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**Hopping To It – Espanola Ten-Year-Old Hosting Second Food Drive**



By *Rosalind Russell* - An Espanola ten-year-old is hosting a food drive in town once again to support the Espanola Helping Hand Food Bank.

Aivah St. Amour's mother, Rebeka, says her daughter is hosting her Second Annual Hopping for Hunger starting this month.

She says the campaign will run from February 7th to March 21st, and Aivah will be collecting door-to-door throughout that time period.

Rebekah adds the Espanola Family Health Team and A.B. Ellis Public School will be drop-off locations for anyone wanting to drop off food items, (no cash donations),

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Continued on page two...

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Continued from front page...

## Hopping To It – Espanola Ten-Year-Old Hosting Second Food Drive

just in time to help out the food bank for Easter.

She says her daughter is especially proud to have collected over 700 items last year, so she has set a goal of 1,000 items for this year. Aivah is also Junior Miss Espanola 2026 and will represent the town at the 2026 Regional

Canada Pageant in Toronto later this year. She is holding a bake sale at the Espanola Winter Carnival on Saturday February 7th from 11:30am to 3pm with all proceeds going to Toronto Sick Kids Hospital. Photo: Rebeka St. Amour and her daughter Aivah. Photo provided

## LOOP Partnership Brings Grocers And Farmers Together To End Food Waste

*By Rosalind Russell* - An Espanola grocer says they have had a successful launch to a program to assist them in producing zero food waste every week.

Tanner Lafreniere, the owner of Your Independent Grocer in Espanola, says LOOP Resource is a company that teams up grocery outlets with local farmers, so after food has been donated to the local food bank, the leftovers can go towards feeding animals.

He says LOOP provides them the network, with his staff packing up the food and the farmers picking it up every week.

he adds it is a different farmer every week, so it is distributed fairly throughout the North Shore Corridor.

He is especially proud that they have already reached zero food waste and wants to maintain that status.

Any farmers interested in being in the LOOP, can click the link: <https://loopresource.ca/public/>

He also has Flash Food available, produce boxes, which sell for \$5 each, so anyone interested in that program has to sign up on the app to access the program. <https://flashfood.com/>

## Step into the Wild P. Lynn Halliday

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

What were my options? Pray—well I'd been doing that for the last hour, but clearly this was one of those times in my life, when the Lord was teaching me something, since He didn't teleport me back to bed—presuming this was just a bad dream.

“Okay, you're an adult. Don't panic—think,” I mumbled. Clearly, I needed to pop into a corner store and ask directions or ask to use the phone. Simple, except, there were no stores in sight, and looking down, I remembered my dishevelled appearance. Grubby sweat pants and my hair was a frizzy mess, like a Phyllis Diller hairdo. Certainly not fit for company. I further observed that the houses within sight were either large mansions with closed gates or old tar paper, shanty houses flying Confederate flags with goats on their porches. I was too grubby to

go to the nice houses and too afraid to go to the other, so I kept walking, keeping my eyes open for a health club or golf course or some sort of community building, where I could ask for directions without too much of an explanation or loss of life!

After quite a while I spotted what I thought was a health club straight up ahead. I jogged up the long, winding driveway. When I arrived at the front entrance the sign told me that I had been mistaken, that this place was in fact a home for the elderly. I shrugged—beggars can't be choosers and I was prepared to beg. Feeling somewhat confident since it was an institution, I creaked open the door.

*Coming this spring: Step into the Wild  
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## Seniors' Skiing At Boogie Mountain



**By Grant Lewis** - Mother Nature, once again, has not been kind or cooperative to skiers and snowmobilers this winter...well so far anyway. However, there has been activity at the Ski Hill. The little hill is open now with lessons and rentals available. Times are 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m. for night skiing and 10:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. on

the weekend. Hopefully by the time this article is printed, the main hill be opened with group lessons and rentals. The Espanola Lions Club is once again pleased to help pay for free Seniors' skiing starting on Tuesday Jan. 27th from 10:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. Anyone over 50 years old is encouraged to take part. Rentals, group lessons and lift tickets are all free. A great way to enjoy skiing and get outside. Weather permitting, Seniors' ski will be every Tuesday for six weeks. If you're in doubt about whether the hill is open or not, phone Boogie Mountain just to make sure everything is a go! Last year over 250 seniors took advantage and had a great time.....no line ups!! Senior snowboarders are welcome as well. Enjoy,

## Espanola Legion Marking 100th Anniversary, Locally And Nationally, With A Unique Opportunity



**By Rosalind Russell** - The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #39 is celebrating its centennial this year, as is the national organization. Legion member, Dan Kryzanowski, says they are hosting a design contest to celebrate the milestone and anyone and everyone can enter, from youngest to oldest. He says more than one design will be chosen and used on

t-shirts, that, in turn, can be purchased by the public. He stresses all art must be original work, and no Artificial Intelligence art will be accepted adding once the design(s) are submitted, they become the intellectual property of the branch. He adds the contest closes on February 28th and can be submitted via email or in person. The winners will receive cash prizes and the bragging rights in celebrating the anniversary. To submit your design digitally, send it via email to: [rcl-39@persona.ca](mailto:rcl-39@persona.ca) Photo of the Official Centenary Pin provided by Royal Canadian Legion Command.

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We thank all interested applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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# COMMUNITY NOTES

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

**St. George's Anglican Church** - Community Soup and Sandwich Lunch Tuesday, February 3, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Takeout Pierogi and Meatball Dinner Saturday, February 7, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. while supplies last.

**Espanola Elks Winter Elimination Draw** - February 6, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. (dance from 9:00 - 1:00 a.m.) Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad, buns, desert. For tickets call 705-869-7994 or 705-869-8653.

**Poker Run** - Ontario Trail Permit Required. Saturday, February 7, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Spanish Marina Complex. More info call 249-325-0125.

**Webbwood Eagles #4269 Spaghetti Dinner** - Sunday, Feb. 8, Saturday Mar. 7, April 11, May 2, June 6. Eat in or Takeout 4:30-6:00pm. Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread & desert.

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

**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.

**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

## OBITUARY



**Rodney Vincent Junkala** (1955 - 2026). It is with great sadness that the family of Rodney (Rodd) Vincent Junkala announces his passing in Sudbury, Tuesday January 13, 2026, at the age of 70 years. Son of the late Reino Junkala and the late Betty Junkala (née Hallworth). Loving husband of Thoma Crabs. Dear father of August (Amy) and Everett (Rebecca). He will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered by his grandchildren Aileena, Aimo, Carson and Airah. Survived by his siblings Eric (Bonnie), Cynthia (Marc), Jerry (Pierette), Tina (John) and Bruce, as well as by many nieces and nephews.

He will be forever remembered by his childhood best friend, Allan Hill. During his younger years, Rodney worked in renovations, with a special skill set in drywall work which kept him busy working towards his dreams. Rodney started his career at Falconbridge (Glencore) as a labourer and worked his way up to a Millwright before retiring as a Maintenance Planner after many years of service. Rodney was very active in the Masonic Lodge, also a member of the Scottish Right, Shriners, and Eastern Star as well as The Royal Canadian Legion. He loved family gatherings, was an avid traveller, race fan and music lover. He loved the outdoors and was active in Scouting in his younger years. You could always find Rodd either smiling or laughing as he brought happiness to those around him. As he would always tell others, laughter is the best medicine to keep your spirits up. Donations can be made in his name with an organization of your choice. An Eastern Star and Masonic funeral with celebration of his life will be announced at a later date. Cremation services provided by Simple Wishes of the North, Sudbury and Crystal Crematorium.



It is with deep sadness; the family of **Theresa Ann Elliott** announce her passing. With her family by her side, Theresa passed away at Espanola Regional Hospital, January 24, 2026. Theresa fought a brave battle with cancer. Theresa was born Oct 12th, 1952, to Katie (Catherine Pickoski) and Leonard Campbell (both predeceased). Beloved wife of Howard Elliott of 54 years. Proud mother of Derek, wife Julie of Montreal and Jason, wife Trish of Espanola. Loving grandmother of Bradley Kuula of Espanola and Elise and Felix Elliott, of Montreal. Great grandmother

of Axel, Audrey and Jackson Kuula. Predeceased by her sister Marlene Spry. She is survived by many nieces, nephews, sister in laws and brother in law. Theresa worked for many years at the Royal Bank, Sears and Mark's. She enjoyed meeting and helping customers. Theresa enjoyed music, country fest, line dancing with her friends, visiting with neighbors, family and friends. She enjoyed family time and camp life, kayaking and paddle boarding on the bay. Her favorite winter vacation destination was Mexico. She and Howard spent the last 10 winters in Puerto Morales, enjoying the warmth and sunshine, while making many lasting friendships. She was loved and will be missed by many, leaving us with great memories. Respecting her wishes, there will be no service at this time. A Celebration of Life will be arranged in the future. If you wish, donations may be made to the Espanola Palliative Care Team, or the Northeast Cancer Centre. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.

# CLASSIFIEDS

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## OBITUARY



**JACOBS, Roger Marvin** - Of Sagamok passed away at the Espanola Regional Hospital on January 19th, 2026, at the age of 58. Dear son of the late Marvin & Rita (nee Ritchie) Jacobs. Predeceased by partner Shelly Jordan. Cherished father of Rikki-Leigh (William) of Saugeen First Nation. Loving Papa to Cheyleigh, Halle, & Billie Jones. Dear brother of Timothy of Owen Sound, Peter of Sagamok, Kimberley (Ralph Toulouse) of Sagamok, and

Johnathan (Kerri-Lynn) of Cutler. Predeceased by brothers Erwin & Rick, and sister Donna. Will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, friends and relatives. Visitation will begin at Rita's home (2008 River Crt., Sagamok) on Thursday, January 22nd at 11:00 a.m. Roger will be brought to the New Community Centre, Sagamok, on Friday, January 23rd, at 3:30 p.m., with funeral service on Saturday, January 24th at 11:00 a.m. with interment to follow. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola



It is with heartfelt sadness that the family of **Lorie Ligi** announces her peaceful passing at Maison McCulloch Hospice on January 23, 2026, at the age of 67. Lorie was the loving wife and best friend of Leonard for 47 years. She was a devoted mother to Kristin (Randi) and David (Jennifer), and a cherished grandmother to her three beloved grandsons, Brooks, Anderson, and Rhodes. She was lovingly raised by Lynn and Mena Beauchamp and their family, whose care, guidance, and love helped shape the person she became. She was also an aunt to many nieces and nephews. Born in Timmins, Lorie spent her

formative years in the North before relocating to Espanola. There she met Leonard, and they quickly became inseparable, marrying at the age of twenty. Eager for adventure, they set out with Eldorado Resources, working at the Beaverlodge Mine near Uranium City, Saskatchewan. For two years, they embraced life along the north shores of Lake Athabasca. They later made Blind River their home, raising their family and building a full life together. Both eventually retired from Cameco's Blind River refinery. Lorie's greatest joy in life was her family, especially the time she spent with her husband, children, son- and daughter-in-law, and grandchildren. A gifted musician, Lorie had a deep love for music and was an accomplished singer, songwriter, pianist, and teacher. She shared her passion by teaching piano lessons from the family living room for many years. Among all her musical gifts, the most treasured memory was her warm piano playing filling the home on quiet evenings. Lorie enjoyed many interests that brought her lifelong fulfillment, including the culinary arts, camping on Manitoulin Island, gardening, seasonal home decorating, painting, and time spent with close friends. When not busy, she could often be found curled up on the couch with a hot cup of tea, one of her cats, and a good book. "You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me." — C.S. Lewis. Her love of reading lives on through her children. Lorie was a devout follower of Jesus Christ and held a deep devotion to her Creator. This faith was especially evident near the end of her earthly journey, as she truly experienced "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). Thank you to Dr. Bonilla for her kindness and compassion while treating Lorie, and to the staff at HSN, NSHN, Bayshore, and Maison McCulloch Hospice for the exceptional care. A special thank you as well to Lorie's dearest friend, Lisa, whose friendship was an invaluable treasure. The family extends heartfelt gratitude to all who reached out with love and support during this difficult time. Kristin and David would like to acknowledge their father's unwavering devotion to their mother throughout her illness. His love, commitment, and care will always be remembered. In lieu of flowers, donations to Maison McCulloch Hospice, in Lorie's honour, would be greatly appreciated. In keeping with Lorie's wishes, no public service will be held. "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she replied. — John 11:25-27 With love, Leonard, Kristin, and David — we will carry you in our hearts forever. Cremation services are provided by Simple Wishes of the North, Sudbury, and Crystal Crematorium.



**JONES, Robert "Bob"** - 1945-2026 (80). It is with profound sadness that the family announces the passing of Robert "Bob" Jones, who died peacefully on January 24th at Health Sciences North, Sudbury surrounded by his loving family. Bob was 80 years old. Born in Espanola on November 27, 1945, Bob was the eldest of four boys and demonstrated from an early age the leadership, competitiveness, and charm that would define his life. He lived a life that felt bigger than the rink, wider than the fairway, and richer than any balance sheet—though he mastered all three. Bob is predeceased by his

parents, William Sydney Jones and Norma Margaret Jones (Harris). He will be deeply missed by the mother of his children, Mary Ellen Jones, and by his children Kelly Brooks (Scott), Robbie Jones (Vicki), and Nicholas Jones (Jennifer). Bob was a proud and devoted grandfather to Macgregor, Sydney, Griffin, Bay, Quinn, Ainsley, and Charlotte. Bob is also lovingly remembered by his brothers Terry Jones (Debbie), Jimmy Jones (late Teri), and Alan Jones (Denise). Bob's hockey journey began with the Kitchener Rangers, where he played from 1963 to 1966, launching what would become a remarkable professional career. Over the next ten years, Bob played across North America and experienced unforgettable moments, including winning the Calder Cup with the Buffalo Bisons. It was during this time that he met the love of his life, Mary Ellen Stefan, and together they welcomed their first child, Kelly. A storyteller at heart, Bob loved sharing memories from his hockey years—and he told them well. His career even extended to the big screen, with an appearance in the cult classic *Slap Shot* (1977) as "Broome County Player #5." Bob took great pride in being part of such an iconic film, one that he felt truly captured the spirit of hockey in the 1970s. His hockey journey also included time with the New York Rangers in the NHL, a testament to both his talent and relentless drive. Despite his accomplishments, Bob wore them lightly—he never needed to tell you who he was; you simply felt it. After retiring from professional hockey in 1976, Bob and Mary Ellen returned to Espanola, where he joined the family business, Jones Department Store. The family later spent time in Sault Ste. Marie, where Bob continued working in the family business at Hub Clothing, before eventually settling in Sudbury. Bob and Mary Ellen welcomed their son Robbie in 1977, followed by Nick in 1980. Bob took immense pride in seeing his love of the game live on through his sons, both of whom played hockey. He gladly traded his place on the ice for a seat in the stands, becoming their most devoted supporter—never missing a game, practice, or opportunity to cheer them on. True to his competitive nature, Bob transitioned seamlessly into business, becoming a highly successful entrepreneur and owner of multiple franchise businesses. He led with integrity and generosity, treating his employees like family and always making time for others. He believed that real success meant bringing people along with you. When he wasn't working or swapping stories, Bob could often be found on the golf course—most often at Idylwyld—where he enjoyed the game and the camaraderie of dear friends. Bob was beloved by many and deeply devoted to his family. While he took great pride in his accomplishments, nothing meant more to him than his three children, who were the true source of his pride. A decorated athlete, a respected businessman, and a loyal friend, Bob was above all a kind and generous man. His infectious smile, gift for storytelling, and sincere interest in others left a lasting impression on everyone he met. This is an incredible loss for his family and friends. Bob will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. A Celebration of Life will be held at The Idylwyld April 25, 2026 from 2-5. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Bob's honour to Hockey Canada Foundation - Assist Fund. Arrangements entrusted to Sudbury Park Lawn Cremation Services.

Andrew Vondette – **Publisher/General Manager, IT**  
– **Director of Publication & Design**

**STAFF**  
Arielle Brown – Director of Office Supply Sales  
Rosaland Russell – News Correspondent  
Bill Leeney – Graphic Designer

**705-869-6883**  
email: [around@aroundandabout.ca](mailto:around@aroundandabout.ca)  
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