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Inaugural Fishing For A Cure: Let's Reel Hope Raises Over \$4,600



By *Rosalind Russell* - The inaugural Fishing for a Cure: Let's Reel Hope focusing on supporting mental health resources and suicide prevention will become a yearly event.

Founded by John and Rosie Podlatis, the fishing derby held last weekend on Birch Lake raised \$4,668 to go towards organizations in local communities focused on mental health.

Rosie says the event was organized in memory of Greg Grant who passed away last year and with this success, they will have it become an annual event to help those who need support, especially those in crisis. She and her husband extend a thank you to everyone for their support and participation.

Photos provided by Rosie Podlatis

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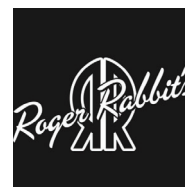
A note of gratitude from the McKechnie family

The 4th Annual skate-a-thon celebrating Rare Diseases raised just over \$56,000 for Hamilton Health Sciences- McMaster Childrens Hospital Pompe Disease Research. The event was well attended with great weather, and many smiles. The funds included all money raised through hoodie sales, online donations, and day of activities and donation jars-including the Lions Club Raffle which brought in \$14,000 alone.



A special thank you to the buisness' that hosted events or collected funds for the fundraiser, as well as the Espanola Lions Club, and the Rec Centre Staff and Town of Espanola that really help our day run smoothly!

The day would not of been a HUGE success without the community and our amazing event sponsors and volunteers



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Step into the Wild

P. Lynn Halliday

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

Chapter Three

The driving rain continued to cascade from the skies, as we picked up our packs. "I'd best go ahead with the axe. It looks like this trail hasn't been walked for a while," said Bob.

I rolled my eyes and snorted. Another trip that looked great on maps and trip descriptions, but fell short in meeting even the least of my expectations. Bob gave me a nudge and grinned. "Ah, come on, this'll be fun. According to the map, this trail is about 1.5 km long and will take us straight to the shore of Lake Bolkow. It'll be fine, once we clean away the debris leftover from winter." He took off, loaded down with the food pack and swinging his axe. My mountain man, at it again. His attitude should have inspired me, but it just made me madder. I squeezed my eyes shut. "Lord, would you please teleport me back to my nice, cozy bed. I've had as much fun as I can handle—it's time to go home."

My eyes popped open, when that cheerful voice called out, "Are you coming? We're

burning daylight."

"Nope, we can't be—even daylight would be too wet to burn in this rain." I listened to the distant laughter as I hefted the lighter sleeping bag pack, and followed. Pushing brush out of the way, as I trudged along warmed me up and brightened my flagging spirits. Perhaps this portage wasn't such a bad way to start the trip. Onward I went hoping to spy the glistening waters of Lake Bolkow around the next bend. At last, I spotted a pebble beach, but noticed that the grey skies matched the grey green water leaving a very bleak impression. The wind blew a cold reminder that spring had not quite arrived, but we had, so we loaded our gear into the canoe and began the adventure. An expedition that was described as one of the most picturesque trips in the north—clearly written when the sun was shining, in much warmer weather! We shoved off from shore and began paddling into the misty unknown.

Coming this spring: Step into the Wild
 New Novel by P. Lynn Halliday
Disaster! Around the Bend and Goat Tails
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Water Facility Improvements Announced For Sagamok-Anishinabek First Nation And Massey



By **Rosalind Russell** - Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Bill Rosenberg visited leaders in Sagamok-Anishinabek First Nation and Massey last week to announce funding for major waterworks.

Rosenberg says the Ontario government is investing just over \$1.8-million dollars to rehabilitate and repair the water tower in the community of Sagamok-Anishinabek First Nation.

He also delivered an investment of just over \$4.1-million dollars, also for water work improvements including replacing a major part of the aging water system in Massey and to also compliment future projects along the Bell Street corridor that are under consideration.



Photos: Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Bill Rosenberg with Sagamok Anishinabek First Nation Councillor Nelson Toulouse representing band and council, and once again, Rosenberg with Kevin Burke, the Mayor of Sables-Spanish Rivers Township. Rosenberg did a North Shore Corridor and Manitoulin Island tour last week presenting funding for various projects throughout the riding. Photos provided

Potentia Acknowledges Concerns Of Sables-Spanish Rivers Township – Massey Solar Project



Photo - A photo of a solar farm provided by Raphael Cruz - unsplash.com

By Rosalind Russell - Potentia Renewable Limited is aware their proposed Massey Solar Project in the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers has sparked discussion about land use.

In a statement sent to the Moose, the company says they submitted a proposal for the 242-hectare solar development to the Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) in October 2025, which is expected to announce successful projects by summer. They point out the township's Official Plan supports renewable energy systems, including commercial-scale solar and under the local zoning, a Class 3 solar facility is permitted in rural zones.

The proponents stress Massey Solar has not yet been awarded a contract and has not entered the provincial environmental approval process, and if selected, it would undergo a comprehensive environmental assessment under provincial regulations specifically Ontario Regulation 359/09, which includes detailed studies of groundwater, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat, Species at Risk, archaeology, and noise.

They also stress there will be public consultation throughout the process.

Potentia addressed some of the specific concerns expressed over the last few months since making the application.

They state a hydrogeological assessment would evaluate groundwater conditions and identify any potential impacts. If risks are found, mitigation measures or design changes would be required.

Solar facilities involve minimal foundation work and very limited water use. Panel materials are non-hazardous.

Vegetation is maintained below and around the panels and is typically managed through mowing, trimming, native plantings, and sometimes managed grazing. The site the company is looking at is located outside designated agricultural resource lands and is zoned rural.

It includes a mix of marginal farmland, shrubland, woodland, and forest.

Only about 20 per cent is currently farmed, and it is not used for specialty crops.

If approved, soil health would be assessed before construction, and the land would be restored after decommissioning.

There are also economic considerations that will benefit the local community.

Construction is expected to create roughly 100 jobs, along with longer-term operations roles.

The project would provide a \$75,000 annual community benefit fund, local sponsorships and bursaries, and emissions-free electricity capable of powering approximately 23,000 Ontario homes.

The project is also projected to significantly increase municipal tax revenue, estimated at roughly eight times the current contribution, while requiring minimal municipal services.

Road use during construction would be temporary and governed by agreements requiring maintenance and restoration.

Concerns about property values and rural character are understandable.

However, research across

North America has found no consistent evidence that solar facilities reduce nearby property values.

The project design would include setbacks and natural screening, if required, to reduce visibility from surrounding properties.

The Township's Official Plan supports renewable energy systems, including commercial-scale solar and under the local zoning, a Class 3 solar facility is permitted in rural zones.

If the project is selected, the next phase would involve detailed studies and formal public consultation.

That process would give residents the opportunity to interact with project staff, review detailed project information and provide input and feedback before any final approvals are granted.

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OBITUARY



In Loving Memory of **Edna Sawchuk**. - Dear wife of the Late John Sawchuk. Loving mother of three children : Susan Budge (Kenny), Bill Sawchuk, Terry Sawchuk (Jennifer, son Gunner). Grandmother to Chrystal, Samantha, Lacy. Great grandmother to four. Edna loved to dance, sing, play the piano, cook, garden, and travel to her home in Florida and her cottage at Loon Lake. Her greatest pleasure was to love her family. She will be remembered by all of her relatives and anyone who had the chance to meet her. The family would like to thank Chartwell Assisted Living in Lively, and the Espanola Nursing Home Staff. Cremation with a celebration of life at a later date. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.



Joseph Whalen - Born on Oct. 1, 1943, he passed away peacefully at home in Walford, ON on Feb 12, 2026 at the age of 82. Treasured spouse of Ida Eliane Whalen (nee Baribeau) in their 60th year. Beloved son of Theodore George and Elizabeth Sarah Whalen (nee Denmark) and stepson of Elizabeth Whalen (nee McChristie), all predeceased. Loving father of Patrick (Tammy) of Petawawa, ON., Scot and Jamie, both of Walford, ON. Cherished "Papa Joe" to Amber Gammon (Mike) of Garson ON, children Greyson and Vera Gammon, Marrisba Bob (L j) of Sagamok ON, children Raven, Sage and Cedar Solomon and Saxon Ward/Whalen of Alliston ON. Predeceased by brothers Keith Whalen (Marian), Donald Whalen (Lise Royal, formerly Whalen) of Spanish, ON. Dearly loved "Mon Oncle Joe" or "Uncle Joe" to numerous nieces, nephews and godchildren. Visitation was held at the Walford Community Centre on Thursday Feb 19, 2026 from 7 to 9 pm. Traditional Latin Requiem Mass was held at the Walford Community Centre on Friday Feb 20, 2026 at 11am, followed by a luncheon at 12:30pm. Interment to be held at a later date in the Walford Catholic Cemetery, Walford, ON. Arrangements entrusted to Elliot Lake Funeral Chapel and Cremation Centre.



BEAUCHAMP, Donna (Mary) - Passed away at the Manitoulin Lodge in Gore Bay on Saturday, March 7th, 2026, at the age of 92. Beloved wife to the late Lawrence (Too Loo) Beauchamp. Cherished mother to Eric (Colette) Beauchamp of Webbwood, Lorie (Steve) of Texas, the late Tommy, and the late Terry. Loving grandmother to many grandchildren. Dear sister to John Proctor (Eileen), Brian Proctor (Colette) and Marlene Lippold (late Allan). Predeceased by William Proctor (late Florence), Nora Coad, Joanne Halliday (late Marty), Betty Coburn and Lorraine Boucher (late Alger). Will also be sadly missed by many nieces, nephews, friends and relatives. Visitation will take place on Wednesday, March 11, from 1:00-3:00 p.m., in the Bourcier Funeral Home, with a funeral service beginning at 2:00 p.m. A luncheon will be to follow at the Royal Canadian Legion, Espanola, at 3:30 p.m. Cremation to follow with interment of ashes at a later date. The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the nurses and staff at the Manitoulin Lodge for their exceptional care to Donna. If so desired, donations can be made in memory of Donna to the Espanola Helping Hand Food Bank. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.

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Espanola High School Brings Home Medals From Skills Competition 2026

By Rosalind Russell - Several Espanola High School students have brought home medals from this year's Skills Competition.

Owen Bucknell won gold and Fielding Tooley silver in the Automotive Service, while Julien Kiernan won gold and Aidan Steadman won bronze

in Cabinetmaking.

Two other students, Hetvi Patel won gold in Aesthetics and Avery Bourcier also won gold in Hairstyling.

With the gold medal wins comes the opportunity to represent the region at the Skills Ontario Competition on May 4 and 5, in Toronto.

Espanola Council Approves Tender For New Company To Host Regional Household Hazardous Waste Day

By Rosalind Russell - Espanola council has approved a tender for the regional Household Hazardous Waste Day.

According to Environmental Services and Special Projects Manager Joel Yusko's report, every year, the municipality partners with communities throughout the North Shore Corridor to provide residents with a safe way to dispose of hazardous waste.

Yusko states there are two bids, with long-time provider GFL asking for \$51,568 and Brendar Environmental Services submitting a bid of \$42,664.

He points out the actual fees will depend on the amount of waste collected and the number of

vehicles participating from each of the municipalities, adding the cost will be split between the municipalities.

Council supported the motion to hire Brendar Environmental Services to host the collection set for April 25th.

Every year, Espanola partners with Sables-Spanish Rivers, Naim Hyman, Baldwin and the communities in the Rainbow Country Local Services Board which include Whitefish Falls, Lang Lake and Willisville, to host a Household Hazardous Waste Day. Residential households (not commercial) can dispose of hazardous waste they have accumulated that cannot be disposed of at a landfill.

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Resumes can be dropped of at 85 Centre Street, Espanola or email resumespw@aroundandabout.ca

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.

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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