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February 24, 2026 Issue #8 - Volume 30

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First Annual Espanola Children's Winter Fishing Derby Sees Plenty Of Fish



By Rosalind Russell - Despite slush conditions, there are plenty of happy fishers in the Espanola/North Shore Corridor following the First Annual Espanola Children's Winter Fishing Derby held on Family Day. Eight fish, from a seven-inch perch to a 20-inch pike, were caught by the youngsters who took part in the derby held at the Anishinabe Spiritual Centre on Monday, Family Day 2026. Edwina McDonald, the CEO of the centre, says the event was a great opportunity to highlight the centre's amenities, and to bring together the community wish families celebrating the day and the great outdoors.

Continued on page two...

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Creativity And Team Spirit Shine At École Catholique La Renaissance



École élémentaire catholique La Renaissance (Espanola) recently hosted a highly engaging event that highlighted the creativity, dedication, and collaborative spirit of its students from Kindergarten to grade 8. Over the course of several days, students worked diligently to design and construct cardboard sleds that were both functional and visually striking. On the day of the event, participants gathered in the

schoolyard to put their creations to the test in a friendly race. During the race, one student sat inside the box while the other two took on the challenge of pushing the sled over a snow-covered surface. The teams demonstrated remarkable teamwork, perseverance, and pride in their collective accomplishments. La Renaissance extends its sincere appreciation to school staff and parents for their valuable support in preparing the sleds and for their encouragements throughout this memorable day. Their contribution played a significant role in the success of an activity that brought laughter, smiles, and a strong sense of pride to students of all ages.

Temporary Waterflows Allowing For Work On Nairn Falls Project

By **Rosalind Russell** - Vale says there will be temporary waterflows on Agnew Lake and the Spanish River water system to allow for work on a dam project near Nairn Centre. According to the release, Vale Base Metals is temporarily adjusting water levels and flows on the two major waterways to support construction of the Nairn Falls Generating Station Spillway Replacement Project. Residents should expect changing levels and potentially unsafe ice conditions, and the company recommends the removal of ice huts before March 1st adding motorized and recreational vehicles should not traverse iced lake areas after this time. Agnew Lake is undergoing an accelerated drawdown with the water expected to rise in early March. (Ramsey Lake located

near the watershed, not in central Sudbury, and Biscotasing Lake will have reduced openings beginning in March and will see a rise in their levels.) The Spanish River flows, upstream and downstream from Agnew Lake, will also decrease and at Nairn Falls, the water will be drawn down by approximately five feet for two days in early March to safely complete the work. All operations follow the Spanish and Vermilion Rivers Water Management Plan, and safety regulations are timed to ensure safe passages for spring freshet flows and to also protect fish spawning conditions. Vale will provide updates if plans change and residents may contact the community concern line at 705-222-VALE or visit Ontario.operations@vale.com for more information.

COMMUNITY NOTES

United Church of Espanola - 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 or 705-869-1215.

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.

FREE International Women's Day Event - March 8, Little Current, ON To Register: staylor@mfresources.net or 705-368-3400 ex 245

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

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Continued from front page...

First Annual Espanola Children's Winter Fishing Derby Sees Plenty Of Fish

Espanola Mayor Doug Gervais also presented the prizes acknowledging the different groups that came together to make the event a success for the families who took part. McDonald says with that success, they look forward to providing the venue once again for next year's event. Hosted by The Moose 99.3 FM – CJJM – Espanola, the Moose acknowledges the official sponsor of the event, Fishy Fishy

Bang Bang, and the support of the centre, Espanola Elks, Espanola Game and Fish Club, and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. A special thank you is extended to Mark, Paul and Blake for their assistance on the ice, and Makayla and Patricia for volunteering in the lodge. Photo provided by Rosalind Russell/ Mark McDonald on behalf of Vista Radio

Step into the Wild P. Lynn Halliday

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

I could hear the phone ringing and a wave of relief fluttered over me. After a moment she said, "it's busy," then hung up the phone and walked away. "Can you try just one more time, please?" I called after her. With a dramatic sigh, she agreed to try one last time. It rang this time—hurray. A smile lit my face as I anticipated the conversation. The phone kept on ringing. Shrugging, she said, "Not home," and began to hang up. "Please leave a message—say, your friend Lynn is here and give your address?" Raising her eyebrows, she spoke the words. "Now, if you'll excuse me, I have work to do." Thanking her, I walked quickly out of the facility—afraid that they really were going to keep me there. As I pushed open the door, I shuddered, then flopped into a rocking chair on the verandah. "Good grief, what an ordeal that was." I slowly rocked, back and forth, trying to calm down—hoping that my friend Beth, got the message. Half an hour later, as I was just nodding off, my husband, Bob and our friend, John arrived. They exited the SUV and both stood, hands on hips, staring at me. I got up with a quizzical look on my face and walked over. "We've been searching for you over an hour," said Bob.

"But we never thought that you were out looking for a new residence," quipped John, with a grin. My face started to flush. "It was the only place I could find a phone." I shuffled my feet. "Why did you come so far away?" added Bob, nudging John. "Okay, what's the big deal. I simply went for a walk, it can't really be that far from your home, John?" "Well, I suppose if you were a gazelle—this place is ten miles from my house. In the next county," replied John, eyebrows raised. Bob nudged John and they grinned. "Also, we couldn't help by notice how well you fit in—here at this home for the elderly. That rocking chair fits you, perfectly." "And if you stay in it, then you can't get lost," added John. Belly laughs filled the air. With a crimson face, I got into the vehicle. Glad to be saved—if not quite so happy about the teasing. I knew, I was going to be mocked forever for my wandering ways. I shook my head—never again. Then grinned—well, maybe.

*Coming this spring: Step into the Wild
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OBITUARY



In Memory of **Robert "Bubba" Desjardins** "GONE FISHIN'" November 19, 1948 – February 13, 2026. On Friday, February 13, 2026, Robert "Bubba/Bob" Desjardins passed away at the Espanola Regional Hospital after a lifetime of health struggles. "They've tried many times to take me, but I'm just not ready yet." He is survived by his devoted wife of 53 years, Louise Desjardins (St. Pierre), whom he married on August 5, 1972. Bob was a loving husband, best friend, and personal chef to Louise. Together they loved fishing, hunting, camping, going for

long drives, and dancing in the living room. Their favorite song was "Stand By Me," which was played for him at the hospital. He will forever be Louise's Valentine. He will be sadly missed by his son, Ernie (Jessica Rainville). Ernie inherited his need for an adrenaline rush from his dad, who loved racing motorcycles, doing wheelies across town, and always putting on a show. His daughter, Vanessa — Daddy's little girl — will remember his attempts to teach her about dirt bikes and cleaning fish, though she was always more interested in pretty dresses and high heels. Bob's four beautiful granddaughters — Britney Desjardins, and Alexa, Portia, and Bianca Von Scheunemann — will remember their grandpa as a joker who always made them laugh. Robert will also be missed by his brothers and sisters across Canada, who remained close in heart: Gerry (predeceased by Rhonda) Desjardins, Carol (Ken) Short, Janice (Reg) McLennan, Andrea (Kevin) Selinger, Tommy (Elsa) Desjardins, Peter (Susan) Desjardins, and Paula (Ken) Cochrane. Bob will be deeply missed by his beloved fur-babies, Shena and Sky. A special thank you goes to all the men from "Bob's office" — Tim Hortons in Espanola — for visiting him and protecting his chair while he was in the hospital. Thank you to all of our family, friends, and co-workers for your support during this difficult time. Words cannot express our gratitude to the many doctors who cared for Bob over the years, from SickKids in Toronto to the present day. We would like to thank the Espanola Paramedic Services for the quick and professional response. Thank you to the incredible nurses at Espanola Regional Hospital for their compassionate care through his treatments over the years, to his final hours — you are all angels. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to Dr. Stephen Bignucolo for everything you have done for Robert. You are a kind, patient, and truly remarkable physician. In honour of Bob's wishes, there will be no funeral service. We invite you to celebrate Bob in your own ways.



Angus Henry Fuller - August 21, 1940 – February 11, 2026. It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Angus Henry Fuller, affectionately known as Gus, who was born on August 21, 1940, in Whitney, Ontario. Raised in a close-knit family by his parents, Jean (McMaster) and Harry Fuller, Gus carried with him the values of hard work, loyalty, and devotion to family throughout his life. He was predeceased by his parents; his brothers Murray (Linda) and Cameron (Paulette); and his sister Carmel Leveque

(Jack, predeceased). He leaves behind his loving wife, Verna (Dupuis); his children, Sean Fuller (Debby) and Jacqueline Fuller-Tassé; and his cherished grandchildren, Daylen, McKenna, Ashley Van Luyk (Zachary), and Cameron Weaver (Sophie), Bryson (Taryn), Nicole, and Evan (Kaylee). Gus was also a proud great-grandfather to Penelope, Adrian and Wolfgang. He is lovingly remembered by his sisters Lois Kuhkta (Bernie, predeceased), Myrna Etmanski (Leonard), and Danny (Reina). He will be dearly missed by his many nieces and nephews, he followed their lives and accomplishments with quiet pride. Gus began his long and dedicated career with E.B. Eddy Forest Products in 1964 as a scaler where he quickly advanced his career, becoming the Assistant Foreman of the commuter operations in 1971. In 1977, he was the General Logging Superintendent in Ramsay, Ontario and through years of hard work and commitment, he became the Manager of Purchase Wood in Espanola in 1987, a position he held until his retirement in 1999. According to colleagues and the company, Gus played a key role in the ever-changing forestry industry and was an integral part of the development of logging roads in Ramsay. His strong work ethic and steady leadership earned him the respect of colleagues and the security he worked so hard to provide for his family. An avid hunter, Gus looked forward each year to spending weeks in the bush during hunting season alongside his brothers, cousins, and lifelong friends — a tradition that spanned decades and created countless memories and stories. Those stories were often retold with laughter. In his younger years, he could frequently be found at the KC Hall, downstairs with his buddies, sharing tales and enjoying good company. He also looked forward to the E.B. Eddy curling bonspels, Knights of Columbus Spaghetti suppers and having a beer with the boys in someone's garage or back yard. Gus also shared a lifelong friendship with his neighbour, D'Arcy. Raised together in Whitney and later, both working at E.B. Eddy, they lived next door to one another in Espanola for over 50 years. — their bond enduring beyond a lifetime. Gus also took great pride in his home. He was known for having what was likely the nicest lawn in Espanola (according to his kids and grandkids), spending countless hours tending to his yard with the same quiet dedication he brought to every part of his life. It was just another reflection of the care and pride he carried in everything he did. A man of few words, Gus expressed his love, not through grand speeches but through action — by working tirelessly, by showing up, and by ensuring his wife and children had a beautiful life and ample opportunities. He was an amazing father and grandfather who always put his family first. His quiet strength, steady presence, and storytelling spirit will be deeply missed and forever remembered. Gus' family would like to welcome family and friends to celebrate his life on March 2nd, 2026, from 2-5pm at the Royal Canadian Legion in Espanola. Enjoy some food, refreshments, laughter and memories. Internment of ashes will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (Student Empowerment Fund) would be greatly appreciated. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.

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