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January 27, 2026 Issue #4 - Volume 30

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CHAR Tech Receives \$10 Million Commitment From BMI Towards Espanola Biocarbon Project



By *Rosalind Russell* - CHAR Technologies Limited is partnering with BMI to develop a joint biocarbon project at the former pulp and paper mill in Espanola.

CHAR Tech CEO Andrew White says the Espanola project engineering and design study continues to advance with the BMI group which now owns the property, adding BMI has committed \$10 million to the project.

He says the property now called Bioveld North, was acquired by BMI last year with a focus on putting wood back to work and the Espanola project is expected to produce up to 50,000 tonnes of biocarbon per year.

He adds the project's final scope and BMI's final capital allocation will be determined through completion of the engineering and design study.

Continued on page two...

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Espanola Winter Carnival

February 6-8, 2026

Friday, February 6

5pm-7pm Chili Supper upstairs at the Rec. Complex - hosted by the Masonic Lodge

4:30-7:30pm Spaghetti Supper and Elimination Draw & 9pm-1am Dance at The Espanola Elks

5:30-6:30pm Free Glow Skate!! at the Rec. Complex arena - Skate sponsored by Guy's Auto Service & Glass Ltd. & black lights provided by Noojmowin Teg Health Centre

Food Drive at the Rec. Complex by Espanola Minor Hockey Association

7:30pm Paper Kings VS Thunderbirds at the Rec. Complex Arena

6:30pm Free Family Curling Night at the Espanola Curling Club - Everyone Welcome

Sunday, February 8

8am-12pm Fundraiser Breakfast at the Espanola Rec. Complex upstairs auditorium

10am-3pm Makers Market in the lobby of the Rec. Complex

10:30-11:30am FREE Public Skate sponsored by Freelandt Caldwell Reilly LLP

11am-1pm FREE Hook & Cook (prizes/crafts) and guided hikes at Black Creek Sno-Shoe Trail

2-3pm FREE Rec. Swim sponsored by Monica Gallagher - Move your Reality

Espanola Snowarama for Easter Seals Kids
9:30am Registration at Tim Hortons in Espanola
5pm Spaghetti Dinner at Eagles Club in Webbwood
For more information visit Snowarama.org

Saturday, February 7

9am 2 person Stirling Bonspiel at the Espanola Curling Club

10am-4pm at Boogie Mountain Ski Hill
For more information and a full schedule follow the Boogie Mountain Facebook page.

11am-12pm Wild Words of Winter: A Sensory Poetry Lab at the Espanola Public Library
Contact the library to register

11:30am-3pm Display Booth at the Rec. Complex Lobby - information, games, face painting and popcorn!

Espanola Fire Department
Cambrian College Employment Options
Manitoulin Northshore Victim Services
Freelandt Caldwell Reilly LLP
Jr. Miss Espanola 2026 Delegate Aivah St Amour
Our Children, Our Future LaChloche EarlyON
Councillor Aidan Kallioinen

11am-12pm FREE Public Skate with the Paper Kings at the Espanola Rec Complex Arena sponsored by the Espanola Lions Club

12-1:30pm FREE Kids Lunch
Upstairs at the Rec. Complex - sponsored by the Espanola Lions Club

1:30pm Free Kids BINGO upstairs at the Rec. Complex - Sponsored by the Espanola Lions Club
Bring your dauber or marker if you have one

2-4pm FREE Rec. Swim at the Rec. Complex - Sponsored by the Espanola Lions

2pm Meat Roll Off hosted by Espanola Royal Canadian Legion - cash bar

4:30pm Perogy & Meatball Takeout Dinner at the St. Georges Anglican Church - While supplies last

7pm Community Talent Show at the A.B. Ellis B1 gym hosted by the Espanola Little Theatre
admission is \$10/person



For the full event schedule and the latest carnival updates, please visit the Community Calendar at espanola.ca or follow the Town of Espanola Facebook page.



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Continued from front page...

CHAR Tech Receives \$10 Million Commitment From BMI Towards Espanola Biocarbon Project

White says the proposed facility would convert locally sourced wood waste and forestry residuals into low carbon biocarbon and synthetic gas, with the potential to valorize the gas, including either direct use on site by the broader Bioveld North facility, or upgrading the synthetic gas to renewable natural gas (“RNG”) in a later phase.

BMI Group CEO, Paul Veldman, adds partnering with CHAR Tech allows them to move quickly into detailed planning and construction.

The study is expected to be completed by late Spring.

The study will define the technical scope, assess and secure available feedstock supply, and confirm the integration requirements of CHAR Tech’s high-temperature pyrolysis platform into the Espanola site’s existing industrial infrastructure, including utilities, biomass handling, logistics, and production scaling.

“The Espanola site, with significant access to biomass materials, wastes and residuals, gives us the opportunity to scale our technology well beyond what was possible at Thorold,” adds White.

“This study is about defining the details needed to move from development into construction on a larger, more integrated facility located within one of Canada’s most significant forestry regions.”

This project is a cornerstone of BMI’s vision to put wood back to work through innovation, full-fibre utilization, and clean-energy production.

The Espanola redevelopment is intended to re-establish the site as a major industrial employer and clean energy anchor in Northern Ontario, demonstrating how existing industrial assets can be repurposed to support sustainable forestry, create high-value jobs, and put wood back to work for the next century of Northern growth.

Photo by Rosalind Russell

Step into the Wild P. Lynn Halliday

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

I walked for a long time. I knew this, despite not having a watch with me, because the sun was up now and shining brightly, announcing a bold new day. I lifted my eyebrows. My square theory just wasn’t coming to an end, as I expected. Weariness alerted me that I’d travelled farther than planned. I carried on, since I just knew that the house would be in sight just around the next bend. I had an uneasy feeling that I was running out of time, so I decided to run for awhile. I have no idea of how long I ran, but I

was coated in sweat and there was still no house in sight when I finally gave up—exhausted. Concern flickered across my mind—was I lost? I took inventory of my present situation—hmmm, grubby, unkempt, sweaty appearance, no ID, no money, no idea of where I was, and no real idea of the address or phone number of my friends. Did that spell trouble—was I LOST?

*Coming this spring: Step into the Wild
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More Than Just A Game, It's Hope On The Ice – Gino Is This Year's Poster Child



By Rosalind Russell - A little guy with ties to Espanola is the poster child this year for the Fire & Ice Charity Hockey Game.

Get ready for the return of the Fire & Ice Charity Hockey Game in support of Northern Ontario Families of Children with Cancer (NOFCC) on Friday, January 30, at the Sudbury Arena.

Gino, the grandson of Larry Leclair of Espanola, is the poster child for the event.

He was diagnosed at two years old and went into remission in November of last year.

He's looking forward to the game.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with puck drop at 6:30 p.m. sharp.

In 2025, more than \$32,000 was donated to the NOFCC with 100% of proceeds going directly to support families navigating childhood cancer.

His mother, Ashley Germain, shared his story with us.

Initially, Gino was diagnosed with a lung infection and was not improving with the prescribed treatment. Watching him decline and become sicker was incredibly difficult; we were in survival mode before the official diagnosis.

Once doctors confirmed the cancer, we were able to begin treatment to save his life.

The medical team was optimistic that they had the right protocol and expertise - and they were right. Gino has been in remission since November 2025.

When treatment began, Brad and I had tunnel vision on our son.

We were admitted to SickKids for two and a half months, focusing only on Gino and

barely managing our own basic needs. Everything else, our home in Sudbury, our routines, our lives - went on the back burner until we could deal with it later.

Having a child with cancer is an unimaginable challenge. Your hopes and dreams for your child change in ways you never expect, and the life you envisioned as a parent no longer feels realistic. What many don't realize is how expensive this journey is.

When your child is critically ill, you want them near paediatric specialists. Only one parent is allowed to stay overnight at the hospital, and because Gino was too young to be left alone, a second support person was essential - adding to the costs.

Hotels (with Ronald McDonald House often having a waitlist), meals, travel, parking, medications not always covered by insurance, and maintaining two households while one parent is off work and the other works only when Gino is well enough - it all adds up quickly.

Within days of sharing Gino's diagnosis publicly on Facebook, Northern Ontario Families of Children with Cancer (NOFCC) reached out to offer financial support. They provided an initial \$3,000 for families with newly diagnosed children and additional funds for appointments related to

treatment, helping offset some of the overwhelming costs.

NOFCC feels like family. They are real people rooting for us and supporting us through this difficult time.

They truly understand the barriers families in Northern Ontario face when traveling for treatment. With me (mom) off work indefinitely and Brad doing his best to balance work and home, NOFCC's support helped us manage everyday expenses and medical costs along the way. Their assistance gave us breathing room and eased the financial burden during a time when we needed it most.

This year's game will see city police officers face off against local firefighters with intermissions featuring youth hockey showcases, a puck-toss and a t-shirt toss to a shoot-to-win contest to win a car, 50/50 draw, silent auction and even facepainting for the kids.

Photos: Gino wears bravery beads to mark his journey with cancer. Gino and his bravery beads. Each bead represents a procedure while undergoing treatment - a necklace of courage that tells the story of his fight and resilience. He loved his visit with the Greater Sudbury Police and Fire Departments. Photos provided by GSPS

Full House For The Relics Tour At Anishinabe Spiritual Centre



By Rosalind Russell - It was a full house at the Anishinabe Spiritual Centre late last week for the Relics Tour that is making its way across Northern Ontario.

Bishop Thomas Dowd of

the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie officiated the Mass and Veneration of the Relics with Father John O'Brian and the Indigenous ceremonies were hosted by Wiikwemkoong Elder and Centre Board Chair, Rosella Kinoshameg.

It was an opportunity to view and share prayers with the relics of Canadian Martyrs, including the skull of St. Jean de Brébeuf and bones of St. Charles Garnier and

St. Gabriel Lalemant, and the relic of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first indigenous North American saint, who was canonized in 2012.

Officials say the three Jesuit saints are among the eight French missionaries who first brought the Gospel to Canada, and were martyred during the Huron-Iroquois Wars of the early 1600s.

The purpose of the tour is to bring the relics to people who can't easily get to visit the Martyrs' Shrine and will be in Moosonee today.

The relics have resided principally at the National Shrine to the Canadian Martyrs in Midland, Ontario

for the past hundred years.

The Mass and Veneration also included members of the St. Jude Parish choir in Espanola and St. Gabriel's parish in Whitefish River First Nation.

It opened with the singing of the Huron Carol, which was written by St. Jean de Brébeuf and concluded with the Lily of the Mohawk in dedication to St. Kateri Tekawitha.

There was also a Smudge Ceremony and the Lighting of Candles.

Following the formal part off the evening, attendees also took in a light luncheon.

For more photos, visit our website.

Photos by Rosalind Russell

THANK YOU



Thank You!

The Espanola Helping Hand Food Bank would like to express their heartfelt gratitude for the generous donations that we received throughout this past year.

Your donations helped to feed those in our community and area, who are impacted with food insecurity on a regular basis.

Your generosity has made a tremendous difference to the lives of so many families.

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OBITUARY



Lissium Raphael Toulouse - November 21, 1944 - January 17, 2026. Lissium Raphael Toulouse (81), of Sagamok Anishnawbek, passed away at the Espanola Hospital, January 17, 2026 at 9:35 pm., surrounded by his loving family. Lissium was born on November 21, 1944 in Sagamok, beloved son of the late Winnifred (Southwind) and Alexander Toulouse. He grew up in his home community, where he learned the values of hard work, humility, and family. Lissium

shared 55 years of marriage with his loving wife, Georgina Toulouse, (daughter of the late Melvina (nee Buzwa) and Thomas Trudeau). He was a proud and loving father to Gina, Conrad (wife Kim), Tracy, Tyrone-ba (reunited). He later found great joy in being a grandpa to Keegan, Hayden, Avery, Logan, Vaydah, Walker, Scarlett, Levi, Silver-ba (reunited) and a great-grandpa to Aspen and Paisley. Lissium was also a devoted companion to his beloved dog, Stevie. Family was at the center of his world, and he showed his love through kindness, admiration, and support. Joyfully reunited in spirit with his brothers Raymond Toulouse-ba, Victor A Toulouse-ba, and sisters Gladys-ba (Dominic Eshkakogan-ba) Lillian Toulouse-ba, and Levina-ba. Late Sister in laws Pauline Toulouse-ba, Donna-ba. Lissium will be lovingly remembered and missed by his brother Theodore Toulouse (wife Myna), and sisters, Delores Trudeau (husband Harvey), Violet Toulouse, Alma Solomon (husband Lawrence), he will be dearly missed by his in laws Robert Toulouse (Lillian-ba), Thomas Toulouse Laura Trudeau, Walter Trudeau (wife Patricia), George Trudeau (wife Alice), Leo Trudeau (wife Sharon), Hazel Trudeau (Roger), Joe Trudeau (Mary Anne Trudeau-ba). Lissium was a loving and cherished uncle to numerous nieces and nephews, he was a loving godfather to Amanda. Lissium has left a lasting impression on all who knew him. His love lives on forever in the many hearts and generations that he helped shape as a caring N'zhishenh. He had many cousins. He enjoyed many great years of camping, traveling, celebrations and living life to the fullest with his close friends and relatives. Known as a hardworking and dependable man, Lissium took pride in providing for his family. He worked for 25 years in forestry. He was also a skilled hunter/trapper. He was a fluent Anishishinaabemowin speaker and storyteller. Though quiet and content to stay close to home in his later years, his strength, patience, and steady nature spoke louder than words. Mii maaba gezaagid pane. Tuesday January 20, 2026, 1:00 pm., family and friends will meet him at the pavilion park with a procession to the New Community Hall, 5507 Star Rd, Sagamok. He will be resting for one night visitation. Potluck feast at 5:00 pm and wake services by St. Raphael's Church. Community members are graciously welcome to come share their songs and tributes. The funeral for Lissium Toulouse will be on Wednesday January 21, 2026, 11:00 am at the New Community Hall. He will be laid to rest at the New Sagamok Cemetery. Feast to follow at the New Community hall. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.

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The Espanola Council Is Using A Digital And Online Voting Method As An Alternative For The Upcoming Elections



By Rosalind Russell - The Espanola council has given its approval to a voting method for the upcoming municipal and school board elections. The council passed a bylaw, authorizing the use of online and telephone voting as an alternative voting method, as legislated under the Municipal Election Act. The Council believes it is in the best interest of the electors using these alternatives for the

election to be held on October 26th.

Officials say online and telephone voting is designed to encourage participation from those who may be less inclined to visit a physical voting location to vote, and it also may provide additional voting opportunities for voters who are away during the voting period, such as students or vacationers.

Regular in-person voting stations will still be available. It was also noted that the provisions in the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended, relating to proxy voting and advance voting will not apply in the 2026 Municipal Election.

Photo - VISTA Radio file photo

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COMMUNITY NOTES

North Shore Quilting & Stitchery Guild: Next Meeting – Wednesday, January 28, 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: will resume again Feb 2, 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. 6-week Learn to Knit course beginning Monday, February 2. Contact 705 862-7445 for more info

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

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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