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February 10, 2026 Issue #6 - Volume 30

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Sables-Spanish Rivers Township And Espanola Recognized At Roma



By Rosalind Russell - The Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers and the Town of Espanola were both recognized at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference.

Ontario Rural Affairs Minister, Lisa Thompson, announced the creation of the Rural Inspirations Award to recognize rural leaders making impacts across the province.

Thompson says she was honoured to award the inaugural Rural Inspiration to the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers and Mayor Kevin Burke, in recognition of their inspiring and honest discussion about rural community needs and funding opportunities, a discussion that later led to the redevelopment of the Rural Ontario Development (ROD) program.

The Town of Espanola also received

Continued on page two...

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New Baldwin Township Community Rink Opens At The End Of Next Month

By Rosalind Russell - The Township of Baldwin is inviting the community to come out for a ribbon cutting. According to the release, there will be an official opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new community rink at Snoopy's Landing on February 28th. In conjunction with the event, children, 12 years of age and under, are also invited to enter

the plow truck naming contest with the winners announced at the end of the day's gathering. Entries can be dropped off at the township office or give them a call with the child's name, age and contact phone number. The gathering will be held from 11 am to 1 pm at 9 Short Street. Questions? Give them a call at 705-869-0225.

Teachers Go Back To School Focusing On Technology



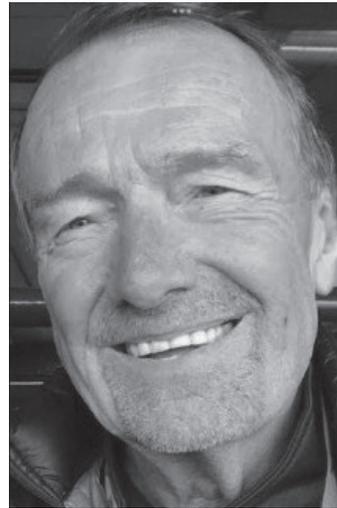
Photo - Technology educators from Rainbow District School Board, including, front, from left, Brent Coulas of Lockerby Composite School, and Gabriel Keresztesi and Chad Petrenko of Espanola High School participated in tech training along with instructors Kevin Lee, back, left, and David Lewis, Program Manager of Career-Ready with CTMA: Expanding Opportunities program and Past Chair of the Ontario Council for Technology Education (OCTE).

By Rosalind Russell - Technology teachers in Rainbow Schools are engaging in ongoing training to support student learning on industry-standard equipment installed in technology classrooms in Espanola, Manitoulin Island and Sudbury. Education director Bruce Bourget says the training is provided by the Canadian Tooling and Manufacturing Association and the Ontario Council of Technology Educators, as part of the "Career-Ready with CTMA" Program. He says earlier last month, during a four-day workshop in Sudbury, teachers gained hands-

on experience with all kinds of machinery including robotics kits, conventional engine lathes and milling machines and more. Bourget says teachers will bring more hands-on learning experiences into the classroom for the benefit of students, who in turn, are using the machinery and tools used in industry. He adds students are being introduced to the trades at a younger age and are now required to take one broad-based technology education course in Grades 9 or 10 and can pursue trades related courses in Grades 11 and 12 as they prepare for apprenticeships, college, university or the world of work.

Around&About February 10, 2026 Page 4

Espanola Hockey Hero Has Passed Away



By Rosalind Russell - One of Espanola's former hockey greats has passed away. Robert (Bob) Jones was born and raised in Espanola, the eldest of four boys, and a local hockey star. His hockey journey began with the Kitchener Rangers, where he played from 1963 to 1966, and over the next ten years, he would play across North America and experienced momentous

moments, including winning the Calder Cup with the Buffalo Bisons. His career even extended to the big screen, with an appearance in the cult classic Slap Shot (1977) as "Broome County Player #5." His hockey journey also included time with the New York Rangers in the NHL, retiring from the game in 1976. He was 80 years old. After retiring from professional hockey in 1976, he and his wife, Mary Ellen returned to Espanola, and over the years he opened and operated several retail businesses and franchises. Jones passed away on January 24th. A Celebration of Life will be held at The Idylwylde April 25, 2026 from 2-5. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Bob's honour to Hockey Canada Foundation - Assist Fund. Photo: unsplash.com / Photo of Robert Jones provided

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Continued from front page...

Sables-Spanish Rivers Township And Espanola Recognized At Roma



recognition as an Age-Friendly Community by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

In presenting the award, it was stated the recognition reflects the ongoing commitment by the town in making

Espanola a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive community for residents of all ages - especially seniors.

Photos provided by Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers and Town of Espanola

Step into the Wild P. Lynn Halliday

*Not all who wander—
 in South Carolina
 Chapter Five*

I went inside and casually walked down the hall, smiling and nodding greetings to the residents, who were all lined up along the walls like a reception line at a wedding. When I arrived at the front desk the receptionist scanned my appearance, in silence.

“Harrumph,” I cleared my throat, then pasted a sunny smile on my face. “Would you kindly give me directions to Wildwood Point Road?” A glassy stare greeted my request. “It’s in Seneca—it can’t be that far—I just got a bit off course on my walk, this morning.” This time, she glowered, ducking her head to continue work. I was stunned. Didn’t she speak English? I stood at the desk, nervously shifting from foot to foot. After a minute, I tapped politely on the desk. “Pardon me, I’m terribly sorry to disturb you, but I need help.”

She rolled her eyes and sighed. “It ain’t around here—never heard of it.” Again,

she went back to her work. Admittedly, I did look a mess, but surely, I didn’t deserve the treatment, I was receiving? All the residents were staring at me, too. With my grey hair standing in a frizzy mess, I wondered if they thought that I belonged amongst the group along the wall? Good grief, did I look that bad? With a grim look and firm voice, I asked, “May I at least borrow a phone, so I may call my friends?”

She rose and grimly assessed me, then turned and walked away. As she left, she said, “I’ll have to get a nurse.”

“Oh my, the phone must be a forbidden request,” I thought. Would she be returning with orderlies to restrain a lost Canadian? Perhaps I should leave? I half turned to go, when a large, imposing matron arrived.

*Coming this spring: Step into the Wild
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OBITUARY



Debora Ann Breit of McKerrow passed away peacefully at Health Sciences North in Sudbury on January 27th, 2026 at the age of 69. Dear daughter of the late Raymond and Margaret Laplante. She will be deeply missed by her loving husband of 49 years, Bill Breit of McKerrow. Proud mother of Chad (Leah), Matthew and Mark, and grandmother to her cherished grandson Ashton. She will be sadly missed by her sisters Darlene (Richard) Duranleau, Brenda (Tim) Houle and Wendy (Gilles) Merineau. She will be greeted in heaven with Jesus and her late brother Raymond Jr. and her sister Wanda. She will also be missed by numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Debbie loved life and greatly believed in her faith. She enjoyed her time painting, camping and being close to her family. There will be a celebration of life held Saturday February 14th, 2026 at the Espanola Elks from 12:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. for family and friends. An officiated interment will be done at a later date in Espanola. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.

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ESPANOLA GOLF COURSE – Looking for: Bartenders – good tips, flexible schedule, smart serve required. Pro Shop Staff and Grounds Crew. Email resume and cover letter with preferred position to: espanolagolfclub@outlook.com or mail to 309 Golf Course Rd., Espanola ON P5E 1A3. 2/24

COMMUNITY NOTES

Lee Valley Autumn Leaves General Meeting – Wednesday, February 11, 3:30 p.m. New members are welcome

Espanola Public Library – Lens & Lines: an afternoon photography and poetry exhibit with local artist Jacqueline Rivet on February 12 at 2:00 p.m.

Beaver Lake Family Day Weekend/ winter Carnival - February 13, 14, 16. Friday Spaghetti supper. Fireworks. Family Skating. Euchre Party. Saturday/Sunday: Finnish Pancake Breakfast. Canteen. Silent Auction. Penny table. Saturday: Kids Activities. Go-At for a Walk. Bubble Soccer. Jug Curling. Northern Exotics. Ski Loppet. Blast from the Past Snowmobile show. Live music Saturday 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. Sunday: Snowmobile poker run. Family skating. Silent Auction. Penny table. 50/50 Draw.

Lee Valley Hall Music Jam – Saturday, February 14, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

Annual CWL Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, February 15, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Walford Community Centre. 402 Hwy 17. Bake Table. Door Prizes. Call 705-844-2887 for details

North Shore Quilting & Stitchery Guild: Next meeting – Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Espanola Royal Canadian Legion. New members welcome.

Massey Area Museum Bingos - at Massey Arena. New start time, Mondays, 6:45 p.m. Dates: Mar 2, April 13.

Espanola Elks Trivia Night – March 6, games start at 8:00 p.m. Please text 705-822-3733 to reserve your table.

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

Espanola Elks St Patrick's Day Dinner/Dance – Friday, March 13. Dinner 4:30 – 7:30 p.m., Music 8:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. for tickets call 705-869-7994 or 705-869-8653.

Massey Legion Branch 432 Fish and Chip Dinner - Pickeral or Haddock - Good Friday April 3, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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

Voices of Spring - If you enjoy singing, then join us on Saturday mornings at St. Andrew's United, Massey from 10:30 - 12 pm. New and former members are most 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



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– **Director of Publication & Design**

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