

The South Etobicoke News

Web: www.torontonewswire.com Email: thesouthetobicokenews@gmail.com Number 26 Buy local. Live local.

Not a happy New Year for small businesses

"Big Box stores packed with shoppers as small businesses are forced to close for the lockdown."



THE OWNERS OF MI BODY (above) win second place for their Christmas Tree, as BIA's Rattan Gandhi (centre) promotes shopping locally as storeowner Chirag Patel, explains why businesses are suffering and struggling to make it.

Our residents and small businesses are hurting on just about every Main Street in South Etobicoke. A second provincial government lockdown continues until January 23, when it is expected the City will begin identifying workplaces with COVID-19 infections. "Our businesses are hurting big time and most people don't know what to do," warns Rattan Gandhi, Treasurer of the Lake Shore Village Business Improvement Area (BIA). Merchants complain that due to COVID-19 there are less people shopping and they are not making enough in sales to cover their rent, bills, suppliers and other expenses, which are piling up. Other businesses contend

it is cheaper to shut down during the pandemic rather than lose money from staying open.

Gandhi says there is some help available from the provincial and federal governments, which takes time to access and until an owner can receive a cheque. Most businesses have been forced to close due to lockdowns for more than two months and have lost their prime Christmas and holiday shopping season.

At the big box stores it is another story. There are line-ups outside as shoppers wait to enter Walmart, Costco, Canadian Tire and others.

Gandhi, who owns Quick Refund Tax, says he has never seen things so slow in Lake Shore Village. He points to empty sidewalks as most stores, deemed non-essential, are closed due to virus precautions or barely hanging on. "Our members are asking why they should be closed when the big box stores are packed with shoppers," he wonders. "Our merchants make about 35 per cent of their sales during the holiday season."

Those deemed essential such as grocery stores and pharmacies are allowed to stay open, but gyms, salons, spas, massage parlours, hairdressers, stylists, manicurists and others are closed.

Many stores and restaurants are still allowed to offer curbside pickup and delivery.

The latest lockdown comes as community spread threatens to overwhelm hospital Intensive Care Units (ICU).

Residents fight against City shelter and win

It has been a challenging year for the South Etobicoke community as COVID-19 has forced us to change our lives. The pandemic forced us to work together and become a tighter-knit community. Many recall the drama sparked by the City of Toronto last summer as bureaucrats infuriated residents in a failed bid to open a homeless shelter at 2950 and 2970 Lake Shore Blvd. W.

With residents and businesses already suffering from the pandemic, City officials faced outraged New Toronto residents, who had heard second-hand about a planned 100-bed shelter.

At first, it was said to be a shelter for homeless men, and then women and families. Soon the texts and e-mails were flying and it did not take long for the community to band together to success-



MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WORKED TOGETHER last summer to successfully fight a proposed shelter by the City of Toronto at 2950 and 2970 Lake Shore Blvd. W. Residents took to social media, phoned their politicians and took on other tasks to help stop the decision. Photos by Tom Godfrey.

fully fight City Hall over the shelter's opening, which has been cancelled. There was a noisy protest in September, with residents taking a stand by talking to their neighbours, passing out flyers and taking to social media for months to finally halt the project. The City claimed there was a deal to purchase the

properties but in the end it did not work out due to assessment issues. Most New Toronto residents have always stepped up to help others, but did not want a shelter on their main strip with many firms failing due to COVID-19. At first it was said to be a shelter for homeless people, which outraged many

business people, who had invested into their properties. "We are pleased that the City decided to stop this project," says Chris BIA Chair Korwin-Kuczynski. "People were very angry and fought against a shelter being located on our main commercial street."

Rattan Gandhi, Treasurer of the BIA, predicts the price of homes in the area would have decreased with a shelter.

"It is good news for the community that there is not going to be a shelter in a prime commercial area," he admits. "A lot of people here have invested heavily into their businesses and residences." Most merchants say they are relieved that a plan for a shelter is now gone.

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Local businesses to support and where to shop. See Page 16.

Some area residents sent threatening letters in bizarre upscale extortion scam



TORONTO POLICE BOMB SQUAD officers went to a number of homes on Lake Promenade last month after extortion letters were found in a number of mailboxes here and in Burlington. Photos by Tom Godfrey and CTV News (right).

Police in different jurisdictions are comparing notes and hope to make an arrest after intimidating extortion letters were sent to homes in south Etobicoke and Burlington.

The letters, along with a plastic bag containing a white powder, were delivered to a number of expensive homes in the Lake Promenade area, near Col. Samuel Smith Park, and elsewhere.

Officers of 22 Division were in and out of some of the large homes taking photos for evidence and talked to homeowners who received the letters.

Residents said the envelopes were formally addressed to them and were delivered by Canada Post.

Detectives said the small bags did not contain fentanyl, but powdered sugar, when tested by police.

The letters included threats to life and demanded that recipients send funds or harm would come to them or their families. It did not say how.

Police said the letter directed the homeowner to deposit an unspecified amount of Bitcoin in exchange for their family's safety.

Officers are warning the public to be vigilant when opening their mail boxes, especially at this time of the year when people receive Christmas cards from friends and family.

"If you receive the letter and substance, try not to handle it as much as possible," police stressed in a release. "Place the envelope outside, preferably in a covered area, and cover it with an upside down garbage can or something similar to protect it."

It appears the letters were all delivered in the morning hours of December 18.

Residents reported a lot of police activity that day as emergency vehicles rushed to the homes of panicked residents after the letters were found.

Residents are being warned this is an extortion scheme and not to send money.

Largest single-day gun bust



OFFICERS OF 22 DIVISION seized 65 firearms and 181 kgs of drugs in a one-day bust at Park Lawn and Berry Rds. One man is charged. Photos by Toronto Police.

A quiet low-rise apartment just north of the Ontario Food Terminal is a scene of the largest single-day drugs and firearms seizure for Toronto Police.

The area of Park Lawn and Berry Rds., is quiet and favoured by parents in South Etobicoke for bringing up their young families and putting them through school.

But an apartment on 70 Cloverhill Rd., has been the scene of much police activity recently after officers found an arsenal of illegal weapons and a record amount of drugs.

"This is typically a very quiet and residential neighbourhood that is primarily made up of detached homes, low-rise apartment buildings, parks, playgrounds, and elementary schools," Insp. Tim Crone said on December 16.

During a search, Crone said, police found 181 kilograms of drugs with an estimated street value of \$18,240,000, firearms, which were in plain sight of the officers, as well as ammunitions and firearm magazines.

Police seized 106 kgs of cocaine, 61 kilos of crystal methamphetamine, 5 kgs of fentanyl and 9 kgs of MDMA.

Also seized were 65 firearms, including 57 handguns and eight long-barreled and semi-automatic guns, more than 15,000 rounds of ammunition, and several high-capacity and extended ammunition magazines, according to police.

"We allege that these guns were destined for the street gang use and as such, presented a significant threat to public safety to all of our communities," Supt. Domenic Sinopoli said.

Some 37 of the handguns have been traced to the U.S. and two to Canada. Daniel Dubajic, 45, faces 78 weapons and drug-related charges and will appear in court on Jan. 7.

Historic violin found and given back to owner



The owner of a rare 263-year-old classical concert violin is one lucky and happy person today and should purchase a lottery ticket.

The valuable and antiquated instrument was found after it went missing on December 18 on the TTC subway near College St. Toronto Police launched an investigation and found the instrument which has been returned to its ecstatic owner.

The violin was made in 1757 by the Florentine 18th-century violin maker Lorenzo Carcassi and his brother Tomaso.

An April 2012 auction for a similar Lorenzo Carcassi violin at Christie's was \$18,750. The auction house recorded the highest price for a similar violin at \$62,500 in 2008.

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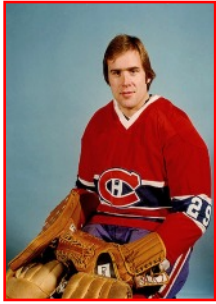
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Former Montreal Canadiens goalie Ken Dryden was MP for York Centre from 2004 to 2011

Ex-goalie Dryden was an MP for riding of York Centre



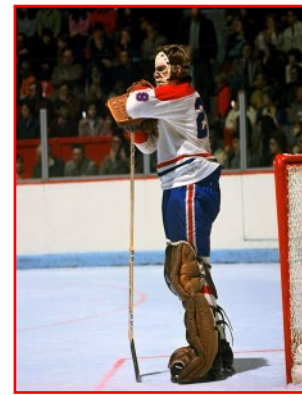
KEN DRYDEN

Famous hockey goalkeepers Ken Dryden and his brother, Dave, grew up in Etobicoke and are probably the biggest boosters of this community. Even though the Dryden brothers, who both played for the National Hockey League (NHL), accrued riches and fame as they reached the top of their games, they never once forgot where they came from. Born in Hamilton, but raised in Etobicoke, when Ken was a kid playing minor hockey for the Humber Valley Hornets, it is said he dreamed of hoisting the Stanley cup at Central Arena. The Hockey Hall of Famer and six-time Stanley Cup winner did get to see his dream come true until many years later. "When you get to a certain age, you realize where you're really from," Ken told an

interviewer many years ago. "When I was growing up, I'd say I was from Toronto because nobody knew Etobicoke, but then I got older and realized I wasn't from Toronto." "I was from Etobicoke - that's where I grew up, that's where I went to school, that's where my friends were, that's where we spent almost all of our time," the Etobicoke Collegiate Institute graduate said. Dryden was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1983. His jersey number 29 was retired by the Canadiens in 2007 and he was inducted into the Ontario Sports Hall of Fame in 2011. He and his wife, Lynda, have two children and four grandchildren. His brother Dave played in the NHL also as a goalie, from 1961 to 1980. Dryden, 73, has obtained a long list of recognition and achievements. He is listed as a politician, lawyer, businessman, author and NHL goaltender. He was bestowed an Officer of the Order of Canada, is a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame and received the Order of

Hockey in Canada in 2020. To top it off he is named as one of the "100 Greatest NHL Players" in history. The athlete years later moved to the Toronto Maple Leafs, where he was a head coach, vice-chairman and on the organization's board of directors. He left the Maple Leafs in 2004, and joined the Liberal Party of Canada and ran for the House of Commons in that year's federal elections. Dryden was elected in the riding of York Centre by more than 11,000 votes and was named to Cabinet as Minister of Social Development. He was re-elected in the 2006 federal election; however, the Liberals were defeated and Paul Martin resigned the party leadership. Interim party and opposition leader Bill Graham named Dryden to his shadow cabinet as health critic.

Dryden's margin of victory in the riding dwindled in the 2006 and 2008 elections. In the 2011 federal election, he lost his seat to Conservative Mark Adler by nearly 6,000 votes. The hometown kid ran for the leadership of the Liberal Party in 2006 to choose a successor to Martin. He came in fifth place and so ended his political career. He was described as an attentive MP who served his constituents well from 2004 to 2011. The former goalie has written about six books, including *The Game*, which was nominated for a Governor General's Award in 1983 and *Home Game: Hockey and Life in Canada*, written with Roy MacGregor, which was developed into a CBC six-part documentary.



DRYDEN IN HIS trademark pose is proud of his hometown. NHL photos.

Charges laid in Mimico cycling death of ex-teacher



JOHN LONGMAID OFFUTT loved life and people. He gave up a good life to work with at risk students. He was hit by a cement truck (right).

The late John Longmaid Offutt was a realtor and developer who had lived his dream of climbing Mt. Everest. A success, he became disillusioned as real estate prices soared, and became a kindergarten and gym teacher, coaching soccer and basketball teams at Thorncliffe Park Public School in East York. Offutt was popular and well-respected by his many students. He was hit and killed by a cement truck on November 20 while cycling southbound on Royal

"He was a teacher who quit his real estate job to help kids succeed in a low income neighbourhood," former student A. 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. "His teaching philosophy was simple. Make your classroom a welcoming, supportive place so that kids love school and learning will inevitably follow," his friends said, adding he coached hockey, soccer and basketball, ran a yoga club and boys' book club.



"The tragic loss of life was made all the worse by the certain knowledge that it was entirely preventable," an advocacy group wrote after placing a ghost bicycle at the death scene. Mimico area residents are being urged to sign an online petition to request the concrete plant be developed into green space for parks. RIP John.

York Rd., when the truck made a right hand turn from southbound Royal York to westbound on Judson St. Toronto Police have charged a dump truck driver in connection with the death of Offutt. A 48-year-old man was charged by Traffic Services on December 10 with not making a safety turn and careless driving causing death under the Highway Traffic Act. Offutt, 59, who recently retired from teaching, received high praise for his work in the classroom by former students on social media.

His obituary described the married father of two boys as an incredibly gifted athlete who loved cycling best of all. "He was a strong cyclist and especially loved climbing," Offutt's death has angered area residents and 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 been complaining about the noise and pollution from a steady stream of cement trucks that daily frequent the ML Ready Mix yard, on Judson St.

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Lidia (right) with son, Giovanni, and Jane.

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Rookie TO cop saves life of 4-month-old baby

It was the best Christmas present for these Toronto parents.

The heroic actions of a rookie Toronto Police officer to save the life of Li-

am, who is four-months-old, is rightfully garnering a lot of attention this new year online and by his colleagues. Const. Ivan Yeung was photographed helping to save a child using tiny



CONST. IVAN YEUNG (above) saves the life of Liam. Toronto Police photos.

chest compressions on November 18. The child (photo left) was in distress and lying on a blanket on the ground. Yeung, who works at 52 Division, was in the area when the call came in.

"When I got there, I saw a baby lying on the sidewalk and his fist appeared to be clenched lightly," the officer told Toronto Police freelance reporter, Ron Fanfair. "As I got closer I realized the chest wasn't

moving and the baby wasn't breathing."

The officer performed CPR on the boy for about 90 seconds before paramedics and firefighters arrived and took him to the Hospital for Sick Children. Yeung credited his actions to the excellent training at the Toronto Police College. "I heard him (police trainer) telling me that you have to save that baby," he recalled. "I could hear him telling me to use my finger to push down on his chest."



YEUNG (right) WITH colleagues.

"Great work. Now that's first response," tweeted Chief Elvis T. Silva, St. John Ambulance Toronto Central.

Yeung has since met Liam's family, who are 'eternally grateful' to him for saving Liam. Liam's mom, Danielle

Sheinberg, said he had undergone an earlier heart procedure. "I can't thank you guys enough," Sheinberg said of the officers. "It could have been the worst day of my life, but it turned out to be the best day of my life."

This was not the first rescue for Yeung, who only joined the force 10 months ago. Last August, he and his partner responded to the Harbourfront Centre. They found an unresponsive woman in the water. The former lifeguard jumped into Lake Ontario and saved the woman's life.

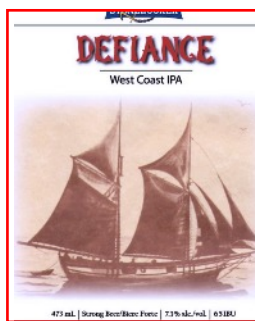
Beer named after schooner *Defiance* that sailed the lake

They say that every ship tells a story. A Lakeview brewery is getting good reviews for a brew made in honour of a popular Long Branch ship named *Defiance*, that plied the waters of Lake Ontario for 68-years as a stonehooker, a schooner that comes close to shore. Stonehooker Brewing Company, at 866 Lakeshore Rd. E., in Lakeview, released the 7.3% alcohol content brew for Christmas since the ship was made in Etobicoke by local craftsmen and sailed our waters for almost 70 years. The ship was built at the mouth of the Etobicoke River in 1845. The *Defiance*

sank in 1913, after being hit by a wicked gale off the Scarborough Bluffs.

"Thanks to nearly seven decades of stone hooking 'Dufferin shale' from Lake Ontario aboard Etobicoke's *Defiance*," says Bill Zufelt, Chair History and Cultural

Committee Long Branch. Zufelt says the Stonehooker staff saw an article he wrote about *Defiance* and it inspired the brew.



Ship-owner "Boss Harris and his brothers, of Port Credit, capitalized on the Etobicoke Creek's protective sandbar and lagoon to build its ships including the *Defiance*."

This Etobicoke peninsula would for almost three decades be used as a shipbuilding location. Zufelt said the Etobicoke Creek was richly forested with many kind of trees. Eastern pine was the first choice of The Royal Navy for their uniformly straightness and strength, was shaved and scaled to make perfect masts, spars and booms. Giant red oaks were felled, axed and

shaped to make iron like ribs and hull planks. Maple, elm were steamed to add in the curving process to applied sections. Using anvils the blacksmiths forged and pounded all the necessary ships hardware, fasteners and sailing marine ware. According to the Great Lakes Marine History Registry, there were five *Defiances* built in the Great Lakes. When the first *Defiance* came into being, she was witness and service to the biggest changes to the northern shores of Lake Ontario in development, population, culture and economic prosperity to well over a half a century.

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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.

Please feel free to drop us a line if you would like to advertise your business or leave any comments, tips or news of upcoming events.

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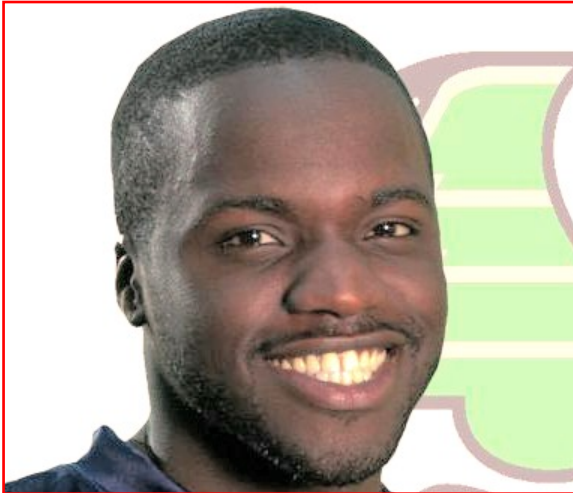
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Former Argonaut player Obed now with TTC volunteers to collect toys & food to help kids

Fans rally to raise funds to help The Old Sod pub



FORMER ARGOS WIDE receiver Obed Cetoute (above and right). File photos.

“I look forward to giving back to the community,” Cetoute said during a December 13 toy drive. “It is something that we always did when I was with the Argos.” The footballer lives in The Queensway and Kipling Ave. area and has been working for the last six years as a bus driver with the TTC.

31st pick in the 2006 Canadian Football League (CFL) Draft by the Argonauts and signed with the team in May 2007. Cetoute was a good wide receiver, who played under star turned coach Mike Pinball Clemons, for two years. “I totally enjoyed playing with Pinball when he was coach,” he insists. “He is a great guy.”



He was a driver of the Stuff the Bus that was filled with toys, food and other items in hours. “I love Etobicoke,” Cetoute vows. “This is a nice area and I have been living here for seven years.” He loves the people who have welcomed him into the community. The Montreal-born player was drafted in the fourth round with the

At one point Cetoute was sent to a football camp in South Carolina for three weeks to train with high-performance players to help elevate his training and game. He was traded to the Roughriders in June 2010 for Offensive Lineman Jonathan St. Pierre. He was released by the team in 2010. The athlete had missed most of the 2009 season due to injury. The six-foot-two, 213-pounder played in 24 games and tallied 31 receptions for 461 yards and three touchdowns for the Argos. The athlete played college football at Central Michigan and before that at Vanier College for the Cheetahs. He was part of a Toronto Argos Stop the Violence Huddle Up Program in which he spoke about bullying to high schools in the Toronto Area. Cetoute was also part of the team’s mentorship program for young people, with whom he could relate to.

Former Toronto Argonauts wide receiver Obed Cetoute was one of many volunteers helping Toronto Police, the TTC and Toys R Us Stuff the Bus with toys for the needy.

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FORMER ARGONAUTS PLAYER Obed Cetoute (above) was a TTC volunteer with Toronto Police Sgt. Lhawang Jongdong in a Stuff the Bus toy campaign with the TTC and police. Photo by Tom Godfrey.

Cetoute, 37, played for the Argos from 2007 to 2009 before he was traded to the Saskatchewan Rough Riders.

years.” He loves the people who have welcomed him into the community. The Montreal-born player was drafted in the fourth round with the



THE OUTLINE OF A MAN as he passes by The Old Sod cameras to smash the glass in the door entrance to enter and steal. Courtesy photos.

More than \$13,000 have been raised by supporters of The Old Sod pub to help restore faith in humanity after the popular bar was robbed of \$7,000 earned from the sales of Christmas trees.

The well-liked Bloor St. W. and Royal York Rd., pub was robbed on December 14 in what appears to be a ‘cash and grab’ incident that was captured by security cameras. The video shows a man, wearing a hoodie and mask, smashing the glass door with what appears to be a large rock. He then walks inside the bar and is seen calmly walking out with what looks like a drawer of the register that contains the cash. The pub had been hit hard, along with others in the area, by the COVID-19 lockdowns, and was earning extra income to stay afloat from tree sales, which was brisk as residents made purchases to support their local pub. “It was a smash and grab,” pub owner Ty Owens told reporters. “They broke our front windows, smashed our point-of-sale machines and stole one cash till and an empty cash till. That was our Christmas campaign cash.” He said the brazen thief stole about \$7,000. Owens heard glass in the front door shattering and rushed downstairs around 1:15 a.m., only to have missed the thief by second. He believes the crook bolted east on Bloor St. W., and may have had a getaway driver. Owens is wondering if his pub was targeted because a Christmas tree campaign that was highly publicized on social media and by people in the community. The bar has released surveillance footage of the incident in hopes someone from the public can identify the burglar. Officers at nearby 22 Division said a report has been filed and the theft is being investigated. Supporters of the pub’s Go Fund Me campaign have donated more than the \$12,000, which the bar was expecting to raise to help with their loss. The bar has donated dozens of Christmas trees to LAMP to help the needy in our community.

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Shootout with police at Rainbow Motel one of worst in force's history

By TOM GODFREY

This 1991 gunplay will remain one of the worst shootouts in the 187-year history of Toronto's Police Force.

It will be 30 years this month since 413 shots were fired in a seven-hour shootout between two gunmen and officers at the then notorious Rainbow Motel, one of 18 then-thriving establishments in the so-called Motel Strip area, near Lake shore Blvd. W., and Park Lawn Rd. Luckily, no one was killed in the standoff, which saw volleys of shots being exchanged between the gunmen, who were held up inside the motel and officers outside. The early-morning incident began when officers saw an expensive Porsche, with British Columbia plates, parked in front of the Rainbow. Officers routinely patrolled the Motel Strip to curb prostitution, robberies and other street crimes.

Now retired Toronto Police Sgt. Jack West, who worked out of 22 Division, Traffic Office, Fraud Squad, the Youth Bureau, Two Traffic, before going to 21 Division (now part of 22 Division) was walking the



AN OFFICER RUNS FOR cover at Rainbow Motel shootout where 413 shots were fired. File photo.

18 motels there, which were my responsibility. That was an interesting part of my career because there were disputes, drugs, prostitution and removing hold-up men from rooms.”

That morning West's men noticed a Porsche in the parking lot, which caught their interest.

When the officers went to talk to the car owner, in the motel room, they were greeted with gunfire.

“The door swung open and there were two individuals shooting at the officers,” recounted the retired West.

beat along Lake Shore Blvd. W. that eventful day.

“My job was to walk the Lake Shore Motel Strip area,” West recalled before he left in 2014.

“There were

“They (officers) went for cover and called assistance. I wasn't that far away. There were 413 bullets fired from that room at the police and the ordeal lasted a day and a half.”

With the help of the heavily-armed Emergency Task Force, the men were arrested and taken into custody. While searching one of the suspects, they found a key to a motel room that tied the shooters to a double murder in Nanaimo, B.C.

West would get lucky again a few years later when there was another shooting on the Strip.

This time he and his partner were in plainclothes and followed a van that turned into a dark parking lot. The driver took a shot at the officers and bolted into the woods. A woman was found in the van and she had a key to a motel room, where the man was believed to be hiding. The motel became the scene of another shooting. Inside, police opened fire on a suspect, shooting him with a 12-gauge shotgun. West then jumped on the suspect to subdue him.

“I discovered that he had a stolen bulletproof vest and was wearing two coats. This experience taught me that you do not judge a book by the cover.” He would get a Toronto Police Merit Mark Award for the capture.

Family ran Dutch Sisters Inn for 40 years in Humber



THE DUTCH SISTERS INN was a top family-owned restaurant (above, right) that operated for 40 years in the Humber Bay area. File photos.

He founded Sachau Marine Construction to build all types of boats from seafoas and runabouts to cruisers and fixed keel sailboats. His property included water rights to 600 feet into the lake to accommodate a Humber Bay area and a future marine.

“For almost 40 years it was the site of many meals and special events under a charming sign showing three little girls in traditional Dutch costumes,” according to old newspaper records.

Hans was subcontracted by the Greavette Boat Company in Gravenhurst to build at least three Fairmiles for the Royal Canadian Navy.

Those 112 foot long motor launches were assigned to the St. Lawrence River and Gulf of St. Lawrence to escort convoys, run patrols, handle port defence and perform rescues. Each held three officers and 14 crew, and carried three 20 mm guns.

The business was such a success that Anna soon opened a larger restaurant in a building designed by her husband.

It was promoted as the ‘most unique restaurant in North America,’ in ads, which featured its five dining rooms, serving steak, lobster and “continental” dishes such as smorgasbord, sauerbraten and apfelstrudel.

The restaurant was so well known that Monarch Flour used Anna as its spokesperson in print ads across Ontario. The Sachaus later added motel units and the business became The Dutch Sisters Inn. In 1953, Hans closed his shipyard. Anna passed away of cancer in 1958 and

he died in 1963. His executors continued the business until 1969.

The Inn became a popular restaurant and was demolished in 2012 for condos.

Credit goes to Historian Denise Harris for original research.



A postcard of six smiling Dutch girls is all that is left of the once-popular Dutch Sisters Inn that was a gold-standard of fine eating for about 40-years at the mouth of the Humber River.

The restaurant was named after the daughters of Hans and Anna Sachau, who immigrated to Canada from Germany in 1928. The couple settled in the Humber Bay area and built a prosperous

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Alzheimer skate for his mom

Local Postie Steve McNeil kicked off his 10th annual Alzheimer's skate to honour his mom. The long-time Etobicoke resident took to the ice for his annual skate to raise funds for the Alzheimer Society in memory of his mother.



SKATING WITH Steve McNeil to raise funds for Alzheimer Society.

McNeil hit the ice on December 15 to skate for 19 hours and 26 minutes at the Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery & Distillery, on Niagara on the Lake, to raise awareness and much-needed funds for Alzheimer's. The fundraising effort is called Team 1926Skate and supporters were able to join him by clicking on www.1926Skate.com, where they could make a donation. McNeil, 59, a mailman and recreational hockey referee, started his skate three years ago as a tribute to his mother, who died of the disease. She was born on December 15, 1926. He says his almost 20-hour effort is just one day in his life, but caregivers for people living with dementia spend that much time each day looking after their loved ones. "COVID-19 has been devastating for seniors and their families," McNeil says. "More and more families are going to need the assistance that their local Alzheimer Societies can pro-

vide. That's why this fundraising skate is so important." In the past two years McNeil has done his marathon skate 18 times in cities across Canada. The virus has made it impossible for him to do that again this year. The Toronto marathons in the past have taken place on the ice at Nathan Phillips Square. He is seeking to make December 15 National 1926 Skate Day for Alzheimer's. Alzheimer Societies offer programs and support services for people living with dementia and their care partners. The funds raised through National 1926 Skate Day and Team 1926 Skate will help local Alzheimer Societies continue to provide virtual social and recreational programming to those who need help most. Donations can be made through local Alzheimer Societies. People are asked to donate online \$19.26, or more, or support National 1926 Skate Day. It is a worthy cause.



STEVE McNEIL skates for charity.

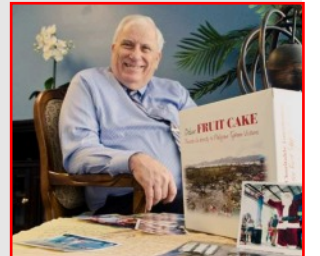
Barker remembered as a kind and generous man and leader



PHILLIP BARKER is remembered as a kind and generous man.

Long-time treasurer and co-founder of the Long Branch BIA Phillip Barker is being remembered as a kind and generous man who was passionate about his community. A virtual memorial service was held on December 16 as about 40 of Barker's friends, family and business acquaintances celebrated his life, and his many accomplishments, namely in helping to equip two schools for poor students in the Philippines.

The well-known former owner of Lakeshore Accounting, at 3421 Lake Shore Blvd. W., passed away on May 6. He was 74. "He helped many people over the years," recalled his daughter, Katy. "I was fortunate to see all that he accomplished in his life and it is amazing." She said her father "touched and helped to change the lives of many people over the years." Organizer Jay Llave said Phillip was well-loved in the community. "Phillip was a man of integrity," Carl Porritt, of Royal LePage Porritt Real Estate, told the group. "We will miss him." His wife, Liz Porritt, pointed out that Phillip was one of the co-founders of the Long Branch Business Improvement Association (BIA), and served as its treasurer for 33 years. Virginia Lyons, who knew Phillip since Grade 4, said he was a "great guy who was a very funny human being and was very proud of the community." Phillip was born and raised in Mimico, where he attended Mimico High School and then Humber College to study accounting. He was a founder and director of the Lakeshore Charitable Foundation, which sponsored two schools in the Philippines. He visited that country about a dozen times and was responsible of collecting and shipping dozens of containers filled with books, clothes, food, computers, printers and other gear to help the school children.





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Long Branch Bros' BBQ & Allin Mikuna Soups



CHEF FARAH of **BROS BBQ 2** in Long Branch, cooks Florida Style and Caribbean cuisine. **Photos by Tom Godfrey.**

Falak Farah is the manager and chef of BROS BBQ 2, one of Long Branch's newest restaurants that prides itself on its Florida Style and Caribbean cuisine. Farah highly recommends her jerk chicken on rose pasta as one of their top dishes, which people seem to love. Foodies are catching on to their curry and stew chicken, oxtail, ackee and salt fish, fried and steamed fish. She says her small pickup and takeout restaurant at 3371 Lake Shore Blvd. W., is well-known for its 'exclusive' home-made Hennessey smoked BBQ sauce. There is also a Smokey southern hot BBQ sauce with a hint of habanero and a medium hot sauce with a hint of southern spices. "People love our Henny sauce that we make ourselves," says Farah. "We are the Lake Shore's first Southern BBQ place featuring Hennessey sauce." She only uses fresh ingredients and all meals are individually made for customers. "Everything is cooked to order and people love the way we cook our salmon and

shrimp," Farah insists. "They also love our jerk chicken for all the love that goes into it." It has been a natural journey for Farah to learn Caribbean cooking. She was born in Jordan and found the joy of Caribbean cooking after marrying a Jamaican man in Canada. She has cooked in a number of places before PROS BBQ 2, which opened a few months ago. "We go to Jamaica every year and I learn to cook more meals," Farah says. "People like the food because more of them are coming back." Hers

is

among the businesses allowed to remain open these days because there's no dining in. "I have many Jamaican friends and love the food," Farah adds. "You have to try our jerk chicken poutine. You will come back." Also highly recommended is the rose pasta, with salmon or shrimp, which is extra: jerk or lemon pepper salmon with rice and peas. A large rack of Texas beef ribs for \$27. BROS BBQ 2 is located at 3371 Lake Shore Blvd. W., near Twenty Sixth Street. You can place your order by calling 416-252-2270. Free delivery for orders of more than \$30.



This Alderwood vegan eatery is getting good reviews and sales from food lovers far and wide. Sergio Morales and his wife, Cristina, operate Allin Mikuna Soups, an Alderwood store, where they do things right and food is more than just a meal.

The family business makes some of the healthiest products, and cater to vegan, vegetarian, keto, gluten-free diets. All their products are nut-free. The couple and their staff are known for their great soups, either ready to go in a litre-sized jars, or in dry form, that is quick. Just add cold water, heat and enjoy. "All our ingredients are fresh," insists Sergio. "There are no preservatives or anything artificial, just fresh ingredients."

They do a thriving pickup and takeout business and some of their top meals ordered include: All in a Bowl salad, spinach cheese empanada; mushroom empanada; vegan version; the Mexican on a bun; bean burger on homemade burger; king mushroom kiche and yellow split pea curry soup: with sweet potato and pumpkin.



SERGIO AND CRISTINA take a break outside their Allin Mikuna Soups, on Brown's Line. **Photos by Tom Godfrey.**

"Our mission is to make healthy meals delicious and accessible to all," he says. "Our soups in a jar are the perfect gift and pantry item, our powder mixes are an easy way to get your much-needed nutrition." The family moved to Canada about 17 years ago from Chile and resettled in the Alderwood area, not far from their store. Their line of food was developed by Cristina, who usually gave cooked items to family and friends for Christmas, a practice that grew. They wanted to bring part of their culture with them to Canada and chose the name Allin Mikuna, which means 'bon appetit' in Quechua, a language spoken by indigenous people in Chile. They have assembled a popular 'Care Package' that features three soups, three seasoning mixes, including two granola date pastes. Allin Mikuna is located at 244 Brown's Line, Reach them at 416-551-5169 or place orders at www.sales@allinmikuna.com.

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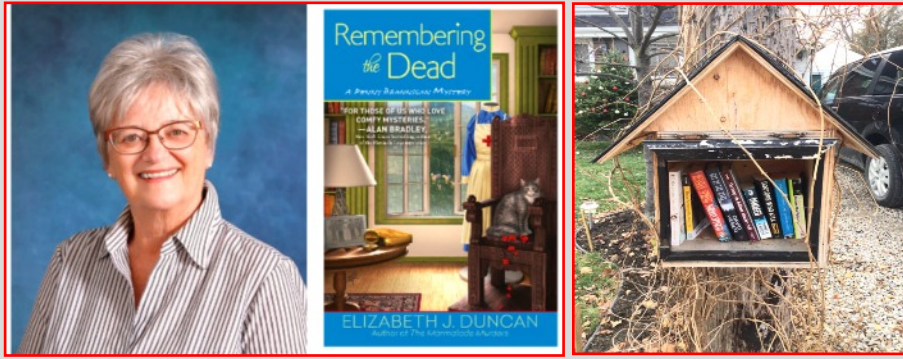


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Local mystery writer says thanks



NEW TORONTO MYSTERY writer Elizabeth J. Duncan, copy of book and home library.

A leading Canadian mystery writer is leaving signed copies of her popular who-done-its for book lovers in the Mimico and New Toronto areas.

Elizabeth J. Duncan has left a copy of her first book in the Penny Brannigan mystery series in a small free library in front of her Second Street home, in the Lake Shore Blvd. W. area.

Duncan says if the book is picked up she will leave a signed copy of another book in the series for mystery-loving fans.

"I'll leave a copy of a *Brush with Death*, the second book in the series," she wrote in a post on social media.

The long-time area resident is a two-time winner of the Blood Words Award for Canada's best light mystery.

"I hope someone in our community will enjoy this book, which is set in North Wales," she says.

She has written nine volumes in the Penny Brannigan Mystery series. The latest *The Marmalade Murders*, is also set in North Wales, which is celebrated for its small-town charm and picturesque settings.

Duncan has a loyal following who love her books worldwide.

"I just reserved a copy," wrote Susanna Smith.

Caroline Godin says "I read the whole series and they're lovely."

Ruth Snowden says she has put the book on hold in the library and is "looking forward to a good read by a local author."

"I loved this series," wrote Brenda Siddall. "If you haven't read it you are due for a treat and when you start you can't stop."

Duncan is also a winner of the Malice Domestic Best First Traditional Mystery Novel Competition for *The Cold Light of Mourning*. She was shortlisted for the Agatha and Arthur Ellis awards. Her books can be ordered online.

Surplus Centre longest serving business in New Toronto selling military insignia items for 68 years

Surplus dealer Dave Shankman has pretty well seen most military insignia items in the last 68-years his family has been operating The New Toronto Surplus Centre Ltd. The centre, at 2938 Lake Shore Blvd. W., at the corner of Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Islington Ave., is viewed by some as iconic, or historic, since it is in the middle of New Toronto.



DAVE SHANKMAN in front of the surplus store his family has owned for 68 years. Photos by Tom Godfrey.

It is the building on which an RCMP officer, with a horse, is painted in a popular mural with a huge flag. Shankman says the business was started by his father, after he returned



home from WW2. "My father served in the Korean War,"

Shankman added proudly in honour of his dad. "He founded and ran the business until about 2010."

The business is now said to be the oldest in New Toronto and it features roof and building architecture of an earlier era.

"We are still busy in this line of work," he says. "The weather is getting colder and people are now coming in for winter gear."

The stock includes: a large range of military style winter shoes, jackets, gloves and other gear to keep you warm.

The interior of the store is from the 1950s and 60s with gear, clothing and

other items everywhere, including military insignia such as crests or badges, which are still popular in some circles. There are hats, caps, vests, shoes and countless items which hunters, fishermen or outdoor types may require.

"Our shoes, socks and gloves are big movers now," he says. "A lot of people in the construction trades shop here to stay warm outside."

Shankman is proud that many films and TV productions have been shot in his store over the years, including *Police Academy* and *Kung Fu*; which are the ones he recall.

Numerous *Police Academy* flicks from the 1980s were filmed nearby at the former Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital, now Humber College.

Shankman loves the community and the people who have supported his family for the almost seven decades in business at the center of New Toronto.

The New Toronto Surplus Centre Ltd., can be reached at 416-251-3821.

Wishing You & your family a Happy New Year!



Lakeshore Village BIA SUPPORT LOCAL!

2ND LOCKDOWN OVER JAN. 23 - SHOP LOCALLY

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 businesses to shop from on the 'Shore and save money!



LAKESHORE VILLAGE BIA's Chris Korwin-Kuczynski (left) Danuta Gumienik and Rattan Gandhi with awards for the best decorated Christmas Tree. Winners are Hearing Life Canada in first place (photo), second place went to MiBody Health and Fitness and third place to CUES Children's Urban Enrichment Studio.

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, call Telehealth Ontario for medical advice at 1-866-797-0000, or contact your local public health unit. Be sure to mention your symptoms and travel history. Call 211 to reach your local public health unit. For an emergency Call 911.

COVID-19 assessment checks are available at St. Joseph's Medical Centre, at 30 The Queensway Appointments have to be booked. Call St. Joseph's: 416-530-6000 or online at unityhealth.to

Pastor leads Fund Me fight for churches to open

An Etobicoke pastor has started a Go Fund Me page that has raised almost \$50,000 for a colleague who was charged by Windsor Police Service for allegedly opening his church to prayer services after it was shut to avert COVID-19. Pastor Tony Costa's Go Fund Me page has raised more than the \$50,000 they require to fight a provincial charge of violating the Re-opening Ontario Act for holding services on December 24. The Harvest Bible Church, in Windsor, was visited by police and a charge of being open, in violation of provincial guidelines, was laid against Rev. Dr. Aaron Rock.



PASTOR TONY COSTA and the Harvest Bible Church (right).

Costa says he's known Rock, described as a man of 'Godly conviction,' for more than 15-years and they have pastored together in Canada and overseas. "Aaron decided to open his church for the many who were hurting, depressed, anxious, under-employed and some with suicidal intentions, to provide a haven of support and ministry outreach," Costa wrote on social media. Rock's church calls the charge a "national disgrace" and says that "barring Christian worship and public protests is discriminatory and unfair." If found guilty, Rock can be fined up to \$100,000 or imprisoned for a year. The churches plan to fight the charge and have called on congregation members of various area churches for donations to obtain legal counsel. "Pastor Aaron's fight is not just his alone," Costa says. "He is fighting for the right of all churches to open and enjoy the freedoms to do so in accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

Rock maintains he was "humbled by this outpouring of support as we stand against injustice for all." A Professor at the Toronto Baptist Seminary and the Pastor & Pulpit Ministry, he thanked the congregation for their support and vows to fight the charge. This news comes after the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit medical officer of health, Dr. Wajid Ahmed, said in a release that he is "not recommending in-person gatherings due to the high risk of disease transmission." The church said the banning of Christian worship is "discriminatory and unfair." In-person gatherings are limited to 10 people inside at any time. The charges against a respected pastor have angered many churchgoers online.





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Health & Wellness

By ADRIANNE SZABO-PAYNE

The start of a new year is the perfect time to make an intentional shift and adopt changes designed to improve our health and well-being. Although setting new habits can be difficult for most of us at the best of times, entering the new year might seem more challenging with the ongoing global pandemic and current lockdown measures. As a small business owner leaving behind seven months of forced closure in 2020 and facing further weeks or months of lockdown to start off the new year, creating resolutions and setting new habits is the furthest thing from my mind. It is, however, probably the most important shift needed to create a positive path forward.

With the ongoing stress of not knowing if our business will survive continued closure, we must alter our focus towards improving our health habits to ensure we are physically and mentally prepared to face whatever is to come.

One of things I have really fought hard to hold onto during the 2020 closures is maintaining a good routine and clean eating. These will be my main goals to accomplish for 2021.

You have likely heard the expression “you can only control those things that are within your control.” I have accepted the fact that a global pandemic is outside of my control. However, my reaction is how I accept what is happening or not.

This year, I have decided to build better habits to support self-care and self-love and will work hard not to dwell on the things I have no control over, like the restrictions and closures imposed on the business due to the pandemic. These are within my control and will hopefully lead to improvements in other parts of my life.

It starts with designating a space in the home where you can meditate/exercise/find peace – whatever is needed at the time. We have recently cleared out a room in our home and turned it into the workout space. I understand that depending on your living situation, it isn’t possible for everyone to give up an entire room for this purpose. If you can’t dedicate an entire room, then cre-

ate a corner where you can find peace and quiet, have space to move your body, and feel well.

You can make simple changes to the morning routine. Setting an early time to rise. For me it’s usually between 5 and 5:30 a.m. For you it might be 6:30 or 7. Whatever your usual wake-up time is, bring it forward by 30-60 minutes to have time to do some important morning stretches, meditation, or a quick 20-minute workout. If this is not your thing, spend this time journaling or sending messages of gratitude to those who impact your life in a positive way. Starting the morning with a glass of water with a half to full freshly-squeezed lemon is not only hydrating, but also cleansing for the blood and alkalizing for the body. The lemon water is very good in helping to reduce inflammation for those dealing with arthritis pain.

Making good food choices is also helpful to keep the brain clear and focused and the body feeling energized. My family has decided to cut out grains and refined sugars for the new year, to reduce inflammation and digestive upset. Making food changes can be tough in the beginning, but once the body adjusts to the new way of being fueled, it won’t enjoy the old ways and will thank you by having a stronger immunity and ability to manage stress.

There are many things you can do to ensure the start of 2021 is better than the year we are leaving behind. The main thing to remember is you are in control of your destiny and even failure can just be a stepping stone to something greater. Accept the challenges of the year with an open heart and most importantly take the time to stretch, move your body, hydrate, sleep, fuel well, and find your joy. Wishing you all a joyful and prosperous 2021.

Reach Adrienne
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www.monkeytreewellness.com



Beyond Taxes

By RATTAN GANDHI

Happy New Year my fellow readers. As we step into the new year, some of us will try to set up some goals and affirmations.

Let us hope you do reach them as the year passes by. COVID-19 is still here and by the time the vaccine reaches many Canadians it will more likely be by late spring. Do not give up hope, but look forward to a more normal life.

In this column, I will try to recap all the articles I have written about in the previous year.

Debt was the first issue and it is the most difficult financial problem.

Reflect upon how you got into debt and what lifestyle changes one must make to get out of the situation. Focus on the most expensive debt (more likely credit card debt.)

Build up your credit score: It will save you a lot of money in interest in the future. The only debt one should have is mortgage or if this debt is used to earn an income.

Don’t forget 2020 Tax Returns and to get all your paperwork in order, T4s etc. medical expenses, charitable donations, student loan interest, tuition credit, RRSPs and any other relevant documentations that one is aware of.

If you are working from home because of COVID-19, you will not need the Condition of Employment Form.

Remember the CERB is a taxable income. Keep your tax filings current so that you do not miss out on any future benefits that may result from this pandemic.

Investment trends for 2021. This year has seen some households build up a significant bank balance. If you are going to invest in the stock market, experts forecast that 2021 will not be a banner year like 2020 and there

might be some adjustments along the way.

If you are looking at the long-term horizon, then the stock market has always seen an upward trend. My personal preference for an investment vehicle would be under a TFSA umbrella instead of an RRSP.

Planning to buy a home in the coming year: Contribute aggressively into your RRSP and use the funds for the down payment.

Is this a good move. Again the long-term trend is an upswing in the home prices. With low interest rate the prediction is a 5% to 6% increase in prices for the GTA.

Research the market, talk to real estate agents, banks and other individuals within your social realm.

As for interest rates, there are indications they will go up because inflation will creep in as the economy gathers steam.

For the business owner, evaluate the past year and plan for the coming year, given the current situation and the changing environment as it applies to your business.

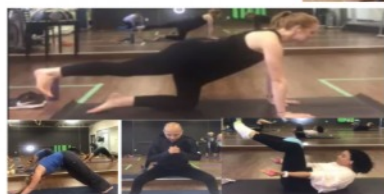
“Plan your Business and work your Plan” should be your motto. Make sure that you take full advantage of the various rebates offered by the federal, provincial and city officials.

Pay attention to the markets and real estate prices, study the business pages and educate yourself by reading all the materials you can.

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. He can be reached at 905-616-5253 or rattangandhi@gmail.com.

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Police warn of COVID-19 scams

With more people at home these days, police are warning of an escalating phone scam in which callers claim to be from the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to try and scam you for your money.



The conmen makes a pitch that you can obtain a rebate for purchasing COVID-19 relief, including medicine and services. The OPP have received more than 710 complaints about energy scams this year from across Ontario.

In most cases, a homeowner is contacted by telephone by someone requesting to conduct a green energy assessment in person.

This would be to qualify for a green energy rebate or Ontario Rebate Program for COVID-19 relief.

Once in the home, the representative uses high pressure sales tactics to have the homeowner buy products and services in order to qualify for the rebate, police say. The OEB says it doesn’t engage and isn’t involved in any type of sales activity. The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre in 2019 received 1,641 complaints related to service scams affecting 863 Ontario residents, for a loss of \$2,878,898.

Starting this month Ontario banned energy retailers from signing up customers for an energy contract while at their homes to give consumers the ability to make choices about their energy supply at their own pace and with better information.

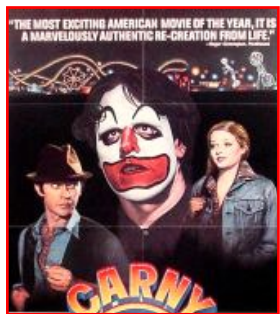
If you believe you have become a victim of fraud, contact your local police service and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 (toll-free) or report online at www.antifraudcentre.ca. You can also call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or report the incident online at www.ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

New Toronto pool hall owner followed dreams to Hollywood

By **DAVE KOSONIC**

John 'Doc' Cassidy was a former South Etobicoke billiard hall owner who went on to live his dream by acting in Hollywood movies.

Cassidy became an actor and consultant in a popular 1980 Hollywood movie 'Carny,' which was a big-office hit starring Gary Busey and Jodie Foster, who were making a name for themselves.



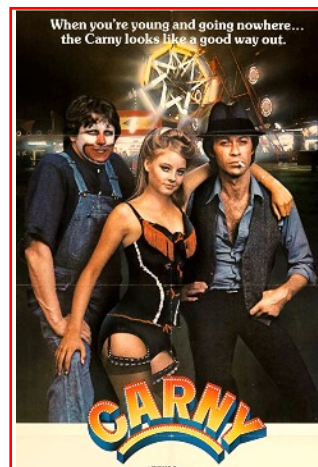
JOHN CASSIDY acted in the hit movie Carny.

"I saw myself on six or seven occasions during the movie." Cassidy said in 1980. "It just hit me like a bolt of lightning and I didn't know what to say. " 'The Doc,' as he was dubbed, was 59-years-old in 1980, operated Cassidy's School of Billiards on Lakeshore Blvd. W., in New Toronto, where he taught his students to be excellent pool players. The former billiard ace and carnival game hustler, who lived in South Etobicoke, spent 15 years on the CNE Midway from the mid-1940s until the early 1960s, where he said he learned "every corner of the carnival."

'Carny,' which also starred Canadian Robbie Robertson, is a movie that portrays the rough-and-tumble lives of carnival workers or carnies who travelled through the U.S. putting on shows. He said carnies had their own lingo. Those who operated the rides were known as 'ride girls and ride boys' and others who hustled the midway game, were known as 'game girls and game boys.'

The Doc explained that the chances of winning a big stuffed panda were slim.

Carny was a big production that was filmed in 1980 in Savannah, Georgia. The storyline is about a carnival comes to a small town. In the flick "Donna, 18, meets Frankie and Patch, two carnival hustlers. They earn their living by mercilessly taunting spectators to try to dump one of them into the water by throwing balls. Donna is tired of her



work as a waitress and follows them through the South."

The movie is written by Mattias Thuresson and directed by Robert Kaylor. Cassidy played 'Harry the Hat' in the 107-minute drama.

He explained that it was easy for him to portray the fast-talking Harry because it was natural for him as a former midway barker.

The Doc recalled that one of his most memorable moments on the movie set occurred when the entire cast and crew gave him a standing ovation when a big scene that included him was shot in "one take."

He had spent about ten-weeks at the Lorimar Production set at Savannah, doing consulting and acting for the movie.

The Doc, who had never acted previously, said he first viewed Carny at the Imperial Six theatre in downtown Toronto in 1980. After the movie he said he sat down in a café and had a couple of beers and spilled a few tears of joy.

"It might be the start of quite a future for me," he said later. If still alive the Doc would be age 99 but his fate is unknown.

The former New Toronto business owner went on to make other films, which included: *Hangmen*, *Yanks*, *Matilda* and *Bob Martin*.



From the Bench

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI

I want to talk about expert evidence and the Judicial role.

Today we read about different views of psychiatrists as to whether someone had a limiting mind to such a degree that it can afford a defense. In criminal law a person needs to intend his actions, consequences and appreciate what they are doing as wrong. It is called Mens Rea.

The problem has arisen in other matters associated with a witness's reliability over time to recall events accurately such as historical incest cases where the complainant is challenged that her recall of the events some 20 years ago, when she was 8, is unreliable. Courts must be very careful how they use this type evidence. It is dangerous and can lead to wrongful convictions or mistaken acquittals.

This matter became significant to me, as a Crown Attorney, when prosecuting a former undercover Police Officer for murdering his wife. We will call him Mr. X. The Crown belief was that he pushed her from the 19th floor of the Palace Pier. He was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment with no parole for 25 years. The theory was that he had a lover; wanted to marry her and needed money. He recently had purchased an insurance policy for his wife.

The problem is that he had two sweethearts. One with whom he had shared his plans for money. Ms. A and the new one, Ms. B, whom he preferred and wanted to marry. His wife refused a divorce citing she 'knew too much' about his criminal behavior as a police officer. The marriage would silence the new lover but to silence the Ms. A, he needed something else to keep her silent. So, he invited her to his apartment while he confronted his wife. The purpose was to have Ms. B involved with the murder so that she, thinking herself an accomplice, would be too frightened to testify against him. A technique he learned as an undercover officer. Gangs would often ask a newcomer to commit an offence to verify their sincerity to the team.

He was right, when she was originally interviewed by the police she provided no information of what she had witnessed as his wife was pushed from the balcony.

I want to caution the reader, this was the Crown's theory, alleged by the evidence but what are the facts the jury drew from the evidence to convict him will never be known.

Was it, Ms. A's testimony or the circumstantial evidence or both, one supporting the other? I like to think it was the last. Juries are not allowed, unlike the U.S., to discuss their reasons. Unlike a judge who must articulate his findings. A jury simply makes a finding "beyond a reasonable doubt that a planned and deliberate murder was committed".

The police had investigated the case for several months and were ready to lay charges based on a load of evidence, but all circumstantial including: a number of alternative explanations he gave to the police and various friends that were different.

The one to the police was essentially, that "she was on a stool trying to fix a rattle on the ceiling edge, near the railing when he heard a scream and ran to the balcony but she was over the rail as he tried to put his arms around her but she fell, he couldn't hold on. "

The police had conducted forensic testing, expert evidence, but were never able to verify his statement the time and distance made the defendant explanation impossible.

Of course, there was the classical motive, money and a lover, lovers? At this time, we didn't know there were two.

Now I started, by talking about expert evidence and have digressed to this example trying to provide some background to The care lawyers and judges must use in dealing with experts to illustrate my point.

Well, it's going to take longer than I thought. Let's leave the story here. We will continue next time when I tell how the first lover, months later, came forward. Stay tuned.

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.

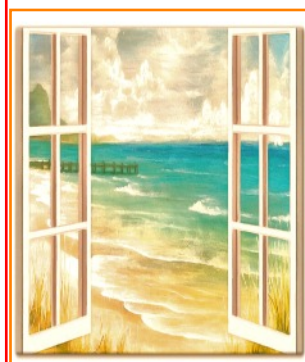
Nature's Tip from The Healing Muse

No Resolutions for 2021:

I say - resolutions be gone! They create added pressure and expectations for an entire year. Who needs that after the year we have had? Not me. I want to take on 2021 with strength, fortitude, health, joy and resilience? Create a recommended daily guideline for yourself and follow that instead.

For example: 'I will walk at least 5000 steps today. I will eat one citrus fruit everyday this week. I will read for 10 minutes in my favourite chair today' *These daily decisions or 'resolves' are much healthier and proactive. They promote a sound body and mind and show you have control in your day. This strengthens you on every level. Try it daily! Aromatically yours.*

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Almost 40 years since Litton Systems car bomb explosion

By TOM GODFREY



LITTON SYSTEMS CAR-BOMB injured 11 people, including Toronto cop (middle) and staff (right). The bomb took out a 50-foot section of wall (above) and shook the Skyline Hotel 1-km away. **File photos.**



TORONTO officer was injured.

Toronto Police Insp. Gordon Fenton said three officers were dispatched around midnight to investigate a tip that a bomb was set to detonate at the factory, which has shifts working round the clock. Fenton said officers spotted a van containing a box labelled "Danger Explosives." As they returned to their car to call for bomb experts, the device exploded

with enough force to shatter windows at the Skyline Hotel, about a kilometer away. The cost of damages was estimated as high as \$50 million. A security guard told police a woman had called with a bomb threat and he ordered the workers to leave but most of the staff were on a break in the commissary.

As they headed for the street, officers say they will never forget the thunderous sound of a 'dynamite bomb.' "We started running towards the exit when suddenly there was a bang and everything shattered," said Leo Bailey, who was rescued from the rubble by firefighters. The blast knocked out walls, shattered windows and snapped a gas main. Company officials alerted the 1,200 employees to stay home.

The explosion came hours after an appellate court in Toronto upheld a lower court ruling that five executives of Litton in Canada would not have to appear as witnesses in the case of 22 disarmament activists charged with trespassing during a demonstration.

Several group members had previously set off a large bomb at a B.C. power station, causing \$5 million in damages, before driving to Litton Systems of Canada, in

Rexdale, to wreak more havoc. As the dust settled, the RCMP, FBI and CIA were called to help solve the blast mystery.

It was learned that three members of the "urban geurilla" group, Direct Action, acted upon "their wish to end the arms race" and filled a stolen pick-up truck with 550 kg (1,210 lb) of dynamite and drove from Vancouver to Toronto. Although the militants had phoned to evacuate the building, the bomb was accidentally detonated minutes before its announced deadline, injuring many people. Litton Systems was a radio-engineering firm in 1934, but was purchased by former Pentagon officials in 1956 and transformed into a military producer, building navy ships in shipyards and installing private equipment including communications and navigation systems. A number of people belonging to Direct Action were later rounded up after a lengthy investigation. Brent Taylor, who was dubbed the group's 'intellectual leader' was sentenced to nine years in jail, to be served concurrently with a 22 year sentence for conspiracy to rob an armored bank truck. Ann Hansen pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 12 years for the Litton bombing, to be served concurrently with a life sentence for conspiracy to rob the bank truck and also six years for the bombing of a B.C. power station and firebombing two pornography stores. Gerry Hannah and Doug Stewart were sentenced to six and 10 years for Direct Action activities, but not for the Litton bombing.



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Looking after yourself and others in the community

JANUARY 11 ETOBICOKE CAMERA CLUB Abstract Photography Presentation with photographer **Craig Brown** to present Complex Distractions, about abstract and ICM Photography. Purchase \$10 tickets from the ECC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/etobcc>. For schedule go to <http://etobicokecameraclub.org>.

STARTING JANUARY 12 BIWEEKLY ON TUESDAYS the Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment STEAM program for girls to participate in hands on learning opportunities in the field of STEAM. For more information contact email at info@jeanaugustinecentre.ca or phone at 416-253-9797.

JANUARY 17 EMPOWERED GIRLS STEAM program begins at Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment for ages 12 to 17 biweekly on Tuesdays starting Jan. 17. Participate in hands-on learning opportunities in the field of STEAM. Contact 416-253-9797 or email info@jeanaugustinecentre.ca

JANUARY 18 TO MARCH 5 FREE ZOOM ONLINE PROGRAMS at the Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment, 101 Portland St., with more than a dozen popular programs to choose from. Contact information above.

JANUARY 18 TO MARCH 5 FREE ONLINE WINTER PROGRAMS by the Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment via Zoom to learn about Chef's Catering (senior), Craft for a Cause, Reader to reader, Craftastic market and Tik Tok dance. Contact information above.

JANUARY 18 YOUTH COUNCIL, JANUARY 19 Licensed 2 Learn Tutor Training, January 23 Hairology from 12 to 2 p.m., where you can become a scientist of hair. At the Jean Augustine Centre of Young Women's Empowerment at 416-253-9797.

JANUARY 6, 13, 20, 27 JOIN CORIN every Wednesday at 3 p.m. on Zoom for the continuation of our mindfulness series offered by LAMP.

JANUARY 19, 26 AND FEBRUARY 4 and 11 for LAMP wellness series with **Mary Craig** at 2 p.m. on Zoom and focus on renewal, mixture of stretches, breathing and self-reflections. Contact **Jasmin** at 416-252-6471 ext. 308 or email jasmind@lampchc.org

JANUARY IS CARDS OF HOPE MAKING if you have someone who would benefit from receiving an uplifting original Card of Hope in the mail. Very cool. Volunteers are also sought to help make the cards. Contact **Jasmin** for more information on card making kits.

JANUARY FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PODS PROJECT and another information session and community leadership training with 5 to 7 workshops. For information on this new project, volunteers supporting others in the community are required. Please contact **Jasmin**.

JANUARY AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING work continues with a community Zoom forum at the end of January about Lakeshore Affordable Housing Advocacy and Action Group. Date to be finalized. Contact **Jasmin** at 416-252-6471 ext. 308 or email jasmind@lampchc.org

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.

HUMBER COLLEGE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CLINIC is offering free online help to support community members in conflict coaching, conflict de-escalation techniques and facilitated mediations. Trained alternate dispute resolution student advisors and mediators are available for support by emailing northdrc@ignitestudentlife.com

EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO JOBS provides one-on-one employment training, resume, cover letter, interview preparation and provides links to

employers. More than 200 clients have been hired in two years. Book an appointment by calling 416-239-7309. Office near Kipling subway. **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.

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 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.

MONTGOMERY'S INN FOR CURBSIDE PICKUPS ONLY: please continue to support our local farmers and food producers by ordering from the market online from Thursday to Monday and pick up on Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at a table outside the main entrance. The Inn is located at 4709 Dundas St.W., and orders can be placed at www.montgomerysinnovators.ca.

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.

Long-time chocolate queen Laura Secord shuts Cloverdale Mall store



LAURA Secord

It is a day of sadness as Canadian chocolate queen Laura Secord closes one of its earlier stores at Cloverdale Mall.

It is just after Christmas and the community is finding out about

the loss of Laura Secord, a Canadian chocolate shop, which has been a fixture at Cloverdale Mall for 64 years. Store officials have confirmed that the Laura Secord at Cloverdale is now permanently closed. Two other stores have since reportedly closed.

A spokesman for the company said only one store is affected and there are no plans to shut other stores.

The popular store opened in 1956 and was the place to purchase chocolates and other confections at one time. Many area residents say they purchased gifts and treats at the Cloverdale store and the staff will be greatly missed. The store was named after Secord, who was a Canadian heroine of the War of 1812. She is known for having walked 20 miles out of American-occupied territory

in 1813 to warn British forces of an impending American attack. She died in Chippawa, Niagara Falls, in October 1868, at the age of 93. The news of Laura Secord's closure had some patrons reminiscing about the shop known for its green frosted mint chocolates and waffle ice cream cones dipped in sweet chocolate.

"The most iconic store of Cloverdale Mall is now history," one post said.



LAURA SECORD store shuts at Cloverdale

Other people said it was their favourite store back in the day.

The mall is going through a major transformation in which town homes and condos are being proposed on some of the extensive property. Construction which will take a number of years.

"The mall will be different when condos are built south and west. A piece of history will be gone," one resident worried.

Minute Muffler here for 35 years



ENGINEER Peter Laski at his bus shop (right.)

are controlled by computers." His Minute Muffler & Brake Shop has always been located at the same spot at 3090 Lake Shore Blvd. W., near Fourteenth Street.

He remembers the simpler pre-virus days when the community was busy from manufacturing activity taking place at the former Goodyear Tire plant, Anaconda Steel, Campbell Soup and many others now gone.

"We were busy back in those days," Laski recalls. "All those people were our customers and they all had cars."

He says there was a lot of work back then and housing and other items were affordable. Many businesses suffered after the plants closed. He is glad that he stuck it out and says the area is on a rebound.

His busy shop is thriving with regular customers who keep returning because of the good and affordable service he provides in repairing their vehicles.

It has been a long and satisfying journey for Laski, a father of one, who was sponsored to Canada from Poland by a Mississauga church in 1982.

His busy Minute Muffler & Brake shop, provides top service and can be reached at 416-251-2203 or www.minuteautoservices.com

Minute Muffler is proudly the longest serving auto shop in the area, with 35 years of history. Electrical engineer Peter Laski opened his shop in New Toronto in 1985 and his is now the longest-serving auto mechanic shop having served the community for almost three dozen years..

Laski has seen changes in technology over the decades that helped to revolutionize vehicles and make them more efficient, cleaner and complex to repair.

"I have taken hundreds of different courses over the years to keep up," he says.

"Many cars now



New Kipling GO Station to open this month to improve travel times for area residents

New Kipling GO Station to open this month to improve travel times. After years of construction work, it finally looks like commuter users can the use long-awaited Kipling GO Station. The new station is slated to open on January 4 and will connect MiWay bus service to Kipling GO Station, says the area MPP.



MPP CHRISTINE Hogarth

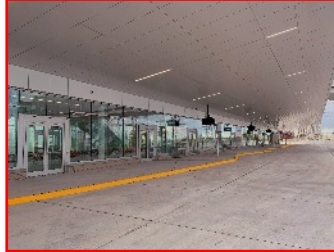
Christine Hogarth, who represents Etobicoke Lakeshore. "We are one step closer to fully opening the Kipling Transit Hub, an entirely connected transit experience that will support commuters here in Etobicoke," Hogarth said in a release.

She said MiWay buses are temporarily using the Islington TTC subway station during the construction at Kipling GO Station. With the completion of the new bus terminal, MiWay customers can access Kipling stations' new bus terminal.

"Transforming Kipling Station into a single integrated mobility hub means people will spend less time commuting and have more time for the things that matter," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation.

Phil Verster, CEO of MetroLinx, says "our riders will have one convenient location to transfer between GO rail, GO bus and MiWay bus service, along with access to the TTC subway and bus."

"I am thrilled the province is committed to building a reliable, regionally-connected transit system that will improve the commuter experience for residents," said Mississauga's Mayor Bonnie Crombie. The new Kipling terminal will offer thousands of MiWay customers access to a modern facility and transit hub. Ontario is committed to enhancing transportation in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, investing in transportation infrastructure and providing two-way, all-day service on core segments of the GO rail network.



THE NEW KIPLING Go Station is set to open January 4 with brand new equipment, top and bottom photos.



Tow truck driver a real hero



HARMANJEET Gill

A Brampton tow truck driver has been selected by the prestigious U.S. Carnegie Hero Fund Commission for saving the lives of three people injured in a 'violent car crash' seconds before the vehicle

erupted in flames. Harmanjeet Singh Gill, 20, was driving in August 2018, in Brampton when he saw a violent crash in which an SUV struck several vehicles and landed on its driver's side a few feet from a house, according to Peel Regional Police.

"Large flames burned at the vehicle's rear, and Gill responded to the scene," according to police.

Gill extended his head and arms through the car's sunroof and pulled one of the three men inside to safety.

He returned to the vehicle and dragged a second man to safety," the Commission was told.

They noted that Gill had problems removing a third man.

"With the help of a teen who also responded to the scene, Gill broke the sunroof to create a larger opening," the body heard. "They then pulled the third man to safety."

"The car was shortly engulfed in flames, which spread to another car and impinged on the house," police said. Peel Regional Police last week invited members of the

public to celebrate the heroic and courageous efforts of the internationally-recognized driver.

His actions was acknowledged by Peel Police and the Commission, which earned him the prestigious Carnegie Medal, which has been presented to heroes in the U.S. and Canada for more than 100 years.



GILL BEING HONOURED by proud police officers.

Gill was among 17 Carnegie Medal recipients announced by the Commission on December 14.

"His selflessness and commitment to save the trapped men's lives exude genuine empathy at humanity's highest level."

The fund was established by Pittsburgh steelmaker Andrew Carnegie who believed in 'recognizing heroes decades before the disaster that served as the impetus for the creation for the Hero Fund.'

Those selected are awarded the Carnegie Medal, and they, or their survivors, become eligible for financial considerations, including one-time grants, scholarship aid, death benefits and continuing assistance.

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