

# The South Etobicoke News

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Number 39

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## Businesses open welcome back customers

Cash-strapped residents and small businesses are hoping there will be no more lockdowns. Starting this month COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted to allow a much-needed capacity limit of 50 per cent for restaurants, bars, gyms, grocery stores, pharmacies, shopping malls, cinemas, meeting or event spaces, churches, casinos, bingo halls and museums.

Sporting events with spectators such as concerts or theatres will be capped at either 500 people or 50 per cent seated capacity, whichever is less, health officials said. The Ontario government are slowly lifting public health measures in place to curb the spread of the highly-contagious Omicron variant. They said by February 21 social gathering limits will increase to 25 people indoors and 100 outdoors. Indoor capacity limits will be increased to 25 per cent, including nightclubs, wedding



**BUSINESSES ARE BACK** as Ray, (left) from Kabob House, welcomes back his customers and area gyms and restaurants (right) look to a great year for business after suffering from COVID-19. Courtesy photos.

receptions, in meeting or event spaces, as well as bath-houses and sex clubs. And by March 14 social gathering limits will be increased to 50 people indoors with no limits for outdoor gatherings. Capacity limits will be lifted in all indoor public settings, including churches and religious services.

James Rilett, Restaurants Canada Vice President, Central Canada, said a letter was sent to Premier Doug Ford seeking more funds for small businesses to keep afloat. He said aid from the province covers a 'small portion of losses and leaves out many hard-hit businesses.'

"We want our customers to return to the stores," said Ray Qalawi, owner of Kabob House, in New Toronto. "It is difficult these days with high inflation and high prices of food products."

Ray Kelly, of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), said the average COVID-19 debt for a small business is \$190,000, and 18.5 per cent are actively considering bankruptcy."

Kelly said indoor dining facilities have already lost 408 days to closure, while gyms lost 395 days.

## City approves Garden Suites that some oppose

Some Long Branch residents are outraged over the introduction of Garden Suites, or small homes, which can be built in backyards for use by family members or to rent out.

City Council on February 2 approved by-laws for Garden Suites to permit houses with two storeys with full basements in Toronto backyards.

The so-called Backyard Homes or Laneway Homes are meant to provide more affordable housing, but some activists claim homes are snapped up by developers to construct large Garden Suites, which are rented or sold for high profits. The Garden Suites were studied by a City Planning and Housing Committee that approved by-law changes to the Official Plan to allow construction of the homes. But not everyone is delighted by the backyard dwellings. Christine Mercado,



**NOT HAPPY WITH GARDEN SUITES;** Christine Mercado (right) of the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association, with more than 100 others, took part in a Zoom call with members of Barrie's Allandale Neighbourhood (left) to hear concerns about the homes.

of the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association (LBNA), said there are major concerns that were not addressed.

"Specifically around the loss of trees, green space, flooding, negative impacts on neighbours' privacy and large walls due to the excessive heights, size and insufficient set-backs," Mercado said. She said Long Branch has some of the oldest and most historic trees in Canada

and many would face removal to build the homes.

Mercado said there was minimal consultation with homeowners for the change and builders would be able to remove trees to build their suites.

"Many resident and property owners are unaware of what is being proposed and the impact it will have on them due to the speed this is moving and because it is

taking place during the pandemic," the LBNA said in a deposition to Council. The group held a virtual meeting last month with two residents from Barrie, which was one of the first communities to approve Garden Suites. A backlash by residents last year led to Barrie City Council making by-law changes.

"As soon as people know what is happening there is immediate backlash," said Cathy Colebatch, who with Barbara Mackie, co-chairs the Allandale Neighbourhood Association. "Investors were outbidding residents to buy homes to build Backyard Homes to be rented or sold at high prices." The size of Garden Suites is far too large and will negatively impact properties, the LBNA said. The homes can be as large as 1,938 square feet and more than six metres high, with air conditioning units.

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## February is Black History Month!

### Local skateboarders raise funds and call for roller park to be named after Jordan



JORDAN CARTER (top, bottom) is being mourned. Courtesy photos.

More than \$20,000 has been raised in a Go Fund Me page to help with the funeral services of local skateboarder Jordan Carter, who was shot and killed by a 13-year-old in East York. Members of the South Etobicoke community area asking for the Eighth Street Skatepark to be renamed after Carter, 15, who spent many hours there helping younger children skate. The student at Lakeshore Collegiate Institute was shot dead in an apartment parking garage in the Gamble and Pape Avenues area around 11:30 p.m. on January 19, according to police. Officers said Carter died of gunshot wounds despite intense life-saving measures by paramedics to save his life. He was pronounced

dead at the scene, police say.

A 13-year-old boy was arrested and charged with second-degree murder. He cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, but appeared in court on January 21.

Two firearms and ammunition were seized in connection with the case, police say.

Carter, who was always seen on a skateboard, had many friends who lit up social media to mourn his loss.

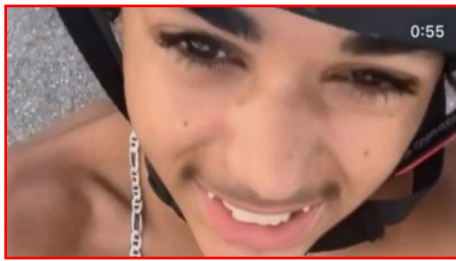
“He was a talented young man who loved skateboarding,” wrote fund organizer, Krista Langille. “He was a beautiful soul who was loved by his friends and anyone who ever met him. We are all devastated by this loss.”

Langille said all funds donated will be used for “memorial purposes and given to his grandmother to cover the costs of his funeral.” Funeral details are being finalized.

Dejan Pavlovic said Carter helped her son Quentin to become a better skateboarder. “He absolutely made a difference in people's lives and those that were on the receiving end of his warmth will be better, more humble, more loving people simply by being by his side,” Pavlovic wrote. She said the Eighth Street Skatepark should be renamed after Jordan Carter in honor of the many kids he has helped.

“I’ll always remember him as the skateboard loving kid who would always share his board or scooter,” recalled Rose Dias.

“Jordan was a bright, sweet kid with incredible talent and a creative soul,” Adrienne Costantino grieved. “The news of his loss is absolutely devastating. My deepest condolences to his family and friends.”



### Police on the trail of deadly gunmen sought for two killings

It appears as if gun-toting triggermen from Mississauga and Brampton brought their beef to a Long Branch business when gunfire broke out killing two men and injuring a woman. Toronto homicide officers are hot on the trail of two suspects who are sought for a double killing, and wounding of a third person at an office rental business, at 150 Thirtieth Street, on January 3. The bodies of Minyali Wur, 24, and Chudier Reat, 20, were found January 3 with gunshot wounds. They were pronounced dead in hospital. Detectives found a woman nearby suffering from non-life threatening injuries. No motive has been provided for the gunplay, which reportedly occurred at a recording studio. The facility was shut down for more than a week as police forensic experts searched for clues.



POLICE ARE searching for Camarr Brown (right) and Darriel Thompson, who is facing attempted murder charges. Chudier Reat (below) was killed in gunfire. Toronto Police photos.

Police on January 31 released the identities of two young men, who are sought to answer for homicides 3 and 4 of 2022.

On the run are Darriel Thompson, 21, of Mississauga, who is wanted for two counts of second degree murder and attempted murder.

Also sought is Camarr Brown, 21, of Brampton, for being an accessory after the fact of murder.

Investigators would like to speak with anyone who may have information concerning this investigation, information on the two wanted men, or have dash camera or video surveillance of the area.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 416-808-7400, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 416-222-TIPS (8477).

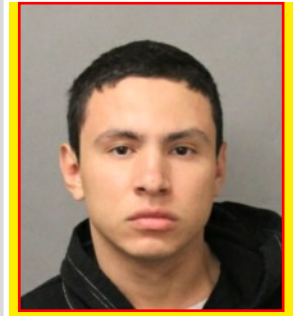
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### Wanted man sought for attempt killing



WANTED: Hernandez-Viera

An international manhunt is underway for a man facing attempted murder charges who fled after cutting off an ankle bracelet monitor.

Marvin Hernandez-Viera, 24, of Toronto, was arrested on September 2019 and charged with attempt murder.

He was ordered by the court to wear an ankle monitor and stay with his surety, said police.

The suspect fled on January 12 at 1:30 p.m. Police allege the fugitive cut off the ankle bracelet monitor and fled the home of his surety. He face new charges of obstruct justice and fail to comply with recognizance.

Police said the suspect is “known to be violent and dangerous.” He is being urged by police to contact a lawyer and arrange his surrender.

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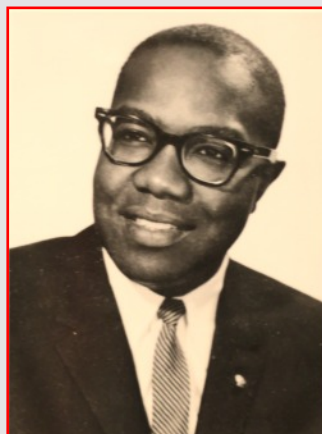
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# Braithwaite loved Etobicoke and residents adored him



LEONARD BRAITHWAITE

Black History runs deep in Etobicoke and residents today still have great respect for the late lawyer Leonard Austin Braithwaite, who became the first Black Canadian elected to the Ontario Legislature. Braithwaite, or "Lenny," as he was affectionately known, was born in Toronto in 1923 to a Barbadian father and Jamaican mother who instilled in him the value of hard

work and dedication.

He served overseas with the Royal Canadian Air Force in World War II and returned home with plans of becoming a lawyer.

A brilliant student, he received a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Toronto in 1950. He then received a Master of Business Administration degree from the Harvard Business School in 1952, and graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto in 1958. Braithwaite moved to Etobicoke and started a successful law firm that he operated for decades. He was named a Queen's Counsel in 1971.

His political career began in 1960, when he was elected to Ward 4 of the Etobicoke Township Board of Education. A former president of Etobicoke Ratepayer's Asso-



ciation, he was elected because of demand for a high school north of Eglinton Ave. W.

Two years later, he was elected as an alderman on the Etobicoke council.

Braithwaite ran for the Liberals in the 1963 provincial election and won the newly-created constituency of Etobicoke by 443 votes.

He helped to revoke a section of the Ontario Separate Schools Act that had allowed for racial segregation in public schools, when he asked the Legislature to "get rid of the old race law" during his maiden speech at Queen's Park on February 4, 1964.

Braithwaite also called for the admission of female legislative pages in 1966.

He was re-elected in 1967 and 1971, and served as the Liberal Party Critic for Labour and Welfare, before being defeated in the 1975 election by New Democratic Party candidate Ed Philip by 1,256 votes.

The seasoned politician was next elected a city controller on the Etobicoke City Council in 1982.

Braithwaite attempted a return to the provincial Legislature during the 1985 election but lost as he was a last minute candidate. The York West Liberal constituency association could not find anyone to run.

He became a bencher of the Governing Council of The Law Society of Upper Canada in 1999; was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 1997; invested into the order in February 1998 and appointed to the Order of Ontario in 2004.

Braithwaite died in Toronto on March 28, 2012, at the age of 88. The City of Toronto that year renamed a park in his former Etobicoke riding to Leonard Braithwaite Park in his honour.



BRAITHWAITE's victory in *The Toronto Star*, centre, and (above) in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

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## What's Inside

- FAMILY fell to War .. Page 4
- JAM with Bob Marley .. Page 6
- TOP Lasagna & Samosa ... Page 8
- OPINION *From The Bench* .. Page 12
- KEEPING Busy & Active .. Page 14
- SISTERS in Business .. Page 16



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# A Long Branch family lost dad, two sons in war

By TOM GODFREY

## Husband, Sons Killed Overseas 'Couldn't Take More From Me'



D. D. STEWART AND SONS, DAVID AND GEORGE

Long Branch, Aug. 16—'I certainly, high school. The father was an employee at the city hall when en-

**FALLEN HEROES** include Long Branch's David Dudley (top left and right) with sons David (centre), George; all killed in battle. Military photo.

It will be almost 80 years this year since the late Long Branch widow, Mary Lillian Stewart, lost her husband and both sons fighting against the Nazis during the Second World War.

The family and residents of Long Branch were devastated after news of the death of Lance Sergeant David Dudley Arthur Stewart, of the 15 Canadian General Hospital, Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, on October 18, 1942. He was 45.

His patriotic sons Lance Corporal David Henry Alexander, 27, and Gunner George Edwin, 22, were killed in Normandy, France, on July 1944, within five days of each other.

"I certainly know there is a war on," lamented Mary Lillian, the boy's heartbroken mom and David Dudley's

wife, after being told by a Toronto newspaper reporter that her youngest son had been killed in battle. "It couldn't have taken any more of me."

"This would have been my husband's birthday," she told the newspaper. "It is hard to bear. One blow after another. War is a terrible thing. I realize it now." The family was well known in Long Branch, where the elder Stewart worked as a clerk at

Eaton's and then at City Hall. He attended Jesse Ketchum Public School and Long Branch High School. The senior Stewart enlisted in the First World War at age 20 in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF). After arriving in England in April 1917, his chronic bronchitis led to tuberculosis of the lung. He was repatriated to Canada for medical treatment.

He re-enlisted in 1939 during WWII and served in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, which was responsible for all medical and dental services in the Army. The Corps delivered the wounded to battlefield medical stations, or Casualty Clearing Stations, for more intensive medical care in hospitals.

Stewart was joined a few years later by his sons, who left their mother and four sisters at home. Son David Henry enlisted in March 1942 in the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry and was a Lance Corporal. Brother George Edwin enlisted six months later in September 1942, and was a Gunner in the Royal Canadian Artillery.



Sadly, a month after George Edwin enlisted, his father David Dudley, died in England, in October 1942. He is buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in Britain.

His citations included a British War Medal, Defence Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Overseas Clasp and War Medal 1939-45.

On June 6, 1944, the invasion of Normandy, or D-Day, began after Allied forces invaded the mainland of north-west Europe. Much fighting and bloodshed lay ahead as victory in Europe was 11 months away. The Normandy Campaign saw almost 5,000 Canadian soldiers perish and lasted until late August 1944. July 1944 was also a horrific time for the ailing Stewart family in Long Branch.

George Edwin was killed in action on July 21, 1944, at the age 22. And four days later, on July 25, David Henry, was killed at age 27. He is buried in Bretteville-Sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery in France,

among the almost 3,000 casualties. George is also memorialized at France's Bayeux Memorial, erected in honour of more than 1,800 who died with no graves. David Henry citations included a 1939-45 Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. A memorial to the family is in the City's Golden Book of Remembrance, which pays tribute to 3,452 Toronto residents who died in WWII.



**A TOMBSTONE** marks grave of David Dudley Stewart, who with his two sons were killed in action.

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

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# Celebrating Bob Marley's music

Reggae icon Bob Marley's music lives on decades after his death

The Jamaica-born global reggae star passed away on May 6, 1981 and his music is still fresh and popular more than four decades later. His tunes are discovered by a new generation of listeners.

This year the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Bob Marley Birthday Celebration and Food Drive Livestream will take place on February 6 in support of the Parkdale Community Food Bank.

The free show, which is being staged by NuFunk Concerts in association with Rasta Fest & Uma Noto, will be streamed on May 6 from BSMT 245 in Toronto from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. NuFunk in a release said the show is the longest-running Bob Marley tribute in Canada and 'one of the hottest local reggae concerts of the year.'

"The event showcases the best of Canada's reggae music scene while raising essential food donations for the Parkdale Food Bank," organizers said.

The show will feature veteran soul-reggae singer Jay Douglas, who collaborates with up-and-coming reggae



collective Reggaddiction to reinterpret Bob Marley & The Wailers tunes and perform original material.

The Livestream will feature pre-recorded live performances of reggae musicians from across Canada as well as DJs exploring Marley's vast catalogue.

The Parkdale Community Food Bank is a grassroots organization, founded by volunteers in 2007 and serving 4,700 people.

The much-loved dreadlock musician died at the young age of 36. He was diagnosed with acral lentigi-



**BOB MARLEY** died almost 41 years ago and is still loved worldwide. His birthday is celebrated on February 6. Courtesy photos.

nous melanoma in 1977 and died as a result of the illness. His fans around the world expressed their grief, and Marley received a state funeral in Jamaica. His greatest hits album *Legend* was released in 1984, and became the best-selling reggae album of all time.

Marley ranks as one of the world's top-selling reggae artists, with estimated sales of more than 75 million records worldwide.

He was posthumously honoured by Jamaica soon after his death with a designated Order of Merit. In 1994, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. *Rolling Stone* ranked him No. 11 on its list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time.

# Faulkner's Appliances reopens to mark 76 years of business



**FAOUZI HAMOUN** is the new owner of Faulkner's and some of the appliances.(below).

Faouzi Hamoun loves appliances so much that he bought the company. A pleasant Hamoun is the new owner of Faulkner's Home Appliances, at 2882 Lake Shore Blvd. W., which is now reopened after a brief closure. The family-owned company has been at the same New Toronto location since being founded by businessman and politician Alex Faulkner some 76 years ago. The popular company, which had long been a household and trustworthy name in the community, was resold to Hamoun, who had worked for the Faulkner's for 18 years.



"The company has been in the community since 1946," he says. "We are back and our pricing will be competitive."

Faulkner's will continue carrying its top name brands in stoves, fridges, washers, dryers and other major appliances.

Hamoun has been working in the area for many years and knows the needs and price points of the community. Many residents know him by name from previous purchases and he hopes they return. "We are focused on North American brands and would like people to come in and take a look around if they are searching for major appliances," he explains.

Delivery can be arranged. The New Toronto store can be reached at 416-251-1195 or 647-819-5388 by email at faouzi@faulknersappliances.ca or www.faulkners.ca



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### Proposal being considered by City to permit a 36 storey highrise on Royal York Road



A PROPOSED 36-storey building (top, right) planned for 266 Royal York Road will be considered by City officials.

Mimico residents will be passing more gravel trucks on Royal York Road if this project is approved.

A zoning by-law amendment application has been made to City Council to permit a 36-storey mixed use tower at 266 Royal York Road, just north of Drummond Street.

The 121-metre tall building will have an eight-storey self-storage building on site below a three-level below grade garage, according to the planners.

The 36-storey building would contain 869 square metres of retail space and 826 residential units.

There are already a number of major construction projects underway in that area of Mimico and traffic is usually backed up on Royal York Road, according to residents, who said parking is an issue.

“The convenient and well-serviced location of this development allows for the reduction in parking availability and sup-

ports the Official Plan vision,” according to the proposal. LEA Consulting Ltd. (LEA) was retained by Fieldgate Urban to prepare a Transportation Impact Study, according to the application.

The company said the subject site is located within a 15-minute walking distance of Mimico GO Train Station and is adjacent to streetcar stops along Lake Shore Boulevard West.

“The subject site is well-connected to the City’s cycling network via a multi-use trail along the waterfront and dedicated facilities along Stanley Avenue and Royal York Boulevard.” Area residents are not bowled over by the massive project that will tower over their homes.

“Won’t be long before they take the other two industrial properties and clean up that street with condos,” one man wrote on social media.

“Yet another case where I say taper down to the neighbourhood environment, I don’t care what the proximity is to Mimico GO,” another concerned resident wrote. “This thing would stick out like a hilariously real bad sore thumb.”

“The architectural expression facing Royal York is both bizarre and unbecoming,” another said online. “The grade level with the all-glass, and excess height doesn’t work.” The proposal is being considered by City officials.



### Plans before Council to build multi tower condos at Six Points Plaza site

South Etobicoke’s popular Six Points Plaza may be in its final days as plans are underway to redevelop the 5.4-acre site to build seven condos ranging from 10 to 45 storeys in height.

Liberty Development has filed plans to with the City to redevelop the 5230 Dundas Street West plaza, near Kipling Ave., into a multi-tower, mixed-use community that will be home for thousands of residents. The plaza, which the developers claim is “underutilized,” is home to Canadiana Restaurant, a Shoppers Drug Mart, M&M Food Market, Bulk Barn, Starbucks and Winekitz stores. It is located near Apache Burger.



There were lineups to enter the stores back in 1960, when the plaza was opened. It has been a fixture in the Six Points Interchange area for more than six decades.

There are plans to create a public park and commercial space. The Park lands are planned for the north side of Dundas Street West, west of Beamish Drive, and will span 2,310 square metres.

The massive proposal is still being reviewed by City officials for approval. There is no date as to when the plaza will close or construction will begin.

The new buildings would contain 2,130 residential apartments, ranging from studios to three-bedroom units, and 5,287 square metres of non-residential space.

The plaza is a block-and-a-half west of Kipling Avenue and close to Kipling Subway and GO Station. It is across from where a new state-of-the-art Etobicoke Civic Centre is to be built.

The development is divided into four blocks. Block 1 would be located east of Jopling, and north of Dundas, and would consist of 45-storey and 42-storey residential building. Block 2 consists of a 30-storey tower and 10-storey mixed-use building with 451 residential units and 287 one-bedrooms. Block 3, south of Bloor Street, consists of a 10-storey mixed use building and a 25-storey tower and Block 4 would consist of a 35-storey residential building that would provide 428-units of varying sizes.



PLANS ARE FILED to redevelop the popular Six Points Plaza (top, bottom) into seven multi-storey condos to attract new residents.



THE SIX POINTS PLAZA has been serving residents form more than 60 years.

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# Lincoln Alexander made Canada a better place



**FORMER VETERAN** and Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Lincoln Alexander. Courtesy photos.

From poverty to royalty, Lincoln MacCauley Alexander has experienced many firsts in his distinguished life.

His deeds and mindset continue to inspire generations of African and Caribbean people across Canada and the world this Black History Month.

It is no surprise that his birthday on January 21 is recognized by the Ontario government, and across this nation, as Lincoln Alexander Day.

Alexander was born in Toronto on January 21, 1922. His father was a carpenter by trade but worked as a railway porter for the Canadian Pacific Railway. Back then working as a railway porter was one of the few

good jobs for which Blacks were hired. His mother toiled as a maid.

“Linc” as he was commonly called, worked as a machinist in a Hamilton-based factory after the Second World War making anti-aircraft guns for the war effort despite being too young to enlist.

He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1942 and served as a corporal until 1945 working as a wireless operator in World War II.

Throughout his life and career, Alexander tackled racism and inequity often risking career and professional advancement in the process.

Once, while stationed in Vancouver, he was refused service at a bar because of his race. He reported the inci-



**ALEXANDER WITH** his late first wife Yvonne and (right) with veterans like himself whom he loved.

dent to his superior officer who refused to take action. Alexander subsequently quit the Air Force, leaving with an honourable discharge.

The veteran was studious and earned a Bachelor of Arts from McMaster University in 1949 and graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1953.



He became the first Black person to be elected to Canada’s House of Commons where he represented Hamilton West for 12 year. He was so popular that he was re-elected four times.

The people loved him and he was always accessible in that everyday people could always approach him for sound advice for their problems.

Alexander in 1979 was appointed Minister of Labour by Prime Minister Joe Clark and became the first Black Canadian to serve as a federal Cabinet Minister.

Alexander was sworn in as the 24<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and served from 1985 to 1991. He played an integral role in the fight for equity, diversity and inclusion in Canadian Society.

A fighter, he was a passionate advocate for the advancement of education and served as Chancellor of the University of Guelph and Chair of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation. He was also a Chair of the Workers’ Compensation Board.

Alexander died on October 19, 2012 and the Lincoln Alexander Day was launched in 2015.

Perhaps one of his top accolades, and there were many, came in 2006, when he was named the “Greatest Hamiltonian of All Time.”

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## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Remembering Black History Month doesn’t only mean the past, but it is history in progress. Celebrate the great accomplishments and contributions of the Black community and cheer those who today build on the shoulders of giants like Leonard Braithwaite, Lincoln Alexander and Jean Augustine.



*Christine*  
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# Adriano's top for lasagna Tasty fresh samosas from Kabob House cooked before your eyes



**VISIT ADRIANO'S** Pizza and Pasta for best lasagna in Long Branch. It's all home made (bottom). Photos by Tom Godfrey.

and the U.S. to help rebuild the store, which is known for helping area charities or people in need. Stolaj says he is touched by the outpouring of support that he has received. "One guy called from California to give some money," he recalls. "It turned out the guy went to Humber College and had a good experience." The caller made a sizeable donation in U.S. funds. He thanks 850 Degrees Pizzeria, at 3455 Lake Shore Blvd. W., for taking a collection from its staff and customers to help repair the shop.

Another customer kicked in a large microwave that will receive good use. An area businessperson, whom Stolaj has never met, donated a \$6,000 pizza-prep table. "It still had the plastic on the counter," he says.

Long Branch's own Adriano's Pizza and Pasta boasts of having the fastest-selling and tastiest lasagna and pasta in the west end.

"Sold out every day," is how owner Adrian Stolaj describes his tasty lasagna. "See, no more. People order and pick up for themselves and family."

Stolaj says the food lovers travel from across the city to his 3329 Lake Shore Blvd. W. takeout restaurant.

"The food is great. I had one lady come here from downtown Toronto to get 20 servings," he smiles. "She left me a \$50 tip. Imagine that."

Sales was not always this hot for the popular Long Branch pizza maker. A fire at his store about a month ago set him back a few days of business and a loss.

But his loyal fans could not wait.

A Go Fund Me page created by customers Jackie Goodman and Lisa Davis raised more than \$8,000 from foodies across the country



"The little children from nearby James S. Bell Middle School donated change and their lunch money," he says. "It was very touching." Stolaj would like to thank all the customers and others who helped him get back on his feet after being set back by the blaze. The store can be reached at 416-792-4074.



**RAY FROM KABOB HOUSE** says he makes samosas fit for a king. You will want more. Photos by Tom Godfrey.

A New Toronto kabob parlour claims to have the best samosas and shawarmas in all of Etobicoke.

Master chef Ray Qalawi, owner of Kabob House, at 2977 Lake Shore Blvd. W., says his delicious freshly-made samosas are flying out of the pot in recent days.

"They are all cooked on the spot," Qalawi says. "People love them and they come back for more."

The beef and chicken samosas were tasty, fresh and hot on a

cold day from being cooked-on-the-spot. A veggie samosa is also available.

They were so delicious that we had to get a second serving. It's the best deal since three piping-hot samosas sells for \$5. What a deal. You can also get a dip so they taste even better.

Qalawi, who is originally from Jordan, arrived in Canada about 30 years ago and has been cooking or in the restaurant business for most of his time here. His family in Jordan has a long history in the food and restaurant business.

"This was a good business at one time," he says. "Things have changed with the pandemic in that we now have high inflation and high price of food products."

He recalls he paid \$1,500 in rent for his Lake Shore Blvd. W. restaurant when he moved in about 20 years ago. Today the rent has shot up to almost \$5,000.

"The high costs and lockdowns by the government are not good for business," Qalawi swears. "Look at it outside. It's empty. Many people are staying home."

He thanks his many regular customers for keeping his dream alive.

Qalawi cooks his food daily to ensure his meals are fresh. He goes personally to the store to select his meats, produce and spices.

"We are hoping that this year will be better and more people will come and try the food," he insists. "We guarantee that they will come back."

He says his filling shawarmas and chicken on rock are available for \$10.

The Kabob House can be reached at 437-779-8383.



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# The taste of Moroccan foods and culture now loved by many people of different backgrounds in South Etobicoke

Chef Brahim Ihsane owns the popular Morocco House restaurant for top Mediterranean food that specializes in mouth-watering couscous, tasty Tagine, flavourful kabobs and excellent lamb dishes. Ihsane finally returned this month to long-awaited sit-down service as most restaurant and bar limits



MOROCCO HOUSE restaurant is located at 876 Brown's Line, near Evans Ave. It is well-known for its delicious Moroccan dishes.

have been lifted to 50% capacity due to the fight against the Omicron variant. He has been serving the Alderwood area for the past five years and his was one of many businesses hit hard by government ordered shutdowns and only takeout service. "We are open for the dining-in experience that we are known for," Ihsane says. "We look forward to welcoming back our customers." The restaurant is well-known for its fresh spices and meats that is cooked Mediterranean style. "People can come in and enjoy the best of Moroccan dishes in Etobicoke," he offers. "Our restaurant is listed as one of the best in Ontario." Ihsane promises that "the aromatic spices and rich flavours will cure your cravings" The restaurant is located at 876 Brown's Line and can be reached at 416-519-2777. During the shutdown Ihsane was able to obtain the Fez Food Market, a Mediterranean Marketplace, at 60 Briston Rd. E., Unit 6, Mississauga. The market sells fresh Moroccan delicatessen pastry, herbs, spices, chicken, eggs, meats, fruits, vegetables and groceries. Customers who mention a flyer or newspaper advertising will receive a 10% discount at the Morocco House or Fez Food Market, which can be reached at 905-232-3332. The many customers who love Moroccan food have taken to social media to express their gratitude.

"Very nice experience with Moroccan food," said Sue Stone. "The prices also are very affordable." "Great service. Delicious authentic Moroccan food. We loved the tea, chicken and lamb Tagines," wrote Chaza Attar. "Looking forward to going back again."



## National Flag Day of Canada is February 15



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# Giving Back Canada gives aid to the needy



**TAYLOR LYONS** is the founder of Giving Back Canada. Courtesy Photos.

Etobicoke's Taylor Lyons and a team of volunteers in these challenging times are helping those who are hungry or needy in the community - one family at a time.

Taylor, 28, is the founder of a non-profit organization called Giving Back Canada, which works to promote unity and helping each other

in our communities.

"We do this by providing food and basic necessities to families struggling with food insecurity in Etobicoke and the Greater Toronto Area," she says.

They have a list of more than 50 families to whom they provide groceries and other necessities monthly for free. She said the needs are much higher though. "We help feed more than 20 families alone in the South Etobicoke

area," Taylor explains. "We get their grocery list, buy the food and take it to them every month."

She says the families, with children, are mostly newcomers, needy and require help with food, for which prices are rising and is one of the most expensive necessities.

Taylor said most of their funds for the programs are raised from supporters on social media.

The initiative began in 2017, when they raised \$800 by Christmas Eve and were able to provide food and clothing for the homeless in downtown Toronto.

The next year, they raised another \$7,000 online to continue to feed the needy and homeless.

"The families we help include those struggling with loss of income, no transportation, and isolation due to higher susceptibility to COVID-19," Taylor notes. In May 2020, Giving Back Canada raised \$16,000 in just 10 days mostly again on social media to provide free gro-



ceries for those in dire need.

With these funds, they decided to partner with The Good Neighbour Project, a voluntary food delivery service that provided them with emergency case families.

Last December the charity hosted its first in-person fundraising event and raised \$9,000.

They also organized an online 12-days of giving campaign, which raised \$17,000.

She said the charity is working to help others across Canada, and internationally. You can contact Giving Back Canada by e-mail at [givingback@gmail.com](mailto:givingback@gmail.com), visit [www.givingbackcanada.net](http://www.givingbackcanada.net) or



**GIVING BACK CANADA** volunteers arrive with food to help family (top) as mom, with son, (centre) looks on.

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# Famed architect Zeidler dies



## In the Community

By TOM GODFREY



**FAMED ARCHITECT** Eberhard Zeidler with wife Jane. He designed Sherway Gardens Mall. Courtesy photos.

One of Canada's top architects, who designed Sherway Gardens Mall and many other iconic buildings, has passed away after a long and productive life. Eberhard Zeidler is called a visionary by some who claimed he helped shape modern Toronto. Zeidler died on January 7. He was 96.

The senior partner at Zeidler Architecture Inc. designed Sherway Gardens, which opened its doors in February 1971. "More than 20,000 shoppers filled the mall on opening day, and the celebration included police pipe bands, choirs and beau-

ty queens," according to the *Globe and Mail*, which compared opening day festivities to "opening day of the CNE without the rides."

The massive mall, which has many upscale stores, celebrates its 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary on February 24. Plans for the mall were



**ZEIDLER** designed the Sherway Gardens Mall, including the famed Food Court, (above) fabric top and grand elevators. (right)

in the works since the 1960s as developers began collecting farmlands. The land had been owned by Sheridan Nurseries since 1938. It was sold in 1964. The mall initially contained 127 stores. It was expanded five times over the years and now contains 215 stores, according to the architects.

"It is the eighth largest mall in the Greater Toronto Area, and is the 18th largest mall in Canada," according to documents. "As the mall has grown, it has changed its mix of stores from a general mix of stores to more fashion-conscious and luxury brand stores."

The builders said its famed fabric roof was the first of its kind over a retail building in Canada. The shell at the time cost \$1 million to make.

Zeidler, who was born in Germany, designed landmarks as the Eaton Center, Ontario Place, including the Cinesphere; the atrium at the Hospital for Sick Children, renovated Queen's Quay Terminal, the Meridian Arts Center in North York, Hamilton's McMaster University Medical Centre and Canada Place for Expo 86 in Vancouver. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Architecture by the University of Toronto, made an Officer of the Order of Canada and received a gold medal from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.



The brutal blizzard we dug out from last month seems to have brought out the best in most people in our community. The blast of snow crippled highways, dozens of TTC buses, streetcars and paralyzed much of the city. There were people stranded in vehicles on highways for 12 hours and more. The thick, heavy snow was so high that seniors couldn't leave their homes, much less shovel their sidewalk or driveways.

People couldn't drive to work, much less wait for hours for a TTC vehicle, or in-demand expensive Uber.

There were many people in our community helping each other by brushing snow off their neighbours' vehicles or helping to shovel the white stuff.

Many people were pushing motorists they didn't know who stuck in snowbanks.

There were neighbours making runs to the store to obtain food or prescriptions for seniors in need of help, or suffering with mobility issues.

The blast of snow only made things worst in a time with so many people suffering from the Omicron variant of COVID-19. The terrible weather forced the cancellations of a number of City-run vaccination clinics and services.

Still, we persevered and mustered to overcome the blizzard and to fight another day. Members of the community in these times are always hardy, helpful and gave up their time to help those weak or in failing health.

It was nice to see folks helping out their neighbours and area residents. We were all affected by the many inches of deep white snow.

Even Premier Doug Ford, (above) an Etobicoke resident, took time out from Legislative duties to help motorists dig their vehicles out.

Ford, with shovel in hand, helped to dig out a few surprised and thankful motorists who were stuck on the streets of Etobicoke. During a terrible power outage and rain storm a couple years ago, the Premier was for hours directing traffic at the intersection of the busy Dixon Road and Islington Avenue after a traffic light failed.

Now, who said Ford wasn't a man of the people.

Many of our seniors are left house-bound, fearing to venture outside since they may slip, fall and injure themselves.

We live in a tight community where most people know each other, or someone related. People actually came out to help others, or check up on each other, moreso due to COVID-19 and its Omicron variant.

The community has lost hundreds of men, women, fathers and mothers due to the pandemic. There are some whom we know but there are so many who passed, with few ever knowing or being there to remember them.

And given the challenges we are facing these days. The least we can do is care and help others if we can.

After all, it is snow, which will likely melt tomorrow.

But a friend, family or human being will never come back.



**PREMIER DOUG FORD** digging out his neighbours.

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## Your Health

By MONIKA MEULMAN

This February we are feeling cozy, loved, comforted, expressive, rested and nourished. Not only is the Chinese New Year on February 1, but the Eastern world celebrations of the Year of the Tiger. Continue on, well into mid-February, and culminate with the Lantern Festival on February 15.

That weekend, we are invited to celebrate love on February 14, as the western world's official Valentine's Day. That is not the feeling I'm talking about. Though this season is still cold and we are in mid-winter, you're probably getting itchy feet and fingers like me. Well, more like an itchy green thumb, in my case.

I'm sure you want to start a garden or get on with new projects, now that the cold has been dragging on for a while. That is the feeling I am talking about. That of ideas taking root and growing. Notice this feeling, enjoy it and begin to explore it. Feel the natural urge to begin growing this year.

This month: I urge you to catch a feeling, instead of a cold. How do we do this? Stay warm and stay connected!

We do this by allowing ourselves to pay attention and notice the feeling first and foremost. The itch to begin a project is there: A natural emergence from hibernation. Look for it and catch that feeling, in your hands. How do you catch this feeling? You may think, in this month of 'love', with Valentine's Day, with all the romantic notions our society has lavished onto February, I mean feeling in love.

Let us move beyond romantic love and the superficial ways of showing and experiencing feelings through chocolate, wine, wining and dining. Don't get me wrong. Wining and dining is delicious, tasty and wonderful. Of course, it is. But, imagine that you allow yourself to get in touch with some exquisite feelings of feeling comfortable with your favourite fuzzy blanket and catching 'feeling in love with life' feelings that way. Or imagine yourself the luxury of viewing a series of documentaries on Blue Zone living. How does that allow you to feel? Are your senses heightened?

Let us delve further into feeling. A deeper appreciation of how our body feels, with our mind translating our every sensation, can begin like this. Humour me in this



following exercise: Your sense of touch - A touch of comfort and wisdom. An exercise.

First, sit comfortably. Then, take your hands and slowly match up each finger and the thumb of one hand with the other. One at a time. Do this in front of you, watching your hands as you slowly complete this and feel each finger pad from the left

hand, gently pressing against the right hand. Close your eyes. Press gently and expand the fingers, move them closer together and stretch them apart. What do you notice? How do your hands feel?

Cold, clammy? Warm? Hot? Dry? Do you need to moisturize more? Yes, you do. Admit it. Has the winter cold dried out your hands? I invite you to welcome this information into your world. Now, take each hand and feel the fabric of your pants, blanket or sofa. Feel the surface slowly. What do you notice?

Now, take your hands and cup each side of your face. Now: close your eyes. What do you feel? Feel your jaw line. Feel the softness of your skin. Notice the temperature of your ears. Can you feel the fatigue in your eyes through your fingers? You are intelligent beyond your mind.

You are wise beyond all understanding. Starting with feeling life through your hands, I encourage you to learn, or more accurately: remember, who you are and what you love, through the feeling, the feeling of touch. Our sense of touch is so rich in information and so necessary for survival, that it is the first sense to develop in us. Did you know that touch has been shown to convey compassion from one human to another? And, it helps us make decisions

(Source: [www.livescience.com/60752-human-senses.html](http://www.livescience.com/60752-human-senses.html))

Catch a feeling. Go ahead. Feel nourished. Wrap yourself up in a warm blanket. Feel the soothing comfort of your cool hands on your neck or shoulders. Feel the hug of a loved one. Feel your rich life unfolding beneath your sense of touch. How does that feel?

**Monika Meulman,**  
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## From the Bench

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI

It's the new year. Time to make wishes for better times. If you disagree with my ideas – send me yours. Let's have a debate. Here's a hodge podge of my thoughts.

I wish that those militant anti-vaxxers demanding "It's my Body, My Choice" contribute time and money to help the women seeking Freedom of Choice for their bodies. They could also offer to off-set the cost to heart, cancer and other patients having to go to the back of the line to provide space for the more serious consequences to those unvaccinated catching Covid.

I wish the "Right to Life" people identify their support for those who want to abolish the "Death Penalty". As well, they can campaign for increased funding for child care. If the state commands the women to bear the child for the child's protection rather than a moral punishment for the woman then hasn't the state an obligation to share in the child's support. I wish that those politicians who demand fixed jail terms as a show of toughness, also tell the public how much it will cost them in taxes to build the extra jails, care for the prisoners, finance the Court Systems, manage increased caseloads; pay for more Crown Attorneys, Judges and Police Officers that will result from the new law. They should also produce the data to illustrate its effectiveness compared to other resolutions (I am not talking about violent crime here). They ought to tell the voter from where the money will come – education, health, social assistance or more taxes

I wish we dealt with drug-use (not illegal sales) like Portugal. They consider it a medical issue rather than criminal. They use health regulations to promote treatment. We can also define housing for street folk as a health problem. Remember it was the government that closed the psychiatric facilities and promised to provide supervised homes in the public domain (A good thought) for some of them. Where are these supervised homes and the help for opioid self-medication. If we re-frame the problems as a health and safety issue; rather than criminal, we might start finding solutions. Saskatchewan found the cost of building reasonable facilities were covered by the savings from policing, medical care and crime reduction when the savings were considered over several years, as compared to the one-time capital cost of a building.

I wish we stopped complaining about taxes and higher costs going to fair pay for teachers, public servants, medical staff, and those serving the public. We need more help and respect for them. They have saved our lives and sanity during COVID-19. Can you imagine being a teacher with 30 children to control and teach, half by video through a tiny lens and the other half in person, simultaneously. It requires different techniques. Ask, any nurse how they feel treating the onslaught of unvaccinated patients while having to triage the cancer, heart and other people needing help. Ask any mother of two who has been at home with children during COVID how they have remained sane.

I wish politicians stop name calling, attacking the person, spinning the truth and answer question directly. It's our duty to tell them to follow their Mom's advice, "Treat people with dignity, Name-calling isn't nice." I know it's difficult to discipline them when we watch parents at rallies screaming like idiots and threatening violence. Remember your parent training classes that you teach more by role modeling than telling. When was the last time you swore at some guy who cut you off with the kids in the back seat.

I wish that we remembered a democracy can only survive with compromise and transparency. Its rule by majority while respecting the minority. One side cannot have it all otherwise you have revolution. Remember that in the next election

Lastly, I wish more of us looked at newcomers not with fear but understanding, with an effort to include them. I remember several years ago while walking through Sherway Gardens Mall, I saw this family, a father, mother, three girls and two boys dressed Mid-East style speaking Farsi (Iranian or Persian) watching The World Hockey playoffs was on a store TV. They were jumping, yelling, shouting something I didn't understand except I remember the distinct words, "Go Canada". Canada had just scored a 'go-ahead' goal. They came, like my dad, not to change the country but to change their lives. They add to our mosaic.

**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 trial of ex-RCMP officer Patrick Michael Kelly, found guilty of murder for throwing his wife from a 17th floor balcony in March 1981. He can be reached at [lbudzinski@talkjustice.info](mailto:lbudzinski@talkjustice.info)**



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Will be joining our team

As of June 1st 2021, Dr. Martinez who is a family doctor, interested in holistic medicine, complete family care, he has training in workplace injury and psychotherapy.

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# Looking after yourself and others in the community

**BUSY BABIES THURSDAY** Starts January 6 TO FEBRUARY 24 for four weeks. Join us for our Busy Babies Thursday program for children age 12 months and over. A fun filled adventure with crafts, stories and lots of songs. The program runs every Thursday from 9:30 am – 11:30 am. Pre-register using this link <https://forms.gle/iU5wswXTeTKsmW59>. For more information email: [ishrats@lampchc.org](mailto:ishrats@lampchc.org)

**FEBRUARY 6 IS THE 16TH ANNUAL BOB MARLEY BIRTHDAY** Celebration and Food Drive Livestream in support of Parkdale Community Food Bank. The free show is being streamed by NuFunk Concerts and **Rasta Fest & Uma Noto** on May 6 from BSMT 245 in Toronto from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. It will feature veteran soul-reggae singer **Jay Douglas** with reggae collective **Reggaddiction** to reinterpret **Bob Marley & The Wailers** material and perform original material. For more info contact [jay@nufunk.ca](mailto:jay@nufunk.ca).

**MINDFULNESS WORKSHOP** with LAMP teacher **Corin De Sousa** for workshop series mindful resilience via ZOOM from February 2 to March 23 every Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. To register, please contact Jasmin Dooch at [jasmind@lampchc.org](mailto:jasmind@lampchc.org) or 416.252.6471 ext. 308.

**FEBRUARY 8 & MARCH 8 THE SNYP TRUCK** a mobile clinic of Toronto Animal Services will be at LAMP Community Health Centre, at 185 Fifth Street, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. to spay or neuter your pets. Free or low cost pet services to LAMP clients,. Contact 416-338-6281.

**FEBRUARY 12 JEAN AUGUSTINE CENTRE** presents Black History Month: Black Legacy, a celebration of Black History 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on ZOOM. There will be live performances by Jean Augustine youth, other Canadian artists, workshops and live demos. Tickets start from \$10 and can be purchased at [www.JeanAugustineCentre.ca](http://www.JeanAugustineCentre.ca), or call 416-253-9797. Visit them at [info@jeanaugustinecentre.ca](mailto:info@jeanaugustinecentre.ca)

**FEBRUARY 14 ETOBICOKE CAMERA CLUB** Presents **Sandra Laurin** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Eventbrite.ca. Sandra's passion is photographing lifestyles, cultures and traditions of people around the world.

Her love of travel has taken her to 56 countries. To purchase tickets <https://www.facebook.com/etobcc>.

**EMERGENCY FOOD TAKEOUT MEALS** offered Monday to Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. through LAMP's adult drop-in program. Thursday harm reduction from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRE** operating from St. Margaret's Church on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Meals, snacks, washrooms, showers, and laundry available for folks who are unhoused.

**FEBRUARY 25 WOMEN IN COMMUNICATION & Advertising** 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Volunteer hours will be provided. Contact the Jean Augustine Centre at 416-253-9797 or visit [info@jeanaugustinecentre.ca](mailto:info@jeanaugustinecentre.ca)

**FEBRUARY 26 AFFORDABLE HOUSING** workshop and how to apply for rent-geared-to-income (RGI) housing subsidy. Takes place 11 a.m. on Zoom. Contact Jasmin at 416-252-6471 ext. 308 or by e-mail [jasmind@lampchc.org](mailto:jasmind@lampchc.org).

**LAMP's COMMUNITY CHIROPODIST** is now taking new patients for foot care services for people who are prediabetic or diabetic. For more information on call 416-252-6471 ext. 264.

**EVERY WEDNESDAY** from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Stonegate Community Health Centre presents Everything Baby Discussion with **Barbara and Larissa** to discuss prenatal, post-natal and parenting topics on Facebook Live on the Stonegate CHC Family Program Facebook page at [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/StonegateCHCFamilyProgram)

**EVERY THURSDAY** The Good Food Market from 12 to 4 p.m. at Stonegate CHC at 10 Neighbourhood Lane for affordable produce, outdoor market and bring your own bags. COVID-19 protocols are in place. For more call 416-231-7070 ext 307.

**PHYSIOTHERAPY-STRONG AND STEADY FALLS PREVENTION** (Virtual Program) Winter weather means slippery sidewalks and falls. LAMP's physiotherapy department is offering a free program to help prevent falls. Register for our upcoming Strong & Steady physiotherapy program online runs Tuesdays at 10:30 am through the end of March. Improve your balance through simple exercises. To register call 416-252-6471 ext. 264.

**PHYSIOTHERAPY BACK TO MOVEMENT** virtual program for those suffering from chronic low back pain. Join our online Back to Movement Physiotherapy program which is designed to help you reduce your lower back pain and keep you in shape! Runs Wednesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. until the end of March. To register call 416-252-6471 ext. 264.

**DIABETES GROUP EDUCATION** virtual workshop for those how want to make a lifestyle change. Maybe it is time. We will guide you through on achieving your goal. Join our group diabetes workshop coming February 11 and 25 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. To register call 416-252-1928 Ext 100.

**FREE TENANTS RIGHTS** workshop is being offered about renters' rights, eviction prevention and landlord obligation and community resources. The workshop is set for February 17 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom for session on tenants rights. A day workshop on tenants' rights is also being offered on February 24 at 11 a.m. To register, contact Carly Bowie at 416-252-6471 ext. 275 or e-mail: [carlyb@lampchc.org](mailto:carlyb@lampchc.org). You can also register at <https://bit.ly/33CKeG3>

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH** Confronting Anti-Black Racism on February 17 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. Join in an engaging discussion on confronting Anti-Black racism. Hear from Black leaders in the labour movement as sponsored by Toronto Community Benefits Network. Speakers include: **Abdi Hagi Yusuf**, of the Labour Community Services Council, **Gary Pieters**, Commissioner of Ontario Human Rights Commission, Network Executive Director **Rosemarie Powell**, and **Andria Babbington**, of the Toronto & York Region Labour Council. Register at [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca)

**LAMP IS OFFERING** an online workshop on how to get onto the Toronto housing subsidy list on February 22 at 11 a.m. via Zoom to learn how to apply for (RGI) affordable housing in Toronto. To register for that program contact [jasmind@lampchc.org](mailto:jasmind@lampchc.org) or 416.252.6471 ext. 308.



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# Kind Alderwood family cries out for help for suffering dad

An Alderwood family says it is being shortchanged of personal care workers (PSW) who look after their bedridden dad who cannot move or talk due to West Nile disease. Michelle Del Vicario-Goodwin said her dad, Frank, contracted West Nile disease from an infected mosquito in 2017 while sitting on his front porch.

“He spent two days in the emergency room and his health started to deteriorate rapidly,” said Del Vicario-Goodwin. “It started with vomiting, fever, hallucinations, screaming...” She said Frank was placed on a ventilator in the Intensive Care Unit since he couldn’t breathe.

“The disease had spread and had caused encephalitis or inflammation of the brain,” she explained. “We were told that his situation was acute and life-threatening, that he may not ever come out of his coma and that if he did, he would be seriously compromised.”

There were at least 90 confirmed West Nile cases in Toronto that summer.

“My father did come out of his coma but he would never walk, eat or talk again,” Del Vicario-Goodwin said.

“He was able to recognize us, move his arms and legs and communicate via hand signals or gestures.”

Her mom, Giulia, spends most of her time taking care of Frank, who never spent a day alone in hospital. The family took turns caring for him. They received training and took him home in 2018. A room in their home has been made into an Intensive Care unit.

“My dad defied the odds so many times,” Del Vicario-Goodwin recalled. “Every time he got an infection we feared it would be the end but he kept fighting on.”



LOVE KNOW NO BOUNDS, Giulia with husband Frank. A labour of love. Courtesy photo.

The family rely heavily on the support they were promised by Home and Community Care (Social Services). Frank Vicario-Goodwin needs are extreme and they have a night nurse and PSWs who look after him and transfer him to a wheelchair. His daughter said two agencies are involved. One of them has not been regularly showing up to look after her dad and cancel appointments with little or no notification.

She said the company is not sending anyone ‘at least three to four times per week.’

“When I call to complain that no one has shown up, I am told that they don’t have the staff,” she said adding the issue was taken to Social Services, which procures, pays and oversees this agency. The family has made formal complaints and even written to different members of parliament, only to be told that complaints about services should be handled solely by Social Services.

“We are aware that these are unprecedented times and that healthcare is at a breaking point.”

“This is unjust and unacceptable. My father never asked for anything in his life. He worked hard and contributed to his community. He should not have to suffer because of incompetence or poor management.”

“There are many vulnerable, elderly people who are suffering at their hands and many do not have the language skills or energy to advocate for their needs,” she said.

Vicario-Goodwin said whenever a PSW does not show up for a wheelchair transfer or to help change her dad, his health is at risk.

## Beware of Internet fraud scams and online crime



Police say online dating hoaxes, spurious retailers, bogus tech support, government imposters and fake e-mail solicitations top the list in fraud scams.

In online dating scam, cyber criminals use dating apps or social media to strike up conversations with potential targets. After

cultivating a relationship and earning your trust, they will request funds for a plane ticket, or other expenses, and ask you to wire money or buy a gift card to help pay for it.

Police warn never to send money or buy gift cards for someone you have never met. Suspicious retailers usually set up a fake store online, on social media, which offer

products at the cheapest prices for items you may need. The thieves steal from you at check-out, since they may not use a trusted source of payment and now have direct access to your information.

Police say if the deals seem too good to be true, it probably is. Do research, talk to people or search the company online on Google.

Beware of the good old bogus tech support scam, where you receive a request by e-mail, pop-up window or phone call from a tech support scammers claiming your computer has malware. They ask for payment to fix the defects. Do not click the button.

Police warn to hang up if someone calls. Install the latest updates or take your computer to a reputable store. Software companies do not initiate support calls.

In the government imposters file you receive a request from someone claiming to be a U.S. government agency urging you to settle a debt right away, or pay money to receive some sort of federal funds or to verify your personal information. They claim you can be arrested or lose



your home or your Social Security benefits withheld.

The federal government will not phone or e-mail you to pay back debt with untraceable prepaid debits, gift cards or wired transfers, police said.

Fraudulent e-mail hustlers advise you about working at home or buying cheap services, or your account will be deactivated. You are asked to immediately send money or for account information.

If you receive a suspicious e-mail, be cautious about opening any attachments or clicking on links within it. If you do have an account with the company purportedly sending the e-mail, log in directly to the company’s homepage.

Police have also issued a warning of the grandparent scam, in which someone calls claiming to be a family member in trouble and requiring money. Please hang up.

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# Proud sisters have two stores in community



SISTERS JUDY (left) AND VALENTINA left Mexico to set up businesses blocks away on Lake Shore Blvd. W. Valentina's Boutique at bottom.

From Mexico with a love of business. It has been a long journey for enterprising sisters Judy Maya de Ciniello and Valentina Maya, who arrived here from Mexico to open successful businesses blocks apart on Lake Shore Blvd. W. Valentina is the owner of Valentina's Boutique, a popular clothing store at 2862 Lake Shore Blvd. W., near Fifth Street, in New Toronto. Judy has been in the area for more than 25 years and owns MJ Hair Design, 3335 Lake Shore Blvd. W., in Long Branch.

The women grew up taking part in a family business back

where many of the residents are entrepreneurs."

Valentina joined her soon after and in between shifts at Judy's salon, operated other businesses ventures until starting her boutique in 2010.

"We always knew that we wanted to start our own businesses," she explains. "This area provided us an opportunity when we first moved to Canada." They said then it was affordable with plenty of housing and businesses, which could be obtained for low rents.

"There was lower overhead expenses for businesses," Valentina says.

The sisters are glad they moved here to create their businesses. At first they did not know much of the area, but now they love it here.

"It was a big decision to move here at first," she reflects. "We were three families moving here because we saw the potential. We did not know that much of the area at first."

They thank the many area residents for their kindness and support in these challenging times.

"We are very grateful to our customers who have supported us over the years," Judy says. "We are so thankful for getting this far."

They now hire Canadians to work at their stores, pay taxes and were always deeply involved in community charity and volunteer work. You can reach Valentina's Boutique by phone at 647-774-7244 or e-mail [valentina\\_maya@hotmail.com](mailto:valentina_maya@hotmail.com)



JUDY'S STORE is MJ Hair Design, in Long Branch, there for 25 years. Top photos by Tom Godfrey.

home in Ecatepec de Morelos, in the State of Mexico, which is one of the most populated cities with 1.65 million people.



"We grew up in a family business," Valentina says. "Our father was secretary of the local market association, which is the equivalent of the Business Improvement Area (BIA) with 300 entrepreneurs."

The family has been operating beauty supplies and market stores for about 50 years. Judy on arrival in Canada in the early 1990s first settled in north Etobicoke and soon after moved to Long Branch where she rented 'a turnkey salon.'

"All I had to do was turn the key and I was in business," she recalls. "We came from a village



**JoAnne Gludish**  
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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## Happy New Year!

Wishing you a New Year rich with blessings of good health, love, laughter and success throughout 2022!

Are you thinking of buying or selling this year? I have been working in real estate for over thirty years, representing buyers and sellers in their real estate transactions. I've worked with people buying for the first time, upsizing, downsizing, making a lateral move and those who are retiring. I also can offer guidance to about purchasing an income property.

It has been my pleasure working with people selling their home for various reasons – moving to a larger home, leaving the city (I can help refer you to a top realtor in your new location) and selling the much-loved family home to go into a retirement or seniors residence.

If you, a family member or friend, are thinking of making a move in 2022, please give me a call at 416-817-3747 or email [joanne@joannegludish.com](mailto:joanne@joannegludish.com) to discuss your thoughts and how I can work for you. I would love to commit my understanding and negotiating strategy to your real estate needs.

As a lifetime Chairman's Club Member (top 1% in the country) let my 36 years of success in real estate, extensive knowledge of the market, integrity and genuine enjoyment in helping people benefit you and yours.

I look forward to hearing from you!

*JoAnne Gludish*



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