

# Inside this issue



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September 12, 2023 Issue #37 - Volume 27

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## Espanola's Pulp And Paper Mill Being Shut Down Indefinitely



By *Rosalind Russell* - Domtar Corporation announced last Wednesday morning (September 6, 2023) that it will indefinitely idle the pulp and paper operations at its Espanola facility for an expected period greater than one year.

Officials say the announcement will affect approximately 450 employees.

Officials say the mill will be idled after "years of ongoing losses and high costs associated with maintaining and operating the facility", adding the pulp mill will shut down in early October and the paper machines will shut down in early November.

Paper and Packaging president Steve Henry says the Espanola mill has been challenged for some time now and they have worked diligently to find a viable path forward for the operation, including offering it up for sale.

The company says it will take appropriate measures to assist employees affected by the decision in accordance with the collective agreement, Domtar policy and legislation... adding the mill will be idled in a safe and environmentally sound manner that will facilitate a possible sale or future restart.

### Mayor reacts to news

Espanola Mayor Doug Gervais realizes his council and citizens have a tough road ahead

Continued on page two...

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## Espanola Hospital Foundation Partners With The Moose Once Again



**Photo** - The Espanola Regional Hospital Foundation kicked off its campaign in August with a \$150,000 donation from Daphne Allen. Photo provided by ERHHC Foundation

The Espanola Regional Hospital Foundation kicked off its Espanola Nursing Home Enhancement Project in mid-August and has now partnered once again with The Moose 99.3FM to help raise funds for the project.

Terri Noble, Foundation/Public Relations Coordinator, says the foundation has set a goal of \$450,000 to offset the cost of some of the renovations with Espanola resident Daphne Allen kicking off the campaign with a \$150,000 donation.

The foundation and The Moose will be hosting a radiothon once again in early December.

Over the last ten years, the partnership has raised nearly thousands of dollars for various hospital projects including lab

equipment, new beds, and a revamped x-ray suite.

Noble says the project will bring enhancements to the long-term facilities, which include support upgrades to improve air quality and ventilation, the creation of a negative pressure isolation room that meets infectious disease standards, and support upgrades to resident care and service areas to maintain infection prevention control and safe distancing.

She adds other improvements such as a renovated shower room, much-needed storage, and a renewed activity room and courtyard.

Donations can be made to the "We're Close to Home" campaign by contacting the hospital foundation office.

## Second Annual Overdose Awareness Day Held In Espanola

A small contingent of supporters looking to raise awareness of overdose and its effects on individuals and families took part in the Second Annual Overdose Awareness Day in Espanola.

Health and mental care workers as well as Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Mike Mantha and Manitoulin OPP Constable John Hill joined the group in the walk

from the town office to health care services at Centre Place.

Some speakers talked about the importance of accessing services to help those who are addicted, and the people close to them who must deal with addictions and its affects.

Donations were also collected to go to Public Health Sudbury & Districts to support its related programming.

### NOTICE

#### 2023 WATER MAIN SWABBING PROGRAM

The Town of Espanola and OCWA will undertake the Water Main Swabbing Program on Sunday September 17 and Monday September 18. Hours of swabbing will be from 8:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. each night. The program should take 2 days to complete.

The following streets will be swabbed/affected on **Sunday Sept. 17:**

- Williamson St.
- Algoma St. East of Center St./Hwy 6
- Annette St. East of Center St./Hwy 6
- Adelaide St. East of Center St./Hwy 6
- Albert St. East of Center St./Hwy 6
- 574, 585, 606 & 613 Centre St./Hwy 6

The following streets will be swabbed/affected on **Monday Sept. 18:**

- Syroid St., Ricci Dr., Duplessis Rd., Buzdygan St. & Polojko St.
- James St. from Avery Dr. to Barrie St.
- Secord St. East of Center St./Hwy 6
- 400, 417, 425, 435, 456, 481, 502, 516 Center St./Hwy 6
- 521 Barrie St.

**Residents immediately affected each night are advised to close the main water valve in your homes and DO NOT attempt to use any water during swabbing hours. This is important to avoid drawing a piece of foam swab into your service and plugging it.**

We ask that when you re-open the main water valve in your home following swabbing, that you turn on a cold water tap without a screen (laundry tub if possible) and let it run to flush any residue that may be left in your water service.

Residents not in the swabbing area **could** experience dirty water. If you experience dirty water, let your cold water run and it should clear up. If dirty water persists, please call 705-869-1751 between 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

Should you have any questions or experience low water pressure following swabbing, please call the Public Works Dept. between the hours of 8:00am to 4:00pm at 705-869-1751 or 705-222-7932 after hours.

Dave Parker  
Superintendent of Public Works  
Phone: 705-869-1751  
596 Second Avenue  
Espanola, Ontario P5E 1C4  
Email: [dparker@espanola.ca](mailto:dparker@espanola.ca)



### NOTICE - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Community Living**  
Espanola

#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Monday, October 2nd, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.**

*At this time, the meeting will be conducted in person at 345 Centre Street, however, should it be required to conduct the meeting virtually, you will be contacted prior to.*

A membership must be purchased prior to **September 22nd, 2023** in order to be eligible to vote at the **2023 AGM**. Memberships can be purchased for \$3 by calling Debbie at 705-869-0442 ext 21. (etransfers will be accepted)

If you are interested in becoming a Board Member for Community Living Espanola, please contact Debbie at 705-869-0442 ext 21 for further information.

**Kathy Lewis, Chair**

## NEW EXPANDED HOURS

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*Fall is in the air*  
**Vendor Craft Sale**  
September 16th 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Espanola Rec Center (Lobby)  
175 Avery Drive  
Free Admission. 5 free swag bags

Continued from front page

## Espanola's Pulp And Paper Mill Being Shut Down Indefinitely

with the announcement of the closure of the pulp and paper mill in Espanola.

In a message to citizens, he says it is with heavy hearts that the Town of Espanola has learnt of the Domtar Corporation's announcement to indefinitely idle the pulp and paper operations at its Espanola facility.

Gervais emphasizes the workers and families of the pulp and paper industry have been the life blood of Espanola since the turn of the 20th century and the town will be advocating to all levels of government in support of the community.

Gervais adds council and town staff will do everything it can to help the workers and families impacted and the community at large.

### Mantha reacts to closure announcement

Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Mike Mantha says it is devastating to hear that Domtar will be idling operations by November.

Mantha says already been in contact with

Ontario's Minister of Labour, and Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and has reached out to the Minister of Colleges and Universities to highlight the impacts that this will have on the community and region.

He adds in the coming weeks he hope to work with them, their federal counterparts, and impacted stakeholders to mitigate any concerns in the community.

Mantha says he is calling on both the provincial and federal governments to be at the table to address the factors that have led to the facility being idled adding protecting and promoting good paying, stable jobs in the North should be a priority for all elected officials.

### Carol Hughes: Domtar Shutdown a Blow to Espanola and Area Workers

Carol Hughes, MP for Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing, was shocked and saddened to learn that the Domtar pulp and paper mill will be idling indefinitely and for a minimum of one year. MP Hughes reached out to Domtar's Regional Public Affairs Manager to see if any government assistance could help in averting the closure.

"This is a somber day for workers, their families, the Town of Espanola and surrounding communities," said Hughes.

"There's always hope for communities dealing with company closures," said Hughes. "White River experienced this a few years ago when the lumber mill ceased operations. They were able to eventually bounce back, but it was an exceptionally difficult process to rebuild their work force."

"I am disheartened by what these workers and their families will be going through, and I encourage them to reach out to my office should they require assistance with benefits they may need to access," said Hughes.

### How the closure will roll out

Bonny Skene, Domtar's communication director says human resources staff is on site at the Domtar Mill in Espanola providing information and support to the workers.

Skene says she does not have a lot of specifics currently, but talks are also ongoing with the labour unions at the mill.

Severance packages are to be presented to personnel.

She adds a skeleton crew will be maintained to oversee the hydro dam operation and the boiler rooms for lagoons to maintain environmental integrity of the mill when it closes.

The final shut down is expected on November 30th.

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## OBITUARY



**Duckworth – Cameron** passed away on August 28, 2023 at the age of 52. Dear son of Brenda Duckworth (nee Pinkney) and the late Garry Duckworth. Beloved husband of Leanne (nee Sonnenburg) of Sudbury. Loving father of Megan Duckworth, Jack Duckworth, Aleisha Deece-Cassidy and Reid Nechelput. Cherished grandfather of Madeline, Meah, Kingstin, Hannah and Leland. Dear brother of Trudie Duckworth, Tammie Duckworth and Stewart (Melanie) Duckworth. Proud Uncle of Allison, Chantelle, Nicholas, Aubree, Austin, Garret

Kate and Alan. Also, will be sadly missed by many friends & relatives. Visitation was on September 4, 2023 in the Bourcier Funeral Home from 12 noon until the time of service at 2 PM with cremation to follow. Arrangements by **BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME Ltd, Espanola**



**Irene Francis Michon Pilz** - Far too soon we will all agree the light of life has been taken from our dear Irene. She was a one of a kind, who lived life to the fullest. Irene was an extremely talented individual, whose interests ranged from developing marvelous creations in stained glass to her collections of dragons, fine porcelain figurines and especially her dolls. Irene was a avid member of the fashion doll community, where she was very active and made many lifelong friends. We are all so very lucky to have Irene touch our lives. She will be deeply missed by her family and many

friends. Her loving husband Jurgen with whom she was able to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary this summer. Her stepdaughter, Christina Pilz (Adriano), her sisters Myrna (Richard) and Debbie (Trevor) and brother Mel (Wendy). Irene was always a favourite with her nieces and nephews, who all have a story to tell about "Auntie Irene." Her niece Tressa Cronin, and nephew Keane Cronin (Leanne) their children Keira and Kayden. her nephew Robin Scory (Kerry), her niece Celeste Michon, Nadine Dons (Andrew) children Sofia, Zoe and Riley. Her nephews Laurence Michon, Quinton Weir, Carter Weir, Lucas Michon and Gabriel Michon. And of course her cats, Shadtoo, Rex, Tigger, Buffy, Julie and Mini, who will miss her greatly. Irene Francis Michon Pilz was born on July 20th, 1946, and was predeceased by her parents Lawrence and Doris Michon and nephew Kelly Cronin. We miss you dearly Irene and many hugs to you. In lieu of flowers a donation to the Muscular Dystrophy society or your local humane society would be appreciated. A Celebration of Life will be held at a future date. For information, please contact Christina (christinaspilz@yahoo.ca)



In Loving Memory of **Maureen Isobel Agnes Emond (nee Doucette)** July 26, 1954– August 28, 2023. Maureen passed away peacefully at her residence on August 28, 2023, surrounded by her loving family. Predeceased by her parents Lawrence Doucette, Jeannine Doucette (nee Laderoute) Maureen was a beloved wife of 49 years to Pierre Emond, a loving mother to Daena and Tisa (Craig) as well as cherished Mémé to Alina, Rhyis, and Piper. Maureen will be missed by siblings Janice Andrews (Don) and Matthew Doucette (wife Karen)

as well as nephews Reece and Kyle and niece Vanessa. Born in Espanola, Ontario. Maureen was first and foremost, a devoted wife, mother and Mémé. She dedicated her life to her family and always put them top priority. Maureen was so proud to watch her girls grow and celebrated every big milestone along with them as they grew into young women and had children of their own for her to love as well. Maureen was endlessly proud of her children and grandchildren and she loved attending sporting events, dance recitals, figure skating carnivals, graduations and proms for both her children and grandchildren. Maureen made everyone feel comfortable and safe in her care and will be missed by not only her immediate family, but by many friends and extended family as well. Maureen loved her summers at camp in Gore Bay with her husband in their retirement. She enjoyed the serenity of sitting on the porch and enjoyed feeding and watching the animals and birds, especially hummingbirds. Those closest to her will always remember her gentle spirit and kindness. Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will occur at a later date. Arrangements by **BOURCIER FUNERAL HOPME Ltd, Espanola.**

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## COMMUNITY NOTES

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**In Recognition of Truth & Reconciliation** – Please join us on Friday, September 15, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00p.m. at Tanners Independent Grocers. Located at 745 Centre St, Espanola. Free BBQ.

**Lee Valley Hall** - We will have an open mic on September 16, at 1:00 p.m.  
**1 Million March 4 Children** – Wednesday, September 20, 2023. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Espanola Town Hall, Walk to Centre across from St. Jude.

**The United Church and St. George's Anglican Church Fall Hours** - United Church Sunday services will be 9:30 a.m. St. George's Sunday Services will be 11:00 a.m.

**North Shore Seventh-day-Adventist Church** - Saturdays Sabbath School 10:00 a.m., Divine Service 11:00 a.m., "Discovery Hour" 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. ages 7 up. Discover new stories activities and crafts ...10 Menard Cres. Walford/Spanish

**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)

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