

The South Etobicoke News

Web: www.torontonewswire.com Email: thesouthetobicokenews@gmail.com Number 27

Buy local. Live local.

Firms urged to seek Ontario COVID funding

"Many businesses in the area are just trying to survive from day to day."



SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS; like the Gyatsos', of **TC Tibetan MoMo** (left); Shafique, of **South Side Auto Centre** and Monika, of **The Healing Muse Apothecary**, must compete daily with Big Box stores. They say it is not fair.

Small businesses are being encouraged to apply for their share of millions of dollars in financial aid being offered by the Ontario government to fight COVID-19. Area accountants say there has been some interest, but no lineups outside their offices from small business owners applying for funding to keep their doors open. Rattan Gandhi, of Quick Refund Tax, said there has been interest from businesses about the Ontario Small Business Support Grant, which has led to some inquiries, but few bookings. "Most people have developed a wait and see attitude," said Gandhi, Treasurer of the Lakeshore Village Busi-

ness Improvement Area (BIA). "Many businesses in the area are just trying to survive from day to day." The province has noted an uptick of applications for the Small Business Support Grant, which provides from \$10,000 to \$20,000 to eligible businesses that restricted their operations during the lockdown. Busi-

nesses that obtain funding are able to use it as they see fit, such as paying employees or rent. The grant is open to businesses that were required to shut down on December 26, which have fewer than 100 employees and have experienced at least a 20 per cent revenue drop comparing April 2020 to April 2019. Businesses open after April 2019 can also apply. "For small business owners help is here," said MPP Christine Hogarth. "Applications are open for the new Ontario Small Business Support Grant." Hogarth said the government is also offering \$600 million in Property Tax and Energy Bill rebates and up to \$1000 in PPE grants. The province received more than 42,000 applications for the Grant from businesses in one week, with 10,000 people applying on the first day. The 2020 Budget outlined \$13.5 billion in aid for businesses. Visit Ontario.ca/COVIDSupport for help.

Big Box outlets a threat to small businesses

The Lakeshore Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) has joined others in calling on the province to ban big box stores from selling non-essential items. BIA officials are warning that small businesses in Lakeshore Village and other areas such as Long Branch, Mimico and Alderwood are suffering as shoppers line up for Walmart, Costco and others. A letter was sent to Premier Doug Ford on January 18 by Councillor Brad Bradford and John Kiru, of the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA), warning that the current public health measures are having a huge impact on small, locally-owned businesses. The letter was on behalf of Toronto's 84 Business Improvement Areas, which represent more than 70,000 businesses and property owners across the city.



MOST RESIDENTS KNOW someone who has lost their job, or company, as small local stores close with customers preferring to line up at big box stores (right).

"We are asking you to take urgent action by going one step further in the orders and mandating big box stores and other retailers selling essential goods to close off sections of their stores where non-essential items are displayed," the businesses told the Premier. The letter said that under the latest emergency order, big box stores can sell non-essential items in-store and after-hours.

This puts "small businesses at a disadvantage and is a public health concern as it may encourage non-essential travel," Ford was told. The province is being asked to demand some changes from the big box stores. "We are asking you to take urgent action by going further in the orders and mandating big box stores and other retailers selling essential goods to close off sec-

tions of their stores where non-essential items are displayed," the letter stated. It said some big box stores need to be kept open to provide essential goods for folks, especially given the geography and access to online shopping across Ontario. "But there is also an imperative to be fair with main street businesses who have made incredible sacrifices throughout the pandemic," the businesses said. They are calling for the new public health measures to further curb non-essential travel and to be equitable to all business operators and continue delivering on the support promised to small businesses during the health crisis. Ford for his part has told residents to forget about the big box stores and support their local businesses.

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February is Black History Month



Honouring Sgt. Ryan Russell on the 10th anniversary of a tragic, senseless death



LATE SGT. RUSSELL, wife Christine, with son Nolan and colleagues.

Toronto Police officers and the family of Sergeant Ryan Russell said prayers and paid their respects to the slain officer to mark the 10th anniversary of his death. The force held a small ceremony on January 12 inside 52 Division, at 255 Dundas St. W., where Russell was stationed when he was killed as officers from the Mount-ed Unit paid their respects outdoors.

Chief Jim Ramer spoke, as did Pastor Wendell Gibbs and Supt. Hugh Ferguson, who was Russell's boss at the time. Ferguson read part of the eulogy he delivered at Russell's funeral.

Russell, who would have been 35, was killed on duty on January 12, 2011; never saw his toddler son, Nolan, grow up to attend schools and become a fine teenager.

"I wish I could turn back time," Russell's wife, Christine, told guests. "I wish I could get back the life that I had."

She is raising Nolan, 12, outside Toronto because the city holds too many memories from that tragic time.

Russell was killed while attempting to stop the driver of a stolen snowplow when he was struck on Avenue Rd., north of Davenport Rd. The six-month sergeant later succumbed to his injuries in hospital.

"He was out doing his job in the early-morning hours in a very dangerous situation, and put his life on the line, and tragically has lost his life doing his job," Chief Bill Blair said on the day of his death. "It was a day the city will never forget."

More than 10,000 people crowded into the Metro Convention Centre for his funeral and there was not a dry eye when his widow walked in, holding tight to the hand of their two-year-old.

Found not criminally responsible due to a mental disorder by a jury in 2013, Richard Kachkar, now 54, was granted an absolute discharge this past summer by the Ontario Review Board.

"He is fully and completely a free man. That's it," the officer's widow said. "It's a major disappointment."

Two weeks after Kachkar's absolute discharge, Russell received more bad news: the police horse named in honour of her husband had died suddenly in his stall from eating a poisonous plant. "It was a crazy July," she says.

Christine calls the anniversary of her late husband's death bittersweet and cannot believe a decade has passed. "I don't think anybody can. Where did the time go?"

Lamborghinis on the lam



POLICE search for two stolen Lamborghinis.

Toronto Police have stepped up a search for two costly stolen black 2019 Lamborghini Urus SUVs.

Police say one of the \$200,000 vehicle was rented on Boxing Day from a dealer in 11 Division, in the High Park area, and not returned.

The vehicle's Global Positioning System (GPS) was disabled soon after the alleged renter took off with the vehicle. "The car was subsequently reported stolen and is still outstanding," detectives said in a release. "Anyone who has seen the car or has information on its whereabouts or any suspects, is urged to contact police."

The vehicle has a twin-turbo V8 engine with 641-horsepower that can reach 190 miles per hour.

The luxury sports car was the second stolen from the Toronto area in weeks.

York Regional Police are investigating after a man was shot during a carjacking incident last December, in which his Lamborghini was stolen.

Police were called for a shooting in the Major Mackenzie Drive and Woodbine Avenue area, in which officers said a Lamborghini driver was approached by suspects and shot in the leg. The suspects took off in his red SUV that is still reported missing.

The Urus 2019 Lamborghini is described as the 'least-expensive' of the sports car series. It is a four-door All-wheel-drive SUV that is popular.

Police are not sure if the vehicles are being shipped overseas for rich buyers in other countries.

Information can be passed on to police at 416-808-1104,

Police arrest two Alderwood store heist suspects



OFFICERS get their man!

Two Mississauga thugs have been arrested for the gunpoint robbery of a store in Alderwood.

Members of the Toronto Police Hold Up Squad nabbed the duo on January 6 for the May 2020 heist of a store in the Brown's Line and Horner Ave. area, officers said. The suspects entered the store and approached the counter.

"One man produced a handgun and went behind the counter and demanded cash," officers said.

The victim opened the register and cash was taken as a second man took merchandise, police said.

David Boutilier, 37, and James O'Leary, 41, are charged with robbery with a firearm, disguise with intent, and a list of other offences. They appeared in court on January 7.

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Etobicoke loved MPP Braithwaite's quest for equality



Dubbed a son of Etobicoke, MPP Leonard Braithwaite fought to end segregation in our schools for which he is still fondly remembered by many during this Black History Month.

Lenny, as he was affectionately called, represented the riding of Etobicoke while serving as a Liberal member of the Ontario legislature from 1963 to 1975. He was re-elected in 1967 and 1971.

The popular lawyer and Royal Canadian Air Force veteran died in March 2012. He was 88.

He loved Etobicoke and narrowly captured his seat by just 443 votes that led to a headline in the *Toronto Daily Star* that read: "Wins Etobicoke: Braithwaite Ontario's First Negro MPP."

Braithwaite is best known for his 1964 maiden speech to the Legislature in which he spoke passionately about the racial

segregation that was taking place in some Ontario schools.

It seems incredible now, but Ontario in 1964 still had a law on the books mandating so-called "black schools,"

which segregated students by colour. "There has not been a need for such schools since before the beginning of this century," Braithwaite told his fellow MPPs. "There may have been a call for "coloured" schools when the Underground Railroad brought U.S. Blacks out of slavery to Ontario, but "those days have passed."

Under the Ontario Separate Schools Act, the heads of five or more families in a "city, town or



THE LATE Leonard Braithwaite as a young lawyer (left) in his political heyday (above) and in the military.

village, being coloured people," could petition the local municipal council to establish "one or more separate schools for coloured people."

A group of black parents had spent a year lobbying unsuccessfully for their children to be integrated into a new school in a nearby town.

Braithwaite would rarely back down in his many fights for the rights of visible minorities and gender equality.

He began his career in 1960 as a member of the Etobicoke Board of Education. Two years later he was elected as an alderman on the Etobicoke council and ran in the provincial election in 1963, defeating a Conservative candidate.

A graduate from the University of Toronto, where he earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree. He earned a Master of Business Administration from the Harvard Business School, graduating in 1952. He then studied and graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1958.

He was the first Black lawyer elected as a member of the Gov-

erning Council of the Law Society of Upper Canada.

Braithwaite would never forget about the racism that he faced then, during which he was armed with a first-rate education and spotless war record but could not find

a job. It was back when a person's photo had to be attached to a resume.

He was finally given a job working on the night shift at a chocolate factory after the plant's foremen decided he could not turn away a war veteran.

Braithwaite established a small law practice in his beloved Etobicoke, which he would operate for many years.

On his defeat in 1975, he returned to municipal politics, winning a spot on Etobicoke's Board of Control. He then ran in the 1985 provincial election, but lost to incumbent Nick Leluk by 821 votes.



OBITUARY

Police Academy's Ramsey loved the area

U.S. actress Marion Ramsey spent a lot of time in New Toronto filming six highly successful "Police Academy" films.

The squeaky-voice star of the 1980 and 1990's movie franchise passed away on January 7 at her Los Angeles home after falling ill. She was 73.

Ramsey gained fame playing Officer Laverne Hooks in the memorable "Police Academy" series that were filmed at the former Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital, now Humber College, at Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Kipling Ave.

A number of indoor scenes were shot in a nearby studio. The Philadelphia-born actress was well-liked and had a long and memorable career.

In 1964, she appeared in "Hello, Dolly!," and in the 1970s she established herself as a theatre, film and television talent. On stage, she acted in "Miss Moffat," and on screen she took part in the variety show "Keep On Truckin'."



ACTRESS MARION RAMSEY knew the New Toronto area during her time filming six Police Academy movies in the community. She passed away on January 7. File photos.

She rocketed to fame in 1984 with the first "Police Academy," which was filmed in the Etobicoke area. Cast members could always be seen milling around with residents.

Ramsey's character remained popular and she acted in six installments of the movie until the last one "Police Academy 6: City Under Siege," in 1989.

She also had an illustrious career on Broadway in productions like "Hello Dolly" and "Eubie."

Ramsey will also be remembered for her appearances on "The Jeffersons" and was a regular on Bill Cosby's comedy series "Cos." In addition, she did voice-overs for "The Addams Family" cartoon series and "Robot Chicken."

She leaves behind three brothers.

Ramsey is sadly missed by south Etobicoke residents and fans worldwide who were loyal supporters of the Police Academy series.

The movie series, which did well at the box office, follows a group of misfit recruits as they try to prove themselves as police officers.

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Push to save Campbell's smokestack as history



THE DAYS MAY be numbered for the Campbell Soup 200-foot smokestack that has been standing for 90 years. It is slated for demolition in March.

By TOM GODFREY

Some New Toronto residents are trying to save the iconic Campbell Soup 200-foot smokestack from being demolished next month.

The destruction of historic smokestacks, some more than 100-years-old, which represents part of our industrial legacy, should be stopped, say local residents. The last smoker taken down was in 1990, when the massive stack at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Plant came crashing to the ground after more than 70 years of service. The plant, at Dwight Ave., and Twenty Second St., was constructed in 1917.

At one time, the U.S.-based company was manufacturing 50 per cent of all the auto tires in Canada and was a leader in the tire industry for more than 60 years. It was no wonder that Goodyear ex-workers from across the city turned out more than 31 years-ago this month to witness history when that smokestack was brought to the ground with explosives.



THE GOODYEAR TIRE and Rubber smokestack was demolished in 1990.

Then-Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion joined dozens of residents at McMillan Headland Park to watch as the smokestacks fell to the ground like thunder.

Now that workers have begun flattening the former Campbell Soup site, at 60 Birmingham Ave., residents are talking about the giant smokestack.

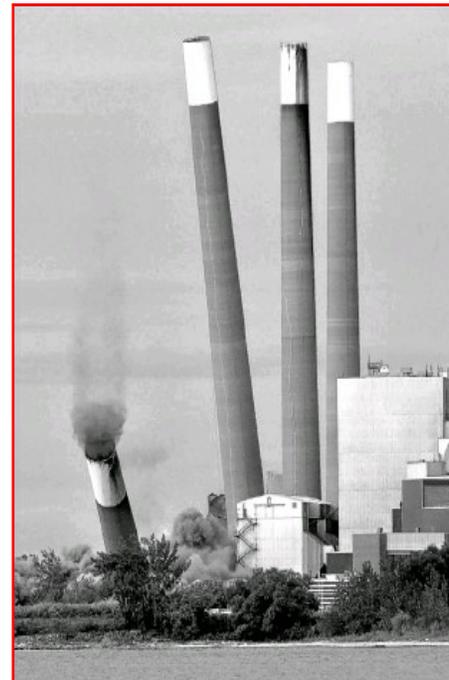
Some residents would like to save the stack and have written letters to the developer without success. Others say they are concerned by the noisy truck traffic that the impending warehouses will bring.

Some have taken to social media to make plans to try and save the Campbell smokestack as others try to find a good spot to capture images of the fall. QuadReal Development, the developers of the site, confirmed that the stack will be demolished in March.

Another major removal occurred in 2006 with the explosion of the four stacks, dubbed the Four Sisters, at the Lakeview Generating Station, which was built in 1958, at Lake Shore and Cawthra Rds.

The impressive four stacks were each 500 feet, or 150 metres, tall and could be seen on the lakefront for miles.

Campbell Soup has hired generations of families and purchased crops from many in the area. The stack has stood over the sprawling 18.8-acre site since the plant was opened in November 1931. Some longtime residents are concerned that it is the



THE FOUR SISTERS (right) at Lakeview Generating Station were brought down in 2006 and attracted dignitaries. File shots.

last-surviving major smokestack in the area and brings an end of the industrial era in New Toronto, with powerhouses such as Goodyear Tire and Rubber, Anaconda Steel and others gone.

It was a bittersweet moment for many who on the one hand were happy to see an end to what was considered the most significant single source of pollution for the GTA, but on the other hand were saying adieu to a piece of the city's history and landmarks.

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

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

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Honouring two trailblazing Black police officers who influenced entire generations

Linc fought for equality and was first Black MP



TORONTO POLICE first Black cop, the late Staff Sgt. Larry McClarty, top, bottom.

Two late great policemen who influenced generations of Black cops in Canada are being remembered for their trailblazing work this Black History Month. Staff Sergeant Larry McClarty had a long and outstanding career as the first Black cop on the Toronto Police Service and Alton C. Parker rose to become Canada's first



Black detective. McClarty, aka Larry, (above) a former member of the Jamaican Constabulary Force, worked when he first arrived in Canada as a railway porter, catalogue book packer, night cleaner and in a hospital kitchen before getting a break to return to the work he loved. When McClarty applied to Toronto Police, he was disappointed to learn he was one-eighth of an inch too short. Then two months later, while being measured for a new suit, he discovered he met the height requirement after all.

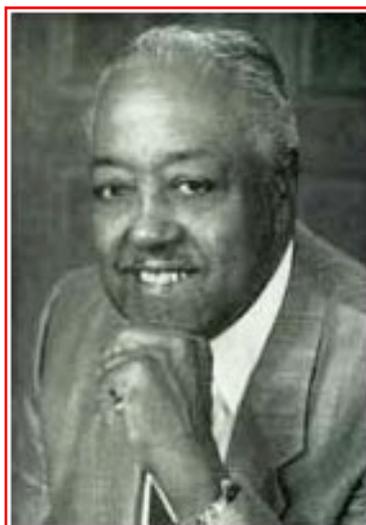
He eagerly reapplied to the force and was hired in 1960, making him the first Black cop in TO. The young officer and his family were living in Etobicoke at the time and would live here for many years before moving to Oshawa. In his 32 years of service, he rose from walking the beat on streets such as Bloor and College Sts., to being an initial member of Toronto's emergency task force. He retired as a Detective Sergeant in 1992.

"He was very proud about being the first Black police officer in Toronto," his son, Michael, told an interviewer. "On a personal level, it was an achievement. But on another level, it represented a secure job with steady income, that he could provide for his family." Michael said his father faced some discrimination inside and outside of the office as he moved forward in his career.

Also being honoured is Alton C. Parker, who in 1951, became the first Black to hold a rank of Detective in Canada.

Parker was born in Windsor in 1907 and joined the Windsor Police Dept. in 1942 as a mechanic. He became the force's first Black Constable and had to face some backlash in the community due his colour.

His outstanding work and personality changed his fellow officer's views on diversity in the work force. He enjoyed serving the community with dedication and pride, and in 1951 he was promoted to the rank of Detective, making him the first black Detective in Canada. Parker was very active in the community helping others.



ALTON C PARKER, (top, bottom) of Windsor Police Dept., was the first Black detective in Canada.

He was a recipient of many awards of recognition and was proud of the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship he received in 1976, The next year he was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal, and in 1986 he re-



ceived the Harry Jerome Award for his commitment to youth. In 1988 Detective Alton Parker was named The Person of the Year by the North American Black Historical Museum. He touched many. Detective Parker passed away in 1989.



Former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Lincoln Alexander is being remembered for his lengthy tenure in public service. January 21 was Lincoln Alexander Day, which is a national day of recognition held yearly to honour the first Black member of Parliament in the House of Commons, federal cabinet minister as Minister of Labour and military veteran.

He was born in Toronto in 1922 and died in 2012 at age 90. Alexander's mom, Mae Rose, was from Jamaica and dad, Lincoln Sr., was a porter on the Canadian Pacific Railway, who arrived here from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Linc, as he was dubbed, faced discrimination growing up in Toronto. The future MP first distinguished himself in service to Canada in 1942 as a corporal and wireless operator in the RCAF during the Second World War.

While stationed in Vancouver, he was refused service at a bar because of his race. He reported the incident to a superior officer who refused to take action. Alexander quit the Air Force in 1945 and was granted an honourable discharge.

He married first wife Yvonne Harrison in 1948 and applied for a sales job at Stelco, a steel plant in Hamilton. Although he had references from McMaster University and the Mayor of Hamilton, Stelco turned him away and was unwilling to have a Black man on its sales force.

Alexander became a widower in 1999, then wed his second wife, Marni Beal in 2011.

By 1955, Alexander partnered with Dave Duncan, forming a law firm that he claimed was the first inter-racial law partnership in Canada.

Alexander bought his own home in Hamilton in 1958 and lived there for nearly four decades.

He ran in the 1965 federal election as the Progressive Conservative Party candidate in Hamilton West but was defeated. He ran again in the 1968 election and won the seat, becoming Canada's first Black MP.

Alexander was an observer to the United Nations in 1976 and 1978 and served briefly as Minister of Labour in the Progressive Conservative Party's minority government headed by Joe Clark from 1979 to 1980.

He resigned the seat in 1980, when he was asked to serve as chair of the province's Workers Compensation Board. In 1985 he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and became the first Black to serve in a vice-regal position.

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PSDs Taurus and Luke hailed as crime-fighting heroes

Unrelenting Toronto Police Service Dogs are being praised as heroes for nightly helping to make arrests or save lives on the front-line.

Police Service Dogs Taurus and Luke are being hailed as crime-fighting heroes for their actions in the line of duty for this country's largest police force. Const. PC Papadopoulos said he teamed up with Police Service Dog (PSD) Taurus and his handler Const. Russ Keveza on January 14 to search for a driver who fled from a vehicle during a traffic stop.



POLICE SERVICE Dog Luke, above, (right) sniffed out a driver who fled after a stop. Police photos.



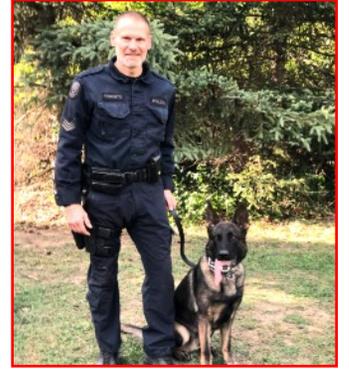
Palermo and PSD Luke were called to help officers in 12 Division find another driver who bolted from a car in a police stop. The crime-fighting canine and handler worked hard back and forth in the area to find a driver who fled from a stolen car in the Black Creek and Lawrence Ave. W. area. "After a lengthy track, Luke sniffed out the fugitive who immediately surrendered," Palermo tweeted. Palermo and Luke received and passed police canine

Handler Keveza and Taurus scoured the area and soon found the suspect hiding not too far away. "Driver was located hiding thanks to PSD Taurus," PC Pappy tweeted. "Driver is now in custody facing several criminal and traffic charges."

That same night Sgt Mike Palermo and PSD Luke were called to help officers in 12 Division find another driver who bolted from a car in a police stop.

unit training and had been working together since September last year.

The Toronto Police Dog Services was formed in 1989 and consists of 21 handlers and dogs. Most teams are comprised of one handler and one general purpose police dog. There are teams for detecting narcotics, guns and explosives.



POLICE HANDLER Keveza with crime-fighting PSD Taurus.

Every handler is responsible for the care and maintenance of his canine partner. The dog not only works with the officer but becomes part of their family. The Service uses German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois for general purpose police dogs and a Labrador, Springer Spaniel, and Malinois breeds for the detection of narcotics, firearms, ammunition and explosives.

Traffic cam on Renforth Dr. a top city money earner



TRAFFIC CAM top earner.

An unforgiving traffic speed camera on the outskirts of Etobicoke is gaining notoriety as a top money earner for the City of Toronto.

The busy Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) camera pointed towards a nice stretch of road at Renforth Dr., near Lafferty St., in Etobicoke Centre, Ward 2, has issued 890 tickets against lead-footed motorists in a four-month period.

This ASE, as the system is called, includes 50 cameras that from their installation in July 2020 to October 2020, issued more than 54,000 tickets, which are mailed to the registered owner of the vehicles. The Renforth Dr. traffic cam issued almost 900 tickets during that period, or about 12 per cent of the tickets mailed out. The camera was also connected to the single biggest fine issued: \$718 to a vehicle owner driving 89 km/h in a 40 km/h zone.

City officials said the most frequent repeat offender was a driver in Scarborough North, who received 17 tickets from a device located near Crow Trail and Bradstone Square. They noted as the initial enforcement window continued, there was a notable reduction in both the

overall number of tickets issued and also the number of repeat offenders.

The cameras were moved to other locations last November. Mayor John Tory said one car was ticketed 12 times in a month.

From October 7 to 31, the last day before the cameras were moved, there were 5,174 tickets issued, with 251 repeat offenders. For the first 90 days, motorists caught speeding received warning letters instead of tickets as part of a public education campaign.



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Indigenous actor Taran dies Former MP Augustine receives top lifetime achievement award



Many Canadians today are mourning the death of up-and-coming Indigenous actor and artist Taran Kootenayahoo.

Kootenayahoo, who was based in

Vancouver, died on December 31, on New Year's Eve, with no cause of death given. He was 27.

The actor was on the verge of "breaking out" and had developed a loyal base in South Etobicoke and elsewhere.

Born in Cold Lake, Alberta and a member of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Kootenayahoo attended acting school at Capilano College in Vancouver and graduated in 2015.

He was best known as Niki, a young homeless man looking for his missing sister, in *Bella Ciao!*, the 2018 Indie feature by Director Carolyn Combs about intersecting characters in an east Vancouver multicultural community.

"Our loss is immeasurable. He was a gifted and disciplined collaborator, a warm and generous friend," the *Bella Ciao* website mourned in the death of the talented actor.

"Words don't capture our deep respect and affection for him," the post stated. "We wish him well on his journey."

In a 2018 profile for *Hollywood North Magazine*, Kootenayahoo said he hoped the role of Niki would encourage other Indigenous youth to follow his lead into acting.

"I'm very glad to be part of it and hopefully inspire other Indigenous youth or anybody else

that aspires to do whatever they want and have fun with," he told the magazine. Besides a number of screenplays and live theater roles in western Canada, Kootenayahoo also played the character of Remy in the 2018 Canadian TV series *Literally*, and voiced the role of Randall in the animated fantasy series *Molly of Denali*.



RIP ACTOR TARAN Kootenayahoo.

Section 35, an Indigenous streetwear maker, for which Kootenayahoo modeled its latest fashions, grieved on Instagram. "Creator called a legend home. We love you and you will be missed. Rest in Power Brother." The actor was named as a Star to Watch at the Whistler Film Festival in 2018 and earned the Most Promising Newcomer trophy at the Jessie Theatre Awards a year later "I want him to be remembered for his care for people, the environment and passion for his work," said his older sister, Cheyanna Kootenayahoo, who performs as DJ Kookum.

Congratulations to former Member of Parliament (MP) Jean Augustine who has been presented with a lifetime achievement award after being selected by federal politicians. Grenada-born and proud Etobicoke resident Augustine was selected for the distinction in a 12th yearly survey by Maclean's magazine of sitting MPs with the help of Ottawa polling firm Sprinbrook Strategies. "To ensure that parties with the most seats cannot dominate the list of winners, MPs benefit when they receive support from outside their own party," according to a release. "This year's lifetime achievement award winner is Jean Augustine, a

Liberal MP from 1993-2006, who was the first African-Canadian woman elected to the House of Commons, and the first Black woman appointed to Cabinet," according to a statement. Jean, a former high school principal, was the first woman elected to represent Etobicoke-Lakeshore in the House of Commons. She was popular in the community and was re-elected for a second term. Augustine served as the Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien from 1994 to 1996; she was Minister of State for multiculturalism (and the Status of Women) from 2002 to 2004. The winners were announced at Parliament Hill and named at a virtual ceremony on January 12 due to the pandemic. Augustine is well-known for her work in the community and her involvement in the Jean Augustine Center for Young Women's Empowerment, on Portland St. She also helps other charities and agencies in the area.



LIFETIME Achievement Award for Jean Augustine. File photo.

Christine HOGARTH

MPP ETOBICOKE-LAKESHORE

You can reach my office at 416-259-2249 or christine.hogarth@pc.ola.org
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Business Support Grants: 3 Supports for COVID-19

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Authentic Tibetan Momo & Le Gourmand, others



LLUNDUP and wife, Tsewang, at TC Tibetan MoMo.

This couple's dream came true with a tasty Tibetan MoMo take out in Mimico. It has been a long journey from Nepal and now we have authentic Tibetan-style MoMoms cooking right here in South Etobicoke. TC Tibetan MoMo, at 182 Royal York Rd., is home to one of the first MoMo take-outs in our community. "My love for MoMo came from watching my father make, cook and serve them to family and friends," says Llundup Gyatso, who with wife, Tsewang, had a dream to open their own restaurant. "MoMoms are a traditional Tibetan food and symbols of festivities and celebrations." MoMoms are a staple dish of Tibetans and the recipe is as old as the Himalayan mountains. The Tibetan-style dumpling, are also known as perogies, gyoza or dim sum, contains a meat or vegetable filling, that is dipped in a tasty sauce to achieve a sumptuous flavour. "Traditional MoMo are a mix of simple dough-wrapped around fillings of a choice of meat or vegetables," Gyatso explains in

his clean and well-stocked store. "It is a very simple food, yet a tasty meal." The couple make their own sauces, which range from hot to vegan or vegetables, in which the piping hot MoMoms are dipped for a nice flavour. The prices are affordable and the MoMoms quite good. We tried the beef. The family arrived here in 2012 from Nepal, where Gyatso was born to Tibetan parents, who were forced to flee their homeland during the Chinese occupation. "It was my wife's

dream to start our own business selling this delicious Tibetan food," he insists. They began working on their vision and regularly sell their home-made products at a farmer's market at Wychwood Barn in Toronto. "Slowly and steadily TC Tibetan MoMo became a part of life and has now spread its wings," he says. "The take-out restaurant is now part of a bigger family with a flow of customers who continually show their support." They only use fresh produce and ingredients sourced from Ontario farmers, including organic white flour as wrapping. TC Tibetan MoMo, on Royal York Rd., can be reached by phone at 416-251-7887 or visit <http://tctibetanmomo.com/>



FOOD TESTED BY STAFF

Le Gourmand Bakery is thanking the community members who made them feel 'extremely welcome' as they open their second location in New Toronto.

"Many described how they wished us success and that they were happy we were adding to the quality retail/bakery options in the area," says Davis Snider, Le Gourmand's Director of Operations. "They also liked the fact that we have a takeout window during these socially distanced times."



Le GOURMAND Bakery

Snider says their success come down 'to our amazing product and service,' which is at the forefront of Le Gourmand Bakery Etobicoke, at 2897 Lake Shore Blvd. W. "We make our baked goods with the finest ingredients," he says.

"Always made by hand, we strive to maintain a focus on the details when welcoming and serving our guests in the storefront." The new location, Le Gourmand Bakery Humber, at 3180 Lake Shore Blvd. W., across from Humber College, is called a "Pocket Bakery & Café," with a reduced menu that includes its famous cookies, coffee, croissants, and sandwiches.

The bakery is planning more locations and is taking its renowned cookies province-wide with delivery by Canada Post.



THE CUBAN Thing truck

If you are looking for some heat in your life, then you want to visit *The Cuban Thing* food truck that will be spicing up things at Square One, in Mississauga, on February 12.

Main chef Chuchi says their frita burger is a top seller, along with the Cuban sandwich and their flan.

"We hope to be cooking non-stop when April comes," he writes. "I truly want to create a buzz in Etobicoke with my home-style cooking."

He plans to be based in the Kipling Queensway area and posted on social media. "It's about serving and sharing for us. Food trucks have turned out to be essential now with COVID-19," he says.

Recently opened RUDY BBQ is now grilling at 1466 The Queensway, across from Ikea. RUDY is proving to be popular. Staff claim their burgers are handcrafted, ground, grilled, served on a toasted bioche bun with lettuce, tomato, onion rings and all the fixings. We tried the beef burger and it was nice and juicy.



RUDY BBQ

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Remembering TV host Elwy Host

By DAVE KOSONIC

“Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome once again to *Saturday Night at the Movies*. My name is Elwy Yost.”

That is the welcoming way Canadian television personality Yost began his weekly movie program that ran for 25 years, from 1974 to 1999.

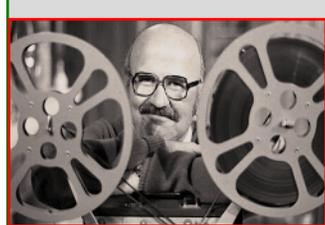
Yost had a long connection with Etobicoke and few people knew that he was a full-time English teacher at Burnhamthorpe Collegiate Institute.

“Well it is that time ladies and gentlemen to turn your lights down very low and put your feet up,” Yost added while introducing a show about alcoholism in the cinema.

“It is harrowing but it is magnificently made and I am very proud of this film,” were words he used to review the Academy Award winning movie *The Lost Weekend* produced by Billy Wilder and starring Ray Milland with screenplay by Charles Brack.



ELWY YOST



ELWY loved Etobicoke.

Yost always appeared very relaxed as he sat back in a comfy chair and turned on his retro film projector and then said with a smile: “If you are ready I am now so let’s roll our projector.”

Yost was well-known for hosting CBC television’s weekday *Passport to Adventure* series from 1965 to 1967, TVOntario’s weekday *Magic Shadows* from 1974 to mid-1980s and *Saturday Night at the Movies*. He was also the author of four books about movies.

The broadcaster was born in Weston in 1925 and passed away in West Vancouver in 2011 of natural causes at the age of 86. He was married to Lila Melby for 60 years and they have two sons Christopher and Graham, a famous producer known for *From the Earth to the Moon*, *Justified* and *Speed*.

Yost was also a film maker and he produced two movies titled *Ida Makes a Movie* and *Moulin Rouge*.

He joined the Canadian Infantry in 1944 and was honourably discharged in 1945. Other brief employment included construction work at Exhibition Place and working in the circulation department at *The Toronto Star*.

He worked on and off as a panelist on television shows until the late 1960s when he became the permanent host of the CBC radio show *It’s Debatable* after which his career blossomed.

After Yost’s death in 2011 *The Toronto Star* reflected back upon his life. “The bald man with the moustache, wire-rim glasses and odd name was an unlikely candidate for stardom...at the peak 250,000 viewers appreciated his appetite for movies.”

Legendary journalist and broadcaster Sinclair travelled the world but called Etobicoke home

By DAVE KOSONIC

Legendary journalist and broadcaster Gordon Sinclair loved Etobicoke and is still considered a legend by many area residents.



GORDON SINCLAIR and *Front Page Challenge* TV gang (right)

Sinclair, a member of the Etobicoke Hall of Fame, managed to cram an enormous number of accomplishments into his busy life before passing away at age 83 in May 1984.

Sinclair grew up in the Cabbagetown area but spent much of his life living in his family home tucked away just off Burnhamthorpe Road W., near the Islington Golf Course.

Growing up, he dropped out of high school during his first year and was terminated by his first two employers, the Bank of Nova Scotia and Eaton’s. He served part time with the 48th Highlanders of Canada

Things began happening for him in 1922 when he was hired as a cub reporter by *The Toronto Star* and began working his way up the newsroom ladder. Before long, he rose to become one of the most prominent *Star* reporters and for a decade in the 1930s travelled around the world, four times on assignment, which included interviews with Queen Elizabeth; he future Queen Mother, Adolph Hitler and hundreds of others. The *Star* wrote that Sinclair had



FRONT PAGE CHALLENGE panelists are left to right, Pierre Berton, Fred Davis, Betty Kennedy and Gordon Sinclair.

travelled 340,000 miles in 73 countries for the newspaper. During that time he wrote eight books on his exploits. Sinclair married co-worker Gladys Prewett in 1926 and they were parents of three sons and a daughter. His eldest, Gord (1928–2002), was also a successful journalist in Montreal, as well as a majority radio station owner. Sinclair joined Toronto radio station CFRB in 1943 and became part-owner of the station. He continued with CFRB until his death.

He appeared on the popular weekly CBC’s *Front Page Challenge* for 27 years flanked by other personalities including; Betty Kennedy, Pierre Berton and Fred Davis, in photo above.

Sinclair was flamboyant and developed his own “distinctive” style of dress which included plaid blazers and loud bow ties. He loved wearing a kilt to celebrate his Scottish heritage.

He gained great attention globally when he praised the U.S. from his Canadian perspective in 1973 and at later dates. “This Canadian thinks it is time to stick up for the Americans,” he once wrote.

National Flag of Canada Day is February 15



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See Page 16 for a list of BIA businesses to shop from on the ‘Shore and save money!

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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

Go Fund Me for family of frontline nurse Connie

Many Etobicoke residents are mourning the death of a popular front-line healthcare worker who passed away from complications due to COVID-19.



FRONTLINE worker Connie Cerdan (above, right) will be sadly missed.

Connie Cerdan, who has a loving family, tested positive for the virus on December 29 and died at home on January 3, her family said. She was 66.

A Go Fund Me page has raised more than \$10,300, with a goal of raising \$20,000, to help her family.

"Connie was the ultimate caregiver," according to the fund's organizer Victoria Riley. "She was a very thoughtful and generous person who always prioritized the needs of others before her own."

Officials of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) said Connie was a member of Local 597 since 1974. She was employed helping with seniors at Montage Support Services, on Oakwood Rd.

She was working in the healthcare field for more than 45 years and had treated hundreds of patients.

"Connie was known for her thoughtful, kind nature," wrote union President Warren (Smokey) Thomas and First Vice-President, Eduardo (Eddy) Almeida. "She was loved and respected by her co-workers and everyone she supported at her workplace."

They said she hosted an annual BBQ at her home for all Montage clients and staff, which 'speaks volumes about her dedication to her job.'

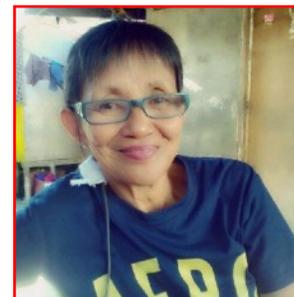
"Connie was a frontline hero who always went above and beyond to take care of her family, her co-workers, and the Ontarians she helped every day," the union officials said. "It is truly heartbreaking any time that the Connies of this world are taken from us."

Connie was popular and well-loved by her co-workers for the comfort and caring that she showed her patients.

"Our deepest and heartfelt condolences go out to everyone who is affected by Connie's passing," said Laurence and Cynthia Young. "We have wonderful memories that will always remain with us."

"Such heartbreaking news," wrote Marianne Enge. "She was a lovely lady who was so kind and funny."

Friend Sandra Kolpakow said Connie "will be remembered as the most generous friend who loved celebrations, karaoke, her garden, dancing, and most of all her devoted children and loving mother." Donations can be made by searching Connie's name on gofundme.com



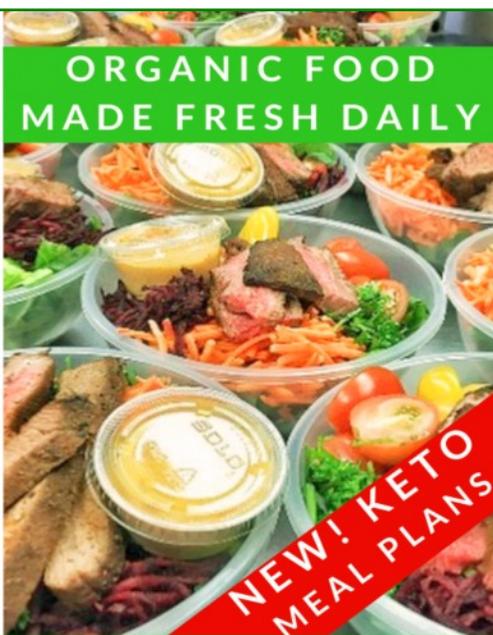


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Your Health & Wellness

By **MONIKA MEULMAN**

With the New Year safely behind us, we can truly begin enjoying this brand new year. It is a new beginning after all. Or better yet, let us see it as 'A thousand different beginnings.'

If 2020 has taught us anything at all, it would probably be that we are stepping into the unknown each and every day. I invite you to embrace your day, your stance, your breath, as much today, than you do new year beginnings. Why? Because you step into each day the moment you wake. And, you get on with your day whether you direct your schedule, your mindset, your focus or not.

When you embrace the day, you are in control. When you are in control, you gain a sense of well being. When you gain a sense of well being, living life becomes much easier. They may sound like baby steps and that's because they are.

Taking in one day at a time, with focus, with effort, with deliberate mindfulness, you are choosing to be present, make strong choices and grow: one small step at a time. Better yet, you are choosing to do so, one breath at a time.

'Choice' is a funny word isn't it? We forget how many choices we make in a day. It is so automatic for us to grab a sweater, tie our shoes, walk out the door, pick up some groceries and get home not even realizing how we did it. I urge you to follow an ancient adage 'always be a beginner.' It is one of my favourites. Try this in your day: When you choose to view tying your shoes as a beginner, or picking up fresh produce at the market - as a beginner, you choose to truly pay attention. This type of attention is called being 'mindful'. Mindfulness is a practice and consists of focus + awareness. We can all do it. But, most of us forget to practice it unless we have to or are reminded. Here is your chance. I am reminding you to practice, once a day. Once a day, choose to do one activity/errand/chore as a beginner. For example, as you prepare your cup of tea, select the tea with a clear head, take a deep breath, explore the tea blend, its

aroma, its texture, the way it is packaged. See where the tea is harvested and manufactured. Bring the water to a boil and pour the water over the tea slowly, gingerly.

Take time. Be aware and focus on this action. Watch the water become tea. Mindfulness can begin in every cup. Let me know how the tea tastes once you have prepared it as a beginner. What other simple, short chores or activities can you practice mindfully?

As we gear up to celebrate Chinese New Year, we are reminded that we can have a fresh start many times over, each and every year, not just on January 1. In various traditions, religions and cultures, we see that 'new beginnings' are always just around the corner. Let us embrace the beginnings as the gift that they are.

Celebrate with love and compassion in your heart this February. Raise a toast of wine, a steaming cup of Java, or your favourite tea brew.

Proclaim this month of February, traditionally all about love, to be your month of growing warmth in your heart and taking on each day with love instead. Embrace the growing daylight, new beginnings, calling up old friends to catch up, start seedlings on your kitchen counter, try some new recipes or a new take out restaurant, allow yourself to grow in love. I invite you to find your favourite quote on beginnings, starting fresh and read it every morning when you wake in February. It is one of the easiest ways to begin thinking anew.

"Do not wait until the conditions are perfect to begin. Beginning makes the conditions perfect." - Alan Cohen.

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Beyond Taxes

By **RATTAN GANDHI**

Hello Readers. In this article I am going to cover two items; COVID-19 response to getting ready for the 2020 tax filing.

Let me start with federal or provincial COVID-19 support programs available and the related deadlines and filing requirements.

TWS – Temporary Wage Subsidy. This program allows a 10% relief for employers who have a payroll account as of March 18th, 2020. This claim should be claimed on the prescribed Form PD27. The amount so claimed can be received by reducing the 2021 remittances.

CEWS- Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. Up to 75% of wages (maximum \$847 per week). The eligibility is based upon the revenue decline and the program has been extended to June 2021. The deadlines are January 31st, 2021 or 180 days after the end of the claim period.

CEBA-Canada Emergency Business Account. The deadline is March 31st, 2021. Businesses can avail a loan of \$60,000 of which 33.33% (\$20,000) is forgivable. Available to a business in operation as of March 1, 2020, and provided they meet the thresholds of Payroll or non-deferrable expenses. Non-forgivable portion must be paid by December 31st, 2022

CECRA-Canada Emergency Rent Assistance. This program has end and was funded by the landlord, Federal and Provincial governments to the tune of 25% each

CERS-Canada Rent Support. Application is through the CRA website My Account. This program is available to companies experiencing revenue decline and have up to 180 days after the end of each claim period. Up to 65% of rent or property tax is

available plus a possible 25% top up for lockdown support

Ontario Small Business Support Grant. Available to businesses required to close or significantly restrict services under the province wide shut down that begins on December 26th, 2020 and experience a minimum 20% decline comparing April 2020 to April 2019. In addition, there are other programs to fund PPE and hydro support. The biggest frustration in availing some of the programs is setting up the My Account once done along with a direct deposit the process and funding should be seamless.

Now let me focus on the 2020 tax filing season, the first date these taxes can be e-filed is February 22nd, 2021 and the RRSP deadline is March 1st, 2021.

Here is a list of documents that will be required for your Tax Returns; T4s, T5s, RRSP slips, rent receipt, charitable donation receipts, medical expenses (your pharmacist can give you a printout of all your medications for the year), this year getting a T2200 (Condition of Employment Form) from your Employer is important if you are working from home. In addition, you will need the T2202 for students enrolled in a study program.

Other potential deductions available are first time home buyers, disability credit or caretaker amount.

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.

Salvation Army helping others



The Salvation Army in Long Branch says it has been hit hard by COVID-19 and is seeking donations of cash and food to help area residents in need.

It warns that the demands are high for those using the food bank, and only five people can be inside the building at one time. Users are asked to call ahead.

"Many people have been laid off or had their hours cut due to the virus," says Youth Pastor Jennifer Hibbs. "We also

have many people working at home and their families are not at school."

The more than 150-year old organization had its largest fundraising event, the Salvation Army's Christmas Kettle Campaign, cancelled after three days due to the pandemic.

Hibbs says the Salvation Army is resuming its Community Lunch that takes place every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Thirtieth Street facility. The first take-out lunch takes place on February 3.

The Salvation Army was founded in London, England in 1865 by Rev. William Booth and his wife, Catherine. The organization started in Canada in 1882. The Lakeshore Community Church is an amalgamation of the Long Branch Corps and the Mimico Corps, formerly on Mimico Ave. More than 300 families receive their services monthly and 800 plus families receive Christmas assistance each year from the Long Branch chapter, located at 5 Thirtieth Street, and can be reached at 416-251-8372. Donations can be left at the church.



YOUTH Pastor Hibbs



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Many Black History Month events scaled back for COVID



BLACK HISTORY events include virtual gripping docu-drama *Ninth Floor*, *Treasures of Ours* event or enjoy talk with famous author Lawrence Hill (above).

There has been a number of cancellations of Black History Month events this year due to COVID-19.

There would literally be dozens of celebrations taking place in Canada and the U.S. in February to honour outstanding Black people.

There are still many events taking place, Lakeshore Arts is launching a Black History Month campaign called “Treasures of Ours.”

The campaign invites members of the Black community to “share an object of cultural and personal significance to them by submitting its picture or video.”

“We will share these treasures on our social media or celebrate Black Heritage throughout February, and at the end of the month in an online exhibit on our website,” says Sharon Zarita, Lakeshore Arts Operations Manager.

You can visit them at operations@lakeshorearts.ca or call them at 416-201-7093.



AUTHOR Foggo

Meanwhile, Etobicoke Lakeshore MPP Christine Hogarth is encouraging members of the community to support Black-owned businesses in the area during Black History Month and beyond.

February is a time that we can celebrate and learn about the achievements of Ontario’s vibrant Black communities who have contributed to the history, culture and social fabric of our province, Hogarth says in a release.

She says a Premier’s Council on Equality of Opportunity was created to give the government advice on how young people can overcome social and economic barriers.

Some virtual Black History Month events include:

FEB. 8, Zoom , Black History Symposium: Honouring the Diversity of Black, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Guests will explore anti-Black racism activism in diverse spaces and the role of post-secondary environments in transforming anti-Black racism advocacy.

FILM SCREENING: Ninth Floor, on February 12 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Zoom. Film takes a look at infamous Sir George Williams sit-in on February 1969 that led to the most explosive student uprising Canada had ever known.

FEB. 9 Ontario Black History Society presents a Zoom virtual Speaker Series with president Natasha Henry in conversation with Cheryl Foggo (left) and famous author Lawrence Hill. Register at <https://obhsblackhistorymonthspeakerseries.eventbrite.ca>

FEB. 18 at 7 p. m. - Black History Marks These Places. Zoom talk will examine history of Amherstburg Freedom Museum, Buxton Museum, Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site, and the Guelph Black Heritage Society and the important role these existing sites play in preserving and interpreting Black Canadian history.

FEB. 23 at 7 p.m.- Stories of the African Diaspora Storytellers Sandra Whiting and Kesha Christie share rich stories of the African diaspora.

<https://obhsblackhistorymonthspeakerseries.eventbrite.ca>



From the Bench

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI

Last month we were discussing expert evidence and its dangers. Before we see the expert’s role in a murder case, we need to understand the concerns for this type of evidence.

Experts, if qualified, are the few witnesses allowed to express opinions on matters beyond the knowledge of the ordinary citizen. Opinions on mental competency, cause of death, accidents and child abuse are examples. The average witness can opine on simpler matters of everyday experience like speed, anger, and identity.

Yes! Identity is an opinion made from interpreting a combination of distinct observations such as hair, colour, characteristics like scars and configuration of the facial features. You need to explain why it’s the same person. Identity is also the largest cause of wrongful convictions. Opinions on intoxication are border line where the average citizen’s knowledge and the expert’s ability can both express some opinion regarding the effect.

Courts have always regarded expert evidence with caution, recognizing that a jury may place undue weight on it. The expert must establish their field of study is recognized by showing an understanding of the field beyond the ordinary person: membership and standards in a professional organization, recognized academic qualifications, research or experience in the field and such.

The expert then has to objectively set out the facts, leading to their opinion, both pro and con. Objectivity is the foundation of science. It’s important to offset “confirmation bias” – where your belief determines how you filter and view the facts. Lastly, they must set out the theory they are applying to their facts and why. That theory must be widely accepted by the field, tested and verified, not one held by a few contrary. Their duty is to the court. The court is gate keeper and not a peer review panel to decide which is the best science. The court must avoid dealing with ‘dueling theories’, that’s for the scientists.

Of course, their bias can be questioned such as who is paying their fees. If their assumed facts or the expert’s interpretation of them aren’t proven or accepted by the jury, they can reject the opinion.

In our case, the issue was with the first girlfriend, denying knowledge about the murder she phones the police after a year. We had no idea she was there. Her evidence fit the facts but still we questioned her motive, jealousy or honesty. We had a circumstantial case, a recent insurance policy and the accused’s lies to the police. We were concerned the trial would be about her clouding the real issue, the murder. We also had the duty of presenting all reliable evidence. What was her explanation? Was it trustworthy? Was she an accomplice? We felt it morally wrong for a Crown Attorney to call any witness we doubted. Also, without moralizing, it is important to re-enforce your case from attacks that she recently fabricated her evidence.

It is always a delicate area for a Crown to questions its key witness’s motive. When the Crown questions their testimony or asks for an explanation they feel you are against them and they lose trust in you. It was my responsibility to ensure respect and confidence in witnesses, it is also my responsibility to avoid wrongful convictions. It becomes even more difficult when the key witness is a complainant but that’s another story for another time.

We retained a psychiatrist. We needed to know why she came to us so late? Was it to seek retribution, or a legitimate inability to live with the event?

The psychiatrist's evidence would not be available for trial unless the defense suggested she had recently made up a story; otherwise believability is solely a decision for the Jury but it would fulfill our duties. The murder story continues next month.

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.

Rare sighting of Bald Headed Eagle

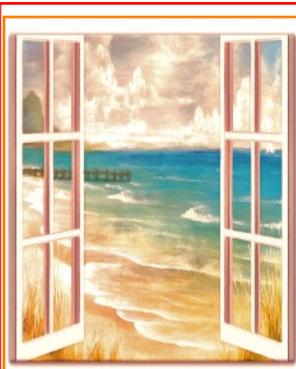
It was a treat for bird lovers in Long Branch on Robbie Burns Day.

This rare Bald Headed Eagle was photographed by long-time Long Branch resident Pat Rice on January 24 while it was taking a break on an iconic tree in his backyard.

Bill Zufelt, Director of the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association and Chair of the Association’s History and Culture Committee, said the tree, called Titan, is one of the largest and oldest Red Oak in South Etobicoke.

Some of the oldest trees in the country are in Long Branch, he said, adding the famed eagle was named “Robert,” in recognition of Robbie Burns Day, which was on January 25. Parties and dinners are normally held on or near the poet’s birthday, which is known as Robbie Burns Day.

The bald eagle is a bird of prey found in North America. A sea eagle, it has two known subspecies and its range includes most of Canada and Alaska, all of the U.S., and northern Mexico. It is found near large bodies of open water with an abundant food supply and old-growth trees for nesting. The bald eagle, which was at one time on the protected species list, is on the U.S. National Seal.



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Area musician Raha is front for Bad Luck Woman band



Musician Raha Javanfar was born to entertain people and play music.

The classically-trained violinist, Javanfar ‘like most musicians’ has been hit hard by a loss of musical gigs and revenue due to a spread of COVID-19.

The bassist and front woman for the Maple Blues Award nominee blues band, Bad Luck Woman & Her Misfortunes, is now teaching students online how to play the violin, piano, bass plus music theory.

The busy pre-pandemic four-piece band was silenced as the virus spread across the world and public health officials ordered people to stay away from crowds.

“The pandemic so far has been a roller coaster for me. I spent the first several weeks feeling quite depressed and uninspired,” she recalls. “I felt a deep resistance to this thing which was quickly being dubbed ‘the new normal.’”

She, with partner Fraser Melvin, are busy these days writing tunes and performing virtually.

The Iranian-born entertainer held virtual classes last month with students at a Lakeshore Arts event, which was a big success.



MUSICIAN RAHA JAVANFAR is a classically-trained violinist who plays the blues, jazz and fronts for the Bad Luck Woman band. Courtesy photos.

“Campers will build their own homemade percussion instrument, learn various rhythms, and experiment with different sounds to create their own grooves and melodies,” says a poster promoting the event. Javanfar is thankful she is working in her field and attributes her career to a ‘rich fabric of numerous projects in various fields.’

She regularly plays fiddle in the Western swing band, The Double Cuts, and has performed with notable artists such as Stars, Protest the Hero, Peter Katz, Tom Wilson and Daniel Romano.

The violinist is also known around town for other musical projects including; *Voodoo Raha & Speedy Wax and Zuze*, as well as frequent performance in the Concert Series at Soulpepper Theatre Company’s *Riverboat, 27 Club, 88 Keys and Promised Land*. She is one of six co-creators of *Now You See Her*, a play by *Quote Unquote Collective*, produced by Nightwood Theatre, in which she performed the role



of Daria. It was nominated for Best New Play at the 2019 Dora Mavor Moore Awards.

She has toured with Toronto Baroque orchestra, Tafelmusik, for over a decade as projections designer of concerts such as *House of Dreams, Circle of Creation*, and *Tale of Two Cities*, which has performed at Disney Hall in Los Angeles, the National Arts Centre in Ottawa and venues in Mexico, Australia, Japan and Malaysia.

She and Melvin love hot sauce and are proud of their own brand of hot sauce, that is made to her recipe. Bottles of their home-made Bad Luck Woman sauce and her music and information about lessons are available for sale at www.rahajavanfar.com

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FEBRUARY 22 ETOBICOKE CAMERA Club presents Landscape & AV Salon. Join the ECC for a night of award winning Landscape photography and member audio-visual shows, right in your own home. Free to non-members, simply register through our webpage for a zoom link.

<http://etobicokecameraclub.org>.

FEBRUARY 23 THE RAY TEAM will be running a "Your time to shine" event all through February, offering free fitness sessions Wednesdays (9-13 youth), Thursdays (girls 14-24-years), and Fridays (boys 14-24-years). There will be a Zoom event of a motivational speaker on Feb. 23. Youth Space, Contact **Arlene McLean**, Supervisor, Youth Programs, Rathburn Area Youth Space, at Arlenem@lampchc.org or call 416 806-5586.

VIRTUAL ART PROGRAMS begin in February as The Assembly Hall offers virtual arts classes and workshops for adults, youth and families. Pen, ink and Indigenous art and more. For information on programs or to register visit assemblyhall.ca to secure a spot.

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

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FREE SOUP ON 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; 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.

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FROM THE SALVATION ARMY - due to the current lockdown situation we are not allowing any more than five people in the building and with our four member staff that doesn't leave much room. Please keep safe by physically distancing and wearing a face mask. Donations to the food bank and cash donations are what is needed. Contact **Jennifer Hibbs** at 416-251-8372 ext. 101.

FEBRUARY 9 ZOOM workshop at 7 p.m. at Stonegate Community Health Centre on how to improve your phone communication skills. **Speaker Sandra Witterick**, of Canadian Hearing Services. Contact health.promotion@stonegatechc.org

FEBRUARY 27 HOW TO grow your own sprouts & Microgreens..Live online workshop. Run by plant, green thumb guru **Monika Meulman** of The Healing Muse Apothecary. Details and register online at healingmuse.com Your #1 source of organic sprouts & seeds in Etobicoke. Learn how to grow your own organic, nutrition packed food anywhere.

SOME FEBRUARY VIRTUAL PROGRAMS at Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment. **FEB. 12** Watch-A-Thon from 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. **FEB. 13** Bake-A-Thon 12 p.m.-1 p.m., Age 7-11; **FEB. 19** Groove, 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Age 7-9; **FEB. 12-17** Sew It, Tuesdays **FEB. 2 -FEB. 23**, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Age 12-17; **FEB. 4 - 25**, Stitch It, 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m., Age 7-11; Girls Who Code, **FEB 4 - MARCH 11**, 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Age 12-17. Register by visiting jeanaugustinecentre.ca for all the latest news.



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Toronto Fire Chief Matthew Pegg presented the famed 2020 Fire Chief of the Year Award



CONGRATULATIONS to Chief Matthew Pegg.

City's preparedness and response to Covid-19 as the Incident Commander. "Thank you for everything you've done to keep Toronto and Ontario both Fire and COVID-19 safe," the Ontario Fire Chiefs said. They said that Fire Chiefs are special people in that "we walk into chaos at emergency situations, and what do we do? We create order." Chief Pegg has been serving as the fourth and current Chief of Toronto Fire Services (TFS) since May 2016. He is the highest-ranking TFS member. He was appointed General Manager of the City of Toronto's Office of Emergency Management in 2018. In March 2020, Pegg was appointed to lead the City of Toronto's response to

Toronto Fire Chief Matthew Pegg has a new award to cherish on his mighty-filled trophy shelf. Pegg, who is also the General Manager of Emergency Management, has been awarded the prestigious 2020 Fire Chief of the Year Award presented by the Ontario Fire Chiefs. "I am blessed," Pegg wrote on Twitter. "Wow. Not often do I feel speechless, but I do today. Thank you so much for this. I accept this honour on behalf of each and every member of the Canadian fire service who is giving their all each day. Thanks to my amazing team." Pegg is leading the



the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Incident Commander for the COVID-19 pandemic, he led the development and operation of the most complex incident management system in Toronto's history, including the longest-ever continuous deployment of the Emergency Operations Centre.

New plans for shelter site

First it was a shelter, now New Toronto residents may have a multi-storey rental apartment being built on a prime piece of commercial property. A new proposal is underway to turn a failed and controversial shelter site into a nine-story apartment. Documents have been filed before a Local Planning Appeal Tribunal by 2950 Lakeshore GP Inc., to request to amend the official zoning plan to permit a nine-storey mixed use building to allow 95 new rental units and retail use at 2950 and 2970 Lake Shore Blvd. W.



NINE STOREY RENTAL apartment planned for former shelter site, scene of protests.



"The Council of the City of Toronto has not made a decision with respect to the application within the time frame prescribed in the Planning Act," according to the application. "In order to facilitate the final decision, the applicant has appealed the applications to the tribunal." The .15 hectare site, which has a frontage of 45.72 metres along a prime Lake Shore Blvd. W. strip, is occupied by a four-storey commercial office building and a two floor retailer Bi Way, which is in the process of winding down the iconic business. The proposed site will have a total gross floor area of 8,683 square metres, which includes 485 square metres for commercial and 8,198 square metres for residential use. It will have 32 below grade parking spaces and seven spots for bicycles. No date has been set for a hearing. There was a major controversy surrounding the site last year when the City of Toronto expressed an interest in purchasing the property for use as a homeless shelter, but that plan fell apart after complaints from the community. There was a noisy protest in September, with residents taking a stand by talking to their neighbours. Community residents also took their fight online, and in petitions, or flyers, to fight against the proposed shelter, which was cancelled after a review. News of a proposed rental apartment has triggered a new round of complaints from residents on social media. "No more affordable housing," wrote Candy Kathleen, while area resident Lucy Kroumova said "that's a lot of units on nine floors."

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