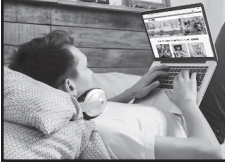


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Snowarma
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Snowarama
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By Rosalind Russell - Espanola's
annual Snowarama this year will take a
different approach to help raise funds for
Easter Seals.

Carmen Bazinet, the regional
administrator for Easter Seals says
they are introducing a COVID-friendly
virtual event this year.

Starting January 23rd, she says
participants can ride anytime and
anywhere until February 28th to fulfill
their pledges.

She says pledge forms are available
online at snowarama.org under the
Espanola location tab.

Bazinet adds Tim Hortons in Espanola
will host a contactless drop-off for
pledge forms and money raised on
Sunday, February 28th.

She emphasizes children with physical
disabilities have had little if any access
to school, social activities, therapies,
and support services so the need for
raising funds for essential mobility
and accessibility equipment is more
important than ever.

For more information and pledge forms,
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Helping Hand Food Bank Remains Open

Anyone needing access to the food bank in Espanola will receive the assistance they need.

That is the word from Helping Hand President Susan Kryzanowski who says the food bank will remain open from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm every Wednesday.

She adds the food bank is considered an essential service

and is located in Espanola's downtown.

Kryzanowski says the public must follow COVID19 regulations including wearing a mask and maintaining physical distancing.

Anyone wanting more information or to make a donation, can call 705-583-3045. The food bank is located at 87 Centre Street.

Unifor 74 Donation to MMHA



Massey Minor Hockey Association would like to thank Unifor 74 for their generous donation. We were able to purchase new Unifor 74 sponsored jerseys and socks for our Midgets team

and new hockey socks for our U11(Atoms), U13 (Peewees), and U15 (Bantams) teams.

Your generous donation helps to support local youth to participate in a sport that they love.

Emergency Funding For Veterans' Organizations Starting To Flow

Royal Canadian Legion Branches struggling with the pandemic are pleased that federal assistance is starting to flow, according to MP Carol Hughes.

Hughes says while the need to assist veteran's organizations was obvious, it took a concerted effort to convince the government to act.

Espanola Royal Canadian Legion Branch #39 was awarded

\$10,845 support funding in late December 2020 and Legion President Gary MacPherson says he's appreciative of the funding supports and the assistance provided by Hughes and MPP Mike Mantha in securing the grant, which will support local veterans and programming in the Espanola area.

Hughes adds any Legions needing funding can apply until the end of the month.

Town Of Espanola Passes Interim Tax Collection Bylaw

Despite the lockdown, the budgeting process continues in Espanola and the collection of taxes is one of those requirements. Espanola council has begun putting together the 2021 budget and as part of that process passed a motion for the collection of taxes for the first six months of this year.

Deputy Mayor Bill Foster asked that all penalties and late fees be suspended due to the lockdown and the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ratepayers are still expected to pay their taxes and if they face challenges to contact the municipal office to discuss a plan for payment.

Recipe

This is one of those recipes that I make often but don't have an exact recipe for. Rice accompanies many dishes, and I love mushrooms in almost everything; but you can of course omit them if you are not a fan. I have as accurately as I can, estimated the amounts I use. You can add more or less, of the add-in ingredients to suit your taste. The rice and liquid measurements always give me perfect rice.

Mushroom Rice

- 1-2 tbsp butter
- ¼ of an onion, chopped
- ½-1 package of fresh sliced mushrooms
- ½ tsp onion powder
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- ¼ tsp thyme
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 2 cups uncooked, long grain rice
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 2 cups water

Melt butter in a large pot on medium/high, add chopped onion and mushrooms. Add onion powder, garlic powder, thyme, salt and pepper. Stir and cook until onions and mushrooms start to soften. Add dry rice; stir and continue to cook for one minute. Pour in chicken stock and water. Bring to a boil and then heat down to low. Cover and continue to cook for 20 minutes or until all liquid is absorbed and rice is tender. Remove from heat and allow to sit 5 minutes. Stir with a fork and serve.

WOW!

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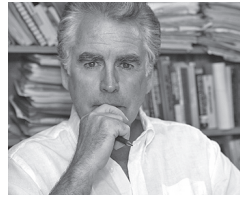
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Could America's Far-Right Attack On Democracy Spread North? Sorry, It's Already Here!

Watching the vicious insurgency by a ragtag army of angry fools despoiling Washington's seat of democracy was the most frightening television footage I have ever watched. My heart went out to 78 million Americans who just voted for President Joe Biden in a free and fair election that President Trump convinced millions of his supporters was fixed... because of course, he lost it.

There they were — out from under their rust-belt rocks wearing Viking horns and droopy beards, unmasked and frothing at the mouth as they beat retreating police with American flags - this loud and proud battalion of deplorables. America's best-known terrorist groups were front and centre armed with Confederate flags, lynch mob ropes and plastic hand cuffs. A few wore "Camp Auschwitz" T-shirts. Trump's Proud Boys were there, alongside the Oath Keepers and the Three Percenters whose name I like to think stems from the average number of questions Trump got right on that standard cognitive test he said he "aced."

"From these three pictures identify the lion, the camel and the hippopotamus. No sorry, the camel is the taller of the two." In a normal democratic country this 'stable genius' would not rise any higher in government than an assistant to somebody else's assistant.

Best of luck to President Joe Biden to heal and unite America. If Trump's base of support continues to stand at 20 million delusional far-righters, he's going to need 20 million cult deprogrammers to gently lead these lunatics back to reality.

In a 'where were you when Kennedy was shot' moment the Capitol Insurrection on January 6, 2021, is a day that will live in American infamy thereby dropping the attack on Pearl Harbour to second place. In war you expect the enemy to attack you; in peace you expect your president to protect you.

In a world where populist governments in Brazil, Poland, Hungary and Turkey are striking down human rights and personal freedoms in order to establish dictatorships,

if you think such a vile assault on democracy cannot happen here in Canada — you haven't been paying attention.

Candice Bergen, the Deputy Leader of the Conservative party, was recently photographed wearing Trump's trademark "Make America Great Again" hat. A joke? She now claims it was. Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole's new slogan is: "Take Back Canada!" Sound like "Make America Great Again?" It does to me.

Take Canada back from what... seventy-five years of peace and prosperity? Take back Canada from a leader who has a 74% approval rating on his handling of the pandemic? Take Canada back from being voted "the best country in the world" in which to live in when it comes to quality of life for four years in a row? (Although an asterisk with the words "Unless You're Indigenous" would have been more accurate.)

The massacre at the mosque which left six Muslims dead and 19 wounded did not happen south of the border but in a suburb of Quebec City.

So as O'Toole keeps repeating "Take Back Canada" is he tossing chum on political waters to see what scum might be lured to the surface by way of support? Because they're here alright.

According to Barbara Perry, an expert on Canadian hate crime, there are 130 active far-right extremist groups operating across Canada including the Aryan Guard, The Blue Shirts, The Ku Klux Klan In Canada and The neo-Nazis In Canada. Alt-right rallies are held here every week in this country and these hate groups whose favourite targets are Muslims and Jews are now forming coalitions. Violent hate crimes in Canada were up by 60% between 2014 and 2017, while 85% of such crimes go unreported.

The Three Percenters, front and centre in the siege on Washington, have chapters in Alberta and Ontario. Corey Hurren, the Canadian Forces reservist and QAnon devotee, is

Continued on page three...

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Continued from page two...

under arrest after driving from Winnipeg to Rideau Hall in Ottawa to assassinate our prime minister. Trump's 'go to' racist group, The Proud Boys, was founded by Gavin McInnes, a Canadian from Winnipeg. From the trucker in Wainfleet with the huge Trump flag, to the Patriots On Guard threatening immigrants at the the end of my street, to my emails that begin 'You !8%!ing anti-American...' — oh yeah, they're here alright. The number of Trump fans in this country is estimated to be 15% of the electorate and characterized as a "drop in a bucket." I find that frightening. A recent Angus Reid poll shows 41% of Conservative voters in Canada believe that electoral fraud in America cost Trump the presidency. I find that chilling. Germany's 20-year-old 'big lie' was that they never lost WWI and Hitler rode that popular falsehood to power. America's 'big lie' was a rigged election which lead to the "Stop The Steal" assault on the Capitol. This whopper is so

entrenched in the minds of his base, Trump, America's first fuhrer, could use it to take back power in four years. I wonder what leader will capture the weak minds and misplaced hearts of the QAnon crowd here in Canada and what great lie will he create to use as his platform of support? So far the right's claim that Trudeau's 'Great Reset' is proof he's planning to rig the next election is just kind of lame. Canada's advantage against the haters is a solid educational system; so far our shield against domestic terrorism is a coast-to-coast mutual respect for each other despite our political leanings. Folks, the ominous writing is on the wall. Let's not wait for that message to be written with the excrement of the first barbarians through the gate as was done in the US capital.

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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

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

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OBITUARY



Ransom - Cole John of Sudbury passed away on January 13, 2021 at the age of 28. Loving son of Sabra Anne (nee Gillespie) & Jeff Clark of Espanola and Bob Ransom of Orangeville and Rhonda of Lively. Beloved grandson of John & Kim Gillespie, Darlene & the late Robert Ransom, and Nora Gerrior. Dear brother of Hailey Clark, Marley Ransom and Meggie Ransom. Also, will be sadly missed by many friends & relatives. Cole had the kindest

heart, he would help anyone to make them have a better day. He always had a beautiful bright sparkle in his brown eyes, made everyone's heart feel warm. Cole loved to make his friends, family and especially his sisters laugh and smile, either by making jokes or doing goofy things, he would never fail and always get you smiling he couldn't help but giggle himself, such a happy soul. Cole had a passion for camping with his family and friends, he was always so excited to come home and tell us about the big fish he caught or the adventures he had. We will all miss him dearly and may he be at peace. Cremation with a Celebration of Life and interment in the Espanola Cemetery at a later date in the spring. Arrangements by **BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME Ltd, Espanola.**

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