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April 14, 2026 Issue #15 - Volume 30

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Municipalities Hire A New Regional Deputy Fire Chief – Brandon Courtemanche



By Rosalind Russell - The Town of Espanola and the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers have hired a Regional Deputy Fire Chief. According to the release, Brandon Courtemanche was born and raised in Espanola and has over eight years of experience with the Baldwin and Espanola Fire Departments.

He has been working with the City of Toronto fire services since 2024.

Through his time at Vale in Sudbury, he also supervised a staff and contractors and rounded out his experience with administrative skills including schedules, budget hazardous waste response and medical first responder and mine rescue.

The two municipalities entered into an agreement for a shared fire administration in 2025.

Courtemanche will begin working in May with Regional Fire Chief, Jamie Ramsay, who assumed his position in September of last year.

Photo: unsplash.com



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Smile Cookie Campaign Will Support Espanola Helping Hand Food Bank Once Again



By **Rosalind Russell** - Calling all cookie decorators, it's Smile Cookie Time in support of the Espanola Helping Hand Food Bank.

Volunteer Grant Lewis says last year, over \$22,000 was raised to assist the organization, which is run by volunteers and provides food stuffs to individuals and families in the Espanola and North Shore Corridor throughout the year.

He adds this year, the campaign

runs from April 27th to May 3rd at both the Espanola and McKerrow Tim Hortons locations.

Lewis says there are three two-hour shifts available daily, two people per shift, to ice the cookies with smiling eyes and mouth.

Phone 705-869-5798 and decide on your date(s) and shift(s) to volunteer.

Photo provided of last year's cheque presentation of Smile Cookie Receipts

COMMUNITY NOTES

Lee Valley Autumn Leaves General/ Election Meeting – Wednesday, April 15, 3:30 p.m. at the Lee Valley Hall.

North Shore Quilting & Stitchery Guild: Next meeting – Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Espanola Royal Canadian Legion. New members welcome.

Espanola Elks Trivia Night – April 24, 8:00 p.m. at the Espanola Elks. Text 705-822-3733 to secure a table.

Voices of Spring Concerts – 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, Espanola United Church. 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 3, at the Lutheran Church, Massey. Admission is by Free Will Offering.

Mothers Day Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, May 10, 9:00 a.m. – Noon at the Walford Community Centre. Door Prizes. Bake Sale. For more Info Call 705-844-2887

Free Mini Hearing Clinic – Thursday, June 11, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Espanola Elks Lodge, 539 Second Ave, in conjunction with the Espanola and Area Lions.

Calvary Baptist Church - God-Centered Engaging Worship, 10:30 a.m. Sundays. Youth Group 5:00 p.m. Thursdays. 599 Barber St.

North Shore Seventh-day-Adventist Church - invites you to join us on Saturdays (Sabbaths) 10:00 a.m. for Sabbath School, 11:00 a.m. Divine Service. 10 Menard Cres. Walford. For more info call 705-865-3013.

St. Andrew's Church Massey - Services at 10:30 every Sunday. All are welcome.

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. 84 Centre St. 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



THE TOWN OF ESPANOLA EXPRESSES OUR GRATITUDE TO OUR LOCAL VOLUNTEERS!

In recognition of all the amazing work you do for our community, join us for a night of presentations, sweet treats, & entertainment by illusionist Ken Margoe



**30
APRIL
2026**

All community volunteers are welcome to attend!

6:30PM-8PM

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TENDER SNOW REMOVAL

The Espanola Regional Hospital & Espanola Non-Profit Corporation invite qualified contractors to submit tenders for snow removal and winter maintenance (Nov 2026–Oct 2031).

**Pick up documents at
825 McKinnon Dr., Espanola, ON.**

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**Sealed Tenders due by
12:00 PM, May 1, 2026.**

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Step into the Wild

P. Lynn Halliday

Missinaibi Mishap
 (town is spelled- Missanabie and River is spelled- Missinaibi)

Chapter Seven

This was the last portage before arriving at Missinaibi lake, so when we reached the end of it, I spent some time washing some of the mud off, while Bob took out our lunch. We sat on the shore, under the shelter of an overhanging ledge, munching our sandwiches. In front of us, the surf crashed ashore, from a limitless source of waves. A spectacular display of fluid might, was dancing in front of us. The water was alive—jets of white jettisoned into the air, then crashed back to the surface to join the raging surf, in an endless display of power, as far as the eye could see. “It’s going to be a tough paddle.” I leaned closer to Bob. “Yep, we have to paddle straight into that wind, in two-to-three-foot waves, to reach our campsite, but there’s no other choice.” He indicated our present shore. It was full of broken rock, ledges and Labrador tea. He pointed across the lake. “That campsite is

the only marked site for eight kilometers.” He glanced at his watch. “We’d better get going.”

For the first time in two days, the sun peaked from behind the clouds low on the horizon. I dashed to help Bob reload the canoe and we set off to battle wind and wave. It was tough paddling, but we put our heads down and gradually made our way across. Two hours later, I spotted something on the shore ahead. “Is that the campsite over there,” I shouted, pointing at a small beach with clearing on the bluff.

“Yes, it should be,” responded Bob.

“Then, I think we’re in trouble.”

“Why,” asked Bob.

“Because I can see smoke on the shore and some sort of canopy and tent on the bluff.”

Coming this spring: Step into the Wild
 New Novel by P. Lynn Halliday
Disaster! Around the Bend and Goat Tails
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Giant Pumpkins

By Grant Lewis - Curcubita Maxima is not the name of a disease, or a new car, or new dance step...but is the botanical name for a Giant Pumpkin. Join the Espanola Gardeners as they welcome Jason Behm of Massey. Jason has been growing giant pumpkins in his backyard in Massey for over 10 years and has many awards to prove it. So mark April 23rd on your calendars and join us at Community Living Espanola. Please use the back entrance off Thornloe at 7:00 p.m. bring your questions with you. My questions will be: are they good to eat? ...what to you do with them after? ...and how much room do you need?. A very reliable source told me that there will be a visit to Massey in the fall to see a real Curcubita Maxima!!!! Photo supplied by Grant Leiwis



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OBITUARY



It is with sadness that we announce the passing of **Gilberte "Beth" Meredith** on April 5th, 2026, at the age of 84 years at the Espanola General Hospital. Born on August 30th, 1941 to Rose (nee Marenger) & Sam Foucault. Beloved wife of the late Gordon Meredith (2013). Sister of the late Leo Foucault (Mary), Ida San Cartier (Laurence), Frank Foucault (Gert), Rene Foucault (Marge), Alfred Foucault (Rose), Bernadette Levesque (Duff), Cora Arthurs (Jack), and infants Florence & Ernest (1919). Survived by sister Lillianne Fairburn (late Floyd) and

will be missed by many nieces, nephews, friends and relatives. The Queensway Place had been where Beth called home for the past 3 years. She was truly content there. Beth always boasted about the delicious meals that were served and always looked forward to the Tuesday night music jam sessions. At this time, we would like to thank the doctors and nurses at the emergency department and the acute care at the Espanola General Hospital. During her short stay at the hospital, Beth was cared for with immense compassion. We will fondly remember Beth as a social butterfly. "Some things, when they change, never do return to the way they once were. Butterflies for instance"... it was time to unfold her wings. A graveside service will take place at a later date. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.



MOKOHONUK, Roy - It is with great sadness the family wishes to announce the sudden passing of Roy Steven Mokohonuk on April 4, 2026 at the age of 66 yrs. Beloved brother of Bruce (Karen), Keith (Gisele), Robert (Nikki), Danny (Sherri) & Michele Fraser. Predeceased by his parents Michael & Louise Mokohonuk. Special Uncle to Melody & Lauren Fraser. He will also be missed by many cousins, nieces, nephews, friends and relatives. As per his wishes there will be no funeral service. Cremation with a private burial at a later date. Arrangements by

BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola



Nicki Moffatt (Cronin) - January 16 1944 to April 1 2026. It is with heavy hearts we share that Nicki Moffatt has passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by family and friends on April 1, 2026. Nicki was a proud Haweater born to Kathleen Cronin (nee Wallace) and Tim Cronin. She spent her early years in Manitouwaning alongside her siblings Gerry Cronin (predeceased), Lynne Wilson (Jack), and Pat Boll (Harry). Nicki was a Registered Nurse who trained in Sudbury, then worked in hospitals in Kingston, Burlington and London before moving back to Espanola. After

working at the Espanola General Hospital, she ran a family owned motel (Beltrami's) until she found her calling supporting families through the Infant Development Program. Nicki cherished her husband, Grant Moffatt (predeceased), whom she married in 1967. She accepted his proposal after he drove from Espanola to London through a blizzard with a ring to woo her back after they had broken up. Nicki loved all of her girls. She was a proud mother of her daughters, Larissa Moffatt and Dana McGuire, and adored her three granddaughters: Tessa Jewell-McGuire, Paige Eadie, and Abby McGuire. Anyone who knew Nicki knew about her infinite love for animals, especially horses. Nicki owned seven horses over her lifetime and her love of riding was shared with the many friends she met taking lessons, showing, and attending summer camp. Over the years, Nicki enjoyed skiing, tennis, and pickleball among other sports. She also followed Grant's dream of boating. After retirement, they spent many of their summers hosting family and friends on their trawler, Summer's Dream, in Georgian Bay. Nicki and Grant also travelled extensively exploring Canada from coast to coast four times, in addition to touring Italy, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, and her favourite, Greece. Grant built Nicki their dream home in the mid 80's. She believed that homes had feelings and loved her home like it was a person. Nicki wished to remain in her home until her passing. This wish was made possible by family, friends, and her care team. Her last month on this earth was spent thoroughly enjoying her time with friends and family from both near and far. A huge thank you to Allison McMillan, Kendra Ducharme, Erin Neufeld, Pia Ducharme, Reagen Chenier, and Gina Bowerman. The work that you all do is difficult, but so important. Your kindness and compassion through this difficult time has meant the world to all of us. As per Nicki's wishes, a small, private celebration of life will take place in her home at a later date. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME Ltd, Espanola.

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Celebration will start at 2pm.