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September 15, 2026 Issue #37 - Volume 30

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Bioveld Group Moving Forward On Espanola Mill – Feasibility Study Focuses On Restart



By Rosalind Russell - Espanola Mayor Douglas Gervais says funding from the province is assisting Bioveld Group to move forward on restarting the Espanola Mill.

Bioveld North Inc., a subsidiary of the Canadian-owned BMI Group, welcomed a \$5.1-million investment from the

Continued on page Three...

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This is a free program paid by Brita to recycle

By Sue Cairns - The Espanola Lion's Club, with the help of the Espanola Public Library, have a Brita recycle program in place.

Drop your used, DRY Brita filters and products at the desk of the library for recycle. Please do let the filters dry for a couple of days so they don't go moldy.

Items include: Brita® faucet

their products. Terracycle is the recycle company. They recycle everything and have many other programs for those interested in recycling other products they use. Check out their website Terracycle.com For further information you can contact Lion Sue Cairns 705 662 2983 or sue.cairns@espanolalionsclub.ca

Busy Bee Restaurant In Nairn Centre Demolished



By Rosalind Russell - The backhoes were out this demolishing the former Busy Bee Restaurant on Highway 17 in Nairn Centre.

According to Moose files, the restaurant was built on a site that had previously housed a gas station decades earlier.

It was built on the old Nairn Texaco site on Highway 17 by property owner Ray Harding and opened as the Busy Bee

Country Store and Restaurant on July 18, 1994.

It was closed in 2009 after ground testing found that gas had leached into the ground.

The restaurant was a popular spot for tourists and motorists alike and well known for its food and its unique gift shop.

Photo: Busy Bee Restaurant demolished by Lynn Bousquet

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All Candidates Night set for Espanola

By **Rosalind Russell** - The Espanola Royal Canadian Legion Branch #39 will be hosting the All Candidates Night in Espanola for this year's municipal election.

Incumbent Mayor Douglas Gervais is being challenged by incumbent councillor Aidan Kaillonen.

There are also ten people running for one of the six positions on council, including three incumbents: Deputy Mayor Angela Kelly, Gerry Massicotte and Lara Wahamaa.

The other candidates are Sue Allen, Alfred Foucault, Dennis Lendrum, Michael Pichor, Benjamin Shipton, Trevor Tilston and Maureen Van Alstine.

The participants will be available to present their campaign and answer questions from the general public.

The moderator will be retired Espanola High School teacher Dave Gallant.

The public is invited to take part on Thursday, October 1st, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Legion Hall.

Photo: Elections Ontario



Step into the Wild P. Lynn Halliday

Disaster!
Northern Ontario Adventure Series
Camp Escapades – Story One –
Mopsy learns a lesson

Chapter Two

I and two others took up the challenge, while my older brother stood watching from the shore. We all plunged in and came up gasping for air and shivering from the cold. It was shocking! We all struggled to swim to shore, but not only was the river really cold, but the current was exceedingly fast and strong, since it was early spring. My friends made it to shore, but I was swept downriver; unable to swim to shore because I was so cold that I couldn't get my limbs to work. I knew that I was possibly going to drown as my energy was very quickly running out, but still I tried to get to shore by my own power and strength. Then suddenly, in front of me, a long stick appeared, and I heard, from what sounded like a long way away, someone shouting for me to grab the stick.

It was a moment of decision: I could grab the stick and be hauled to shore to be forever teased by my friends and family or I could continue to try to save myself and take the risk of drowning. What

choice did I make? What choice would you make?"

Lots of answers and shouts filled the cabin as campers made their choices known. I thought about this and realized how often I chose to do it myself, pretending to be more clever and stronger than those around me.

Mopsy held up her hand to quiet the room and said, "I chose life. At that moment I realized that my pride was going to get in the way of life, so I grabbed the stick and was hauled to safety. How foolish I would have been to shove that stick away and float downstream, likely to my doom! Don't be foolish, don't let pride deprive you of true life. God has a purpose and a plan for each of us, but we have to let go and let God take control.

"It's going to be so hard to sleep tonight with so much to think about," I thought as I curled up in my sleeping bag. "Would I let go, I wondered?"

Book 1-Disaster! Around the Bend and
Book 2-Disaster! Not my Plan
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Continued from front page...

Bioveld Group Moving Forward On Espanola Mill – Feasibility Study Focuses On Restart

Government of Ontario that advances its plans to restart the historic Espanola pulp mill, idled since 2023.

Gervais says the mill has been at the heart of Espanola for generations, and its idling was felt across our whole community, but this funding commitment is a vote of confidence in our town's future - and in the work that Bioveld North is advancing towards a restart.

He points out that under the plan, up to 400 direct, and 2,000 indirect jobs would be created.

BMI Group CEO Paul Veldman adds the funding supports a \$10.5-million front-end loading engineering and design program, and Bioveld North is contributing \$5.4 million.

He says the engineering will finalize the design and cost of the restart, adding Bioveld North intends to restart the mill and will confirm timing as the work advances.

Veldman explained that the economics are the reason for the decision to move ahead on restarting the mill.

Its closure disrupted a regional supply chain that historically supported an estimated 2,000 additional jobs across 19 Ontario sawmills, six of which relied on Espanola for around 75 percent of their wood-chip sales.

With no domestic outlet, several sawmills have been idled, and most remaining residual fibre is now shipped out of province, weakening Ontario's forestry value chain at a time of mounting trade pressure.

Officials say the feasibility study for the restart explores returning the mill to approximately 800 air-dried metric tonnes per day of premium talc-free Northern Bleached Softwood Kraft (NBSK) pulp and about 180 short tonnes per day of paper for medical and food grades, with capacity to expand over time.

They add it is the first phase of Pulp+, Bioveld North's plan to develop the site into an integrated

forest bioproducts hub, adding biocarbon, renewable fuels and clean power through phased private investment.

Bioveld North acquired the former Domtar site in late 2025. Veldman says restoring domestic production of specialty pulp grades that Canada now imports would strengthen supply-chain security amid sustained tariff pressure on Canada's forest products and would demonstrate a Canadian-owned company rebuilding capacity that multinationals left behind.

He emphasizes a successful restart will require substantial private and customer investment alongside government support.

In the months ahead, the company will work closely with mill workers, the sawmills that depend on the site, the Town of Espanola and local First Nations to build the foundation for a successful restart.

Veldman emphasizes that this groundwork, with the community and its partners, is its immediate priority.

Of the provincial funds, \$100,000 will be used to assess the facility's equipment, identify opportunities to increase the use of mill byproducts and underused wood, and estimate the cost and requirement for restarting operations.

The remaining \$5 million will fund detailed engineering work, complete with a timeline for restart and a plan for diversification focused on bioproducts such as biocarbon and renewable gas.

Photos: As part of last week's announcement, local leaders, industry businesses and media were invited to take in a tour of the Espanola Mill. The tour included the famous World Map designed by a German Prisoner of War when the mill was used as a POW camp during World War Two, as well as a walk above the dam. Photos by Rosalind M Russell

Fifth Annual Drug Walk: A Special Gathering For One Woman



By Rosalind Russell - Laura Ann Robitaille, a mother of three daughters, a widow, and an addict, marked her recovery by attending the Fifth Annual Drug Walk in Espanola last Friday.

Robitaille, 53, told Around & About she had been happily married and living the life when she was widowed some ten years ago, which eventually led to a bad relationship and a downward spiral that involved drugs, abuse and addiction.

She says ironically, she was a health worker but ended up losing her job as a crisis counsellor due to her drug use.

Robitaille stresses it is the services of the Espanola Regional Hospital's RAAM Centre and the support of local

social services that have led to her recovery over the last year, including providing a place to live, counselling and constant support.

Now in full recovery, she is moving to take on a new job in October, stressing she shares her story because she wants fellow addicts to know there is help available, adding the annual walk is a way to let people like her access the help they need.

The annual event attracted a small group of attendees who were able to talk to workers manning booths featuring different services, a BBQ, some children's activities, demonstrations and more.

Photo of Laura Ann Robitaille provided/Drug Walk by Aidan Kallionen

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- ✓ Reviewing the Building Permit system to look for improvements and roadblocks.
- ✓ Examining the best practices and experiences of other communities to help make our medical clinic a model for others.
- ✓ Continuing with inflation-based only tax increases while having regard for exceptional circumstances.

 brentstdenis@gmail.com |  **text 705-849-8605**

NOTICE - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Manitoulin North Shore Federation of Agriculture

AGM Dinner

Friday, September 25, 2026

Doors open 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 pm
meeting to follow

Adults \$20, 15 years and under \$10

Sheguiandah Hall, 14 Townline Rd. Sheguiandah

RSVP is required by September 18th to
emiryfamily@hotmail.ca

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AZ TRUCK DRIVER - Originating out of Espanola, local runs. For more details Contact sfowler@farquhars.ca, TFN

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OLIVADEL RENTALS - Brentwood Village new accessible 2 bed, 1 bath apartment for seniors 55+ in Espanola. \$2,050 plus utilities. Available Oct or Nov 1st at 473A Queensway. Join our Waiting List for other upcoming rental options. Call 705-863-0487 or email rentals@olivadel.com.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – RV for sale. 2022 Forest River Sun Seeker 2500TS. Excellent condition, fully automated, 3 pull outs. To view come to 428 St. Joseph Street, Espanola. & for more information call 249-999-0095. \$59,000.00. 9/22

OBITUARY



Willard "Bill" Maitland - It is with great sadness that the family announces the passing of Willard "Bill" Maitland at the age of 88. A longtime Webbwood resident, Bill will be remembered for his quiet nature, strong opinions, love of the open road and devotion to family and friends. Bill was born and raised in Sudbury, the son of Mary Cecelia (Streich) and Arnold Vincent Maitland, and grew up alongside his brothers, Wayne and Howard. He later made his home in Webbwood on the farm that had belonged to his grandparents. He loved the land and the life he built there. For

many years, Bill made his field available for Webbwood's July 1 fireworks, becoming a small but lasting part of the town's Canada Day celebrations. Whether he was cutting grass, working around one of his tractors, walking through the fields with his dogs or simply heading out in his truck, Bill was happiest outdoors and doing things his own way.

A proud member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1687 for 65 years, Bill's career as an electrician took him across the country and to some of Canada's major industrial projects. He worked at Bruce Power and Pickering and travelled west to work in the Alberta oil sands during their early development. Bluegrass music was one of Bill's great loves. He attended many bluegrass concerts and festivals over the years, including River Valley and Providence Bay on Manitoulin Island. He even learned to play the guitar—not necessarily well, as his family would lovingly admit—and sometimes brought it along with him to IBEW jobs. Eventually, Bill and his longtime partner, Ann, bought an RV so they could travel together to River Valley for the bluegrass festival. Bill and Ann loved running the roads together. A drive might take them down the KVP logging road, to visit family in Manitoba, out west to see friends in Alberta, or simply to a favourite chip stand for a sausage on a bun. His truck was a big part of those adventures. As it grew older, B & D Auto did its best to keep it running to Bill's particular standards. Family was always important to Bill. He loved spending time with his grandchildren and enjoyed his camp on Birch Lake, a place that became the setting for countless family memories. On a warm day at camp, Bill could often be found sitting right in the lake in a lawn chair, perfectly content to enjoy the day. Bill shared a special relationship with his stepdaughter, Ruth Clare, whom he loved as family in every sense of the word. When Ruth lived in London, Bill would make the trip down to visit her and her friends, often taking them out for dinner. Those visits were part of something Bill did throughout his life—he made the effort to go and see the people he cared about. Bill loved his animals and rarely missed his walks through the fields with his dogs. Joe was his companion for many years, followed later by Jake, Daisy and Buddy, who became part of his daily routine and life on the farm. Even the barn cats eventually found their way into the house, including Spooky and Whiskey. Bill had his own particular way of doing things. Steak was supposed to be well done—preferably approaching shoe leather. Mushrooms had no business being in his spaghetti sauce. Cooking and laundry were Ann's territory, and Bill saw little reason to interfere with a system that worked. He enjoyed John Wayne movies, Mantracker, Tractors, and liked to think of himself as a bit of a cowboy. Behind Bill's quiet personality was a man who cared deeply about people. He wasn't one for unnecessary words, although when he had something on his mind, you usually knew it. He made a point of visiting family and friends, particularly when someone was sick, getting older or simply needed company. Even when he probably shouldn't have been driving anymore, Bill could still be found heading over to cut the grass at his Aunt Eileen's. Bill's faith was personal and quietly held. When asked directly when he stood with Jesus Christ, Bill said that he had accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. Those words now bring great comfort to his family. While we grieve because we will miss him here, we rejoice in knowing that Bill placed his faith in Christ and is now with our Lord. We look forward in faith to the day when all who belong to Christ will be together again. Bill's family hopes that anyone reading this will know that this same hope is available to them through Jesus Christ. Bill's family is deeply grateful to all the staff at the Espanola Nursing Home for the tremendous care, kindness and compassion they showed Bill. Knowing that he was surrounded by people who treated him with dignity and kindness, while also supporting his family through this time, meant more than words can say. Bill will be deeply missed by his longtime partner, Ann Clare; Ruth and O'Reilly; Ann's sons and their families; his grandchildren; extended family and friends; his IBEW brothers and sisters; and the many people whose lives crossed paths with his over the years. He was predeceased by his stepdaughter Tina, who is lovingly remembered. In memory of Bill, donations may be made to a humane society or animal shelter of your choice. Until we meet again in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, Bill. Cremation has taken place. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.

NOTICE



SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SABLES-SPANISH RIVERS

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on October 7, 2026, at the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers Municipal Office, 11 Birch Lake Road, Massey, Ontario.

Description of Lands:

1. Roll No. 52 18 000 008 06800 0000; 290 IMPERIAL ST. N, MASSEY; PINs 73423-0431 (LT) & 73423-0432 (LT); File No. 24-02;
Minimum Tender Amount: \$22,713.34
2. Roll No. 52 18 000 010 07900 0000; 17 YOUNG ST., WEBBWOOD; PINs 73413-0187 (LT) & 73413-0397 (LT); File No. 24-03;
Minimum Tender Amount: \$63,569.80
3. Roll No. 52 18 000 010 18100 0000; 2 ALGOMA ST., WEBBWOOD; PIN 73413-0062 (LT); File No. 24-05;
Minimum Tender Amount: \$7,835.44

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, crown interests, or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Any interests of the Federal or Provincial Crown encumbering the land at the time of the tax sale will continue to encumber the land after the registration of the tax deed. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. A full copy of the tax sale advertisement and further information about this matter is available online at www.OntarioTaxSales.ca or you may contact Ruth Clare, Treasurer, The Corporation of the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers, 11 Birch Lake Road, Massey ON P0P 1P0, Telephone: 705-865-2646 ext 225, Email: rclare@sables-spanish.ca



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COMMUNITY NOTES

Massey Area Museum BINGO NIGHT - at the Massey Arena Monday, September 14, starting at 6:30 p.m. Come and win big!!

Sables-Spanish Rivers Twp All-Candidates Night - Join us at the Webbwood Eagles on Thursday, September 17, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. for the first of 3 events to ask questions and hear from your municipal election candidates.

46th Terry Fox Run - Sunday, September 20, 2026, 1 PM Manitoulin Island will take part in the 46th Terry Fox Run at Low Island Park, 66 Water St. in Little Current. Register yourself or your team here: <https://run.terryfox.ca/129744>

Massey Legion 432 National Legion Week - September 20 to Saturday, September 26. Come join the following activities at our Legion.

Calvary Baptist Church - 599 Barber St., invites you to come and worship with us, Sunday 10:30 a.m. All are welcome! Matthew 2:11. Care Closet, Donation drop-off hours Tuesday 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. & 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Wednesday 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., or by appointment. OPEN HOUSE September 22 & 23, 2:00 – 8:00 p.m.

North Shore Quilting & Stitchery Guild: Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 7:00 p.m. at the Espanola Royal Canadian Legion. New members welcome.

Manitoulin North Shore Federation of Agriculture AGM Dinner – Friday, September 25, 2026. Sheguiandah Hall. Federation subsidized dinner/meeting. RSVP by September 18 to emiryfamily@hotmail.ca

Espanola Elks Trivia Night – September 25, 8:00 p.m. Text 705-822-3733 to secure a table.

Women of Faith Luncheon – Saturday, October 3, 11:00 a.m. at the Espanola Seniors Complex. For Tickets call: Evelyn 705-869-3561 or Marilyn 705-849-5095

Espanola Elks Elimination Draw, Dinner & Dance – October 24, 4:30 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. Perogies, baked beans, pulled pork, buns & dessert. For tickets please reach out to a local Elks member or message on Facebook.

Massey Legion 432 - is collecting liquor bottles and cans for children's activities. Any local children's activities are welcome to apply for funding. Donations can be dropped off at the back of the legion at 320 Imperial St in Massey.

Massey Legion 432 weekly events - Tuesday evenings, Euchre 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Afternoon, Bid 500, 1:00 p.m., Northern Light Seniors. Lions club TV Bingo, Wednesdays (October -end of May). 6:30 p.m. Dart night, Thursdays 7:00 p.m. (starting again on Sept 24). Friday Roll Off with Poiter's Gift cards, Doors open at 6 pm, Wheel Rolls at 7:00 pm. Bar is open. Pool table available.

St. George's Anglican Church - New to Espanola or looking for a new faith community? Please join us at 213 Tudhope Street for worship service every Sunday at 10:00 am.

Church Services – St. Francis of Assisi, Walford, Saturdays 4:00 p.m. St. Lawrence the Martyr, Webbwood, Sundays 9:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception Parish, Massey, Sundays 11:00 a.m. Everyone Welcome

North Shore Seventh-day-Adventist Church - invites you to join us on Saturdays (Sabbaths) 10:00 a.m. for Sabbath School, 11:00 a.m. Divine Service. 10 Menard Cres. Walford. For more info call 705-865-3013.

St. Andrew's Church Massey - Services at 10:30 every Sunday. All are welcome.

The Remnant Call Church – Service: Sunday 10:30 a.m., Espanola Elks Hall; All welcome. Non denominational.

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.

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



VISTA RADIO is now part of the iHeart Family ... all our radio stations will be available on the iHeartRadio app! Expanding to iHeartRadio is part of Vista Radio's ongoing mission to be more accessible and offer even more convenient ways for YOU, our audience, to enjoy our content—anytime, anywhere! "Take us along wherever you go—at the beach, in the car, or at work—with the iHeartRadio or Radioplayer Canada app at my espanola.com <https://www.iheartradio.ca/en/download-the-app.html> or simply keep listening to 99.3FM CJJM - Espanola!