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April 7, 2020 Issue #14 - Volume 24

**Domtar In The Fight  
Against Covid-19**



By *Rosalind Russell* - Producing products deemed essential to combat the COVID-19 virus is the focus of operations at the Domtar Mill in Espanola.

Regional Public Affairs Manager Bonny Skene says their production lines continue running since many of their products are deemed essential in the fight against the virus, including pulp used for tissue products, materials for personal hygiene products and paper products for sanitary, single-use food services.

She adds there are a number of procedural changes in place to protect the workers in their comprehensive Pandemic Response Policy including physical distancing between workers, constant sanitizing of equipment, restricted access and screening contractors.

Skene says where possible, employees are working out of their homes and using teleconferencing to ensure a smooth day-to-day operation at the mill.

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If you have PPE available made by a regulated manufacturer, please send an email to:

**[info@erhhc.on.ca](mailto:info@erhhc.on.ca)**

so that we can evaluate the suitability of products for use by ERHHC healthcare workers, and confirm whether they meet our required safety standards.

ERHHC will follow-up appropriate offers as needed.



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## Espanola Municipal Budget Increase Reduced

Before the COVID-19 protocols were put in place, the first draft of the Espanola municipal budget was presented to council with an increase of just over six percent but that has been substantially reduced.

Back on January 22nd, Espanola CAO Cynthia Townsend presented the 2020 budget to council which included an increase of 6.14% in the tax levy. But, council asked for the departments to review their budgets and bring those increases down, which Townsend says now sits at a proposed increase of 2.29%.

The average increase to a home

owner with an assessment of \$100,000 will be about \$45.74.

Townsend says due to the COVID-19 protocols, no meetings are being held, but council is putting together a protocol to take care of important matters while still meeting physical distancing requirements.

She adds the date set to pass the budget is April 14th.

Townsend says the budget will see a decrease in the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund grants, and increases in health unit funding, bylaw enforcement increase, fire and complex budgets and Care Van funding.

## EACOM Protecting Workers While Continuing Operation

Protocols are in place to deal with COVID-19 at EACOM Timber Corporation's Nairn Centre Sawmill, the second-largest industrial company in the North Shore.

EACOM President and CEO, Kevin Edgson, says the recent border closure with the United States excludes lumber as it is considered a critical good and it must continue to be supplied. That said, Edgson says they have response teams in place at all their operations, including Nairn Centre, who will deal with the day-to-day decisions based on what is best for employees.

He adds they have also been working closely with local health authorities to ensure all recommendations are in place, including sanitization stations and physical distancing.

We are following official recommendations, some of which include:

- Suspending all business travel (including upper management and inter-mill travel);
- Requiring employees to self-isolate if they meet any of the risk factors or present symptoms;
- Secure procedure for

owner inbound and outbound truckers;

- Restricting site visitors to those with a valid business reason and requiring visitors to sign a self-declaration form;

- Safety Tool Box meetings every day to review best practices and new measures;

- Enhanced cleaning protocols for all common areas and deployment of hand sanitizer;

- Emphasizing social distancing and proper hygiene, as prescribed by the World Health Organization; and

- Implementing work-from-home arrangements, conference call meetings, the elimination of group gatherings, and staggering breaks where possible.

"This situation is unprecedented in living memory, things are changing rapidly, and we are communicating with employees frequently. To get through it, we are counting on our team members to work together, look out for each other, and be thoughtful of their actions," adds Edgson. "EACOM is committed to keeping our employees safe while maintaining our operations and continuing to be a vital economic driver in our communities."

## Espanola & Area COVID-19 Assessment Centre

Espanola & Area COVID-19 Assessment Centre **hours have changed.** The COVID Assessment call line will now be open 7 days a week from 8am – 4pm. The centre's purpose is to assess and, only where appropriate, swab people who may be infected with COVID-19.

Espanola Regional Hospital has added a drive-up testing centre in addition to the Mobile COVID Paramedicine Response Team to meet the needs of our community.

The goal of this response team is to minimize the significant number of patients presenting themselves to Primary Care or the Emergency Department.

The Assessment Centre is accessed by **appointment only.**

Individuals with general questions must not call the Espanola COVID-19 Assessment Centre

Individuals will be referred after screening is done by your community health provider, telehealth, public health unit, Sagamok Wellness Centre, Birch Island Health Centre or the Domtar employee screening program.

### Individuals must meet the following criteria for an Assessment Centre appointment:

1. Symptoms:  
Fever (over 38 degrees Celsius) and/or cough (new or worsening) and/or shortness of breath  
You can expect to be asked about:
  - a. Travel outside of Canada
  - b. Had close interactions with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19
  - c. Had close interactions with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 who recently travelled outside of Canada

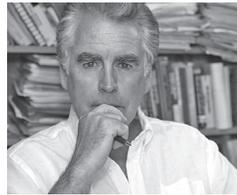
The Emergency Department is open 24/7  
We ask anyone with mild/minor issues to seek care with their family provider or contact Telehealth for further direction.

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board – Paramedic Services, Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre (ERHHC), Espanola and Area Family Health Team, and Public Health Sudbury District – Espanola office wants to thank the public in advance for their cooperation.



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# All The World's A Circus

William Thomas

williamjthomas@gmail.com

## Time To Inquire About The IQ Of The Elephant In The Room Next Door

As late as Thursday, March 27th, the White House still had a plan in place to deploy military troops along our shared border in order to keep Canadians from entering the United States. By that date New York State registered 59,513 coronavirus victims and 965 dead as refrigerated trucks lined up in New York City to store corpses. The morgue and crematoriums were full.

My first thought was--well, those troops are not going to stop me! I'm off to Buffalo, as I do twice a month to take in an early movie at the North Park followed by a beer and a beef-on-weck at Joey's Bar. And if I get turned back by the US military on the American side, I swear I'll set off on a raft from the Palmwood Hotel in Crystal Beach and paddle my way to Buffalo.

Yes with 100,000 Americans carrying the COVID-19 virus thereby surpassing Italy and Spain to become the most virally contagious country in the world I assure you--Canadians are just dying to cross that border to buy cheaper dairy products and top up their gas tanks!!! Which brings me to the question often pondered but seldom publicly asked--how \*%#&ing stupid are these people???

Ms. Prime Minister Chrystia Freedland was very diplomatic in helping to kill the deployment debacle saying it was "no way to treat a trusted friend and military ally." But don't be surprised if her first reaction was: "WTF! They're now off leash, foaming at the mouth and coming straight at us!"

From American vacationers entering Canada in July with snow skies atop of their cars to those who still think we speak "Eskimo" up here--every Canadian has a 'stupid American' story. My favorite is still the 2007 Miss Teen USA competition, where Miss South Carolina was asked why one fifth of Americans could not locate the United States on a world map and she blamed it on...a shortage of maps.

The brilliant American scientist and philosopher Isaac Asimov has distilled the dumbing down of the United States to wrong-headed entitlement. The war cry of the army of right wing rubes who support President Trump is: "My ignorance is just as good as your knowledge." In his essay "A

Cult Of Ignorance" Asimov charts the rise of mental density in America. First, "Don't trust the experts." Then label anyone with sound knowledge trying to share it as an "elitist." Misspelled road signs like "Go Slo" are being replaced with pictures for Americans who can't or prefer not to read words. Of the 200 million Americans who have attended school and know how to read, only 500,000 subscribe to periodicals which aim to inform and educate them on current issues.

Asimov, who teaches at Boston University's School of Medicine and has authored 212 scientific books concludes: "America's right to know is meaningless when we have an ignorant population, and the function of a free press is virtually zero when hardly anyone can read."

Throw in "fake news", "the media are the enemy of the people", "Democrats are terrorists" and you begin to understand how a 40 million-strong support group of uneducated, white, gun-loving, God-fearing, far right racists could well get President Donald Trump re-elected in November. Maybe November because if he's behind in the polls by the early fall he'll likely postpone the election "until further notice" and blame it on COVID-19. (Number six on Bill Maher's "How to Become A Dictator" list.)

Trump is itching to send Americans back to work because he knows he cannot get elected if the economy is still tanking by early fall. Not a whit does he care about this evil disease or its victims. It's all about taking care of Number One and four more years.

By now even his staunchest supporters must realize Trump has seriously bungled America's lackadaisical reaction to this pandemic to the point the United States now has more diseased citizens than any other country on the planet. (He does love huge crowd sizes!) So as scientific experts are predicting as many as 200,000 to 2.2 million Americans could die before this is over--I hope you're sitting down for this--a Gallup poll showed his popularity just jumped to 49%!

Trump's narcissism is monumental, his lying viral, his ignorance of everything except how

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Continued from page two...

reality TV works, staggering. And 40 million Americans admire everyone of these twisted traits because finally, their ignorant attitudes and biases are being shouted out from where it counts most, the White House in Washington D.C. Yet as many as 10 million loyal and unthinking evangelicals continue to support the Devil's own posterboy when it comes to breaking the Ten Commandments. As America sinks deeper and deeper into this quagmire of contagion, diabolically, President Trump's popularity is on the rise. "Our ignorance shouts down your science and our religion makes a vaccine unnecessary."

Trump keeps insisting that COVID-19 "came out of nowhere" but it was he who dismantled the National Security Council Directorate whose mandate was to prepare America for the next pandemic!

Watching Trump degrade this once-great democracy to our south used to be puzzling

and somewhat entertaining. Suddenly it's deadly serious and potentially lethal to the citizens of Canada because if this president, emboldened by the unwavering support of the weak-minded masses does in fact order Americans back to work too soon, this insidious contagion could spread as fast and as hot as a California wildfire--mere meters from Canadian soil. Then there will be troops along the border--ours! Overnight Canada's number one priority could become driving back Americans trying to flee a killer plague of Biblical proportions.

Watching Trump used to be funny, like getting a kick out of the loud mouth drunk in the airport lounge until you find out he's also the pilot!

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)

### Service Canada Offices Being Shut Down

The federal government is shutting down the network of in-person Service Canada centres over COVID-19 concerns.

Locally, the Espanola site, which services Manitoulin Island and the North Shore corridor has been closed since last week.

The Elliot Lake centre is now closed.

The Liberals say the move,

announced last Thursday, shouldn't affect most unemployed workers who seek employment insurance benefits since the vast majority of applications are done online. And a new benefit for those who don't qualify for EI but see their income dry up due to COVID-19 will be available through an online application. The web portal is targeted for opening early next month.

### New School Construction Continues

COVID-19 safety protocols are in place for a major capital school construction project in Espanola.

Huron-Superior Roman Catholic School Board Manager of Plant Services Steve Brown says at this time the new double school build in Espanola is advancing, with precautionary measures in place.

This includes physical distancing and sanitization stations.

He adds they are hopeful the

project will be completed for September move-in, barring any future shut-down order issued by the Ministry of Labour.

All measures are taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 must be in compliance with requirements under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and public health directives issued by the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health. The double school will house French Catholic and English Catholic students in a shared environment.

### OPP Warns Of New COVID-19 Frauds

The Manitoulin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) would like to remind the public to be very mindful of possible frauds & scams associated with the COVID-19 (coronavirus). Fraudsters will attempt to profit from consumers' fears, uncertainties and misinformation.

The following few examples are what you should look for as a potential scam:

- Private companies offering 'fast' covid-19 tests for sale;
- Fraudulent and deceptive online ads offering cleaning products, hand sanitizers and other items in high demand;
- Malicious email campaigns that capitalize on the public's fears about COVID-19,
- Door-to-door offering fake decontamination services;
- Fraudsters may urge you to invest in hot new stocks related

to the disease.

How to Protect Yourself

• Check the Canadian Anti-Fraud website at: [www.antifraudcentre.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre.ca).

• Find the latest health information available from Public Health Agency of Canada at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html> or the World Health Organization at: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

• Beware of unauthorized or fraudulent charities requesting money for victims or research. You should never be pressured into making a donation.

If you think you or someone you know has been a victim of fraud, please contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or report online at [www.antifraudcentre.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre.ca)

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**OBITUARY**



**Gagne – Edmond** of Espanola passed away at the Manitoulin Centennial Manor on March 26, 2020 at the age of 87. Dear son of the late Octave & Mauda (nee Leclair) Gagne. Loving father of Dan (wife Judith) of Webbwood, Jocelyne Harvey Smith (husband Bill) of Sunridge and Larry (wife Linda) of Espanola. Cherished by 6 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Dear brother of Rita Dubreuil (husband Leo) of McKerrow and the late Lorio and Armand Gagne. A graveside service will be at a later date in the spring in the Espanola Cemetery. Arrangements by **BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME Ltd, Espanola.**

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*In Loving Memory of Bob Rooney*

*We can shed tears that he is gone,  
 Or we can smile because he lived.*

*We can close our eyes,  
 And pray that he'll come back.*

*Or we can open our eyes,  
 And see what he has left.*

*Love lives on, he may be gone,  
 But will not be forgotten.*

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At this time I would like to express our sincere thanks to all those over this past year that have been with us through this time of grieving and healing. What was supposed to be his 60th birthday became a celebration of life. That night may have been a blur but I know those who could attend on such short notice meant a great deal to our family. The money donations we received were donated to the junior golf program at the Espanola Golf and country club. Those who sent cards, food and phone calls and online messages were really appreciated and heartfelt. Thanks to EMCA's and first responders and hospital staff and police service for their professionalism and care, during that difficult day.

**Thank you**  
**Louise, Matt, and Ange, Dana, Brad, and boys**

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## COMMUNITY NOTES

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Espanola Area Friendship Circle Alzheimer Support Group - will NOT be meeting until further notice because of CoViD-19.

Clothes Closet - Due to the Covid-19 virus the Clothes Closet at Calvary Baptist Church will be closed until further notice.

### 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.**  
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- Have a satisfactory safe driving record
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## Recipe

My sister made these bagel balls with her kids the other day and recommends I try them. She said they were really easy to make and super delicious. I picked up the ingredients and am anxious to make them this weekend. Thought I'd share the recipe so you can try them too.



### Stuffed Bagel Balls

- 1 cup unbleached all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder (make sure it's not expired, or it won't rise)
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt (use less if using table salt)
- 1 cup Greek yogurt (not regular yogurt, it will be too sticky)
- half package cream cheese, cut into 8 cubes
- 1 egg, beaten
- optional toppings: everything bagel seasoning, sesame seeds, poppy seeds, dried garlic flakes, dried onion flakes

Preheat oven to 375F. Place parchment paper or a silpat on a baking sheet. If using parchment paper, spray with oil to avoid sticking. In a medium bowl combine the flour, baking powder and salt and whisk well. Add the yogurt and mix with a fork or spatula until well combined, it will look like small crumbles. Lightly dust flour on a work surface and remove dough from the bowl, knead the dough a few times until dough is tacky, but not sticky, about 15 turns (it should not leave dough on your hand when you pull away). Divide dough into 8 equal balls. Flatten each ball into circles, then place 1/2 tablespoon cream cheese on each. Fold the dough over the cream cheese and roll into a ball. Repeat with the remaining dough. Top with egg wash and sprinkle with seasoning of your choice if desired. Bake on the top rack of the oven for 25 minutes. Let cool at least 10 minutes before eating.