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March 31, 2026 Issue #13 - Volume 30

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New Collaboration For BMI GROUP In Converting Espanola, And Other, Pulp & Paper Mills



By Rosalind Russell - BMI Group, the owners of the former Domtar pulp and paper mill in Espanola, has partnered with another company to prepare for conversion as a biorefinery. BMI Group CEO Paul Veidman says BMI's Bioveld North project in Espanola is being developed as a full fibre bioproduct hub to create new fibres, materials and renewable energy. He says BMI Group will be working with Ecostrat, which will introduce Biofuel Development Opportunity Zones to prepare BMI's nine former pulp and paper mill properties across Canada for conversion to biorefineries. He adds Ecostrat will assess the sites to provide a clearer understanding of the site's feedstock availability, infrastructure and readiness.

Continued on page two...

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Website: www.sables-spanish.ca

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers proposes to enact a bylaw pursuant to Section 290 of the Municipal Act R.S.O. 2001 Part VII to adopt the **2026 Annual Budget**.

The proposed bylaw will come before Council for consideration at a public meeting on **Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 6:30 pm.** in the Council Chambers at 11 Birch Lake Road, Massey, Ontario. At this time Council will hear any questions or concerns from the public. Anyone wishing to participate please contact the municipal office for further details and instructions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding this proposed bylaw is available by contacting the municipal office at 705-865-2646 during the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Dated the 7th day of April, 2026
Anne Whalen, Clerk-Administrator

SENIOR OF THE YEAR & YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD

Council is requesting nominations for "Senior of the Year" & "Youth Volunteer". This is our opportunity to honour outstanding local residents. Recipients of both awards must reside in the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers.

Recipients of the "Senior of the Year" are individuals who, after age 65, have enriched the social, cultural or civic life of the community without thought of personal or financial gain. Ontario seniors deserve special recognition for their outstanding accomplishments.

Recipients of the "Youth Volunteer" are individuals between the ages of 15 – 24 who have contributed a significant amount of time and service without pay to a charity, not for profit organization or an individual.

Please submit your nomination no later than 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 7th, 2026, to the Township Office. Nomination forms are available at the office or on the Township website www.sables-spanish.ca under the "Forms" tab.

WATER BILLS

Water bills were sent out at the beginning of January and are due by March 31st, 2026. To help manage your account, we offer monthly and quarterly preauthorized payments. You also have the option to make payments using online banking. If you have questions regarding these forms of payment, please contact the municipal office.

REDUCED LOADS

Please note that pursuant to Bylaw 2013-22 the reduced load period on municipal roads is in effect from March 1st to June 15th of each year, while appropriate signage is erected.

Only satisfactory road conditions will decide if the load restriction shall be removed prior to June 15th, as determined by Public Works.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Applications for summer employment are being accepted from individuals 15 – 30 years of age to work under the supervision of the Parks & Recreation Department.

Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be currently enrolled in a secondary, post secondary, vocational, or technical program; priority is given to students in post secondary education, and returning to school on a full-time basis during the next academic year (must provide proof of registration).
- Successful applicants will be required to obtain and submit a current criminal record check from the Ontario Provincial Police service.
- Drivers' licence with clean drivers' abstract.
- Is legally entitled to work in Canada.

Employment is conditional upon funding approval.

Resumes will be received until **12:00 p.m., Friday, May 1, 2026** at the Township Office (drop box available) or by email to inquiries@sables-spanish.ca

We thank all applicants, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will only be used for candidate selection.

ARE YOU ON THE VOTERS LIST?

Get on the voters list for municipal and provincial elections, all in one place.

Check, update or add your information to the voters list for municipal, district social services administration board, school board and provincial elections in Ontario. Visit <https://www.registertovoteon.ca/> or call 1-866-242-3025.

There are three types of registers for municipal, district social services administration board, school board and/or provincial elections in Ontario:

- **Permanent Register of Electors for Ontario**, commonly known as the "voters list", for eligible individuals voting in municipal, district social services administration board, school board and provincial elections.
- **Register of Absentee Voters** for eligible provincial electors temporarily living outside Ontario who intend to return to Ontario
- **Ontario Register of Future Voters** for eligible individuals who are 16 or 17 years of age

Use Voter Registration to check, update, add or remove your information and/or property from the voters list. You will need to upload ID and/or other required documentation.

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Continued from front page...

New Collaboration For BMI GROUP In Converting Espanola, And Other, Pulp & Paper Mills

Veidman says putting wood back to work ensures every part of the fibre stream supports new products, new industries and renewed opportunity for economic growth.

By way of example, he says BMI's Bioveld North project in Espanola is being developed as a full fibre bioproduct

hub to create new fibres, materials and renewable energy.

Over the past three years, Ecostrat reports, 61 rated BDO Zones across North America have been associated with more than \$10 billion in plant announcements.

Photo by Rosalind Russell

Step into the Wild

P. Lynn Halliday

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

Chapter Five

The trail climbed a bit, at first, but then headed down a fairly steep rocky path. I gingerly edged down the slope—step by step. Lichen covered the slope, making it really slippery. At the bottom of the hill, I leaned my canoe into the bottom limb of a tree and climbed out from under it to take a look around. Bob was nowhere in sight, but that wasn't unusual. I noted that the landscape continued to descend to what looked like a marshy area. There was a path across the marsh that seemed to be built out of old logs. The walkway was about two feet wide—plenty of room for me and my canoe. I spotted a few

footprints in the mud at the beginning of the boardwalk. I turned back to my canoe, flexing my shoulders in preparation for picking up the load again.

Once under the canoe, it took a bit of maneuvering to get the canoe out of the tree, but after a few minutes I freed it up and began the descent to the marsh. As I slipped along, I was glad to note firm, if muddy ground ahead. A few steps away was the boardwalk glistening in the dim morning light.

Coming this spring: Step into the Wild
 New Novel by P. Lynn Halliday
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students in Grade 9 and 10 to help steer them towards careers they may be interested in pursuing.

She says anyone who can take a bit of time out of their day to come out to the high school and talk about their career are more than welcome.

She adds there is an application process and anyone with questions can contact her via email and the links.

By Rosalind Russell - Ontario's new career coaching initiative is returning to Espanola soon, so the hosts are looking for individuals and businesses to participate.

Aisha Hussein, one of the hosts who travels to high schools throughout Ontario, says the initiative focuses on

Espanola will be hosting a Career Coach Day at Espanola High School on May 5th, from 10:00 am to 11:10 am.

Contact Aisha Hussain by phone: (905) 634-2575 ext. 108/ Mobile (647) 822-4696.

Poster provided

Espanola Council Endorses District Economic Diversification Strategy

By **Rosalind Russell** - Espanola council has endorsed the LaCloche Foothills Region Economic Diversification Strategy.

Kyra Knapp from KLB Consulting presented the document, which outlines the move away from a single industry base to more diversification in tourism, economic development, housing and business.

She says regional in scope, the strategy is a five-year roadmap focusing on key areas including agriculture, forest products and bio industrial innovation, health and life sciences, as well as tourism, hospitality and culture.

Knapp says member

municipalities as well as First Nations along the North Shore Corridor will have to co-ordinate and decide what priorities there are for specific areas as the strategy is rolled out.

The document will also be presented to the other municipalities for their endorsement to seek their participation as they were part of the process involved in the process from the beginning.

The member municipalities are Espanola, the townships of Sables-Spanish Rivers, Nairn & Hyman and Baldwin, as well as the First Nations of Whitefish River and Sagamok-Anishinabek.

Espanola Council Endorses District-Wide Plans For Wellness

By **Rosalind Russell** - Espanola council has endorsed three initiatives focused on district-wide plans for wellness, housing and more.

Nancy Lacasse, the Integration Lead from the Espanola Hospital and Health Center, met with council last week to ask for their endorsement of the Community of Care Network (CCPN), Community Strategic Plan, and the LaCloche Foothills Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWB). She says the network, in collaboration with the local Ontario Health Team and community agencies, has undertaken a comprehensive planning process to align priorities with service needs, provincial direction, and community expectations.

She says future

implementation initiatives may require separate funding requests, grant applications, or municipal considerations, which will be brought forward as needed.

With council's endorsement, she also reassured them that there will be regular reports as the plans are implemented throughout the LaCloche District.

She adds the Strategic Plan establishes shared priorities and goals and is fully integrated in the LaCloche Foothills Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

Lacasse says the plan identifies priority risk factors with specific attention to affordable housing mental health, substance use and access to services for older adults.



Espanola

The Espanola Lions join the community in thanking Public Works & Volunteer Firemen.

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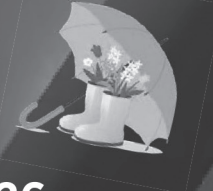
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Location: McKerrow, ON

Job Type: Full-Time

Pay: Based on experience and licensing

Application Deadline: May 6th, 2026

Position Start Date: June 1st, 2026



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Key Responsibilities

- Assist with traffic control and emergency response situations
- Maintain municipal facilities, infrastructure, and workspaces in a clean and safe condition
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- Operate trucks, plows, and various heavy equipment as assigned
- Perform road, culvert, infrastructure construction and maintenance
- Carry out winter operations including snow plowing, sanding, shovelling
- Conduct road maintenance such as grading, drainage work, surface repairs, and debris removal
- Complete routine inspections and minor maintenance of vehicles and equipment
- Follow Occupational Health and Safety policies and procedures
- Work collaboratively and professionally with team members, other departments, and the public
- Attend training and development opportunities as required
- Perform other duties as assigned

Qualifications

- DZ Driver's Licence (required or willing to obtain)
- Clean Driver's Abstract
- Experience in municipal maintenance (preferred)
- Experience operating heavy equipment (preferred)
- Knowledge of safety regulations and safe work practices
- Ability to work overtime, and on-call as required
- Physically capable of performing demanding outdoor work in all weather conditions
- Strong communication skills and a professional attitude

Working Conditions

- 35-hour work week, with potential for on-call and overtime
- Work performed outdoors in varying weather and environmental conditions
- Exposure to physical labour and job site hazards
- Flexible scheduling based on operational and weather needs

Benefits

- Competitive hourly wage
- Company pension
- Paid time off

Work Environment

- Collaborative and team-oriented workplace
- Interaction with municipal staff, contractors, and the public
- Commitment to safety, professionalism, and high-quality service delivery

How to Apply

Please submit your resume, references and driver's abstract by **May 6th**.

In-Person: 11 Spooner Street, McKerrow, ON

Email: admin@baldwin.ca

****We thank all applicants for their interest; only selected candidates will be contacted****

OBITUARY



Violet (Vie) Landriault, 97 passed away peacefully March 12, 2026 at St. Gabriel Villa in Chelmsford. Born October 10, 1928 in the town of Massey Vie had a career as a teacher starting in a one room school house in Massey and later on Our Lady of Fatima in Naughton. Vie retired in 1991 and spent her golden years between Ft. Myers Florida and Sugar Lake Walford. Vie was predeceased by her husband Orval. She is survived by her three children Alan, Gary and Gayle, her grandchildren Amy, Glen, Alicia, Erica, and Katrina, and numerous greatgrandchildren. A celebration of life to be held at a later date.



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Kimberley Anne Penner**, on March 15th, 2026 at the age of 66, with her family by her side. Kim was born on July 29th, 1959 in Espanola, Ontario and is the beloved daughter of Jack (predeceased) and Lynne (Cronin) Wilson. Sadly and profoundly missed by her loving husband and best friend Rob, sons Nathaniel, Jeremy (Danica), and Michael. Survived by her sisters Kathy Pilon (Ray) and Kari Mitroff (Jay) whom she loved very much. Will also be greatly missed by many nieces, nephews and extended family. Kim touched the hearts of many and will

be sadly missed. Kim was known for her strong will, unwavering determination, and love and support for her family and friends. Kim married her high school sweetheart, Robert Penner in 1979. Kim's most cherished achievement was giving birth to and raising their triplet sons, Nathaniel, Jeremy, and Michael. Kim was a devoted and valued team member of the Pineland Sawmill staff (formerly E.B. Eddy, Domtar, and Eacom) and her career in the administration offices spanned over three decades filling many roles. Kim was more than the sum of her work accomplishments, She was a skilled chef and loved creating culinary delights. Kim hosted many a marvellous dinner party at both home and at the camp on Horseshoe Lake. Flower gardening, swimming, hiking, tennis, and interior decorating were just a few of her favourite pastimes. Kim always lived life to the fullest and her laugh was infectious and unforgettable. Kim's favourite place on earth was the camp that Rob built for her on the family property at Horseshoe Lake. She also greatly enjoyed her travel adventures in Canada and abroad. She had many awesome trips with her travelling buddies. Kim always said the trips were wonderful but it was her travelling mates that made them special. The family thanks the Sudbury HSN, Espanola Regional Hospital and the Sudbury Northeast Cancer Centre and all the staff who provided support. The exceptional care, kindness, and compassion shown to Kim and our family was extraordinary. Cremation with a private celebration of life at a later date. If so desired, donations can be made to the CNIB Guide Dog Training Program, Canadian Breast Cancer Society, and Espanola Regional Hospital-Palliative Care Unit. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.

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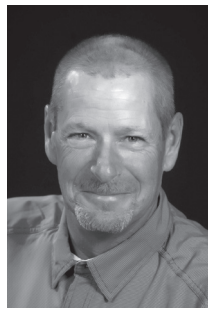

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OBITUARY



It is with heavy hearts that we remember **Raymond "Ray" "Burger" Gagne**, who passed away on March 23, 2026, at the young age of 62. Ray was a pillar of strength during his battle with cancer; he faced it with grit, quiet courage, and an unwavering love for those around him. Ray married his true love, Brenda (Meloche), and spent the last 33 years devoted to her. Together, they built a life full of love and laughter, raising their family - their daughter Tori (husband Jessy Poulin), and son Kyle (wife Abby Gladu). They are his proudest legacy. He will also be deeply missed by their beloved fur babies, Meeka and

Bella. Born on August 21, 1963 to the late Joseph and Margaret (nee Richer) of Espanola. Ray was the middle child - youngest brother to Danny (Natalie) and a proud, protective older brother to his sister Brenda. Ray will also be deeply missed by his caring mother-in-law, Pearl (Dwight Giltner). He was a cherished brother-in-law to Brent (Tammy) and Krista (Terry Dubois), and a devoted uncle to Gabriel, Dominic, Erika, Alex, Kassidy, Makenzie, Brad, and Ella. Ray will also be greatly missed by his travel, riding, and hunting partners - and true lifelong friends - Bert and Paulette Poulin. Ray dedicated 35 years of his career to E.B. Eddy/Domtar, where he spent most of his time working in the Woodyard Department. It was there that he built not only a strong work ethic, but lifelong friendships that he carried with him throughout his life. Ray's happiest moments were spent on his Harley motorcycle with the wind on his face, Brenda by his side, and no destination in mind. He had a unique sense of humour, delivering quick-witted one-liners that could light up a room. An avid golfer, he turned the sport into a shared family passion, always bringing out everyone's competitive spirit. Hunting trips with family were also among his most treasured times. Above all, Ray was a family man. He held his loved ones close, led with strength and loyalty, and gave his whole heart to those he cared for. His presence was steady, his love unwavering, and his legacy will live on in the lives he touched. Funeral and mass to be held at St. Jude Parish Church, Espanola, on Friday March 27th at 11:30 a.m. with a luncheon to follow at the Elk's Hall. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.

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Celebration of Life

April 11, 2026

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December 8, 2025



Peter Blane
November 3, 1949
January 7, 2026

My 3 Amigos

Greatly missed by May Cameron
and all their friends and families
Join us in saying Goodbye
Until we meet again

COMMUNITY NOTES

Messy Church - a celebration for all ages at the United Church of Espanola on Thursday, April 2, 4:30 p.m. Includes dinner, crafts, and activities.

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

Massey Interchurch Council Easter Services - April 3, Good Friday Service . Stations of the Cross 3:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Massey Ontario. All welcome. April 5, Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 7:00 a.m. on Spanish River Bridge (Bridge to Lee Valley Road and Sagamok) free pancake breakfast at Zion Lutheran Church following the Service. All welcome.

Lee Valley Hall Music Jam - at the Lee Valley Hall Saturday, April 11, from 1:00 -4:00 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.

Zion Lutheran Church Imperial Street South Massey Annual Bean Supper – Sunday, April 12, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Beans, hams, scalloped potatoes, pies and more. All welcome

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

Lee Valley Autumn Leaves General/ Election Meeting – Wednesday. April 15, 3:30 p.m. at the Lee Valley Hall.

North Shore Quilting & Stitchery Guild: Next meeting – Wednesday, April 22, 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.

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

HAPPY
Easter
SEASON'S GREETINGS

CLOSED:
Friday, April 3
to
Monday, April 6

Regular hours resume:
Tuesday, April 7

AROUND ABOUT
Your Community Connection

PAPERWORKS
OFFICE & ART SUPPLIES

OFFICE PRO