

The South Etobicoke News



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Get out and vote for city election October 24

City of Toronto residents are being encouraged to get out and vote on October 24.

There are 25 Wards which make up the City and we live in Ward 3, which is Etobicoke Lakeshore, Ward 2 or Etobicoke Centre and in Ward 1, Etobicoke North.

In this municipal election there are 31 certified candidates running for Mayor, 164 certified candidates running for Councillor and 177 candidates running for School Board Trustees.

Get to know your candidate and what they stand for, or how they will best represent you on City Council when it comes to local issues as transit, garbage pickup, road safety or congestion, by laws or obtaining permits. The candidates for Ward 3 includes; 19-year incumbent Mark



GOVERNING THE CITY OF TORONTO IS SERIOUS BUSINESS since we are among the largest cities in North America. Voting is just as serious as it takes good candidates who can deliver so we can grow and prosper. Do you part and vote to select a responsible Mayor and councillors.

ifying voters of their polling stations and times it will be open.

Voters are told where to cast a ballot on Advance Voting Days, which runs from October 7 to October 14 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. More than 15,000 people are required, or being hired, to help run what is described as ‘the largest municipal election in Canada.’

The polls are open on October 24 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voters are reminded they must show identification with their name and Toronto address to receive a ballot. They are required to take their information card, which came by mail, with them as well.

To vote you must be a Canadian citizen, 18 years old, be a resident of Toronto.

Grimes, challengers Amber Morley, Ari Zeynel, Bonnie Hu, Mary Markovic and Marco Valle.

More posters and literature from the candidates are popping up in the community as they seek votes. Flyers were mailed out by Toronto Elections in early September noti-

Bid to protect Indigenous art found in hall

Some concerned members of the Long Branch community are trying to protect large pieces of decades old Indigenous artwork gracing the walls of a building that is being partially redeveloped. Local artist Laura Therrien shows photos of beautiful and still gleaming artwork that are believed to have been painted in the late early 1960s on several walls of the former Loyal Order of Moose Club, at 3753 Lake Shore Blvd. W.



SOME LONG BRANCH RESIDENTS are trying to protect some pieces of Indigenous art hanging in the former Moose Lodge, near Thirty Ninth Street, that is being converted to office units. Community members are calling for the artwork, believed to be painted in the 1960s, to be protected from harm as he work is underway. Photos of artwork by Laura Therrien.

The owners are building 12 separate office units within the existing two-storey residential building. Therrien, a Metis artist and educator, and others in the community are hoping the prized artwork can be saved and not demolished.

“I think it is important to capture the community art history from these historical murals,” she said. “We should try to

learn more about who the artist was and preserve our local history.”

Documents filed to the City state “the proposal contributes to a vibrant and complete community by broadening the range of non-residential uses options within the Long Branch area.”

But, area residents are unhappy that there is no parking being provided for the office tenants.

owner or developer to have no on-site parking spaces like requested in the zoning-by-law,” Soave wrote. “With so many proposed vehicles on 39th Street it will never get plowed properly in the winter, creating unsafe conditions for residents.” A construction crew working at the former Lodge told members of the community that the murals are not being destroyed and will be saved.



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October 31 is Halloween Day

New Toronto Police Chief Myron Demkiw to take office in December

Men sought for two west end sexual assaults



CHIEF DESIGNATE Myron Demkiw (above, right) has worked up the ranks from running undercover operations in 14 Division. He assumes command on December 19. Police photos.

largest municipal police force in Canada. Retiring Interim Chief James Ramer will lead the 7,600 member force until a transition is complete. Ramer replaced former police Chief Mark Saunders in 2020 on an interim basis after Saunders' resignation.



"I wish to extend my gratitude to Chief Ramer and to the dedicated Members of the Toronto Police Service who are committed to the safety and well-being of our great city," Demkiw said in a statement.

"At this time, our organization is grieving the loss of Constable Andrew Hong, and while I wish to thank the Toronto Police Services Board for their trust and confidence and extend my gratitude to my colleagues, both sworn and civilian, I will reserve further comment at this time, out of respect for Constable Hong, his family and our Members." A 22-year veteran and father of two, Hong, 48, was ambushed in Mississauga while on a coffee break at a Tim Horton's during a shooter's triple-homicide rampage on Sept. 12. The gunman was later shot dead by police in a Hamilton cemetery.



OUTGOING CHIEF James Ramer brought stability to the force.

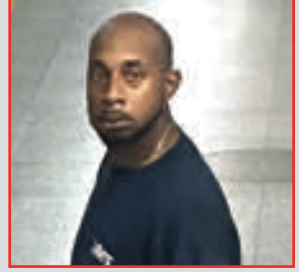
TPS board chair Jim Hart said Demkiw "possesses extensive operational policing experience to keep our city, its residents, and its visitors safe."

Hart said the board found the candidate with the qualities communities had asked for: "A dedicated public servant and relationship-builder, committed to building and enhancing trust with the diverse communities we serve."

Mayor John Tory said Demkiw is a respected expert in community safety and in gun and gang violence prevention.

"I know he will bring a focus on confronting gun and gang violence to his new role," Tory said.

Toronto Police are searching for two suspects who are accused of the brazen sexual assaults of three females near the Bloor Street W. subway line.



SUSPECT sought for assaulting 13-year-old girl at Royal York Subway. Police photos.

Police said one of the females assaulted was 13-years-old. She was with her mom at the Royal York Subway at the time, according to police.

Officers said the girl was assaulted by a man, who then boarded an east-bound train and fled the scene.

"Both the mom and the girl were able walk away from the man," according to a police release.

The attacker is described as 5-foot 10-inches tall, 40 to 45 years old, with a moustache and chin strap. He was wearing a gold necklace, gold earrings, navy blue sweater with a Levi's logo on the chest, blue jeans, white and gold running shoes.



THIS MAN is accused of sexually assaulting two women at Dundas and Bloor Streets W.

A second assailant is sought for the September 29 alleged assault of two women around 8 p.m. in the Dundas Street West and Bloor Street West area.

Police said "a man approached and sexually assaulted two women."

That man is described as 6-foot tall, with medium build, about 30-years-old, black hair, and yellow-stained teeth. He was wearing a grey Roots hoodie, light blue jeans and Adidas sandals.

There has been a number of incidents in which women were targeted or sexually assaulted in or near the Royal York Subway, according to police records.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 416-808-2200, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 416-222-TIPS (8477), or at www.222tips.com.

The City of Toronto is getting a new police chief in December.

The Toronto Police Service has appointed 32-year veteran Myron Demkiw as its new top cop.

Demkiw, who is well-respected by rank and file officers, is an acting Deputy Chief in charge of the Specialized Operations Command and is a Member of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces.

The veteran officer rose from the front lines of 14 Division in downtown Toronto working on street, gangs and gun crimes. He assumes command on December 19 after a three-month transition period, the force said.

Superintendent Demkiw oversaw more than 1,200 police officers, over 900 civilian members and managed a budget of \$240 million. He will soon lead the

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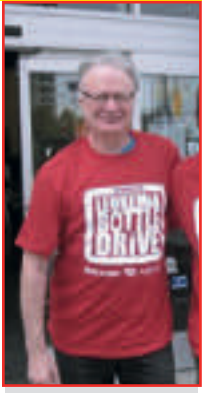
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Former Mimico Beer Store worker honoured



JOSEPH ATTARD was beloved in the community.

A Mimico man who was well-known as a manager of the former Mimico and Long Branch Beer Stores for more than two decades is being remembered by his friends.

This is the fifth year they have raised funds in memory of Joseph Attard, 61, a long-time area resident



FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS of Joseph at the fifth annual Joseph Attard Memorial Tee Off for Mental Health Golf Tournament. Courtesy photo.

who was known by many for his love for people and the community. He passed away in 2018. Staff and patrons of the Maple Leaf House Grill & Lounge, at 2749 Lake Shore Blvd. W., have raised more than \$2,000 from the fifth annual Joseph Attard Memorial Tee Off for Mental Health Golf Tournament. The funds will be donated to LAMP Community Health Centre's Among Friends Community Mental Health Program. "Without the amazing incredible generosity of our golfers,

reach out to our community for donations, and make this a day to remember." Our community needs our support and we are proud to support LAMP, one of the ladies said. They said Attard was well-loved and had many friends from years of working at The Beer Store. Catherine Turgiyia said Attard was a "remarkable man and a wonderful employee." "Joe was a wonderful employee who understood and demonstrated the meaning of team, dedication,

sponsors, donors, and supporters, this wouldn't have been possible," Maple Leaf owner Dave Cole said. "A special thanks is due to the wonderful ladies from the Pay It Forward Committee who helped organize, set up,

loyalty and selflessness," she said. "He was highly respected by all who knew him."

"Joe was one of those very rare people that no one ever said a bad word about him and he never said a bad word about anybody else," wrote friend Jim Culleton.

Ashley Cormier said Attard touched the hearts of many people in his lifetime - including his.

"I am so thankful and I feel so fortunate to have called him my co-worker, my friend and ultimately my family," Cormier said. "He was greatly loved and he will be truly

missed by many, as Joey would say "That's five sure!" Email organizers at teeoff4ment alhealth@g mail.com if you are interested in donating or taking part next year.



ORGANIZERS OF THE Fifth Annual Joseph Attard Memorial Tee Off for Mental Health Golf present a cheque for \$2,000 to LAMP

Police warn seniors of homeowner fraud scam



TOM DELANEY is sought by police

It is time to winterize your home and property and police are again warning homeowners to beware of phony repair persons preying on seniors.

Residents in the Alderwood area have reported two incidents in the last month in which alleged handymen approached seniors about performing roof and eaves-trough work "claiming they were working in the area and can save them money."

The residents on social media said the men never returned after facing questions about their companies and work.

In one case, Peel Regional Police have issued a warrant for Tom Delaney, 20, (in photo) for a series of door-to-door renovation scams across the GTA, involving driveway paving and other jobs.

Police say the suspect and his associates went door-to-door offering fraudulent driveway renovation services between June and August 2022.

Officers allege the suspect falsely identified himself as "belonging to a legitimate driveway repair company" and would ask victims to pay in advance for services.

He would then start the renovations and not complete them, or in some instances the work would not begin at all, and then cut off communication with the victims. Investigators say the scams resulted in the loss of thousands

of dollars to several homeowners.

Police said the house repair fraud scam intentionally targets seniors at their homes. Halton Regional Police said the suspects will provide quotes with prices lower than market value and once a deal is reached, will request a large cash payment.

After this initial work, the consumer may be approached to provide more money for supplies or to complete payment for the project, police said.

Police advise homeowners to get recommendations from other people, do your research, do not be pressured to make a quick decision, get multiple written estimates, ensure the contractor is insured and get everything on writing and on paper.

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Late Queen loved Canada and our top veterans



THE LATE QUEEN ELIZABETH II and public visitation of her casket. Courtesy photo.

Canadian veterans say their former boss Queen Elizabeth II was the first Royal female veteran who loved this country and visited here almost two dozen times during her 70-year reign. The veterans and members and Lakeshore businesses laid wreaths to honour and pay tribute to the late monarch on September 17 at the Cenotaph at Colonel Samuel Smith Park. The beautiful wreath, which was made of red, blue and white flowers, was placed with others at the base of the Cenotaph as the national anthem played. There were similar ceremonies in different areas of the City of Toronto as supporters showed their love to the late Queen and to wish King Charles III great success. Thousands of mourners had lined up in Britain to pay their last respects to the late leader of the Commonwealth as she was escorted with much fanfare for funeral services. "We appreciate that she was a veteran of World War II," said William Law, of the Royal Canadian Legion. "This had a lot of impact on veterans here as she saw the need and did it."

The Queen at the age of 18 in 1945 joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) where she trained as a truck driver and mechanic during the Second World War. She is the first female Royal to serve in the military. Queen Elizabeth II was colonel-in-chief of 16 British Army regiments and corps and held more than 50 ranks and appointments in the United Kingdom and Commonwealth Armed Service, records show. One of her homes, Buckingham Palace, was bombed by the Germans on September 13, 1940, after five high explosive bombs were dropped on the property injuring several workmen and damaging The Royal Chapel. Most of the Royal family remained at the palace and did not flee to safety.

Terry Pich, of 56 Field Royal Canadian Artillery said veterans loved the Queen for her work. "That the Queen served in the army is a bonus for Canadian veterans that



MEMBERS OF ROYAL Canadian Legion and Lake Shore Village BIA lay a wreath at Cenotaph to pay tribute to the death of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

showed she cared for the country," Pich said. "She was very fond of Canada and loved this country. They said the horses ridden by the RCMP officers during the funeral parade were gifted to the Queen by the Mounties many years ago. "One of the horses being ridden that day was named 'Elizabeth,'" he said. The popular monarch passed away on September 8. She was 96. More than 100 dignitaries and world leaders attended the funeral, what was watched live on TV by billions of people. "We are very sad that she is gone," Legion official Donna Sampson said. "She was a veteran and our leader and we are sad." Veteran Chris Korwin Kuczynski, a veteran of the Navy and chair of the Lakeshore Village Business Improvement Association, said the Queen loved Canada and made almost two dozen visits to our country.



PAYING THEIR RESPECTS ARE Terry Pich, (left) of 56 Field Royal Canadian Artillery and William Law, of the Royal Canadian Legion. A wreath was laid in tribute of the late Queen at the Cenotaph. Wreath photos by Tom Godfrey.

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

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

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WINNERS of 2022 ORDERS OF MERIT from ETOBICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & LAMP CHC

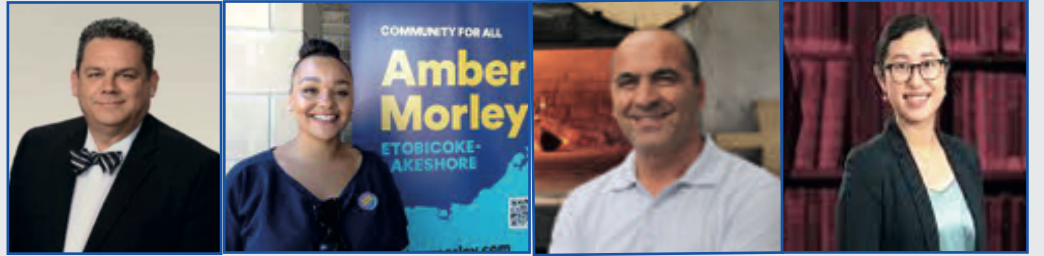
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Candidates working hard for votes to win Ward

Signs blasting the councillor of Ward 3 for “shipping terminals and truck congestion” are popping up in the streets of the ward and people seem to be taking notice. The signs have been shoved into the ground along Islington Ave., and other streets, including Birmingham Steet, near the former Campbell’s Soup land, on which three large warehouses are being built. “Destruction of our community with shipping terminals and truck congestion,” said one of the large signs erected at Jutland Road and Islington Avenue. Six candidates have registered with the City of Toronto to run for Ward 3, Etobicoke Lakeshore, perhaps one of the largest ridings in Canada. The riding, with a population of 129,000, has been held by Councillor Mark Grimes for 19 years. The municipal vote will take place on October 24. Outspoken Ward 3 candidate Amber Morley insist the incumbent has done little for the community and voters want him out.



“He (Grimes) has one of the worst attendance at City Council,” Morley said. “People know what is going on and want changes in the way things are done.”



CANDIDATES VYING TO CLAIM WARD 3 on October 24 includes, from left to right, Incumbent Mark Grimes, Amber Morley, Zevnel 'Dino' Ari and Bonnie Hu. Also running are Mary Markovic and Marco Valle. Traffic, construction issues, parking and housing remain some of the top issues.

Morley has been making the rounds drumming up support for her platform, which includes increased affordable housing and the expansion of accessible community spaces, including the development of local community hubs. She previously worked at Toronto City Hall in various Council support capacities and as a Constituency Assistant in Ward 4, Etobicoke-Centre. Also making inroads is Zeynel Ari, or Dino, as he is called, the owner of two pizza restaurants, who is known for feeding the poor in the community with his pies. Ari, whose pizza store was burglarized, is pushing for more police officers in the community. “People tell me they are tired of the same and want changes in the community,” Ari said. “Voters at the door tell me that they want a new voice on Council.”

His campaign team has distributed thousands of pieces of literature in the riding. He plans to increase police presence in the area, crack down on law breakers, improve our parks and community agencies and help those who are newcomers or at risk. Long-time councillor Grimes has faced many uphill fights for the ward since first elected in 2003. Grimes and his team has hit the ground running. He is now pushing, and tests are being conducted, to have the Bloor Street subway extended to Sherway Gardens Mall, which has been sought by the community for a long time. Also running for Ward 3 are Bonnie Hu and Mary Markovic; who is calling for more rights of seniors and housing for lonely and vulnerable seniors. Marco Valle promises more daycare centers and parks.

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CANDIDATES for ETOBICOKE CENTRE - WARD 2

- Catherine Habus,
- Maryam Hashimi
- Stephen Holyday (Incumbent)
- Sam Raufi
- Thomas Yanuziello

ETOBICOKE NORTH - Ward 1

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Local charity group with 69-year ties to Queen



CAROLL McCALL, PAST PRESIDENT of IODE, (above) with photo of bomber purchased by the group and presented to the Canadian government.

The South Etobicoke headquarters of this little known 122-year old Canadian charity is like a museum dedicated to the late Queen Elizabeth II, who was their patron for some 69 years.

The IODE is a Canadian women's charitable organization that focuses on children, education, community service and citizenship.

The headquarters, which is located at the Bell Historic Building, at 80 Birmingham Street, contains shelves filled with Royal momentos and artifacts depicting the life of the late Queen Elizabeth II. There are historic photos, paintings and documents dating the Monarch's 70-year rule.

"We love Queen Elizabeth II. She was our patron for decades," said past-president Carol McCall. "The IODE was honoured to have Queen Elizabeth II as a Patron for 69 years. The Queen's public and volunteer service is one of her defining features."

She said the IODE is among 600 organizations in the Commonwealth that receive Royal Patronage. Their official badge contains a seven-point star with the Royal

Union Flag at the centre showing 'the pride Canada felt as a member of the Commonwealth.'

The organization, which was originally known as the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, was founded in 1900 to promote and support the British Empire and its soldiers.

The group provides scholarships, bursaries, book prizes, citizenship awards and pursues other philanthropic and educational projects in various communities across Canada, including here in South Etobicoke.

Members of the local Etobicoke chapter are now fundraising to support its projects including citizenship book awards at John English School, a bursary for a graduating student at Burnhamthorpe

Adult Learning Centre and Youth Without Shelter's Stay in School Program. Most of the 1,500 Canadian members in 100 Chapters raise funds from bake and chocolate sales, auctions, garage sales, house tours and other endeavours with proceeds going to help local groups.

IODE was founded by Margaret Polson Murray of Montreal who recognized a need for support for Canadians departing to fight with the Empire forces in South Africa. She urged the formation of women to promote patriotism, loyalty and service to others by sending telegrams to the mayors of Canada's major cities urging them to call together prominent women of their communities.

The group has raised millions over the years to make the world a better place. "We get many inquiries from people who want help," McCall said.

"Our membership is getting older and we want to continue all our service. We want more young women to volunteer," she said.



The IODE in 1939 was the first Canadian organization to send civilian relief to Britain and continued with the adoption of two children's hospitals there. In 1940, in a high profile case they raised \$100,000 in one month to purchase a Bolingbroke Bomber,

that was presented to the Government of Canada. The group in a unique 1944 wartime gift shipped 87 wedding outfits to Women's Service Headquarters to be distributed to British Service women.

And some 1,000 members who were trained in civil defence saved lives and helped secure areas of South Etobicoke during deadly Hurricane Hazel in 1954.

Some \$12 million was raised by IODE during World War I and II to purchase hospitals, hospital ships, ambulances, bomber and fighter aircraft and field comforts for Canadian service personnel.

Over \$1,000,000 was raised during the period of 1946 to 1950. Massive quantities of clothes, medical supplies and food were sent for relief of displaced persons. And \$100,000 was raised across Canada by exhibiting a needlepoint carpet made by Queen Mary and was used to provide much-needed dollars for Britain following the Second World War. The carpet was presented to the people of Canada in 1951 by Princess Elizabeth. If you would like to donate or volunteer with IODE phone 416-487-4416 or e-mail IODECanada@bellnet.ca or visit www.IODE.ca



CAROL McCALL (above) with momentos and photos of the late Queen Elizabeth II (top photo) and IODE founder Margaret Polson Murray (bottom). McCall with photo of former group members in center. Photos by Tom Godfrey.

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The Helen Keller Centre in New Toronto to get funding from Ottawa

The Canadian Helen Keller Centre (CHKC) is getting closer to becoming a reality for deafblind people in our community.

The Centre has announced it will receive federal capital funds through the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) to build a new \$38 million affordable and supportive housing building at 150 Eighth Street.

The site was the location of a Royal Canadian Legion Branch, which closed several years ago. The fully-accessible and affordable apartment complex will include over 56 units of one, two and three bedrooms, 25 to 30 of which will be reserved for Canadians who are deafblind, according to the CHKC. The remainder of the units will be reserved for people with general disabilities.

The centre will receive \$32 million from the Ottawa-based Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) and will be required to raise an additional \$6 million required from donors.

Since 1992, CHKC has operated a fully accessible and affordable apartment building in Willowdale with 16 units for tenants who are deafblind.

This latest funding will ensure the centre can further meet the housing needs of Canadians who have dual sensory loss, officials said.

"This exciting new initiative will allow us to reach more Canadians with deafblindness, ensuring they can live as independently as possible," said CHKC Executive Director Jennifer Robbins.

With 34 people on its current wait list, more people with a combination of hearing and sight loss will have access to a more independent life.

"The new apartment building will house a 6,500 sq. ft. state-of-the-art Training Centre where Canadians who are deafblind can gain important life-skills to aid in their independence," Robbins said.

RHI is a federal capital funding program that aims to rapidly create new affordable rental housing for marginalized people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

There were seven projects announced that will create 260 new affordable and supportive apartments in Toronto.

The other projects are: Wigwamen Incorporated, 525 Markham Rd.; Akwa Honsta Non-Profit Aboriginal Homes, 136 Kingston Rd.; St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society, 1120 Ossington Ave.; WoodGreen Community Housing, 60 Bowden St. and 1080 Queen St. E.; and St. Felix Centre, 25 Augusta Ave.



THE PLANNED Canadian Helen Keller Centre, on Eighth Street, has been given the green light with \$32 million in federal funds. Courtesy photo.

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Family owned Galway Arms for food & service



GALWAY ARMS Founder Tom Keane opened the pub in 1991.

Bar owner Tom Keane arrived in Canada in the 1960s from Tuam, County Galway, in Ireland, with a big dream of opening his own pub. Since he founded The Galway Arms in 1991, at 838 The Queensway, it has thrived with the

support of hard-working mostly Irish patrons for 31 years. They call it “home away from home.” “It is one of a kind, rooted as a place where everyone feels at home,” Tom once said. Tom passed away in November 2012 at the age of 67. He left behind his wife of 44 years, Della, their three children and other family members to run his dream pub, which is named after his beloved home county. “We still carry on the same tradition as Tom started back then,” says daughter-in-law Janice, who manages the popular bar. “It is a home away from home.” The pub has large photos attached over the seats of patrons, now gone, who frequented the bar for many years.



The Galway Arms is one of a few genuine Irish pubs still standing in South Etobicoke. It has a decent-sized covered patio, which can be heated in the cold weather. “We are 100 per cent genuine Irish and proud of it,” Janice vows. “You will not get a nicer

pint of Guinness anywhere. People come here from far away to get a great pint of Guinness.” She proudly shows the art of pouring a good-tasting Guinness from tap to glass. “It’s all about the lines from the kegs,” Janice stresses. “Pour slow on an angle and when it reaches a harp sign on the glass, pause and let it settle and then top up.” Pay attention to the foam or crown, as it is called. “The crown has to be circular in shape and must be a certain length.”

“We are the second top-seller of Guinness in all of Ontario,” she says proudly. “It is how you pour it.” The Guinness has to be moving all the time.” Janice says it ‘takes 119.5 seconds to pour a perfect pint from the tap.’ The Galway Arms is mostly packed with customers who have been returning for years to enjoy a range of music, including downhome Irish tunes, \$5 pints, to view sports, meet friends or for the delicious food, which ranges from tasty fish and chips, Irish stew, chicken wings and more. Our proof reader and local journalist, Ian Robertson, is a fixture at the Galway Arms every Sunday for the salmon meal. “I have been going there for more than 25 years,” Robertson says. “The food is great and the people are nice.”



JANICE, WHO IS TOM'S daughter-in-law is manager of the popular pub. Here (above) he shows some of their delicious food and demonstrates (below) the proper way to pour a Guinness. Photos by Tom Godfrey.

There are daily specials. Visit for great quality home-cooked meals. The Galway Arms can be reached at 416-251-0096 or visit them at thegalwayarms.ca



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Changing face of The Queensway with condos

If you think it is busy driving or walking along The Queensway these days, things are only getting worse. At least 12 new major condo projects are being constructed, or awaiting approval from City officials. In all, thousands of units of housing have been proposed for The Queensway from Royal York Road west to Sherway Gardens Mall, according to zoning applications.



ZORRA CONDOS is coming to the Kipling Ave. and The Queensway area.

The stretch of road will be busy for years with dump trucks and construction vehicles. Area residents say the trucks will

be travelling along Royal York and other local thoroughfares in order to ferry loads of concrete and materials to the job sites.

“It will be busy around here for years with concrete trucks,” said Dan Irwin, who has been fighting the City to move a concrete plant on Judson Avenue, which he claims is polluting the area with sand and dust. “Things are not getting better but worse.”

Some of the condos being built includes 801 The Queensway, at Taymall Avenue, just west of Royal York Road, which will be 11 storeys high, contain 203 units and have 133 parking spaces.

The project was approved last July, and the developer is required to place a cash contribution of \$700,000 to the City for use by the Queensway Business Improvement

Area. Funds are to be used for traffic control and street improvement measures, bike lanes and improvements to local parks and trails, including Queensway Park and Mimico Park Trail.

Blocks away, construction is underway for a 14-storey mixed-use tower at 875 The Queensway and Queen Elizabeth Boulevard. The complex will have 183 suites and underground parking for 159 vehicles.

A proposal for an eight-storey mixed-use project by Kazmir Condos, if approved, will be built on the northwest corner of 880 The Queensway and Chartwell Road. It would have 103 units. “It’s set to become one of the most desirable places to live and 880 The Queensway is at the



THE 11-STORY 859 THE QUEENSWAY is being built at Plastics Avenue.

centre of it all,” according to sales brochures. Another project at 859 The Queensway is an 11-storey mixed-use condo that is under construction on the southwest corner at Plastics Avenue. It will have 187 units. In pre-construction is a 10-storey called 935 The Queensway Condos, a project by Mattamy Homes at Islington Avenue and The Queensway. It will feature 210 mixed units.

“There are parks with an array of mature forests, open fields, bike and walking paths that stretch for miles,” according to marketing information.

Being constructed nearby is 36 Zorra Condos. It will be 36 storeys tall at Kipling Avenue and The Queensway.

The complex is expected to be completed in June next year and will contain 459 suites ranging from 440 to 925 square feet. It will cost \$55,000 for a parking spot and \$6,000 for a locker, according to sales information. Work is also underway on Verge Condos 1 and 2, at 1001 The Queensway, in the Kipling and Islington Avenues area, at the north end of the Cineplex Cinemas Queensway.

This mixed-use project will be 17 and 12 storeys high, and have 342 and 203 units. It is expected to be completed in 2025 and many of the units are already selling for more than \$1 million. Another 12-storey condo is in pre-construction at 1045 The Queensway, on the southeast corner at St. Lawrence Avenue. That one will have 284 units and is being marketed as a ‘community-focused boutique mid-rise designed to take advantage of Etobicoke’s relaxed suburban character.



THE 935 QUEENSWAY condos is in pre-construction.



THE CURIO AT 801 THE QUEENSWAY at Taymall Avenue will be 11 storeys high. Courtesy photos.



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WORK ON VERGE CONDOS 1 and 2 is underway at 1001 The Queensway, in the Kipling and Islington Avenues area, at the north end of the Cineplex Cinemas Queensway. **PLANS ARE** being made to use parts of The Queensway and some lands at Kipling Avenue mall to create a ‘super ramp’ to access The Gardiner Expressway.

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Popular auto chain founded here to shut after 60 years



FOUNDER BOB's love for cars led to a successful business that ran for 58 years. Photo courtesy McJannett family.

An iconic multi-chain automotive and parts empire that was founded by a hard-working family right here in South Etobicoke is shutting its doors after almost 60 years.

Performance Improvements Speed Shop was founded in 1964 by Bob and Susan McJannett as a retail store at 1268 The Queensway, near Royal York Road.

"They turned that tiny store into a successful, multi-chain performance parts empire, er, busi-

"When the business started in 1964, a 30-year-old car was a 1934 Ford and a brand new car was a 1964 Chevy and we had lots of parts for both to improve their performance," Rob said.

"All that changed, the cars have changed, the customers have changed...it's time to move on." They held an everything-must-go closing sale with discounts up to 25 per cent.

The family is saddened the building will be going up for sale shortly and there is a lot of cleaning out to do.

He said a liquidation sale of all remaining products and fixtures will be held in October.

Thank-you to everyone who has been part of our 58-year history. It's been a great ride! They will be missed by many.



CAR LOVERS BACK IN THE DAY came from far and wide to see some of the muscle cars on display at Performance Improvements Speed Shop. Last September 30 was the last day of regular operations at the Toronto, Barrie and Hamilton stores. The chain at one time had nine stores, including in Quebec. Now it is down to three. Courtesy photos.



ness," their sons Andy and Rob told long-time customers in a post on social media.

"The passing of our founder and father in June caused a lot of soul searching for the McJannett boys," they wrote. "After a long discussion about work/life balance, Andy and Rob made the difficult decision to pull the plug."

September 30, 2022 was the last day of regular operations at the Toronto, Barrie and Hamilton stores. The chain at one time had nine stores, including in Quebec. Now it is down to three.

As many residents may know, they specialized in a wide range of auto parts and expert installation advice. They were also known for their wild sales.



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In the Community

By TOM GODFREY

A federal paid holiday is being sought to mark the life and pay tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II. There are calls from a number of people, including Chris Korwin Kuczinski, chair of the Long Branch Business Improvement Association, Navy veteran and former Toronto city councillor. He, and others, would like a national paid holiday called Queens' Day to mark the lives of both Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria. "The late Queen Elizabeth II visited Canada more than any other country in the Commonwealth," Korwin-Kuczinski says. "I met her Majesty in Ottawa during the introduction of the new Constitution." Queen Elizabeth II made **22 official visits to Canada** and seven to Toronto. Her first was in 1951 as Princess Elizabeth, where she visited in place of her father who was ill. Her last was in 2010. She visited Etobicoke's Woodbine Racetrack many times due to her love of horses. She also had the popular Queen's Plate race named after her.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has already declared September 19 a federal holiday and National Day of Mourning in Canada to honor the life and mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. The day is not a paid day off and only applies to federal workers. The holiday gave only federal government employees a day off on September 15. But others would like to see a national paid holiday for all workers to honor the life and mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. There are many in the Caribbean and Africa who feel they have been colonized by Britain and are working to remove themselves from the Commonwealth, which now has 54 nations. Queen Elizabeth II, died on September 8, at 96. She was the world's longest serving monarch with 70 years of service. She was laid to rest on September 19 following 11 days in which thousands of people lined churches and roadways to pay their respects.

We also paid our respect on September 30 for the second annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day. Many more people, including from South Etobicoke, would like to mark the day but it is only a holiday for

federal government workers and federally regulated workplaces. It is very encouraging to see the day also marked by Toronto Police as the force hosted a National Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 23 at Toronto Police headquarters. The Red Bear Singers performed at the event, which featured remarks from top police executives. There was also an art exhibit of hundreds of orange paper cranes entitled Debwewin, which means truth. At home, the Martin Luther Church, at 2379 Lake Shore Blvd. W., residents were listening to Canadian history through the eyes of Indigenous peoples. There was also a KAIROS Blanket Exercise: a group interactive, experiential exercise which traces the history and relationship among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. At Nathan Phillips Square, the Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre held a two-day Indigenous Legacy Gathering, in collaboration with the City, to acknowledge and honour residential school survivors.

Tom Godfrey is Publisher of the South Etobicoke News, who lives in the community. The newspaper won Awards of Merit from LAMP Community Health Centre and the Etobicoke Historical Society in 2022.

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NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION events took place around the country to mark the treatment of Indigenous people and children. Photo courtesy of Globe and Mail.

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Your Health

By MONIKA MEULMAN



From the Bench

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI

Hear the drum beat of the earth beneath your feet? She's humming the harvest song.

This October, take time to listen. Listen to the earth singing, beating, changing her rhythm. The three sisters are dancing their native songs (pumpkin, corn and beans mingle joyfully in the fields). The earth beat of this land is slowing down; the weather cools. We are called to cook, to gather.

We are invited to harvest, to bonfires, to ancient traditions of sharing meals with our families, tribes and communities. The earliest celebrations of harvest originated thousands of years ago, dating back to the origins of farming, storing crops, trading supplies and growing ancient cities. Giving thanks for the food we eat has been the way of life long before the European settlers declared it so in North America.

Many people don't know that the first actual North American Thanksgiving celebration was recorded by seafarers, in Nunavut in 1578, by Martin Frobisher and his crew. They gave thanks to the land and sea for the safety of their fleet. Worth noting is the location of this celebration: Meta Incognita. Sounds like a social media platform, doesn't it? Frobisher built an experimental house on Kodlunarn Island in Frobisher Bay over 300 years ago, where foodstuffs, even bread baked in an oven were discovered in the ruins.

In the month of October we traditionally celebrate Thanksgiving. I can't think of a better way to give thanks than to spend more time with our great mother earth, walk the gardens, walk the forests, and give back to her, to the earth. Give what? Time. Respect. Honour. Prayers. Thanks. Traditions - connection. Listen to her heart beat. Get back to the land and you can get back to the people.

Did you know that in Roman times the country dwellers, the farmers, the land people were called pagans? It had nothing to do with religions nor belief systems. The origins of this latin word 'paganus' literally means 'country dweller' and 'pagus' means country.



So, this month, let us create a time of giving thanks that's truly inclusive. Allow yourself a glimpse way back in time, as you mull over apple cider.

Let us observe history, ancient rituals of harvest, and fold them into present day stories, cooking, gathering. We have this opportunity to remember people all over the world have celebrated food, crops, harvests since the beginning of time. Know that you are in the company of a long line of

ancestors who have travelled to visit rural families, to give thanks to their land, even to return to their birth homes at times of harvest to honour their beginnings. Going 'back home' for Thanksgiving is an ancient tradition indeed.

Lastly, to practice giving thanks to our gaia, I challenge you to a yam-off. Yams. Eat them roasted, cooked, fried and enjoy them. They are the humble, undervalued 'potato, but it's not a potato' crop of the world. Ditch the potatoes. There I said it! (ok wrote it).

Why?

First of all, one yam can grow up to 132 pounds. That requires a celebration of its own! There are over 600 varieties of yams, which means you are also honouring the rich variety and complexity of the earth's ancient crops this thanksgiving. And, since 90% of the world's yams are grown in the yam zone (yes, that's a thing - Western Africa, from Cameroon to Côte d'Ivoire) you are also giving thanks to the earliest farming settlements of the globe.

In this era of globalization, you can choose to honour history, support farmers, invest in your health and enjoy a nutritious Thanksgiving. Now, let's celebrate that. Happy Harvest.

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Do we want to become a Republic? Really? God bless the Queen. She was a great lady, a lovely lady, and a role model in a complex world. She reminded me of my Mom. She had a complicated family with a few conflicts that often resembled our families' imperfections. She was dedicated. She stood as a template for a Constitutional Monarchy – never interfering in Parliament, and representing a multi-cultural, democratically inclined group of nations. The late Queen Elizabeth II reminded us of our obligations to each other under the Constitution and our promises to our Indigenous peoples. She kept us together in a club of many colours with diversified cultures to generate a world's family, 'The Commonwealth.'

Only a few of the world's nations have that privilege. She and her family have made the vital promise to "maintain the precious principles of constitutional government which lie at the heart of the nation," in our 'populist' environment, this is critical.

The powers are primarily symbolic and ceremonial but extremely important. It was simply a tradition that evolved over a thousand years. In law, we call it a Convention, centuries of evolution, that gave us and maintained our Parliamentary democracy. It represents stability. They remind us of our past, both good and bad.

A permanent head of state has its advantages. Indigenous Treaties, I feel, benefit from a Monarchy. The Crown is a permanent institution, so agreements with it are ever-lasting, unlike changing governments with different policies.

The process of government is more a practice than a set of laws. It's like the routine of brushing your teeth before bed or having red wine with meat. We fail to see the importance of this tradition (Convention). The momentum of practice is hard to break. We do it not because of rules but because we always did it that way. It's expected of us. Its' like Christmas Trees or Easter Egg Hunts or going to Aunt Tilley's for Thanksgiving Dinner. We feel wrong if we don't follow the tradition. It reminds me of a religious belief. It allows for a smooth transition of governments after an election or when Parliament, after a vote of non-confidence, wants the option to choose a new leader; rather than have an election. There is no gap in operation.

Absent traditions, I believe it's challenging for autocracies to become democracies overnight, like Russia, Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan. It is a slow evolution. Democracy is "Tradition, Tradition, Tradition"-- Fiddler On The Roof.

In my job, it is the Crown who prosecutes crimes. The Crown symbolically appoints judges (on advice from the Ministers). It is only symbolic but serves to confirm political independence. It avoids a feeling of partisanship. I would never tolerate a politician attempting to influence me. My loyalty was to the Queen and the Constitution. I bear her honour as her Queens Counsel, the Q.C.

It certainly has affected my independence and respect for Justice. I can honestly state it works. In my fifty years in the Courts, I only experienced two occasions of an attempt to influence a decision. In both matters, I acted in the interest of the Crown and not a political party. I suggest the Monarch provides strong independence from this type of interference compared to the United States.

The Monarch's role is to maintain the process and not influence the government's policy. If we elected a President, they would have a political mandate and compete with the Parliament. We see these problems in the United States with Congress versus the President. It causes delay and unnecessary conflict.

A Prime Minister coming to a King with some wild idea would be confronted with a person whose sole duty in life was to protect the Constitution and not current populism. The PM may have second thoughts. It can buy time for Parliamentary conflicts to resolve as they reconsider their ideas.

Do we want an elected President? Do we want two distinct leaders like the United States, Congress and the President? Do we want gridlock?

It's not whether you like Charles III or not. We have a unique benefit in Canada. We can keep the institution yet have the benefit of choosing the personality, a Meme, that fits Canada's image to be the Monarch's representative of Canada. It's not a power pyramid.

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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Hon. Lincoln Alexander who fought injustice passed away 10 years this month and is still missed in the community

It would be 10 years this month that Lincoln Alexander, Canada's first Black lieutenant governor passed away at the age of 90.

His birthday on January 21 was proclaimed Lincoln Alexander Day in Ontario to mark Alexander's contributions to the community and helping others succeed.

Alexander, or 'Linc' as he was known, was born in Toronto in 1922 to humble beginnings. He studied hard and became Canada's first Black Member of Parliament when elected in 1968

in Hamilton West. He also served as the first Black Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario from 1985 to 1991.

He died on October 19, 2012.

Linc was born to hard-working West Indian immigrants. His dad worked as a railway porter and his mom a maid



FIRST BLACK Lt.-GOVERNOR Lincoln Alexander was a man of the people.

as job opportunities were limited for Black people in Toronto at the time.

Alexander enlisted and served as a radio operator with the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War, from 1942 until 1945. He served at stations across Canada before being discharged with the rank of corporal. After the war he completed his high school education at Central Collegiate in Hamilton. Then, with his veteran's grant, he studied for and received a Bachelor of Arts from McMaster University in April 1949.

He then went to Osgoode Hall Law School, graduating in 1953.

In 1968, he became Canada's first black MP and was re-elected in 1972, 1979 and 1980. He became the country's Labour Minister from 1979 to 1980 and served in the House of Commons until 1985.

That year Alexander was appointed Ontario's 24th Lieutenant-Governor. He focused on youth and education and visited 230 schools, 672 communities and attended over 4,000 engagements.

In 1992, Alexander was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada and to the Order of Ontario. After leaving office, he served as chancellor of the University of Guelph, serving five terms as chancellor, the longest-serving in the school's history.

"At a time when racism was endemic in Canadian society, he broke through barriers that treated visible minorities as second-class citizens, strangers in their own land," former Lieut.-Governor David Onley said then. "Lincoln Alexander's whole life was a rebuke to those who would



ONTARIO Lieut.-Governor Lincoln Alexander made the late Queen Elizabeth II smile at an official function. He visited 250 schools, 672 communities and made more than 4,000 engagements during his term in office. His official Canada Post stamp below. Courtesy photos.

equating ability with skin colour."

Ontario then Premier Dalton McGuinty said "he broke down barriers. He made Ontario a better place for all of us, the next generation of public servants and citizens. Premier William Davis appointed him Chair of the Ontario Workers' Compensation Board, another first for a Black-Canadian. He served in this position for five years. Alexander was honoured by having four schools named after him across Ontario.



SCHOOL CHILDREN observing a poster of Lincoln Alexander. He was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth and worked his way up the ladder of success..

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Keeping busy with things to do in the community

EVERY THURSDAY FROM 2 P.M. TO 6 P.M. the Cooper Mills-Gooch Community Food Bank provides fresh groceries and essential food items every Thursday in the Jane St. and Dundas St. W. area. Contact 416-358-0031 for more information.

JUST BE MINDFUL Mindfulness meditation on Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. until October 26 for day programs and evenings on Mondays from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. until October 25. Spend time with yourself in an intentional and accepting way, guided by a registered psychotherapist. To register email health.promotions@stonegatechc.org or call 416-231-7070 ext. 307.

VIRTUAL YOUTH COUNCIL every Tuesday until December 4 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. for ages 13 to 17 years old. Volunteer letters and Letters of Recommendation will be provided. For more information call 416-253-9797 or email info@jeanaugustinecentre.ca or www.jeanaugustinecentre.ca

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY FREE emergency food takeout meals continue to be offered from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. through LAMP's adult drop-in program. Group programs are closed.

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.

FROM OCTOBER 13 Pieces of Mimico to create a collaborative mural to be installed at the Mimico Centennial Branch Library. It includes seven weekly workshops: every Saturday from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Online live video workshops. To register contact the library at 416-394-5330.

OCTOBER 15 & 16 CELEBRATE FALL with arts workshops, seasonal produce and everything Fall at the Small Arms Inspection Building, 1352 Lakeshore Road E., Mississauga.

OCTOBER 24 ETOBICOKE CAMERA CLUB presents *Harold Ross and Painting with Light*. It promises to be exciting. <https://www.facebook.com/etobcc>

RGI HOUSING INFORMATION SESSION October 18 at 2 p.m., Online via Zoom. LAMP will be hosting an

online information session on how to access Rent-Geared-to-Income housing in the City of Toronto, featuring *Kay Hodge from Access to Housing Toronto*. To register, email norkyit@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

EVERY WEDNESDAY UNTIL OCTOBER 27 LAMP Community Health Centre Intro to Mindfulness. *Corin De Souza* provides evidence-based Mindfulness program and workshops. She is a Certified Mindfulness teacher through the Canadian College of Educators. Online workshops every Wednesdays at 7 p.m. To register contact jasmind@lampchc.org or call 416 252 6471 ext. 308.

EVERY WEDNESDAY UNTIL NOVEMBER 3 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., ages 13 to 17, She Can Code. Register at www.jeanaugustinecentre.ca or call 416-253-9797 for more information or visit www.jeanaugustinecentre.ca

OCTOBER 5 TO NOVEMBER 9 Nature's Sanctuary Art Exhibition, a juried photo exhibition presented by Friends of Sam Smith Park, showcases the wildlife and natural beauty of the park, a jewel of the Lakeshore. Show at the Assembly Hall.

EVERY SUNDAY UNTIL NOVEMBER 27 The Lakeview Farmer's Market takes place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Small Arms Inspection Building 1352 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga. Get fresh foods, flowers, microgreens, butcher shop and fresh and tasty maple syrup.

VIRTUAL YOUTH COUNCIL every Tuesday until December 4 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. for ages 13 to 17 years old. Volunteer letters and Letters of Recommendation will be provided. For more information call 416-253-9797 or email info@jeanaugustinecentre.ca or www.jeanaugustinecentre.ca

EVERY TUESDAY UNTIL DECEMBER 14 Food Fit Program from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Zoom at Stonegate Community Health Centre and improve your cooking skills, learn new delicious recipes and get in touch with your body's hunger, fullness and satisfaction cues. To register email health.promotions@stonegatechc.org or call 416-231-7070 ext. 307.

FREE CHIROPODY SERVICES for those who qualify at LAMP Open for new patients who are prediabetic or diabetic. We treat nail concerns, ulcerations, pain and more. Contact 416-252-6471 ext. 262.

JOAN-ANNE OF AVON CANADA has launched a "We Care Awareness Crusade" for Breast Cancer by AVON Foundation for Women. She plans to raise \$5,000 to fight the disease which she said has taken away two family members. Products can be purchased online with proceeds going to fight breast cancer. Visit the Avon website at avongivesback.ca

NEW TO CANADA are you a permanent resident, convention refugee or live-in caregiver, LAMP's Settlement Support Services offers information, orientation, referral to community services, employment assistance, English as a second language and all the skills you need to succeed. Call Tali at 416-252-9701 ext. 283 or email tali@lampchc.org.

FREE ADULT LEARNING PROGRAMS Learn basic computer skills. Must meet registration criteria including 19 years and over and out of school, have a SIN number and access to a computer and an email account. Fluent in spoken English and provide proof of permanent residency. Small online group instruction on MS word, Internet, Keyboarding, email and Zoom. Improve your reading and writing skills. For more information 416-252-9701 ext. 242 or 243.

OCTOBER 24 GET OUT AND VOTE MUNICIPAL ELECTION DAY for Toronto from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and advance voting days are October 7 to October 14 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. To vote you must vote in your ward, be a Canadian citizen, be 18 years or older, live in Toronto and show document with valid address. Must also show identification as an Ontario issued photo card, driver's licence or motor vehicle permit, the vehicle portion For more information call .416-392-CITY (2489), email 311@toronto.ca or call 311 or Twitter @311Toronto

OCTOBER 28 & 29 MIMICO RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION is hosting a Halloween Dance October 28 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tickets at door. October 29 there is Mimico Halloween Yard Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at David Hornell Junior Public School,. For more info call Mike Majeski at 416-988-3425.

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Thousands of police, politicians and residents honour slain Toronto Police Const. Andrew Hong



TORONTO POLICE Const. Andrew Hong

Etobicoke's Toronto Congress Centre on Dixon Road was packed with mourning police officers, politicians and community residents who turned out to celebrate the life of slain Toronto Const. Andrew Hong.

Hundreds of friends, co-workers and family paid tribute to the man affectionately dubbed "Honger," the 48-year-old officer who was killed in a September 12 ambush during his lunch hour at a Mississauga Tim Hortons.

Hong was one of two victims who died shortly after the shootings,

with a third dying days later.

"He was a big man with a big personality. He was larger than life," Hong's wife, Jenny, said during the service. "We miss him every day, and our home will always feel empty without him."

She told his friends and police family it would have been their 21st wedding anniversary.

Friends said Hong loved his family and being a police officer, who adored motorcycles, animals, cooking, Star Wars and video games.

Hong's daughter, Mia, said her dad was always her biggest and loudest supporter.

"Dad, thank you for everything you've taught me," she said. "I won't forget it, I promise. Goodbye, dad."



Const. Hong's police hat was carried past his family, wife Jenny Hong and children Mia and Alex during his emotional

September 21 funeral service.

Interim Police Chief James Ramer was among the officers who saluted Hong outside the building as a hearse arrived carrying a casket draped in a Canadian flag.

The procession arrived after four planes from the Waterloo Warbirds group, made up of active and retired police officers, performed a "missing man" flyover in a tribute to slain officer.

Ramer told Hong's grieving family that the force will miss a cherished colleague and beloved mentor.

"But today we pledge to be here for you," he said. "We pledge to be here for each other. We pledge to follow in your husband,

father and son's example of humility, kindness and strength."

Premier Doug Ford praised Hong's public service during his 22-year career as a police officer.

"He dedicated almost half of his life to the service, and was a dutiful and respected officer every day of those 22 years," Ford said.

"Sometimes these heroes make the ultimate sacrifice."

His police family saluted the funeral cortege as the procession paid tribute to Hong's career with the force's motorcycle unit. A number of motorcycle officers acted as honorary pallbearers and accompanied the hearse along hushed Toronto streets.

Hong spent the past 19 years of his career with Toronto police traffic services working with a specialized motorcycle unit that provides security escorts for dignitaries.

The father of two began his policing career in 2000, moved to traffic services two years later and "found his passion in the Motor Squad" in 2008, Toronto Police Services said.

Police said Hong was "extremely passionate about his work" and excelled in his role as a motorcycle instructor, where he helped train other officers. His wife said he loved training people to ride, and he always came home from work energized.

"I can't believe they pay me to ride a motorcycle," she said her husband would often say. Hong is among 18 police officers who have been deliberately killed in Toronto since 1901.



CONST. ANDREW HONG's grieving family accept his service hat and views his casket (left). Courtesy photos.

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Canada EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO Ontario

Spotting majestic hawks in our High Park

Story and Photos
By Dennis Hanagan

Visitors to High Park this autumn will see a small group of people with binoculars standing on a little hill gazing at the sky, eagle-eyed to spot hawks – and eagles, too.

They're part of the annual Raptors Watch that starts every September on Hawk Hill near the park's centre. They're recording the number of raptors (birds of prey) heading south for the winter.

It's astounding to learn how far many of these birds will fly.



bodies of water so they cling to the north shorelines of Lakes Ontario and Erie. At the Detroit River they cross into the U.S. and fan out. Some choose to cross at Niagara.

Data collected from the watch is submitted to the Hawk Migration Association of North America, useful information for researchers in various fields. There are more than 200 hawk watch sites in North America.

One morning in early September the Hawk Hill group counted turkey vultures, eagles, hawks and falcons – 15 birds in all. But the day was still young.

"If the wind is from the right direction, if you're lucky, you might see hundreds of (broad winged hawks) at a time," said Hoffman. Aside from the broad-winged

hawks and turkey vultures other raptors travel solo or in trickles.



DEDICATED TORONTO BIRD LOVERS gather at High Park with chairs and binoculars in search of hawks and eagles flying by. Photos by Dennis Hanagan. Shot of hawk (above) is from stock photo.

"They come from as far away as the Arctic Circle, depending on what (specie) we see. But for the most part they're coming from the north, the bulk of them from the

Boreal Forest," said raptor watcher Alex Hoffman. Some will head as far south as South America and some to the Caribbean. Lazier ones will find a place to perch on the U.S. east coast.

Raptors prefer to fly in a northwest wind. They don't like crossing large

Donald Taylor, a newcomer to the watch, was impressed by the expertise he sees in the more seasoned hawk watchers.

With a little exaggeration, he says "there are people on this hill who can spot a raptor at five miles and tell you what it is."

He's getting a library book called *Hawks in Flight* so he can be an eagle-eye, too. Hoffman said some watchers are so experienced they can determine the age and sex of many raptors' species in flight, hundreds of feet up – even subspecies. Watchers see a positive trend, at least for raptors. They're among some of the groups of birds whose numbers are not in steady decline, said Hoffman. "I'm not sure why they're currently more resilient than others."

New watchers are welcome to join. For more information email hawkwatch@torontobirding.ca or visit www.torontobirding.ca.



NEWCOMER DONALD Taylor is zoned in to see raptors, or birds of prey.

City Councillor for Ward 3, Etobicoke-Lakeshore

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Canada's top speed skaters train with Etobicoke's fastest

Two top Canadian speed skaters were in the community recently to practice with local up-and-coming fast skaters. Ivanie Blondin and Jordan Pierre-Gilles were at the Ford Performance Centre, formerly the Mastercard Centre for Hockey Excellence at 400 Kipling Ave., to work out with members of the Toronto Speed Skating Club (TSSC). The TSSC hosted a Medals on Tour event on September 14. The athletes are used to a steady stream of autograph seekers and those who want selfie photos taken with them and their medals.



CANADA'S TOP SPEED SKATERS Ivanie Blondin (center) and Jordan Pierre-Gilles (right) with two time Olympic coach Anastasia Bucsis. Photo by Tom Godfrey.

Cup, World Championship and Olympic medalists to six communities. Ken George, of the TSSC, said it is important that his fast skaters meet and learn from medal-winning athletes: "They can learn a lot from the champions." Blondin moved to Calgary in 2010 to focus on long track speed skating and has become one of Canada's most decorated and well-rounded skaters, according to Speed Skating Canada.



SPEEDSKATER Jordan Pierre-Gilles gladly autographs a helmet for a young fan.

She has won a total of 60 World Cup medals, including gold in five different disciplines – 1500 metre, 3000m, 5000m, Mass Start and Team Pursuit – during the 2019-2020 season.

The Ottawa native made her Olympic debut at Sochi 2014 — the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia — earning a fifth-place result in the Team Pursuit. She followed that up by posting top-six finishes in the Team Pursuit, 3,000-metres and 5,000-metres in her second Olympic appearance at PyeongChang, South Korea, in 2018. Pierre-Gilles joined the World Cup circuit mid-way through the 2019-2020 season and quickly showed that he has what it takes to compete against the world's best.

The Sherbrooke, Quebec native earned four top-10 results in his inaugural World Cup campaign and ended his first season by winning his first gold medal in the men's relay. "This is a great sport and people like it once they try it," said Anastasia Bucsis, a two-time Olympics coach for long track skating and CBC journalist. "Ontario has produced many great speed track athletes." Cucusis is here to re-acquaint and skate with the athletes.



SPEEDSTER PIERRE-GILLES is all business on the ice. He can fly. Courtesy photo.



SPEEDSKATER IVANIE BLONDIN is shooting to bring home an Olympic gold medal for Canada.

"It is great to be here and to travel the country and meet the younger skaters," Blondin said. "We are trying to inspire the younger generation to get into the sport." She signed up for speed skating after meeting 2006 Winter Olympics skater Amanda Overland as a girl. Pierre-Gilles said they are raising awareness of the sport for a new generation of people. "If you like speed then you would like this," he said. "We love being out here and encouraging and helping to motivate young people to try the sport."

Speed Skating Canada and Intact Insurance partnered on a cross-country tour that took top World

Etobicoke man busted with 11 catalytic converters in a GTA auto part theft ring



OFFICER with valuable in-demand catalytic converter.

An Etobicoke man is under arrest and 11 catalytic converters and other items seized as police cracked a ring stealing the expensive part from parked vehicles.

Two other suspects who managed to escape are being sought in a police dragnet.

Halton Regional Police said they seized the catalytic converters, two reciprocating saws, multiple batteries and blades during their probe of the thefts.

Eight of the eleven seized catalytic converters were reunited with their owners, saving each victim thousands of dollars in repair and replacement costs, police said.

Officers allege the thieves would prowl through affluent neighbourhoods at night searching for vehicles with the catalytic converters, which they would then steal. The items are later

resold at high prices for their rare materials inside.

The police investigation began last May 19 after officers were called for a suspicious vehicle with three men inside in an industrial lot in Milton.

"Upon police arrival, the motor vehicle fled at a high rate of speed and, in doing so, struck a curb causing significant damage to one of its tires," according to a Halton police release.

Police located the abandoned vehicle in the Trafalgar Road and Steeles Avenue area and found the tools and catalytic converters inside.

Through good police work, investigators obtained nine judicial authorizations, which led to a suspect being arrested on September 8.

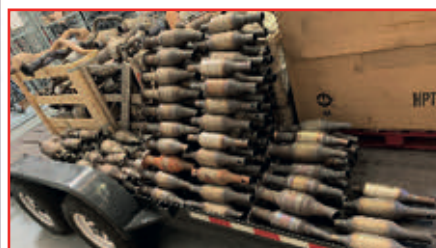


STOLEN CATALYTIC CONVERTERS freshly cut off vehicles (above) and loaded in truck for sales elsewhere at higher prices by thieves. **Police photos.**

Ray Cako, 22, of Etobicoke, has been charged with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, four counts of theft under \$5,000, four counts of mischief under \$5,000, possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000 and possession of break instruments. The suspect was released on an undertaking and is still before the courts.

Two suspects remain unidentified in connection with this case. Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to contact D/Cst. James Walsh

of the 1 District Criminal Investigations Bureau at 905-825-4777 ext. 2422.



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Our City of Festivals



THE TASTE OF THE KINGSWAY was fun from September 9 to 11 with a lot of food and entertainment after a two year hiatus. There were three stages with pretty good entertainment. The Kingsway BIA has been putting on South Etobicoke largest street festival for more than 20 years. It was nice that a major thoroughfare was temporarily shut.

FUN HAD BY ALL as these enterprising vendors are hard at work at the Franklin Horner Community Centre Family Fun Fair Extravaganza on September 10, which was fun with a lot of food and entertainment, like the Tall Man (right) who had kids entertained. The band Oddibles had the crowd moving. The pair above were selling hand-quilted caps, just what we need in the months ahead. This is the 17th year the Extravaganza has been taking place.



THERE WAS A GOOD TURN OUT at the Bloor West Village Toronto Ukrainian Festival on September 16 to 18. The food was good ad 100% of ticket proceeds went towards purchase of medical evacuation vehicles and other local initiatives throughout Ukraine. Photo courtesy of Ukrainian Festival. The community wants you to discover Ukrainian culture in Canada and share the Ukrainian spirit at North America's largest Ukrainian Street Festival. A team of Ukrainian artists decided to turn their feelings of grief into an immersive experience that showcases the effects of the war in Ukraine.



MEMBERS OF THE Ludowa Nuta Polish Choir at the Roncesvalles Polish Festival on September 17 and 18. The festival is now in its 15th year of food, art, music and community that is made possible by the Roncesvalles Village BIA, Photo courtesy of Polish Association.



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