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**BMI Group Says It's Ready To Start The Process Of Retooling The Domtar Mill In Espanola**



By Rosalind Russell - More details about the future of the Domtar pulp and paper mill in Espanola has been released by the BMI Group.

Owned by three brothers, Paul Veldman says the company has successfully retooled infrastructure at other properties and will be carrying out a feasibility study at the mill to take a look at diversifying it for opportunities such as new paper or new types of biofuels. He emphasizes they are holding discussions with other groups looking at putting the wood back to work with the goal to create and keep jobs locally as well as at nearby sawmills that once sold chips to the Espanola mill.

He says the intention is to take the mill from one single use to multiple, such as prefabricated, engineered wood panels and adds the pulping side will not be put back on line.

Veldman adds they are also developing a closure plan for the on-site landfill working with the province to finalize a closure plan.

Continued on page two...

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## HSN Introducing A New Program In Collaboration With Espanola Medical Services



**By Rosalind Russell** - Health Sciences North is introducing a new program in collaboration with the Espanola Mental Health and Addictions Clinic. According to the release,

the program is looking for individuals who would be interested in joining group therapy using Indigenous wholistic approaches to addiction care.

The wholistic approach treats the whole self by targeting mental, emotional, physical and spiritual challenges. There is no waiting list.

Anyone interested in more information or signing up for the programming, can access the link on our websites. Call intake at 705-675-4732, ext. 4524.

## A First-Ever School Esports League At CSC Nouvelon Including La Renaissance

**By Rosalind Russell** - The Conseil scolaire catholique Nouvelon is proud to announce the launch of its very first school electronic sports (Esports) league.

“We are committed to providing school and afterschool programming that is diversified, innovative and inclusive for all students. CSC Nouvelon’s Esports league is a structured, safe, welcoming and fair environment that enables students to build their sense of belonging within a team and acquire transferable skills essential for the 21st century,” says Tom Michaud, Director of Education at CSC Nouvelon.

It will be for students in grades 5 to 12, and is currently offered in nine elementary and secondary schools to explore entertaining video games while developing digital literacy skills, sportsmanship, teamwork, communication and

school involvement.

Based on responsible citizenship, the new extracurricular program intends to contribute to the student experience by providing new opportunities for academic and social development.

Once a week, 24 teams from the nine participating schools play virtual matches after school hours.

Each team benefits from the support of designated staff members who act as coaches.

The integration of structured and balanced electronic sports into school life can also promote inclusion and well-being.

Esports are competitive video games played individually or as a team.

Contrarily to traditional sports which rely on physical athleticism, electronic sports encourage mental dexterity, strategic thinking and fast decision making.



The Espanola Lions Club would like to thank the sponsors and volunteers who made the 2025 Seniors' Appreciation Supper such a huge success.

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Apologies to those whose names we may have missed

**This year was our 22nd Anniversary!**

**See you next year!**

**Dario Laurenti, Chairman**

## COMMUNITY NOTES

**North Shore Quilting & Stitchery Guild** - Next meeting - Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Espanola Royal Canadian Legion. New members welcome.

**Massey Area Museum Season opening** – Saturday, April 26, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Open invitation : to all past present and future members Special Dedication to Carolyn Heins who has served over 25 years as Curator May 3, 2025 Yard Sale at Museum 9 am

**Massey Area Museum Bingo Nights** - April 28, May 5, June 2, July 7. 7:00 p.m. at the Massey Arena.

**Webbwood Eagles #4269 Spaghetti Dinner** – Saturday, May 3. Eat in or Takeout 4:30-6:00 p.m. Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread & desert.

**Spring Vendors Market** – Hosted by the Espanola Elks, May 10, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Voices of Spring Concerts** - Saturday, May 3 at Espanola United Church, 2:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 4 at St. Andrew’s United Church, Massey 7:00 p.m. Admission is by Free Will Donation.

**Soup & Sandwich** - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month. 1st Tuesday at St. Georges, 3rd Tuesday at Espanola United - 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. All welcome.

**Massey Seniors Fitness** - Wednesday afternoons upstairs at Massey Arena. Low impact strength, balance & stretching 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. and Gentle Movement focusing on balance, functional movement & stretching from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**Massey Seniors Social** - Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. upstairs at Massey Arena. Come for a fun afternoon of socializing, games and snacks.

**Free Espanola Community Luncheon** - every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, at The Lighthouse, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

**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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Continued from front page...

## BMI Group Says It's Ready To Start The Process Of Retooling The Domtar Mill In Espanola

He also reassures the community that the local golf club will continue to lease that property with a \$1 lease per year.

The sale is now moving through the process, he adds, and they are looking to close the sale deal by next month, but neither Domtar nor BMI have released the purchase price.

BMI will acquire more than a million square feet of space within 100 acres of brownfield properties and hundreds more acres of woodland surrounding it.

Some of the buildings will be demolished, he says, but many more will stay and be retrofitted for various needs.

He adds capital upgrades to the hydroelectric

power and dam asset, how the mill provided its own energy for over two decades, is expected to be carried out over the next five years and will require major investment, likely in the millions.

The company has several properties across Ontario, including former Resolute paper mill sites in Iroquois Falls and Fort Frances, and the former Norampac cardboard plant in Red Rock.

BMI expanded its holdings last year in acquiring a closed Domtar paper mill in Port Huron, Michigan and another in Baie Comeau, Que.

Photo by Rosalind Russell

## All Set To Smile Once Again For A Great Cause – Can Anyone Say Chunky Chocolate?

*By Rosalind Russell* - Tim Horton outlets across our region are once again prepared to put smiles on people's faces with the annual Spring Smile Cookie Campaign and its feature snack, Chunky Chocolate.

Al Martin, the owner of three outlets in the local area says the campaign will run from April 28th to May 4th at all franchises across Canada.

He says the Espanola and McKerrow locations will be raising funds for the Espanola Helping Hand Food Bank and Little Current will support the Local Food Manitoulin Association.

Blind River owner, Zia Darwish says

his outlets will be supporting the North Shore Health Network.

And Elliot Lake owner, Erin Brunelle says their campaign proceeds will go to the men's shelter, Larry's Place.

All the owners are looking for frosters to help out throughout the week, and volunteers can contact their local franchise to sign up for the sweet task.

Cookies are \$2 each with 100% of the proceeds going to the individual charities. Volunteers can contact the individual franchise or organization, In Espanola, contact the food bank to sign up to be a froster.

## Espanola Follows Provincial Lead For Priorities Especially Housing

*By Rosalind Russell* - Espanola Mayor Doug Gervais says the municipality is following the lead of the province when it comes to priorities including housing.

He says as Mayor, he has been focused on building strong working relationships with fellow Council Members, staff and between the two adding they have accomplished a great deal since the start of the term in 2022 with housing development taking place at a faster pace than ever in town.

He says council and staff are committed to prioritizing housing development in Espanola through the Strategic Plan and

have followed the Province's lead in welcoming development and reducing red tape.

Gervais stresses the community made it very clear that we collectively share these priorities and commends the province on their efforts to advance the priorities adding he doesn't expect that the Strong Mayor Powers will have an impact in Espanola.

He adds council and staff stay focused on continuing the implementation of the Strategic Plan and working in the best interest of the community.

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## OBITUARY



**GUIMOND, Marie Blanche Suzanne** - Of Espanola passed away at the Espanola Regional Hospital on March 30th, 2025 at the age of 75. Beloved wife of more than 56 years, to Rene Guimond. Daughter of the late Edmond and Olive Godard. Cherished mother to Dennis (Helen) Guimond of Serpent River. Leaving behind 7 grandchildren : Aimee, Cameron, Gabriel, Kaeden, Julien, Paisley, and Lochlan, and 3 great-grandchildren. Loving sister to Red (Vera), Richard (Orla), Roger (Ellie), Pauline (George), Julie (Dave), Jack (Audrey) and predeceased by her siblings, Paul, Gaston, Paul-Emile, and Leonard. Will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, friends and relatives. The family would like to thank Dr. Andre Michon, Dr. Andrew Pearce, Dr. John Knox and all of the nurses of the critical care unit. Cremation with interment at a later date. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.



**STEWART - David Wallace** April 25th 1961-April 14th 2025 - David Wallace Stewart was born on April 25, 1961 in Atikokan, Ont. to the late Richard & Theresa (Fila) Stewart. David lived in Espanola for the last 50 years where he met and married his high school sweetheart and best friend Sherry (Bourcier) Stewart. David was the proud father of Ryan, Alyssa and Nathan. David loved being a Papa to Damien, Taylor, Lia and Sahara. David will be deeply missed by his siblings Kenneth, Diane and Bruce. David spent his childhood growing up in Quetico Park, where the love of the great outdoors was rooted into him. He spent as much time as he could hunting, fishing trapping and was a huge fan of the Toronto Blue Jays. David enjoyed sharing stories of all the adventures life had brought him with his family and friends. He will be remembered for his big heart and his contagious laugh. Rest in peace, dear David, you will be etched into our hearts and memories forever. A Celebration of David's life will be held at a later date. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.

### CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Celebration of Life for  
*Joe Delisle*



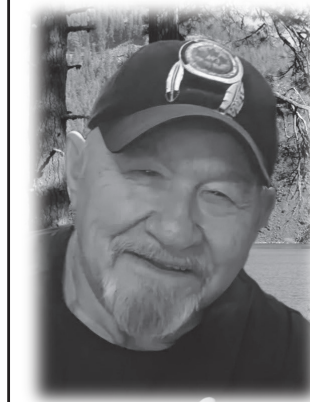
**May 3, 2025**  
**1:00 p.m.**

Espanola Legion  
370 Annette St, Espanola

(Service also to take place at  
10:30 a.m.  
at the Espanola Cemetery)

Celebration of Life for

*Ronald Cyril Marcoux*



Dear Family and Friends, we wish to invite you to a Celebration of Life for Ron Marcoux, to honour the loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother and friend he was. We will celebrate Ron in a way that honours his spirit, with music to his beautiful voice, open hearts and fond memories of endless fishing adventures. So be prepared to cast your favorite fishing tale.

Looking forward to celebrating with all of you.

**Saturday, April 26th, 2025,**  
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