

The South Etobicoke News

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Longest lockdown in history as folks suffer

"Many businesses are hurting and are barely hanging on."

It has been the longest lockdown in Canadian history; one that cost businesses billions of dollars. And it will be big news on March 8 if the Ontario government allows Toronto small businesses to reopen to their customers or stay shut due to COVID-19 variant threats.

The shutdown began on November 23 following a second wave of the virus. Many businesses have not been able to make a living for more than three months. Restaurants are scraping by with delivery or curbside pickups. Some spas and salons specializing in nails, makeup, hairdresser, sun tan, plus gyms were forced to physically distance or shut due to the virus. The owners of many



HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY on March 8: CHEF Simon Daim Yar, of Olive Kebab Restaurant, invites you to lunch and Dan Kelly of the CFIB, is calling for businesses to reopen. File, Staff photos.

businesses in the Lakeshore Village Business Improvement Association (BIA) say they barely hanging on, much less making payroll. "Many businesses are hurting and are barely hanging on," says BIA Chair Chris Korwin Kuczynski. "It has been tough for our members." Dan Kelly, of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), said "the

government has chosen to use small business as cannon fodder." "As of March 8, retailers, gyms, and hair salons will have been closed to in-store customers for 105 consecutive days in Toronto and Peel," the CFIB said in a statement. "Indoor dining in Toronto will not have been allowed since October 10 - 149 days."

The CFIB wrote that despite providing no evidence, "the government has consistently chosen to keep Walmart and Costco open to in-store customers for the entire pandemic." It said GTA businesses "have been locked down longer than the vast majority of jurisdictions around the world." "It is unconscionable that this government has not come up with an alternative to lockdowns," said a release, that listed the names of Kelly and two top CFIB officials. "Ontario small businesses deserve better." They want the government to reopen small retailers.

Extra staff to process more COVID cash

The Ontario government has hired extra staff and added resources to process an "exceptionally high volume of applications" for COVID-19 financial relief. "In the past few weeks, we have approved grants for more than 67,000 small businesses, with over \$950 million in payments made so far," MPP Christine Hogarth said in a newsletter. Hogarth said some \$253,485,996 has been distributed so far to Toronto businesses through the Ontario Small Business Support Grants. That has led one Long Branch merchant to plead with other businesses to apply for the COVID-19 benefits now available from the government. John, who runs a small store, proudly shows the stubs of five cheques, totalling about \$70,000, which he obtained from government programs to help businesses hit by the virus.



ALMOST \$1 BILLION IN COVID-19 relief and benefits have been paid out so far by the Ontario government. Centre is MPP Christine Hogarth and (right) five cheque stubs detailing payments made to compensate losses for one Long Branch business owner. Staff photo.

"The money is there for all small businesses and all you have to do is apply," he urged. "Make sure you have all your information available and go online. It will take some time but if I can do it, so can you." He jumped for joy when the cheques arrived by Canada Post about two weeks after he applied. "It was very quick," John said. "I would recommend that small businesses take

advantage of these programs that are available." He said some of the money will be used to pay debt, rent and other expenses. "It does feel good to get some help from the government," John said. "I have to say that I am happy with the outcome." Canada's small businesses have taken on \$135 billion in debt in an attempt to survive the pandemic, according to the Ca-

nadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB). The CFIB said the average small business owner has accrued \$170,000 in debt, with businesses in the hospitality, recreation and service sectors most indebted. "Over the last six months, the average debt taken on by small businesses to deal with COVID-19 has grown significantly," the CFIB said. The group said 91 per cent of businesses in the hospitality sector, including bars, restaurants and accommodation, took on debt. Among business owners who have taken on debt, three-quarters said it will take them more than a year to repay loans. And 17 per cent of businesses are actively considering bankruptcy or winding down their business, the CFIB said.

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Happy International Women's Day on March 8

Man tries to use a fake COVID document at Pearson Airport to avoid quarantine



MORE CHECKS AT PEARSON and other airports and land crossings as Canada border officers escalate checks for COVID-19 from arriving passengers. Courtesy photos.

It was bound to happen just as border officials step up health checks at Pearson airport and land border crossings. A Stratford man has been arrested after trying to allegedly use a fake COVID-19 document to evade Canadian quarantine laws at Pearson airport. The suspect was charged on February 8 by a Public Quarantine Officer conducting tests at a Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) area of arriving passengers, according to Peel Regional Police. "The COVID-19 document was revealed to be fraudulent, and it was, in fact, a positive test result," police said in a release. The 29-year-old suspect, who has not been identified, was charged for unlawfully did knowingly use a forged document. He was released on a Form 9 appearance notice and will appear before an Ontario Court of Justice on April 19 in Brampton. Discussions by police and Public Health officials determined that there were no additional offences the suspect faced under the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA) or Emergency Management Act. The man was transported to an area hotel to begin a 14-day quarantine period,

as required under law for arriving international passengers. Starting on February 22, all arriving non-essential passengers, including those at land border, are required to take a COVID-19 tests upon arrival at Pearson. They also have to present a document showing they took a test for the virus within three days before arriving in Canada. Passengers are required to show the negative result before they board a plane for this country. Arriving non-essential air and land travellers are also required to pay for a three-day room rental at an approved hotel once they arrive in Canada, to await the results of a COVID test. If the results are negative they can leave. If not, they have to remain longer. Meanwhile, three international travellers were slapped with \$750 fines after refusing to take COVID-19 tests when arriving into the country last month. Peel Police said since February 1, they have charged three people entering Canada "for failing to comply with a Section 22 order in respect of a communicable disease."

Charged for killing his mom

Long-time Etobicoke resident Kathleen Hatcher was beginning to enjoy life after retirement when all her dreams were snatched away from her. Hatcher, 69, retired in December from



KATHLEEN HATCHER

Burnhamthorpe Collegiate Adult Learning Centre, where she worked as an assessor for the Essential Skills Upgrading Program since 2003.

Police believe Hatcher was in crisis when she called 911 for help on February 28 on her cell phone as she lay dying on a trail in King's Mill Park"

She passed away before emergency personnel could get to the scene.

Her son has been charged in connection with her death. "She was looking for help," Insp. Andy Singh told reporters. "She was looking for assistance from the police because she was in crisis."

It was just after 10:45 a.m. on Friday when Singh said officers were called to a trail in King's Mill Park, near the TTC's Old Mill subway station and the Humber River. Officers from 22 Division officers found Hatcher suffering from "very significant" injuries. She died a short time later. According to her social media, she studied English and communications at Seton Hall University and hailed originally from New York.

"She's being remembered as an extraordinary person who was wonderful with learners and colleagues and will be dearly missed," Ryan Bird, of the Toronto District School Board told reporters. "We extend our sincere condolences to Kathleen's loved ones and former co-workers following her tragic passing."

"She was full of joy," a friend said. "She wanted to be with her family as much as she could. She loved to read, loved movies." Colin Hatcher, 37, has been charged with second degree murder and is before the courts.

More charges laid against 22 Division officer



Toronto Police have laid further charges against one of their own, and arrested 11 others, as an investigation into anti-corruption in the tow truck industry widens. The Service's Professionals Standards Unit laid more charges last month against suspended 22 Division Const. Ronald Joseph and employees from several tow truck firms.

At concern is an investigation conducted in August 2019 that identified the alleged theft of police radios and that several tow truck employees were in possession of them, police said in a release.

The 11-year veteran was charged in June 2020 and suspended from duty. The second set of charges, laid February 19, include two counts of attempted fraud over \$5,000; counselling an indictable offence not committed, four counts of fraud over \$5,000, forgery and four other offences.

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Etobicoke first Mayor Ed Horton fought for increased development



EDWARD A. HORTON (above), the first mayor of Etobicoke, dancing with a local beauty queen and bowling with children (right). He was very active in government. File photos.

Edward Austin Horton was the first mayor of Etobicoke who fought to bring more development in the area. High-density development had been a huge concern in South Etobicoke for as long as many can remember.

The issue was hotly discussed back in the 1960s dating back when South Etobicoke was described as ‘the boonies’ and in the ‘country.’

Horton, a salesman, was elected deputy-reeve of Etobicoke in 1952. He was acclaimed in 1953 and retired that same year at the end of his one-year term. He threw his hat in the ring again in 1966 to become the first mayor of Etobicoke. Horton held the position from 1967 to 1972.

He ran for re-election in 1969 against contender Dennis Flynn, who won 49 per cent of the vote, coming within 2,000 votes of defeating Horton.

It was a heated campaign, in which Flynn alleged Horton had supported extensive high-rise development in the borough without consulting voters, according to newspaper reports.

Horton in 1972 announced that he would not run for a third term as mayor. He was succeeded by Flynn later that year.

Mayor Flynn took office warning developers that they face a tough time in the

borough and ‘vowed to slow down its growth to maintain neighbourhood integrity.’

At that time the borough, one of six municipalities of Metropolitan Toronto, was being created by the amalgamation of the former Township of Etobicoke with the Village of Long Branch, the Town of New Toronto, and the Town of Mimico. Horton worked in the provincial government in 1936 under Premier Mitchell Hepburn as an inspector in the Municipal Affairs and Public Welfare Branch and was promoted to deputy minister of Municipal Affairs and Public Welfare. Two years later he was appointed Director of Unemployment Relief while



continuing as deputy minister of Municipal Affairs.

Horton resigned from the provincial government in 1941, to accept an appointment to the federal Wartime Prices and Trade Board in Ottawa as director of the textiles division.

He opened E.A. Horton Sales Inc., which sold equipment to municipalities such as playground equipment and traffic signals. He sold the business in 1965 to his employees and

became president of Bickle-Seagrave Ltd, a maker of firefighting equipment and pumping apparatus.

Decades later we have all seen the results of high-density development, including dozens of high-rise condo towers, and more being built across what is now the City of Etobicoke.

Horton retired in 1965 to take on a volunteer position leading a fundraising campaign for Etobicoke General Hospital. In the late 1970s, he served as a special advisor to the Anti-Inflation Board.

He died in 1980 at the age of 72.

Mysterious and lovely street art in Village of Islington

The Village of Islington is known for its many pieces of artwork, including 28 murals and some large beautiful sculptures that grace the front of a number of the older apartment buildings.

Aside from the beautiful murals, one piece that catches the eye stands outside a 90 Cordova Avenue apartment building and looks like a huge white water horse, with its front legs flaring as it is being ridden by a mermaid from great depths.

The art is enjoyed by thousands of



THRE ARE MANY PIECES OF ART in The Village of Islington, including a bust (right) this flying horse being driven by a mermaid (top, bottom). Photos by Tom Godfrey.

residents as they travel on some bus routes to the Islington subway station.

There is no explanation of what the artwork represents. Locals say the horse is a mighty water stallion, a nemesis of the giant clam, which lives off algae in the deep seas and opens its mouth for the food to photosynthesize.

This sculpture is a very interesting piece of art that opens many questions about its creation and what it depicts for many in the community.

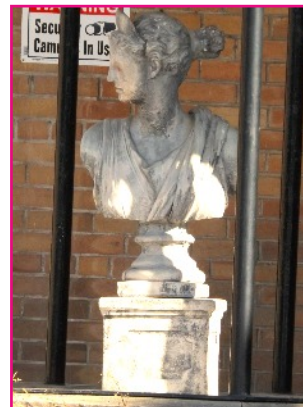


Nearby, at another apartment building is a sculpture of what looks like baby pacifiers pointed towards the heavens.

There was no history left behind to signify what the pacifiers or galloping horse means. Residents see the art daily and walk by. The sculptures are in the

Village of Islington Better Improvement Association (BIA), that was established in 1986 and won the 2012 Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIS) award for outstanding murals.

The murals are excellent and many showcase an art history of the area, which features a five-block art walk. The BIA says the area is fast becoming a treasure as the murals attract great interest in their depiction of the life in the old village of the 1800s and early 1900s.



THIS PIECE OF ART that grace a building reminds many of ‘baby pacifiers.’

Some of the themed murals include: War of 1812, Hurricane Hazel, the Guelph Radial Line, Gordon’s Dairy, the Volunteer Fire Brigade, an old Lancaster bomber incident, and the Pub with no Beer. The BIA at one time offered guided mural tours at Doors Open Toronto and throughout the year.

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Mimico has lost a top baker but SanRemo lives

By TOM GODFREY



RIP NATALE

Mimico has lost its top baker Natale Bozzo, whose sweet treats are loved by generations of food lovers who travel to Royal York Road to get their fill. The loving Bozzo family patriarch was father of three sons and was married to Nicoletta for 49 years.

His mourning family said he

passed away on February 18 after a devastating six-week battle with COVID-19. He was 75.

“He fought very hard, he was in good health prior to this,” his family shared in a statement on social media. “We learned of his failing health through very difficult phone calls from the hospital and thankfully we were able to say goodbye.”

Natale was a hard worker who came to Canada from Italy at the age of 15. He began working at a bakery in Little Italy and opened SanRemo Bakery and Café Inc., at 374 Royal York Road in 1969, with his brothers Santo, Giuseppe, Peter and John.



BAKER NATALE BOZZO loved his boys (top from left) Nicholas, Natale, Roberto and Edward, his lovely wife, Nicoletta, his customers who put him there and the community that stood beside his family for generations. A flower memorial (right) fills the store in memory of Natale. Flower photo by Ian Robertson. Bozzo family photos.

He became sole owner of the popular bakery in the 1990s with his sons, Rob, Nick and Eddie.

“He eventually retired but he would still come to help out around the bakery as it was his passion,” family members recalled.

They describe him as an ‘incredible baker, who was hardworking, resilient and resourceful.’

“He was kind and a friend to all. He loved to go to Florida, he loved to fish and garden, he loved food, and he loved his family,” they said.

The family said Natale’s secret to baking was to put a ‘pinch of love into everything, and we’ll be missing that pinch in ways we can’t describe.’

“We thank you all for your support and wishes during this time,” they told area residents.

The bakery, which has been open for more than 50 years, is an institution in South Etobicoke and people pre-COVID-19 drove from across the city to get their fill of Italian sandwiches, cakes, pasta, coffee and mostly to meet their friends.

The small dining room, now removed after COVID, was always filled with area residents or those working nearby enjoying a break.

There are many comments being left on social media by residents who want to show their love and support for the Bozzo family.

“This is devastating,” wrote Christine Ashley.

Hundreds of friends and residents showed up in front of the bakery for a last drive by as the ‘humble baker’ was taken for burial services.



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

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

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

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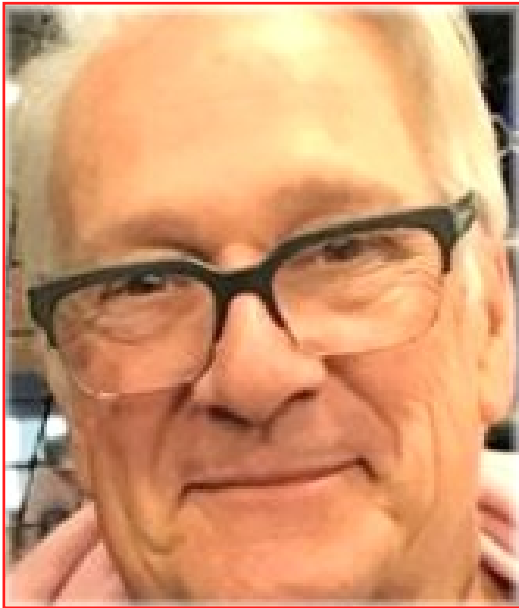
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Long-time Mimico pharmacist and local leader Bill Kassel touched many people lives



BILL KASSEL

A popular Mimico pharmacist who served generations of families in our community has died. Bill Kassel, passed on February 22 surrounded by his family. He was 74. Kassel, was the owner of Kassel's Pharmacy, on Royal York Rd., for 46 years, according to his family.

Max's dream was to 'create a closely-knit store that really cared about the health and well-being of their customers.' And he did, since he was once named Druggist of the Year, for his outstanding work. "Back then it was a neighbourhood pharmacy that provided the necessities needed for everyday life," according to the Kassel's Pharmacy website.

ter, Dana Bookman, shared the news of her dad's death to his many customers and friends on social media. Bookman said her dad had been battling cancer for a year. "Our family lost its heart today," she wrote. His family said Kassel was 'beloved by all who knew him for his sense of humour, joy and kindness.' He was also a noted sailor, philanthropist and 'friend to everyone he met,' they said. "Bill was beloved by all who knew him for his sense of humour, joy and kindness."



MIMICO PHARMACIST BILL KASSEL served generations of Mimico residents at their Royal York Rd., store that was founded by his dad,

They said then deliveries were made by bicycle and people came from miles around to obtain their prescriptions and advice on health and wellness issues. "As the neighbourhood grew, so did the pharmacy," according to the family, adding they never forget that they are there to serve their customers. Kassel's daughter,

He was the beloved husband of Carol, father and father-in-law of Adam and Jennifer Bookman, Dana and Conor O'Neil. A graveside service was held on February 23. Donations may be made to Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation, Temmy Latner Palliative Care, or The Kassel Family Endowment Fund c/o United Jewish Appeal.



The pharmacy has been a fixture in Mimico since 1948 when Max Kassel opened its doors. Bill joined his father's business in 1970 after graduating from the University of Toronto.

Jemison was first Black woman to travel in space



JEMISON (top, bottom) was a NASA astronaut. Courtesy photos.

Mae C. Jemison loved space and astronomy. It will be 34 years this year since U.S. astronaut Jemison realized a dream and became the first Black woman to travel into space. Jemison, 65, a physician, flew into space aboard the *Endeavour* on September 12,

1992, becoming the first African American woman to float around Earth for eight breath-taking days. The Alabama native was the first Black woman to be admitted into NASA's astronaut training program in June 1987. The youngest child of a carpenter, Charlie Jemison, and elementary school teacher, Dorothy, was a quick learner, who loved the sciences. She spent most of her time in the library reading about science and astronomy. She flew into space with six other astronauts on the *Endeavour*, and conducted important experiments on weightlessness and motion sickness on the crew and herself. Jemison spent more than 190 hours in space before returning to Earth on September 20. Following her historic flight, she said women and members of minority groups can contribute if given an opportunity.



Upon graduation, she entered Cornell University Medical College and while there, found time to study in Cuba, Kenya, and worked at a refugee camp in Thailand.

After Jemison obtained her M.D., she worked as a general practitioner. She was the Peace Corps medical officer for Sierra Leone and Liberia, where she taught and did research.

It was not until her return to the U.S. that she decided to apply for admission to NASA's astronaut training program. The *Challenger* disaster of January 1986 delayed the selection process, but when she reapplied, she was one of the 15 chosen from a field of about 2,000. Jemison received many accolades including several honorary doctorates, the 1988 Essence Science and Technology Award, the Ebony Black Achievement Award in 1992 and a Fellowship from Dartmouth College. She left the astronaut corps in 1993 and accepted a teaching position and later open her own hi-tech business.

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Supt. Clarke holds top rank as a Black woman at TPS

Stacy Clarke was told a long-time ago when considering policing as a career to “be part of the solution and not part of the problem.”



TORONTO POLICE Supt. Stacy Clarke

She worked for 22 years at the Toronto Police Service, before now joining its senior ranks as an Superintendent, one of a handful of Black women to hold such a position in Canada. Clarke, a mom of two teens, is the first to admit that it was not an easy task to get this far.

“I’ve spent the last few hours reflecting on the hill I’ve climbed but also on those who have paved the way for me. I am humbled and filled with pride,” she said in a Tweet soon after her appointment.

She thanked Chief James Ramer and the force’s Command for the opportunities “to continue serving our communities and leading our members.”

It was a long journey. She spent her early career years working in the Community Response Unit, Youth Bureau and Intelligence. She served in the Homicide and Divisional Policing Support units before heading to the Police College in 2008.

She was promoted to sergeant in 2010 and assigned to 13 Division and transferred to 22 Division to work in the Primary Response Unit and Detective Office.

A member of Professional Standards, she then worked on the Police and Community Review (PACER) project, which explored how the force could improve the public’s trust and safety while providing a bias-free police service.



She received a promotion to staff sergeant in 2016 and headed the Learning Development and Standards Section at the Police College prior to achieving her senior ranking. Proud of her Jamaican roots, she rose up the ranks in her work in implementing the province’s Street Check legislation, one of her many accomplishments as Master Trainer and Controller of Legislation.

She believes in advancing policing efforts to gain the trust of the community while pursuing effective policing. A believer in continuing education, Clarke has completed numerous leadership programs, including one with the FBI.

In 2018, Clarke was named a Civic Action Fellow and listed as one of the 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women in that year.

Librarian Rita Cox helped young people to succeed

Dr. Rita Cox was a popular, long-time head librarian of Parkdale Public Library who tried to encourage young people to read a book or stay in school.



RITA COX

Friends and colleagues of the brilliant librarian took time to remember her work and the many aspiring young Black students she guided to success in a virtual tribute on February 21. The event is part of the Organization of Calypso Performing Artistes (OCPA) 40th Anniversary celebrations. Cox, who was born in Trinidad, joined the Toronto public library as a children’s librarian in 1960 and, in 1972, became the head of the Parkdale branch. It was an

amazing feat for a Black woman then as she launched literacy programs and initiatives that promoted multiculturalism in Toronto.

Cox pioneered the ‘Black Heritage and West Indian Resource Collection’ at her 1303 Queen St. W., branch. Readers loved her books and the collection was renamed the ‘Rita Cox Black and Caribbean Heritage Collection,’ which contains more than 16,000 books, DVDs, CDs, newspapers and magazines, with a focus on the Black and Caribbean experience in Canada.

Always encouraging young people to learn, she retired from the library in 1995. Soon after she was appointed a



LIBRARIAN RITA COX in front of a park named in her honour.

citizenship court judge by the government of Canada. Cox established “Cum-bayah,” a successful festival of Black heritage and storytelling. She was a renowned storyteller who entertained audiences across North America, in Europe, Brazil and the Caribbean. She even wrote a kid’s book “How Trouble Made the Monkey Eat Pepper.” She won many

awards, including the 1996 Canadian Library Association Public Service Award and the Black Achievement Award. In 1997, she was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada for her outstanding work in storytelling and literacy.

Cox still has many fans and supporters out there.

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Callwood lived most of her life in Etobicoke and was much beloved

By DAVE KOSONIC

June Callwood lived much of her life in Etobicoke and is well-known in the community as a prominent and well-respected author, journalist and influential social activist. Donna Cansfield, a former MPP for Etobicoke Centre, had great admiration for her friend Callwood, who passed away in 2007, due to cancer at age 82. Callwood had bravely refused any treatment for her malignancy. "The message she leaves behind for everyone but young women in particular is that there are lots of ways to show a passion for your cause," Cansfield recalled. "June herself was an in-your-face activist in some ways, yet a great



A YOUNG Callwood

support behind the scenes in others."

At the age of 16 in 1942, Callwood was hired as a young reporter at the *Brantford Expositor* for a humble \$7.50 weekly, but by 1942 she had moved up the ranks and was recruited as a reporter by *The Globe and Mail*.

There she met and later married well-known journalist Trent Frayne, but her maiden name always appeared in her story bylines since the newspaper was known for not hiring married women at the time.

For much of her life Callwood lived in the tree-lined Thorncrest Village area north of Rathburn Road and close to Mimico Creek on Hillcroft Drive. During a 1984 interview Callwood said: "I love my street the access to the creek (Mimico Creek)...it's a wonderful neighbourhood."

Callwood made landmark contributions in Etobicoke and the GTA. She was a member of the board of directors at Etobicoke General Hospital now William Osler Health Centre. "She was passionate about health care social justice and the community - a great supporter and a wonderful asset," added Kytas Mickev-

icius then president and CEO of both hospitals. She also was a key player in the creation of the June Callwood Centre for Women and Families and Casey House -

Canada's first HIV/AIDS hospice. And along the way she authored 30 books and wrote for high-profile magazines, including *Chatelaine*.

Callwood in 1978 was recognized with an Order of Canada. She received a Canadian Journalism Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004, was inducted into the Etobicoke Hall of Fame and earned her private pilot's licence at age 70, which she maintained for many years.

She also dealt with many personal challenges in her own life. She and Trent parented two daughters and two sons. Daughters Jesse and Jill are well-respected writers and their elder son is Brent. Casey Frayne was the youngest, who was killed by an impaired driver in 1982.



JUNE CALLWOOD LIVED much of her life in Etobicoke and loved the area. She was well-respected in the community. File photos.

Some of Callwood's teenagers attended Burnhamthorpe Collegiate Institute when I was a student there back in the day. Mom June regularly drove them back and forth to BCI, as most parents did back then.

Celebrating our flag as we mark this National Flag Day Canada



A NEW CANADIAN FLAG being installed in New Toronto by members of the Lakeshore Village BIA to mark National Flag Day of Canada last February 15.. Photo by South Etobicoke News Staff.

Our red and white Canadian flag is still flying proudly at the age of 56. February 15 was National Flag of Canada Day.

The day is celebrated from coast-to-coast.

In New Toronto some area residents braved the cold to remove and install a huge new Canadian flag at a pole at Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Eighth Street, near the fire hall, Station 435, which has been there for almost 100 years.

The event this year was low-keyed to prevent a large group of people from attending in contravention of COVID-19 guidelines, organizers say.

Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, of the Lakeshore Village BIA, began a campaign years ago for the Canadian flag to be honoured. The campaign snowballed. "The greatest symbol we have as a country is our Canadian flag," he says. "It is one of our most important days that we celebrate."

Area resident Matt Lozinski says he was proud to be helping to install the new flag.

"I am a Canadian citizen and I am proud of our flag," Lozinski smiles.

The Canadian flag was raised for the first time on Parliament Hill on February 15, 1965. On that same day in 1996, National Flag of Canada Day was declared.

Ex-OPP Jay Hope was highest ranking Black cop in Canada



Ex-OPP JAY HOPE at one time was the highest-ranking Black cop in Canada.

Former OPP Deputy Commissioner Jay Hope was at one time the highest-ranking Black police officer in Canada who commanded thousands of staff.

Hope worked for 35 years with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) before retiring in 2014.

He has held top positions including; Chief Superintendent and Regional Commander, Eastern Region: manager of

the force's Traffic Review Project: Director of Human Resources before being appointed Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Services in 2004.

"He was responsible for developing the OPP's strategic vision, including Aboriginal and First Nations policing," the force said.

He was also in charge of handling the OPP's media and corporate relations, policy, training and municipal policing contracts.

Hope was recognized with an OPP Human Rights Medal for his work in the HR department.

He joined the OPP as a constable at its Emo Detachment in Northern Ontario in 1979.

"As he moved to progressively more senior ranks, he served in detachments in Toronto, Whitby, Aurora and Queen's Park," according to the OPP.

In the early 1990s, Hope served as a policy analyst for a Task Force on Race Relations and Policing and was a senior investigator for the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Hope also served as Commissioner of Emergency Management Ontario and Commissioner of Community Safety.

For his work, he received the Order of Merit of the Police Forces from Governor General Michaëlle Jean in 2006 "for outstanding innovative leadership in his profession and in the community" for forging ties between police and communities.

He was the first Black Canadian Deputy Chief Aide-de-Camp and OPP Deputy Commissioner. In 2008, became the first Black Deputy Minister of Corrections and the second Black Deputy Minister in Ontario's history.

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Ranu Thai Cuisine wow! & Olive Kebab great

It has been a long journey from Thailand to Long Branch for Suriya Chitchulanon, the owner of Ranu Thai Cuisine, a local favourite for 'back-home taste' at affordable prices.

Highly rated on social media, the small takeout at 3308 Lake Shore Blvd. W. is a busy restaurant that is a favourite of college students due to its prices and honest food.

"People love our food for the freshness," Chitchulanon says. "We are known for the quality of our ingredients. For us it is the quality of the food not the quantity."

The restaurant has been in operation since 2013 and has many loyal customers who faithfully return. "They like our food and they come back for more," he says. "We offer a contemporary flavour to reflect the preferences of our Long Branch, Lake Shore, and Etobicoke patrons."

He started the business after arriving in Canada from the U.S., where he lived for a number of years after leaving his home in Thailand.

Their classic meals include; Pad Thai, curries, fried rice and the 'house specialties



RANU THAI CUISINE owner Suriya Chitchulanon (top, bottom) with some tasty dishes outside his Long Branch restaurant. Photos by Tom Godfrey.



FOOD TESTED BY STAFF

which you might today buy on the streets of Bangkok.'

"We have many years of experience in Thai cooking environment," Chitchulanon says. "We want to give people the best dining experience."

He swears customers love his style of Pad Thai and return for more.

"Once people taste our dishes, they always come back," he insists. "Our ingredients are fresh as what they have back at home."

One of the most popular dishes is Pineapple Red Curry, which is a classic Thai red curry,

simmered in coconut milk, fresh basil, pineapple chunks, bell peppers and broccoli. It is served with jasmine rice.

Ranu is active on social media, where it seems the positive reviews are endless. "Will have to order again soon. Yummy!" wrote Sarah Giles.

"I wish we were in the hood for lunch," said Becca Gordon.

"Wowo. Good food," wrote Phuc Trinh. Ranu Thai Cuisine can be reached by phone at 416-255-3830 or you can order online at www.ranuthai.ca.

Olive Kebab is making good-tasting dishes that you will love in New Toronto and beyond.

Chef Simon Daim Yar started off as a graphic designer and somewhere along the line went with his first love, being a professional cook.

Daim Yar, and his wife, Angela, own and have been operating the Olive Kebab, at 2836 Lake Shore Blvd. W. for the past three years and they have been making a name for themselves.

"Inspired by authentic recipes, we bring the unique and bold tastes of Mediterranean-style cooking to our guests, without sacrificing flavor," says Daim Yar.

He says the cuisine is created through a harmony of ingredients sourced from nature.



The chef picked up his skills and learned about local dishes while cooking in Turkey and Iran, where he was born. He was sponsored to Canada by a family member after working for 20 years as a graphic designer for a large company in Iran.

Daim Yar left designing behind when he arrived in Canada and immersed himself in cooking, his first love and passion.

"People love our dishes because our food is healthy and very tasty," he explains. "We only use the best fresh ingredients."

The food is quite good, judging from the mixed dish that I had. It contains many healthy ingredients, like greens and grains, in a sumptuous good-tasting combo that fills you up with a lot of energy.

He says "we bring you fresh, quality, nutritious ingredients, you choose the savory, intense flavors to put in the mix."

Olive Kebab can be reached at 416-546-3264 or olivekebab.ca



OLIVE KEBAB's Simon Daim Yar with some exotic and healthy dishes.



WE LOVE OUR CHICKEN - A second Popeye Louisiana Kitchen Restaurant (left) has opened its doors at 3199 Lake Shore Blvd. W., opposite from Humber College. It joins the chain's first store at 2765 Lake Shore Blvd., W. in New Toronto. Welcome Popeye.

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Province to fund hate crime fight



HOGARTH fighting hate crime

The Ontario government is investing up to \$2.6 million over two years to help communities fight hate-motivated crime.

The funds are being made available through a Safer and Vital Communities (SVC) grant, which provides financial support to community-based, not-for-profit organizations, First Nations Chiefs and Band Councils to address local risks to safety and well-being in the community.

Christine Hogarth, the MPP for Etobicoke Lakeshore, said the funding will help 26 community-based, not-for-profit organizations and First Nations Chiefs and Band Councils, in collaboration with their police partners.

The groups will implement local projects that tackle discrimination, foster greater inclusiveness and address the increase of police-reported hate crime, according to Hogarth.

Grant recipient The Neighbourhood Organization, will receive \$110,000 to work with Toronto Police to develop community specific responses to hate motivated crime and related issues.

The Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre will receive \$104,200 to work with police to deliver a two-part Indigenous Safer and Vital community project.

And the Kiever Synagogue Security Upgrade will obtain \$63,000 to upgrade its security systems and Security Access and Public Announcement Systems Upgrades will receive \$110,000 to update its systems.



CANADIAN Indigenous art

“Our government has zero tolerance for hate and racism in any form,” said Hogarth, the Parliamentary Assistant for Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. “We continue to be focused on advancing community-based solutions to ensure Ontarians can overcome these real-life barriers.”

She said the initiatives are important to protect people from ‘being victimized because of their race or religious beliefs.’

Hogarth said the grant will complement Ontario’s new \$1.6 million Anti- Racism and Anti-Hate Grant, which is being designed with community groups to create solutions based on lived experiences and local needs.

In 2017, police-reported criminal incidents in Canada motivated by hate jumped by 47 per cent over 2016, according to Statistics Canada. The largest provincial increase occurred in Ontario, at 67 per cent.

It took Shaffique 20 years to achieve his dream of opening his own successful auto mechanic shop



SHAFIQUE BANI is the proud owner of Southside Auto Centre for more than eight years. Photos by Tom Godfrey.

Shaffique Bani began tinkling with vehicles since a teenager and his dream had always been to open his own auto mechanic shop.

Many years have gone by and Bani today runs the successful Southside Auto Centre, at 3021 Lake Shore Blvd. W., near Tenth St., which he has owned for more than eight years.

“I have been doing this job since the age of 14,” says Bani. “Sometimes I think that I was born a mechanic.”

The shop is kept busy by the regular customers who have been bringing their vehicles to Southside for years. They trust Bani and he services their ride.

“I love fixing things,” he admits. “It is my pleasure to fix the vehicles of customers when it does not run.”

It took him two decades to get this far after being sponsored to Canada by a family member from his native Afghanistan 20 years ago. “I have worked at Midas, Canadian Tire and other places to get here,” he explains. “I always wanted to own my own shop and an opportunity came up.”

His business receives many good reviews on social media and customers drive from across the city to bring their vehicles here to be repaired.

“I love the community and the people here,” he vows. “They have been very good in supporting me and other businesses in these challenging times.”

The father of three says one of the secrets of his success is honesty.

“Honesty is the best policy,” he stresses. “If you don’t have customers then you don’t have a business.”

A customer awaiting his vehicle says he loves the friendly atmosphere at Southside.

“These are very friendly and honest people,” says Munaf, a relatively new customer. “The first time I was here, he helped me right away and I come back ever since.”

Bani has a passion for the job and says buying the business and moving to Canada were among the best moves he has made in his life. That is in addition to his beautiful family.

“Canada is such a great country,” he admits. “I have here more than I could ever accomplish at home.”

Southside Auto Centre repairs all kinds of vehicles and Shaffique can be reached at 415-255-8885.



HAPPY EASTER!



Reach Local Customers with GetintheLoop

Are you a business in the Lakeshore Village BIA? Sign up now to participate in Shop the Shore: Spring Giveaway!



Call 647-280-1323 to sign up for free, or email dejan.cvetkovic@getintheloop.ca

Lakeshore Village BIA

Cruising Easter Bunny



The Lakeshore Village BIA is working with St. Margaret’s Church to help people in our community during these challenging times. **The Easter Bunny will be cruising around the neighbourhood collecting non-perishable food right from your porch.**

WHEN: On MARCH 27. FROM 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Please put out your items before 11 a.m., or deliver to St. Margaret’s Church, at 156 Sixth Street. Please label the bag with a Large B, so the Easter Bunny will know which bags to pick up from your porch.

The Pick Up Boundary is North to The Queensway; Lake Ontario to the south; Royal York Rd., to the East and Kipling Ave., to the West. If you live outside the boundary area, please drop items off to St. Margaret’s Church. **DONORS will receive Easter Treats.**

Mabelle Avenue residents help neighbours in need



MABELLE AVENUE residents have a market to sell product and meet their neighbours. Courtesy photos.

Residents of the Mabelle Avenue community are being credited for banding together to help feed and look after their vulnerable neighbours as COVID-19 rages. Food security had become a critical issue for residents of the Central Etobicoke area, according to MABELLEarts, an award-winning community arts organization that works closely with residents. MABELLEarts created a

MABELLE Pantry last July, which began as a COVID-19 emergency response grocery delivery service to help 10 vulnerable households on Mabelle Avenue. The Pantry has grown to serve almost 400 households on Mabelle Avenue, which has a high-density block of apartments in

the Islington and Dundas Sts. W. area, where there is little access to fresh food and supermarkets. MABELLEarts prior to COVID-19 worked with more than 100 professional artists and community members of all ages and backgrounds to create performances, workshops and events that unlock the creative potential of neglected public spaces.

The virus forced them to use their connections to obtain food to help feed those in need in their community. "Our first step was to listen to the most vulnerable members of the community and learn what they were struggling with," said Leah Houston, artistic director of MABELLEarts. "We didn't have a strategy for what would happen in the phone calls."

The group conducted a wellness check at the start of the pandemic and found residents were in need of food, since the local food bank had shut down due to the virus. Local residents facing food insecurity are able to access free groceries and fresh local produce at the MABELLE

Pantry. They are welcomed by responsible Safety Monitors, who ensure the pantry experience stays COVID-safe while offering a stress-free experience to all participants.

The Mabelle Avenue community is home to more than 4,000 residents, many who are low-income earners, in a one kilometre block of high density apartment buildings. Pantry volunteers now make three deliveries weekly to about 80 households in their area. They have made more than 3,000 food deliveries so far.

Support is provided by the Toronto Community Housing, Foodshare Toronto, Haven on the Queensway, The Storefront Humber, Daily Bread Food Bank and other social agencies.



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Your Health & Wellness

By **MONIKA MEULMAN**

Let us Spring into Spring! With spring in your step and the warm sun on your back, you are finally getting out into the great outdoors, right? If not, let's go. This is the time of year when everything is awakening on the surface. As the earth warms, the wild-life, the new growth underfoot is encouraging us to begin on new adventures. This year, it may feel different - for sure. This year, we are still amidst unsure times. Yet, I say, you draw upon the strength of spring. How?

The seasons don't stop. Time keeps on ticking. 'The Big Wheel in the Sky keeps on turning' Journey reminds us (The song reference is for all you music lovers!) As Journey sings about time, let us be encouraged by that and choose to grow with spring. Spring coming upon us is a welcome, predictable, comforting sign. It is a natural stress reliever. Let's use the longer days, the warmer sun to get out into the woods. Take up foraging or bird spotting. You may enjoy it.

If you enjoy the great outdoors only once it is warmer (and I don't blame you - I love the heat), how about choosing a healthy new hobby like sprouting your own food? Seeds are just about everywhere!

Did you know you can sprout just about any seed or legume that you usually eat in the kitchen? The next time you prepare a batch of chilli, I encourage you to soak your black beans, your garbanzo beans and even the dried lentils (soak dried seed and legumes, not the canned ones!) for 4-6 hours. They become softer and the soaking 'wakes' them up into pre-sprout mode. This unlocks their tremendous, nutritious power.

As seeds begin sprouting, they expand in size, in nutritional value and often become much more digestible. You literally grow healthier.

Did you know that most seeds, when sprouted are 10-40 times their nutritional value compared to their adult vegetables or grains?

There are many ways to learn about sprouting, growing microgreens and even wild foraging for spring foods. Check online on You Tube or at LegsEtobicoke.ca to see what's new in the garden.

This is a great time to get your hands on a new green hobby. We have so many parklands that are waiting for you to go meander, enjoy the walking path and even wander off along the Humber River or Etobicoke Creek to soak up the beneficial sounds of bird songs, water flowing, the earth welcoming us back into action. Despite the closures of many spaces, you can wander around our many parks, you can visit the Royal Botanical Gardens (Burlington) and you can even check out TUG - Toronto Urban Growers (Urban network in the GTA!) for local seed libraries, community gardens and urban farming adventures. Now is the time to begin growing green!

The Lakeshore Environmental Gardening Society (LEGS) is looking for members as the weather warms up.

If you'd like to bring your gardening expertise to this team of dedicated gardeners or would love to learn and help in the community garden, come join us.

See you in the garden!

We have a food forest garden with permaculture and organic principles at the Daily Bread Food Bank, located at 191 New Toronto St. There is also a seed bank where you can obtain all kind of seeds to grow.

Contact Monika Meulman, of The Healing Muse Apothecary, at 2859 Lake Shore Blvd.W., or 416-347-5449 or @healingmuse or www.healingmuse.com



Beyond Taxes

By **RATTAN GANDHI**

Another tax filing period is upon us. Filing taxes should be on the top of your "To Do" list even if it is a Nil Return. A Nil return will get you the Trillium Benefits and the GST monies.

Normal returns will get you a refund if you are entitled to it along with the benefits. If you owe money you avoided late filing and interest charges.

This column is a list of some of the documentation required, T4, T4A, T5, T5008, T5007, T4RIF, T4A(P), T4A(OAS), T4RSP these documents are your Income documents.

This following is a list of deductions and credits that are available, RRSP, Pension Plan, Union and professional dues, moving expenses, spousal, child support, child care expenses, interest, investment and so on.

Also required are home accessibility expenses for seniors or disabled persons, first time home buyers and Disability Tax Credit.

If you or someone in your family qualifies for the Disability Tax Credit it can be used by the taxpayer and, or the person providing the care. In my experience taxpayers miss out on some of these deductions maybe they were not aware, or they did not keep the records.

Details required for claiming employment expenses are accounting, legal fees, advertising or promotional, lodging, meals or entertainment, supplies, tools and automobile expenses as gasoline, repairs and maintenance, insurance, lease cost or interest. To complete this process, will need total kilometre in the year and business kilometres.

Let me now move onto rental income. Needs gross rental income, claimable expenses are advertising, insurance, interest, utilities, maintenance and repairs, property taxes and condo fees and if the house is owner occupied need personal tax. Self-employment, business or professional income. You need sales or gross revenue. Your claimable expenses are accounting, legal, consulting, advertising, business taxes, licence fees or dues.

You also need maintenance, repairs, management, administrative fees, meals and entertainment, private healthcare premiums, salaries and benefits, travel, equipment rentals, business insurance and so on.

If the business is home based then the following are required, insurance, interest, utilities, maintenance and repairs, property taxes, condo fees. Also, square footage of the house and the square footage for business use. The key to a good tax returns is keeping all the relevant receipts and the subsequent tallying.

If you are in doubt, about the ups and downs of taxes and what you can claim, talk to your tax consultant and obtain accurate information for going on forward in a fruitful way.

If you don't have a consultant then do some research and ask around in your community.

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.

March Break in April for kids

Many South Etobicoke parents have to change their plans after learning that March Break for students and teachers has been pushed back a month.

The week-long break, which was originally scheduled for March 15 to 19, will now take place on the week of April 12 to 16 due to COVID-19.

This "is postponing March Break, not cancelling it," Education Minister Stephen Lecce said at Queen's Park on February 18. It is 'an important way that schools can help to limit of community transmission' of COVID-19, he said.

Lecce added that the decision was based on the advice of medical experts, with the understanding that "congregation is a key driver of the spread of COVID-19."

"This postponement also limits further disruption to students as they could return to in-person learning during a time that has been challenging," he told reporters. Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. David Williams said when kids and teachers do go on March Break in April, they should still remain within their region and avoid travelling.

Government officials said the decision to defer March Break was "all the more important" as the province sees an emergence of new COVID-19 variants of concern. Williams said students and teachers should stay at home as much as possible and continue following the direction of public health officials during their break.



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Grand Central Mimico condo project will change Royal York



THE CHANGING FACE of Royal York Road with Grand Central Mimico development.

Mimico residents are bracing up for more construction, trucks and activity in the area as plans are underway to build a huge multi-year condominium community near the Royal York Go Station.

Grand Central Mimico is being promoted as a master planned mixed-use community that will feature retail and office space. Well known developer Vandyk has partnered with Metrolinx and the Mimico Go Station will be directly connected to the building.

The development at 327 Royal York Road has been in the books for years.

The Grand Central Mimico is a three-tower condo development that is breaking ground in the Royal York Rd., and Newcastle St. area of Mimico, according to Vandyk.



NEAR Mimico GO Station

The site is just north of the Mimico GO Station, at 315 Royal York Road, in an area called the Mimico Triangle, which is deemed for light industrial land use. Vandyk is the largest landowner in the area, and has proposed high-density developments at 23 Buckingham and 39 Newcastle Sts. The Buckingham, at 3 Buckingham St., is the name of the first phase of Grand Central Mimico. It is slated to be 39-stories, and will have 751 units, a social club with multiple lounges, movie

theatre rooms, a co-working space, retail including a grocery store, outdoor terraces, and a spa with a gym, yoga studio and steam room.

The reconstructed Mimico GO Station would include direct connectivity to Royal York Road, pick-up and drop-off spaces, a west tunnel providing platform access, a transit plaza, and bicycle facilities. A multi-use pedestrian and cyclist path would form part of the Mimico-Judson Greenway contemplated by the Mimico-Judson Secondary Plan.

The project will be focused on public transportation, with Metrolinx on board. The area is expected to eventually contain more than 3,000 condo units, 1.25 km greenway along the rail corridor, a 12-acre sports field, dozens of stores, offices, public art, restaurants and wellness centres.

It will take years to complete and will be done in phases, with condo sales for the first of three residential towers now open.

The project is being promoted as “Toronto’s new transit-tailored community, which is anchored by Mimico GO Station.

“This community will be a vibrant, all-inclusive and future proof neighbourhood,” Vandyk states in its marketing. “...transit and modern amenities converge to create South Etobicoke’s most relevant and significant community.”

They said the project is “two million square feet of mixed-use development, spanning four city blocks and anchored by over 1.85 million square feet of inspired residential living.”



From the Bench

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI

Today, I want to discuss how to resolve conflict without a Judge.

Of course, you can go to Court and have a Judge decide, but that’s not always the best. Most conflict can be resolved if people simply listened to each other and limit their discussion to the issue of concern and not drag out a history of upset.

If you wish to maintain a relationship with your opponent then there is no choice but to compromise. If you don’t care about the relationship then why even argue, just walk away. If a Judge is forced to decide a case its more likely there will be a winner and loser. However, if you attempt to resolve a conflict between two people, both can walk away relative winners by using listening, empathy and compromise.

The classic book on this is ‘Getting to Yes.’ Every lawyer reads this in law school. It’s a must read for every parent and teenager, every husband and wife to read together with the other side. In Family Law, the one who attempts a resolution usually has the best chance of achieving their goal.

Just think about what is happening in American politics. You cannot have a winner and loser when two parties want to maintain a relationship. The process is simple. Let’s take for example a husband who comes home late on his anniversary after the partner has cooked a special dinner or you’re a teenager in a fight with his mother over a messy room.

In the first case, the hurt spouse starts demanding where was he? Why didn’t he phone?

They expand the conflict to other offending occasions. The late spouse starts defending himself and introduces past events where she was unfair in her demands as an excuse. The argument covers the last six months of their marriage. Stop! It’s better to bite the bullet.

The first step is “Effective Listening”. Let the angry person vent their upset – blow off steam. Just listen instead of thinking what you want to say in reply. Not listening and self-defence is the usual default reaction. It’s natural but wrong.

Now after you have honestly listened, start in a softer voice (people are forced to listen to soft voices over loud ones) and try to repeat politely the essence of the complaint you heard, such as “you’re upset because it was a special event and you spent all day making a special meal... You cared and you think I didn’t.”

These words show that you heard her and appreciate her feelings. Nagging by a parent or spouse is usually caused by the belief that the other party has not heard their argument.

Teenagers could learn if they respectfully repeated their parents concern, the parent would be satisfied the child has heard them and reduce nagging. I didn’t say stop nagging, that’s in a parent’s genes. Listen and show you understand what the other person is saying.

The second important step is to show empathy or understanding for the other persons position. Don’t try to defend yourself here. The partner could say “I understand how upset you are, I was inconsiderate. Accept responsibility. The teenager would answer, “I know your sister is coming over tomorrow and you want the house to look neat and tidy including my room. These aren’t the exact words you use – but you get the idea.

Do not expand on issues of the past, keep the discussion focused. You cannot resolve an entire relationship in a forty-five-minute argument. You can only resolve the one issue – the room or lateness. That is why many judges after the lawyer makes his argument, will condense what they think they heard and say, “If I understand you correctly your position is and the lawyer will either agree or correct the error. It shows you understood the complaint. Once you have shown you understand the argument and have displayed empathy, offer a solution, a compromise – “I will phone next time, I am truly sorry here” or for the teenager, “I will clean my room before supper.” Offer concrete steps to ensure the matter will not happen again.

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.

Stanley Ave. is worst for tickets

A quiet non-eventful street in Mimico has a reputation for being the most ticketed street for speeders in the City of Toronto.

If you drive down Stanley Avenue, just off Royal York Road, you would never know that you have a good chance of being tagged by newly-moved photo radar cameras.

New photo radar figures, obtained by the *Toronto Star*, show the traffic camera on Stanley Avenue issued nearly 2900, or 13 per cent of all, tickets in December.

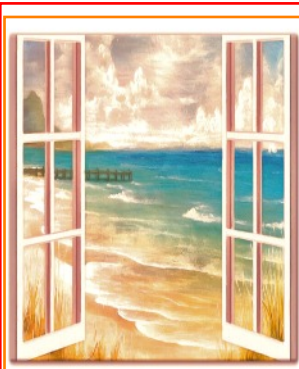
One driver, suspected of being the worst repeat offender, received 15 tickets for speeding there, as well as on Mimico Avenue.

There are 50 photo radar cameras across the city and a total of 22,180 tickets were issued in December. The highest fine of \$718 was issued to the owner of a vehicle traveling 99 km/hr in a 50 zone on McCowan.

The news didn’t shock the Mimico Residents Association, whose members are waiting on a pandemic-delayed study to identify ways to slow motorists down, after pedestrians and cyclists were injured and killed in south Etobicoke collisions.



WATCH OUT for Stanley Ave., in Mimico, the worst for tickets.



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Beer-drinkin' Oktoberfest octogenarian oom-pah-pah king

Mimico's 'King of Oktoberfest' George Kash is a beer-drinking party icon at age 80.

Kash is proud to represent Mimico as the 'undisputed Mr. Oktoberfest,' whose beer-drinking antics has thrilled fans for 27 years at

Ontario Place and across the world. Kash became famous as leader of the oompah-pah band Oktoberfest Express and standing Master of Ceremony for Toronto's Festival of Beer.

The so-called 'King of Oktoberfest' and his trio have entertained generations at Ontario Place with his oom-pah-pah, sing-alongs and hand-clapping, foot-stomping, beer-drinking music that visitors love and enjoy.

He is world-famous for his trademark move, in which he drinks two beers while standing on his head. And the fans love it.

Kash has been performing this move since 1978, when he first did it to 'put a few British upstarts in their place', at the Edelweiss Beer Garden at Ontario Place. He remained there until it was closed.

For more than 27 years he's been slugging back pints on stage and getting paid to do it.

"We are known for our infamous interactive techniques," Kash says proudly. "I get right into the



MIMICO's GEORGE KASH is the King of Oktoberfest at 80 and still going strong. George Kash photos.

audience and bring people into the act in a way that would make any rock star envious."

The artist loves the Lake Shore area, which he moved into almost 50-years ago.

"I love the people here," he says. "The area is great and I have public transit right at my door."

Kash admits most of his gigs have been cancelled due to the virus," which turned everything upside down."

Before the pandemic, he earned a good living as a musician, beer drinker, actor, town crier, disc jockey, auctioneer, clown and product promoter.

Kash is doing some work online these days, but most other work has been cancelled due to COVID-19.



GEORGE KASH drank beer through his performances during 27 years at Ontario Place. He has thrilled audiences worldwide. His main act is drinking beer while standing on his head.

"I'm a professional entertainer, that's what I do," he insists. "It's unbelievable you can make a living this way. I'm just all about a good time." This so-called 'Lord of the Lederhosen' and Oktoberfest Express has gained

acclaim performing in Australia, Fiji, Portugal, Morocco, and other hot Oktoberfest areas including Kitchener, Edmonton, Ontario Place and the Canadian National Exhibition, according to his website.

Kash is also known for his novelty acts in which he portrays Mr. Melon Head, Mr. Coffee Bean Head and Mr. Chocolate Head, which fans love.

For more information or to book gigs contact the George Kash Experience at 416-252-1747 or email george@georgekash.com



GEORGE KASH with his massive beer drinking stein (above) and as Mr. Coffee Bean Head (bottom).



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Looking after yourself and others in the community

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. Call 416) 253-9797 or info@jeanagustinecent

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.

SENIORS GROUP ON ZOOM Every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. until March 25. Join our virtual group to participate in informative motivational chat, mindfulness and relaxation sessions, exercise, games and crafts. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or email health.promotion@stonegate.org

VIRTUAL WELLNESS WORKSHOP-ACCESSING CALM at 2 p.m. on March 9, 16 and 23 on ZOOM. Exploring how to connect with the flow of calm energy during the COVID-19 lockdown. Techniques to stay calm in these challenging times. To register contact Jasmin at 416-252-6471 ext. 308 or email jasmind@lampchc.org

FREE VIRTUAL PHYSIOTHERAPY workshops. March 8 for falls prevention at 2:30 p.m. and chronic neck pain on March 15 at 2:30 p.m. To register please call 416 252 6471 ext. 264.

MARCH 22 ETOBICOKE CAMERA CLUB presents **Sharon Tannenbaum** as she shares her journey. From 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Purchase tickets from ECC Facebook page, www.facebook.com

FREE EIGHT-WEEK MINDFULNESS WORKSHOP series for one-hour on ZOOM on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. in March and April. The focus will be on relaxation and building coping skills to deal with stress and anxiety. To register contact Jasmin at 416-252-6471 ext. 308 or email jasmind@lampchc.org

MARCH 26 LAUGH OUT LOUD FOR YOU every Friday from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. by ZOOM. This program will

contain mindful meditation, exploring emotions and time to share through games and art. A parent or guardian must register each child. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or email health.promotion@stonegate.org

ZUMBA! EVERY TUESDAY on ZOOM from 7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or email health.promotion@stonegate.org

CHAIR EXERCISE FOR SENIORS AND older adults 55-years plus on ZOOM Friday 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. until April 2. A certified fitness instructor will lead the group with exercises to improve balance, strength, posture and flexibility. Participants will need a strong sturdy chair, preferably with no arms and a strong towel or belt for strengthening exercises. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or email health.promotion@stonegate.org

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-19 Relief Fund is set up to help those organizations. Visit <https://bit.ly/3du5fSU> or www.kingswaykiwanishumber.com

STUDY BEING CONDUCTED to identify affordable housing issues and solutions in South Etobicoke. Help a 'passionate' Humber College research team find affordable housing answers. For more information email salomeh.ahmadi@humber.ca

AFFORDABLE HOUSING INFORMATION workshops: Learn how to get on the list for subsidized housing. What kind of supports are available to access affordable housing. The Rent Bank is there if you are behind in your rent and other supports. Also a workshop on Tenant's Rights. Tuesdays March 2, March 9 and March 16 on ZOOM at 7 pm.

Contact jasmind@lampchc.org for more information.

FREE FOR ADULTS LEARN BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS: must meet registration criteria including 19 years and over. Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Small online group instruction MS word, Internet, keyboarding, email. Contact 416-252-9701 ext. 242 or 243.

IMPROVE YOUR READING AND WRITING SKILLS. Have fun learning in small groups. Must have a computer and an email address. Criteria includes must be 19 and up, an Ontario resident. Contact 416-252-9701 ext. 242 or 243.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PODS PROJECT. Neighbours helping neighbours. Mutual aid and support phone check-ins. Community Leadership. Volunteer run. For more information contact Daniel Plant at 416-553-8263.

FREE SOUP ON SUNDAY 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.

LAMP EMERGENCY FOOD TAKEOUT MEALS are offered Monday through Thursday from 9:30 am to 11:30 a.m. through LAMP's adult drop-in program. LAMP is located at 185 Fifth Street. Contact 416-252-6471 ext. 264. Group programs are closed.

LAKESHORE OUT OF THE COLD every Monday night at 6 on Thirtieth Street, at this time of the year. More than 800 area families this year will receive assistance. Foodbank available. Contact **Jennifer** at 416- 251-8372 ext. 101, from November to April for a hot meal and emergency overnight accommodations for those who are homeless or hungry. Volunteers prepare dinner plus a bagged lunch for guests, including breakfast. Visit St. Margaret's Church, 156 Sixth Street.

VOLUNTEERS needed at Salvation Army, Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Thirtieth Street. All are welcome to volunteer and meet others.

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Etobicoke's E. P. Taylor worked hard - knew Royalty - and owned many championship horses, but many loved him because he was a big tipper

By DAVE KOSONIC

Etobicoke's E.P. Taylor is known by many for earning his historic place in the winners' circle of business, local, Canadian and international horse breeding and racing.



E.P. TAYLOR WAS a business tycoon who loved horses. Here he is with the Queen Mother (above and right) and with a winning steed below. File photos.

His official name was Edward Plunket Taylor and he owned a state-ly mansion in the exclusive Lorraine Gardens in Etobicoke, near Burnhamthorpe Rd. and Kipling Ave. To those close to him he was known as 'Eddie,' a business tycoon who passed on at age 88 in 1989 in the Bahamas, nine years after suffering a stroke.

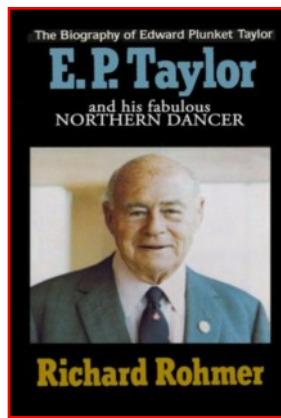
Taylor loved horse racing and accomplished so much during his life and thriving on challenges including making businesses successful.

One of Canada's richest people, he was friends of the Royal and U.S. Presidents, who would visit his homes. E.P. was voted thoroughbred racing's man of the year in 1973 and the next year was elected to Canada's Sports Hall of Fame. In 1977 and 1983 he was named the winner of the Eclipse Award for Outstanding Breeder as the leading thoroughbred breeder in North America. Taylor's horses won 15 Queen's Plate races and were named Canadian Horse of the Year nine times. He was

also a founder of the Jockey Club of Canada. "The sport (horse racing) wasn't keeping up with the progress made in other areas," Taylor said. "I was afraid that horse racing might die here as it did in Quebec."

He was the first person to breed the winners of both the Kentucky Derby in 1964 with Northern Dancer and the English Derby in 1970 by running Nijinski, a son of Northern Dancer.

To the sadness of horse lovers, Northern Dancer died at age 29, at Taylor's Windfields Farm in 1990, near Oshawa. The horse went down in history as one of the world's greatest thoroughbred sires and about 70 per cent of today's best race horses are among his descendants.



like to paint or garden. I like to create things." Windfields Estate was the Taylor family home from 1901 to 1989, where his Royal visitors included Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, in the summers of 1974 and 1981, and Prince



ETOBICOKE'S E.P. TAYLOR hobnobbed with Royalty, including the Queen Mother. Lady Diana was at his home.

Charles and his first wife Diana, Princess of Wales. Taylor founded one of Canada's most powerful conglomerates, which held brewing, grocery, mining and broadcast interests. He was also a philanthropist, and a portion of his former Estate was acquired by Durham College and Ontario Tech University.

He was a private man and not much is known about his life. His wife was the former Winnifred Duguid Thornton and they parented a son and two daughters Charles, Judith and Louise.

On a personal note, my late father owned and operated a home electronics business near the Six Points called Belmont Television and Electronics. My dad employed factory-trained technicians to do all his in-home electronic installations and service calls.

He was one of dad's favourite customers and my father personally did all service calls at his Lorraine Gardens mansion. Dad said that whenever he did Taylor's work he was given a crisp \$100 bill as a tip.

"People do not understand that the principal motivation is not money," Taylor explained during a 1966 New York Times interview. "I do something that is constructive. There are people who



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The Ontario Jr. Lacrosse heats up as National Lacrosse League shuts down

By REJEAN CANTLON

As the National Lacrosse League (NLL) announce the cancellation of its 2021 season, lacrosse in Ontario's Jr. ranks is heating up with news of a new league being formed.

The Tewaaronon Lacrosse League (TLL) is the brain-child of Edge Lacrosse founder, Stuart Brown and Six Nations Jr. A General Manager, Jake Henhawk. The Six Nations team announced that it were leaving the 11 team Ontario Lacrosse Association (OLA) last month.

A second private team from Burlington has also announced that it will be joining the TLL. The existing Burlington Chiefs Jr. A team would remain within the OLA.

The reason for the introduction of the new league seems to stem from a lack of support from the OLA to the local Jr. A clubs and its ability to groom players hoping to play professionally in the NLL. The OLA is for players aged 21 and younger. The TLL is for players 22 and younger and will include adopting the NLL rules.

The OLA voted against increasing the age to 22 at the annual general meeting last November, which ruffled the feathers of some of the Jr. A teams' brass. The vote was 53% in favour, but two-third of the vote was needed to make the change.



NEW LACROSSE league being created and players are excited. Courtesy photo.

What does that mean for our Mimico Mountaineers Jr. A team? Sean O'Callaghan, President of Mimico Jr. A admitted that his organization was approached by the TLL back in December.

After careful consideration, O'Callaghan said it was the right time to take a pass on the TLL and support the existing league under the OLA umbrella.

"At the end of the day, we think that our young athletes still want to compete for the Minto Cup (national amateur championship)", O'Callaghan said. "The time is right to work together to grow our league."

He added that perhaps the TLL will allow for better conversations with the OLA and existing team ownership groups. Only time will tell.

Backyard rinks sprout as virus hits amateur sports

By REJEAN CANTLON

This is definitely the year of the outdoor rink. Thanks to the latest cold snap, backyard ice surfaces are popping up all over our neighbourhoods, more so now than ever before due to COVID-19 and lockdown restrictions.

Looking for activities to stay active and fit have been challenging this winter. Getting outside and exercising seem like a logical fix to curb the boredom and monotony of life indoors.

It can be argued that South Etobicoke families have had

more of an opportunity to bond on the ice than ever before, especially being so close to home. Shane Nuttley-Kirby, his wife and two children, Dylan, two and a half, and Shane Jr., 6. are spending countless hours building that bond on the rink in their own family backyard.

Nuttley-Kirby, a professional power skating instructor, says "having the outdoor rink is more about play and less about a

learning tool for my boys. Installing the rink was a no-doubter for our family."

Shane hopes that once the lockdown restrictions ease, they will be able to share their backyard frozen treasure with more children to help them learn how to skate and more importantly, to have fun.



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THE NUTTLEY-KIRBY family enjoying their homemade rink. Photos by Rejean Cantlon.



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