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**Changes to the Northern Ontario Health Travel Grant**



*By Rosalind Russell* - Need to travel for health care? cancer treatment? surgery? Good news ... Ontario's Health Minister says travel grant changes will have started on December 1. Promised changes to the Northern Ontario Health Travel Grant have come into effect. In the Legislature last Tuesday, Health Minister Sylvia Jones reiterated the province's three-year, \$48 million funding announcement from earlier this year, with program expansions and improvements to start this past Sunday. "Starting on December 1 we have an additional enhancement that says 200 km is going to 100 km, \$75 per night for accommodations and expanding eligibility to include medical travel companions accompanying a patient," she says.

Continued on page two...

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## The Manitoulin OPP Has A New Community Safety Officer/Media Officer.



Photo - Manitoulin OPP Constable Berkley Parisien – photo by Rosalind Russell

By Rosalind Russell - Provincial Constable Berkley Parisien is at the start of what she hopes is a long career in policing, carrying on the traditions of her parents, who are part of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Twenty-four-years-old, she joined the OPP two years ago and was assigned the new position a few short months ago. She took the compressed policing program out of Algonquin College in Ottawa, which she calls home, and the began her University Bachelor

of Conflict Studies. Parisien admits she has one more year to complete but was called in by the OPP two years ago and is now stationed out of Little Current. She says her position means she will be doing a lot of work in the schools in Espanola, Massey and on the Island, which she is quite enthusiastic about, as well as handling media relations with and for the wider community. Her first major event was the Stuff the Cruiser held on Manitoulin Island last week where nearly \$7,000 was raised and three police vans full of food filled for the food bank in memory of the late Marc Hovingh. Off to a good start, she looks forward to working with the various communities, local groups and organizations to enhance policing relationships and providing information and supports from the OPP.

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Continued from front page...

## Changes to the Northern Ontario Health Travel Grant

Specifically, the travel distance requirement to be eligible for the overnight accommodation allowance is dropping from 200 km to 100 km, while the accommodation allowance is increasing from \$100 to \$175 per night. Jones was replying to Algoma Manitoulin MPP Michael Mantha, who asked the minister when the promises made seven

months ago would be kept. "People in Northern Ontario deserve equitable access to healthcare," he says. "They shouldn't be deciding between getting treatment and paying their bills." The funding was included in this year's budget.

Photo by Rosalind M Russell

## Public Health Sudbury & Districts Appoints New Associate Medical Officer Of Health.



By Rosalind Russell - The Board of Health has appointed Dr. Emily Groot as Associate Medical Officer of Health starting January 6, 2025.

René Lapierre, the chair of the board, says Dr. Groot is working as Acting Associate Medical Officer of Health until her appointment is approved by the Minister of Health.

He says her appointment is part-time, so the

board is still looking for a second staffer to also work part-time to ensure they have full capacity as soon as possible.

Dr. Groot will maintain her part-time roles as Program Director with the Public Health and Preventive Medicine Residency Program at the NOSM University, as well as Medical Director of Réseau ACCESS Network's Treatment and Prevention clinic. Dr. Groot grew up in Northeastern Ontario. She previously served as Associate Medical Officer of Health for the Thunder Bay District Health Unit as well as for Niagara Region Public Health.

She has also worked as Regional Supervising Coroner for Northeastern Ontario and most recently as Medical Director of Sudbury's supervised consumption site.

Dr. Groot completed her medical education at McMaster University followed by speciality training in public health and preventive medicine at Queen's University. She also holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Toronto.

For more information about Public Health Sudbury & Districts, visit phsd.ca or call 705.522.9200 (toll-free 1.866.522.9200).

Photo provided

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## Espanola Council Approves Expenditure For Physician And Health Care Staff Recruitment




Practitioner and a crisis worker in the emergency department, filling frontline nursing positions, and a Stage One Submission to support a CT Scan. She adds Ontario Health North has endorsed their CT Scan submission, which now sits with the Ministry of Health for approval. Dr. Lepage adds they currently have vacancies for two full-time family physicians and two nurse practitioners' positions.


**By Rosalind Russell** - The Town of Espanola has had a long-time partnership with the Espanola Regional Hospital & Health Centre when it comes to physician and health care staff recruitment. Hospital CEO Jane Battistelli and Dr. Rob Lepage, the Chief of Staff, met with Espanola Council last night to ask for \$20,000 to go towards recruitment. Battistelli says past support has led to the hiring of a Nurse

He says the support will help the hospital to bring physicians to the community and show case the health campus and physician model adding the funding would also be used to offset the estimated incentive costs of \$70,000. Council thanked the two adding the ask of \$20,000 will be part of the pending 2025 budget talks.

Screenshots by Rosalind Russell



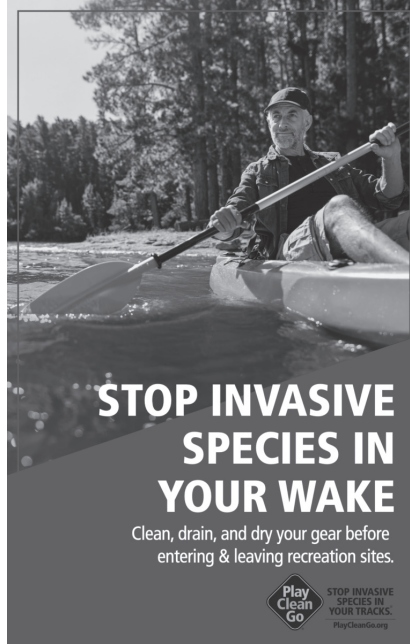
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## Huron Shores Plans Invasive Species Roundtable Discussion




municipality's next committee meeting to provide an opportunity for regional stakeholders to share updates on current projects or initiatives, exchange strategies, and explore collaborative efforts to promote sustainable lake health and more. There will also be key areas of discussion including prevention and mitigation strategies, potential collaborations for funding and public education initiatives, water monitoring protocols and the feasibility of setting up boat wash stations at

**By Rosalind Russell** - The Municipality of Huron Shores Environmental Advisory Committee is planning a round table discussion on invasive species within local ecosystems. According to the release, organizations are invited to participate in the

key access points to prevent the spread of invasive species between lakes. The meeting will be held via Zoom or in person at the Iron Bridge Municipal Office on December 10th from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

Poster provided

**To attend by Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9999999999>**



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- November 20 at 410 Bell St. in Espanola from 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.
- November 23 at the Espanola Mall from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
- December 14 at the Espanola Mall from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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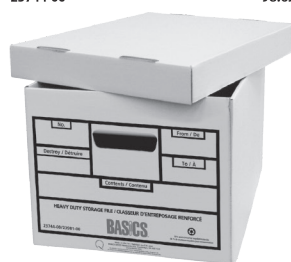
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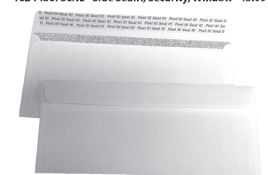
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## OBITUARY



**Brown, Daniel F.** of Espanola passed away peacefully November 23rd in his 87th year. Danny was born in Espanola November 18, 1938. He was a lifelong resident of Espanola. Dan is survived by his loving wife of 31 years, Mary. They have enjoyed their life together at Clear Lake. Everyone knew Danny as a licenced mechanic

and the ultimate repairman. He loved tinkering and spent his lifetime providing repair services to his friends and the Espanola community. He particularly liked repairing his vintage cars with his friends keeping him company while he worked. Danny is predeceased by his parents Fabiola and Alfred Brown of Espanola, and his sister Jacqueline Grodesky (Peter). He is survived by his siblings Rochelle Mulholland (Geoff, predeceased), Anne Gibson (George, predeceased), Paul Brown (Rolande), Lucille Noble, and Kathleen Hore (Don). He will be missed by his many nieces and nephews. Loved father of Charlene, Rob (Dawna) and Don (Sheryl), Grandfather of Arielle (Andrew), Matthew (Darion), Max, Danielle, Samantha and Alex. Great-grandfather of Hallie and Ian. Funeral service was held on Thursday November 28th, 2024 at 10 AM at St-Jude's Catholic Church, interment followed the funeral service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in honor of Danny to the Espanola Regional Hospital in support of cardiac care. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME Ltd, Espanola.



In loving memory of **Roger Joseph Allan Caibaosai**. November 17, 1956 – November 20, 2024. It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Roger Joseph Allan Caibaosai, who departed peacefully surrounded by his loved ones. Born on November 17, 1956 in Espanola, Ontario, Roger led a life full of love, adventure, and cherished memories. Roger had a deep passion for fishing, he loved spending countless hours by the water with his fishing buddy Matthew. Whether it was going to their favourite spots or sharing stories while on the

lake, he looked forward to every trip they had planned. Roger was also a spirited traveler, always eager to explore new horizons from each road trip throughout North America. Roger found wonder in every journey and brought back stories that lit up the room, including getting the nickname “wrong turn Rog”. Above all, Roger treasured time with his family and friends. His warm smile, quick wit and generous spirit left an imprint on everyone he has met. Roger is survived by his wife Cathy, his daughter Jessica, his beloved son Rusty (Ciera), his dog Lucky, and cat Scooter. Sisters Carol (Silvestre) and Sandra (Andres), Brother Robert (Tammy). Nieces Jennifer, Juliette, Jasmine, Rebecca (late Jeremiah), Abba, Ava, Ashlynn, Silver (Justin), Cheyenne, Maryann, MaryLou, Taylor, Cameron, Melissa, Alexa, Laila, Lisa, Lakota, Brooklyn, Aubrey, Kallie, Jasmine, Frankie, Kelly, Sherry, Carrie (Jeremy), Natasha (Eric), Hailey, and Ava. Nephews Jaden, Jose (Suzanne), Marcos, Yanis, Richard, EJ, Dwayne (Cora), Bill (Michelle), Marc, Chris (Alyssa), Hunter, Lennox Damien, Brayden, Quintin, William, Vincent, Richard. Predeceased by Father Vincent, Mother Clara, brothers Eugene, and Ronald. Sister Julie. Niece Louise. Nephews Ronald, Donald, and Darwin. All family and friends were welcomed to come join with his last ride around the reserve on Saturday November 23, 2024 @10:00 a.m. meeting at the park, then at the New Community Centre, Sagamok shortly after. Funeral was held at St. Raphael Church November 25, 2024 @11:00 a.m. Though Roger has cast his final line and reached his final destination, the memories of his love, laughter, and stories will remain in our hearts forever. Rest In Peace, Roger Joseph Allan Caibaosai. May your journeys continue into the spirit world. Baamaapii.

## OBITUARY



**SIRARD - Lucien Alex** (1935 – 2024). Lucien Alex Sirard (also known as Lou) of Espanola passed away at the Wikwemikong Nursing Home on November 22, 2024 at the age of 89. Dear son of the late Alexandre and Dorina (née Dufour) Sirard. Loving husband for 66 years of the late Lillian Sirard (née Huot). Beloved father of Marc Sirard (Sally) of Pickering, Diane Sirard (Kelly) of Sudbury, Denise Devon (Gary) of Val Caron, Michel Sirard of London. Dear brother of Lucienne

(Lucy) Antoine of Ottawa, Yvette Gagnon (predeceased) and Rosabelle Weist (predeceased). Dear brother-in-law of Lawrence Huot (Rolande) of Espanola, John Huot (Thérèse) of Espanola, Fred Huot (predeceased) and Leonard (Len) Huot (predeceased). Will be sadly missed by his grandchildren Jacqueline, Jonathan, Alexandra, Kathryn, Melissa, Ryan and Steven, his great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank the staff and volunteers at the Wikwemikong Nursing Home for their heartfelt kindness and compassion over the past eight years. Cremation, with a service to follow at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer Society of Ontario or the Wikwemikong Long Term Care Home Capital Campaign. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.

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While all responses are appreciated, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.



705-869-6883

email: [around@aroundandabout.ca](mailto:around@aroundandabout.ca)

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Conseil des Services du District de  
**Manitoulin-Sudbury**  
District Services Board

210 Boul Mead Blvd  
Espanola, ON P5E 1R9  
Telephone/Téléphone: (705) 862-7850  
Fax/Télécoeur: (705) 862-7805  
<http://www.msdsb.net>

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) is looking for a self-motivated & energetic individual to join our industry-leading organization which works towards the delivery of high-quality services and programs to the residents of Manitouslin-Sudbury districts. Created by the provincial government, the DSB is responsible for overseeing and managing a range of services divested to the municipal order of government, including Ontario Works, Community Housing, Paramedic Services (Land Ambulance), Non-Urgent Patient Transportation, and Early Learning and Child Care Services.

At Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB, we welcome new and diverse talent! We are currently searching for our next **Custodian**.

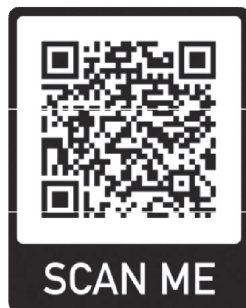
### What You Offer

- Effective oral and written communication
- Experience with maintenance tools and equipment
- Ability to work independently and organize work priorities

### What We Offer

- Competitive salary
- Employer-matched pension plan, and a wellness program available to all employees, spouses, and children
- Career growth
- Diverse and inclusive work culture
- Continuing education for staff

For more information and how to apply, use the QR code below.



While all responses are appreciated, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

## Employment Opportunity

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 Espanola Festival Choir will present a Christmas Cantata, Carols and Classics** - Sunday, December 1st at 10:30 am at Espanola United Church (co-hosted with St. George's). Tuesday, December 3rd at 7 pm at Calvary Baptist Church. Thursday, December 5th at 6:30 pm at the Senior's Drop-In Centre. Saturday, December 7th at 2 pm at St. Jude's Parish Church. Sunday, December 8th at 10:30 am at the Lighthouse.

**The Spanish & Area Annual Christmas Market** - Saturday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Spanish Four Seasons Waterfront Complex. The proceed from the Christmas market are earmarked for the Spanish Medical Equipment Fund.

**Webbwood Eagles #4269 Spaghetti Dinner** - Saturday, December 7. Eat in or Takeout 4:30-6:00 p.m. Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread & desert.

**Massey's Journey to Bethlehem is happening** - Saturday, December 7 and 8. Meet at Zion Lutheran Church, 535 Imperial St. S., Massey from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for bus pick up. Free family event for all ages. Dress warmly for a 30 minute walk.

**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

**Al-Anon** - Do you worry about how much someone drinks? Al-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 [toastandroastspeakingclub@gmail.com](mailto:toastandroastspeakingclub@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!