

The South Etobicoke News

Web: www.torontonewswire.com Email: thesouthetobicokenews@gmail.com Number 25

Buy local. Live local.

Merry Christmas and aid to small business!

"Small businesses face a hard time this Christmas as big box mall stores prosper."



SMALL BUSINESSES SAY THEY ARE BEING CLOBBERED this Christmas season by deep-pocketed, big box stores that can remain open as they are forced to shut due to the virus. Above is Chef Raymond, of newly-opened Dope As Duck restaurant and Darlene and Cindy, of Dakota's.

Residents are angry and want changes after having to drive by many shut, or partially closed, small businesses in Lakeshore Village, Long Branch, Mimico and other areas, to get to Sherway Mall where then can shop until they drop at big box stores.

Business owners say they want a level playing field if they are to survive this Christmas season, when they usually make most of their revenue.

They claim they can practice physical distancing and other public health requirements to make their stores safe from COVID-19 so their customers can return.

Officials of the Lake Shore Village Business Improvement Association (BIA) have written to the provincial government demanding some of the mom-and-pop stores

remain open to compete with the deep-pocketed mostly U.S. chain stores.

"Our businesses are hurting and are in a desperate situation," pleads Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Chair of the Lakeshore Village BIA. "We have to do something. Everywhere I go people are complaining that they cannot make a living." He insists that restrictions can be made so non-essential merchandise can be banned at the big name

stores to give the small businesses a chance to survive. "These businesses are hurting badly and we have to do something to help them survive," he says.

At least five small businesses in the area have said their revenues have plummeted and are not sure how much longer they can keep their doors open.

The second 28-day forced closure ordered by Public Health officials will expire about five days before Christmas. Restaurants and pubs for now can only serve takeout meals or delivery, while barbers, hairdressers, nail, massage, skin, beauty and other types of salons are shut.

Andy Dinner, of Your Neighbourhood Barbership, is disappointed he has to shut his doors again and lay off his apprentice. "This is a busy time for us," he says.

Darlene Simpson, and Cindy Sabbetti, co-owners of Dakota's Sports Bar & Grill, at 2814 Lake Shore Blvd. W., say it's been a "roller coaster ride" trying to survive the lockdown. "We are going day by day," Sabbetti says.

They have used up their savings and line of credit.

Protestors angry as BBQ restaurant shut by police

It was like a party outside Adamson Barbecue in South Etobicoke as a case involving its opening despite a public health order attracted a cast of characters who showed up to protest. The case blew up on November 25, after Adamson owner Adam Skelly announced his reopening of the Queen Elizabeth Blvd. restaurant.

News of the opening spread like a cold and next thing public health, Toronto police and other officials were at his door. Skelly was at one point serving customers despite a public health order to close and with police inside his premises. By the end of the day, he was charged about nine offences involving public health, reopening his business and other infractions. Police and public health officials accused him of flouting provincial



A PROTEST OUTSIDE ADAMSON BARBECUE for several days led to the arrest by 22 Division of owner, Adam Skelly, center, who defied an provincial opening ban due to COVID-19. His shut Queen Elizabeth Blvd., restaurant was the scene of protests by hundreds of people due to the closure. Courtesy an Tom Godfrey photos.

orders that were put in place to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

He and his business can face fines in excess of \$10,000 for the provincial offences. The eatery is shut and he was not allowed to go near it.

Outside the facility more than 100 protestors, none with masks, spent several days

calling for their freedom not to wear masks. Many were mocking the assembled media and politicians, including Mayor John Tory and Premier Doug Ford.

On the road a steady stream of vehicles, with music blaring, went back and forth with drivers blowing their horns.

The barbecue hut now has a Public Health sign posted on the front window stating it is closed.

Police Supt. Dom Sinopoli said Skelly is accused of violating indoor dining rules, holding a gathering and operating a business without a licence.

The fine is up to \$50,000 for a corporation and \$25,000 for an officer or director, officials say.

His supporters have gone on to protest outside Premier Ford's home.

Toronto and Peel Region entered a 28-day lockdown, forcing restaurants to close their patios and keep indoor dining rooms shuttered. Some small businesses say they being singled out as corporations like Walmart and Costco continue to prosper.

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Ribbon cutting ceremony to honour new & iconic Toronto Scottish Regiment mural



DIGNITARIES AND MEMBERS OF THE Toronto Scottish Regiment at the ribbon cutting to honour the Regiment which is celebrating 100 years. **Photos by Tom Godfrey.**

A small social-distancing group of community residents attended a ribbon cutting service to commemorate a new mural that celebrates the 100-year anniversary of the Toronto Scottish Regiment (Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's Own).

The event took place on November 21 at the Sixth Street mural as well-wishers showed up to admire a beautiful new huge mural, which contains scenes of the regiment and some timely masked health care workers, to mark the pandemic. Lakeshore Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) chair Chris Korwin-Kuczynski says the mural celebrates 100 years of service for the Toronto Scottish Regiment.

"We would like to thank the City for making this possible," he said. "We are here to honour the many men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice."

MPP Christine Hogarth described the mural as 'simply stunning.' "These stories are very important," Hogarth told a small

gathering. "It is a nice testament to see something about COVID-19 added to the mural."

At the top right corner of the mural are three health workers wearing masks. "On behalf of the Premier, we are grateful to the men and women who gave their lives," she said. "This will help us remember their service and those who lost their lives."

MP James Maloney says "we have to express our thanks and appreciation" to these brave men.

Regiment Lt. Col. Jason Kearney said they stand on guard for country and community.

"We stand ready to serve our nation and our community," Kearney said. "We are your community."

A first mural was installed in 2013 and was a joint project by the City of Toronto Mural Program, the Lakeshore Village BIA and the Toronto Scottish Regiment. Residents say they love the artwork.

Police raise goods for needy



OFFICERS OF 22 DIVISION collect toys and food in a Cram a Cruiser event to help Rev. Jacqueline Daley, of St. Margaret's church, assist the needy.

Toronto Police officers from 22 Division have been collecting toys and food in their annual Cram A Cruiser drive to help needy children and their families. Officers were last month parked outside a Loblaws store, at 300 The East Mall, with a vehicle that within hours was almost filled with goodies for many at-risk children. Helpful shoppers arrived with bags of items that were placed in a police van.

"You have to help the kids at this time of the year," one woman said as she gave a bag of items to Const. Jas Mrahar. The gifts were delivered on November 8 to St. Margaret's Church, on Sixth Street, which has many community outreach programs.

Mrahar said toys and non-perishable food can also be dropped off at 22 Division when open. He said officers will be back for another toy and food drive on December 13 in the Markland Woods area. Mrahar noted there is always a need for children toys, food, clothing and other accessories.

St. Margaret's Church has been serving the New Toronto, Mimico and Long Branch area for more than 114-years. The church was established in 1906.

St. Margaret's Rev. Jacqueline Daley said some of the items will be used for their free Sunday Soup day available to the community every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Duo nabbed for selling hot clothing online



HOT STUFF

These stolen items from area stores were intercepted by police just before they were sold online.

Police from 22 Division have arrested two women from the Niagara Region who they allege were ripping off clothing and other items from an Evans Ave. store which were then sold on the Internet.

Members of their Community Response Unit began a probe following a theft from an outlet in the Evans Ave. and The West Mall area.

Police allege the "women were attending multiple retail outlets throughout the GTA and selecting large quantities of clothing and household items from various retailers."

The goods were posted for sale online.

Donna Decloux, 54, and Amanda Lair, 31, have been arrested.

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Former Reeve Butler was known for building Victory Homes in south Etobicoke

Butler had a vision for Victory Homes for returning veterans

By TOM GODFREY

Former Etobicoke reeve and funeral home owner Frank A.C. Butler is best remembered for promoting the building of hundreds of homes for veterans returning



TOWNSHIP HALL

from the war during his years in office. Little is known about Butler, who is the former owner of Butler Funeral Home, which is now Turner and Porter Butler Chapel. He was elected the

29th reeve of Etobicoke and served from 1943 to 1946 to serve a three-year term.

He is credited with expanding the Etobicoke Township Hall in 1946, with additions to the front and rear of the building. The hall still stands today in the Burnhamthorpe Rd. and Dundas St. W. area.

Butler is known foremost for his work in housing veterans returning home from the Second World War.

Under his tenure military housing, then known in government advertising as 'Victory Homes,' or 'Stawberry Box' homes, were built by the hundreds in Alderwood and The Queensway and Royal York Rd., areas.

More than 200 homes were built in the Queensway park area for workers and veterans. They were favoured since they were quick to build, had simple plans that were repeated nationwide. Hundreds of the dwellings were built in 1943 in the



REEVE BUTLER PUSHED for more 'Victory Homes' (above) to be built in Alderwood, Queensway and other areas.

sites to be constructed. This resulted in very uniform developments that sprung up in almost every major city during the war and post war.

The houses were often one and a half stories tall with gabled roofs and clapboard siding. The streets had names that followed the war, as Victory or Churchill. The typical style was either a detached bungalow or a two-storey semi-detached. Depending on the locale, the facade may

Alderwood area for workers at the Canadian military Small Arms Company, in what is now Marie Curtis Park.

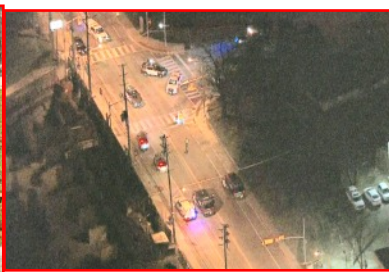
The homes were prefabricated and shipped to the

have been plain wood or brick, with entrances at the front and sides. Some 46,000 of the homes were constructed nationwide under the Veterans' Land Act of 1942, which provided housing for veterans returning home and their families.

The main objective was to get people working, by giving them land to farm to provide for themselves. The homes were small to allow for a large portion of the property to remain open for potential farming.

There would be an assembly line of construction workers, with each team performing one job, then moving on to the next home. With on-the-spot prefabrication, each home took about 36 hours to raise. The wiring, plumbing, and interior finishing were completed, including more insulation. The homes were rented for \$22 to \$30 monthly to workers and veterans. **Thanks to historian Denise Harris.**

Cyclist teacher mourned after being killed in Mimico



FELLOW CYCLISTS LEAVE flowers and 'ghost bike' (left) to mourn teacher John Offutt who was hit (above) by a cement truck (right) and killed. **Courtesy CP24, social media.**

His death has angered members of the Judson Street community, who have been complaining to the City for years that ML Ready Mix is an uncooperative neighbour.

Residents have repeatedly cited the dust, noise and pollution from a steady stream of cement trucks (right) that daily frequent the ML Ready Mix yard, on Judson St.

Police said Offutt, 59, was cycling southbound on Royal York Rd. when the truck driver, going southbound as well, allegedly made a right turn on Judson St. and hit the cyclist.

"The tragic loss of life was made all the worse by the certain knowledge that it was preventable," a citizens advocacy group wrote.

Members said City Council spent \$5 million to buy the Ready Mix property in July 2018, with the goal of moving the operations to the Port Lands. The company under an agreement had a year to move to its new site on Commissioners Street.

Mimico area residents are being urged to sign an online petition, which has several hundred names, to request the concrete plant be developed into green space.

"Green space and parkland is urgently needed in the neighbourhood," the petition states. "Please help push development of the property to provide a beautiful place to enjoy with family and friends."

The relocation of the plant presents an opportunity to further consolidate concrete batching operations in the Port Lands, while at the same time reducing land use conflicts currently experienced by the residents of the Judson Street community, the group noted. The petition will be circulated to Mayor John Tory, Councillor Mark Grimes and other City officials.



Area resident John Offutt loved to cycle and it was cycling that took his life.

The recently retired school teacher was out for a cycle on November 20 when he was involved in an accident in the Judson Steet and Royal York Rd. area with a cement truck, that took his life.

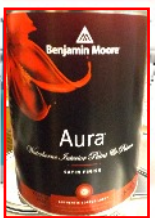
Flowers and a ghost bike have been left to remember his death. Former student A Hafeez says Offutt was his kindergarten teacher at Thorncliffe Park Public School.

"He was a teacher who quit his real estate job to help kids succeed in a low income neighbourhood," Hafeez wrote on social media. "It is truly amazing that someone would do that."

Hafeez says Offutt was a good man who loved his students and wanted them to succeed.

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Reliving Cloverdale Mall before condos move

By DAVE KOSONIC

Many South Etobicoke boomers will likely have fond memories of Cloverdale Mall from back in the 1950s and '60s including looking at miniature pet turtles for sale at Kresge's, to ordering a burger and fries at the King-burger stand in the courtyard. The iconic mall that dates back to November 1956 is being readied for major development that will include town homes and condo towers, but one original business remains and that is the Taylor Somers exclusive



OLD versus NEW (right!)

menswear shop. Not forgotten is the old-style Cloverdale Restaurant, which featured a traditional menu ranging from apple pie to a roast beef dinner with all the trimmings. There was always a line-up to get in.

There is also the unsolved Cloverdale Mall bank mystery from years ago. Many businesses regularly slipped paper deposits into an after-hours box at the front of the bank. One morning when some staffers opened the box to clear the deposit it was empty. Despite an investigation the mystery was never solved. During the 60s there was a lower-level bowling alley and pool hall at the C Mall, as it was sometimes referred to. There were no automatic pin setters at the time and pin boys at the end of the alleys cleared the fallen pins and then reset them



so a bowler could roll another during a five pin or ten pin game. In the pool room some billiard sharks really knew how to clear the tables with fancy shots that included two-bankers. At times it was almost like a scene from the movie *The Hustler*.

Cloverdale was designed as an outdoor plaza with two open-air sections separated by a courtyard. The property was originally farmland owned by the Eaton family. But when nearby Sherway Gardens opened in 1971 business at Cloverdale started to drop so the owners decided to enclose the facilities. The big stores at Cloverdale were Dominion Store and Morgan's, which was later sold to the Hudson's Bay Company. Discounter retailer Zellers stayed for a few years.

Iconic Theatre Etobicoke faces last call due to virus

The curtain may be falling for the last time on Theatre Etobicoke after 64-years of thrilling audiences in South Etobicoke.

Theatre Etobicoke President Paul Louie admitted the long-running theatre has been hit hard by COVID-19. "We rely solely on ticket sales and production sponsorships for our revenue generation,"

Louie wrote on social media. "We have suffered devastating financial losses."



He is not sure when the beloved theatre will return to normal operations, as they were unable to deliver any stage productions this summer.

"We are gravely concerned that without your support we will be forced to close permanently," he said. "Our reserve funds that we worked so hard over the years to grow are depleting quickly." Louie said an emergency fundraising campaign is underway so the theatre 'can remain financially solvent.'

He warned that without support from sponsors, donations and ticket sales, their reserve fund will only last so long.

"We are very proud to have been able to serve our community and operate as successfully as we have for the past 64 years," Louie wrote. "We don't want this pandemic to mark the final curtain call for Theatre Etobicoke."

They hope to raise \$25,000, or about one-year of their fixed costs. At least \$5,000 of this will be committed from an emergency reserve fund.

Cheques can be sent by mail and made payable to: Theatre Etobicoke, 25 Whitlam Ave, Etobicoke, ON, M8V 2K1.



CAST AND MEMBERS OF Theatre Etobicoke are saddened by shutting down after being hit hard by COVID-19.

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The *South Etobicoke News* is a free, independent hometown monthly newspaper that serves Humber Bay Shores, Mimico, Lake Shore Village, Long Branch and Alderwood areas.

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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Barber and apprentice among many shut down due to 28-day COVID-19 lockdown Residents flock to LAMP for free outdoor flu shots



NEIGHBOURHOOD BARBERSHOP OWNER Andy Dinner, and apprentice, Ariel Quesnelle, (in both photos) are among the many out of work as his shop is shut for 28-days in a fight against the virus. **Photos by Tom Godfrey.**



Community barber Andy Dinner is not in a good mood today. Your Neighbourhood Barbershop, at 2858 Lake Shore Blvd. W., has been opened for about three months and is among many businesses in New Toronto ordered closed for 28 days as the City and province fights the spread of COVID-19.

Dinner, with apprentice Ariel Quesnelle, were out of work starting on November 23 as plans got underway to fight the pandemic's second wave.

"This is our busy time of the year and I was hoping to do well and catch up," Dinner says as he smokes outside his salon. "This will set me back thousands of dollars because I have to close."

In the last few days he has become very busy with customers booking appointments online as news of the shutdown spread and people want-

ed to look good for the holidays.

"Everyone wants a haircut and to look nice for Christmas," Dinner says. "My social media exploded with people booking appointments as the news broke."

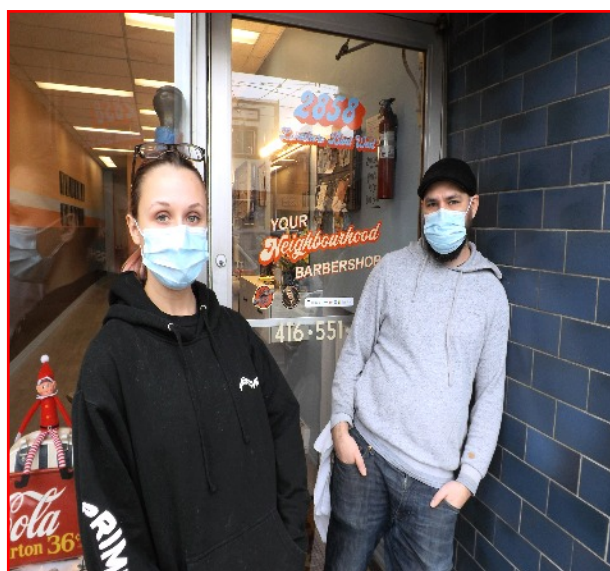
In his last weekend open he styled the hair of as many as two dozen clients daily to make some extra bucks before the shutdown. He worked 14 to 16-hour days to accommodate his clients. "I am so very disappointed," Dinner insists. "This is our busiest time of the year and I will be closed."

Fellow business people and customers wished him well or give a fist pump as they pass by. The merchants in New Toronto know each other and look out after their colleagues.

Dinner may work in the construction trade with a relative to earn some money during the closure. He has many sleepless nights wondering how he can get by in these challenging times.

Quesnelle is also angry since she was one month into her apprenticeship and will have to miss 28-days. "I don't know what I am going to do now," she says. "All I want to do is become a full barber so I can have a chair at a salon somewhere."

Originally from Quebec, Quesnelle is here to try to reach her dream of



one day being a full time barber, like Dinner, with her own chair. Also hit hard are restaurants and bars, which can only offer takeout service. Shopping malls are open but customers are not allowed to shop in many stores or attend salons, spas or get a massage.



AT LAMP DR. AMIN (bottom) led a talented team (above) providing free flu shots for area residents.

About 500 community residents were able to obtain flu shots at LAMP Community Health Centre despite a shortage of the cold-fighting medication.

The front lawn of LAMP's Fifth Street property on November 7 was converted into an outdoor medical clinic with tents staffed by dozens of volunteers, who included student nurses from Humber College, qualified nurses and Dr. Noor Amin.

Dr. Amin said St. Joseph's Health Centre, where he works on a COVID-19 Assessment Team, is the only place in the community where residents can be tested for the pandemic that is free and does not require an appointment.

His was the supervising doctor at the LAMP outdoor clinic, ensuring all procedures went well.

"People are very appreciative to get the flu shots," Dr. Amin observed. "People were extremely happy and the line-up of people stretched around the block at intervals."

LAMP Executive Director Keddane Dias said by noon most of their 500 flu shots were gone.

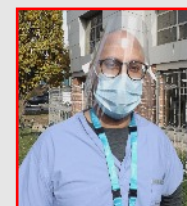
"We are pleased to open our clinic to better serve the community," Dias said. "People were very pleased to get their shots here."

Area residents kept streaming to the clinic for the shots during the nice sunny day.

"They are in and out of here in five minutes," said one volunteer. "It has been non-stop for some periods."

There was another outdoor vaccination site at 7 Junction Rd., at Riverside Cardiology and Diagnostic Imaging, in the Junction area.

Health Minister Christine Elliott said that before the pandemic began the Ontario government had been planning a massive flu shot campaign and in preparation for that ordered 5.1 million doses — 700,000 more than 2019.



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Fifty years since deadly Flight 621 crashed in Etobicoke

By DAVE KOSONIC

The skies above South Etobicoke have an innocent connection to the tragic crash of an Air Canada DC-8 jet that occurred near Brampton 50 years ago on July 1970 - claiming 109 lives. Captain Peter Hamilton and First Officer Wade Rowland were making a routine landing approach to Runway 32 at the then Toronto International Airport on a beautiful sunny Sunday morning just minutes before things started to go deadly wrong in the cockpit of Flight 621. The glide path to the runway went over main roadways including the Queen Elizabeth Way, Lakeshore Blvd. West and Dundas and Bloor Streets. The ill-fated jet also flew directly over Cloverdale Mall. The Douglas Aircraft jet registered as CF-T1W was about a minute from touchdown when Hamilton and



A DC 8 JET SIMILAR to this one crashed near Brampton in July 1970 claiming 109 lives. A family member (right) searches for a loved one. File photos.

Rowland became involved in a discussion over when to activate the wing spoilers, which are used to neutralize the lift of the aircraft as it touched down and ensure the plane would stop safely before the end of Runway 32, near Derry Road. Hamilton wanted to activate them upon touchdown, but Rowland insisted on pulling the spoiler lever at the height of about 60 feet above the runway, which led to everyone on board the flight losing their lives. This aircraft had departed from Montreal about 45 minutes earlier and after the scheduled Toronto stopover it would have proceeded to Los Angeles. Here are excerpts from the official cockpit voice transcripts just before the crash, that were released to the public. Hamilton to Rowland: "All right. Give it to me on the flare. I have given up. I am tired of fighting it." Moments later, when Rowland realized he had made a fatal decision, he said to Hamilton: "Sorry Pete!. "We've got an explosion." Hamilton states. Then an unknown voice: "We've lost a wing." Just before that, Hamilton made a split-second decision to abort the landing, fly another circuit and make a second landing attempt on Runway 32. But unfortunately

he didn't realize that he had lost an engine and most of a wing. His aircraft was no longer airworthy and slammed into the ground. The crash site was a devastating scene with aircraft wreckage, body parts and personal belongings strewn all over the place. Ironically one of the Flight 621 passengers lived in the Markland Woods area of Etobicoke, just south of the airport. The final approach path of the doomed aircraft went directly over this person's home about 500 feet in altitude. In 2013, a memorial site was officially opened for Flight 621 in the Castlemore area, north of Brampton, that includes the names of all who perished. One positive outcome to this sad event did occur. Orders were issued that required all in-service DC-8s to be modified so that wing spoilers could never again be prematurely activated by pilots before touchdowns.



Two high schoolers make cards of hope to cheer up residents

These high school students are creating cards of hope to cheer up neighbours. Grade 9 students Amelia and Alexis are bringing brightness and hope into the lives of others. The students at Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School have been busy making cards of hope to help lift the spirits of area residents during



these challenging and uncertain times. The friends have been busy recently with water colours and designing cards



GRADE 9 STUDENTS Amelia and Alexis and some of their cards of hope. Courtesy photos.

of hope as their classmates do other activities. The idea came from LAMP's Community Relations Committee to share cards of hope and bring some cheer into the lives of others. It did not take long before the girls were bringing the concept to life.

LAMP will be offering card-making activities and packages in the near future. "Kudos and high fives to these thoughtful volunteers," says LAMP's Jasmin Dooh. "They are bringing hope and lifting spirits in the Lakeshore. Much gratitude to them."



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Hearing the lovely birds again

Life-long area resident Brian Fortner had forgotten of one of life's pleasures, the singing of songbirds, until he recently received a new hearing aid.

Fortner, 70, is a recipient of a Hearing Life Campaign for Better Hearing, at 2905 Lake Shore Blvd. W., which sponsored and donated his tiny hearing aid, which is valued around



BRIAN FORTNER can hear the birds again with new hearing aid. He has been working with Specialist Sandra Przepiorka.

\$6,000.

"I received a flyer in the mail advertising a free hearing test," he says. "I obtained a test and didn't realize that my hearing

was failing."

Fortner at that time could not fully hear or appreciate the singing birds.

"I can now hear the birds chirping in the trees for the first time in years and didn't realize how loud they are and how nice they sing," he smiles. "I can even hear the neighbours complaining and talking. Before I couldn't hear that."

The deluxe Oticon OPN S hearing aid fits in the palm of a hand and is barely detectable when worn.

"It is light, comfortable and has changed my life," Fortner insists. "Before the sounds were muffled and distant."

The area resident, who at one time worked on the Motel Strip, near Park Lawn Rd., and Lake Shore Blvd. W., didn't realize how loud he tuned his television and can now hear instruments he never heard being played in his favourite tunes.

Hearing Instrument Specialist Sandra Przepiorka, a clinician, nominated Fortner for a Hearing Life Campaign for Better Hearing, which meant he stood to obtain a free hearing aid if he was selected.

"He is very lucky and was the recipient of the free devices," Przepiorka says. "Hearing Life Canada offers free hearing tests to anyone who requests them."

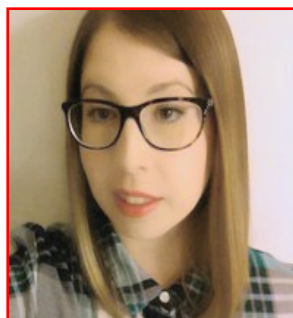
The company says nearly half of all Canadians over 60-years-old suffer from hearing loss and are urged to obtain free hearing tests and risk-free hearing aid trials nationwide.

They point to a recent report by The Lancet, one of the world's most prestigious medical journals, which found that people in midlife, ages 45 to 65, have nearly twice the risk of developing dementia due to hearing loss, relative to those without hearing loss.

Their research shows connections between hearing loss and other serious health problems. Most of the nearly 250 HearingLife centres are open with COVID-19 safety measures in place and you can book a free hearing test by calling 1-888-927-0548 or visit www.hearinglife.ca.



LAMP honours residents in annual Award of Merit winners



CORIN De Sousa

A new community barber and a long-time organization that assists seniors are among those selected as LAMP Award of Merit Winners for their work in helping others.

Bruce Buchanan and volunteers Millie, Patricia, Kathy, Carol, Shanty and Tina from Storefront Humber have been selected for their important work in helping our seniors.

Village Mosaic-Fontbonne Ministries and Sisters of St. Joseph were also named as top



GILL DUGAS (left) and hubby at LAMP event. She also belongs to the Rotary Club and Kiwanis Kingsway.

organizations.

Barber Andy Dinner, of Your Neighbourhood Barbershop, is being honoured by LAMP Community Health Centre for his work in the area. He is named in the business section, even though his shop is now closed for 28-days in a fight against COVID-19.

Corin De Sousa, of Mindful Awareness, a local business was selected for the respected list

compiled by the Fifth Street agency. Their list includes Andrea Linton, Gill Dugas, Kathy Dow, Lee Shima-no, Pastor Russell Job Umandap and Wayne O'Brien.

Honorable Mention goes to Home Hardware Mimico, Nelson Certified Auto Repair and a Special Shout Out to Kinsu Warsame.

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD Barbershop is recognized.



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"Where passion and tradition come out in our dishes!"

Trying Dope as Duck and bagels by Kettlemans

Chef Raymond Costain says the COVID-19 has forced him to park his food truck and rent a storefront takeout location to sell his popular duck and Mac meals.

There is no doubt that Costain loves duck meat, since it forms many of his dishes, which includes duck and Mac and Cheese, he sells at Dope As Duck storefront location in Long Branch.

Costain, who is from the Parkdale area, has been using his truck to sell his tasty food at shows and festivals around town for three years, before the business dried up due to



CHEF RAYMOND COSTAIN (right) WITH assistant (in both photos) show some of their dishes at Dope As Duck takeout. Photos by Tom Godfrey.

the virus. The truck is now parked.

"We knew some people in the area and that is how we found this place," he says of his location at 125 Twenty Seventh Street, close to the Beer Store in Long Branch.

"We are new and have been welcomed with open arms by people in the community." He and his staff have been sharing their food with the neighbours so they can get a taste.

His business does not have sit down service and is classified as a pickup and delivery.

They can remain open and are not required to be closed as part of a 28-day anti-COVID lockdown ordered by the province.

The food was quite good and better than you would expect from a now parked food truck. The duck and Mac was tasty and quite mouth-wateringly good.

They were an award winner at the 2019 North America's largest Mac and Cheese Festival that brings together hundreds of fans under one roof to try signature dishes and ooey-gooey cheesy menus.

Also served are pork Mac and Cheese, pulled pork sandwich, Mocha Macchiato Churro Donut, very tasty 14-hour Slow Braised Beef Brisket, Chicken Tinga Taco Topped with Pickled Shallots Salsa Verde and Chipotle Lime Crema and Mountain Gold Wildflower Honey Garlic Ginger Wings.

Dope As Duck is located at 125 Twenty Seventh Street and you can reach them at 647-939-5719 or dopeasduckfoodtruck@gmail.com



KETTLEMANS BAGELS are all baked by hand in front of excited customers.

Area residents have been lining up to purchase Montreal-style Kettlemans bagels by the boxes since the store opened last month on Alderwood. Kettlemans has long been a favourite of Ottawa-area residents, who swear it is the best bagel in Canada.

The store has 120 team members at its 847 Brown's Line location, next to Farm Boy, who are busy catering to takeout and delivery orders.

"We're proud to be an Etobicoke business," Kettlemans says on their website.

"The community's support since our grand opening has made us grateful for the positive response that we have received from our patrons."

The bagel house prides itself on being an open-concept store "where you can see them hand rolling the bagels."

This is their first Toronto-area store and it has been getting good reviews from fans. "We went last Saturday. Lined up outside. Everyone was good, wearing masks," Leigh Anne Siebert wrote on social media. "Love these bagels. Bought three dozen and drove back to Niagara."

Eugene Tkachenko says "we haven't had good bagels in Etobicoke for years. Hopefully you guys can fix it."

"Woohoo! Can't wait to come by!" vows Anne-Marie Marais. "That plaza just keeps getting better and better."

"Have been waiting for you to open. Best wishes for much success," Lavoie writes. The store is open 24 hours and can be contacted at 416-519-4884.



THE BIG GUY'S LITTLE COFFEE SHOP, at 2861 Lake Shore Blvd. W., is using the services of a community artist this Christmas to hand-paint all their coffee bags into creative works of art. At this shop: "Every pound of coffee will also be a piece of art." Order and they deliver. Call 647-297-7416.

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Remembrance Day to say thanks



MARKING REMEMBRANCE DAY are Councillor Mark Grimes (left), Royal Canadian Legion members, Branch 101, and MP James Maloney (right).

About 100 socially-distancing residents showed up in New Toronto for sombre Remembrance Day ceremonies in front of the former Eight Street Cenotaph. The Cenotaph was a fixture for annual November 11 events for decades in front of the former Royal Canadian Legion Branch 101, at 150 Eighth Street. It was recently moved to Col. Samuel Smith Park, on Lake Shore Blvd. W., just east of Kipling Ave.

Members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 643 performed the service to remember those who lost their lives in battle and made the ultimate sacrifice. Residents attending the hour-long service were wearing masks. It was a respectful and low-keyed ceremony as those gathered recited Flanders Fields; watched quietly as wreaths were laid at the foot of the Cenotaph and a benediction said for those who gave their lives.

"It was a beautiful service," admits Brian Tye, who was there to pay respect to his dad. "It has been a while since I have seen something like this. It was fantastic."

Donna Sampson, president of Branch 643, was pleased with the service.

"We didn't advertise. People just came out to pay their respects," Sampson says. Many in the community welcome the new site for the Cenotaph, which was a gift from the community when laid outside the former Branch 101 almost 40-years ago. Chris Korwin-Kuczynski was there to lay a wreath on behalf of the Lake Shore Village Business Improvement Area (BIA), which he chairs.

"Plans are already being made for a sunrise service next year right here," he says. Councillor Mark Grimes said landscaping will be done to beautify the site and a paved walkway is being added.

Ian recalls the military exploits of Gramps 'Mac' and dad Jack, an officer who served in the RCAF

By IAN S. ROBERTSON

As snowflakes began to blanket lawns, sidewalks, trees and shrubbery on Nov. 22, I smiled at the thought of bright red floral wreaths laid 11 days earlier on memorials to Canadians we honour.

It matters not where I saw those commendations on Nov. 11, for despite current times when social distancing kept many from joining services at monuments and at Royal Canadian Legion branches across the country, good hearts remained true.

I thought of that after snow began landing on my favourite wide-brimmed hat, the one displaying a black-eyed poppy.



Most people wear one briefly each year. For my own reasons, I keep mine on year-round, except on Nov. 11. On that day

each year, I replace it with an older one whose green center has special meaning.

And so it is for my memories of two special men in my life.

One, Archibald 'Mac' Macdonald (1898-1973), volunteered during the First World War in Scotland, then served in European trenches.

Near Evans Ave. and Royal York Rd., a sepia-tone picture of him standing in front of a stone wall, wearing a uniform tunic and hat, hangs on my living room wall.

His trousers and shoes were not military issue, and the shadow of washing on a line is another clue to the photo being taken outside his Glasgow tenement

home before emigrating to Canada in the late 1920s.

A bank teller who became a chartered accountant after studying at McGill University in Montreal, Gramps rarely spoke of his military time. Only once, after a bountiful

Christmas dinner, he told me several stories, including of a rare get-together with German soldiers one Dec. 24.

My Montreal-born Dad also didn't talk much about his experiences, so for years, I assumed his wartime military life was less-arduous, since he was a Royal Canadian Air Force accounts officer and paymaster.

A military photograph of Flight-Lieutenant John William 'Jack' Robertson (1910-1992) hangs on a living room wall.

His service ribbons indicate the portrait was taken while he was still in the RCAF, which he spent 13 years with after volunteering in 1939.

He was based at a Manchester RCAF station used to debrief pilots. Dad introduced me to his pals from the base. I have a special, small but important extra way to remember him. My November 11 poppy is the last one he wore.



IAN'S DAD FLT.-LIEUT. John William 'Jack' Robertson (above) and Grampa Archibald 'Mac' Macdonald. **Family photos.**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Thank you to our businesses for decorating the trees! Judging takes place on **December 5th**.

There will be prizes awarded to businesses for first, second and third place for the best-decorated Christmas trees.

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HOW TO WIN: Enjoy a meal or make a purchase along Lakeshore Blvd W from First to Twelfth Street, or let us know about a business you love! Gift cards count too. Check out the directory to make sure you're within the BIA area. Save your receipt. Winners will be contacted by the BIA.

Send a photo of the receipt to lakeshorebia@gmail.com

Contest runs until December 20. Thank you for Shopping the Shore and supporting our local small businesses!

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Sign up for our newsletter at enjoytheshore.ca or follow us on Social Media to find out more ways to support the Lakeshore Village BIA and our local businesses. See [Page 16](#) for a list of BIA places to shop on the 'Shore.

A new OPP program to locate wandering seniors

We often hear stories of elderly neighbours in our community who are prone to wandering.



HELP protect your loved ones.

The Connect Protect Program provides OPP officers 24-hour access to a subscriber's photo, identifying information, past wandering history, triggers, de-escalation techniques and other medical information.

Well, so have police. The OPP say they have partnered with MedicAlert Foundation Canada to better keep track and assist officers in interactions with vulnerable persons.

This way if a loved one is reported wandering, officers can access their history and learn about the person to bring them home safely to their families. "This service is ideal for vulnerable persons who may wander, such as those with Alzheimer's or autism, as well as for those living with conditions that predispose them to certain characteristics," the OPP said in a release due to ongoing concerns.



NEW OPP PROGRAM to keep track and assist in finding wandering seniors.

The force stressed that the characteristics can be "misinterpreted by the law as defiance or aggression or intoxication, brain injury or mental health concerns." The program also helps those with a medical condition that "requires immediate and focused attention in an emergency." The OPP said those who live in their jurisdiction, or where the MedicAlert Connect Protect service is available, can benefit from the service, along with their family and loved ones. You can register your loved one at <http://opp.ca/medicalert>. Radio frequency technology, and traceable bracelets, which uses a transmitter are also used by police to help locate dementia and other patients. You can also reach the OPP by calling a general inquiry line at 705 329-6111.

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Health & Wellness

By ADRIANNE SZABO-PAYNE

Over the past couple of weeks, with all the lockdowns and challenges I am currently facing as a small business owner in the middle of a pandemic, a small dark cloud seemed to form over my head. It would follow me around and sprinkle me with tears every once in a while, when it would overflow. Finally, this week, as we said goodbye to our members for another 28 days, I told the cloud it was time to go. In times like this when I seem to be resonating at a lower frequency, I must take a step back and check myself to see what I need to do to raise my frequency. When our frequency is low, we attract negative energy, which tends to come with a whole world of problems. For some, it can feel like carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders. If you are trying to change your course in life, it is very difficult to do so when you resonate at a lower frequency than happy and successful people. One of things I like to do to help me raise my frequency is laugh therapy. When you laugh heartily for a good several minutes, your heart and lungs get a great workout and your core muscles get stimulated. You may even find yourself tired and out of breath after a good laugh session. Laughter also activates the brain to release endorphins (the feel-good hormone), which promotes a homeostatic effect in the body, in turn helping the body heal itself. Frequent rolling laughter can help lower the body's stress response by lowering blood pressure and heart rate and has the power to make you forget about what is getting your down and stressed. The best part is, you don't need a

prescription for laughter. It can be done anywhere, at anytime (except maybe in church or at the library). Incorporating laugh therapy into your daily routine can also help to boost your immune system through the regular release of endorphins and the calming effect it has on the body. It raises the body's overall frequency to help block out lower resonating frequencies associated with depression and disease. It will also improve your overall mood and outlook on life, and has anti-aging effects to boot. Who knew that laughing daily would take years off your face! So, as we head into the colder darker days of winter, consider setting a daily appointment in your calendar to spend some time laughing. Five or ten minutes should do it. Set a laugh date via Zoom with a few friends when you share funny stories or your favourite jokes. Remember that laughing is contagious – probably the only good thing to catch these days, so you just need one person to get started and it won't take long before the whole group is on the floor laughing.

To help you get started, I leave you with a joke:
Instead of "the John," I call my toilet "the Jim." That way it sounds better when I say I go to the Jim first thing every morning.

Reach Adrianne

@monkeytreefitness on Facebook;

#monkeytreefitnesswellness on

Instagram or

www.monkeytreewellness.com



Money Matters

By RATTAN GANDHI

Hello Readers: In the past I have addressed this column to ordinary people, but in this article I am focusing on businesses.

This epidemic has caused a significant upheaval and in lots of ways has forced one to rethink the business model as to how one delivers the products and services offered. This rethink should look at all aspects of your business model. Let us start up by looking at all cash outflows. It is the expense necessary to maintain and enhance your business. Can some capital expenditures be deferred to some future date without sacrificing the business?

Does your business have on-line presence? Online buying; online banking? Inventory levels are they inline with the peaks and valleys of your business? Are you availing yourself to the discounts without compromising cash flow? Is your floor space too big or too small? If you have a website is it working for you and are you soliciting reviews from your customers or clients. Are you active on social media? Get professional help if needed. Evaluate on your business on an ongoing basis.

Now let me focus on the various programs that are offered by the various levels of government to help during this epidemic. To avail these programs one needs to have online account with Canada Revenue Agency. The Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy or CER, is retroactive from September 27 and available until December.

Depending on the revenue decline, the subsidy ranges from 20% to 65%

covering commercial rent, commercial property taxes, property insurance and commercial mortgage interest.

The CRA website has a worksheet with all the details. This replaces the expired CECRA, whose net cost to the business was 25%.

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, or CEWS, is effective from March 15 to December 19, with a deadline of application on January 31, 2021. This program provides employers with 75% of the employees' remuneration and requires a 15% to 30% year-over-year revenue reduction.

Under Canada Emergency Business Account, or CEBA, businesses can apply for a loan for \$40,000 and an additional \$20,000 through your bank. If the \$40,000 is paid by December 31, the remaining \$20,000 is forgiven.

In addition there is the Ontario Government/ Municipality which announced a Property Tax and Energy Cost Rebate Grants in the 2020 Budget along with a PPE grant up to \$1,000 with certain businesses with 2 to nine employees. Details are available on the Government of Ontario web page.

The City of Toronto has a Digital Transformation Grant of \$2500 available through Digital Main Street to establish or enhance your company's online presence.

Rattan Gandhi is owner of Quick Refund Tax, 133 Sixth St. His opinions stem from 15 years of experience in helping clients in the tax area. If you have questions, he can be reached at 905-616-5253 or rattangandhi@gmail.com.

Great Lakes Brewery and Daily Bread join forces to end hunger

It's that time of year again!

Great Lakes Brewery (GLB) and their customers are again fighting to end hunger in our communities this year with the annual Hops for Hunger campaign in support of the Daily Bread Food Bank.

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GLB HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE
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The popular craft brewery is working with Daily Bread to raise funds for their hunger relief efforts, while gathering much-needed food donations and lifting community spirit.

"I and the team at GLB look forward to this campaign each December," says Peter Bulut, Owner and President of GLB. "Community means the world to us at the brewery and giving back to those who need it the most is the least we can do at this time of the year."

Great Lakes has a 12-year relationship with the Food Bank as they continue to feed the needy in and around the City of Toronto, Bulut notes. From December 3, any customers who purchases a can of 'Daily Bread White Eggnog Stout' will contribute \$1 to the food bank. Customers can purchase and drink a delicious well-crafted beer and help the community at the same time, he says.

"We brewed White Eggnog Stout in support of Daily Bread in 2018 and it continues to be very

well-received each holiday season," says Bulut.

GLB is introducing a second brew, 'Belgian Winter Ale', as part of this year's campaign. Cans of these specialty beers sell for \$4 each and are available through the GLB online shop at greatlakesbeer.com for free local delivery. Customers can purchase White Eggnog Stout or Belgian Winter Ale at the GLB retail store, at 30 Queen Elizabeth Blvd. One dollar from each can sold, of either brand, will be donated to Daily Bread.

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Two traffic speeding cameras moved to the streets of Mimico

Mimico motorists be aware!

The City of Toronto is rotating its array of traffic speeding cameras and two are now installed on Mimico streets to catch lead-footed speeders.

The penny-pinching cameras were moved from other locations and are now operating on Mimico Ave., just west of Station Rd., and Stanley Ave., near Elizabeth St., according to the City's website.



The 50 Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) systems are being rotated to other locations this month. They were installed last July and so far almost 10,000 speeding tickets, and in excess of 9,700 fines, have been issued by mail.

The City said once the systems begin enforcing, the appropriate signs will be posted. The systems are installed on local, collector and arterial roads in Community Safety Zones near schools. There are two systems per ward to ensure an even distribution.

The ASE systems are mobile and are rotated every three to six months in each ward, according to the City.

"This provides an opportunity to address a greater number of areas with safety concerns and provide a wider-ranging deterrent effect," according to the site.

"Coming soon" warning signs will be posted 90 days before ticketing begins at any new ASE location and warning letters will not be issued.

The locations are selected through a data-driven approach that considers speed and collision data.

The ASE uses a camera and a speed measurement device to detect and capture images of vehicles travelling in excess of the posted speed limit. It is designed to work in tandem with other methods and strategies, including engineering measures, education initiatives and traditional police enforcement.

The images are reviewed by Provincial Offence Officers and then tickets are issued to the owner of the vehicle regardless of who was driving. Upon conviction, the only penalty is a fine – no demerit points will be issued nor will the registered owners driving record be impacted.

Since the devices began ticketing last July, the number of tickets issued each month has decreased. In the first month, from July 6 to Aug. 5, some 22,301 tickets were mailed with 2,239 repeat offenders. In the second month, from Aug. 6 to Sept. 5, the city says 15,175 tickets were mailed out with 1,198 repeat offenders. In the third month, 9,719 fines were issued, with 604 repeat offenders.

Custodia helping our businesses

A local businessman is digging deep this Christmas season to help small businesses in South Etobicoke.



WHITLOCK

Geoff Whitlock, the Founder and CEO of Custodia Seniors Support, has donated full pages of advertising in the next three issues of the South Etobicoke News to the Lake Shore Village BIA, so they can help promote their member businesses along the Lake Shore Blvd. W. strip from First to Twelfth Sts. See Page 16.

"People are suffering right here in our community," Whitlock says. "It is up to all of us to help if we can."

The names of 32 businesses, their addresses, and specialities are listed in an easy-to-read format so area residents can support their local stores, restaurants and bars, in addition to the many salons and spas shut for 28 days to fight COVID-19.

The businesses that are shut or scaled back will reopen with about five days left before Christmas Day, during which time they would have lost holiday sales.

You can reach Custodia at 1-833-410-HELP (4357) or www.custodia.com.



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From the Bench

By Retired Judge Lloyd Budzinski

For 28 years I worked as an Ontario court judge after growing up and attending schools right here in our community.

I have lived in south Etobicoke since the age of three. I went to schools in Long Branch and New Toronto like many other residents, before studying law.

My father at one time owned Boulevard Fish and Chips in Long Branch and I grew up helping him in the business. It was a great way to learn about life and people.

It was a long journey to finally be appointed a Judge. I had practised criminal law in Etobicoke and Mississauga as a Crown Attorney, then defence counsel and advanced to become eventually Ontario's Assistant Deputy Minister of Criminal Law.

I was appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice in 1992 after being called to the Ontario Bar in 1971. I was appointed Queen's Counsel, (Q.C.) in 1982.

As the Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, I was responsible for developing and administering a \$80 million budget for 700 lawyers and support people.

I also oversaw the implementation of Domestic and Elder Abuse protocols, first Diversion Policies in Ontario; implementation of the Victim Witness Program and new protocols in regards to Nursing Home Prosecutions.

What I have noticed over the years is that people seldom tell a judge the truth. People are frightened that if they give an honest answer I would hold it against them.

I admit that only my wife and children feel free to criticize or tell me to change my shoes, or that I am wrong. I crave honesty.

I find that many people misunderstand the criminal justice system and in my retirement I want to share some of my experiences and how I learned to search for the truth.

I have literally presided over hundreds of cases over the years and when the gavel drops at the end of the day I am a human being just like you.

I take out the garbage on Tuesdays - my wife challenges that statement. I like to lie on the couch watching Saturday Night Hockey with a can of Molson's. I have likes and dislikes and I have had my share, though not many, of parking and speeding tickets.

I have opinions on many things, including my beloved Leafs', interpretation of our laws and challenges women and minorities may face in our justice system.

One of the important lessons I have learned is biases. They aren't allowed on the Bench. I am constantly aware that a mistake caused by a lack of objectivity or fairness can mean the loss of someone's liberty.

It means that everyone who testified before me, no matter what I know from the past, or how that person may dress or speak is presumed to be telling the truth unless the evidence proves otherwise.

If you have a legal question you can e-mail it to Judge Lloyd Budzinski in care of the South Etobicoke News at thesouthetobicokenews@gmail.com

Judge Lloyd Budzinski retired after 28 years and was a former Crown Attorney, Defence Counsel and Ontario's Assistant Deputy Minister of Criminal Law.

He was Chief Prosecutor in the high-profile trial of former RCMP officer Patrick Michael Kelly, who was found guilty of murder for throwing his wife from the 17th-floor balcony of their Palace Pier condo in March 1981.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all our front-line workers and those serving our community this holiday.

From The South Etobicoke News

Stress less - Tip from The Healing Muse



Did you know marjoram is a super calming herb.

*It is easy to find in most grocery stores in the produce aisle. Take some home. Crush it, inhale fresh from the bowl or mortar and pestle, then brew into a tea with lemon juice and honey. You will feel calmer.

*Walking is good for your blood pressure, circulation and physical strength. It is good for clearing your head. Try a walking meditation next time you are out. Walk for at least 10-minutes as follows As you step and inhale, for each step inhaling say the words YES, YES, YES. For the exhalation, with each step say Than you, Thank you.

Visit Monika at The Healing Muse Apothecary, 2859 Lake Shore Blvd. W., 416-347-5449 or healingmuse.com

The Seaway Hotel was a hit with city folks for 38 years

By DAVE KOSONIC

During its heyday the former Seaway Hotel at 2000 Lakeshore Blvd. W., had gained a following due to the building's sleek and innovative modern design that was a hit with Toronto residents. The Seaway designers received a prestigious award for

Sources indicate that the Seaway originated from the Sunnyside Motor Hotel, near the popular Sunnyside Amusement Park, which in its heyday was a top Toronto hotspot. During its era, the Seaway experienced many interesting twists-and-turns. The original structure was three storeys tall and a 12-floor tower was added in 1963 that greatly increased the number of rooms.

This facility became extremely popular during the post-war years as the demand for motel-style accommodations steadily grew in an era of the popularity of the motorcar.

The designers stretched the Seaway horizontally so that guests could enjoy a southerly view over Lake Ontario and enjoy the lights at night. Passersby recall that the structure was painted white with the exception of the dark Roman red bricks at the ends of the building.

The white Seaway Hotel sign, which later changed to the Seaway Towers Motor Hotel, was quite visible as customers were looking for this place.

The atmosphere at the Seaway was enhanced by wraparound balconies, a rooftop patio and swimming pool. Its restaurant, enclosed in glass as well as a lounge, and banquet hall attracted many patrons. An elaborate green marble stairway led to a discreet bar.

The food and beverage servers at the Seaway were very classy and sophisticated and always wore nice-looking

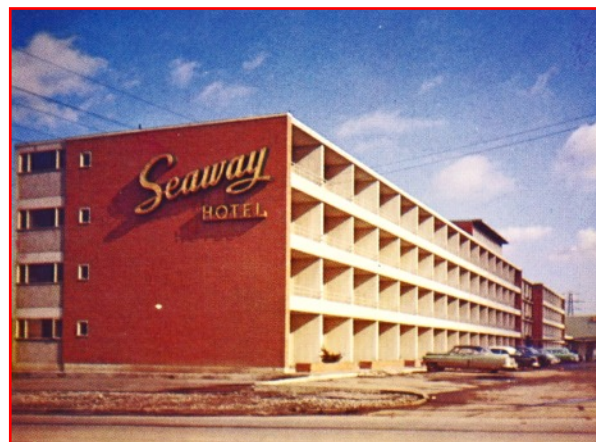


THE HOTEL WAS WELL BEFORE ITS TIME and went through a number of phases over its 38 years.

finely-tailored outfits. But as the saying goes – all good things must come to an end.

Upon the Seaway demolition and the completion of the replacement Gardiner on-ramp, a new structure was constructed nearby. It is known as the Four Points By Sheraton Toronto Lakeshore Hotel, located at 1926 Lakeshore Blvd. W.

On a personal note. I took my high school sweetheart on a special date to the former Seaway on her birthday back in the day for a fancy dinner in the dining room. Guess I was trying to impress her. The legal age to consume alcohol then was 21 and neither of us had reached that magic number. But the server just told us not to tell anyone and he gave us each a nice little glass of wine.



THE SEAWAY HOTEL WAS the place to be at one time in Toronto before it was demolished. File photos.

their architectural skills during the 38 years the hotel operated on the shores of Lake Ontario.

Completed in 1954, the former Seaway Hotel was described as one of the 'first truly Modernist motor hotels in Canada.'

"Its crisp, clean lines eschewed the kitschy themes of the time and earned architects Ants Elken and R.W. Becksted a 1955 Massey Silver Medal," records show. This landmark building opened in 1955 and was demolished in 1993 to make space for an on-ramp to the Gardiner Expressway East.

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Looking after yourself and others in the community

DEC. 3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

MEETING in regards to a proposal to build a 13-storey hotel at 2157 Lake Shore Blvd. W., With 165 suites. Virtual meeting from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. For more information and view visit toronto.ca

DEC. 5 BRANDING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT by Women Empowered STEAM Workshop from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. learn from professionals in the industry via ZOOM with **Nadia Headley**, 2114 Consultant, and **Tiff Lee**, of Heart Strong. For more contact the Jean Augustine Centre at 416-253-9797 or visit www.jeanaugustinecentre.ca

DEC. 7 ETOBICOKE CAMERA CLUB PRESENTS Rob Stimpson as he presents *Creating Images That Tell a Story* from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. \$10 for non-members through eventbrite.ca, purchase tickets from the ECC Facebook

page: <https://www.facebook.com/etobcc>. For a full schedule or to join the club go to <http://etobicokecameraclub.org>.

DEC. 8 LAMP WELLNESS WORKSHOPS at 2 p.m. Mindfulness Meditation and Wellness.Holiday Wellness Environmental Sustainability specializing in contemplative studies and humane living. To register please contact Jasmin Dooh at jasmind@lampchc.org or 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

LAMP EMERGENCY FOOD TAKE OUT meals continues to be offered Monday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m..

DEC. 9 IS FINAL DAY FOR THE ETOBICOKE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS application deadline. The school is only open to students with an M postal code and audition will take place in virtual format. January 15 is Virtual Audition Day. For further information contact Vice-principal Peter Farquharson at **416-394-2001** or peter.farquharson@tdsb.on.ca Visit the school website to apply and obtain answers to your questions at www.esainfo.ca/admissions

FREE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLING for infants, children, youth and families by phone or video,

no fees or appointments. Qualified counsellors available Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Contact 1-866-585-6486.

ETOBICOKE SERVICES FOR SENIORS (ESS) grocery delivery program. Step 1 register and place order. Step 2 ESS will pick up grocery and deliver to your door. It will cost the price of your groceries and a \$3.50 delivery fee. Call 416-243-0127 ext. 555.

KIWANIS KINGSWAY HUMBER COVID RELIEF FUND to help charities in Etobicoke and residents who are in urgent need for funding. Our COVID Relief Fund is set up to help those organizations. Visit <https://bit.ly/3du5fSU> or www.kingswaykiwanishumber.com

FREE SOUP ON SUNDAY TAKES PLACE EVERY SUNDAY between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. at St. Margaret's Anglican Church, at 156 Sixth Street. Free piping hot soup packed in individual Styrofoam containers ready for take-out and go when you show up.

DEC. 11 TORONTO POLICE 22 DIVISION AND THE GRILLE have joined forces to raise toys or funds to help those in need. Drop off an unwrapped toy at The Grille restaurant, at 1596 The Queensway. It all goes to help those in need at Haven on The Queensway.

DEC. 12 GREAT LAKES BREWERY IS URGING customers to fight hunger and stop by the brewery, located at 30 Queen Elizabeth Blvd., with non-perishable food items between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Staff will gather donations from the parking lot and sort food into bins to be delivered to Daily Bread food bank.

DEC. 13 TORONTO POLICE 22 Division officers will be collecting toys and non-perishable food for area charities that will help the needy. Officers will be in the Markland Woods area trying to fill a police vehicle with donated goodies as part of annual Christmas campaign.

EVERY TUESDAY UNTIL DECEMBER 15 AT LAMP HANDLE WITH CARE from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. group

Zoom interactive program to help parents and caregivers promote the mental health of the children in their lives. To register email **Madison** at MBanks@the519.org or handlewithcarecanada.org

WARM CLOTHING DRIVE IN SUPPORT of Haven on The Queensway in need of gently used warm clothing for men, women and children. New socks and underwear for men and women, personal hygiene items and clean, gently used winter footwear. Items can be dropped off at Haven every Monday to Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 1533 The Queensway. If you cannot get there contact Councillor **Mark Grimes** office at 416-397-9273 for pickup.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP AT THE SALVATION ARMY, on Thirtieth Street, at this time of the year. More than 800 area families this year will receive Christmas assistance. Please consider donating. Foodbank available. Contact **Jennifer** at 416-251-8372 ext. 101.

STONEGATE CHC IS SEEKING donations of \$22 each for The Good Food Box that contains fresh fruits and vegetables that are given to local families in need during COVID-19. For info or donate contact Stonegate at 416-231-7070 ext. 229 or give online at www.stonegatechc.org. Located at 10 Neighbourhood Lane, Unit 201.

LAMP IS SUPPORTING LAMP clients with food, new clothing, toys and essential care items. Donations can be made online at www.lampchc.org to provide food vouchers and gift certificates for those in need this holiday season. Choose a program you would like to support <https://lampchc.org/get-involved/donate/> Covid-19 Food and Emergency Relief.

LAMP CLIENTS ARE ELIGIBLE to receive fresh fruit and vegetables due to a donation from the Ontario Produce Association. Some turkeys and ham also available from donation by Feed Canada. Contact Jasmin Dooh at 4-6-252-6471 ext. 30 or by email jasmind@lampchc.org

Ontario invests in retraining military veterans

The Ontario government is investing \$511,100 in a Pathways to Post-Military Employment program to support the return of 180 military veterans and reservists to civilian life.

This program, administered by non-profit organization Helmets to Hardhats Canada, will help veterans draw on their skills and experience and connect them with good jobs in the construction industry. Details were provided last month by Premier Doug Ford, Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development, and Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance, at Interior Finishing Systems Training Centre in Woodbridge.

"During Remembrance Week, we pause to salute the men and women in uniform who left their families to defend our country and protect the values we hold dear," said Ford. "Today, many veterans are struggling as they leave active service and transition back into civilian life."

He said it is time to help them train for new well-paying and rewarding second careers.

Pathways to Post-Military Employment will offer jobs matching with employers in the construction sector, provide formal skills evaluations and support on-the-job training. It will provide opportunities for veterans and reservists in several fields, including skilled trades, management, administration, planning, scheduling, logistics, security, engineering, and accounting.

"For the many sacrifices men and women in the military make to keep Canadians safe, we owe a debt of gratitude," said McNaughton. "This program, which pairs former military personnel looking for work with jobs in a sector seeking new talent, is not only great news for our veterans, it's great news for their families."

"Taken together, these initiatives

will help job seekers, particularly those hardest hit by COVID-19, get the skills they need," said Phillips. "This training supports workers and employers alike." The government's 2020 Budget, Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover, includes the Skilled Trades Strategy and an additional investment of \$180.5 million in employment services and training programs to connect workers in the industries most likely to face a skills shortage.

Ontario's Skilled Trades Strategy will make investments in training and retraining workers impacted by COVID-19 will provide them with the necessary, valuable skills for in-demand jobs.

Since launching in 2012, Helmets to Hardhats has



A CLASS OF STUDENTS (right) watch as Veterans lay wreaths on Remembrance Day at the base of the Eight Street Cenotaph, that was moved to Col. Samuel Smith Park. **Photos by Tom Godfrey.**



placed 1,040 veterans into well-paying construction industry jobs as they start their second careers. There are about 639,000 veterans in Canada, with 232,000 in Ontario.

The program is in partnership with Canada's Building Trades Unions, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, the Electrical Power Systems Construction Association, the Construction Labour Relations Association of Ontario, Veterans Emergency Transition Services Canada, the Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command and Good Shepherd Ministries.

Realtor settles in Alderwood and seeks to unite businesses

Realtor Marta Pozniakowski loves the Alderwood area so much that she purchased an old laundromat and spent thousands to convert it into a spacious expresso bar and real estate office.

The laundromat, which has been a fixture for decades in a small plaza besides Il Paesano Pizza, at Brown's Line and Horner Ave., took about a year to renovate with new fixtures, floors, walls, in addition to many other tasks undertaken, to bring it up to modern standards. The office is now Re Max Equinox Espresso Bar Namaste, at 392 Brown's Line, which features a pleasant barista who serves some delicious expresso coffee. The mother of two young kids and Broker of Record for Re Max opened up her business soon after COVID-19

struck earlier this year. "In one day the whole world, my schedule, kid's schedule, work and business plans went down the garbage," she says. "I re-



ment Area (BIA) so companies can unite for opportunities.

"There are many more opportunities as a BIA that is available to us," she vows. "We are talking about it and trying to get it off the ground."

Before obtaining her real estate license, she founded the Polish Film Festival, which has been staged annually for 12-years.

"This is the only year that we have not had a Polish Film Festival, due to the pandemic," she notes. "We have been operating the successful festival since 2008."

The festival has attracted some major Canadian and European film stars over the years.

Pozniakowski has always been interested in movies and is proud to have graduated from film school in her native Poland, before moving to Canada in 2007. She is married to prominent dentist Dr. Jack Pozniakowski, who has been in practice for more than 25-years in the New Toronto area.



REALTOR MARTA POZNIAKOWSKI converted an old laundromat at Brown's Line and Horner Ave. into modern offices for herself and created a much-needed expresso bar favoured by community residents.

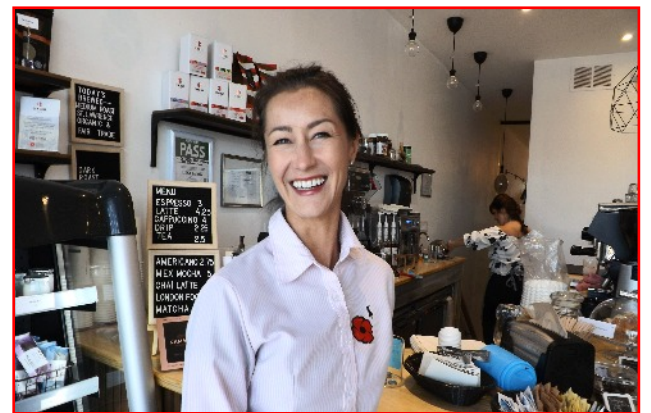
Photos by Tom Godfrey.

ally feel like a super woman, after the last few months, juggling my business, new ventures and a busy household with active children."

She sells commercial real estate and is now accepting more clients in search of residential properties.

"I see so much potential in the Alderwood real estate market," Pozniakowski says smiling. "Someday I will be the biggest realtor in the area."

Her company is one of the newest in the community and already the realtor is working with other businesses to establish a Brown's Line Business Improve-



POZNIAKOWSKI LOVES THE ALDERWOOD area and is investing in the community where she plans to raise her family and grow her real estate business.

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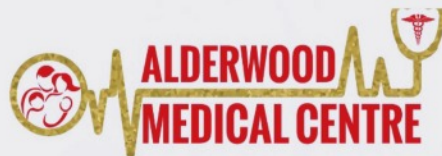
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