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Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation Indigenous Group Signs Deal To Operate Victoria Mine



Photo: Sagamok Anishnawbek Chief Angus Toulouse and Michał Jezioro, vice-president of KGHM's management board, seal the deal following the signing of an impact benefits agreement for work on the Victoria Mine west of Sudbury, while community members and company representatives look on. KGHM/XKGHM INTERNATIONAL LTD. was represented by: Marek Bednarz, President of the Management

By *Rosalind Russell* - Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation and a mining company have signed an Impact and Benefit Agreement for the Victoria mine.

According to KGHM International Limited, the agreement is the result of years of cooperation, which was initiated with the signing of the agreement on the Advanced Exploration phase back in 2014.

Since then, the two parties have been cooperating in the development of

Continued on page two...

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Kids Helping Kids



By Grant Lewis - It doesn't get any better than kids shopping for other kids at Christmas.

Students and staff and Sacred Heart School made a generous contribution to the Agnes Michon Lions Toy Drive again this year, and as part of the school's Leadership Program, two students spent \$1,000 on gifts for kids their age. Thanks to Dan Vanier at Giant Tiger for his generous discount. It's great when everybody wins, especially at this time of year.

Bingo Helps Our Veterans



By Grant Lewis - Once again the Espanola Lions has donated all the proceeds from their "Poppy Bingo" to the Legion in Espanola and Massey. On hand to receive the Espanola portion was Bill Noon, Legion President. The "Poppy" money is used to help veterans in many different ways. The following groups and organizations help our veterans and therefore qualify for Legion donations from

their Poppy Funds: McCulloch Hospice, Northern Cancer Research, Espanola Hospital Foundation, H.S.N. Foundation, K Wing at Sunnybrook, service Dogs Canada. "Heroes Mending on the Fly" is a unique organization which gets vets participating in outdoor activities. It was originally started so that vets could practise their fishing skills! The Ontario Command Charitable Foundation recently presented \$7,500 to the volunteer fire departments in Baldwin and Espanola to purchase new extraction equipment. So the idea of helping our veterans and their families has truly expanded. The Espanola Lions club is thrilled to help out the Legion in so many ways. Of course none of this would be possible without the continued support of our faithful bingo players!!!

Why Is The Woman Smiling?

By Grant Lewis - Melanie Armstrong has over 27,000 reasons to smile thanks to the Lions Catch the Ace! Melanie won our last big jackpot draw with only four envelopes to open. Envelope #49 was the lucky one. I'm sure many of you recognize her. For twelve years Melanie worked at Winkel's Y.I.G. as manager for Frank and Lisa Winkel. Many of her friends and family still live in Espanola even though she lives in Manitowadge where she manages and owns the local Y.I.G. Most of her career has been in retail working for Walmart, Shopper's, and the Y.I.G. In Sudbury. Working in retail, gives her a pulse as to

the needs of her community she admits. With this knowledge Melanie has been active wherever she has worked. While at Winkel's, she and Paul Zahorec were instrumental in establishing the "Angel Tree" at Christmas which is still at Tanner's today. At present, Melanie is involved with programs involving hockey, the library, reading to kids, and others. She has not slowed down at all. Melanie plans on using the winnings on home improvement and perhaps a car! Plus...a very reliable birdie told me that wedding bells may be in the future!!! Congratulations Melanie and keep buying those C.T.A. tickets.



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Continued from front page...

Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation Indigenous Group Signs Deal To Operate Victoria Mine

infrastructure on the project site and obtaining the permits necessary for the full launch of the project. Officials say signing ensures the stability of cooperation for the mining company and measurable business and development benefits to the First Nation

from start up to production to closure of the mine. Located on the First Nation, the mine will focus on an underground operation for copper and nickel with an expected life of 14 years and is expected to be operational within a year or so.

Tender Awarded For Connecting Link Phase 5 Project In Espanola

By Rosalind Russell - Now that Phase 4 of the Connecting Link Project in Espanola has been completed, Espanola council has given its approval to awarding the tender for Phase 5 to GIP Interpaving. Environmental Services & Special Projects Manager Joel Yusko says back in 2023, council had approved the rehabilitation work needed from Foucault Drive to Kei Will Drive in the town's south end. He says there was serious deterioration of the north bound lane adding there was time to complete the final design and take on the project. Last year, council supported a resolution

to apply for funding with the Ontario government approving the project as a connecting link project covering 90 percent of the cost. However, Yusko noted, two link projects would have caused serious traffic problems this summer, so approval was given to delay Phase 5 until the spring of 2026. He adds the tenders went out in November and GIP Interpaving was successful in its bid of nearly \$1.4 million. Yusko says the estimated cost of the entire project is just over \$1.6 million (1,652,114) with the 10 percent balance coming from other grant sources.

Recommendation Regarding Full-Time Regional Deputy Fire Chief



By Rosalind Russell - Espanola Council has approved the job description and implementation of Phase 2 of the Shared Fire Administration Agreement with the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers for the hiring of a Regional Deputy Fire Chief. The Shared Fire Administration Agreement was implemented in September with the hiring of Regional Fire Chief James (Jim) Ramsay, to serve both departments

respectively as Fire Chief with plans to implement Phase 2 in 2026 with the hiring of a second full-time leadership role. Through the agreement, the two municipalities are ensuring there is adequate capacity and backup to handle the increasingly regulatory and demanding workload of operating fire departments, effectively both benefiting from two full-time employees for the price of one. Council approved the hiring of a regional deputy fire chief, and the hiring process will begin shortly in the new Year.

Photo: Screenshot by Rosalind M Russell. Regional Fire Chief Jamie Ramsay addresses council on the importance of hiring a full-time deputy regional fire chief.

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OBITUARY



We are saddened to announce that **Patrick (Pat) Joseph Scully** passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Monday, December 15, 2025 at the age of 87. Pat was born on July 7, 1938, in Brudenell, Ontario to Elizabeth (McCarthy) and Isiah Scully. He was predeceased by his parents as well as his brothers and sisters: James (Mary), Archie (Eleanor), Marie (Robert), Gladys (John) and survived by Eileen (Ken (D)), Cecilia (Gerry (D)), and Cathy (Willy). Pat is predeceased by his son Kyle (Lisa), and survived by his wife Roberta "Bobbie", Ryan (Renee), Chad (Sally)

and Aaron (Jennifer). Pat always enjoyed and made time for his grandchildren: Braden (Jenna), Taylor (Dennis), and Patrick. Pat had 4 great grandchildren, Ewan, Callum, Cashel, and Quinn. Pat will be missed by family members Janice (Tony) Zaleski and Dale Gossett and many nieces and nephews. Pat left Brudenell and moved to Sudbury at the age of 15. He worked in multiple fields until venturing out on his own. Pat worked in the automobile industry in Sudbury until taking over Northern Ford then moving to Espanola in 1973. He owned Northern Ford until he retired in 2014. Pat was a people person and always enjoyed a good party with family and friends. He was community oriented as an active member of the Knights of Columbus and Lions Clubs making many friends along the way. He was always there to offer a helping hand. Pat's family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to all of those who have supported us during this time of loss including Dr. Michon, and the excellent nursing staff at the Espanola Hospital. Celebrate of Pat's life and service was held on Friday December 19, 2025 at 11:00 am at St. Judes Parish in Espanola. Lunch and refreshments followed the service. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME Ltd, Espanola

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Free Christmas Dinner - Christmas Day, 4:30 at the Royal Canadian Legion, 370 Annette St. Espanola. Please call 705-869-1648 to RSVP

Massey Community Dinner – 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. December 25, Massey Legion. Please let us know if you are coming. brohartmary@gmail.com or 705-862-8440.

Massey Legion Br 432 New Years Eve Social - Fish Dinner, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. Take out Eat In. Bar Open

Massey Area Museum Bingos - at Massey Arena. New start time, Mondays, 6:45 p.m. Dates: (Jan 5 is canceled.) will resume again Feb 2, Mar 2, April 13.

North Shore Quilting & Stitchery Guild: Next Meeting – Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Espanola Royal Canadian Legion. New members welcome.

Webbwood Eagles #4269 Spaghetti Dinner - Saturday Feb. 7, Mar. 7, April 11, May 2, June 6. Eat in or Takeout 4:30-6:00pm. Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread & desert.

Soup & Sandwich Lunch - at the United Church of Espanola on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. Everyone welcome.

Massey Legion Wing Nights - Thursdays 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. Wings, deep fried pickle spears, mushroom caps, onion rings, Cheese sticks

Meat roll-offs - every Saturday at the Espanola Legion. 2:30 p.m. everyone is welcome.

Al-Anon - Not everyone Trapped by Alcohol is an Alcoholic. Family and Friends are suffering too. Meetings: Tuesdays at 7, St George's Anglican Church. 213 Tudhope St, Espanola.

Free Community luncheon - at the light house 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Everyone Welcome.

The Remnant Call Church – Service: Sunday 10:30 a.m., Espanola Elks Hall; All welcome. Non denominational.

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

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