

The South Etobicoke News

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Mimico mourns for 3 people killed in crash

A Mimico senior and a single mom of three girls are among three people being mourned after being killed in a car crash while crossing at a local intersection. After hitting two pedestrians, a speeding Cadillac SUV smashed into the side of a parked tractor trailer that was involved in road work. The driver Omar Sinclair Frederick Downey, 36, died on the spot. Police said Downey was banned due to crimes from driving in Canada and was not allowed to drive in Ontario due to medical issues. The March 31 crash killed Kelly Hamilton, 43, and Ken Arkwell, 75, who were legally crossing the light at Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Superior Avenue around 5:30 p.m. The funeral for Arkwell is set for April 10 at Hogle Funeral Home. Hamilton, a single



A GO FUND ME PAGE has been created to help the family of Kelly Hamilton, centre, a single mom of three children. Flowers (right) were left for Kelly and Ken Arkwell, (left) also of Mimico, seen here with grandson, who were among three people killed in the violent crash. A man banned from driving was behind the wheel.

mother of three, was on her way home. “Kelly was a young beautiful, smart, funny woman whose smile lit up the room,” wrote friend Sabrina Szuszwalak. “She was loved by many and is leaving behind her three children and countless family and friends who will miss her dear-

ly.” The driver did not apply brakes and drove in the middle lane on the TTC tracks. The car barreled through a red light and slammed into a parked flatbed truck, witnesses said.

Police said the SUV earlier sideswiped a parked van near Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Eighth Street. Ray Qalawi, the owner of Kabob House, heard a crash and ran to Toronto Fire Station 435, on Eighth Street, for help. He smashed the drivers’ window so the man could breathe. The man returned to his vehicle and sped off. Minutes later the Mimico crash occurred.

“If someone had detained this man then we would not have anyone dead today,” Qalawi said. “I feel so terrible for the families of those who were killed.”

More than \$20,000 has been raised on Go Fund Me to help with Hamilton’s funeral and aid her children..

Petition to stop 4 shipping centres in community

Some New Toronto residents are lobbying to stop the building of large shipping centres at the former Campbell’s Soup site and on Thirtieth Street in Long Branch.

A group called No Trucking Terminals has distributed hundreds of brochures called ‘Stop the Convoy’ in mailboxes and created a website and petition to halt the projects.

“New trucking terminals are coming to our community,” said Alexander Ladouceur, a secondary school teacher and co-founder of the non-profit group. “This would mean hundreds of trucks in residential areas where our kids play.” He said at least four distribution centres, described as warehouses, industrial buildings or trucking terminals, have been approved. They include the former Campbell’s lands, at 60 Birmingham Street, 260 Eighth Street, 121 Thirtieth Street and 450 Evans Avenue. “It’s not



ALEX LADOUCEUR OF No Trucking Terminals has launched a petition and website to try and stop the construction of trucking or shipping centres in the community. He alleges trucks ferrying shipping items leave a trail of pollution, noise and dust. Staff photos.

too late to stop these terminals,” the brochures warned. “We want local employers that support our community, not automated terminals that serve other parts of the GTA.”

The group claims “hundreds of 18-wheelers will cause gridlock on Dwight, Evans, Islington and Kipling Avenues,” extending commuting times and access to major highways if the plan goes through. It already has been approved by City Council.

No Trucking Terminals has filed a lawsuit in Ontario Superior Court of Justice against 60 Birmingham property owner BCIMC Realty Corp., and developer Quadreal Property Group to try and have the work stopped.

Ladouceur said a judge has ruled the case will be heard in September. Documents filed in court shows the owner plans to build a 398,000 square foot industrial space, made up of three separate one-sto-

rey industrial buildings that will have 86 loading docks, including 80 truck level doors and six drive-in doors.

“This will result in transport trucks on the surrounding roads, all day long, which will never be compatible with the neighbourhood,” he said, alleging the ‘last mile distribution centre’ will pose a safety risk to the 500 students attending nearby schools.

“The shipping terminals will also increase traffic on our already congested main roads and will likely increase traffic on our side roads,” according to the legal action. “The safety of students and staff of the nearby middle school is at risk.” He said a centre will leave a trail of pollution from trucks, including noise, dust and lack of enjoyment of property. No Trucking Terminals can be reached at 647-787-8624 or sign a petition www.noshoppingterminals@gmail.com
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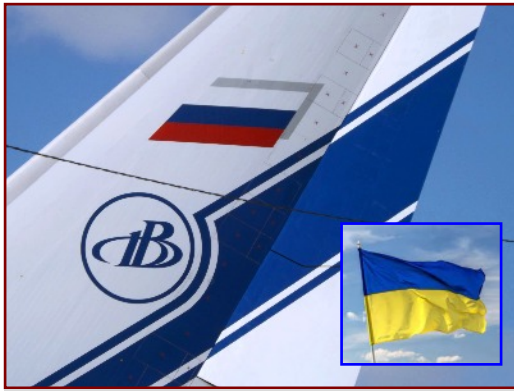
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Community Clean Up Days April 22, 23 & 24

Calls to sell Russian jet Local researcher takes on Campbell Soup site developer to win appeal



THE NINE-MEMBER crew of this seized \$90 million Russian cargo jet is believed to have claimed refugee status as the plane is detained at Pearson Airport. Photos by Tom Godfrey.

tests from China then was grounded by the sanctions.

The plane, which has flown missions to more than 100 countries, has been parked on Taxiway N with a large Russian flag visible on its tail. It can be seen from Silver Dart Road. It is believed that some of the crew of nine have claimed refugee status as they wait to fly the '69.1-meter, 181,000 kilogram freight-carrier' home.

The plane, which first went into service in 1982 costs up to \$90 million U.S. depending on the model. It is described as a large, strategic airlift, four-engine aircraft that was designed in the 1980s by the Antonov design bureau in Ukraine, then part of the Soviet Union.

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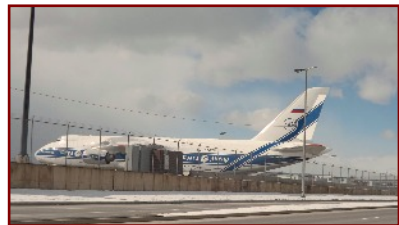
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and heaviest operating cargo aircraft, only behind its larger brother, the Antonov An-225 Mriya, the largest cargo plane in service that was destroyed during the war.

Federal officials said the plane will remain grounded until NATO lifts an airspace ban against Russia. The company also has to pay for parking at the airport.

Some community leaders are asking for the aircraft to be resold with funds going to help the millions of refugees escaping Ukraine. "Give the money to the people who are getting shelled and are suffering," one man said. Volga-Dnepr officials said they are working to secure the aircraft's return.



Canada is being urged to sell Russia's largest cargo plane detained at Pearson International Airport to help fund Ukrainian refugees.

The \$90 million Russian jet has been sitting at Pearson for more than a month and Ukrainians here want it sold with money going to help fleeing refugees. Some members of the Ukrainian community in Toronto are demanding that Canadian authorities seize what is described as Russia's largest cargo plane, that has been grounded due to an airspace ban on Russian aircraft because of the war in Ukraine. The Antonov An-124 Volga-Dnepr has been impounded since February 28, when a ban on airspace against Russian aircraft was imposed by Canada and other NATO countries due to the deadly Russian attack on neighbouring Ukraine. The aircraft, which is the second largest cargo plane in the world, had flown to Pearson on February 27 with a load of COVID-19



RESIDENT ZSUSANNA Lichner won an appeal and was granted \$100,000 for area beautification. Courtesy photo.

A New Toronto researcher scientist took on a major developer and won. Long-time resident Zsusanna Lichner felt helpless about a massive development taking place at the former Campbell's Soup property, at 60 Birmingham Street, and decided to do something about it. An appeal board said a settlement was reached with developer QuadReal Property Group and granted \$100,000 for use in beautifying the area. "We are pleased in that we didn't really have much in hand, and I didn't think we could have paid for a lawyer," Lichner said. "So we just took QuadReal's offer."

Lichner in an appeal to a Committee of

Adjustment said the developer "proposed a massive last-mile distribution centre," on the former Campbell site, with 86 loading bays for heavy trucks.

"They applied for a minor variance to accommodate further parking spots and entrance that abuts a residential street," according to documents filed.

She had spoken to 150 families in the area and collected 630 signatures in a petition calling for changes, including possible shortcomings in a Traffic Impact study conducted by the developers.

"Residents had no access to consult city planners or the developers," the appeal stated. "We request the Committee of Adjustment to carefully reevaluate the application and reconsider their decision."

The committee had decided to add hundreds of parking spots to the warehouse complex and allowing the entrance to face Dwight and Symon Streets.

"Because of the proximity of 60 Birmingham Street to residents, special consideration is required to place an industrial development," the committee was told.

The appeal was filed in March 2021 to the Toronto Local Appeal Body (TLAB), but the parties negotiated a settlement without the use of TLAB.

The Minutes of Settlement in May 2021 requested the City include a 'post-approval condition' that the developer post a security of \$100,000 to the City for "off-site street and streetscape improvements."

The developer and City "will coordinate to implement the Improvements in an area within a radius of 500 meters of the Property, as facilitated through required municipal processes."

The developer also agreed to complete a traffic study, with Terms of Reference approved by the City prior to development.

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Great news for those working in film & TV production



NETFLIX NEW FILM studio now online in Toronto. It is one of many Toronto film and TV production facilities that are fully booked. Courtesy photos.

South Etobicoke is home to many thriving film and TV production facilities which employ thousands of residents in good-paying jobs. Local film workers are applauding news from the City that the TV and film industry experienced a record-breaking 2021 and 2022 promises to be even better with more jobs and productions. Mayor John Tory said the film industry hires about 35,000 people and last year created \$2.5 billion in direct spending. "More than \$2.5 billion in direct spending is a huge achievement and a testament to the strength of this sector," Tory said last month. "We have seen expansive growth and jobs over the past few years ... I am confident that the growth will continue for years ahead."

The City said all studios were booked to capacity during the pandemic and are projected to "be at capacity again this year." It "means the local film and TV sector will play a major role in our pandemic recovery," according to the Mayor. The City last year saw 1,468 productions and 7,800 production days, officials said. "Less than three months into 2022, Toronto's studios are projected to be at capacity again this year," Tory pledged. He said in the past 15 months, the city has seen multiple new, modern production facilities open, with more expected, which will create thousands of new jobs. The



CINESPACE with Port Lands, Leslieville and Etobicoke studios has a million square feet of filming space.



THE POPULAR CHUCKY movie is being shot in our city. There is always a potential hit movie or TV series being shot in our area. Workers say every studio in the City is booked.

City welcomed Netflix's first Canadian office to Toronto last year. Netflix, which has won 16 Oscars, joins others, as Amazon Studios, in setting up a base here for Canadian storytelling. Some upcoming key productions include: Nightmare Alley, See, Star Trek Discovery, Reacher, Slumberland, Titans, Cabinet of Curiosities, Locke & Key, Pretty Hard Cases and Chucky (left). Toronto was also recently recognized as a top place to live and work in the film industry, according to *MovieMaker* magazine. It ranked number two on *MovieMaker's* list of the "Best Places to Live and Work as a Moviemaker in 2022." Also, the City's Film Office is hiring additional film permit coordinators and sector development staff to innovate and expand services. For more information visit the City's website www.toronto.ca/film

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Toronto Scottish Regiment visits Vimy Ridge



By Timothy J. Stewart C.D.,
Piper, Historian and Curator
The Toronto Scottish Regiment

Soldiers of The Toronto Scottish Regiment based in South Etobicoke are in Vimy Ridge in France this month to mark the 105th anniversary of the First World War battle that changed the world.

The 15 soldiers will attend the unveiling of the Vari Gate at Vimy Centennial Park at the famed ridge. The gate was donated by the George and Helen Vari Foundation. Madame Helen Vari is the Honorary Colonel of The Toronto Scottish Regiment.

Land for the park was purchased by the Canadian-based Vimy Foundation in 2016 and the layout was designed by Canadian landscape architect Linda Dicaire.

The park was officially opened on the 100th anniversary of the battle and is the home to 100 "Vimy Oak's, the descendant of acorns that were brought back from France by a Canadian soldier at the end of the war and planted in Scarborough.

The battle of Vimy Ridge on April 9-12, 1917 was a defining moment for the young Dominion of Canada and the park has become a reflective space for visitors.

Colonel

Vari is a long-time partner of the Vimy Foundation, which she has supported for many years, notably as Honorary co-chair of the 2017 Centennial of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Inscribed on the ramparts of the Vimy Memorial are the names of more than 10,000 fallen Canadian soldiers who were posted as 'missing or presumed dead' in France.

A plaque at the entrance to the memorial states that the 91.18 hectare battlefield park was 'the free gift in perpetuity of the French nation to the people of Canada.'



THE VIMY Foundation Centennial Park



INScribed on the Vimy Memorial are the names of more than 11,000 fallen Canadian soldiers. The battlepark is 'the free gift in perpetuity of the French nation to the people of Canada.' Photos from Vimy Foundation.

Construction of the massive work began in 1925, and 11 years later, the monument was unveiled by

King Edward VIII. The park surrounding Vimy Memorial features Canadian trees and shrubs to resemble the woods and forests of Canada.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge began at 5:30 a.m. on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917. The first wave of 15,000-20,000 Canadian soldiers, many heavily laden with equipment, attacked through the wind-driven snow and sleet into the face of deadly machine gun fire.

Renewed attacks were mounted using fresh troops from April 9 to 12. On the afternoon of April 12 a fresh assault by a relieving brigade cleared the summit of Hill 145 and placed Vimy Ridge in Canadian hands

The capture of the ridge by the Canadians was 'essential to the advances by the British Third Army to the south and of exceptional importance to checking the German attacks in the area in 1918.'

The Canadian government in 2003 designated April 9th as a national day of remembrance of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. For more information visit vimyfoundation.ca



JUBILANT Canadian soldiers after taking Vimy Ridge. Military photo.

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

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PHONE: 647-739-2235 Email:

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Standing in Solidarity with war-ravaged Ukraine

The family of Premier Doug Ford has donated thousands of 'We Stand for Ukraine' car bumper stickers to help support the war-torn country. Some 5,000 of the stickers are being circulated in the community at various protests and demonstrations calling for the Russian-led war to stop now in its second month. "People love them," Chris Korwin Kuczynski, of the Lakeshore Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) said of the popular items. "Thanks to the Ford family for making them available." Korwin Kuczynski thanked Randy Ford for helping with the stickers, that were manufactured at the family's Deco Labels, which is well-known in the community. He and other volunteers have placed dozens of pro-Ukrainian signs in New Toronto and other areas, urging residents to ban all Russian products sold in stores.



STUDENTS FROM the Ukrainian Youth Federation made their country's flag with plastic ties on a fence. Bottom 'We Stand with Ukraine' bumper stickers thanks to the Ford family. Photos by Tom Godfrey.

"We have to take a stand," Korwin Kuczynski said. "We all have to stand up or this war will never stop." The City of Toronto has also installed Free Ukraine street signs in front of the Russian Consulate General in downtown Toronto. The area in front of the Consulate General of the Russian Federation, at 60 St. Clair Avenue, has been declared 'Free Ukraine Square' by the City of Toronto. The initiative was approved by



AREA RESIDENT Chris Korwin Kuczynski proudly shows his pro-Ukraine signs which he places in the community.

City council on March 8 to name the area 'Free Ukraine Square.' The move was spearheaded by Councillor Josh Matlow, in whose riding the consulate is located, along with Mayor John Tory and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. "I am proud to stand with them in solidarity against Russian aggression and in support of Ukraine's right to sovereignty, freedom, peace and security," Matlow said. The 'We stand for Ukraine' bumper stickers are available at Barrel House Korchma Restaurant, at 3385 Lake Shore Blvd. W., in Mimico, while supplies last. Almost \$10,000 have been donated at the restaurant to help Ukrainians at home.

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Mimico Lutheran church offers free hot soup and love to those alone and in need



IRIS AND EMMA (right) say donations are still needed at their Community Pantry, where food can be accessed or left for others. Photos by Tom Godfrey.

This well-known Mimico Lutheran church offers free hot soup and love to those in need. More than 60 Mimico residents on any day can show up for free piping hot soup and no one is ever turned away. Thanks to the efforts of area residents Iris Schweiger and Emma Latham, volunteers of the Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church, at 2379 Lakeshore Blvd. W., that residents can have a free bowl, which is part of a church Bowls and Blessings program. They can also leave food that can be accessed by the needy in a community pantry, which contains some of the essentials. Residents can also obtain nice warm jackets and other accessories to help them stay comfortable. "There were people coming for the soup who were wearing no coats in the winter-time," says Schweiger. "Our pantry door is always open so people can leave or take non-perishable foods."

One person had earlier left some stuffed toys for children, she notes. The pantry, clothing and soup servings take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday starting at 12 noon until the soup is gone. Latham says many people in the Mimico area look forward to the soup and conversations.

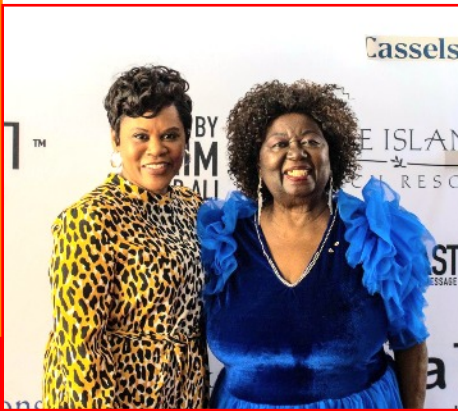
"A lot of people stop by to see us," she explains. "Many just want to talk to someone." The church will be holding an online fundraising Bazaar from April 27 to May 6, when items can be purchased online. The items can be picked up on May 8. You can take a look at the items for sale here: <https://pin.it/5KZeVPc>.



MARTIN LUTHER Evangelical Lutheran Church



Former MP Jean Augustine's life now immortalized in documentary film



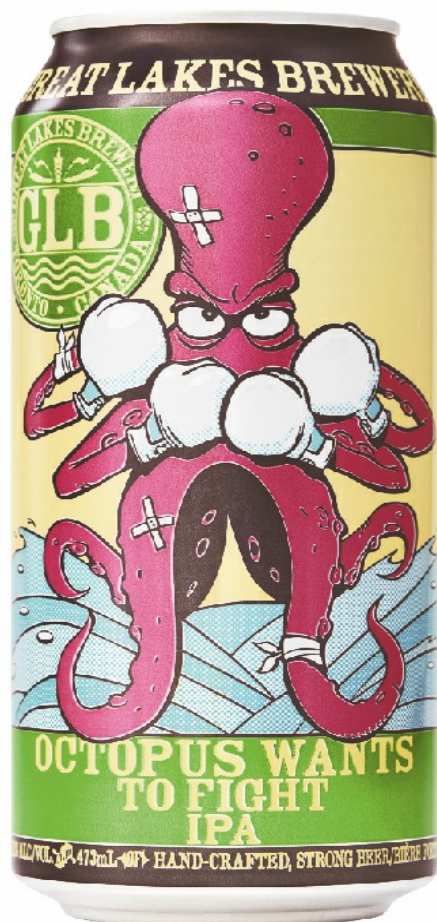
JEAN AUGUSTINE (right) with Liberal MP Marci Ien, a former broadcaster, at an event. Courtesy photo.

The life of former teacher and politician Jean Augustine has been documented in film. There was a red carpet premiere at the Scotiabank Theatre on April 2 for the documentary 'Steadfast: The Messenger and the Message,' based on the life and exploits of Augustine. The film by Fahim Hamid Ali tells the heart-warming story of the Honourable Dr. Jean Augustine, the first Black Canadian woman to serve as a federal Minister of the Crown and Member of Parliament. She is noted for bringing forward a motion in Parliament to recognize February as Black History Month. The House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada in December 1995. Augustine introduced the motion that the House of Commons carried unanimously.

"We continue to use this opportunity to recognize and amplify the achievements and importance of Black Canadians and their communities," according to a release. Augustine has long ties to South Etobicoke and is founder of the Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment, which runs many programs for teenage girls. The former MP was born in Grenada and arrived in Canada in 1960 through an immigration program that brought 3,000 women from the Caribbean to Canada to work as domestics. She pursued a career in education, becoming an elementary-school principal. Augustine said people suggested she consider a career in politics but she was reluctant at first: 'politics was often portrayed as a corrupt old-boys' club, and as a Black woman, the idea of running seemed almost unimaginable to her and others then. "We didn't have people who were conscious of the fact that [Black women] needed to be there," she said in an interview. "There were people in the community at the time saying, 'What do you think you're doing? Can you see anybody out there that looks like you?' We did not, as a community, have the confidence that the system was ready for us." In 1993, Augustine made history as the first Black woman to be elected to Parliament. She served as an MP for Etobicoke Lakeshore for 13 years. She was appointed as Ontario's first-ever fairness commissioner in 2007 and held that role until retiring in 2015. Her career inspired Black women across the country to get involved.



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Lakeshore Super Sub is Tops & Chef Hudson's hot burger



GEORGE AND HIS Lakeshore Super Submarine has been named one of the Top 10 sandwich shops in a survey by *Toronto Life* magazine. Photo by Tom Godfrey.

An all-time favourite New Toronto sub shop that is hitting 50, was selected as one of the Top 10 sandwich shops in Toronto, according to a survey by *Toronto Life* magazine.

The popular magazine named in its Top 10 Lakeshore Super Submarine, at 2939 Lake Shore Blvd. W., in its February 10 sub-hopping issue.

"For the platonic ideal of the submarine sandwich, head to Lakeshore Super Submarine, a South Etobicoke time warp (you'll see when you get there) where owner George Kozaris has been manning the counter for more than four decades," *Toronto Life* touted.

Writers Alex Baldinger and Rebecca Fleming described Kozaris' sub as "a cloud-light bun comes stacked with cold cuts, cheese, tomato, white onion and shredded iceberg lettuce. Skip the mayo to let the tangy house vinaigrette shine."

All that for less than \$10 and the hockey one-liners are free.

Kozaris said he found out his shop had made it on the Top 10 list a couple days later from a customer.

"I was surprised," he smiled as he sliced meat. "I am just being discovered after being here for 48 years in this same corner." He believes the secret to his success is the use of fresh meats, vegetables and keeping it affordable.

One resident, Mike, said he has been living in the area

for 15 years and walked by the shop hundreds of times and never entered until he read the *Toronto Life* expose.

"I decided to give this place a try after reading the article," Mike confessed. "I like it and have been back twice."

Long-time customer Chris said he loves the hearty, meaty no-holds barred old-time sub. "I want a sandwich that fills me up," he said. "I have been coming here for maybe 20 years." The shop is straight out of the 1950s and you can get a huge sub for only \$7, cash only please.

Lambo's in Trinity Bellwoods was selected as the Number 1 sub shop in the city, followed by Mimico's FBI Pizza, at 2336 Lake Shore Blvd. W., and in third position Good Behaviour sandwich shop, at 342 Westmoreland Ave. N., Grandma Loves You, at 1084 Yonge St., was named number four.



CHEF HUDSON cooks a great burger. He is inspired by his late mom, who never met his daughter in bottom photo.

Chef Hudson Bernard is working to become Etobicoke's King of Burgers.

The love of his mom and daughter drives Chef Hudson to cook the best hamburger in the community. Bernard is the owner of Supreme Burgers, one of the newest and most flavourful burger shops based out of a ghost kitchen in the area, rather than a physical location. Bernard, who was born in Sri Lanka, moved to Canada at about the age of 10 and grew up in Montreal and Etobicoke.

He always loved burgers even while working as an executive chef, who specializes in French cooking, having worked in Mon-

treal, France and Panama.

"I have been cooking for 20 years," Bernard says. "I lived in South Etobicoke while attending college in the area."

He says his burgers are based on the different countries in which he has cooked. They are loved for the use of fresh, high-quality ingredients, in which everything is made by hand. His hamburgers, which are all under \$10, have names like 'The Godfather, The Chicken's Godfather, Nashville Fried Chicken Burger and Butter Chicken Burger.'

The Butter Chicken Burger for \$8.50 was tasty and juicy, with onion, cilantro and special Supreme sauce. It sticks to your tummy and is filling.

His skills are inspired by his mom, Juliette, from whom he learned to cook; and his daughter Zoey.

Juliette passed away from COVID-19 last year before she could meet Zoey. A fading framed photo of the two women provides the Chef with daily inspiration.

"My mom never got to meet my daughter," he says. "My wife pasted Zoey's picture next to a photo of my mom so I could get them both in a shot." Supreme Burgers can be reached at 437-238-4347 or pick up at 20 Lockport Avenue, Unit 4, Etobicoke.



CHEF HUDSON's photo of his late mom and daughter.

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Special Thanks to Canadian Tire Jumpstart Program for financial support



SCAN ME

Mr. MoMo brings its tasty dishes to the Mimico area



SIBLINGS KARMA and sister Tengin (left) knew they wanted to open their Mr MoMo restaurant in Mimico to take advantage of the many Tibetans here. Photos by Tom Godfrey.

Karma Norgyal and his sister, Tenzin Dolkar, have travelled a long way from their native Nepal to open a restaurant in Mimico.



They enjoy cooking and it took the siblings six years before they opened Mr. MoMo restaurant, at 2453 Lake Shore Blvd., W., near Mimico Avenue. "We have been looking for a place around here for about six years," Norgyal says. "We wanted to open our restau-

rant here because of the large Tibetan population in the area."

He says more than 7,000 Tibetans have resettled in the Mimico area, due in large part to the Tibetan Canadian Cultural Centre, on Titan Road.

Norgyal says only fresh spices, meats and other ingredients are used to make their tasty homemade momos.

"Everything is made by hand and is nice and fresh," he explains

They offer six types of momos including; beef, pork, chicken, potato, vegetables and soya.

The restaurant is tucked away in an open plaza across from Mimico Avenue and is clean and comfortable. A small photo of spiritual leader Dalai Lama looks over the dining room.

Norgyal emigrated to the Parkdale area from Tibet more than 10 years ago. He worked as a nutritionist at St. Joseph Medical Centre while saving and searching for a location to open their restaurant.

"It took us a long time to find this place," he recalls. "I am a very passionate cook and wanted my customers to be happy and to enjoy our food when they leave."

Dolkar is also actively working to help the community. She and others from the Tibetan Canadian Cultural Centre were out feeding hundreds of meals to the elderly and those at risk during the COVID outbreak.

"We were very busy helping others during COVID," Dolkar says. "We wanted to promote our culture and help those who are isolated and suffering."

She says their recipe for making momos was passed down through four generations of family members.

"People here and all over the world love momos," Norgyal agrees. "It is like a national food of Tibet and we have been getting good support from the community."

Statistics show there is a growing Tibetan community in South Etobicoke. Almost 3,000 Tibetans moved to Toronto from 1998 to 2008, making the city home of the largest Tibetan Canadian community in North America.



THE SPIRITUAL MASTER Dalai Lama welcomes diners for their meals at Mr. MoMo.

There were 6,035 Tibetan-Canadians living in the Greater Toronto Area by 2016, with thriving communities in Parkdale and South Etobicoke.

Mr. Momo can be reached at 647-309-9683. Located at 2453 Lake Shore Blvd. W.



Grill Cheese Challenge returns on June 11



Lakeshore Village BIA

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The Lakeshore Village BIA is working with the St. Margaret's Church to help people in our community during these challenging times.

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Saturday April 9, 2022 From 11am-4pm

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Please label the bags with a large B, so the Easter Bunny will know which bags to pick up from your porch. **If you live outside of the boundary area please drop items off at St. Margaret's Church by 4pm.**

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Tree-lover John Cary led Mimico Association



JOHN CARY loved Mimico and will be missed by many residents.

Many Mimico residents have fond memories of John Cary who had a passion for bringing more trees, nature and conservation to the community. The tree lover and former president of the Mimico Residents Association

(MRA) passed away on January 20 at the age of 79. Some residents raised funds to purchase a commemorative tree and plaque in Cary's name through the City of Toronto. The tree will likely be planted in the late fall of 2022 or spring 2023.

Friend and musician Mary Bella worked with Cary for five years on the MRA. He was president for two of the five years, when Bella worked as secretary. "We worked

closely and he was always very encouraging and tactful, even when he had some constructive criticism to offer," Bella recalled.

"He appreciated formal structure in our meetings and always made sure everyone was heard, respectful and did not speak over each other."

"John, you will be missed," Bella said.

Born in South Africa, he was an excellent rower and steered his crews to victory by winning the Irish Senior and Junior Championship VIIIs and the 1967 Home International Regatta VIIIs representing Ireland.

Cary moved to Canada to study Forestry at Lakehead University, and it was the beginning of a lifetime career that he truly loved. He graduated with honours in Forestry and earned a place on the Dean's List. His first job was that of a field forester in Dryden.

In 1977, he transferred to the Ministry of Natural Resources in Thunder Bay and became a proud Canadian citizen. He was married for 44 years to Catherine.

"Stories and anecdotes were never in short supply when John and Catherine gathered with family and friends to enjoy lively conversation, hearty laughter and gourmet

cuisine," according to his friends. The Cary's loved music, their book club, skiing, bridge, travel and dogs. In 1978, the couple moved to Guyana to work for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). "John had a long career with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources where he was well-known and respected," according to his obituary. "After his work in northwestern Ontario and Guyana he served in a planning and policy capacity at the Whitney Block in Queen's Park."

He gave generously of his time volunteering after retirement in 1998 with Trees Ontario, the Ontario Forestry Association, Maple Leaves Forever, the Don Rowing Club and his local tennis club. He was the project manager for the construction of a new tennis clubhouse for which he was gifted the John R. Cary Volunteer award.



JOHN CARY was very active in the Mimico area.

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Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisors they succeed. Proverbs 15:22



In the Community

By TOM GODFREY

Many Mimico residents today are shaking their heads and asking why. How can two kind and well-known residents just be viciously run down and killed by a man who shouldn't be driving for life in Canada due to crimes. He is not even allowed on Ontario roads due to medical issues. It is not surprising that Hogle Funeral Home will likely be filled to remember Kelly Hamilton, 43, a pleasant easy-going mom of three, and her friend, Ken Arkwell, 75, who was out living life when he lost his. Both were long-time Mimico residents who grew up in the area and their families are well known by most people. People only had good things to say about them.



BARBER JONATHON COMPTON's Elevate Barber Shop was boarded up after a pylon smashed his plate glass window during the March 31 fatal crash that killed three. Staff photo.

There were mourners leaving personal items or bouquets of flowers on poles at the Lake Shore Blvd. and Superior Avenue intersection where they were killed. They had many friends who loved them so much so that a Go Fund Me page has raised more than \$20,000 to help with the funeral of Hamilton and the upbringing of her three children.

People now reflect that the disaster did not have to happen. The driver had hit a car previously at Eighth Street, in New Toronto.

Third-generation shawarma maker Ray Qadawi, owner of Kebob House, remembers breaking the window of a Cadillac SUV in a bid to help the driver breathe after he side-swiped a van outside his store.

Qadawi ran across the street to the Toronto Fire Station 435 to get help for the driver, whom he believed was suffering from a medical episode.

The driver sped off before firefighters and medics could help him. Five minutes later they received tragic news the man was involved in an accident that killed Hamilton, Arkley and himself when the SUV crashed into an empty trailer.

"If someone had detained this man, nobody would be dead today," a puzzled Qadawi said. "I feel bad."

Also suffering is Jonathan Compton, the long-time barber and owner of Elevate Barber Shop, which had front-row seats to the deadly crash.

"I was one of the first ones out there ready to help," Compton says. "I saw the SUV driver die right in front of me. It was horrific."

On top of that, a roadside pylon was hit in the crash and flew through Elevate's plate glass window, injuring a customer. The smashed window was boarded up.

"The customer suffered minor injuries from flying shards of glass," he says. Compton said it 'was his worst day in Mimico.'

Still he is open for business and is accepting customers.

Elevate Barber Shop can be reached at 647-347-6008. Appointments not required.

Tom Godfrey is Publisher of The South Etobicoke News, who lives in the community. He was a reporter at the Toronto Sun for many years before deciding to use his skills to work in community journalism.

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Your Health

By MONIKA MEULMAN

April is for Love. April is for Unfurling. April is for Blooming: like the spring flowers that greet you with their eager faces along the path on your daily walk.

This is the month when nature unfolds one soft petal at a time. I invite you to allow your heart to open in much the same way a flower grows and offers itself up to spring.

Did you know that a petal is 'one of the modified often brightly coloured leaves of the corolla of a flower'? To open up to yourself, to open your heart up to life, to LOVE, to opportunities takes courage. Give yourself the permission to slowly open up, unfurl like the fronds of a fresh forest fern, or the unwrap each sepal and petal of your heart like a fresh, emboldened tulip. Step out into spring with the colours of the spring gardens in your heart. This naturally puts a smile on your face. You'll see.

This is the time of year we take in a breath of fresh spring air. Our noses are delighted with vibrant aromas, our eyes take in bright colours emerging in our gardens and a scurry of activity is underfoot. Take that as a sign! It is time to invite this unfolding and growth in your life. Start with saturating your senses. Then, flow the over abundance of spring joy into your heart. Let it gently permeate in your personal life, and trickle into your work, permeate your thoughts, sparking new opportunities. Take a cue from nature and watch a simple, lemon yellow daffodil rise up to greet the sky and open up its petals like a ray of sunshine. Or spend some time with a budding apple tree and observe the round condensed buds unfurl and greet the spring warming air. We have much to learn from nature, our guide. Love is like the spring blooms. It is in us to grow and share. Love is a natural condition of our humanity. Ode to spring is alas an Ode to love of mankind.

Maybe you need some inspiration...Here are my favourite spring blooms, sure to bring joy and warmth into your heart (to get you started!) Bulbs such as Hyacinths are easy to find at almost every corner store this month. Their aroma is fresh, floral, green with a hint of seductive jasmine. Did you know that some of the aromatic chemistry, benzyl acetate, is the same, very much prized aroma, as in jasmine flowers? The Perfume Society describes the developing aroma as "In tight bud, the scent's lightly, almost ethereally floral; as it opens, the scent



becomes potent and intoxicating (though still with that damp greenness)." On the heels of April blooms, arrives my favourite spring floral: the magnolia. Often described as fresh and lush with a hint of lemon. Did you know that the magnolia is believed to have appeared long

before the bees did? (Yes, the beetles were the pollinators). With her strong aroma, large blooms and her 80 meter growth (in some species), she is as majestic to view as she is to inspire. To open up to life fully, like a soft cream and pink magnolia in full bloom, is the ultimate act of joy. Wouldn't you agree?

Follow the way of the flowers this spring. It is after all a healthy, natural, supportive way to open your heart up to new opportunities. Watch your love grow, just by taking in the sights of your world. As you set out on walk in the park, or head over to the local grocery, ask yourself: can I feel my heart gently unfurling to this day? to this season?

Is the experience familiar to you? Or is it something foreign or unusual? If you need a helping hand opening up to love and to this vibrant season, ask yourself: What do I need in terms of nourishment and support to feel safe as I grow? In this rising energy, warmth and stronger sun rays, maybe spending a few more minutes on a warm park bench will fuel you and support you. Maybe some Tai Chi or Chi Gong in the park will get your energy flowing freely. It is a good time of year to choose a change of pace, invite a new friendship, or try out something completely new. It is good for your heart and spirit. May the radiant sunshine, bright florals of spring and the chipper chirps of nesting birds bring you an abundance of joy and love. This is, after-all, the way of mother nature.

Life begins the day you start a garden. – Chinese proverb.

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From the Bench

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI

Recently, I had a chance to see my older grand kids and to reflect on my childhood compared to theirs. I saw the difference between now and then, Long Branch a small village in the 50s compared to a Megatropolis like New York and the demands on their generation compared to ours.

Judy and I were visiting our 12-year-old grandson while the rest of his family were at a series of ballet rehearsals in preparation for a June performance by my 17-year-old granddaughter, Charlotte. You know the age, half-adult and half-kid. She has aspired to be a professional dancer almost as soon as she could move in a coherent fashion. When she was 3, I remember her asking me to play Swan Lake on our stereo. She would close her eyes, and drift into an imaginary world as she twirled (oops! she always corrects me, it's called a 'turn' or pirouette). and floated around the room as if at the Lincoln Center. Many little girls take ballet. It is fun. But for her and in the Big Apple, ballet events are like senior hockey tournaments back home. You hope to catch the eye of a perspective big league coach who will offer you that big tryout or contract. It's both serious and intense. Joking about mistakes, definitely fails to reduce tension-- something a funny old Grampa quickly learned. Competition is fierce. It is like the Olympics. You never tell a ballet dancer to break a leg--that is for actors. The appropriate expression is the French word, "merde". Why, this term, only a professional ballerina knows. I am quite happy I didn't know the phrase when my other granddaughter, Ryann, was 6 and taking her lessons. She is in French immersion.

Little girls are magical believers; whereas boys are this nuclear powered non-stop perpetual motion wrestling machine. I remember the day Charlotte grew past the world of make believe and ventured into reality. We had this big Teddy Bear, Mr. Bear. She hugged, bandaged, and shared her secrets with him. I knew this because I was his voice. One day she became upset about something. I brought Mr. Bear to her with some words of solace. This time was different. She pushed Mr. Bear and cried, 'Grampa I know its you.' I was devastated. My young friend was growing up like the little boy in Puff the Magic Dragon. "A dragon lives forever, but not so little (girls), Painted wings and giant's rings make way for other toys..." Such is life. Ballet has been everything for her since. Young boys, on the other hand, especially my two grandsons are normally energetic beyond my limits. As soon as I greet them, they come at me like a locomotive ready to wrestle me to the ground. Falling, for people my age is easy, the hard part is getting up. Their lives go beyond my classic standards of being a fireman or cowboy but as much as the girls, they are more focussed today on reality of being a veterinarian or an engineer. I wonder whether today's parents are too concerned in the child's early years for careers. Everyone has to have a PHD. We forget that plumbers make more money than lawyers in many cases. At their age, I was discovering simple play. A piece of triangular wood was a gun. My mom thought I was going to become a bank robber. I always wanted to be the bad guy in our moral games of cowboys or robbers. I realize that the world of knowledge is expanding. The quantity of information we must pump into our kids is enormous. It's okay if you have the funds to hire tutors but to the average parent this is scary.

The other night, I was doing some math homework with Teddy when I realized my degree in Math and Physics did not compare with the complexity of his work. Imagine the work kids do today to graduate from grade school. My efforts to help were a disaster. And then there is homework. Hours and hours of homework. In grade 6, when school was out, I could go outside and play with friends, invent stories, watch clouds, create games, and roll down hills getting my pants green with grass stains. Mom would call us home for dinner as it got dark. To be continued.....

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



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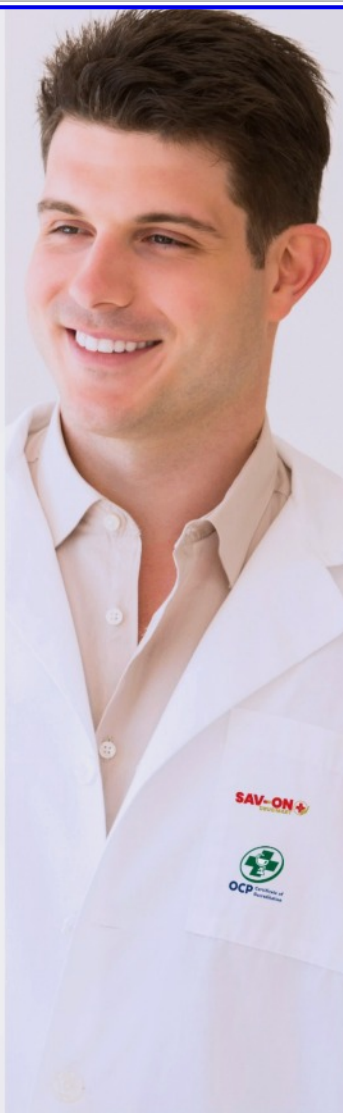
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APRIL 6 TO MAY 25 MINDFULNESS for upcoming series taking place on Zoom at LAMP Community Health Centre. Join our teacher **Corin De Souza** to learn how to practice and thrive with Mindfulness. To Register

contact norkyit@lampchc.org or jasmind@lampchc.org 416.252.6471 ext. 257 or 308.

FREE 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 supports from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

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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 information call 416-231-7070 ext 307.

SUMMER YOUTH JOB CONNECTION for students aged 15 to 18 to obtain 20-hours of paid pre-employment training, free certification, training and work-related supports. Must be eligible to work in Ontario and be ready and willing to work during COVID-19, March Break and Summer 2022. Contact Sheroni at 416-405-5259 or email schristian@woodgreen.org

HELP WITH TAXES LAMP Community Health Centre is providing a free income tax clinic for area residents. You can book an appointment to meet the tax clinic worker to help you file your taxes or you can drop off your documents at the office screening desk. For more information or to book an appointment call 416-252-9701 ext. 208 and 281.

CO-OP HOUSING OPTIONS AFFORDABLE Housing Workshop Series. Are you interested in Co-op Housing Options? Join us to get information on new Co-op Housing Models on Thursday April 21 at 2 p.m. on Zoom. Registration is available on eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.ca> or by

contacting jasmind@lampchc.org 416 252 6471 ext. 308

FREE ONLINE AFFORDABLE HOUSING WORKSHOP - Do you know how to apply for Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) Housing Subsidy? LAMP is offering an online workshop on how to get onto the Toronto housing subsidy list. Details on how the program works and other resources will be offered through this free educational workshop on April 12 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. To register e-mail nekpeno@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 Ext. 238

or jasmind@lampchc.org or 416.252.6471 ext. 308.

APRIL 26 STRENGTH BASED LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP - Would you like to build your leadership skills? Join our strength-based leadership workshop on April 26 at 7 p.m on Zoom The workshop focuses on identifying the unique strengths of individuals through interaction and questions. This workshop will help participants to identify their unique strengths to enhance self-development and community services. To register e-mail nekpeno@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 Ext. 238.

MUSIC & WELLNESS is a virtual music therapy group designed to use music to bring people together, improve connections and talk about things that are uplifting. Participants have the opportunity to discover more about themselves within a creative outlet of singing, music listening and encouragement. Wednesdays 11 a.m. to 12 noon on Zoom. To register contact norkyit@lampchc.org or 416 252 6471 ext. 257

CATCH MY BREATH RAY PROGRAM is a youth mental health program at LAMP for ages 14 - 21. The past two years have been hectic and we deserve to have a space where we can share how we're feeling and what we're thinking. Let's share a space to support and have one-on-one conversation with youth in the community. Every Monday 6 p.m. to 7:30 pm on Zoom. To register contact Isha Green youth@lampchc.org.

HEALTHY EATING IS GOOD - Have you been thinking of changing your eating habits? Then join our

Healthy Eating workshops through the West Toronto Diabetes Education Program. Part one introduction to Diabetes Wednesday April 16 @ 6:30 pm on Zoom. Part two Diabetes and Healthy Eating Wednesday May 4, 6 pm. Our experienced health care professionals will give you the information you need to achieve success. Call 416-252-1928 ext. 100.

HAVING A BABY? Etobicoke Pre and Post-Natal Dietician program on Zoom is being offered with agencies as LAMP, Toronto Public Health, Rexdale community Health Centre and other partners in a free health education and nutrition program with health professionals and food demos. Grocery cards and other supports as needed. For more information or to register 416-737-9874 or 416-898-1225 or e-mail martha.morales@rexdalechc.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at the Salvation Army Lakeshore Community Church, at 5 Thirtieth Street, on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information or to sign up call 416-251-8372.

PATTY DAY Celebrating the Jamaican patty and introducing Toronto Patty Fest at the Afro-Caribbean Farmers Market in the heart of Little Jamaica (Eglinton-Oakdale) on August 6. Area recognized as an important 'cultural and culinary destination.'

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Etobicoke, ON M8X 1C4



Larry J. Kourtis, CPA, CMA
Investment Advisor
416-231-3066
larry.kourtis@nbpcd.com



John Soares, CFP®, CIM®
Investment Advisor
416-652-6281
John1.Soares@nbpcd.com

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MPP Christine Hogarth

Gang crime and violence in our area

Since February 24th, the world has been consumed with dangerous and dramatic news. The war raging in Ukraine started by Vladimir Putin's unprovoked attack is dominating the news cycle and understandably is upsetting because of the unimaginable human cost.

We can all be excused then for not about thinking a great deal about crime in our local community because of the enormity of what is happening, unless of course you are the victim.

Today's international events do not deter local criminals who have little or no interest in them and instead are focused on preying upon the vulnerable and targets of opportunity as they happen upon them.

Etobicoke-Lakeshore is a tapestry of wonderful communities but unfortunately there are amongst us motivated criminals that commit a wide variety of offences from murder, human trafficking and a rash of targeted car thefts.

Since January several murders have occurred. These incidents are made more shocking by the youth of both victims and perpetrators. The youngest shooter identified is just 13. How did illegal weapons get into the hands of kids who should be holding nothing more dangerous than a game controller?

The root causes are many, but one is illegal guns finding their way into the hands of these kids. The Ontario Government has committed \$185 Million to fight cross-border guns and drugs, by disrupting gang activities and their revenue streams. This investment also created a Guns and Gangs Mobile Prosecution Unit. Initiatives like these recognize that gangs are sophisticated in the way they operate.

Part of the reason is the recruitment of kids into gangs. Kids as young as eight are recruited for a variety of reasons, and some are basic to human needs. Safety is one consideration in dangerous neighbourhoods, especially if youth has already been assaulted, the motivation to seek safety in a collective is heightened.

Kids join gangs to avoid being isolated. In some cases, it serves as a surrogate family that provides emotional support, excitement, a romanticized sense of adventure and many other reasons. All these reasons apply to joining any organized groups that offer camaraderie and adventure. No one truly wants to be alone.

Gang leaders know that the legal punishment under the law is far less for a minor than it is an adult. That's why underage youth are targeted. The leaders are in the shadows and protected, and the child will be held but treated as a young offender with mild penalties. There is a lot of work to be done in combatting gangs and it will take time but understanding the motivation of at-risk youth will help the community and families find other ways to engage, find alternatives and make life in a gang less attractive.

In February, Ontario observed Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Human trafficking is something we know occurs around the world. Here in Canada, most cases are sex trafficking.

Most commonly, trafficked people, mostly women, are forced into prostitution, drug addiction, violence and constant surveillance as control measures keeping the trafficked effectively enslaved. It is estimated that the average age of people lured by sex trafficking rings is 13, while over 70 per cent of victims are under 25. Staggeringly, two-thirds of cases in Canada occur in Ontario. Ontario's anti-human trafficking strategy is designed to build awareness of the issue, protect victims and intervene early, support survivors and hold offenders accountable.

In 2020, the province announced a \$307 million strategy through 2025 to combat human trafficking. But the community can help. If you

discover anyone in this situation, report it to police. You could save a life. If you are a person in this situation, please approach the police and ask for help. You can also call the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1 833 900-1010.

Lastly, Etobicoke residents have suffered an alarming rise in auto thefts. So far this year, Toronto Police Services reports a 46 per cent increase in car thefts across the city, for a total of more than 900. A troubling proportion of these, as residents know too well, happen right here in Etobicoke-Lakeshore. This is very difficult to combat because it happens late at night and is organized and targeted to specific vehicles. Often, we see video from our neighbours' video feeds as their cars are driven away by the thieves. TPS has received a provincial grant in January for \$200,000 to increase CCTV capacity across Toronto.

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