

# The South Etobicoke News

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## Tight race from 102 candidates vying for next TO Mayor

Who from the 102 candidates will be chosen the next Mayor of Toronto The race to fill the Mayor's chair for the City has brought us hundreds of proposals – some good some not – from the potential leaders.

Recent polls suggest that former city councillors Olivia Chow, Josh Matlow, Ana Bailão and former police chief Mark Saunders are leading the pack of candidates mostly due to name recognition.

The election will take place on June 26 and candidates are in full campaign mode. The next Mayor will serve until the 2026 city council term. Some of the other top-contenders running are councillors Brad Bradford,



LONG TIME POLITICIAN OLIVIA CHOW (left) is being polled as a frontrunner in the race for Toronto Mayor on June 26. She is being followed closely behind by Anna Bailao, former Toronto police chief Mark Saunders (right) and others in a race that has attracted more than 100 candidates. Courtesy photos.

Anthony Perruzza, former Liberal MP Mitzie Hunter, journalist Anthony Furey, Giorgio Mammoliti, Rob Davis, Chloe Brown, Celina Caesar-Chavannes, Blake Acton, Phillip D'Cruze, Brian Graff and Knia Singh

Ourland Community Centre, at 18 Ourland Ave., and Fairfield Seniors Centre, at 80 Lothian Ave. Advance polls are open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. You must vote at your designated poll on election day.

among others. TTC safety, road fixtures, public security and public housing are some of the top issues for candidates, with Bradford announcing he'd like to see a program set up to better monitor criminals out on bail.

Many residents avoid the rush and vote in advance polls, which runs from June 8 to 13 at 50 polls citywide. In Etobicoke Lakeshore, Ward 3, advance polls are at

## Residents have mixed feelings about new towers

Some 200 outraged Long Branch residents met to try and stop a proposed redevelopment of seven buildings into towers on Lake Promenade and Park Blvd., at Marie Curtis park.

An application was filed to city officials last month by The Lake Promenade Co-Tenancy to redevelop 220, 230 and 240 Lake Promenade, along with 21 and 31 Park Blvd. The residents met at the Legion Hall, on Lake Shore Blvd., to discuss ways to fight the proposal.

But City Council last May 10 voted in favour of the construction of multiplexes across the city.

The five seven-storey rental apartment buildings and condos are proposed to be from 12 to 30 storeys high and contain 129,343 square feet in floor area.

Two of the buildings are planned to be rentals, with 548 units and 29 market



LONG BRANCH AREA RESIDENTS HAVE MIXED feelings about a multiplex redevelopment proposed for apartments (left) on Lake Promenade and Park Blvd., Some of which are slated to be 30 storeys high (centre and right). Hundreds of community members attended a meeting to try and stop the move but city council ruled multiplexes will go ahead. Residents warn that 141 trees will be removed in the project, including 89 that are protected. Courtesy photos.

rental units. Three others will be condos, with 1,444 units planned. The five will have 2,021 rental units.

"This will change the character of Long Branch forever, and not for the better," said long-time area resident Pat Rice.

"This isn't the thin edge of the wedge, this is the wedge." He said the new buildings will be to "tall and this

development doesn't fit into the area."

The proposal includes two public parks, 1,307 vehicle parking spaces and 1,642 bicycling parking spots.

Documents filed to Etobicoke York community council promised the plan will "rejuvenate the site and surrounding area, while respecting the neighbourhood character of Long Branch." Toronto's

Long Branch neighbourhood was developed a century ago and residents take great pride in their community. Area historian Bill Zufelt described the project as a "total mess and a monster."

Long Branch has seen an "influx of reinvestment" in recent years and the proposed development is very much in line with the densification of the area,

according to reports.

Residents claim there are 191 trees on the site and within six metres that provide essential green infrastructure to the community.

"The developers want to remove 141 trees, including 89 protected trees," said. There is no word if another meeting to contest the proposal is planned.



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## June 10 is Grill Cheese Challenge

# Stolen PIA gold puzzle

Investigators believe \$20 million worth of gold and other high-value goods stolen in a lightning quick heist from Pearson airport may have been melted down by now and moved on by area crooks.

The high-profile heist occurred in early April after the shipment arrived on an Air Canada flight and stored in a holding cargo facility on an outer side of the airport.

Only a few airside workers had information on the shipment and police believe the well-planned theft was an inside job.

Air Canada's cargo operations were handling the \$20 million worth of high-value goods mysteriously stolen from Toronto Pearson Airport, police said. The valuables were off loaded from an Air Canada plane that landed at the airport late in the evening.



**CACHE OF GOLD** similar to above is still missing after being stolen in a brazen heist from a warehouse at Pearson Airport (below.) Police still have little clues to work on and suspect the gold have been melted down by now for resale by the thieves. **Courtesy and Pearson photos.**

The airline's cargo operations were in possession of the goods when they disappeared, police said. Authorities said the millions in gold and other high-value goods had been stolen in a theft that has left police with a limited number of leads.

Police have not named any suspects, and indicated they do not know who is responsible for the heist. "As per normal procedure, the aircraft was unloaded and cargo was transported from the aircraft to a holding cargo facility," Insp. Stephen Duivesteyn said. Some investigators believe the gold has since been melted down and resold on the black market due to the high profile nature of the case. The unique theft made news around the world.



# Two rushed to hospital after lake SeaDoo splash



**MEMBERS OF MARINE UNIT** (top, bottom) get ready to take a man and woman to hospital after they fell off a SeaDoo in cold Humber Bay. **Photos by Christina Murie.**

A man and woman were taken to hospital after being pulled out of Humber Bay in one of Toronto Police's first Lake Ontario rescue of the year. Members of the force's Marine Unit are again warning boaters and those riding Sea-Doos to wear properly attached life jackets since the water is still very cold. The incident occurred 12 p.m. on May 22 after emergency services were called to the Humber Bay Substation to respond to a suspicious incident.

Toronto police said its marine unit was at the scene after reports of an unoccupied Sea-Doo in the water. A man and woman were found and taken to hospital. Paramedics said they rushed a man to hospital in critical condition. He was transported under an emergency run. The woman was in serious but stable condition. Police are investigating the incident. The lake and dock is a popular spot

for police and area boaters in the hot weather. In July 2022 a man drowned after falling off a tour boat into Lake Ontario near Ontario Place. Police said the marine unit found him, medics performed CPR, but the man passed away in hospital.

In August last year a woman was pulled from Lake Ontario near Marie Curtis Park when the

marine unit responded to a call of a body found at the edge of the beach. Medics performed life-saving measures but the woman was pronounced dead at the scene. And in July 2021 the body of a 40-year-old man was found after he went missing while scuba diving at Humber Bay Park marina. The police responded to a call at about 7:57 p.m. that two men went underwater and one of them didn't resurface.



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# Black community members awarded for deeds

Prominent members of Toronto's Black community were honoured for giving back and helping others at the 41st Harry Jerome Awards held by the Black Business and Professional Association (BBPA).

The 13 honorees were credited last April for making significant contributions to the "meaningful advancement of the Black community in various sectors."

"Together, we can continue to uplift and advance the Black business community in Canada," said Nadine Spencer, CEO of the BBPA. Among those being recognized were high-profile CTV reporter Andria Case and long-time youth leader, mentor and broadcaster,



**AWARD WINNERS INCLUDED** Spider Jones (left), a former broadcaster who mentors youth, and CTV journalist Andria Case



SCULPTURE of Harry Jerome

Spider Jones, founder of the Believe to Achieve organization to help youth and a retired champion boxer and activist.

Also honoured were Rick Gosling, with a President Award; Lindell Wiggington with a family athlete

Seun Richards.

A health sector award went to Jennifer Bernard and decade leader to Agapi Gessesse.

The black-tie event that was attended by Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell and highlighted some of the businesses in Little Jamaica and the styles and talents of local designers.

"This demonstrates one of the many ways that the BBPA is working to empower and promote the growth of Black businesses in Canada," organizers said.

The event featured opera performer Queen Hezumuryango and National Ballet of Canada star and former awards recipient, Siphe November. Many of the awardees have gone on to become mentors to others and leaders in the Black community.

award; Emma Todd with a professional excellence award; Rosemary Powell for leadership; Colleen Ward for technology, Frantz Saintellemy for business; Deborah Richardson for diversity; arts to Ngozi Paul and young entrepreneur award to Agunbiade



**SOME 13 WELL-DESERVING MEMBERS OF THE BLACK** community were honoured with awards at the 41st annual Harry Jerome Awards put on by the Black Business and Professional Association at a black-tie event, which highlighted some of the businesses in Little Jamaica and the styles and talents of local designers. **Courtesy photos.**

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**What's Inside**

- MORE COPS HIRED . Page 4
- CALLS TO SAVE TREE .. Page 5
- OASIS SHAWARMA ... Page 8
- LIGHTFOOT IN THE HOOD .. Page 9
- FROM THE BENCH .. Page 12
- THINGS TO DO .. Page 14

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# Ontario hiring more cops to deter street crime

More Toronto police officers are being recruited to the force to help deter crime in the community. The province is making it easier for police services to recruit and train officers by removing tuition fees for the basic constable training program at the Ontario Police College (OPC) and by expanding the number of recruits who can be trained yearly, said Premier Doug Ford.

“Ontario is grateful to the thousands of brave women and men who serve as police officers across the province, keeping our communities safe,” Ford told trainees at the Toronto Police College, on Birmingham Street, on April 25. “To push back the tide of crime in our communities, we’re getting more boots on the ground.”

He was accompanied by Etobicoke Lakeshore MPP Christine Hogarth, the Parliamentary Assistant to the Solicitor General, and S-G Michael Kerzner.

“We are making the path to becoming a police officer as open as possible by expanding enrolment at the OPC and covering 100 per cent of the tuition cost for basic constable training,” he said.

The number of trainees will increase from 480 to 550 starting next year.

Legislation is also being introduced to eliminate the post-secondary education requirement to become a

police officer. If passed trainees will only require a secondary school diploma to become a cop.

The 66-day training program cover a variety of topics, including traffic law, human rights, diversity, leadership, ethics, mental health for first responders and people in crisis. There are also courses on community safety, defensive tactics, use of force, de-escalation techniques, firearms and officer safety.

The OPC is continually reviewing and modernizing its curriculum, programming, and training to address current needs, trends and best practices, police said.

The Toronto Police Service employs about 5,400 officers and 2,500 civilian employees. It is the largest and best paid force in Canada.



PREMIER DOUG FORD IN A MEET and greet (above, below) with officers at Toronto Police College where he outlined plans to recruit more cops to the force by eliminating tuition and college courses. It is meant to put more “boots on the ground” to fight crime in the province. Courtesy photos.



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

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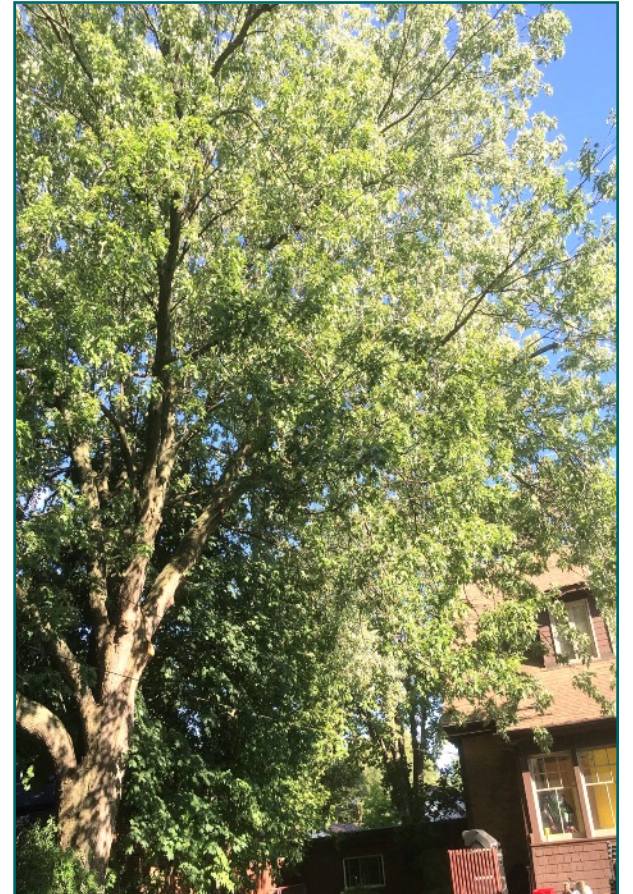
# Residents fight to save old tree from being axed

A 100-year-old Silver Maple tree in leafy Long Branch faces being axed by a builder who has applied to the city to build a large home. The tree is close to a property line at 42 Ash Cres., near Lake Shore Blvd. and Twenty Eight Street. If approved the heritage tree will lose at least half its roots and half its tree canopy, residents said.



More than 100 residents have signed letters of objections and a petition is underway to save the tree. A hearing is being held to determine its fate. "It will die," warned homeowner Sandy Donald. "This will also set a precedent that no tree in

Toronto is safe, no matter its size or even if it is a historical tree." She said the Silver Maple is one of four trees in Long Branch that has been recognized as an historical tree by Forest Ontario. "The tree is more than 100-years-old and from the original urban forest that covered Long Branch when it was developed back in the 1920," Donald said. Residents said in the early 1900's Long Branch was promoted as "Close to Nature and close to the City," which is still a characteristic of the neighbourhood. "Long Branch's tree canopy has dropped from 27% in 2009 to 15% in 2018, according to a University of Toronto Forestry study. The area has lost more of its tree canopy than any other neighbourhood in Ward 3. Area residents are petitioning City Hall and on social media to save of the old trees, many of them are more than 100-years old. "Every old growth tree we lose before its natural end affects our planet in a terrible domino effect," wrote Donna W. "Our descendants need every available tree in order to breathe and survive." "Atrocious!! Do not allow this to happen," said Annmarie Vrscaj. "If you removed all the Silver Maples in Long Branch there would not be much left," wrote another resident.



LONG BRANCH RESIDENTS are trying to prevent a majestic 100-year-old Silver Maple from being cut. Courtesy photos.

"The builder bought the property with the intent of cutting this tree down. When is it going to stop?" Area residents have been petitioning City Hall and on social media to save of the old trees.

The old growth tree is from the original urban forest that covered Long Branch when it was developed in 1920.

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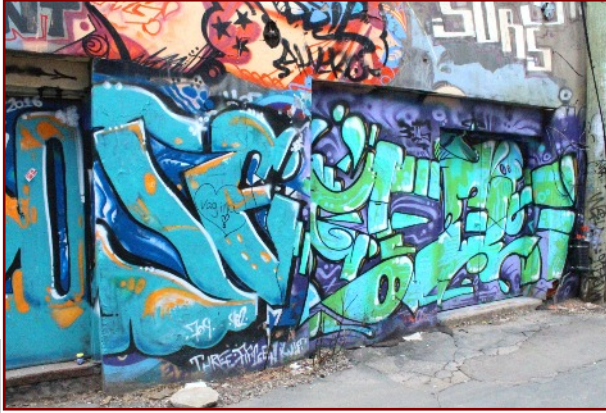
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# Cracking down on graffiti in the community



**RESIDENTS WANT SOMETHING** done about the graffiti littering our stores and property in New Toronto and elsewhere. Police have their hands filled with other crimes other than going after graffiti criminals. **Courtesy photos.**



Many South Etobicoke stores and business owners are complaining about a rise of eye-sore graffiti being sprayed by vandals and causing harm to their premises.

They said it costs them money, or they can be ticketed by the city, for not having to pay from their own pockets, to have the spray-painted graffiti cleaned up in a timely manner.

Many store owners in New Toronto said they pay large sums to have the graffiti cleaned up only for it to be applied again by vandals within days.

Toronto Police have been forwarded more than 100 photos of graffiti on stores and vehicles, including some photos of the culprits in action. Police are short staffed to tackle most of the cases.

"Graffiti is a problem that if left unchecked can seriously damage the reputation of a community and adversely

affect the economy and quality of life enjoyed by residents," according to a Toronto Police brochure on Graffiti Crime and Prevention.

Police said graffiti is any writing, drawing or symbol applied to a surface without the consent of the property owner.

They said graffiti crime can lead to higher taxes for clean-up, lower property values, heightened fear of crime or cancellation or reduction of education or recreation programs.

"Graffiti that is not removed indicates that no one cares about the state of the community," police said. "The most effective method of deterring graffiti crime is removal within 24 hours."

Graffiti writers will not waste their time or materials and are "unlikely to return to locations that do not offer a good return for their efforts," officers wrote.

The risk of graffiti can be reduced by; restricting access to walls or vulnerable areas

by planting thorny bushes or building barriers, by increasing lighting in vulnerable areas to discourage vandals or apply graffiti resistant coatings or protectants to exterior walls.

They can also install security cameras to capture those responsible. Residents can also work with local officials

to restrict the sale of graffiti materials to those under the age of 18 or report anyone responsible for graffiti markings to Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS.



## West-enders lucky to have St. Joe's in their community for health care



**AN ENTRANCE TO ST. JOSEPH'S** Health Centre (top) and a wing of the 102-year hospital below. **Courtesy photos.**

Toronto west-end residents are fortunate to be served by St. Joseph's Health Centre that is busy undergoing \$1 billion in construction work that will last for several years.

The hospital, which is more than 100-years old, has embarked on a major redevelopment project to cater to the growing and diverse west-end Toronto community.

A patient tower is being constructed that will provide more beds, private patient rooms, the latest technology, infection prevention and control measures including new space for their emergency department, mental health in-patient programs, intensive care unit and operating rooms.

There will be more than 400 beds when the work is done. "We continue to care for the city's west-end communities, balancing continued commitment to the

care of those most in need with providing highly-specialized services in the community," according to information from the centre. The expanding facility was founded by The Sisters of St. Joseph in 1921, in what was once their Sacred Heart Orphanage. The Sisters were responding then to the growing need for health care and to prevent developers from expropriating the orphanage property.

Today the busy hospital employs about 1,800 physicians and other staffers and serves 500,000 area residents, including 125,000 new residents expected in 10 years. It receives 100,000 emergency department visits and 21,000 admissions yearly.

St. Joe's, as it is dubbed, is part of Unity Health Toronto along with St. Michael's Hospital and Providence Health Centre. Its' goal is to be "the best community-based teaching hospital in Canada."



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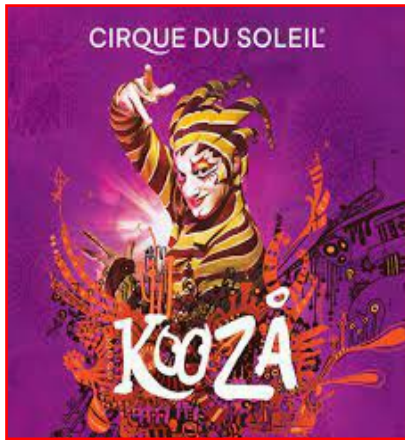
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# Humber Bay residents complain about circus traffic tie-ups

Many Humber Bay Shores residents are complaining that they cannot get to work or shopping due to traffic congestion from a big top circus staging shows on the former Mr. Christie cookie site. Cirque du Soleil is in town with a popular show, Kooza, which is packed with fans three times daily with shows in tents set up at 2150 Lake Shore Blvd., W., site of 15 upcoming condos. The production began in April and is slated to run until June 18.



“I am very concerned that this major event is being staged in a residential community without a traffic plan,” he said. “Residents were never notified or consulted of this production and it was shoved down our throat.” Other residents said they have to stagger their driving to when the shows are not in progress to get around the crawling traffic along Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Park Lawn Ave. areas. The City of Toronto says it is aware of the traffic congestion as attendees exit the parking lot and that



**HUMBER BAY RESIDENTS** are complaining about heavy traffic congestion and lack of parking in their area due to a circus in town. They said getting in and out of their condos is difficult with the increased traffic from patrons attending the Kooza shows multiple times daily. **Courtesy photo.**



**A KOOZA PERFORMER** entertains the crowd **Above, below photos courtesy of Kooza.**

Area residents said they are concerned Cirque du Soleil didn't think through the decision when choosing a location. “I don't think they thought about the parking situation,” said long-time area resident Chris Korwin Kuczynski. “There's so much land here but there are no through lanes for traffic.” Korwin Kuczynski said traffic congestion in the area is always horrible especially at rush hour as residents head out or return from work.

staff are reviewing traffic management options, working with organizers to reduce congestion as much as possible. The Montreal-based entertainment company has signed a multi-year deal to return to the Etobicoke location. Cirque du Soleil officials have offered area residents a 20 per cent discount to attend the show. Kooza has performed before eight million spectators with over 4,000 performances in 65 cities in 22 countries.

# Toronto Tibetan Rotary Club established to help Tibetans

Members of the Tibetan community held a lively cultural event last month to celebrate the charter of the Toronto Tibetan Rotary Club to help and give back to residents. The Toronto Tibetan Rotary Club's charter took place on May 12, at the Tibetan Canadian Cultural Centre, on Titan Road. It was attended by hundreds of people and featured the best of their culture, entertainment and cuisine. The event was a milestone for the club's founding president Deki Nangchok Shukla, who like many

Tibetan immigrants, faced obstacles and challenges including discrimination, cultural barriers, and economic hardships. “It was the desire to create tangible change in the community and the desire to bring a positive impact in the world, whether it be through volunteering, donating to causes we believe in, or working in fields that align with our values,” said Shukla. Her desire to see Tibetans rise above those challenges and not let it define them, along with her desire to follow the path of universal responsibility as envisioned by Dalai Lama, led to the creation of the Rotary Club.

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# Oasis boasts to have the best shawarma in Etobicoke area

Chef Kanwalpreet (Kay) Singh boasts that his Long Branch restaurant makes the tastiest shawarma in the community,

Singh, 26, is the owner of the family-run Oasis Shawarma and Wings eatery, located at 3308 Lake Shore Blvd. W., near Thirtieth Street.

"Everything is cooked daily," Singh said. "We have large coolers but all our food is cooked on the spot" He said his fresh meats are marinated with aromatic spices brought in from Turkey.

"People around here love our food," Singh said. "We have been getting a lot of support from area residents." The shawarma shop has been open for six months and already Singh is looking at opening a second location in the area.

The family immigrated from India several years ago and he operated another shawarma outlet before setting up shop in Long Branch, "where the people are friendly and kind."

"There are a number of shawarma restaurants in the area but people tell us they love our food," he said. "They tell us that all the time."

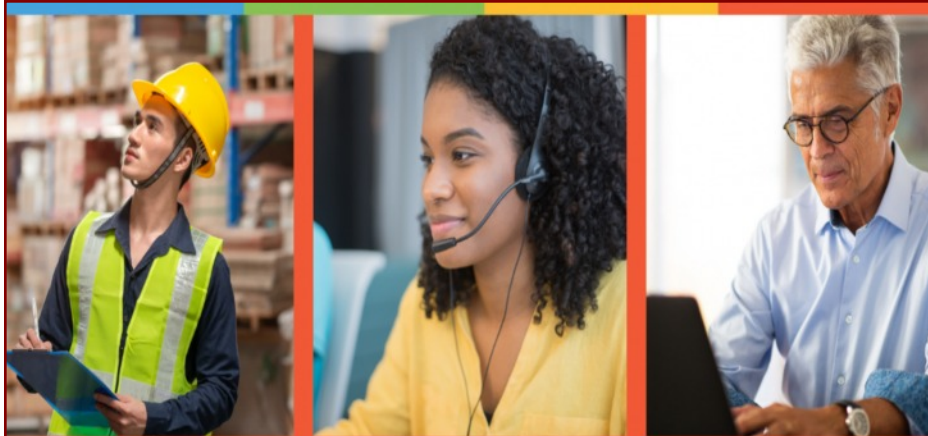
The diners agree judging from reviews about the restaurant left on Google and other online platforms. "Fresh delicious food in generous portions and super friendly service," one diner wrote.

"I'm vegan and the staff were super helpful and there were no compromises on flavour," another person said. "The owner is also the chef and the food is fantastic and the service caring," said another.

Oasis Shawarma and Wings can be reached at 647-368-8200 or dine in at 3308 Lake Shore Blvd. W.



CHEF KAWALJEET SINGH outside his Oasis Restaurant which he says has the best shawarma in the area. Below are some of his dishes. Photos by Tom Godfrey.



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# Gordon Lightfoot and his days in Long Branch

By Bill Zufelt  
Chair History and Cultural Committee Long Branch



THE LATE GORDON LIGHTFOOT and his early singing buddy Terry Whalen (above, below) as they perfected their craft in Long Branch. Courtesy photos.

“He could see things that no one else could” says a long-time friend at Gordon Lightfoot’s Orillia funeral service. Indeed, Lightfoot’s innate lyrical, precision, transparent, poetry wrapped in melodious canvas is unrivaled. As the global tributes continue to overflow his chalice of life celebrations, one needs to counterpoint to the thirstier years of Lightfoot’s humbler beginnings. Even before his ‘troubled troubadour’ years Lightfoot’s mastery of music earnestly began when he returned to Toronto in the fall of 1958 from the prestigious Westlake College of Music in Los Angeles. Now equipped and fueled with the critical mantras of music making, Lightfoot was eager to start penning and performing. Lightfoot’s long-time Orillia high school and singing buddy Terry Whalen, was already living in the then ‘Village of Long Branch.’ Whalen had enrolled in

Teachers College on Twenty Third St. to pursue his vocation as a public school teacher. Long Branch was quaint and comfortably fit the bill of providing the necessary amenities, and albeit some ‘local watering holes’. It was steps to Lakeshore Blvd., and the cross-city TTC Neville Park-Long Branch 501 Queen streetcar. Lightfoot rented an apartment on the east side of Twenty-Fifth Street. Lightfoot and Whalen’s singing duo was still known as the ‘Two Timers’ but they updated their name to ‘Two Tones’ in line with the growing demand for popular folk music. The ‘Two Tones’ besides appearing at Toronto west end coffee houses and clubs, frequently performed at the Teachers College especially dances. One teacher reminisced them singing ‘up front and center’ in the school gymnasium. “Who would have thought that Lightfoot would eventually become a world star” she fondly recalls.

The big break for the Two Tones came when they recorded their ‘live’ album at The Village Corner in 1962. Produced and promoted by music entrepreneur Art Snider, success was in hand.

To pay the rent though, Lightfoot’s day job was at the Royal Bank of Canada.



We can all thank Lightfoot for quitting his “day job” dealing with green backs and trading it in for the priceless currency of music. Also living in Lightfoot’s building were country singers

Tommy Hunter and Tommy Commons. This friendship led to side gigs as a choral singer and dancer on CBC’s ‘Country Hoedown.’ Not exactly Gordon’s forte but the invaluable television experience cemented another career brick.



GORDON LIGHTFOOT in later years.

In 1962, Lightfoot was invited to Nashville to record 12 songs for Art Snider’s Chateau Label. Remember Me ( I’m the One) of the cuts, reaches the top 10 in Canadian charts. Later Lightfoot performed on the CFTO-TV Bobby Curtola show ‘Hi-Time’.

In 1963 Lightfoot abruptly uprooted Long Branch, flew to Sweden and married Brita (his first wife) and settled in London’s Gloucester Road. There, Lightfoot hosted eight one-hour shows called ‘Country and Western’ for the BBC.

Never forgetting his Long Branch roots, Lightfoot returned to Toronto in 1964 and performed his ‘first ever’ all original (including ‘Early Morning Rain’) solo concert at Teachers College.

Even Lightfoot admits that despite all his training and study these beloved songs just come to him. It’s like his song is already on paper and he just inks in the blanks. I know there is a current moratorium on renaming Long Branch streets but when it is lifted, I am championing to rename Twenty-Fifth St. to Lightfoot Avenue. I think Gordon would like to see that or maybe, he already does.

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# Pastor raises funds to help fight addictions



**GUEST SPEAKERS AT A TEEN CHALLENGE CANADA** fundraiser for Pastor Veta Saunders of Etobicoke's Praise Centre who was also celebrating her birthday. Below are supporters who showed up to raise funds for a good cause and celebrate Saunders' birthday. **Photos by Christina Murie**

The program offers spiritual, academic and vocational training that helps equip individuals aged 18 and older to return to society as responsible citizens.

Its mission is to help individuals overcome substance addictions to lead full and productive lives.

The program was founded in 1958 by Pastor David Wilkerson who reached out to troubled street youth in New York City. Teen Challenge was created to meet the needs of these youths. Since then the ministry has spread around the world.

Teen Challenge is a non-profit, interdenominational program operating in 82 countries, with over 1,100 locations internationally, and continues to grow at a dramatic pace, officials said.

Some 1125 applications were made to the program in 2021 and 222 as clients stepped through the doors of one its centres nationwide. The session includes 43,639 hours in the classroom and 72,732 hours of work therapy in one year.

Originally located in Hamilton, Ontario, Teen Challenge was established in 1991 in Canada when a nursing home set on 46 acres became available. Teen Challenge purchased the property, converted it to a farm and



**CONGREGATION MEMBERS SING** happy birthday to Pastor Veta Saunders (with flowers) who used her birthday to raise more than \$1,000 for Teen Challenge Canada.

Pastor Vera Saunders, of the Etobicoke Praise Centre, in New Toronto, turned her birthday into a fundraiser to help a group that aid adults kick their addictions. "We cut them a cheque for \$1,000 right away," Saunders said recently of the funds she raised from supporters as they celebrated her turning 73-years-old. "It was a very successful event."

There were notable guest speakers and a sumptuous breakfast at the event to support Teen Challenge Canada.

The 12-month, faith-based, in-residence drug and alcohol rehabilitation program caters to adults who are 18-years and older. It is part of a network of more than 19 Teen Challenge Centres across Canada and more than 1,500 worldwide.

To learn more go to [www.teenchallenge.ca](http://www.teenchallenge.ca)



relocated its residential program to the new site.

About 80.7% of all funds raised go directly to client rehabilitation programming and administrative fees are kept low at 4.6%.

Programming costs include "community engagement," which is on-the-ground, community-focused programming. It includes pre-admission counselling, family support, graduate aftercare, celebrate recovery support groups and other addiction awareness events. Client fees are \$1,100 per person, and make up 2% of the overall cost of the program. The average monthly cost of one program bed is \$4,600.

"With zero funding from provincial and federal governments, Teen Challenge Canada relies solely on the generosity and support of community members and organizations," according to its information.

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Philip was one of the  
founding directors of  
the Long Branch BIA.



**RIDLEY FUNERAL HOME**

Guest Column by Brad Jones

I love to laugh. I have been known to snort and spray food or drinks out of my nose when ridiculousness unexpectedly appears. Nothing shifts a mood more quickly than a belly laugh. Even the tightest hug can't top laughter's medicinal powers. But every clown has a season. There are times when my popularity plummets at home and at the funeral home. Happily, those times are rare. For the most part. My tanking in the polls always correlates with how many practical jokes I am playing on my wife, six kids and staff. I am a sucker for jumping out of closets and inspiring screams. I've been known to leave strange anonymous phone messages. Yes, sometimes I'm laughing harder – way harder- than the person I've shocked, stunned or startled with my shenanigans. You simply can't feel sad, nervous, angry or afraid when you're laughing, whether you're giggling alone or belly-laughing with others. For people like me who see death up close every single day, you need to laugh. No, not at Death and surely not at the dead and grieving. (We're not ghouls.) The reason I choose to be the "grin reaper" among the people dearest and closest to me is because I realize that as we embrace the reality of death professionally and personally, we're rejuvenated and healed by laughter; funeral directors need regular reminding that there's great joy in being alive. In fact, I believe "normal folk" such as yourself benefit from life-laughter reminders. Yes, the world can look like it's falling apart, descending into darkness, burning down, splitting wide open, and going viral. But just like tears can signify joy or pain, life is fuelled by more than what's featured on the daily news or from the political campaign trail. So often people expect me to have a doom-and-gloom attitude and outlook on life. Why? Because I'm a funeral director. Supposedly I see the "worst of the worst." I see the very best in people. And I define "best" as whenever men, women and children gather and celebrate life while simultaneously mourning its passing. With over 30 years of undertaking under my ever-widening belt, I regularly watch the gap between birth, life and death exquisitely bridged. How? By the telling of stories. Some of the kindest, most generous, strongest, fierce and comical people I have ever heard about are souls I have never met – and will never meet. They're the dead who pass through our funeral home but their legacy remains in the stories their loved ones share and cherish. Every day I am blessed, as are my staff, to hear the stories of people's lives. Their triumphs. Headaches. Quirks. Heartbreaks. One of the reasons I let go of petty slights easily is that I know first-hand that people filled with regret and remorse – usually about their acts of anger and non-forgiveness – are tortured souls who tell the saddest stories about the people they've loved and lost. Once someone is dead, all bets are off. There are no more chances to be kinder, wiser, more patient. Eulogies are as old as the hills because we're a species hardwired to mourn and to grieve. Speaking the last public words about someone who's died is both a blessing and a burden. If there was ever a "favourite" part of a funeral most people, including funeral directors, would agree that eulogies are the most powerful and sacred, and sometimes the funniest, part of the services. Whether we're speaking at a funeral or listening to grieving storytellers, stories bring everything and everyone back to life. The shadow cast by the beloved's death is held off for just a bit longer. The "new normal" has not yet breached the gate. Stories about the dead people keep us in sunshine a touch longer before the new narrative, the story of our own lives minus those we love, launches us into a dark and dismal shadow-land that's as painful as it is ever-changing. My mom died 25 years ago and my father in 2019. I will tell you without a shadow of a doubt that my love for them has never ended, has never stopped flowing in their direction. Family does not end when death comes to your door. My parents remain a part of our family because they taught me and my sister the power of storytelling. The majority of my children never met their grandmother, yet they know both my parents and they know and, more importantly, they feel that they're connected to a larger although invisible family. There are few words that comfort a broken heart. But as a funeral director and as a son I do know that stories offer light and comfort when we're missing our beloved so much we can barely take a breath, stand up straight or fake a smile. There's a poem hanging in my office that's popular with funeral directors. Although written in the early 20th century. "The Undertaker" (See Page 7) poem expresses a timeless sentiment about people like me. "Cold-Blooded," you'll hear them say / Trained to the shock and chill of death / With a heart that's cold and grey." How can people so intimately involved with our humanity and our demise balance their own humanity and faith? In other words, how do I do what I do? – a question I am asked constantly. And the answer is sweetly simple, like most big truths are: I'm a funeral director because I believe in families. I believe in eternal love. And I know that we shape our lives, and we shape our legacy, by the stories we tell and leave behind.



**In the Community**

By TOM GODFREY

Thank you for all the phone calls, cards, letters and e-mails. I was ill for a while and had to suspend operations of the *South Etobicoke News*. I did not realize that hundreds of readers missed the newspaper and managed to get in touch to find out what happened, or if we were still publishing, since I did not leave an update. I was for a time hospitalized because I could not breathe. That itself was an experience dealing with hard-working medical staff, for whom I am thankful and have great appreciation for. The frontline workers at St. Joseph's Health Centre went beyond the call of duty to make sure their patients were cared for and that their needs were catered to. I am thankful to the Mimico Pharmasave supervisor who urged me to seek medical help and to those who worked hard to help me heal. There are many unsung heroes at St. Joes. I am also grateful to the many readers who called to inquire about the newspaper, or if we were we still publishing or where copies of the paper can be found. Some wanted to volunteer their services so the *South Etobicoke News* could stay alive and remain active in informing the community. They pointed out that often residents in Mimico are not aware of what is taking place in Humber Bay Shores, Mimico, New Toronto, Long Branch or Alderwood and the communities are not linked. "The newspaper helps keep the community together," one reader said. "It is required reading and is playing a major role in keeping us all informed." Local social agencies are also pleased that their events, fundraisers or services will continue to have a venue to be listed for free in our Community Calendar page to alert the community. Our stores and businesses owners are thankful in that they are starting to flourish again after being hit hard by the pandemic. We have to continue to support them so they can succeed and not shut their doors as many have. The better they do means the entire community prospers. We are lucky to have so many volunteers who give their time generously to help those among us who are less fortunate or victimized. Agencies as LAMP Community Health Centre, St. Margaret's Anglican Church New Toronto, Salvation Army, Women's Habitat of Etobicoke and Daily Bread Food Bank, among others, help those in need or require help. We are thankful to be here and continue or task in strengthening community journalism. There are a number of us who monthly get down to the business of dispersing the news to keep our residents informed so they too can make the best decisions. We are thankful to have you as readers.

**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

If seasons were friends and relatives, how would you describe your favourite season? (ok, I mean my favourite season) Obviously, it's summer. Maybe she's 'Auntie Summer'? She has a certain flare, warmth, a smile that lights up a room and welcomes everyone to visit and have dinner at her house, right?

As May flowers give way to June Bugs, summer BBQs and long breezy nights under the starry skies, I am so thankful for 'Auntie Summer'. The richness of the earth is undeniably beautiful in June. The aromas of gardens and the expanding opportunities to explore parks, hiking trails, cottages and campgrounds and finally the chance to dine alfresco nourish and soothe us. Your heart feels this. Your body craves this. Let's go outside. Our rich landscape awaits.

I offer you a challenge this June: explore a part of nature that you've never thought of before. I recommend the June Bug. Did you know that one in four of all animals now living is a beetle? Yes indeed, June Bugs are beetles. They're NOT bugs at all. They are insects. You may think they are creepy or scary looking, but as far as insects go, they are one of the harmless (unless they've taken over your green lawn!) and coolest insects to observe with your evening cuppa.

June Bugs also have very desirable relatives: lady bugs (which eat many pests in your garden). They have manners. Many beetles that chew on plant material, smaller insects or fungus chew their food thoroughly before swallowing. 'Auntie Summer' likes appreciates such dining etiquette. Plus, beetles hold many world records! The smallest insect in the world is Scydosella musawasensis beetle at less than 1mm long. Don't worry, I won't ask you to try and find that one! In many native cultures around the world, beetle signifies luck, hope, change, transformation and adaptation. Beetles are impressive in diversity and strength. Did you know the Horned Dung Beetle is named the strongest insect in the world? It can lift over 1000 times its own body weight. If you're looking for nature's superhero, it he's the one!

If the seasons were like family, we could say that they also collect some undesirable habits like people. 'Auntie Summer' is host to thousands of species of beetles including the Emerald ash borer or



Colorado potato beetle. Thankfully, these trouble makers are a small portion of all the beetle characters out there. Overall, beetles are great representatives of the diversity, complexity and beauty that grows in our gardens, parks and wilderness.

The heating, expanding energy of this month promotes discovering something new. Place your bare feet on the earth, on the grass, in a shallow cool running brook and listen to the welcoming call of summer.

If you're inspired to learn more about beetles after hours, go hunting for glowworms, lightning bugs or Lampyridae. These light-emitting marvels delight the young and young-at-heart alike. Commonly known as the Firefly, they confirm the arrival of our favourite growing season. The warm, June skies are a welcome playground, where 'Auntie Summer' delights you, invites you and encourages you to enjoy and explore. Remember your mission. June Bugs! For all the gardeners and nature lovers out there, you are welcome to join LEGS - Lakeshore Environmental Gardening Society. At legsetobicoke.ca we grow the community one plant at a time. You can find me playing in one of our many community garden spaces, with June Bugs, worms, native plants and so much more. Maybe you can help me grow our local Pollinator Path Garden. 'Auntie Summer' would like that very much!

I hope to 'leaf' you with a smile and a bit of laughter, with a few happy plant quotes:

I hope this day is lit  
No sun, no fun  
Don't stop be-leafing  
Botany plants lately?  
Pretty fly for a cacti  
Source: <https://thegiftedgabber.com/plant-quotes/>

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## From the Bench

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI

It's a unique election time.

What is being a Mayor about? It is one of the least commanding positions in any government.

A mayor is not all-powerful like a Premier. He or she is one among many elected officials who must obtain consensus from the council to achieve their goal. Mayors don't necessarily have the support of a majority of elected representatives as in parliament or the benefit of party politics for concise decision-making. They rule by compromise. It's not easy. Ever watch a debate between a suburbanite and a downtowner on transportation -- bikes, cars, and mass transit? Montreal has a party-type or parliamentary-like system where the Mayor has party support for their agenda. Here it's like negotiations in the USA on the debt crisis.

Constitutionally the city has no special powers. Toronto only has the authority the Province grants it. Ontario has denied the city the right to change our voting system; shrunk the size of the council; lengthened the term between elections; modified zoning rules, and recently given the Mayor power to override simple majorities. The last seems undemocratic but may go to minimize the gridlock over mass transit plans. Or was it to encourage Ford's preference for opening new developer opportunities?

The city has limited ways to raise funds -- service charges and real estate/business taxes. If it were a province, Toronto's budget would make it the sixth-largest government in Canada. Without a rational taxing power, Toronto depends much on provincial and federal handouts. The mayor has to appear bipartisan and a schmoozer.

The Mayor's only real power is appointing committee heads and setting the agenda or priorities. Without party support, they are less a leader and more an advocate balancing the interests of the inner city people and those that live in the suburbs with the political views of the province and the interests of the people in Ottawa. They are schmoozers and pleasers. Maybe it's time we grew up and demanded more independence from the province or at least more expansive powers to raise money. The latter would us give greater autonomy.

In the debate for Mayor, we must raise the issues and ask questions about how they will achieve their promises. Promises are only promises unless we know detail about how they will be achieved.

Sometimes contrarian is the better person, the visionary. Look at emergency housing for street people. Many people have run from abusive homes and have drug or mental problems. Some of these housing problems originated with previous provincial governments. Over 30 years ago, The province closed residential mental hospitals and promised to provide accommodation in the community. They saw the hospitals as jails. As they released these patients, they hadn't and never offered alternative housing leaving the city to cope -- no money or houses. We could build more emergency units, but would it cost tax money?

Contrary to business economics, Regina took up the cost and made small units for people experiencing homelessness. They found that the policing and health costs fell and paid for the housing. Solutions sometimes require creative thinking outside the usual silos. We need visionaries.

Caution choosing the business expert who wants to run Toronto like a business. Business and Government are different. A corporation's mission is to make profits. The government's mission is to provide for all citizens through the "common good" -- roads, schools, libraries, parks, rinks, theatres and police protection. Governments provide services. It's about the effective cost of these services, not their elimination for profit. A politician must respond to the interests of millions of voters.

In contrast, a corporate president has only to make a profit and is responsible to only a few shareholders, of which only significant ones influence the leader. His only obligation to them is to make money. Companies have the luxury of dumping a line of business because it could be more profitable or choosing to streamline their offerings to serve just one sector of the population. Government agencies do not. They cannot dump services for the sake of a redline. Business and public service ethics differ.

**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 17<sup>th</sup> floor balcony in March 1981. He can be reached at [lbudzinski@talkjustice.info](mailto:lbudzinski@talkjustice.info)**

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# Toronto city council approves multiplexes for housing crisis



THIS APARTMENT ON Lake Promenade is one of seven proposed for redevelopment into multiplexes, like the complexes below.

and it creates "market-based" units, not affordable housing. "Our members and neighbours wrote letters supporting multiplexes but not the removal of floor space index and not to increase the building length," according to the LBNA. "... because of the impact it will have, there will be destruction to our mature trees." They wrote the "monster-plexes will be much, much larger than the existing Long Branch multiplexes," since some of the planned towers will be 30-storeys tall. The LBNA claim there are 191 trees on the proposed site and within six metres that provide essential green infrastructure to the community.



SOME LONG BRANCH RESIDENTS were trying to prevent the redevelopment of 220, 230 and 240 Lake Promenade from apartments (left) to multiplexes, now approved by the city, some as tall as 30 storeys high, which they say will tower over small homes in the area. Courtesy photos.

Many area residents are disappointed with the Toronto City Council approval of multiplexes, which they say will impact housing and change the look of their communities.

"The developers want to remove 141 trees, including 89 protected trees," the group said. "This is not an example of gentle intensification or making living in Toronto affordable."

Council on May 10 voted 18-7 in favour of legalizing two, three and four-unit multiplexes, which had previously not been allowed in many areas, like South Etobicoke, due to restrictive zoning bylaws.

City staff told council that new options can help address the growing demand for housing as Toronto is

Councillors have agreed to a provincial plan to build 285,000 homes within the city over the next decade.



Members of the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association (LBNA) held a meeting at the Legion Hall, on Lake Shore Blvd. W., to try and stop the multiplexes being proposed at 220, 230 and 240 Lake Promenade and 21 and 31 Park Blvd., but it may be too late.

expecting 700,000 new residents by 2051 and sky-rocketing home and rental prices affordability is already a problem. Community residents said they are not convinced.



The group in a flyer said the change was not discussed during public consultations

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# Looking after yourself and others in the community

**JUNE 7 LAND TRUST AND TENANT** Networking in South Etobicoke: at 6 p.m. in person at LAMP to discuss the steps forward in establishing a land trust in South Etobicoke. Community Land Trusts are community led organizations which acquire and hold land in the interest of their local community. Contact Carly at LAHAAG info@lahaag.ca

**JUNE 9 FREE MEMORY SCREENING** if you are aged 50 to 90 at LAMP Community Health Centre. Contact Jasmin by e-mail at jasmind@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext 308.

**JUNE 9 and JULY 14 CANADIAN HEARING SERVICES** will be at LAMP Community Health Centre, at 185 Fifth Street, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sign up at reception for screening for hearing loss or to check for ear wax. Contact Jasmin by e-mail at jasmind@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext 308.

**JUNE 10 ANNUAL GRILL CHEESE**

**CHALLENGE** put on by the Lake Shore Village BIA runs from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. from First Street to Twelfth Street. Come join the fun as families enjoy treats from dozens of vendors and featuring live bands.

**JUNE 24 @ 10 a.m. A CELEBRATION** of life in dedication of the Philip Barker Memorial Garden at the north-west corner of Thirtieth Street and Lake Shore Blvd. Philip, an accountant, was a beloved founding member of the Long Branch Business Improvement Association. Organizers are giving away free seedlings and a BBQ with all proceeds going to Womens Habitat. For more info contact realtor Shelley Porritt at 416-259-9639 or e-mail shelleyporritt@gmail.com.

**JUNE 16 @ 17 MISSISSAUGA Creative Craft Beer Festival** with over 20 Ontario-based craft breweries, cideries and local food vendors. It takes place at the Small Arms Inspection Building, 1352 Lakeshore Road East, a 20-minute drive from Toronto's downtown or a 12-minute walk from the Long Branch Go Station. Tickets available at the door: <https://creative-craft-beer-festival.eventbrite.ca>.

**JUNE 26- DON'T FORGET** to vote for one of the more than 60 mayoral candidates running to occupy the Mayoral chair at Toronto City Hall. You need to show

an identity card that shows you are eligible to cast a ballot. For more visit [toronto.ca](http://toronto.ca)

**JUNE 20 LAMP's 23rd AWARDS of MERIT** to recognize our community champions take place on the lawn of 185 Fifth Street. Prestigious awards will be handed out to winners who go beyond the call of duty to improve the community. These include people, volunteers, organizations and businesses who have all contributed in significant ways. The event will be emceed by *Alicia Markson* again this year. The Etobicoke Jazz Band and other entertainment will entertain the crowd. Contact jasmind@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

**EVERY WEDNESDAY FREE SPRING CHAIR YOGA SERIES** for a series of gentle, seated yoga with certified Hatha Yoga Practitioner *Briar Boake* at 1 pm. These classes are offered in person and online at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street. The last 10 minutes of the class dedicated to moving to old songs. For more contact [crystaln@lampchc.org](mailto:crystaln@lampchc.org) or 416-252-6471.

**TUESDAYS at 2 p.m. IS A NEW TYPE OF CHAIR YOGA** Our *Chair Yoga & Mobility* class to find mobility that is soft, gentle, supportive and beneficial. The session activates the muscles throughout the spine for better posture and increased energy for beginners. A Chair Yoga & Mobility class with *Meaux* meets the body and helps you create safe movement and mobility habits. This is the go-to class for the prevention of muscular disuse due to aging and an increased sedentary lifestyle. To register contact [crystaln@ampchc.org](mailto:crystaln@ampchc.org) or call 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

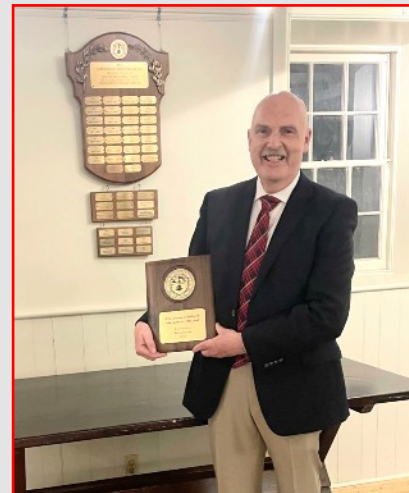
**WEDNESDAY 3 p.m. FREE ONLINE MEDITATION SERIES** Mindful Resilience to develop strategies to build coping skills and resilience. The meditations can also help with anxiety management or pain management sessions and will include techniques to focus on breathing and muscle relaxation. Facilitator *Corin De Sousa* is a graduate of the Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) and the Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) programs. To register contact 416-252-6471 ext. 308 or e-mail [crystaln@lampchc.org](mailto:crystaln@lampchc.org).

**EVERY OTHER MONDAY FREE LEGAL INFORMATION** and advice clinic by appointment only from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to provide basic legal information and advice in areas of law, notarization, Power of Attorney and other services. Call to book: at LAMP at 416-252-6471 ext. 280. at 185 5th Street.

**BURNHAMTHORPE COLLEGIATE ADULT LEARNING** Centre offers credit courses to learners (21 and over) in its adult program and to young adults (18-20) in our EdVance Program. Students may choose to work towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma or upgrade their skills in preparation for college, university or the workplace.

They offer multiple English Second Language courses from beginner to advanced four terms a school year. Each term serves as an entry point for potential students and affords learners the opportunity to earn up to three credits in nine weeks.

Some of the programs include PSW (personal support worker), child-care assistant, OYAP-hairstyling and co-operative education. Electives include food and nutrition, woodworking, green industries, Indigenous studies, equity/world cultures, fitness, business, computers and visual arts. Specially designed English as a second Language programming provides new Canadians with language and life skills. Contact Natasha Lesar at [natasha.lesar@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:natasha.lesar@tdsb.on.ca)



**WELL-KNOWN LONG BRANCH HISTORIAN** Bill Zufelt receives the annual Jean Hibbert Memorial Trophy from the Etobicoke Historical Society, who are marking their 55th anniversary, for his decades-long contribution to Etobicoke history. Photo by Christina Murie.

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# King Charles III on Canadian stamp & banknote

By IAN ROBERTSON  
Canadian Stamp Expert



**KING CHARLES III ON** a recently-released Canadian stamp (above) and an unapproved mock-up of what his \$20 dollar bill (bottom) may look like when released. **Courtesy photos.**

Canada's first King Charles III stamp was unveiled on May 6 - Coronation Day for him and his wife, Queen Camilla, at Westminster Abbey in London, England.

Award-winning London photographer Alan Shawcross took the photo during the 2022 Royal Tour, when the eldest son of the late Queen Elizabeth II and the late Prince Philip was Prince of Wales.

He became King of the UK and 14 other Commonwealth realms, including Canada, when his 96-year-old mother died last Sept. 8. The king has been Heir apparent since 1951, as Prince of Wales since 1958.

"His most recent trip (to Canada) in 2022 was part of Queen Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee celebrations," according to he Canadian News Wire service.

The 74-year-old king is the oldest person to have ascended to the throne. King William IV, the previous record-holder, was 64 when he became the monarch in 1830. The stamp, which shows King Charles wearing a jacket, shirt and tie, and displaying a slight smile, went on sale May 8 in booklets of 10, with self-stick peelable gum and die-cut perforations.



**KING CHARLES III** is also making the rounds in coins. The coin will not be in wide circulation in Canada for some time.

The King Charles definitive stamp is the first Canadian one to depict him. Starting in 1953, Queen Elizabeth was featured on more than 70 Canadian stamps, including definitives — regular issues in small formats for general use, plus commemoratives, which are special stamps based on sites, events, people or themes. King Charles will also replace Queen Elizabeth on Canadian coins and the \$20 bill. Marie Lemay, of the Royal Canadian Mint, said the process of making the king's official effigy for our currency has several steps and takes time..





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**Long Branch Garden Tour**

**Sat June 24 11am-3pm**

**Drop by our office at the rear lot, for a free tree seedling to the first 250 people while supplies last. (one per person)**

**3385 Lakeshore Blvd W (SW corner of 28th St)**

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