

TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER

January 2013

Council

Mayor Lehoux

P (705)869-8263

Deputy Mayor Beer

P (705)862-7445

Councillor Howard

P (705)869-6339

Councillor McMaster

P (705)869-4858

Councillor McMillan

P (705)862-7762

Councillor Meikleham

P (705)869-6988

(705)869-7975

Councillor Rose

P (705)869-3577

Council Meetings

Council meetings are open to the public, and held the second and fourth Tuesday evening of each month at 7:30 pm in Council Chambers at the Municipal Office.

All individuals or groups requesting an opportunity to make a presentation to Council must do so in writing, a copy of the subject matter should be included and submitted to the Clerk not later than 12:00 noon on the Wednesday preceding regular meetings of Council.

Full Council meeting agendas are posted on the municipal website Monday preceding regular meetings of Council by noon. www.espanola.ca

NOJHL KICKS OFF 2013 WINTER CARNIVAL

The North Bay Trappers will challenge the Blind River Beavers in a carnival opener game on Friday, February 8th at 7:30pm @ the Espanola Regional Recreation Complex. Mayor Lehoux will drop the carnival puck for game start. Mayor and Council are clearly throwing their support behind the Trappers management in their efforts to help secure an NOJHL franchise to play in Espanola starting in September 2013. "This carnival game is Espanola's opportunity to back the organization and demonstrate to the management team that we as a community are excited about the possibility of an NOJHL franchise playing Junior A hockey once again here in Espanola" says Mayor Lehoux, "This game stands to be an exciting open for the carnival events and could be an important showing to secure a Junior A hockey team for our community."

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Espanola, Ontario

January 15, 2013

FB ADDED TO www.espanola.ca

Likes have been accumulating on The Town of Espanola's newly launched Facebook Page.



"The use of Facebook & social media will further strengthen our communication strategy," says Cynthia Townsend, Clerk Treasurer/Administrator. "Facebook will be particularly effective in letting the community know of cancellations, rescheduling or emergency notices. It will augment our existing web site and create digital tools to assist in the promotion and marketing of our town services."

The Facebook Page was created by youth intern Nicole Quenneville, a recent graduate of Interactive Multimedia & Design, with funding received from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation. Like us at www.facebook.com/TownOfEspanola.

For more information contact:

Dianne Polden, Manager of Leisure Services

The Corporation of the Town of Espanola

FAMILY DAY CELEBRATIONS

**Celebrate Family Day - Monday February 18th
@ The Espanola Regional Recreation Complex**

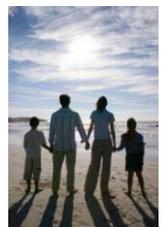
*A day for children, parents & caregivers to
celebrate as a family.*

Watch for program details at www.espanola.ca

Sponsored by the Queensway Pentecostal Church

All fitness classes cancelled

Fitness Gym & Squash Courts Open - 12:00-4:00pm



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The Corporate Team will be meeting in February to take the next steps necessary to move forward in creating a new Strategic Plan for the Corporation of the Town of Espanola.

Vision and mission statements, strengths and weaknesses, strategic issues and goals have been identified and prioritized from both public consultation sessions, which were facilitated by Mr. Bryan Searle of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, along with the web based survey. Incorporating these issues into this document is key to assist in focusing on Espanola's main goals that have been identified by the community as a whole.

The Strategic Plan will be used as a reference tool by both council and staff to ensure that while making decisions on behalf of the municipality, the goals identified by all stakeholders are kept in the forefront.

MEAD STREET CAT PROJECT

A joint effort is underway between the Town of Espanola, several local shelters and rescue groups and the Espanola Animal Hospital to fix a long-standing problem that has been a concern for many local residents – stray, outdoor and feral housecats. The effort, coined "The Mead St. Cat Project" by some of the hospital staff, aims to remove a stray cat colony from the neighbourhood in the vicinity of the local baseball field and then focus on the larger problem in the community as a whole. The cats, once trapped, will be vaccinated, neutered, rehabilitated and then adopted to responsible and loving homes through one of several local shelters.

Residents are urged to keep their own cats indoors. "We know that many pet owners believe their cats should be allowed outside," said Dr. PJ Rocheleau of Espanola Animal Hospital, "and that once a cat has been allowed to go outside that behaviour cannot be corrected. The fact is that both of these beliefs are wrong and simply not true. In order to assist pet owners to correct this situation where necessary, we are quite happy to offer counselling and resources on an as-needed basis simply by contacting the hospital."

Residents can assist in this endeavor by the following:

1. Please stay well away from the property in question. Aside from numerous dangers present from the deteriorated structures, we need as little disturbance and human traffic to the area as possible. Most of these cats are fearful of human contact and we do not want to scare them away from the area.
2. Any residents who capture/trap any of these animals should contact the animal hospital so that we can provide care to them. In order to help facilitate this process, Espanola Animal Hospital will accept intake of cats captured in this neighbourhood, as part of this program only.
3. Anyone wishing to volunteer their time, money or materials to assist us with this project would be greatly appreciated. This can be accomplished by contacting the animal hospital during regular business hours.
4. Anyone who thinks they may have helpful information or input or questions/ concerns regarding this issue should feel free to contact Dr. Rocheleau at the Espanola Animal Hospital.

EDUCATE YOURSELF IN COMMUNITY BYLAWS

Throughout the year there have been many new Bylaws created as well as amendments to existing ones.

Below are just a few of the bylaws that help to ensure the community remains a welcoming one. Take the time to review and ensure you are complying with Municipal Bylaws.

2436/13 – Grass Cutting

2445/13 – Sign Bylaw

2493/13 – Open Air Burning

2476/13 – Regulating Smoking in Exterior Areas

2485/13 – Regulate Dogs and Cats

To obtain full copies of these bylaws, or others not listed here, please visit the town website at www.espanola.ca or contact the municipal office at 705-869-

Keep Fire Safety in Mind as Temperatures Drop

Fire safety tips for cold weather:

- Burn dry, well-seasoned wood in fireplaces and woodstoves to reduce the risk of excessive creosote build-up in chimneys.
- Allow ashes from your woodstove or fireplace to cool before emptying them into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Keep the container outside.
- Keep intake and exhaust vents for furnaces and heating appliances free of ice and snow to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide build-up.
- Install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home.
- Keep space heaters at least one metre away from anything that can burn.
- Replace worn or damaged electrical wires and connections on vehicles and extension cords.
- Ensure that vehicles are not left running inside any garage or building.
- Install smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan so that everyone knows what to do if a fire occurs.

Source – Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services

PROPERTY TAXES

Did you know that the Residential Tax Rate for the Town of Espanola declined in 2011 and 2012 and remains below the 2009 level?

Town of Espanola Property Taxes Residential Rates

Year	Municipal	School	Total
2009	2.44084%	0.25200%	2.69284%
2010	2.48547%	0.24100%	2.72647%
2012	2.39144%	0.22100%	2.61244%

Your property tax bill is calculated by multiplying your home's assessed value (determined by MPAC) by the tax rate (set by council).

The term "mill rate" was removed from the legislation and methodology in 1998 as a component of Ontario's overall tax reform.

"LOCK IT OR LOSE IT"

The Espanola Police Service in partnership with the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police and the Insurance Bureau of Canada engaged in the "Lock It or Lose It" program over the winter holiday season. This is a proactive crime prevention program that encourages drivers to take a few simple precautions that will protect their vehicle and vehicle contents from theft.

Between Monday, December 17, 2012 and Sunday, January 6, 2013 members of the Espanola Police Service checked 1,039 parked and unattended vehicles parked in various public access locations throughout the Town. Vehicles were checked throughout the day and evening hours. Officers found that 833 of these vehicles (80.1%) were locked and had no keys or items (packages, shopping bags, etc) in plain sight. The number of vehicle owners who were taking the time to properly secure their vehicles and protect their property was down from 2010-2011's secure rate of 87.9%.

Officers found that 126 vehicles (12.1%) were left unlocked and 78 (7.5%) had valuable items left in plain sight.

The Espanola Police Service are committed to proactive approaches to help prevent crime from occurring in our community. We appreciate the support that we have received from the community and will continue with this and many other proactive policing programs.

REMINDER FROM PROVINCIAL OFFENCES

Outstanding Provincial Offence fines can be paid online at www.paytickets.ca or paid in person at 100 Tudhope St. Suite 4. Need additional information? Call us at 705-862-7875.

Espanola Public Library Winter Hours

Monday through Thursday

9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Computer training

The Town's Social Media Intern will be available every Thursday from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., to answer all your questions.

Looking for a job or a career?

Get help from **Career Cruising**, on the library website:

www.espanola.library.on.ca.

Just enter your library card number.

CNIB Partners Program

Anyone who has difficulty using printed books because of visual, physical or conceptual problems, can use CNIB library materials at Espanola Public Library, 245 Avery Drive. We also have large print books, talking books, and described video.

Get books and audiobooks delivered to you

If you can't come to the library, the library can come to you! Volunteers will select and deliver books and audiobooks. Phone 705-869-2940 for more information.

SNOW REMOVAL

The Corporation recognizes that the placement of snow when shoveling out driveways can be challenging, however residents are reminded that under by-law 2030/07 section 32.5 "No person shall obstruct, encumber, injure or foul any highway, street, roadway, laneway or bridge within the Town of Espanola, or cause any such highway to be obstructed, encumbered, injured or fouled, by throwing or depositing or causing to be thrown or deposited thereon any snow or ice."

REDUCED LOAD PERIOD

Under Authority of Bylaw No. 2030/07

The reduced load period on all municipal roads within the boundaries of the Town of Espanola shall be from the **first day of March to the thirty-first day of May**, inclusive in each and every year.

The reduced load period shall not become effective until appropriate signs have been erected and are on display and shall remain in effect until these signs have been removed by the Espanola Public Works Department.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Office at 705-869-1751 between the hours of 8 A.M. and 4 P.M.

Joel Yusko – 705-869-1751
Public Works Manager
Email: jyusko@town.espanola.on.ca

WINTER TRAFFIC & PARKING

Bylaw No. 2030/07 Section 6. Parking Restricted:

During night hours in winter months, no person shall park a vehicle on any highway under the jurisdiction of the municipality, between the hours of two (2) o'clock in the morning and seven (7) o'clock in the morning, during the period from the first day of November in one year until the last day of March in the next year, except physicians on emergency calls and operators of authorized vehicles.

FOCUS ON FITNESS FOR FEBRUARY

@ the Espanola Regional Recreation Complex

Register Now!

Fat 2 Fit*Butts & Guts*Military Boot Camp*Zumba*Zumba Zoodles & Spin.

All body shapes, sizes & fitness levels welcome!

For a complete listing of registered, swipe & Free Community In Motion Classes visit www.espanola.ca & like us on facebook!