

# The South Etobicoke News

thesouthetobiconews@gmail.com

Number 12

Buy local. Live local.

## Plan for 15 more condos on Christie lands

Anxious residents of Humber Bay Shores are bracing for more traffic and transit congestion as a long-awaited redevelopment of the 28-acre Mr. Christie bakery site moves ahead.

A public meeting will take place on November 12 at Trident Banquet & Conference Centre, at 145 Evans Ave., Unit 200, for residents to voice their concerns on a proposal by First Capital Reality in seeking an amendment to the City's official plan and zoning laws.

If approved, First Capital plans to build a new community, which is expected to attract more than 20,000 residents to the area.

The proposal for 2150, 2194 Lake Shore Blvd. W., and 23 Parklawn Rd., includes the building of 7,500 housing units in 15 condo towers, which



IMAGES FROM THE DEVELOPERS AS TO WHAT THE Mr. Christie plant site will look like with the construction of 15 more condo towers, green spaces, public square and 7,500 new housing units.

range in height from 22 to 71 stories. There would also be one-million square feet of retail, restaurants and commercial opportunities.

"A new relief road is proposed along the northern edge of the site, connecting the Park Lawn Rd. Gardiner access ramp with the Gardiner ramp to the east," says the developer. "The proposed relief

road works to divert traffic away from Park Lawn Rd. and Lake Shore Blvd. W. to relieve congestion in the area."

Also planned are three squares and a park, in which the restored Christie Water Tower will serve as an observation deck and water reservoir. The Bank of Montreal building is slated to become a "landmark gateway building," and a new Park Lawn GO-TTC transit hub is being added. The project will create new streets and up to 3,500 new jobs. It will also house a galleria, a series of groves, lanes and mews.

"This has been a very, very well thought out master-plan," says First Capital's Jodi Shpigel.

Humber Bay Shores has seen a 65 per cent growth in the last eight years and there are more than 50,000 residents living in the area. For more visit [www.toronto.ca/planning/developmentapplications](http://www.toronto.ca/planning/developmentapplications)

## Daily Bread aid those trying to make ends meet

More of our community residents are struggling to make ends meet with part-time work as good decent-paying jobs become harder to find, says officials of the Daily Bread Food Bank.

"Food bank use continues to rise across Toronto," says CEO Neil Hetherington. "Despite a strong economy, we see people in our community who are struggling to make ends meet."

"At the Daily Bread Food Bank (DBFB), we believe that no one should have to choose between paying rent or buying food," he vows.

Three in 100 people from this community visited a food bank in 2018," Hetherington warns.

The concerns surfaced at an all candidates meeting held by LAMP and DBFB a week before Liberal MP James Maloney reclaimed the Etobicoke Lakeshore riding for a second time.

"Statistics provided for 2018 by the DBFB shows that 3,670 residents of Etobicoke-Lakeshore visited a food bank, which included 2,667 adults and about 1,000 children. There were 45,800 visits last year.



THE DAILY BREAD FOOD BANK plays a vital role in the lives of many residents of our community trying hard to make ends meet.

DBFB officials can make referrals to local food banks and meal programs for persons in need of food.

Their statistics reveal that five in 100 of our Etobicoke North neighbours visited a food bank last year.

Some 6,428 Etobicoke North residents used a food bank, which included 3,800 adults and 2,638 children. There were 63,500 visits in total.

Some City of Toronto residents fare better as in the riding of Toronto-St. Paul's where one in 100 residents visited a food bank last year.

In that riding, some 1,280 residents used a food bank, which included 1,000 adults and 277 children. There were 12,570 visits in total.

Feed Ontario says provincial food banks were accessed by 507,977 people who visited 3,033,970 times throughout the year, or a three percent increase over 2017. Founded in 1983, the DBFB is one of Canada's largest food banks. Last year Daily Bread supplied and distributed food to support 173 food programs in the GTA. These programs are run by 135 partner organizations, including shelters, meal programs, and other food banks.

Visit [dailybread.ca](http://dailybread.ca) to donate or volunteer.

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# Neglected Cenotaph waiting for two years to be moved



A WREATH IS PLACED ON the Eighth Street Cenotaph to mark Remembrance Day by Chris Korwin Kuczinski on behalf of the Lakeshore Village BIA.

The once cherished Etobicoke Cenotaph has been sitting neglected for more than two years outside the former Eighth Street Royal Canadian Legion as city officials try to move it to a new home. Officials say they've found a new site for the 7.5 metre granite structure blocks away at Colonel Samuel Smith Park but are awaiting proper paperwork and permits for

the move. The Cenotaph that has been a fixture outside the former Branch 3 since 1983. "We are working diligently to get the structure moved as soon as possible," Councillor Mark Grimes says by email. "We must ensure the process is done properly and with great care and respect." He wrote "despite our best efforts the Cenotaph will not be at its new home for this year's Remembrance Day ceremonies." Area residents are concerned that the ornate structure that was presented as a gift to the community will get damaged as plans to construct a new condo development on the site are underway.

City officials want to ensure the new location is fully accessible and ready to host Remembrance Day ceremonies where residents can pay our respects to our community's veterans. They said the developer plans to demolish the existing property and build new dwellings and there is a concern the Cenotaph may be damaged before it can be relocated. The Cenotaph has been a place of gathering for those looking to remember the brave men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice. It was left behind after the Legion's Branch 3 merged with 643 on Jutland Rd.

## Remembrance Day events in the area



-Etobicoke Civic Centre – Cenotaph, 399 The West Mall. November 11 @ 10:45 a.m.

### Lest We Forget

-Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 101, 3850 Lake Shore Blvd. W. November 11 @ 10 a.m.

-Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 643, 110 Jutland Rd. November 11 @ 2 p.m.

-At Old City Hall

- The Great War Book of Remembrance and the Golden Book of Remembrance will be available for viewing following the City Hall Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 11 from noon to 2:00 p.m.

The Great Book of Remembrance contains the names of over 3,200 members of Toronto-based regiments who died in service to our country, during the First World War. The Golden Book of Remembrance contains the names of service people from Toronto who paid the ultimate sacrifice.



HARD-WORKING JESSICA, an employee of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 643, shows a jar collecting donations for the Homeless Veterans Assistance Fund which was started in 2010 and has given \$1.5 million to 500 veterans in 114 communities. The jar is operated by the Legions' Ladies Auxiliary and located at the 110 Jutland Ave. Branch for those who want to donate. Photo by TOM GODFREY

## Tips to avoid thefts this Crime Prevention Week

Toronto Police say November 4 to 10 is Crime Prevention Week and are warning residents to take precautions to avoid their cars from being stolen or porch pirates stealing their online deliveries.



SUSPECT sought for porch thefts.

"The theme for 22 Division is to reduce vehicle thefts which are up around 360 this year alone in our division," warns Det. William Ross.

Police are warning residents not to leave their vehicles running in their driveway or to run an errand; always remove and take your keys, park in a well-lit, attended area. At home use and lock your garage, install a motion sensor light, always set the emergency brake and don't leave ownership or insurance documents in car. Residents are warned to have their online deliveries sent to a neighbour if not home; have it delivered when someone is at home, or a signature be required on delivery.

Police have posted a video of two people (one in photo above) wanted for the theft of a package on October 4 from the porch of a Parkdale-area home.

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# A popular Stockwell stood up for Etobicoke residents



**THE LATE MPP CHRIS STOCKWELL** was well liked and represented the Etobicoke area in different positions for more than 20-years. He was named Speaker of the Assembly in 1996 (right) and was considered by many to have been a decent politician. File photos.

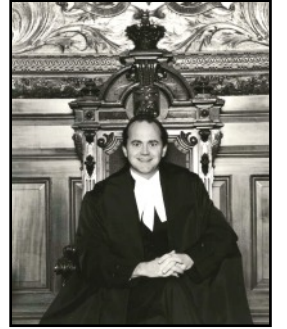
The late Etobicoke MPP and Ontario Speaker Chris Stockwell was cocky, feisty, stood up for what he believed and most of all loved Etobicoke and its people.

February will mark two years since the death of the former municipal and Progressive Conservative Cabinet minister and radio announcer at the age of 60 after a battle with cancer.

Stockwell was a political animal who was first elected as a City of Etobicoke Controller in 1982. He was re-elected to Metro Toronto Council in 1988 to represent Lakeshore-Queensway. He was then elected to the Ontario provincial legislature in 1990, defeating incumbent Liberal Linda LeBourdais by about 4,000 votes for Etobicoke West. The NDP won the election, and Stockwell sat on the Opposition benches for the next five years. He was easily returned to his riding in 1995 after the Tories won a majority in the provincial elections. The experienced politician was not appointed to Cabinet by new Premier Mike Harris who led the then-called Common Sense Revolution. He was elected Speaker of the Assembly in 1996 and gained a reputation for independence in the Speaker's chair, since he was not afraid to criticize members of his own party. The Etobicoke native played a key role in the anti-Mega City filibuster of 1997, where the Opposition parties proposed thousands of amendments which were identical except for a few words. During the 1999 provincial elections Stockwell's popularity was high and he easily defeated MPP

Doug Ford, the father of Doug Jr. and Rob, for the redistributed riding of Etobicoke-Centre. He was appointed Minister of Labour that year.

As Labour Minister, he was credited with shepherding through the legislature a bill to increase the maximum work-week to 60 hours, and promoted the Harris government's "Workplace Democracy Act," which made union organization more difficult. Stockwell did not succeed Harris in the 2002 PC leadership campaign, which was won by Ernie Eaves, who appointed him Government House Leader and Minister of Environment and Energy. He resigned from Cabinet in June 2003. With politics in his blood, Stockwell threw his name in the ring for Toronto City Council in 2013 to replace Doug Holyday but failed. The next year he registered as a candidate for Ward 4 in Etobicoke but unfortunately lost.



# RIP 5 firefighters & many others taken by Hurricane Hazel



**LONG BRANCH RESIDENTS HELP SAVE** children after Hurricane Hazel ripped through Toronto 65-years-ago leaving a trail of destruction, including dozens of homes that floated into the lake. A monument (centre) was placed to remember five Kingsway-Lambton firefighters who lost their lives. Photos from City of Toronto Archives.

Last month marked the 65<sup>th</sup> year since Hurricane Hazel, one of Canada's worst natural disasters, ripped through Toronto wreaking havoc in Long Branch and other areas where streets were flooded and residents perished, including five volunteer firefighters.

It was on October 15, 1954 when Hurricane Hazel struck after leaving a trail of destruction in Haiti, where some 469 people were killed, and the U.S., where close to 100 died. South Etobicoke residents took cover as winds raced up to 124-kilometres an hour and with more than



Creek overflowed its banks flooding three Long Branch streets killing seven area residents. Some 81 people were killed by Hazel in Canada, 1,868 left homeless and a damage cost equal to \$1 billion today.

"If it hadn't been for the trees, which held the houses back, half of them would have been swept out into the lake," then Reeve Marie Curtis, whom the park was named after, told the *Globe and Mail*.

She said two trees prevented a house with 35 people perched on the roof from floating away.

Five firefighters of the Kingsway-Lambton Volunteer Fire Dept. sadly became the first victims of Hurricane Hazel as they had descended the banks of the Humber River to rescue occupants of a car.

Trapped in their truck with water rising around them, the firefighters had nowhere to go.

"All of a sudden the fire truck lifted up, and it went up in the air about four feet ... and that's when they yelled, they all yelled," a former firefighter told the *Globe*.

In minutes the truck flipped over as spectators watched "the gut-wrenching sight of seeing five men swept into the river."

A plan was passed to clear 300 homes from the lower elevations to create the 35-acre Marie Curtis Park.

The army sent about 800 soldiers to assist with the cleanup.

The Salvation Army had received so many donations of clothes, footwear, food, and money that its facilities were over-filled. More than \$5.3 million was raised by a Hurricane Relief Fund to help residents.



**SADDENED RESIDENTS WATCH IN AWE** as dozens of homes, including that of the family of Long Branch BIA Treasurer Phillip Barker, float into Lake Ontario due to Hurricane Hazel.

## What's Inside

- Long Branch Race Track ...Page 4
- Polish documents found ...Page 5
- Our own CakeStar ...Page 7
- Best places to eat ...Page 8
- Things to do ...Page 10
- Sports' Lacrosse drafts ...Page 11

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# Residents welcome Food Terminal protected zone



**FOOD TERMINAL A PROTECTED ZONE** in announcement by Ministers Steve Clark, Ernie Hardeman and MPP Christine Hogarth at the Ontario Food Terminal last month. Courtesy photo.

Workers and community residents are breathing a sigh of relief after hearing the Ontario Food Terminal (OFT) will remain the same and not be converted into high-rise condos. The Ontario government have deemed the OFT "a provincially significant

employment protected employment zone," which prevents it from being relocated.

Municipal Affairs Minister Steve Clark says the province made the decision to protect the estimated 100,000 jobs that depend on the terminal.

The province launched a review of the terminal earlier this year, sparking fears the facility could be moved to make way for residential development. The 65-year-old facility has been a source of jobs and commerce for generations.

Clark made the announcement last month with Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and Christine Hogarth, the MPP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore. "The Ontario Food Terminal is a key provincial economic hub," Hogarth said. "I know many jobs rely on the terminal's success, including farmers, distributors, retailers, grocers and many more." Workers and merchants of the OFT say

they now have some stability in their lives and businesses.

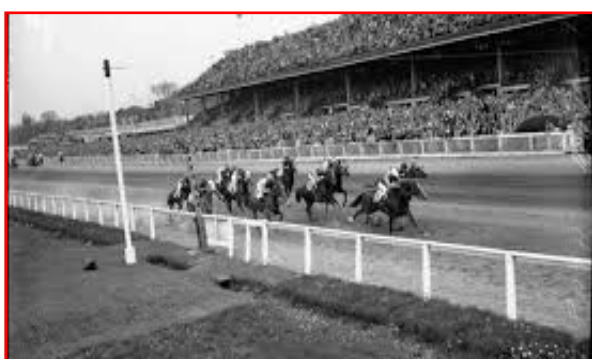
"Designating the OFT as a Provincially Significant Employment Zone will help ensure its long-term viability and certainty," says Steve Bamford, of the Toronto Wholesale Produce Association.

The terminal is Canada's largest wholesale fruit and produce terminal with a volume of about two billion pounds yearly.

Some 5,000 businesses buy produce from OFT vendors and one million vehicles arrive at the centre delivering produce from across North America or leave to distribute it to stores and restaurants.

The OFT was completed in June 1954 and replaced the Wholesale Fruit Market located at the St. Lawrence Market. The land had been purchased in 1946 but plans to build on the site were shelved in 1950 due to the scarcity of building materials. The facility includes space for 400 trucks.

## Long Branch Race Track was tops at the races



**MANY PURSES WERE WON AND LOST AT THE** Long Branch Race Track which operated from 1924 to 1955 at the Goodyear Tire site at Kipling and Horner Aves. All that is left is a plaque (centre) from the City. Photos from City of Toronto Archives.

time, Long Branch operated for more than three decades from 1924 to 1955 and took up 39.7 hectares of prime land bounded by Evans, Kipling and Horner Aves., and the Canadian Pacific Railway to the west.

The facility, which attracted thousands, was owned by mining magnate Abe Orpen and his family before being sold to Toronto Racing Securities Limited which closed the track with the development of a new Woodbine Race Track, in Rexdale.

The Long Branch track was hugely popular with loyal fans travelling here by train from the U.S. and the southern Ontario area. It was a place where the rich mingled with the working class in hopes of winning big.

Each year thousands of fans would flock to the track for thoroughbred and standardbred races, according to records from the City of Toronto.

"The Long Branch Race Track is notable as the site of a number of races that are still featured in Canadian racing," records show.

Next month would mark 64 years since the last wager was placed by emotional race fans on thoroughbreds plowing down a back stretch at the long-

forgotten Long Branch Race Track.

Called Ontario's leading horse racing track at the



The Canadian International Championship was first run as the Long Branch Championship Stakes in 1938 and the Cup and Saucer

Stakes for Canadian foaled two-year-

olds began here. Both

of these races are still part of Canada's racing season.

All that is left of the many years of excitement and wagering is a plaque by the City of Toronto, on the north side of Horner Ave., just east of the railway tracks. The brick and stone gatepost directly opposite this plaque was one of two marking the main entrance to the track. A so-called 'avenue of maple trees, which still survive, highlighted the entrance.

Track owner Orpen designed the Long Branch track to be 'Ontario's leading and most-modern race track establishment.'

He had arranged for Canadian and Grand Trunk Railways to be built and service his racetrack with passenger trains full of horse betting patrons coming as far as the U.S. to the racing mecca.

Orpen, or Uncle 'Abe' as he was called, was also president of the Long Branch Racing Association Ltd., and an executive with the Ontario Jockey Club. During the thirties he paid for and ran a soup kitchen that would feed 500 men twice weekly until he passed away in 1937.



**THE MAJESTIC GRANDSTAND** where race-lovers watched the exciting backstretch action as sums of money were made or lost on a horse race that lasted less than two minutes.

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We live in the community and cover local news, amateur sports, business and civic life while honouring those who gave so much of themselves so we can have the lives we enjoy today.

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**-Lakeside Pharmasave, 2438 Lake Shore Blvd. W., Our Walk In Closet, 625 The Queensway.**



# Food drive to help the needy



RMT Colette has launched food drive

Registered Massage Therapist Colette Slone grew up in South Etobicoke and is now giving back to the community that welcomed her and her family with open arms.

Colette last Thanksgiving Day launched a food drive at her Birmingham St. clinic to collect food items which will be donated to the Daily Bread Food Bank to help the hungry.

“I have posted signs asking my patients and others for donations of food so we can help those who are hungry,” she says. “There will be a draw and the winner receives a free 30-minute massage.”

Colette says now is the time for residents to use their benefits since the year is winding down.

“If your job requires you to sit at a desk, chances are you end up feeling the effects over time in your body,” she stresses. “Massage is a great way to address these effects and help you be more comfortable.”

The clinic is a warm and safe space. She uses unscented, eco-friendly lotions and laundry soap to lessen chemical sensitivities. “I offer treatments to help my patients regain control over their health and well-being,” says the graduate of Sutherland-Chan School in Toronto, who is seeing more patients suffering from pain and neck problems due to excessive computer and keyboard use.

She is a member of the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario who has been in practise since 2016.

Colette says her focus is on head, neck and jaw pain, with a special interest in the use of neuro-physiological techniques and a patient-driven approach to treatment. She believes in a range of treatments including: manual lymphatic drainage, facial cupping, deep tissue massage and remedial exercise prescription.

She says Registered Massage Therapy is a safe and effective option for recovery from a variety of acute and chronic conditions, including injury recovery, sleep disorders, anxiety, depression, headaches, migraines, vocal fatigue, swallowing disorders, back pain, stress management and muscle tension.

The clinic is located in Unit A8 of 80 Birmingham St., in the restored and historic Birmingham Business Centre, the former Bell Telephone Building, which was built in 1926.

She can be reached at 416-200-8591 or by visiting her website [colettermt.ca](http://colettermt.ca)



**LOST POLISH PHOTOS AND DOCUMENTS FOUND** after falling from a vehicle travelling on Brown's Line, just north of Horner Ave., around October 15. Chris Korwin Kuczynski, of the Lakeshore Village BIA, shows some of the prized photos, film negatives and letters written in Polish that were picked up from the roadway by residents who turned it over to the *South Etobicoke News*. If you know who these items (including inset photo) belong to please email us at [thesouthetobicokenews@gmail.com](mailto:thesouthetobicokenews@gmail.com)



**MEMBERS OF THE MILES ROAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION** have been cleaning and maintaining the Miles Road End Parkette for many years. The parkette offers one of the best views of the City's skyline. The street was named after millionaire Mimico resident A.W. Miles, who from 1912 to early 1930s established a zoo, with elephants, camels and monkeys, that attracted visitors from across the city, until it was forced to close due to complaints from neighbours. Miles is credited with introducing the first motorized hearse used for funeral services in Canada, and buried a number of political leaders during his time. Members left to right includes: Berta Pavlov, John Pavlov, Joan Ratcliff, Larry Pavlov, Judith Rutledge, Martin Gerwin, Brian Bailey and Barbara Keaveney. **Photo by TOM GODFREY.**

## Public consultations for build on Biway site

A public meeting is slated for November 4 for Lakeshore Village residents to have their say into the planned construction of a nine-storey mixed-used building where Biway Zone and an office building now stand on 2950 and 2970 Lake Shore Blvd. W., at Eighth Street.



**ARTIST VIEW OF WHAT A NEW 9-storey building at 2950 and 2970 Lake Shore Blvd. W. will look like.** Courtesy photo.

An amendment has been sought by the owner of the properties to the City's official plan and zoning bylaws to allow the building, which will have 95 rental units, to be built on the L-shaped one-third acre site.

The consultation will seek input from residents after City staff identified a number of issues with the bid that may affect the development.

The meeting will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Margaret's Church, at 156 Sixth Street.

Area residents say the near-vacant office building has been an eyesore in the community for many years.

## Win a Yeti and novel



**ONE LUCKY READER WILL TAKE HOME** this lovely stuffed Yeti and novel by former Argos William "Zeke" O'Connor titled *Journey with the Sherpas: The Story of Zeke O'Connor and the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation*. The Yeti was designed by Zeke for use in his campaign to help the Sherpas in Nepal. Be the fifth person to send us an email at [thesouthetobicokenews@gmail.com](mailto:thesouthetobicokenews@gmail.com) and win the items courtesy of Zeke and the Foundation. Story on Page 11.

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# Seniors take over Cineplex for Downton Abbey movie



**LONG-TIME FRIENDS LORRAINE and MARIE (in Crown) ARE ALL SMILES** from 100 ecstatic seniors from Storefront Humber and Village Mosaic attending a showing of Downton Abbey at The Queensway Cineplex. The entire gang pose for a shot (right). **South Etobicoke News photos.**

The Queensway Cineplex theatre was like a scene from Downton Abbey as about 100 ecstatic seniors in costumes were treated to a private screening of the hit movie.

The seniors and adults with disabilities attend programs at Storefront Humber and Village Mosaic, who threw the party that was attended by many who haven't been to a movie in years.

Many of the seniors were dressed up in their favourite costumes which included Victorian dress, maids, ladies, gentlemen and members of Royalty.

Bruce Buchanan, manager of Storefront Humber, said volunteers have been working to coordinate the show for three months.

"We realized that our seniors and disabled adults deserve our care but also something to do that is fun," says Buchanan. "Many of them would otherwise be sitting at home feeling isolated."

He says the seniors are in their 70 and 80s and many need extra help to get them to the cinema due to challenges that they may suffer from.

Included in the group were a number of nuns, who belong to Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, who help look after the seniors,

and whose order was instrumental in founding St. Joseph's Health Centre in 1921.

Sister Marge, 82, says she has been working in the community for 52-years helping others.

"There has been a lot of changes in the community over the years," Sister Marge notes.

Marie, who was dressed as a Duchess, says she was delighted to be attending the movie since she and some of the other women follow the show on TV.

"We have been following Downton Abbey for a while," she says.

"We are having fun and are so delighted to be here today."

Village Mosaic, at 2794 Lake Shore Blvd. W., is a gathering place



for seniors who take part in programs, which includes; crafts, painting, artwork, cards and board games, music, dancing and yoga. Storefront Humber, at 2445 Lake Shore Blvd. W., provides extensive programs to help seniors and adults with disabilities remain independent in their own home and in the community. Some of their programs include; adult day programs, social and congregate dining, elderly persons centre, food clinic, grass cutting, snow removal, home making and maintenance services, respite care, transportation and supportive housing.

# Long Branch resident wins 'Shore T-shirt



**PROUD LONG-TIME AREA RESIDENT** Natasha Drover holds a one-of-a-kind T-shirt she won for being the third person to send us an email in contest in the *South Etobicoke News*. The snappy shirt was co-designed by Lakeshore musician Roger 'Pops' Zuraw, who wanted to give something back to the community. Zuraw has a new CD out called "Remembering the Lakeshore," with such classics as "Mimico Jail." See Page 5 for this month's contest in which you can win a gripping novel by a former Argos and a cute furry Yeti mascot of the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation.

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# A CakeStar scores high in ratings



**TOP AREA CAKE DESIGNER** Monja Chiara outside her popular CakeStar store in Long Branch.

Long-time community business woman and cake artist Monja Chiara is a rising star on television's competitive cake-baking reality shows.

Monja is the owner of CakeStar, at 3431 Lake Shore Blvd. W., which produces some of the best custom cakes in the city. You send them a photo of your favourite object and they'll bake it into a cake; everything from racehorses, Molson Indy cars, body parts or sporting items. The former martial arts teacher is gaining popularity from cake fans across



**RAPTORS' LARRY O'BRIEN CHAMPIONSHIP** Trophy cake designed by Monja.

North America for competing in two highly-watched TV cake bake-off shows.

She has competed in *Best Cake Wins*, which is in its second season and airs on BYUtv and Makeful TV.

*Best Cake Wins* is a baking competition in which two bakers are tested by kids as they create intricate birthday cakes based on a child's colourful drawings.

Monja can also be seen on *The Big Bake* on the Food Network, which will air her episode in December.

In *The Big Bake*, three teams have five hours to design, bake and decorate a grand-scale cake creation based on a theme. The team with the most eye-popping and delicious cake wins \$10,000.

"I like competing on the TV shows and they are great exposure for my small business," she says. "It is a lot of work with long days but at the same time it is worth all the effort."

She and her staff create their cakes and goodies in a clean and busy shop, where there is much camaraderie and smiles.

"We are not your normal cake shop," insists Monja, who has owned the bakery for about 10-years. "A lot of our business is from online but we love our locals. Clients tell us the cake idea they have and we make it happen for them."

The store, which was named one of the top cake shops in Toronto, was co-founded with her sister Barb, who is now in the catering business.

The talented staff also bake super speciality cakes for teams like the Raptors and TV shows, including one for *Suits*, which starred Meghan Markle, who is now the Duchess of Sussex.

Monja gives back to the community and volunteers helping children with autism when not baking. CakeStar can be reached by calling 416- 259-9053 or on their website at cakestar.ca



**CAKESTAR SUITS CAKE** designed by Monja for the top TV show starring Meghan Markle (second from right), now the Duchess of Sussex.





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# Some mouth-watering places to eat in the area

By Wayne Gibson



**KITCHEN ON SIXTH: 2976 Lake Shore Blvd. W., 647-349-4412**

**MOORING EATS: 2481 Lake Shore Blvd. W., 416-253-7171**



**MOORING EATS SKIPPER** Spiro Abdalnor, (right) who just became a proud Canadian citizen, and Jean Kalosian bring their exotic Eastern Mediterranean food to Mimico. **South Etobicoke News photos.**

It's a long trip from Latakia City on the Syrian Mediterranean Coast to the Lakeshore in Mimico, but Spiro Abdalnor has made that journey and South Etobicoke is all the better for it. The original Spiro's was built by the current Spiro's grandfather more than 80-years-ago and you can see pictures of this lovely spot directly overlooking the sea on one wall of this most tastefully decorated new Mimico restaurant. The opposite wall has interesting bicycle-themed art adorning it.

Mooring Eats labels itself a Mediterranean Restaurant, though its cuisine is definitely of the "Eastern Mediterranean" variety: Greek, Turkish, and Syrian influences are very evident. All the food is displayed at the front counter and it is there you order and attempt to narrow down your choices from an incredibly appetizing variety of salads, appetizers, and hot dishes.

My favorite is the Shish Tawook Plate (Chicken Kabob): truly a delight. The chicken is tender, moist and perfectly cooked. Spiro's use of spices in all his dishes is top-rate: incredibly flavourful without being overwhelming. Accompanying this chicken is the best rice I believe I have ever tasted. There are two varieties to choose from, with a most interesting use of cloves and other spices.

Lots of choice in sides, including many middle-eastern appetizers and tasty salads. A nice finish to the meal is strong Turkish Coffee. Be sure to visit this friendly, comfortable spot for a delightful Mediterranean-style meal.

Should you look for this interestingly-named Lakeshore Spot on Sixth Street you won't find it! Rather, you'll have to go over to Eighth Street to find this gem of a restaurant. There is no confusion and its all business coming out of an excellent kitchen at this pleasant cross between a pub and a full-service eatery. Freshly prepared starters include a very good pear salad and one of the best gazpacho soups that I have tasted. The warm garlic toast with this cold soup is a nice touch, indeed. Mains are standard British pub fare: fish and chips, bangers and mash, tikka masala curry, either chicken or a vegetarian option and an excellent hamburger. The Kitchen always brings some unique flavours and interesting twists to these standards though. Also, as mains, are four dishes that are described as "fancier" and includes Cornish hen, sea bream, veggie Wellington or steak.



**STAFFERS LIAM (left) AND MARLEY HAVE FUN** outside the newly-renovated Kitchen on Sixth Restaurant which is attracting quite a loyal following due to the good food.

This neighbourhood establishment has a Comedy Night every Thursday, starting at 9 p.m., and you can get Buck-a-Shuck oysters for a few hours leading up to the entertainment. Wednesday Nights mean live music for your enjoyment, along with half-price wine bottles. Sundays in Britain, and also in this establishment, often mean a roast beef dinner, complete with Yorkshire pudding, and other accompaniments. We are starting to see a lot of choices in dining along this New Toronto portion of the Lakeshore: Kitchen on Sixth should be at the top of everyone's list.

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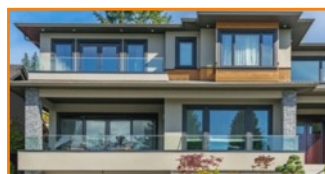
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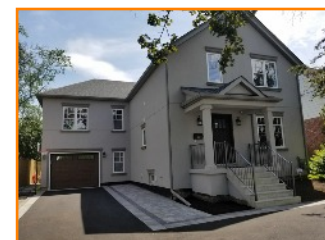
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# Mimico's open deck streetcars were king of the lines



**MIMICO'S OPEN-AIR DOUBLE DECKER** streetcars hit the rails in 1891 to ferry city-dwellers to Humber River, a then bustling resort area. Photos from City of Toronto Archives.

Toronto residents travelling to South Etobicoke more than 120-years ago had to bundle up for the trek west on open-air double decker streetcars operated by the Toronto and Mimico Electric Railway and Light Company.

The 'open truck double deck car' was introduced in 1891 to ferry holidaying passengers to the Humber River. Two single truck open cars were brought into service in 1896 to serve the popular Sunnyside area, according to City of Toronto records.

The cars carried about 96 passengers each and were busy shuttling visitors to holiday resorts at Sunnyside and the Humber River. The electrified line operated on a single track with only open cars, two which were double-deck.

This run proved popular with visitors to the beaches along Humber Bay, but with the line not extended to Mimico and New Toronto, revenues dried up in the fall and winter months as passengers did not want to travel in open streetcars without heat.

The service was bailed out by William MacKenzie's Toronto Railway Company in 1893. He extended service to Mimico Creek in July and then to Kipling Ave. by October. Ridership increased as the line pushed further west into Long Branch, with service to Etobicoke Creek in 1895.

The line, which ran on the north side of Lake Shore Blvd, provided regular summer service to Long Branch Park, which had evolved into a popular amusement park.

The service was soon turning a profit as the villages along the route profited from the increased benefits of development and commerce.

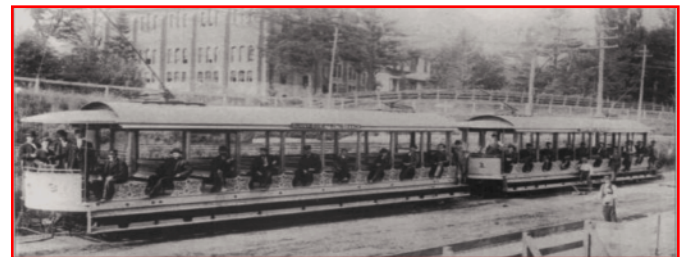
Well-dressed city residents could now board the open cars and for 18-cents enjoy the more than two-hour ride from Yonge St. to Long Branch. Service was later extended to Port Credit and a plan to serve Hamilton failed.

The streetcars became so popular that Sunday service was introduced by 1897 as people travelled here for holiday excursions and day trips. However, a lack of travel during the wintertime killed the business.

In 1904, the railway was acquired by the Toronto and York Radial Railway (T&YRR) and became the T&YRR Mimico Division. In 1922, the City of Toronto acquired the T&YRR and



**CREW AND PASSENGERS ON THE MIMICO STEAMER** take a well-deserved break. The streetcar service ceased service during the winter due to the cold and freezing conditions.



**SINGLE DECK OPEN STREETCARS** were also popular and took passengers to Mimico and later Long Branch and Port Credit.

contracted Ontario Hydro to manage the four T&YRR lines including the Mimico line.

In 1927, the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) took over the operation of the Mimico line, which was double-tracked from Humber to Long Branch and made up a section of the Lake Shore streetcar line that still exists.

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# Fall events to keep busy in our community



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN!** Mark Zwierzynski, owner of Albatros Pub, at 3057 Lake Shore Blvd. W., with Pauline, celebrating the season at the Albatros for the 30<sup>th</sup> year. The busy eatery offers classic Polish and traditional pub food. **South Etobicoke News photo.**

**EVERY FRIDAY MORNING** the Long Branch Baptist Church, at 3381 Lake Shore Blvd. W., offers a free clothing outlet from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. for those in need of clothing for themselves or their families. You can also donate gently used clothes that others can use. Contact 416-251-1525.

**NOVEMBER 1 MIMICO PUMPKIN PARADE** from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Amos Waites Park, at 2441 Lake Shore Blvd. W.. Bring you Jack-O-Lantern to light up Mimico Square. The all-age family-friendly event is free. Contact 416-452-5682 for more info.

**NOVEMBER 1 FRIENDLY FOOD GROUP COOKING** classes for seniors and young adults with autism to prepare and enjoy meals together. Classes run from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. every Friday for eight weeks including; November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; at Franklin Horner Community Centre, 432 Horner Ave. Call 647 226 1926 to register.

**NOVEMBER 2 MIMICO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** is holding its annual Holly Bazaar, which is

wheelchair accessible and features handmade goods, books, attic treasures and homemade goodies from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the 119 Mimico Ave. church. Contact 416-253-9280.

**NOVEMBER 9 St. TERESA CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** at St. Teresa Parish Hall, at 100 Tenth Street, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for Polish and Filipino foods, baked goods, clothing, toys and more.

**NOVEMBER 9 SENIORS TRIP TO MENNONITE COUNTRY** at the St. Jacobs Farmer's Market district put on by Church on the Queenway, 1536 The Queensway. Tickets \$55 and includes buffet at Crossroads Family Restaurant. Bus leaves at 9:30 a.m. and returns 4:30 p.m. Call 416-255-0141.

**NOVEMBER 15 FREE ST. MARGARET'S COMMUNITY DINNER** starts 5 p.m. at the 156 Sixth St. church. A hot meal with salad and dessert will be served and patrons are entertained by a band from Humber College. Meals are free but donations are welcome. For more call 416-259-2659.

**NOVEMBER 16 WASHI ARTISTS' SALE** 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at The Japanese Paper Place, 103 The East Mall. Prints, paintings, cards, books, jewelry, origami, cyanotypes, and more. All made with Japanese paper and sold by the 15 artists themselves. Contact 416-538-966 or 1-800-919-9066.

**NOVEMBER 20 LEARN HISTORY AND EXPLORE** the former Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital's patient-built underground tunnels, 19<sup>th</sup>-century cottages and get an overview of the facility's 89-year history. Tour goes from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Call 416-675-6622 x. 3801.

**NOVEMBER 20 WALKING TOUR OF** Colonel Samuel Smith Park from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. traces the many histories of the Lakeshore Grounds. Tour

examines the traditional lands of the Ojibwe Anishinabe. Call 416-675-6622 x. 3801.

**NOVEMBER 20 HAPPY HEALTHY WOMEN HIGH VIBE BOOK CLUB** meet monthly 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Thrive Organic Kitchen & Café, 3473 Lake Shore Blvd. W. Pick books in advance and then get together and discuss. Costs \$5. For more visit [www.happyhealthywomen.ca](http://www.happyhealthywomen.ca)

**NOVEMBER 23 ENJOY A FREE HAVEN LAKESIDE DINNER** at 4:30 p.m. at The Branch Church, 85 Thirty First St. Everyone is welcome. For more call 416-640-2005.

**NOVEMBER 23 HORNER AVE. SENIORS CENTRE TINSEL TEA and Craft Sale** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 302 Horner Ave. Come and support our seniors and choose from a selection of hand-crafted goods, crafts and bake sale. Call 416-394-6001.

**NOVEMBER 24 ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 101** Winter Village Market 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 3850 Lake Shore Blvd., for an afternoon of shopping, socializing and supporting our local businesses. Family friendly event with 25 swag bags to give away. Call 416-255-4381 for more.

**NOVEMBER 29 ZUMBA TIME TO GROOVE** at Franklin Horner Community Centre, 432 Horner Ave., from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Groove-at-your-own-pace featuring 10 Zumba classes per session for \$50. Call 416-252-6822 to register.

**NOVEMBER 30 ANNUAL HOMETOWN FAIR** AT Franklin Horner Community Centre, 432 Horner Ave., from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. wood-working items, crafts, Christmas gifts, quilts and knitted wear, bake table and BBQ. Call 416-252-6822.

**CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTRE FOR FREE** new and used kids books for parents and children to develop your child's learning. Food bank and other services available at Haven on the Queensway, 1533 The Queensway. Contact 416-640-2005.

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# Argos Zeke still busy with charity work



**FORMER ARGOS ZEKE O'CONNOR** with Sovereign Medal and Certificate presented by Gov. General Julie Payette last month.

Former Toronto Argos tight end and long-time South Etobicoke resident William "Zeke" O'Connor is turning 94 next year and is more fit and sharp than many people half his age. Zeke will always be remembered for catching the winning touchdown pass for the underdog Argos in the 1952 Grey Cup, beating the Edmonton Eskimos 21-11 at Varsity Stadium. It would be the last championship the Argos would win until 1983.

"That catch changed my life," he recalls from the Delmanor Prince Edward. "It led to many other opportunities for me." The son of a New York City cop, Zeke worked at Sears for 31 years after football and was a Grey Cup radio broadcaster, doing colour commentary on the CBC from 1956 to 1981. While at Sears he met famous explorer Sir Edmund Hillary, who became the first man to summit Mount Everest in 1953. From Hillary he gained a passion for philanthropy, particularly in Nepal. He formed and ran the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada for more than 30 years to help improve the lives of the Sherpas in the remote high-altitude villages of Mount Everest.

Zeke has since made about 45 trips to Nepal to help the Sherpas and is one of a few people who've have had a hospital and healing garden named him by thankful Nepalese. He has helped to raise more than \$5 million to build schools, hospitals, medical clinics, provide medical scholarships, train village health workers, build water pipelines, bridges, and to fund the Kunde Hospital and Sagarmatha National Park reforestation programs.

He was honoured on October 21 by the Ontario Sports Hall of Fame with a dinner gala and presented with a Governor-General Sovereign Medal and Certificate. "I have been given many awards and medals over the years," Zeke says. "This one means a lot to me."

The foundation is now run by his daughter, Karen, aided by Operations Manager Jeanne Cornacchia.

Zeke published a memoir in 2012 called *Journey with the Sherpas: The Story of Zeke O'Connor and the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation*.

Before moving to Canada, he played pro football in the U.S. with the Buffalo Bills, Cleveland Browns and New York Yanks before joining the Argonauts, which he says was a jumping-off point for many experiences, including a 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rotary Club of Toronto West.

Visit [thesiredmundhillaryfoundation.ca](http://thesiredmundhillaryfoundation.ca) for more info.



**ZEKE WITH SIR EDMUND HILLARY** (right) on one of his 45 trips to Nepal to help the Sherpas. Courtesy photo.

# Six top lacrosse players drafted



**Story by REJEAN CANTLON**  
When you mention South Etobicoke and Canada's national sport, only one thing comes to mind immediately. That is Mimico Lacrosse!

Six local Etobicoke youths have been drafted to play high-level lacrosse with some top teams. Mimico was well-represented with Andrew Kew, Clarke Petterson, Warren Jeffrey, Tanner Thomson, Matthew Sykes and Alec Simons being drafted at the 2019 National Lacrosse League (NLL) Entry Draft in Philadelphia.

The significance of such a large complement of former Mimico players reaching such a high milestone is not lost on Mimico, Jr. A President, Sean O'Callahan.

"Some of these boys are homegrown talent, born and raised in South Etobicoke and all of them played for and contributed to Mimico lacrosse success at some point," he says.

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