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Espanola High School Rocks It Out At Skills Competition



Photo 1 - The Baking Competition was held at Espanola High School with a top finish for local students.

Photo 2 - The Espanola High School Spartans were all set to head out for the two-day skills competition held in Sudbury. Many came home with medals for all their efforts. Photos provided

By *Rosalind Russell* - Espanola High School has come out on top in several categories after competing at the two-day skills competition centred in Sudbury. The Spartans took several gold including Owen Bucknell in Automotive Services,

Continued on page two...

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Skate
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The Third Annual skate-a-thon celebrating Rare Diseases raised just over \$50,000 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 online donations, as well as the funds in all donation jars at the event, the skills comp, and the raffle hosted by the Espanola Lions Club which brought in \$10,000.

A special thank you to those who hosted events/collected funds towards the Skate-a-thon including Boogie Mountain, HOP fitness, FreshCo, Espanola Beer Store, Dance fitness Espanola, Rec Centre Spin, Aimee Belanger Yoga, and the proceeds from the Pickleball tournament hosted in Little Current the day of the event.

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

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Continued from front page...

Espanola High School Rocks It Out At Skills Competition

Hudson Cassidy in Cabinet Making, Rowan Withers in Baking, and silvers for Hetvi Patel in Aesthetics, Jacob Lagrandeur in Automotive Services, and Mady Croft in Photography. Bronze wins also went to Kaim Blondin-Cordeau and Luke Steinke in 2D Character Animation and Jada Brohart in

Aesthetics.

Eric Vanier took the gold in Welding and will be going to regionals in North Bay. Manitoulin Secondary School also won gold in the carpentry category. All the top winners will be going to the provincial skills competition in Toronto in May.

Death Café Focuses On End-Of-Life Plans And Support Services

By Rosalind Russell - Death is not the most pleasant of conversations, but the Espanola Health and Area Family Health Team wants to make it a subject to not only help people make the most of their finite lives, but also to help improve the quality of lives. The team in partnership with the Complex & Palliative Support Team is hosting a free discussion on the topic.

The Death Café will be held on March 20 at the Espanola Public Library with tea and cake to discuss the subject and the challenges around the subject. Discussions will also centre around making end-of-life plans and putting support systems in place on an individual basis to help family and friends deal with the loss of a loved one.

Kenjgewin Teg Partners With Cambrian College For In-Community Programming

By Rosalind Russell - Kenjgewin Teg has teamed up with Cambrian College in collaboration with Transport Training Centres of Canada to provide a new on-hands heavy equipment operator program to a local First Nation. According to Beverley Roy, the president of the institution based on Manitoulin Island, six members of Whitefish River First Nation are getting the training they need to prepare them for careers in mining, forestry, road construction and public utilities. She says the new program was introduced

in mid-January and their six students currently are learning how to operate a variety of heavy machinery including backhoes, excavators and the like. Roy emphasizes bringing the programs directly to the community makes it easier to attend rather than having to travel or move elsewhere. She adds training local workers also means having trained personnel living with in the host community, which is an important part in the growth and development of the local economy.

2025 Women of Manitoulin Entrepreneur Network Conference set to go

By Rosalind Russell - The 2025 Women of Manitoulin Entrepreneur Network Conference is set to go this Spring. Network founder Barbara Baker says the conference will take place April 27 from 8am – 5pm at the Manitoulin Hotel & Conference Centre in Little Current. She says the conference will feature several speakers including Destination Northern Ontario, the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario, Co-Operators

Insurance, Karen Robinson Tax and others, as well as a discussion on what is required to make Manitoulin Island a culinary tourism destination. Baker adds there will also be interactive tables designed to identify how to make a business grow as well as boost skills, creativity, and confidence and identify collaborative opportunities. Registration is open so register Now: at Manitoulinwomen.ca

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First Nations Surveying Communities About Mental Health Delivery



By Rosalind Russell - The First Peoples Wellness Circle is launching a survey about mental health delivery. The survey is part of an ongoing Current State Analysis project looking at the 20 Mental Wellness Teams working in First Nations

communities across Ontario. Officials say the survey reviews key areas of delivery including experiences with mental wellness teams, access to the relevant and related services and programs, and mental wellness priorities. The information provided will be used to advocate for additional and enhanced support for Mental Wellness Teams and the programs and services they provide. The link to the survey is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/on-mwt-community>

QR photo provided

Final Agreement Reached In Reforming First Nations Child And Family Services

By Rosalind Russell - After nearly two decades of talks, the Chiefs of Ontario have passed a resolution to support and ratify the final agreement on the Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program in Ontario and the Trilateral Agreement in Respect of Reforming the 1965 Agreement. Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige says it was an honour to witness the landmark occasion with the passing of the Ontario Final Agreement by the chiefs. She says the collective decision to advance incremental and tangible change for their children is rooted in the inherent rights and jurisdiction of their communities to take care of their own and is a demonstration of unity and

vision. Debassige says that, as with any negotiation, the agreement is not perfect, but it does create a pathway forward while allowing leadership to continue to address the outstanding issues that are important to Anishinabek Nation member First Nations, including all of those in our local area through the North Shore Corridor and Manitoulin Island. The Ontario Final Agreement commits Indigenous Services Canada to provide \$8.5 billion over nine fiscal years with the intent to address systemic issues, prioritize the welfare of First Nations children, and empower First Nations to determine how best to provide culturally appropriate child and family services.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Soup & Sandwich - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month. 1st Tuesday at St. Georges, 3rd Tuesday at Espanola United - 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. All welcome.

North Shore Quilting & Stitchery Guild: Next meeting - Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Espanola Royal Canadian Legion. New members welcome.

Massey Area Museum AGM - The annual AGM will be held at the museum March 27, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Elections for Board Members and Directors to take place. The public is always invited.

Webbwood Eagles #4269 Spaghetti Dinner - Saturday, April 5. Eat in or Takeout 4:30-6:00 p.m. Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread & desert.

Massey Seniors Fitness - Wednesday afternoons upstairs at Massey Arena. Low impact strength, balance & stretching 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. and Gentle Movement focusing on balance, functional movement & stretching from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Massey Seniors Social - Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. upstairs at Massey Arena. Come for a fun afternoon of socializing, games and snacks.

Voices of Spring - Rehearsals have begun for the 2025 season. If you like to sing, come to St. Andrew's United Church, Massey on Saturdays from 10:30-12:00.

Free Espanola Community Luncheon - every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, at The Lighthouse, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

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

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).

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



Got a news story? Hosting an event? Give us a call at 705-869-NEWS (6397) ... we look forward to continuing to provide you with up-to-date news, weather, sports, and events in 2025. Want to text us? 705-869-6999? Or email? russell@moosefm.com ... Talk to you Soon!

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LOST/MISSING

MISSING CAT – Medium/long hair, white, beige, grey. Patch above left hip. No colour. Missing since February 26, Haig St. Espanola. Call 705-822-5981 or 705-862-1149.

GRAND OPENING

CLAUDINE BICHETTE REAL ESTATE - Save the date! Join us Friday, April 4 from Noon - 2:00 pm for our grand opening office open house in Massey. 205 Sable St. 705-918-2456.

HELP WANTED

OLIVADEL DEVELOPMENTS - Hiring Carpenters, Skilled Labourers for Espanola residential construction start in April. Must be experienced. Email resume to office@olivadel.com or call 705-863-0487. 3/18

HELP WANTED – West Ridge Construction. Looking for skilled carpenter, & labour / apprentice. 1-519-939-2582. Ljburke06@gmail.com 3/25

ESPANOLA GOLF COURSE – Looking for: Bartenders – good tips, flexible schedule, smart serve required. Pro Shop Staff and Grounds Crew. Email resume and cover letter with preferred position to: espanolagolfclub@outlook.com or mail to 309 Golf Course Rd., Espanola ON P5E 1A3. 3/11

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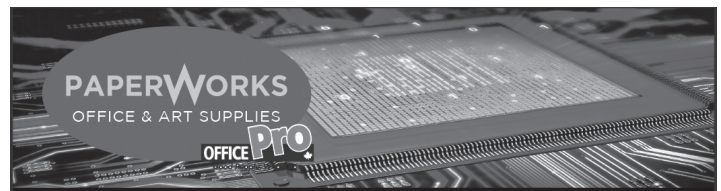
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OBITUARY



In loving memory of **Ray Michon** (August 7, 1937 - March 1st, 2025). It is with great sadness that the family of Raymond Michon announces his passing at the Espanola Nursing Home on March 1st, 2025, at the age of 87. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Diane (née Sillers), his son Gilles (Mary), son Peter (Nicole), son Greg (Mary), daughter Joanne (Marc), grandchildren: Trina (Tim), Sandra, Caroline (Evan), Alexandre, Nicholas, great grandchildren: Abby, Brody and Cassie. He was the

eldest son of the late Alcide Michon and Annette Thibodeau. He also leaves to mourn sisters Claudette (John, deceased), Terry (Richard, deceased), Irene (Leon) and brother, Lionel "Pete" (Berthe) and predeceased by Edith (Bill). He will be missed by many nieces, nephews, golfing friends and classmates from College Sacre-Coeur. Cremation with a funeral mass on March 13th, 2025 at 10 am at Paroisse Saint Jude Parish with a luncheon to follow at 39 Minto St. (Gilles and Mary's residence) Nairn Centre, Ontario.



Geraldine Veronica Ann Hardisty - September 2, 1969- February 24, 2025. Geraldine Hardisty passed away at her home in Sagamok Anishnawbek, on February 24, 2025, at the age of 55. Born on September 2, 1969, in Moose Factory, Ontario, to her beloved parents, the late William (Lum) Sr. and Jessie (Stonepoint) Hardisty. Granddaughter of the late Ignatius and Helen (Southwind) Stonepoint of Sagamok and William Sr. and Louisa Hardisty of Moose Factory. Geraldine will be sadly

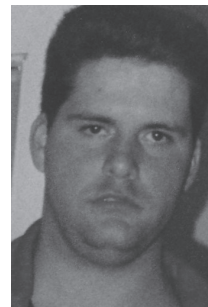
missed by her children Brent Hardisty, Helena Owl-Hardisty, and Owen Owl-Hardisty, all residing in Toronto. She cherished her beautiful grandchildren Michael, Noah, Connor (predeceased), Emily, and Ari. A special grandma to Jade and Jamison. Geraldine was a kindhearted sister to Serina & Jonathan, William Jr, and Orest & Amanda Hardisty, all from Sagamok Anishnawbek. She was raised in a welcoming home with lots of family and cousins that were like siblings, including Calvin, Darren, Allison, and Lisa. A loving and supportive auntie to Jessica & Nathan, Carrie-Lynn, William, Oakley-ba, Trinity, Shay-Lynn, (late Lathan), Lilou, Lily, and Alexander. Geraldine was a dear niece to Edward & Barbara Hardisty, Georgina (late Charles), Felix & Rhonda, Clement & Wilma, Joseph, and Robert & Kimberly. Numerous beloved aunts and uncles predecease Geraldine. She was blessed with many cousins from the Stonepoint and Hardisty family. Geraldine had over 40 years of friendship with her besties Reggie, Colleen, and June. She loved the 80's and her baseball team "Our Team" where she was an impressive home run "Power" hitter. She graduated from Sault College as an Early Childhood Educator, and from Cambrian College as a Cook Apprentice. She had experienced work relationships with the North Shore Tribal Council, Best Start Program, Sagamok Naandewejige-Gamik, and Rama Resort & Casino as a chef and many years of cooking at Meedjim. She enjoyed making crafts, scrapbooking, cooking, and baking with her grandsons. Geraldine always reminded us that we never say goodbye, we always say Baa Maa Pii, she would say "There is no word for goodbye in our language." Her spirit journey has just begun, and our family will be gathering at home in Sagamok to honor her life and to offer prayers that will help her on her traditional spiritual journey and for the healing needed during this difficult time. She will be resting at the New Community Hall at 5507 Star Rd from Saturday March 1, 2025. 4:00 p.m. The funeral service will be on Monday March 3, 2025. 11:00 a. at New Community Hall, from there she will be laid to rest at the New Sagamok Cemetery. Heartfelt gratitude to everyone who was a special part of Geraldine's life, she will remain forever in our Hearts.

Ann Elizabeth Snowdon (Carson) - It is with deep sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Ann Snowdon, who peacefully passed away at Northumberland Hills Hospital just after noon on February 27, 2025. Ann had previously worked as a dedicated nurse at Port Hope Hospital and Northumberland Hills Hospital, where she made lasting connections in the community. Ann was the beloved wife of Russ and devoted mother to Tom, Kyle (Natasha), and Robert. She was also a proud grandmother to Carson, Oliver, and Willow. Ann is survived by her brother, David Carson; and nieces, Angela and Rachel; her lifelong friend, Susan; as well as her dear cats, Aussie and Kiwi, who provided her with comfort and companionship. Ann held dear her annual girls' weekends at the cottage, which often included colleagues and friends from Port Hope Hospital and Northumberland Hills Hospital. These weekends reflected her deep appreciation for the friendships she built throughout her life. In accordance with Ann's wishes, there will be no funeral service. She was cremated, and her family will cherish her memory privately. The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to the staff at Northumberland Hills Hospital for their compassionate care and support during this difficult time.



BENNETT - Stewart - Of Sagamok passed away at the Espanola Nursing Home on February 25th, 2025 at the age of 77. Dear son of the late William & Saraphine (nee Stonepoint) Bennett. Beloved husband of Levina (nee Toulouse) Bennett. Loving father of Donna Printup of Niagara Falls, New York, Johnathan Toulouse (Michelle) of Massey, & the late Kelly & Stewart JR. Toulouse. Cherished grandfather of Brittany. Brother of Rene Bennett (late Nancy) of Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, Dennis (Marjorie) of Sudbury, Calvin of Sagamok, and the late Michael,

Delbert, Iris, Mae & James. Also will be sadly missed by many friends and relatives. Visitation will take place at the New Community Centre, Sagamok, on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. with a funeral service on Saturday, March 1st, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. in the New Community Centre, with interment to follow in the Sagamok Cemetery. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.



FRANCIS- Patrick Of Sagamok passed away at this home on February 26th, 2025 at the age of 53. Dear son of Lucienne Anderson & Valerie Edna Owl. Loving brother of Peter (Stephanie) of Elliot Lake, Sally (Bob), Mike, and Robert, all of Sagamok. Will also be sadly missed by many nieces, nephews, friends & relatives. Visitation took place on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025 at the New Community Centre in Sagamok at 10:30 a.m., with a funeral service in the New community Centre on Thursday, March 6th, at 11:00 a.m. with

interment following. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.



LAJEUNESSE, Joshua Michael - April 13 1985 - February 24 2025. Of Massey passed away at his residence at the age of 39. Beloved son of Lena (nee Lajeunesse) Scobie & stepson to Daniel Scobie. Cherished brother to Victor of Webbwood, Lucy (Marc) & Simone of Massey. Loving uncle to Victoria. Dear grandson to Simon & Mable Lajeunesse. Josh will be missed by his uncles Gary (Kristi), Donald (Tinna), Michael (jenny), Richard (Michelle), & late Douglas. Visitation took place at the Immaculate Conception Parish, Massey, on Tuesday, March 4th, at 5:00 p.m.,

with a funeral service in the Immaculate Conception Parish on Wednesday, March 5th, at 11:00 a.m. with cremation following. Immediately after the funeral, everyone was welcomed to the Massey Arena for a luncheon. Arrangements by BOURCIER FUNERAL HOME, Ltd., Espanola.