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December 9, 2025 Issue #48 - Volume 29

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**Espanola Elks Hamper Fund A Huge Success**



By Rosalind Russell - The Espanola Elks 49th Annual Hamper Fund was phenomenal this year ... just over \$10,000 raised and donations are still coming in.

The average hamper filled with a turkey and all the fixings for a complete Christmas Dinner costs an average of \$100 these days, so the funds will go a long way in feeding the many individuals and families that receive the hampers in Espanola and in the North Shore Corridor.

The Moose 99.3 FM CJJM - Espanola partners with the Elks every year on promoting and advocating for the program to ensure locals have a hearty Christmas feast.

Elk's Hamper Chair, Gary Tennant and his committee will be going shopping just in time for Christmas to box the hampers and deliver them on December 20th.

Photo by Rosalind Russell

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## Espanola Business Owner Sporting A New Look Following Successful Toy Campaign



By **Rosalind Russell** - An Espanola business owner is sporting a new look, thanks to a unique challenge to support the Espanola Lions Christmas Toy Drive in memory of Ms. Claus, Agnes Michon. (who repaired, bought and donated many toys

for the drive for several decades.) Dan Vanier, the owner of Espanola's Giant Tiger challenged his staff to collect \$10,000 in cash or toy donations from the public and in turn, he would shave off his beard. The campaign was successful, exceeding that goal this past Saturday. So, for the Christmas Holidays,

Vanier will sport a clean-shaven face showing off a bright smile of thanks to the public for making it such a success. The toys will be delivered to families on Saturday, December 20th, in partnership with the Espanola Elks – 99.4 FM Moose Hamper Fund. Photos provided

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Conseil des Services du District de  
**Manitoulin-Sudbury**  
District Services Board

210 boul Mead Blvd  
Espanola, ON P5E 1R9  
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Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) is looking for a self-motivated & energetic individual to join our industry-leading organization which works towards the delivery of high-quality services and programs to the residents of Manitoulin-Sudbury districts. Created by the provincial government, the DSB is responsible for overseeing and managing a range of services divested to the municipal order of government, including Ontario Works, Community Housing, Paramedic Services (Land Ambulance), Non-Urgent Patient Transportation, and Early Learning and Child Care Services.

At Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB, we welcome new and diverse talent! We are currently searching for permanent full-time **Maintenance Coordinator**.

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While all responses are appreciated, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

## NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE

Public Health Sudbury & Districts is planning to increase fees related to the Ontario Building Code and land development. The increased fees address operational and delivery costs.

If you have comments or questions regarding this matter, an open house will be held:

**WHEN:** Wednesday, January 7, 2026

**TIME:** Between 9 to 11 a.m.

#### WHERE:

Public Health Sudbury & Districts  
Ramsey Room, Main floor  
1300 Paris Street, Sudbury ON

To attend this event virtually, or for more information about the fee increases, visit [phsd.ca/fee-schedule](http://phsd.ca/fee-schedule).



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## Elks Giving Back



By **Beth McVey** - Espanola Elks #346 presented cheque to Espanola Hospital Auxiliary. This money was raised at the fall Elimination dinner draw.

## Anishinabek Spiritual Centre Launches Campaign To Modernize Dormitories

By **Rosalind Russell** - The Anishinabek Spiritual Centre has housed visitors for decades in their main lodge dormitories, but the space now needs a bit of modernization. According to the release, the centre has launched a campaign to raise funds for renovate the dorms.

The goal is \$20,000 with the campaign running throughout the month of December. The facility provides accommodations for visiting dignitaries, centre supporters and special visitors.

The donations can be made in person or online and will be acknowledged on a donor wall.

Visit: <https://www.anishinabespiritualcentre.ca/>

## Espanola Council Shuts Down Any Discussion On Electric Battery Facility

By **Rosalind Russell** - A Cobourg, Ontario CEO of an electricity supplier company, Renewable Power Partners Limited, was shut out of any discussions with Espanola council for consideration of a battery storage facility in town.

CEO Simon Rowland made a presentation to council about the facility he wanted to build in Espanola, which he says, would buttress the local grid and reduce electricity costs in Ontario.

His proposal, the Long-Term Capacity Services Project, which would see the installation of a Battery Energy Storage System, requires the support of council essentially for permission to apply for a contract to sell electricity as the first step

in the process.

Rowland made a presentation highlighting photos and maps of what the system would look like, adding it would take up to about an acre of land in the north-east end of the town's boundary.

However, when Mayor Doug Gervais asked for council for a mover and a seconder for the motion to support the project, no member of council responded. With no motion, there was no further discussion with Gervais thanking Rowland's for his presentation.

<https://pub-espanola.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=13535>  
 Screenshot by Rosalind Russell

## Deal Reached For Unionized Hospital Workers

By **Rosalind Russell** - The Canadian Union of Public Employees says it's negotiated a new three-year contract with Ontario's hospitals.

Union officials are recommending their members accept the tentative agreement electronic with ratification votes to be held on Saturday.

It includes general wage increases amounting to 6% over the three years

– along with other vacation, dental and mental health benefits.

The union represents about 45-thousand hospital workers across Ontario – including Espanola, Elliot Lake, Blind River and workers on Manitoulin Island.

Photo: Espanola Regional Hospital & Health Centre's workers have a new three-year deal. Ratification is underway. Photo by Rosalind M Russell

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# COMMUNITY NOTES

**Espanola Hospital Auxiliary Craft Sale** – December 13, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Espanola Mall

**Lee Valley Autumn Leaves Music Jam** - at the Lee Valley Hall Saturday, December 13, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration** - Tuesday, December 16, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at the United Church of Espanola; 137 Sheppard St. A welcoming ministry celebrating “People with Disabilities” along with their able caregivers. Accessible. For more info: ucespanola@eastlink.ca or 705-869-1215

**Massey Christmas Choir Celtic Christmas Presentation** – Sunday, December 14, 2:00 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Church (R.C)Massey.-”Tapestry of lights”. Non-perishable food donations accepted

**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 Area Museum Bingos** - at Massey Arena. New start time, Mondays, 6:45 p.m. Dates: Jan 5, 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.

**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

## OBITUARY



**Duranleau, Louise** - Of Espanola, passed away at the Manitoulin Centennial Manor on November 26, 2025 at the age of 95. Dear daughter of Albert and Marguerite L'Ecuier. Beloved wife of the late Henry Duranleau (1991). Loving mother of Richard (Darlene) Duranleau, Louise (Len) Laframboise, and Robert (Paulette) Duranleau all of Espanola. Cherished grandmother of Laurissa (Jared), Jennifer (Andrew), and Ashley. Step-grandmother of Matthew (Natasha), and Renee (Simon). Great grandmother of Dillon, Marcus, Cohen, and Charlie. Step-great grandmother of Cody, Rheel, Layla, Matthew Jr., and Theodore. Dear sister of Marie L'Ecuier of Quebec. Also will be sadly missed by many friends and relatives. Louise loved to bake and knit. Her baby sweaters have been worn by family and strangers alike as they were once sold by the Mary Marg Shop in Sudbury. Her butter tarts and fudge were to die for. She was a devoted parishioner of St Jude and St Louis de France before that. Louise was a very selfless person and very generous to numerous charities, and causes over her lifetime. The family would like to thank the people who helped look after her from the Family Health Team and the Hospital in Espanola, the Alzheimer's Society of Canada, Ontario Health at Home, and the Manitoulin Health Centre. For the past 2 1/2 years she received top notch care at the Manitoulin Centennial Manor. Donations can be made to the Tree of Lights at the Manitoulin Centennial Manor. Memorial mass on Monday, December 15, at the Saint Jude Parish, Espanola at 10 AM. Afterwards, there will be a luncheon in the church hall, where everyone is welcomed. Interment will be in the spring at a later date. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.



**Chris (Christian) Parent** - October 25 1960 - November 30 2025. It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Chris (Christian) Parent, a devoted husband and loving father. He left this world peacefully on November 30th at the Espanola Regional Hospital. Born in Parent, Quebec, Chris spent his childhood in several Northern Ontario communities. He served in the military for 3 years before marrying Michelle (Allard), his wife of 43 years. The family moved to Espanola in 1988 and raised 3 beautiful children: Danielle (son Maxwell), Marc-André (Myranda) (daughter Lena and soon-to-be grandson) and Stéphanie (Brendon). Chris had a long, dedicated career with Wajax beginning in 1981 and continuing until 2025. He is predeceased by his mother Desneiges Holmes and father Yves Parent. He leaves behind his sisters Nicole and Mylène, his brothers Claude and Yvon, and his sister-in-law Denise. Chris was predeceased by his sister-in-law Gisèle Allard-Lapointe and his godson, Michel Plante. He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews and friends. The family wishes to thank Dr. Bignucolo, the Espanola Palliative Care Team, Dr. Desmarais, Dr. Carlson, the staff at the Espanola Regional Hospital, HSN and the Cancer Centre in Sudbury. Chris felt genuinely cared for and the family is grateful for the compassion during the final months of his life. Chris loved fishing, camping, hunting and travelling. He will be remembered as a man of great warmth, generosity and for the kindness he showed to all who knew him. Cremation has taken place and interment will be at a later date in the Field Cemetery, in Field, Ontario. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.



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