a bit of a soccer fan, following Toronto FC and the Portuguese national team starring Cristiano Ronaldo.

A phenomenal player, Ronaldo was the quickest Real Madrid player to reach 50 goals. And then 100, and then 150 and then 200. Like Pele of Brazil, once considered the greatest ever in the game, Ronaldo is a scoring machine. In international World Cup, Ronaldo has an amazing 99 goals while the Brazilian has 77.

So guess who has the most goals in international soccer? No, not Ronaldo. (Gawd, I love this stat!) At 185 goals, Canada's sweetheart of the pitch, Christine Sinclair has more World Cup goals than Ronaldo and Pele put together! Nine more goals than these two amazing athletes considered the very best of their eras.

Yeah, that's the feel good fact of 2020 so far. No OGs (own goods), FT's (first touches) or LPS (longest passing strings) necessary.

To buy a book or invite humorist William Thomas To be your guest speaker, go to [www.williamthomas.ca](http://www.williamthomas.ca) [williamjthomas@gmail.com](mailto:williamjthomas@gmail.com)

## The First Draft Of The Municipal Budget For Espanola

The initial draft of Espanola's municipal budget shows an increase of 6.14% but that is likely to go down following further line-by-line review by council.

Town CAO Cynthia Townsend says some of the increase can be attributed to police transition costs.

She says Espanola is in year two of the transition process from

municipal to OPP policing.

Townsend adds another reason is the reconstruction of a section of Highway 6 and the replacement of the main trunk line from the water treatment plant into town.

The projects are to be completed this summer.

Council will be meeting throughout February to find ways to reduce taxes with a final budget in place by March.

## Sagamok-Anishnawbek First Nation Withdraws From UOI

Sagamok-Anishnawbek First Nation has withdrawn from the Union of Ontario Indians. In a notice to the community, chief and council have made the decision to withdraw from the organization for two reasons: Sagamok has its own political authority to deal with the Crown through the Huron-Superior Treaty of 1850 and they state they don't need a middle man to handle their affairs.

The notice states while the union's original function was to act as a body for political advocacy, it has become

another layer of bureaucracy that siphons off funding it gets for First Nations.

While other First Nations are in the process of working on self-government agreements with the federal government, Sagamok council does not believe it needs one because the right to self-governance is part of the treaty, so council has also withdrawn from that process as part of dissolving their relationship with the union.

The union has not responded for comment.



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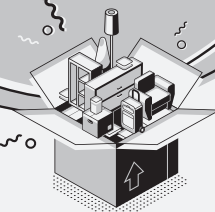
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## Two Wiikwemikoong Women To Be Honoured Nationally



Two women from Wiikwemikoong Unceded First Nation on Manitoulin Island will receive the highest honour bestowed on Indigenous peoples.

Wiikwemikoong Chief Duke Peltier says the community is honoured that two of their own will receive an award at the 2020 Indspire Awards.

He says Marian Jacko will receive the Law & Justice Award as the first female children's Indigenous lawyer in Ontario and her advocacy for children, youth and family. Peltier adds Jeanette Corbiere Lavell, a member of the Order of Canada will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award for her long-time advocacy of

culture and as a human rights advocate.

Peltier says the two will be presented with their award at the 2020 Indspire Awards at a ceremony at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa on March 6th.

**Photo:** Marian Jacko, the first female children's Indigenous lawyer in Ontario and Jeanette Corbiere Lavell, a member of the Order of Canada, long-time advocacy of culture and a human rights advocate will receive the 2020 Indspire Awards for their contributions. Both women hail from Wiikwemikoong Unceded Nation on Manitoulin Island. Photos - anishnawbeknews

## Local Representation Sought For Medical School

Members of the public who are interested in improving health care are being encouraged to apply to join the board of directors for the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. Experience in the medical or health field is not required, but would be considered an asset. The school is looking for

five people from diverse backgrounds who reside in rural or remote communities across Northern Ontario to sit on the board as of September. February 28th is the deadline to apply.

Those interested are encouraged to apply online at [nosm.ca/boardrecruitment](http://nosm.ca/boardrecruitment).

## Principals Want To Cancel EQAO Testing

School principals in Ontario are asking the government to delay the "Education Quality and Accountability Office" literacy test set for March 31st, because of on-going strikes by teachers across the province.

The principals are suggesting the E-Q-A-O test be put off for a year, with a double cohort

taking it at that time.

They say students may not be sufficiently prepared for the test because of the teachers' job actions, and holding the test on the appointed day may not be possible.

So far, there's been no response from Education Minister Stephen Lecce.

Continued from front page...

## Indigenous Minister Tours Birch Island

He also met with all the students followed by a tour of the new water tower and plant. Miller told Chief, Council and members of the community that more dialogue and open doors are needed with First Nations, which is a priority for him.

He says with open, honest dialogue the government and First Nations can continue to see more improvements and an equitable relationship in future talks.



## Federal Government Testing Seat Belts On School Buses

The federal government has introduced a pilot project to install three-point seatbelts to new school buses.

The federal task force is launching the project in Sudbury and later this spring will select a test site in British Columbia.

Sudbury was chosen due to the interest shown by the Sudbury

Student Services Consortium, a partnership between the four school boards to share busing in the district, as well as Espanola and Massey.

The project will get underway with a limited number of new buses getting seat belts installed. It's estimated 2.2 million Canadian children take a bus to school.

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**Pancake Supper** - United Church of Espanola 137 Sheppard St Tuesday, February 25 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Tickets available at the door.

**Spanish River Snowmobile Club-Next Meeting** - Thursday, February 27th, 7:30 p.m. at the Spanish Town office-back room. Everyone is welcome!

**The "World Day of Prayer"** - Friday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Andrews United Church in Massey.

**World Day of Prayer** - Friday, March 6, 2:00 p.m. at the St. George's Anglican Church Espanola

**Bean Supper** - Sunday, March 8 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church.

**C.W.L. Saint Patrick's Day Soup & Sandwich Luncheon** - Tuesday, March 17 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Saint Jude Parh Hall.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

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**Massey Area Museum AGM** - March 26, 7:00 p.m. at the Museum, 154 Sables Street in Massey. The purpose of this meeting is for election of Executive Officers and Board Members. The public is invited.

**Voices of Spring Community Choir** - rehearsals Saturday, 10:30 am in the basement of St. Andrew's United Church, Massey. New members always welcome.

**Free community luncheon at the Lighthouse** - every second and fourth Tuesday of the month 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Everyone welcome.

### *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

Everyone has a chocolate chip cookie recipe; I actually have many. But this recipe promised that these were the "best". So, I tried it, and they are pretty darn good; my mom even asked for the recipe. The middle of the cookie is nice and soft, and the outer edge has a little crispiness. Of course, with any cookie recipe, baking time can be less or more depending on how crispy or soft you like your cookies.



### Best Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter barely melted. (You want to melt it in the microwave, but not over melt it, leave some small, solid pieces in in), and be sure to let it cool a bit before putting in with the other ingredients.
- ¾ cup light brown sugar, packed
- ⅔ cup granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 large egg
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a medium bowl mix together the flour, baking soda and the salt: Set aside.

In a large bowl beat together the butter, sugars, vanilla extract and the vinegar until smooth. Beat in the egg just until combined. Mix the flour mixture into the wet mixture just until combined. Stir in the chips. Using a large cookie scoop (about 2 rounded tablespoons) drop about 3 inches apart onto cookie sheet. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, they will look light brown around the edges and will look underdone in the center. Allow to sit on the sheet for 10 minutes before moving to a rack to cool.

*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 I've got a quick and easy recipe for your next Meatless-Monday! These quesadillas are super yummy and will have you forgetting that they're vegetarian after the first bite.

### Sweet Potato & Black Bean Quesadillas

#### *Ingredients:*

- 4 Medium flour tortillas
- 1 large sweet potato
- 2 avocados
- 1/2 cup black beans rinsed and drained
- 1/4 cup of corn
- 1 red pepper
- 1 orange pepper
- 1 tbsp taco seasoning
- 1 cup cheddar cheese
- 1 tbsp butter

#### *Prepare Filling*

• Use a fork to poke several holes into the sweet potato and microwave for 8 minutes or until very tender.

• Add diced peppers to a large pan and cook until tender. Add black beans, corn, and taco seasoning and stir to combine, cooking another 3 minutes. Pour into a bowl and set aside.

#### *Assemble the Quesadilla*

• Lightly spread butter over one side of the tortilla. On the other side spread about 3 tbsp of sweet potato over the tortilla. Next mash half of an avocado over the sweet potato. Add about 1/4 cup of the veggie/bean filling over the top of the avocado. Finally sprinkle a generous amount of cheese over top.

• Place the butter side of the tortilla down on the warm pan and cook over medium heat until tortilla is browned and cheese is melted. Carefully fold tortilla in half on to itself using the spatula. Repeat until all tortillas are filled and cooked. Slice and serve warm with salsa, sour cream, or guacamole!

Have questions? Feel free to forward them to [jaymie@localhippie.net](mailto:jaymie@localhippie.net)

Have a happy hippie week!



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## BINGOS

**MASSEY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.** 1st Monday of the month beginning January 6th, 2020. \$1825 cash prizes. Massey Arena - bingo starts @ 7:00 p.m. 04/28

## FUNDRAISER

**Fundraiser event in support of Rodney Landry**  
**February 28, 2020**  
**DFR Sports Bar**  
9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.  
**Live Band & Silent Auction**  
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## OBITUARIES



**Simonds - Phillip Alphonse** of Espanola passed away suddenly on February 15, 2020 at the age of 66. Dear son of the late Alphonse & Laraine (nee Ritchie) Simonds. Beloved husband of Carol (nee Poikimaki). Loving father of Darren Simond of Espanola, Dan Simond (wife Deanna) of Barrie, Rachelle Vlaad (husband Cary) of Lindsay and Caila Simond (partner Mike) of Espanola. Cherished grandfather of Hannah, Hazel, Ryan, Cameron and Rae-Lynn. Dear brother of Rachelle Williams (husband Stan) of Espanola, Diane Simonds (partner Keith) of Espanola, Colette Simonds of Espanola and Alfred Simonds (wife Alice) of Comber, Ont. Also, will be sadly missed by many friends & relatives. Cremation with interment of ashes in the Espanola Cemetery at a later date in the spring. If so desired, donations made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation would be appreciated. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME Ltd.



The sun shone a little brighter on February 13, 2020 as Jeff Timbers passed peacefully at the Espanola Hospital from Adrenocortical carcinoma. Beloved husband of Karen (nee McCormick) and much loved father of Gabrielle. Dear son of Kathe Timbers and the Old Man - Dan Gagan, Cherished son-in-law of Myron and Ann McCormick. Grandson of Ilsa Christiansen. Brother to Chris (Celine), Booger (Sarah), Shawn (Crystal), Curtis (Susan), Jason (Melanie), Christa (Andy), and Julia. Brother-in-law to Kim (Bill) and Carolyn (Nathan). Always the entertainer to many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and oh so many friends. Dearly loved by many; especially Mae Mae and Pops St. Amour.

Jeff was a skilled welder by trade and was especially proud to work at Cameco. He had no greater enjoyment than being in the bush with his friends and family hunting. Jeff was passionate about fast cars, motorcycles and basically anything with tires. He referred to himself as a self-made and had the tattoo to prove it. Jeff tended to take the road less travelled and made every turn in the road an adventure. His infectious smile and animated story telling will be greatly missed.

The utmost gratitude is extended to Dr. Aaron Hansen and the team at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, as well as, Dr. McMullen, the nurses and staff at Espanola Hospital. A special thank you to his loved ones and Father George Gardner who were with him throughout his cancer journey.

Funeral Mass took place at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Little Current on Saturday February 22, 2020 at 11 a.m. Family and friends gathered afterwards at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Espanola. Donations can be made in Jeff's honour towards Gabrielle's Post Secondary Education directly to RBC (05052-5008081) or The Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME Ltd.



Nicky Lamothe - PUBLISHER

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## IN MEMORIAM

### In Memory of Tim Huot



Even though you've been  
gone already 10 years, we  
miss you as much today as  
we did then, and always will.

Love you always  
Dad & Rolande  
The Fenn family  
Your family

Gone but never forgotten,  
missed daily and  
loved forever...

Your family

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Live Every Day.



VON is looking for Volunteers to  
join the Hospice Volunteer, Meals  
on Wheels & Transportation  
Programs for the following areas:

### Espanola Area

You must have Police Criminal  
Records Check Vulnerable Sector

VON has been accredited by the  
Canadian Council of Health  
Services Accreditation as a high  
quality care provider

VON is a national, charitable,  
not-for-profit health care  
organization.

If you are interested please  
forward a letter to:

Judy Sullivan, Site  
Coordinator VON 439 2nd Ave,  
Espanola, ON P5E 1L2 Email:  
Judy.Sullivan@von.ca

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### Canadian Mental Health Association, Sudbury-Manitoulin is hiring:

Justice Case Manager/Rehabilitation Practitioner,  
Manitoulin, Full-Time Permanent

**Deadline** for accepting applications is  
**Thursday, February 28, 2020 at noon.**

Please visit our website at  
<https://sm.cmha.ca/get-involved/careers/>  
for all application details.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Conseil des Services du District de  
**Manitoulin-Sudbury**  
District Services Board

210 boul Mead Blvd  
Espanola, ON P5E 1R9  
Telephone/Téléphone: (705) 862-7850  
Fax/Télécopieur: (705) 862-7805  
<http://www.msdsb.net>

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board is a  
municipal service management organization created by  
the provincial government to oversee the local planning,  
coordination and delivery of a range of services and  
programs divested to the municipal order of government.  
The specific programs our DSB is responsible for are:  
Ontario Works, Social Housing, Paramedic Services  
(Land Ambulance), and Early Learning and Child Care  
services.

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

### Finance Supervisor – Espanola

Permanent Full-Time  
Competition #2020-01-AD  
Closing date: March 27, 2020

For position details, visit Job Opportunities on our website at  
[www.msdsb.net/index.php/careers](http://www.msdsb.net/index.php/careers)

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

## THANK YOU



The Espanola Lions Club would like to  
thank the sponsors and volunteers who  
made the 2020 Seniors' Appreciation  
Supper such a huge success.

Espanola Vending  
Louise Eccleston  
Claire Lamothe  
Gail Lewis  
Marie Leeney  
Julie Mahar  
Espanola Elks Club  
In Touch Chiropractic  
Simplicity Natural Foods  
Seniors Club  
Around&About  
Queensway Pentecostal Church  
Tim Hortons  
O.J. Graphix  
Tanner's  
Espanola Chiropractic  
Rec Complex Employees  
Rev Stewart Walker

Christopher Zahorec  
Lions Club Members' Wives  
Theresa Laurenti  
Joan McClare  
Joanne Edwards  
Espanola Skating Club  
Adrian Carney  
Delayna Rantanen  
Marly Paradis  
Zoey Paradis  
Chantal Powers  
Kelly Paradis  
Kim Paradis  
Taryn Bond  
Kylie Bowles  
Owen Leblanc  
Laurie Carney

*Apologies to those whose names we may have missed.*

Winner of Epicure Basket - Claudette Charette of Massey

**This year was our 19th Anniversary!**  
**See you next year!**  
**Dario Laurenti, Chairman**