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February 17, 2026 Issue #7 - Volume 30

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**2026 Espanola-North Shore Snowarama Brings In Dollars For Easter Seals**



By **Rosalind Russell** - It was a perfect sunny winter day for supporters of the 2026 Espanola-North Shore Snowarama out on the trails.

The annual event is held to raise funds and awareness of Easter Seals, which in turn, provides equipment to children with disabilities, operates two camps and provides bursaries to support Easter Seals Kids.

Over \$26,000 was raised this year with the top rider being Leo Deveau raising

Continued on page two...

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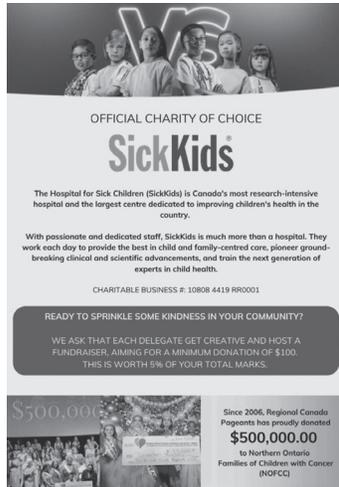
## Espanola Youngster Raises Funds For Toronto Sick Kids



**By Rosalind Russell** - Aivah St Amour will be traveling to Toronto to represent Espanola in a few months as your Junior Miss Espanola 2026.

Her mother, Rebekah Lindsay, says as part of her pageant work, Aivah was asked to host a fundraiser in support of Toronto Sick Kids, the official charity of Regional Pageants Canada.

Lindsay says this past weekend, the family hosted a bake sale as part of the Espanola Winter Carnival.



She adds Aivah had set a goal of \$150, but there was such a positive response, she was able to raise \$1,085 for the cause.

Lindsay adds her daughter will be heading down to Toronto August 20 for the three days of national competition.

Posters provided by Regional Canada Pageants and Rebekah Lindsay.

## Espanola Skating Carnival Set For Early March

**By Rosalind Russell** - The Espanola Skating Club will be hosting their annual ice show this coming March.

The show themed The Edge of Colour will be held at the Espanola Regional Recreation Complex on Saturday March 7th at 5:00pm.

Tickets are \$10 each for youth and adults, free for children 3 and under and are available through club members or at the complex.

The Moose FM CJJM 99.3 is proud to co-sponsor this event. Doors will open at 4:00 pm.

## Women Of Faith Luncheon Supporting Espanola High School

**By Rosalind Russell** - The Espanola Women of Faith is hosting a luncheon in support of the Espanola High School.

The women meet once a year and host the luncheon with the proceeds going to different local charities and/or organizations.

This year, they are looking to purchase women hygiene products to assist students at the high school.

The keynote speaker is Katie Tallen with music provided by local musician Mikayla Shipton.

It will be held on Saturday, March 7th at 11 am at the Espanola Seniors Centre.

For tickets and/or more information, call 705 869 3561 or 705 849 5095.

The deadline to purchase tickets is March 5th.

## Thank You Queensway Place



**By Grant Lewis** - Some of the residents at The Queensway Place who raised over \$2,000 for the Helping Hand Food Bank. Special thanks to Betty

Bowerman who spearheaded the drive and provided a delicious Chinese dinner . I think they look hungry!!! Photo Provided.

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Continued from front page...

## 2026 Espanola-North Shore Snowarama Brings In Dollars For Easter Seals

the brunt of it at \$18,780.94. The top youth fundraiser is Kaleb Romaniuk bringing in \$1,905.00. Ricky Dixon of Espanola was also this year's Easter Seals Ambassador. A huge shout out to Tim Hortons in Espanola, the Wing House in Massey and the Webbwood Eagles for opening your doors to help Snowarama be another success this year. The Moose 99.3 FM - CJJM - Espanola is proud to support this annual event. Photos

1. Top Rider Leo Daveau is presented with his award by Moose 99.3 FM CJJM Espanola Morning Host, Rosalind Russell, and Algoma-Manitoulin MPP, Bill Rosenberg. Daveau raised \$18,780.94.

2. Top Youth Rider at the Espanola/North Shore Snowarama is Kaleb Romaniuk bringing in \$1,905.00. He was presented his award by Moose 99.3 FM CJJM Espanola Morning Host, Rosalind Russell, and Algoma-Manitoulin MPP, Bill Rosenberg.

3. Ricky Dixon is this year's Easter Seals Ambassador. The young boy from Espanola has and continues to receive funding supports and equipment through the Easter Seals program. He was joined by his mother (l-r): Carmen Bazinet, Program Manager - Services, Easter Seals Ontario, Moose 99.3 FM CJJM Espanola Morning Host, Rosalind Russell, and Algoma-Manitoulin MPP, Bill Rosenberg. Photos by Rosalind Russell

## 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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## Massey Group Looks to Protect Wildlife

**By Chloe Kneer** - A group of Sables-Spanish Rivers Township residents, collectively known as The Massey Wildlife Conservation Committee, have organized to educate the public and lobby the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to reject grants for a proposed industrial-scale energy project in the township. The funding announcements are scheduled to be made in April.

The committee currently has about a dozen founding members as it fights the Massey Solar Project, a massive 600-acre+ development on rural land (some of which is currently being farmed) that would span from Proctor to Beach Road on both sides of Birch Lake Road. The idea to formally organize and push back on the project stems from a public delegation of two residents who presented at a regular council meeting in September of last year. Council chambers were packed with concerned ratepayers who had only found out about the project, the largest in the township's history, after council had given municipal support for it. Most thought they should have been consulted for input beforehand, as the area, and the township at large, is known for its farmland, wildlife habitat and rural appeal.

The industrial solar project is set to be built on top of the township's largest aquifer, which, in and of itself, poses significant environmental risks, according to the committee. The area is home to many species of birds and other wildlife who are on the Species at Risk Ontario list (June, 2025), including the Blandings Turtle, which over-winters in the waters. The turtles are known to travel up to 15 km every year to return to their wintering grounds.

The committee says that the danger isn't limited to the immediate project area. Surrounding farms, up to several kilometres away, depend on the aquifer for their livestock's water supply. The tributaries from the aquifer extend as far as the Aux Sauble River, where the Town of Massey procures its water supply. The committee asserts that birds that have been in observable decline for years, such as bobolinks, grasshopper sparrows, barn swallows, the endangered

whippoorwill and many others will see crucial habitat destroyed if the project is allowed to move forward.

There is also concern that the ability for farmers to expand their operations will be extinguished in the area due to runoff and permanent contamination of soil. At the meeting in September, a local farmer told council that although the area isn't zoned Agricultural, there is good farming soil there.

The township has enjoyed a resurgence in farming for the last two decades, and some feel that a project such as this will kneecap the effort to continue being known as a growing farming community. Others assert that property values will take a hit while construction (to be ongoing for 1.5 - 2 years) will impact the quiet landscape while degrading the gravel backroads. There are also potential safety issues with heavy equipment sharing the roads with bicycle and horse and buggy traffic.

At present, the comprehensive by-law in the township only allows for solar installations of up to 10kW. There are several of these located within the township already. However, the Massey Solar Project is slated to be 150,000 kW, which is well beyond what the current by-law permits and out of sync with the township's Official Plan, says the committee.

The Massey Wildlife Conservation Committee is comprised of a diverse cross-section of the township's population: retirees, small business and lodge owners, tradespeople, hobby and full-time farmers.

The committee is looking to add to its membership, discuss strategies for putting forth like-minded candidates in the upcoming municipal election and continue lobbying the IESO towards turning down grant requests from the project's parent company, Potentia Renewables, most of whose solar projects in Ontario have been rooftop so far.

Membership inquiries can be emailed to: [masseywildlife@gmail.com](mailto:masseywildlife@gmail.com).

## COMMUNITY NOTES

**Anishinabe Spiritual Centre Shrove Tuesday** - Enjoy Pancakes, sausage, beans and our famous scones! Beverages included. Tuesday, February 17, 4:00 – 6:00 P.M.. 1091 Anderson Lake Rd., Espanola. Scones available for takeout.

**United Church of Espanola** - Ash Wednesday service on February 18, 10:00 a.m. A welcoming ministry celebrating "People with Disabilities" along with their able caregivers. Tuesday, February 24, 1:30 - 1:30 p.m. Jesus Loves You Celebration. mid-week lent service on Wednesdays, beginning February 25th through April 1st at 10 a.m. World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 6th at 1:30 p.m. 137 Sheppard St. All are welcome. For info: [ucespanola@eastlink.ca](mailto:ucespanola@eastlink.ca) or 705-869-1215.

**Ash Wednesday** - Wednesday, February 18, 11:00 a.m. service at Zion Lutheran Church Imperial Street South Massey at, all are welcome.

**Espanola Public Library** - Lens & Lines: an afternoon photography and poetry exhibit with local artist Jacqueline Rivet on February 19 at 2:00 p.m.

**Eucre Tournament** - Massey Area Arena February 20, 7:00 p.m. Proceeds for Massey Area Museum. Public is Welcome.

**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.

**Zion Lutheran Church World Day of Prayer** - Friday, March 6, 7:00 p.m. Imperial Street South, Massey. The woman of Nigeria wrote the service for this year. All are welcome.

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

**Women of Faith Luncheon** - Saturday, March 7, 11:00 a.m. at the Seniors Complex. For tickets call 705-869-3561 or 705-849-5095. Ticket deadline March 5.

**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 Area Museum Annual AGM** - March 26, 7:00 p.m. at MAM: Election of Board and Directors. Review of Constitution: Volunteers, Fund Raising and all other Business. Public Welcome!

**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.

**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](mailto:around@aroundandabout.ca)



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**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**The Town of Espanola  
Summer Employment Opportunities  
File No. 2026-PWD-01**

The Espanola Public Works Dept. is now accepting applications for 9 Summer Student positions (beginning of May until late August). These positions are for existing vacancies and will assist PWD with general clean up and maintenance, including but not limited to litter pick-up, grass cutting, construction site flagging, painting, beautification and other general labour tasks within the community.

Applicants in a post-secondary program that are returning to school on a full-time basis in September 2026 will be given priority. Eligible students must provide a transcript for the current year as well as proof of returning to school in the forthcoming year. A current criminal reference check from your local police service (within 6 months) will be required in order to be hired.

Interested students are invited to submit an application with accompanying resume, quoting the above File No. before 4:00pm on March 13, 2026.

Applications can be found under the career opportunities section at:  
<https://www.espanola.ca/town-government/career-opportunities>.

Compensation: \$18.00 starting (Increase of \$0.50 per year for returning students)

Applications will be received at the Town of Espanola – Public Works Department at 596 Second Ave., Espanola, ON., P5E 1C4 from Monday to Friday from 8:00am-4:00pm or by email at [pubworks@espanola.ca](mailto:pubworks@espanola.ca)

The Town of Espanola is committed to providing accommodations throughout the hiring process. If you require an accommodation, we will work with you to meet your needs.

We thank all applicants, however only those to be considered for an interview will be contacted. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will be used only for candidate selection.



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**OBITUARY**



**Douglas Shane McCulligh** - October 13, 1963 – February 6, 2026. We are deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Douglas Shane McCulligh, affectionately known as Doug or “Duff.” Doug will be remembered for his love of cars, Caesars, Mars Bars and a nice warm two cream—but most of all for his fierce love for his family. He was either one of the best or the worst men you ever met, and you got the version you deserved. With a rough and tough exterior and a heart of gold, Doug lived life unapologetically and on his own terms. Doug was the son of the late Shirley (Taylor) McCulligh and Dougal McCulligh. He was a beloved brother to Robert McCulligh (Laurie), Sally McCulligh (predeceased), Kelly McCulligh, Edward McCulligh (Steph), Keith McCulligh (Giselle), and Eldonna McCulligh (Ernie). He leaves behind his soul mate Darlene (Ellison) McCulligh; his son Nicolas McCulligh; his daughter Larissa McCulligh (Mark); and his cherished grandchildren Liam “Liam-bo-biam” McCulligh (Holden), Elyza “Lizzie-boo” McCulligh, Aurora “Ror-meister” Laabs, and Wilder “Wildman” Laabs. Doug was a proud uncle to Douglas Van Horn (Lindsay), Melissa Young (Jackson), Michael McCulligh, Steven McCulligh (Kassidy), Kassandra Prince (Brad), Raymond Levesque (Carley), Aaron McCulligh (Jenny), Alexis McCulligh, Christian Eadie, and Sadie Eadie. And Great-uncle to Aubrey and Jameson Young, Cloe, Kristen, Isabelle, and Bradley Prince, Autumn (predeceased) and Maverick McCulligh, and Emerson Foisy. In keeping with Doug’s wishes, there will be no formal service. The family will hold a celebration of life in the summer. Arrangements by **BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.**

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## OBITUARY



Sunrise January 25, 1951 Sunset— January 31, 2026. It's with great sorrow we announce the passing of our wife/mother/grandmother/great grandmother/sister/aunt, **Colette Mary Jean Hearn (Gilbeau)**. After a long fought battle with kidney disease she decided to end her battle gracefully and with great dignity. Colette leaves behind her husband of 58 years Gerald Hearn and her children; Terrie Ann Lopez (pre-deceased), Timothy Hearn (Jo-Ann), Holly Houle (Dean), Joanna Anderson (Kevin). Grandmother and great grandma to, Trisha (Cody) Jaxyn, Ella and Easton, Taylor (Max) and Caroline, Alex (Laura), Alyssa (Philip) and Talia, Austin (Alexa) and Bennett, and Cade. Colette is survived by her siblings Lorraine Lachapelle, Evelyn White, Noella Zangari, Richard Gilbeau (Lucy), and Kippy Gilbeau (Carol). Predeceased by siblings; Rolland, Shirley, Irene and Romeo. Aunt to wonderful nieces and nephews that are too many to list. Colette was a no nonsense woman; she told it exactly how it was in a way that made you laugh. If she wanted to make a hole in a wall to put a window, she would do it herself, regardless of if it was load bearing or not. We would like to thank the 9th floor Dialysis staff at HSN, Dr Nistico, and the team at the Sudbury Hospice for taking such good care of our Mother. A Celebration of life will be held at the Naim Community Centre in the Spring. Donation in Colette's name can be made to the Kidney Foundation or Maison McCulloch Hospice. As our Mom would reply when saying goodbye.; "I love you more"



**D'Arcy Laginski** - March 28, 1939 – February 2, 2026. It is with profound sadness that the family announces the passing of D'Arcy Laginski at the Espanola Regional Hospital on February 2, 2026 in his 87th year with his family by his side. Dear son of the late Mary Cecilia (née Leahy) and Stephen Laginski of Whitney, Ontario. He will be sadly missed by his wife and best friend of 59 years, Mariette (née Leblanc) of Espanola. Proud Father of Lianne (Bob Caron), Kevin (Josée), Alan (Tracy) and Joelle (Chris Merchant). Proud grandfather of Robbie, Madeleine, and Gabriel

(Caron), Mel and Alex (Lacelle) and Sam (Laginski), Lauren, Sarah, and Ali (Laginski), Jack and Darcy (Merchant). Also, proud great grandfather of Leuca, CC, Lennon, Bobbi, and Ellie. He is survived by his sister Marie Mercer and many nieces and nephews whom he loved very much. Predeceased by his siblings Veronica Kelly, Rita Palubiski Hemmings, Trudy Morgan, Dominic, Sylvester, Jerome and Carmel. Family was his focus and joy. He enjoyed nothing more than sitting in his backyard surrounded by Mariette, his kids and especially his many grandkids, watching them enjoying the pool and gardens. D'Arcy began his career with EB Eddy in Ramsey as an accounting clerk in 1965. He transferred shortly after to the Espanola Mill where he retired as an accounting supervisor in 1996. Volunteerism was an important part of his life. D'Arcy served his community in many ways. He was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus for close to 60 years as a 4th Degree member, Grand Knight, and hall manager. During this time, many hours were spent organizing events such as the Sportsman Stag and Spaghetti Suppers to raise money for local charities. D'Arcy was a trustee of the secondary school board for many years. He also served as president of The Office of Professional Employees International Union. He was an avid sports fan and in his early years he enjoyed golfing and curling. D'Arcy was the 'Ace' pitcher for the KC Kool Cats blooper ball team for many years, earning his famous nickname "Dusty" after sliding into base on a particularly dry day. Hockey was another passion of his, whether it was watching his sons and grandkids on the ice or cheering on his favorite team, the Montreal Canadiens. It was always a good day when the Habs won and the Leafs lost! Our family would like to thank Dr Balba, Dr Bignocolo, Dr Baker, Tyler from the nursing staff at HSN, the nursing staff at EGH and the Bayshore nurses. A special thank you to Dr Kim Perlin for her exceptional care and support throughout the years. A memorial service will take place on Friday, February 20th, 2026, at the St-Jude Parish in Espanola, at 11:00 a.m. with a luncheon to follow at the Espanola Legion. Interment of ashes at a later date, in July, in the Espanola Cemetery. If so desired, donations can be made in memory of D'Arcy to the Espanola Regional Hospital-Palliative Care Unit, or to a charity of your choice. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.



**Ken Pickard** - April 10, 1944 – February 4, 2026. With his family by his side, Ken Pickard passed away on February 4, 2026, at the age of 81. Born on April 10, 1944, Ken lived a life defined by dedication, hard work, and deep love for his family and community. He was the beloved husband of 58 years to Carol (Skippen) Pickard, a loving father to his son Mike (Kelly) and daughter Wendy (Steve), and a proud grandfather to Kyle (Tess). Ken was predeceased by his parents, George and Margaret (McArthur) Pickard. He is survived by his sisters Sheila Brandow (Joe) and Marilyn Prior (Robert) and by his brothers and sisters in law Blake Skippen (Nola), Judy Cranston, and Tim Skippen (Ellie). He is now reunited with his best friends and constant companions, Waggs and Roxy. Ken found great joy in the simple pleasures of life. One of his greatest joys was spending time in his garden, where he could often be found tending plants and pulling weeds for hours on end. He was also deeply involved with the curling club, where he enjoyed both playing and dedicating countless hours to maintaining the building and caring for the ice. Ken was a dedicated member of the Espanola Elks Club, enjoyed golfing and cherished all of the great memories and friendships that were created there. He began his career at the Espanola mill with KVP, working in the finishing room and remained in the same department throughout his career. He retired from Domtar after 39 years of service, finishing his career as foreman—a role that reflected his strong work ethic, leadership, and commitment. Ken will be remembered for his dedication to his family, his steady presence and the quiet joy he brought to those around him. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. We would like to thank the staff at the Espanola Nursing Home for the wonderful care they provided to not only Ken, but also to his family. A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, February 15, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Espanola Curling Club. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Society. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.



**Leona Catherine Nahwegahbow Mno Aankwad Kwe** was born on Mnídoo-Mnísing in the community of Wiikwemkoong, August 17th, 1945, one of 6 children born to Ralph and Christine Recollet. She met Adam Nahwegahbow at Mordolphton Lodge in Birch Island, where they both worked. They fell in love and were married on November 25th, 1961. She was the proud mother of 3 children, Rodney (w/Bev), Julian and Laurie Ann (h/Neil). Grandmother to Curtis, Keith, Duncan and Ethan. Great Grandmother to Caleb and Luke... and best friend to Kwezens. Survived by her brother John (Sheila predeceased), and predeceased by her siblings, Grace, Rose (Emile predeceased), Frederick (Viola), Josephine (Eugene), and Special Sisters Doris and Linda. She will be missed by many nieces, nephews, family and friends. Leona was a humble, caring and kind Anishinaabe Kwe whose generous nature and wisdom naturally drew her into a life of service to her community and the Anishinaabe people. She became an elementary school teacher and through her active involvement in the community was voted in as a band councillor and eventually as Chief. She served as President of the Ontario Native Women's Association, Robinson Huron Regional Grand Chief, and on numerous boards and committees in the Sudbury-Manitoulin-North Shore area. Her love for life was expressed in the many gifts and talents she shared through stories, songs and cultural teachings. Anishinaabemowin danced off her tongue and was like music to the hearts and ears of her listeners. Family was her center, as she was theirs, and though her passing brings sorrow, we take comfort in the beautiful memories she created that continue to inspire; and in knowing she returns home and that her spirit soars to join her beloved Adam on "The other side of the moon." Gmíkwemígoon! Ga waabmin zhewendemaag miinwa Gzhemnidoo. Cremation services provided by Simple Wishes of the North, Sudbury and Crystal Crematorium.