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March 10, 2026 Issue #10 - Volume 30

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**Unifor Action Centre  
Donates \$174,500 To  
Support Palliative Care  
Enhancements At Espanola  
Regional Hospital**



Pictured L - R: Marlo DesJardins, Chief HR Officer, ERHHC/ Erin Neufeld, Palliative Support Team Lead, ERHHC/ Anna Love, CNO ERHHC/ Kendra Ducharme, Palliative Support Team, ERHHC / Wendy Fensom, Unifor Action Centre / Martin Lees, CEO ERHHC / Roy Mokohonuk, Unifor Action Centre

*By Terri Noble* - Espanola, ON — February 9, 2026 — The Espanola Regional Hospital Foundation is pleased to announce a generous donation of \$174,500 from Unifor Action Centre. This significant contribution will directly support the hospital's Palliative Care Team and improve the experience of patients and families requiring end-of-life care. "The Unifor Action Center was originally established to support union members from Unifor Locals 74 and 156 and UBEW Local 956 that were impacted by the idling of the mill. After fulfilling its mandate, surplus funds remained. In keeping with the spirit

Continued on page two...

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## Espanola High School Boys Basketball Team Wins NOSSA



**By Rosalind Russell** - For the first time in Espanola High School history, the Senior Boys Basketball team returned home as NOSSA Champions. The boys competed in Sault Ste. Marie against the top 'A' schools from Sudbury, North Bay and Sault Ste. Marie. In the first game they secured

their spot in the semi-final beating White Pines 80-28. On day two, they won against the Sudbury Lockerby Vikings 64-48 setting up a rematch against White Pines taking the win 61-52 and securing their ticket to the OFSAA Championship in Timmins this coming March 9th to 11th. Photo provided.

## Espanola's Fourth Annual I. M Rare & Aware Skateathon raises thousands



**By Rosalind Russell** - The I. M. Rare & Aware Skateathon held in Espanola last Saturday has raised nearly \$56,000 and counting. Parents, Alex and Kelsey

McKechnie, has hosted the event since their daughter, Iris Mae, was diagnosed with Pompe Disease, a rare genetic disease, which requires her to have infusions on a regular basis. Kelsey says the money raised will be donated to McMaster Children's Hospital for Kids for Pompe Disease Research. The two extend a thank you to the volunteers, including the Espanola Lions Club, which sold out its 4,200 tickets and all the donors who continue to support the annual event. Photo provided

## COMMUNITY NOTES

**United Church of Espanola** - Jesus Loves You Celebration. mid-week lent service on Wednesdays, beginning February 25th through April 1st at 10 a.m. For info: ucespanola@eastlink.ca or 705-869-1215.

**Lee Valley Autumn Leaves Election Meeting** - Wednesday, March 11, 3:30 p.m. All members encouraged to attend

**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.

**Lee Valley Hall Music Jam** - Saturday, March 14, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**St. George's Anglican church Learn-To-Knit series** - Starting March 23, we will be knitting mittens. Call Jill at (705) 862-7445 for more details. Leave message.

**Person Of Worth Celebration** - Tuesday, March 24, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. For all abilities and caregivers The United Church of Espanola. ucespanola@eastlink.ca or 705-919-6541

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

**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!

**St. George's Chili Supper** - Mark your calendars. Friday, March 27, 4:30 p.m.. Eat in or take out. Come enjoy our hospitality.

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

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

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

**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.**

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Continued from front page...

## Unifor Action Centre Donates \$174,500 To Support Palliative Care Enhancements At Espanola Regional Hospital

of solidarity and community support that had guided the creation of the Action Center, the committee has donated the excess funds to the Palliative Care Team.”

“The Action Center was built to support our members during one of the most challenging times our community has faced. While the mill’s idling was a difficult time, we are proud that the remaining funds can now help support compassionate end-of-life care in our community. The Action Center committee would like to thank Unifor National, Domtar, government partners, Unifor Local 74 and the Action Center Team of Coordinators whose contributions made both the Action Center’s success and this meaningful donation possible.”

“On behalf of Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre, I want to sincerely thank Unifor Local 74 for their extraordinary generosity and ongoing commitment to our community. This remarkable donation reflects the powerful role that local partnerships and community support play in ensuring that essential services—like compassionate, high-quality palliative care—are available close to home.” said Martin Lees, CEO ERHHC. “Contributions like this do more than enhance our facilities; they help us create spaces where patients and families can experience dignity, comfort, and connection during some of

life’s most difficult moments. We are deeply grateful for Unifor’s leadership and for the community spirit that makes initiatives like this possible.”

The donation will be used to retrofit the existing palliative/hospice room, transforming it into a more welcoming, comfortable, and family-centered space. Planned upgrades include a redesigned lounge area and an enhanced bathroom with shower facilities to better meet the needs of patients and their loved ones during difficult times.

In addition, a portion of the funds will support the creation of a dedicated family gathering area in the courtyard adjacent to the acute care unit. This outdoor space will offer families a peaceful place to connect, reflect, and find comfort while staying close to their loved one receiving care.

“We are incredibly grateful to Unifor Action Centre for their remarkable generosity,” said Terri Noble, Public Relations Coordinator of the Espanola Regional Hospital Foundation. “This donation will

have a lasting impact on the quality of care we provide and the experience of families who rely on these important services.”

Unifor’s commitment to community well-being continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families across the region.

## Step into the Wild

P. Lynn Halliday

*Missinaibi Mishap  
 (town is spelled- Missanabie and River  
 is spelled- Missinaibi)*

### Chapter Two

Bob grinned at me and gathered me into a quick hug. “We’re doing this so that we can spend some quality time together, away from the kids, work and the farm. Just the two of us—taming the wild.”

I hunkered down into my spring coat, wishing it was fur lined. “Oh, yeah, for a moment I forgot how fun this is.”

A whistle sounded in the distance. Within minutes the train rumbled into view. Bob rubbed his hands together, enthusiastically and began to nudge the equipment closer to the tracks. The train stopped, and a cargo door groaned as it was opened by the conductor.

“You folks sure picked a miserable day to start a canoe trip. Seems to me that you should have waited until summer to do this, but—to each his own, I guess.”

“Yeah, that might have been better,” I agreed, as I slung a pack into the freight car.

“Ah, but we won’t have to dodge any bugs,” replied Bob, way too cheerfully.

We quickly loaded the canoe and gear into

the boxcar, then hopped in. The conductor yanked the old door shut, then left us. A loud whistle sounded and the train grumbled into movement—rattling its way east for about an hour before grinding to a halt. The big door was grinded open, and I peeked out, expecting to see the glistening waters of Bolkow lake.

“Hey, where’s the water?” I asked Bob as my eyes surveyed tag alders and twisted ash trees that lined the rail line. Bob pushed back his hat and scanned the area.

“Must be down that trail. Come on, let’s get this stuff unloaded before they head off with our gear.” We jumped out and quickly unloaded everything, placing it all along the bush-line. We gave the thumbs up to the conductor who waved, whistling for the engineer to take off. I watched the train disappear around the bend, then turned to look at the trail—if you could call it that. I chewed my lip, as a little shiver spread through my limbs.

*Coming this spring: Step into the Wild  
 New Novel by P. Lynn Halliday  
 Disaster! Around the Bend and Goat Tails  
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## OBITUARY



**ESHKAKOGAN, Rheel** - Passed away at his home on February 28, 2026, surrounded by his family. Dear son of the late Denis Richer, and Pauline Eshkakogan (late Frank Morrison). Loving husband and best friend of Candace (nee Solomon) and proud father of Vincent (Alexis), Mercedes (baby girl) and Tyson. Cherished brother of Paul (Vera), Carol (Angus), Art (Shelley) the late Dejay (aka Thomas) & Jessica, Joseph (Lucy). Loving brother in law to many. He leaves behind many nieces and nephews. He was loved by many and had many close friends whom he considered to be his brothers. "Cry

when I am gone but make sure to be happy, and take those cars for a good ride. " Visitation will take place at the Multi-Educational Centre, Sagamok, on Tuesday, March 3rd, at 10:00 a.m. The family would like everyone to meet at the MEC. Funeral service on Thursday, March 5th, also in the Multi-Educational Centre, at 11:00 a.m., with cremation to follow. \*\*Please note that the MEC will be closed on both days of visitation from 5:00-6:00 p.m. for the privacy of Rheels family. Arrangements by **BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.**



**Darryl Corbiere** began his journey to the Spirit World too soon at the age of 42, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, joy, and resilience. He was the beloved son of Ray and Sophie (Toulouse) Corbiere and the cherished grandson of Ron and the late Melvina (Fox) Corbiere, and Sam and Ida (Assinewe) Toulouse. Darryl will be deeply missed by his sister, Kathryn (Natalie). His devoted fiancée and partner of many years, Jessica Fellin, stood as a pillar of strength and support, by his side through every chapter of his life. He leaves behind many aunts, uncles,

cousins, and friends who will miss him dearly. A man of many talents, Darryl was known for his dedication and skill. In 2006, he traveled to Western Canada to pursue a Red Seal apprenticeship, successfully becoming a pipefitter, welder, and steamfitter within six years. His career took him to various jobsites across the West, and when he returned home between contracts, he skillfully operated heavy equipment. Most recently, he was a valued member of the team at Domtar in Espanola from 2018 to 2023. His co workers remember him as a passionate professional who brought excellence to every aspect of his trade. Outside of work, Darryl loved the outdoors. Hunting moose and deer were a joy to him, and he was a dedicated gun collector. He was also a gifted cook who found true joy in preparing meals for those he loved; his presence in the kitchen and the flavors he shared will be missed as much as his company. Even when faced with a colon cancer diagnosis in 2023, Darryl's spirit remained unshakable. Before undergoing serious surgery, he displayed his characteristic courage and grace, saying, "I have no fear and I blame no one." Darryl's life was far too short, but his joyful nature and strong spirit left an indelible mark on everyone who knew him. He will be remembered forever for his bravery, his craftsmanship, and the love he gave to his family. Friends and family may gather at One Kwe Fabrications, 98 Lakeview Drive in M'Chigeeng on Tuesday, March 3 starting at 1:00 pm to offer their prayers and condolences. The Funeral Service for Darryl will take place at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 28 HWY 551 in M'Chigeeng, on Wednesday, March 4, at 1:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Darryl Corbiere can be made to Manitoulin Streams or the Manitoulin Health Centre. Arrangements by **BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.**

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