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 December 10, 2024 Issue #50 - Volume 28

**New Neighbourhood Watch Model Could Increase Safety And Security In Rural Areas**



*Photo* - (left to right): Coordinator Bill McKenna, Block Captain Craig McKie, Councillor Merri-Ann Hobbs & Community Services Officer Constable Berkly Parisien

*By Bill McKenna* - Constable Berkly Parisien has just been appointed Community Services Officer for the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers by the Ontario Provincial Police. She will be working with the River Road Neighbourhood Watch leadership team to implement a newly enhanced Neighbourhood Watch model. 'Block Captains' have been recruited strategically located along River Road, each responsible to residents in their 'Block'. There is now added security through the 'Block Captain' network

Continued on page two...

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## Nairn & Hyman Township Firefighters Hosting Food Drive



## Espanola High School Movember Raises Thousands



cancer, testicular cancer, and men's suicide. Teacher, Tammy Sheppard issued a challenge that, if they hit \$1,760 in donations, she would wear a stick-

**By Rosalind Russell** - There is a teacher at Espanola High School who will be sporting a different look throughout December following the Movember challenge. Teachers, staff and students worked hard throughout the month of November to raise funds and awareness for Movember, which is an annual initiative involving moustaches and bringing attention to men's health issues, including prostate

on moustache every day of December as chosen by her students, and she is ready! Sheppard says in the end, they blew it out of the water raising \$3,000, a 275.6% increase over their goal.

**Photo** - Here are the moustaches Espanola High School teacher Tammy Sheppard will be wearing every day of school in December, as chosen by her students. Photo provided

**By Rosalind Russell** - The Nairn & Hyman Township Firefighters are hosting a food drive to stock shelves at their local food bank. Officials say anyone wishing to donate is asked to drop by the fire hall on December 11th from 6 pm to 8 pm. If you can't attend the gathering, you can also drop

off items at the town hall during regular business hours. The items and any monetary donations will go to the Espanola Helping Hand Food Bank, which provides food stuffs for those in need in Espanola and along the North Shore Corridor.

Photo: unsplash.com

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Continued from front page...

## New Neighbourhood Watch Model Could Increase Safety And Security In Rural Areas

because once on enters River Road there is no exit for twenty kilometers at the far end of the road!

Due to modern communications technology, another important feature had been added to the River Road Neighbourhood Watch model. A new 'Group Texting Communications System' has been established between all River Road 'Block Captains', Sables-Spanish Rivers Township staff and the Ontario Provincial Police, resulting in instant communications between all three partners.

'Neighbourhood Watch' is a program aimed at reducing crime in our community. It involves getting to know one's neighbours and introducing them to

the concept of 'Neighbourhood Watch', that is, good neighbours working together, alert to the potential of crime and willing to look out for one another's interest. Neighbours working together through 'Neighbourhood Watch' can combat crime in our area the most effective way, before it starts!

Constable Parisien stated, "If any residents encounter suspicious activity, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 with as much detail as possible. If it is an emergency, please call 911! Contact me at 705-968-0062 for any community based policing questions. The OPP is here to help prevent crime in your community".

## Moose Initiatives Provide Supports To Many



Photo - By Rosalind Russell

By Rosalind Russell - Both Moose stations in the local area had successful initiatives last weekend to help those in need. Moose FM 94.1 out of Elliot Lake held

their Christmas Toy Drive Radiothon in support of the Salvation Army, raising \$6,158 in cash and counting, and around \$3,500 in toys donated to the cause. Meanwhile, Moose FM 99.3 out of Espanola took part in the 48th Annual Espanola Elks Hamper Fund Campaign raising well over \$7,000 to go towards providing complete Christmas Dinner Hampers to individuals and families in the Espanola and North Shore Corridor.

The Espanola station will continue helping the community with the 10th Annual Christmas Radiothon raising monetary donations for the Espanola Hospital Foundation's project for a new Cardiac Monitoring System.

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## Espanola Mother/Daughter Duo Pen Book Series About ... A Very Special Dog Named Bandit



**Photo** - Shelly Wikiruk and her daughter, Sarah Belanger, launched a 10-book series at the Christmas Market. They also hosted a second signing at Remedy RX. Pictured L-R is Shelly Wikiruk with the help of her mother. Photo by Rosalind Russell

**By Rosalind Russell** - A mother/daughter duo in Espanola has penned a book series for kids, and it is all about a dog named Bandit who is with us in spirit. Shelly Wikiruk and her daughter, Sarah Belanger, have released a 10-book series just in time for the holidays, all about Bandit, who was special in so many ways.

Bandit was not your everyday dog, a large mixed breed, he only had three-legs, but that didn't stop him from having boundless energy, and lots of tail wags, and sloppy, wet kisses for family, and he was always ready to make new friends.

Wikiruk, a retired teacher is the author while Belanger, a registered veterinary technician, provided the photos, the medical background and Bandit's story.

The books are from Bandit's perspective as he walks listeners through his serious accident, eventual amputation, and returns to a somewhat normal 'dog's life.

The books focus on healing and positive messaging that everyone, especially children, can relate to, especially in teaching the lessons of patience, acceptance, advocacy, and above all, love ... for fur babies and humans alike.

Having eventually crossed the Rainbow Bridge, even his passing teaches children life lessons that living is to be enjoyed and make good memories.

At the end of every book, there are four questions providing an opportunity for readers, young and old alike, and a blank page to draw/colour as the reader sees fit.

Copies of the book are available at Remedy's RX, and at Pet Valu with some of the proceeds going towards Northern Critters in Need, an animal rescue and advocacy group.

A beautiful series that keeps the memories of Bandit alive, sells for \$100.

## Espanola Lions Club Presents Cheque To Espanola Legion



**By Grant Lewis** - Thanks to the wonderful support of our Lions T.V. Bingo for the Legion, the Lions club was delighted to present a cheque for \$2,770 to the Espanola Legion. The Poppy Campaign was a huge success this year and set a new record. (I heard over \$23,000). What a community!!! Our

Legion is just one more reason proving Espanola is a truly caring town. All funds will go the help local veterans and their families. On hand to receive the cheque is Gary MacPherson, President of the Legion, and Joe Charette represented the Lions Club.

## Christmas Schedule for Garbage & Recycling.

### ATTENTION:

#### Residents of Baldwin & Nairn Hyman

Pick up will change to the following days Dec 25 pick-up on Dec 23 & Jan 1 pick-up will be on Dec 30.

#### Residents of Sables-Spanish Rivers

Pick up on Dec 26 will remain the same.

#### Residents of Espanola

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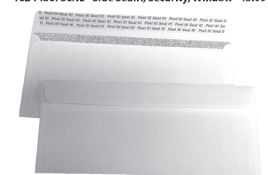
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## Ten New Housing Units Receive Espanola Council Approval

**By Rosalind Russell** - A new housing project got the go-ahead at a recent Espanola council meeting.

XP Development Limited, a developer that just completed building six new homes in Espanola, applied to the town for the creation of a new lot on Elizabeth Street.

The proposed development would sever one lot into two and allow for two four-plexes and

two granny suites to be built, (six one-bedroom units and four two/three-bedroom units) all geared to low-income as well as a request for an easement for a shared driveway.

However, Ian Karvonen who lives in the area, speaking on behalf of his neighbours, pointed out they have environmental concerns with the property being beside a creek and on a flood plain, and that he didn't

think it was zoned properly. Town CAO Joseph Burke explained that the lots are already zoned correctly, a preliminary environmental assessment was done that met all regulations and pumping systems will be installed to address water and sewer requirements.

In the end, Mayor Doug Gervais pointed out that the town's Strategic Plan focuses

on the dire need for housing in Espanola, which has almost a zero-vacancy rate at this time. It was also pointed out that if the application was turned down, the developers could appeal, stressing that the proposal meets all the requirements of law, including the Planning Act. The council approved the severance application, and the project will now move forward.

### La Renaissance Students Spread Hope And Gratitude



On Monday, November 18, high school students and staff of École secondaire catholique La Renaissance in Espanola participated in the 'Pilgrimage of hope', a local walk to raise awareness among youths on the importance of gratitude and hope. During this activity, students visited various community pillars such as the Fire Department, the Espanola Regional Hospital, churches and the municipal office. At each stop, they were able to express their gratitude by presenting a plaque to the

essential workers and members of these organisations in recognition of their continued dedication and contributions to the collective well-being. Members of the community were moved by this symbolic initiative. This walk of hope and gratitude enabled students to see first-hand the importance of embodying values like solidarity and mutual support in addition to creating a special and memorable moment for intergenerational exchanges. Photo 1 - Hospital, Photo 2 - Calvary, Photo 3 - OPP

### Cambrian College Inaugural Christmas Gathering Introduces New Bursary/Honours Three Locals



**By Rosalind Russell** - Cambrian College's Inaugural Christmas gathering held past Saturday, November 30th in Espanola was an opportunity to introduce a new bursary specific to the local area and to say thank you to three key role models in the community. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the Boogie Mountain Ski Club, Quantum Construction and FreshCo for providing opportunities to clients to take part in their programs, find employment

and reduce barriers. The Espanola Campus also took the opportunity to introduce a new bursary for clients in the North Shore Corridor to help them further develop their employment and life skills, which will be presented for the first time next year. Anyone wishing to support the bursary commitment, can contact the local office located in downtown Espanola.

Photos Supplied

## OBITUARY



**MARTIN- Randall Richard "Rick"** of Espanola suddenly passed away at the Espanola Regional Hospital on November 30, 2024 at the age of 56. Dearest SON of Richard, Rose Marie (nee Dougherty) Martin. Beloved HUSBAND of Lisa (nee McKenzie) Martin. Loving FATHER of Nicole Shortt (Damien) of Cochrane & Jeffrey Martin of Dryden. Forever cherished GRANDPA of Korbin~Wrangler Shortt. Siblings include Wonita Bonhomme (Jean-Paul) of South Porcupine & Leslie Martin (Jennifer) of Red Deer.

Also, will be sadly missed by many friends & relatives. Funeral Talk will be held on December 14, 2024 at 2:00p.m at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Espanola (live). It will be broadcast on Zoom, ID 563 997 1583 pass.191410. A private graveside interment in the Espanola Cemetery at a later date Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME Ltd, Espanola.

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The One Tot Stop Day Care is looking for reliable, flexible and caring individuals for child care assistant positions in our Massey and Espanola sites. Experience working with children is a must. Successful applicants will be required to have a current vulnerable sector criminal reference check, valid First aid and up to date immunization. An Early Childhood Education diploma is an asset. The successful candidate must have transportation and be able to travel.

Please send your resume, cover letter and references to **The One Tot Stop Day Care, Box 5052, Espanola, ON P5E1S3,** or to [onetotstop@bellnet.ca](mailto:onetotstop@bellnet.ca).

Please indicate if you are interested in working in Massey or Espanola.



## COMMUNITY NOTES

**The Remnant Call Church** – Services at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday. All are welcome. (Elks Hall, Espanola)

**Night Devine Concert** – Friday, December 13, 7:00 p.m. at 10 Menard crescent Spanish/Walford.

**The Lee Valley Hall** - is hosting a Holiday Social & MUSIC JAM on Saturday, December 14, 1:00 p.m. EVERYONE IS welcome

**Cookie Walk** - December 30, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the St. George's Church on Tudhope St, Espanola

**Overeaters Anonymous** - Do you have an eating disorder? We can help. Tuesdays 7:00 p.m. The Anchor Inn, 1 Water St. E, Little Current, Downstairs.

**North Shore Seventh-day-Adventist Church** - Saturday (Sabbath) Song Service 9:45 a.m.. Sabbath School 10:00 a.m. Divine Service 11:00 a.m.

**The Baytones** - North Bay's women's acapella chorus are recruiting! If you love to sing, come join us! For details call Janet 705-662-2770

**NAR-ANON** – Are you affected by someone else's addiction? NAR-ANON offers hope. Every Thursday, 1:00 p.m. at the Noojmowin Teg Health Centre, 407 Centre St, Espanola.

**Narcotics Anonymous Meetings** – Tuesdays 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. United church, downstairs. 137 Shepard St. Espanola

**AI-Anon** - Do you worry about how much someone drinks? AI-Anon can help. Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M., St. George's Anglican Church, Espanola. (basement).

**Toasts & Roasts Speaking Club** – 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Espanola Library. For more info, email [toastandroastsspeakingclub@gmail.com](mailto:toastandroastsspeakingclub@gmail.com)

**Paroisse St-Sébastien Parish Reminder** – The Sunday (bilingual) Mass at St-Sebastien (Spanish) is held at 4:00 p.m.

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

**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](mailto:around@aroundandabout.ca)



**WRAPPED IN WARMTH AND HOLIDAY CHEER** proudly sponsored by Espanola Home Hardware Building Centre... hey, this is Roz from the 99.3 FM - CJJM - Espanola and it is my birthday month, so paying it forward, I am looking at collecting 67 boxes or bags of necessities to bring to our local food bank(s) In Espanola, Nairn and Massey and area shelters in Elliot Lake, Manitoulin Island and Sudbury for the Christmas season. Thank you to Espanola Home Hardware Building Centre for their wonderful support of this initiative. Your kindness is so appreciated!