

# TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER

January 2016

## Council

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Councillor K. Duplessis  
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Councillor Meikleham  
C (705) 869-7975

Councillor Yocom  
H (705) 583-2196

## 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](http://www.espanola.ca)

## BUDGET DELIBERATIONS ARE UNDERWAY

Budget deliberations are underway. Weekly meetings have been taking place with Department Managers presenting their draft budgets to Council. Together, Council and Staff are working to ensure the municipality is able to move forward with priority projects with the least affect on the taxpayer.

The annual budget is aligned with the Town's Strategic Plan, which set goals for the municipality. There are four Strategic Goals that have been adopted by the Plan, 1. Improve and Maintain our Infrastructure 2. Sustainable Economic Growth and Prosperity 3. Excellence in Government; and 4. Safe and Healthy Community.

Under the goal of to Improve and Maintain our infrastructure the draft budget includes upgrades to the water and sewer lines on Algoma St & Annette St. and the replacement of culverts on Jacklin Rd and Bois St. Long term financing strategies will be identified and the Asset Management Plan will be updated.

In order to work towards economic growth and prosperity, Council and staff continue to work hard to ensure the residential tax rate is affordable, provide incentives to business owners through the Community Improvement Plan and pursue partnerships with other municipalities and levels of government.

An update of the 2009 McSweeney Report on tax rates has been prepared to chart how the tax rates for the Town of Espanola would fall based on 2015 rates. Since 2009, the municipality's tax rate has been reduced each year. It now falls in the middle of the communities surveyed in 2009.

The draft budget allocates funds to begin on-line streaming of Council meetings, a mandatory review of the Official Plan, a scheduled Oracle Poll to survey the level of satisfaction with services as well as an ongoing review of the recent Service Delivery and Operational Review findings.

The draft budget includes the promotion of a safe and healthy community through the allocation of funds to prepare a Master Recreation Plan and continue to establish and nurture community partnerships and access recreational funding.

Consistent with other years, the municipality has some budget challenges that need to be recognized. There is a decrease of \$70,900 in the 2016 OMPF funding as well as possible cuts to the Power Dam Grant. Council and Staff continue to monitor the Power Dam Grant situation; which the Province has currently deferred. Looking onto the horizon, next year is the start of another 4 year assessment and appeal cycle which may impact operational revenues.

"The first draft of the budget projects a 3.43% increase in the overall levy" stated Ms. Townsend, CAO/Treasurer, "I anticipate

that figure to be reduced once all departments have presented their draft budgets to Council and discussions have taken place on areas where additional savings may be possible." The first draft of the budget does not include the Education Tax Rates, as well as MSDSB allocations; these figures were not available when the 1<sup>st</sup> draft was released.

The fourth budget meeting will take place on February 9<sup>th</sup> in the bar side auditorium at 2:00pm Environmental & Transportation draft budgets will be presented. All budget meetings are open to the public.

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

This winter season got a late start, but now appears to be here to stay. Earlier this winter we experienced some icy roads caused by wet conditions closely followed by freezing temperatures. These cycles allow a lot of water to flow into asphalt surface cracks, which freezes and expands causing larger cracks and potholes. Not much frost got into the ground prior to the first couple of snow events, so PWD did not plow as far back as usual. This was in an attempt to avoid damage to the soft gravel shoulders. The Department tries to minimize plowing during these times, however we are bound by the Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipalities (O. Reg. 239/02), specifically snow accumulation and clearance timelines.

The Town of Espanola would like to remind residents, businesses and plow contractors that as per section 32 (5) of traffic bylaw 2030/07 *"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."* A violation of this Bylaw carries a fine of \$90. Please be sure to clean any snow that may obstruct the roadway or a municipally maintained sidewalk or laneway that is a result of your driveway or parking lot cleaning activities.

When roadway plowing is anticipated on a Friday morning, please remember to place your recycling and garbage containers a few feet back from the road edge. This should prevent any damage to containers as a result of the plowing activities.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## **REMINDERS AND FUTURE EVENTS**

Under the authority of Bylaw 2030/07, the "Reduced Load Period" will take effect on March 1, 2016. Signage will be posted on all affected roads. The reduced load period will remain in effect until the frost has completely left the affected roads.

Spring water main flushing is anticipated to begin on April 18, 2016 and run as long as April 29, 2016 (weather permitting). Please keep an eye out for the mailbox flyer and advertisements.

Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held Saturday April 30, 2016 from 8am-4pm. Please keep an eye out for the mailbox flyer advising of event details and accepted wastes.

Clean-Up Week is planned for May 2-7, 2016. PWD will be accepting leaf and yard waste as well as branches/brush less than 4" diameter in size. Large wood or garbage of any kind will not be accepted. The location will be the municipal snow dump on Bass Lake Rd, across from the ski hill. Hours of operation will be from 11am-5:30pm Mon-Fri and 9:00am – 2:00pm on Sat.

## **PINEWOOD PARK OUTDOOR RINK IS NOW OPEN**

**THIS FACILITY IS USE AT YOUR OWN RISK! USE OF PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT STRONGLY RECOMMENDED. NO GUARANTEE OF ACCESS TO BUILDING. NO GUARANTEE OF SUPERVISION**

Shinny hockey – helmets and gloves are required. Public skating – helmets are strongly recommended. Persons under the age of 12 years must be under the care and control of a person 18 years of age or older.

To view Outdoor Rink Schedule for Skating and Shinny Hockey please visit [www.espanola.ca](http://www.espanola.ca)

Much thanks to volunteer Rock Taylor for his ongoing commitment and care of the outdoor rink!

## ESPANOLA COMMUNITY WINTER CARNIVAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**February 12 ❄️ 13 ❄️ 14 & Family Day February 15th!** For schedule & cancellation inquiries contact the Rec Complex @ 705-869-1961 or visit [www.espanola.ca](http://www.espanola.ca) & LIKE us on Facebook for last minute updates!

**EQUIPMENT LOANING** Snow Shoes, Urban Poles & Helmets available @ Rec Complex for lending

### FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>

11:30am - 1:30pm **SNOWFLAKE LUNCHEON @ Rec Complex** Chili & Bun Chili (vegetarian & meat options), coffee/tea & dessert \$8  
**Hosted by Espanola 527 Masonic Lodge**

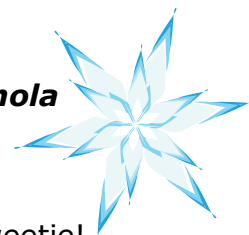
5:00pm - 2:00am **32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPAGHETTI DINNER, ELIMINATION DRAW & DANCE** Hardwood Boys Band. Supper and Draw - \$15.00 (All you can eat) Supper only - \$7.00/Kids under 12 - \$5.00. Tickets from any K of C member or call 869-3491 (4-6 pm Monday to Friday) Or 869-0692 **Hosted by Knights of Columbus**



6:00pm -12:00am **VENTURE LANES GLOW BOWL** Only \$10 per person/per hour with FREE shoe rental. Bowl as many games as you can! Call 869-2450

7:00pm **ESPANOLA EXPRESS VS BLIND RIVER BEAVERS**

6:30pm **MEAT ROLL-OFF@ the Royal Canadian Legion Br 39 – Espanola**  
**Hosted by Youth Curling**



### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>

9:00am - 12:00pm **BAKE SALE & PAPERBACKS** Buy a sweet & a book for your sweetie!  
**Hosted by the Friends of the Library/Complex Lobby**

10:00am -11:00am **SNOW YOGA with Yoga Master Arturo beside the Rec Complex**  
Dress warm in non-cumbersome layers! End your session inside the Complex with a hot cup of cocoa sponsored by the Town of Espanola

10:00am - 1:00pm **SNOW SCULPTURE CONTEST** call in your address for judging during the week of Feb 8th to 12th or come out and build your sculpture at the track and field between 10 am & 1pm on Sat Feb 13<sup>th</sup>. Final judging will take place at 2 pm with the winners announced on Roz's Morning Show on Mon Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. Call Roz at 869-6397 or Rustie at 869-2121 to leave your address for your entry **Sponsored by Rustie's Cafe & the Moose 99.3FM CJJM**

10:00am -1:00pm **QPC BAKE SALE** Outside Dollarama in the Espanola Mall  
Proceeds go towards sending Voltage Youth group to Overflow Youth Conference in Waterloo this May.

10:00am - 4:00pm **BOOGIE MOUNTAIN SKI HILL** Open Sat/Sun & Family day Mon from 10-4. Rentals available! Enjoy 8 runs and a terrain park!

11:00am - 2:00pm **WINKEL'S IN-STORE SCAVENGER HUNT** Details in store.

1:00pm - 3:00pm **SNOWMOBILE & WINTER SAFETY** The MNR will be on site with a snowmobile, promoting safe riding and emergency tips. Outside at the Rec Complex Track & Field **Hosted by the MNR**

1:30pm – 4:00pm **FREE HOT CHOCOLATE** Rec Complex Lobby  
**Sponsored by the Town of Espanola**

2:00 pm- 3:00pm **WINTER CRAFT PROJECTS** (boys and girls of all ages welcome)  
Inside the Rec Complex Lobby **Hosted by the Sparks & Brownies**

3:00pm -4:00pm **CARNIVAL GAMES** outside on the soccer field. **Hosted by the Sparks & Brownies** (boys and girls of all ages welcome)

- 3:30pm -5:30pm **MEAT ROLL-OFF** @ the Royal Canadian Legion Br 39 – Espanola **hosted by North Shore Search & Rescue**
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm **LIONS FREE SWIM**
- 1:30pm - 4:00pm **FREE HOT CHOCOLATE**@ Rec Complex Lobby **Sponsored by Town of Espanola**
- 1:00pm **BID EUCHRE/Espanola Seniors'** @ Seniors Complex/Queensway \$5 Everyone welcome! DROP-IN!
- 6:00pm -12:00am **VENTURE LANES GLOW BOWL** Only \$10 per person/per hour with FREE shoe rental. Call 869-2450 to reserve your lane!
- 4:30pm - 6:30pm **LIONS SENIORS APPRECIATION DINNER** You must have a ticket to attend. Tickets available at the Seniors' Club, Cinder's Naturals Health Food Store and through Lions Club members. Call 862-0244 for free transportation. Rec Complex. **Sponsored by the Espanola Lions**
- 6:00pm - 7:55pm **CUPID'S CRAWL RECREATION SWIM** Themed swim! Family \$11.02/Adults \$5.65/Children \$5.09/Youth & Seniors \$5.37



### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>

- 10:00am – 11:00am **SNOWSHOE** @ the Golf Course. Meet Lyn Morin for a guided snow shoe around the course (limited amount of snow shoes available at the Rec Complex)
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm **CROSS COUNTRY SKI** @ the Golf Course. Meet Bill Morin for a guided ski around the course
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm **BOOT HOCKEY GAME with the ESPANOLA EXPRESS** @ the outdoor rink on Second Avenue. Everyone Welcome!
- 2:00pm - 3:00pm **JACK GRUNSKY FAMILY CONCERT** @ the Rec Complex. Three time Juno Award Winning Children's Performer. Enjoy rich cultural rhythms & interactive family fun! \$10 advance/\$12 at the door/children under 2 free
- 4:00pm - 5:00pm **FREE PUBLIC SKATE** *Sponsored by the Town of Espanola*

### FAMILY DAY Monday February 15

- 11:00am - 3:00pm **FAMILY DAY** hosted by QPC @ the Recreation Complex. Carnival-style games, face painting, animal balloons, lunch all for FREE!
- 11:00am - 1:00pm Free Skate **Sponsored by the Espanola Lions Club**
- 1:00pm - 3:00pm Free Swim **Sponsored by the Espanola Lions Club**  
Free Skate (Helmets suggested for children under 12yrs)

### FREE TIM HORTON'S MARCH BREAK SWIMS

Mon Mar 14 6pm to 8pm; Tues Mar 15 1pm to 2:30pm; Wed Mar 16 6pm to 8pm; Thurs Mar 17 2pm to 3:30pm; Fri Mar 18 11am to 12:30p.

### ESPANOLA PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### FAMILY PLAYTIME (Drop-in Program)

Every Thurs in Feb

10:00 am– 11:30 am

Come to the library and enjoy some fun with your child/children

Toys, puzzles, games and books available

A new story each week. No registration required



#### BOOK SALE

Watch for details on the

Library's Semi-annual Book Sale in April