# Free SEPTEMBER 2023



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## Birds, wildlife killed in Mimico Creek from fire

More than 100 wild birds and animals were found dead and more are being rescued from Mimico Creek following fire retardant entering the wastershed from a massive six-alarm chemical fire in North Etobicoke.

Wildlife officials are warning area residents not to eat fish from Mimico Creek or the waters of Humber Bay Park due to a thick chemical substance floating on the waterways, which was in the process of being sucked up by vacuum trucks.

"Mimico Creek has had a chemical spill from a fire as well as fire retardant entering the watershed," officials of the Toronto Wildlife Centre said. "These chemicals can kill fish and make fish toxic for consumption." They said it







HUNDREDS OF BIRDS, FISH AND ANIMALS have been killed by chemical retardant from a fire (right) floating in Mimico Creek and Lake Ontario. Here a wildlife officer rescues some birds (centre, left) as the substance is sucked away by vacuum trucks. Residents are warned not to eat the fish

can take months before the fish is fit to be consumed by humans. Centre volunteers have been rescuing birds and animals which they wash and try to bring them back to life after they were covered with chemical pollutants. The fire

started at Brenntag Canada on Vulcan Street, in the Belfield and Martingrove Roads area, on August 11 shortly before 1:15 a.m. and quickly escalated. Crews arrived to find several trailers ablaze at the back of a chemical wholesaler that deals in engine. transmission oils and vehicle fluids as lubricants and solvents.

More than 100 firefighters battled the blaze for more than 12 hours. "The run-off from the water used to extinguish the fire made its way into

Mimico Creek, Humber River and other waterways," Centre workers said. "This potentially toxic substance, sitting about one-inch thick on top of the water, could have a serious impact on local water birds and other wildlife."

## Ward 3 Councillor Morley now a Deputy Mayor

First-term Ward 3 councillor Amber Morley has been given a big promotion by Mayor Olivia Chow who appointed the South Etobicoke native as deputy mayor representing Etobicoke.

Morley was also appointed to sit on the powerful and influential Toronto Police Services Board (TPSB).

Chow said her appointments are intended to reflect her commitment to a "deeply collaborative style of leadership and a renewed purpose to deliver the kind of change that the people demand." Councillor Jon Burnside, a former cop, was also named to the TPSB. Morley stunned the community and made a name for herself in October 2022 by

defeating long-time Councillor Mark Grimes for Etobicoke Lakeshore. Ausma Malik is the statutory deputy mayor of Toronto, Councillor Mike Colle is deputy mayor for North York, Coun. Jennifer McKelvie, who served as former





WARD 3 COUNCILLOR AMBER MORLEY (right) is Deputy Mayor for Etobicoke and sits on the Toronto Police Services Board (TPSB) after being appointed to the positions by Mayor Olivia Chow (left) in her new council, which will have four Deputy Mayors. Shelley Carroll was named chair of the budget committee and Jon Burnside to the TPSB

mayor John Tory's statutory deputy, is deputy mayor of Scarborough. McKelvie is also chair of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee and as a board member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), where she will push for more robust funding partnerships with other levels of government, Chow said.

Malik was elected in 2022 and has been one of the most vocal opponents of the province's controversial plan for the development of Ontario Place, which is in her ward of Spadina-Fort York.

All four deputy mayors will also sit on Chow's executive committee, the city's most powerful committee that sets key priorities and discusses big-ticket items.

Coun. Shelley Carroll is chair of the budget committee. The city hall veteran steps into the role as Toronto faces a nearly \$1.5-billion budget shortfall and projected deficits of billions of dollars in funding for state of good repair projects. "I'm proud of this new Toronto team, a team that reflects the city it serves. One team deeply and single-mindedly focused on the people's priorities and building a city that is more affordable, safe and caring — where everyone belongs," Chow said in a letter. Morley for more than 20 years has been working on behalf of the residents of Etobicoke-Lakeshore, while pursuing advocacy at all levels of government. She used her voice to bring attention to issues such as poverty reduction, youth equity, good governance and access to city spaces and services. She was a former Director of the South



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## Police hunt suspect who sexually assaulted female



THIS MAN IS SOUGHT for following and sexually assaulting a woman near Islington and Cordova Aves. Police photos.

A man who stalked and allegedly sexually assaulted a woman in central Etobicoke is still at large.

Police from 22 Division said a female victim was walking in the area of Islington Avenue and Cordova Avenue, north of Bloor Street West, just before 5 p.m. on August 30.

The suspect approached the woman from behind and followed her into a building, where she was sexually assaulted, according to

The suspect is described as between 25 and 30-years of age with a thin build and black hair. He was last seen wearing a black baseball cap with gold lettering, aviator sunglasses, a black t-shirt with a logo on it, jeans and a blue surgical mask, detectives said in release. Anyone who can identify the man is asked to contact police at 416-808-2200 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 416-222-TIPS (8477) or www.222tips.com.

Meanwhile, police are still shaking their heads after the arrest of a 92-year-old man who lived nearby for sexual assault and committing indecent acts.

Officers from 11 Division were called on June 25 around 1:30 p.m. for a sexual assault in the Dundas Street West and Bloor Street West

Police allege the senior would call victims to his front porch and start a conversation with them.

"The accused would expose himself to the victims ... and also hug the victims and sexually assault them," according to police. Walter Ross, 92, was charged on August 3 with two counts of sexual assault, two counts of indecent act and criminal harassment.

## Police say a disgruntled customer arrested in fiery Mimico bar arson investigation



BAR TORCHED AFTER suspect allegedly tossed molotov cocktails inside following a dispute with staff. Photos by lan Robertson.

A man is under arrest after police alleged he threw two Molotov cocktail devices into a Mimico bar that gutted it after he was refused

The August 2 blaze left Colin's Dugout, at Royal York Road and Newcastle Street, all black and scorched from intense fire and smoke damage and luckily no one was injured. The residences on the above floor also suffered heavy smoke damage. "A man threw a liquor bottle containing a flammable liquid into the building," police said in a release. "The man was then observed lighting a second liquor bottle on fire and throwing it into the

Fire fighters said the main floor of the restaurant/bar was fully engulfed when they arrived close to 5 p.m. and it took more than 40 minutes to bring the blaze under control. Police officers in white hazmat suits could be seen after the fire scouring the inside of the bar in search for clues.

The main floor was totally gutted while the rest of the two-storey building suffered smoke damage. No injuries were reported, police said. There are reports that the suspect was a bar regular who became involved with staff in a dispute before the blaze occurred.

Kazimierz Babina, 65, of Toronto, was arrested and charged with possess incendiary material for arson, assault with a weapon, arsondisregard for human life,

mischief endangering life and uttering threats, He attended court on August 3 at the Toronto

Regional Bail Centre. Anyone with informat ion is asked to contact police at 416-808-2200 or Crime Stoppers anonymo usly at 416-222-TIPS (8477).



COLIN'S DUGOUT and some of the smoke damage from the fire.

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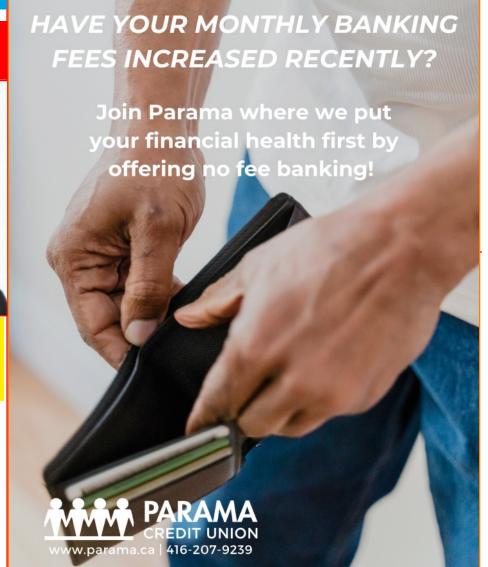
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## City affordable housing coming to Six Points



**HUNDREDS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING (top.** centre) are planned by the City for 5207 Dundas St. W., near the Six Points area. Courtesy photos.

.Mayor Olivia Chow and city officials last month with shiny shovels broke ground to begin construction of 725 new homes, including 218 affordable rentals, on Cityowned land in the Six Points area.

The project at 5207 Dundas Street West is the first Housing Now site to turn soil to create mixed income communities that was a hot topic during the mayoral election campaign.

The plan would bring 24-and 17-storey mixed-use purpose-built rental apartment buildings to the intersection, with towers featuring designs by Henriquez Partners Architects.

Their podiums would form a courtyard designed by acclaimed Montreal-based landscape architects Claude Cormier et Associés, best known locally for their work on the dog fountain at Berczy Park.

"As the new Mayor, I've made building more affordable housing a top priority," Chow said. "I welcome other orders of government to partner with us as we endeavour to build even more affordable housing for the people of

The City, in partnership with CreateTO, Kilmer Group



and Tricon Residential, is supporting the delivery of this project as part of the Housing Now Initiative, which Toronto City

Council approved in 2019 to activate City-owned lands to stimulate the development of affordable rental housing within transit-oriented, mixed-income, mixed-use and complete communities.

The site will deliver 725 residential homes, including 30 per cent affordable rental homes, 218 units, and 507 market rental homes. Rents for affordable homes will range from 40 per cent to 100 per cent of the Average Market Rent (AMR).

"I'm excited to welcome this Housing Now site to Etobicoke-Lakeshore, and I know this site will make



**SOME OF THE AFFORDABLE** housing (top, centre) proposed for the community. Courtesy photos

lasting impact on our community. I can't wait to welcome our new neighbours into their homes," said Ward 3 Councillor Amber Morley.

The development will include a mix of unit types from one-bedroom to four-bedrooms. It will also include retail uses providing amenities and services to support residents' needs and public spaces for community gatherings and events.

Long known as 'Spaghetti Junction,' the City invested \$77 million to decommission the former Six-Points Interchange, which was replaced by a new network of streets, unlocking almost 18 acres of land and creating seven blocks for redevelopment.

Also planned for the area is the new Etobicoke Civic Centre, a Toronto Public Library branch, gym and new City parks. A nearby proposed Six Points Plaza Redevelopment will see 45, 43,41, 36, 25 and 8-storey condos at Dundas Street West and Jopling Avenue.

#### New attractions for Centennial Park soon

Its final. The popular go-kart track, batting cages and beach volleyball courts at Centennial Park are being closed in two months.

The attractions were told they have to be out by November 30 as the city begins to implement its 2021 master plan for the park, which was recently updated. According to the plan, the changes will happen in phases and will see the city's second largest park equipped with new large playground, cricket pitches, pickle ball courts, a new water play area, stadium bubble, skate trail and skate area, new baseball and soccer hubs and multi-use sport courts.

Some 20,000 people have signed a petition to stop the changes which will affect about 65 people who work at the facilities.



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## School's Back in Session

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#### harity Bingo setting shop in the community



A well-established 50-year-old 'Class A' bingo charity is setting up its tables in the community.

A proposal has been submitted to the City to relocate Delta Bingo & Gaming from St. Clair Avenue East to 360 Evans Avenue, near Kipling Avenue, according to documents filed.

"Our new location will provide a fresh new facility increased accessibility and exposure for potential new customers," Delta Bingo CEO Shawn Fisher wrote to city officials. "Our business will be able to provide a

facility for the 67 local charities and not-for-profit organizations to continue their fundraising." Fisher said the new 44,000 square-foot former McCarthy Uniform location on Evan's Avenue is already zoned for use as a bingo hall. Fisher told officials that Delta Bingo Inc.

has been operating charitable bingo facilities in Ontario for more than 50 years, and was located on St. Clair Avenue for more than 25. The company has 61 full time and part time employees and will add more in their new space.

"The City of Toronto receives up to \$600,000 annually

in fees," the City was told. "This new location with improved exposure will draw in new customers to the bingo as well as the surrounding businesses." Prior to the pandemic, the Delta Bingo St. Clair Sponsor's Association, distributed more than \$3,000,000 annually in



FANS FILL A DELTA CHARITY AND BINGO HALL, one which will be moving to an Evans Avenue venue in South Etobicoke. Below is a former school uniform building that will be renovated for Bingo use. Courtesy photos.

proceeds to its member organizations.

"These proceeds are then used by the charitable members to help them fulfil their mandates by providing needed programs and services within the municipality of Toronto," according to Delta Bingo.

Delta iGaming Inc. last May launched Delta Bingo Online, currently the only iGaming website in Ontario's regulated market and which features slot themes and a commitment to local charities. Officials said Delta Bingo Online is the only active, licensed iBingo provider in the province. Fans can now enjoy their favourite game online against other real-time players for guaranteed prizes.



THIS FORMER SCHOOL UNIFORM building will become a new Bingo hall.

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## Work to identify Indigenous burials in Etobicoke



LAKESHORE PSYCHIATRIC Hospital Cemetary grounds where a number of Indigenous people are buried. Courtesy photo.

Volunteers are working to identify a number of Indigenous people who were buried in unmarked graves decades ago at the former Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital Cemetery.

Researchers are trying to identify how many rest at the Horner and Evans Avenues site and the communities they were taken from.

The cemetery was in operation for 84 years. It opened in 1890 and was shut by the Ontario government in 1974. Some 1,511 people are buried there. Many of them died at the Mimico Asylum Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital, at Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Kipling Ave.

Most of the burials were unmarked. The placement of 154 small markers with the name and year of birth and death of the deceased only began in 1957.

"It is our sincere wish that these souls will find peace and tranquility," said Ed Janiszewski, who has been working to identify the graves for years. "The focus was to give some dignity back to these people who had been forgotten perhaps. To have seen this place abandoned like that was distressing to say the least." he told CitvNews.

Janiszewski has confirmed about 10 of those names as belonging to people from Indigenous communities.

"The hospital back in the 30s and 40s had been focused on northern Ontario, servicing that area, before being a more localized hospital. That gave a good clue that there would be a lot of Indigenous people who'd been brought here."

Back then patients assisted in making coffins and burying other patients at the asylum cemetery. The treatment of the patients at the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital was cruel, including forced labour, and violent restraint methods.

Although Ministers and Priests performed burial ceremonies for many patients, most of the graves were left unmarked.

A list of Indigenous people buried at the cemetery, includes a boy who is only listed as "Indian Boy,"



INDIGENOUS PEOPLE remembering their loved ones (top). Red dresses flowing in the wind (centre) and families weep (bottom) and pray for those who passed away. Courtesy photos.

according to public archive materials. Further investigation is needed to determine how many of



the unmarked graves are of Indigenous children and families and the communities they are from.

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FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES of Indigenous people weep and pray for some of their loved ones buried without markers or gravestones. Courtesy photos.

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## Officer climbs mountain to raise cash for charity

When Detective Tom Comeau is not fighting crime, he's scaling the world's tallest mountains to raise money for charity. The 51 Division Toronto Police Service detective



DET. TOM COMEAU raising funds by climbing Mount Lobuche East in Nepal recently. Courtesy photos.

recently travelled to Nepal where he climbed Mount Lobuche East Peak, with an elevation of 6,119 metres. It is located about 150 kms east of Nepal's capital city of Kathmandu and lies near the foot of the Khumbu Glacier, near a Mount Everest Base Camp. Despite bad weather, Comeau became the first Toronto Police officer to climb Mount Lobuche, one of the world's tallest mountains.

"That went really well," the detective told police spokesman Ron Fanfair. "It was a seven-day trek into the mountain and then me and my group of four summited in one push."

The group left from about 5,400 metres from their camp and got there about five hours later.

Because of snow and high winds in the Himalayas, Comeau was unable to climb the Ama Dablam peak. Now, with Mount Lobuche under his belt and Mount Ama Dablam at 6,813m, Comeau has a new goal of scaling Dablam.

The officer made the climb to raise funds to support mental health.

Comeau raised \$12,000 for Toronto Beyond the Blue, a charitable organization that strengthens and supports police service members, both uniform and civilian as well as their families.

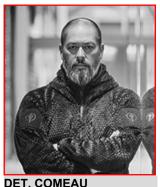


MOUNT LOBUCHE EAST rises to 6,119 metres and is near he Mount Everest Base Camp in Kathmandu.

He started another Go Fund Me campaign with the aim of raising another \$5,000 for Toronto Beyond the Blue when he attempts to climb Chimborazo (6,262 metres) and Aconcagua (6,960) in Ecuador next January.

"Raising money for Toronto Beyond the Blue to help them continue their conversation about the importance of good mental health is a natural fit and I enjoy doing it," he said.

"I think everyone has 'mountains' in their lives that need summiting," Comeau told Beach Metro Community News. "For some of my colleagues, their mountains are working through their post-traumatic stress associated with the work we do serving the community. It can be crippling.



He was congratulated for his fundraising efforts by colleagues on social media.

"Congrats on the climb and raising money and awareness on the importance of mental health," wrote Gail Gonsalves.

"Well done JT Comeau we are all proud of you!!!!," said Sean Sportun.

And "Congrats on your journey," wrote Pat Quigley. You can donate to Toronto Beyond the Blue at their

website www.torontobeyondtheblue.com/donate or to CLIMBING LOBUCHE

IT IS A COLD AND difficult climb to scale Lobuche East Peak. Courtesy photos.

Comeau's climb www.gofundme. com/f/torontobeyond-the-blue. Files by Ron Fanfair and Beach Metro **Community** News.





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## Massive four-tower EllisDon complex in Six Points area

The Six Points area is undergoing a major wave of revitalization with much construction and condo building now underway. Soon a new **Etobicoke City** Hall will be constructed there, along with a gym, library and city affordable



**FOUR TOWER MIXED CONDO DEVELOPMENT** proposed for Fieldway Road by builder EllisDon, called Arcadia District Condos. **Courtesy photos**.

housing will join the Islington City Centre neighborhood. The latest developer to tap into the area is EllisDon Developments, which has proposed a massive multitower complex planned for 56-60 Fieldway Road, called Arcadia District Condos, which runs south of Bloor Street W., between Kipling and Islington Aves. The mixed-use condo proposal will contain three four towers ranging from 12, 23, 34 and 42 storeys with over 1,300 units combined. Sales will begin in October for the

"Etobicoke's strategic location on the western edge of Toronto provides easy access to the city's downtown core and major employment centers," the company said, adding it is close to Highway 27, Gardiner Expressway, subways, GO Transit and Pearson Airport.

It is walking distance to the Islington Subway and amenities include a 4,000 square-foot gym, a 4,500 square-foot working space, spa, a children's play room, infinite pool and hot tub, 26,000 square-foot park, bicycle storage space for every unit and underground parking.

There will be a day-care centre for 70 kids and 14,000 square-feet of retail space for shopping..

"Etobicoke offers a rich tapestry of cultures, communities, and amenities from picturesque waterfront areas to bustling urban neighbourhoods," EllisDon said in a press release. "Residents enjoy a diverse range of parks, recreational facilities, dining options, shopping centers and entertainment venues."

The first building, a 34 storey tower, is expected to be ready for occupancy by late 2027 or early 2028.

EllisDon is not new to the area and is already building a 36 storey tower, 459-unit condo and townhouse complex at Thirty Six Zorra, just south of The Queensway, between Kipling and

Kipling and will h Islington Aves. EllisDon Developments is an industry leader in construction services worldwide. With over 70 years of experience, more than 4,000 employees and

worldwide. With over 70 years of experience, more than 4,000 employees and \$5 billion worth of construction volume annually. It is a major player across a wide range of projects.



THE FOUR TOWERS (above, below) will have 1,300 units and is close to highways and Pearson Airport.



## Teens graduate from Youth in Policing program with police

#### By Ron Fanfair

#### **Toronto Police Service**

More than 150 students finished off an eight-week Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI) to learn about police work.

A graduation ceremony took place on August 25 at Toronto Police College, on Birmingham Street.

"The YIPI program is more than just a program," said Daniel Betita, who gave a valedictorian address at the graduation. "Now we stand on the precipice of a future, brimming with potential, ready to harness the wisdom and experiences gleaned through YIPI."

The St. Joan of Arc Catholic Academy graduate plans to enter the University of Toronto to pursue Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies.

Chief Myron

"The Undertaker"

The midnight hour, the darkest hour
That human grief may know,
Sends forth its hurried
summons-

Asks me to come – I go! I know not when the bell may toll.

I know not where the blow may fall,

I only know that I must go In answer to the call. Perhaps a friend – perhaps

'Tis fate that turns the wheel -The tangled skein of human

Winds slowly on the reel.
And I? – I'm the undertaker,
"Cold-blooded," you'll hear
them say,

"trained to the shock and chill of death,

With a heart that's cold and orev."

Trained – that's what they call it

How little they know the rest-I'm human, and know the sorrow

That throbs in the aching breast.

Bennett Chapple - 1903



**STUDENTS GRADUATING FROM** a Toronto Police YIPI program that saw them working closely with police. **TPS photo**.

Chief Myron Demkiw said the participants demonstrated a commitment to hard work and achieving goals.

"We support our young people and help build strong leaders in neighbourhoods across our great city.," He told the crowd. "... for 17 years, the Youth in Policing Initiative has been equipping young people with the leadership skills and work experience you will need to succeed."

Demkiw hopes the students gained a positive outlook and confidence in addition to experience that they can take back to their communities. "The heart of this program lies in the kindness and co-operation that flowed between us," said Bhavakeshan Jayakkumar, a Grade 11 student at RH King Academy.

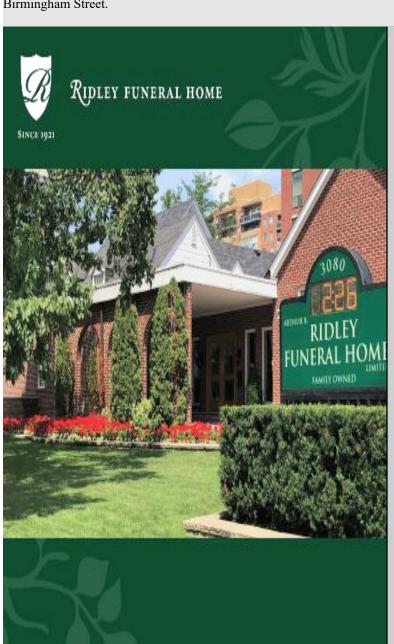
Toronto Police Services Board Chair Nadine Spencer thanked the young people for their participation in the program.

"The opportunity to learn and grow is mutual," she said. "Not only do young people gain exposure to the world of policing, but Service members too have the opportunity to learn from youth from a rich variety of backgrounds."

Spencer is confident the experience will forever change the participants.

Program Supervisor Justin Ericksen thanked the Divisions and officers that mentored the graduates, and family and friends who supported the participants.

"You should all feel a sense of pride and joy today," he noted. "Your presence today is a testament to your commitment to the graduates." During the summer program, participants between the ages of 15 and 18 were exposed to a diverse range of roles and responsibilities. Nearly 130 graduates completed their First Aid Certification.



## Humber College culinary grads cooking



Humber College's Culinary Management Program is

turning out award winning chefs, many who are working

Three of the college's graduates were happy to be named

Kostuch Media's 2023 Top 30-Under 30 award winners.

Marchisell. Humber alumna Liezle Espejo was named as

They include Adam LaFleur, Rob Yu and Anthony

LaFleur is the chef-de-cuisine at Toronto's top



in some top restaurants.

restaurant Constantine.

one of the 2022 award winners.



**ROB YU** 



ANTHONY MARCHISELL

lot of support from my family and friends and my fiancé. I've had others support and encourage me and put me in positions where I could succeed."

LaFleur always had an interest in food, and enjoyed cooking with his parents and friends, and watching chefs such as Michael Smith on the Food Network. The annual recognition program celebrates and salutes the foodservice-and-hospitality industry's top young professionals — both in front of the house and back of the house as well as in various segments of the industry. "Being chosen as a Top-30-under-30 winner helps create a sense of pride and self-esteem for young professionals while, at the same time, highlights exemplary role models for those who choose to pursue a career in the foodservice-and-hospitality industry," LaFleur said. Individuals are chosen as winners by a committee that includes previous winners as well as industry leaders from various segments of the industry. Candidates are graded in categories including: education and learning;

references, awards and recognition; work experience and career trajectory. "The Top-30-under-30 winners represent a

cross-section of the industry including restaurants, hotels, entrepreneurs, tourismrelated businesses and suppliers," organizers

LaFleur's career has taken him to Rattle Snake Point Golf Club and the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald in Edmonton. He spent time at Pasqualino in Milton as well as at Glen Abbey Golf Club, which hosted the Canadian Open several times while he was there.

"It was serving 1,000 people a day for five days straight. Being part of that experience was very cool."

He also worked at Hexagon in Oakville as chef de parti where he was able to refine many of his cooking and plating techniques.

Yu's journey has taken him to the Fairmont Bab Al Bahr in Abu Dhabi, where he was able to refine his international cuisine cooking skills. Prior to that, he spent several years at the Eagles Nest Golf Course, as part of a Humber work placement.

He moved on to the Spanish tapas restaurant Tapagria, worked at the Aria Bistro in Brampton and landed a position of corporate executive sous chef with Cashew & Clive.

He has been working at Yokai Izakaya restaurant since 2022. It was seventh on Toronto Life's annual ranking of the city's best new restaurants for 2023.

Marchisell formerly worked at Moxies and Chop Steakhouse and Bar. He had an internship at the Fairmont Banff Springs with almost 800 rooms. He built a strong background in food and is expanding his skills.



CONSTANTINE Restaurant



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## A Park Lawn Lake Shore Transportation Master Plan to change Humber Bay Shores for years



SOME OF THE development (top, bottom) proposed for 2150 Lake Shore Blvd. W. and the traffic issues that will arise. Courtesy photos.

A long-awaited Park Lawn Lake Shore Transportation Master Plan shows that there will be ongoing road and other construction work in the Humber Bay Shores area

The City said The Master Plan (TMP) examined a range



transportation infrastructure improvements to help address existing and future challenges in the study area, bounded by

The Queensway, Lake Ontario, Legion Road and Ellis Avenue.

The TMP was coordinated with the proposed Christie's development at 2150 Lake Shore Blvd West, a new Park Lawn GO Station, TTC loop and other area initiatives. The plan will provide a connected, multi-modal transportation network for all users; offer three new street connections that improve connectivity and help overcome the Gardiner Expressway/rail corridor physical barriers.

It will provide excellent walking and cycling connectivity, support the long-term build out of the Christie's site and other area developments, improve community access to higher-order transit and streetcar priority and reduce potential for neighbourhood traffic impacts from the Gardiner Expressway.

Continued growth in the area requires new and improved transportation infrastructure that accommodates people of all ages and complement a transit hub consisting of the new streetcar loop, according to the TMP.

The study shows that streets will be two to four lanes wide, with wider sidewalks, more cycle tracks, trees and have grade separation under the rail line.

It notes that Legion Road will be extended, along with Park Lawn Road, which will have curbside space for the parking and loading of GO and TTC buses. It will also have modifications for curb lanes to enter and exit the Gardiner Expressway.

Lake Shore West Blvd. will have a dedicated transit right-of-way from Humber Loop to Legion Road and will be widened to three or four lanes of traffic over the Mimico Creek. It will also have more cycle tracks, wider sidewalks and more trees. An east-



ALSO BEING BUILT at the site are hubs for GO Transit and the TTC.

west street will feature two to four traffic lanes, wider sidewalks, uni-directional cycle tracks, tree plantings and new grade separation under the rail line Legion Road Extension will have two traffic lanes, uni-

directional cycle tracks, sidewalks, tree plantings, and a new single portal grade separation under the rail line, as identified in a previous assessment.

Park Lawn Road will have two traffic lanes, wider sidewalks, curbside space for parking or loading buses and access to the Gardiner ramps. It will also have two dedicated left turn lanes to Lake Shore Blvd. W.

Two new northsouth streets will be added to access the Lake Shore and ramps to the Gardiner Expressway corridor, according to the plan.



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## ToAnne Gludish



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## **New generations to discover Etienne Brule**



**ETIENNE BRULE** 

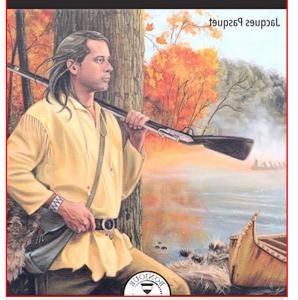
An ancient monument of an Indigenous interpreter and guide who explored the **Humber River** is being given a new lease on his life. The Etobicoke

Historical Society (EHS)

has redesigned and rededicated the South Humber Monument, formerly called the Brule Monument, in South Humber Park.

A ceremony was held on September 9 at 2 p.m. and attended by Chief R. Stacey Laforme, officials of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, La Société d'histoire de Toronto, the EHS and Ward 3 Councillor Amber Morley, as well as other dignitaries.

Plans have been underway since the late 1950's and the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in



YOUNG BRULE THE adventurer and interpreter. Courtesy photo.



1959, to erect a monument that would commemorate Étienne Brûlé's travels along the Humber River and the Historic Toronto Carrying Place portage.

The project was shelved and the plans for the monument were revived in the mid-1960s in time for Canada's Centennial celebrations in 1967. The EHS had the new monument installed near the mouth of the Humber River as part of Toronto's Centennial Celebration. Though the monument also meant to honour the ancient Humber River and Indigenous portage route, the final inscription commemorated Brûlé, an interpreter and guide who came to New France with Samuel de Champlain in the early 1600s.

At a ceremony on August 9, 1967, Mary Appleby, President of the EHS, Etobicoke's Mayor Edward A. Horton, and other dignitaries unveiled the monument consisting of a sevenfoot-tall pink granite boulder and a smaller inscribed black basalt boulder on the west bank

of the Humber River, north of the Queensway in an area to be called Discovery Park. Brûlé was the first European explorer to journey beyond the St. Lawrence River into what is now known as Canada. He spent much of his early adult life among the Hurons, and

mastered their language and learned their culture. He was sent by Champlain on a number of exploratory missions. Among his many travels were



BRULE PLAQUE by the Humber River.



BRULE SPENT much time with the Hurons and learned to speak their language. Courtesy photo.

explorations of Georgian Bay and Lake Huron, as well as the Humber and Ottawa Rivers.

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### Lakeshore Charitable Foundation



September is Scouting Month in the Philippines. Our students at Bay Bay Central School participate in fun and educational events centred around scouting activities.

Our students are in need of: textbooks & workbooks, spelling and grammar books and math workbooks. Also Encyclopedia's dictionaries, thesauruses, World Atlas' and hearing aids and sign language books.





TORONTO POLICE ASSOCIATION Directors Mike Harris and Derek Gregoris joined two dozen volunteers from 11 division to build an outdoor play set for Nolan, a 3-year-old boy fighting leukaemia. Nolan's immune system is suppressed so he can't use the park down refusing to drink the water. the street. They thanked@milliondollarsmilesnfp who through donations and supplies builds The Humber Bay Park west parking lot and boat ramp were closed as heavy machinery outdoor play sets for children who need a little cheer in their life. Photo by 11 Division. "To say we ended our day with a warmer heart and a BIG smile, is an understatement!"



OFFICERS OF TORONTO POLICE 31 DIVISION at Yorkgate Mall with Children's Breakfast Club handing out 1,000 backpacks with school supplies. 31 Division Pic.

## Rally and update on demovictions

#### By Patti Pokorchak

A rally outside outside 230 Lake Promenade was held on August 28 to update tenants on the status of the threatened demoviction of 548 units, uprooting over 1,000 long-term tenants over the next 10-12 years. The eviction will effect residents of 220, 230, 240 Lake Promenade and 21, 31 Park Boulevard.

Geoff from the Federation of Metro Tenants' Association shared his



**RESIDENTS ATTEND** a meeting to learn about their threatened demoviction. Courtesy photo.

extensive experience with demoviction negotiations so that the Lake Promenade community knows what they can ask for.

This included comprehensive moving packages, rent gap payments and even input into the final building design has been won by other tenants that set a precedent. Residents of the five buildings were able to talk to representatives from Ward 3 Councillor Amber Morley's office who were there to lend their support and make notes of issues raised, as well as the Lakeshore Affordable Housing Advocacy & Action Group (LAHAAG), who distributed a flyer on how they can help. Upcoming dates to note are September 6 at LAMP CHC, at 185 Fifth Street, for a LAHAAG-sponsored banner-making party in support of International Tenants' Day. And on October 2 there is a rally being organized by NoDemovicition.ca at City Hall at 5 p.m. It is tenant-driven organized to protest the hundred plus demovictions happening in Toronto at this time.

Morley's staff shared a date of September 27 for the first tenants-only meeting, to be held locally and with city staff to discuss the compensation packages that they are being proposed. If you want to be kept informed e-mail pattipokorchak@gmail.com to be put on the Lake Promenade Tenants Association mailing list.

### **In the Community**

By TOM GODFREY

It has been a dreadful couple of weeks for residents following the deaths of hundreds of our wild birds and animals that were killed in South Etobicoke waterways. More than 100 ducks, mallards and birds have perished with many fishes and skunks, squirrels, beaver, otter, raccoons and others due to a fire retardant chemical from a massive six alarm fire at Brenntag Canada in Rexdale on August 11 that stored engine oil, transmission oil and other lubricants.

The run-off from a 12-hour firefight left a thick chemical haze on the water at Mimico Creek, Humber River and parts of Humber Bay Shores area that motivated our community to react to save the dying wildlife and clean up the waterways.

It is estimated it will take until the end of October before the chemical can be isolated and vacuumed from the waterways in large trucks, according to Ontario's environment minister David Piccini.

Once crews have removed the material from the mouth of Mimico Creek, cleanup efforts will be focused on the creek banks, the ministry said. Workers will flush the storm sewers from the fire site to storm water outfalls and continue cleaning up the creek banks. The ministry, with the help of Toronto Water, has been taking samples of creek and monitoring the lake water.

Officials said there has been no impact on drinking water locally as a result of the chemical mix and the authorities are monitoring the situation closely. Many people are

brought in to suck up the sludge. Boats with booms have been trying to separate the substance.

Measures to contain the spill and absorb the chemicals include using booms and hay bales, installing underflow dams, deploying vacuum trucks to collect the oil slurry and diverting discharges from reaching the creeks, the ministry said.

Thank goodness for an army of local Toronto Wildlife Centre volunteers who have been rescuing the wild birds from the mucky water to wash them down and bring back to life so they will have a chance in life. They have rescued more than 100 birds so far.

Many of the birds and ducks had a thick sheen of chemical that stuck to their feathers in that they can barely move.

Members of the public are asked to report any sightings of birds affected by the substance and that they appear oiled, are preening themselves excessively or shaking their wings, hiding under bushes or staying away from the water.

It will be a long time before the wildlife will be restored or brought back to life and our cherished waterways be clean again, if they ever are.

The deaths of our wildlife has left residents shocked and angry over the loss. Many in the community have been monitoring the cleanup and deaths on social media, which has been active with posts.

'So sad this breaks my heart, thank goodness good people are trying to help," wrote Darcie Lynn Osborne Card.

Members of the Municipal Wildlife Control Services / The Wildlife Management Group said for 'two days a row of zero birds in the contaminated creek during our sunrise, early morning service. Other than a group of cormorants trying to land we are good at this critical feeding time and location.'

It's unclear what type of chemicals are in the runoff, but ministry officials and some residents have launched a study.

Residents who have further questions are being urged to contact the ministry's Toronto District Office Duty Line at 416-326-3381 during regular business hours or after-hours to call the ministry's Pollution Hotline at 1-866-663-8477.

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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### **Opinion**

our families grow and children get older,

youngsters grow even older, the schools

So if life is a highway, figuratively (and

for many of us literally, much of our life

you in? If you like to mix it up and adjust

your speed, change lanes once in a while:

'm with you. Let's adjust to the scenery,

enjoy the company of life and take in the

travelling as fast as possible from point A

sights. I get it; some people really love

to point B. To what end, I wonder. The

faster you travel in life, the less you can

immerse yourself in life. A friend of mine

has a motto: I will sleep when I am dead.

abide by these three life rules: you must

rest, you must be nourished and you must

Rest is essential - that's a non-negotiable

optimally. Numerous studies have proven

that taking breaks on long work days or

productivity, reduces stress levels and

time. That motto 'I'll sleep when I'm

track. Even the fastest race cars take

precise pit stops to recoup, revive and

replenish. Basically, everything needs

performance, the greater the rest usually

down time. And, the greater the

increases your creative problem solving

dead' doesn't hold up well in the science

lab, in the fast lane of life nor on the race

study days, actually improves your

skills. You get more done in less

number one rule for me. Without

adequate rest, you can never function

What's your life motto?

is spent on the highway) what lane are

we send them off to school. Our

get bigger and are further away.



### **Your Health**

By MONIKA MEULMAN

If life is a highway, are you in the fast lane?
Of course (as the song goes), you are going to ride it all night long, if life is a highway.



highway of life theme ideal for the September Wellness. Back to school prep is in full swing. Whether you are choosing courses in college, your Once you stop, that's the end of the line favourite lane on the highway to get hom (as another song goes). This September, I'm thinking about driving the highways from errands, or simply selecting your of the GTA, the 401 highway series workout play list on Spotify, you are across Canada and all the roads beyond. nourishing your heart and mind. We are all on a journey, but end of Or not. Right? August and beginning of September When you choose poorly, your drive marks a very special time for many. As

home may suck. It may be the grungy, polluted way home, but it's fast. Or you may be stuck with take-out pizza from the so-so chain down the street, because it's quick and easy. This brings to mind another favourite motto of mine: eating well is a form of self respect. This September, on the highway of life, choos well. Consider your options before committing to convenience or speed over flavour, spices, or depth of experience. Lastly, you must have love in your life. You must love. Without sharing your love, your life will feel like driving on cruise control. You are moving: but not really there, are you. How do we share our love? Talk with a friend about your new favourite song or dessert dish. Smile at the crossing guard the first week of school. Take a moment to compliment the local store clerk on their skills or something you notice that's exceptional. Your moment of observation, kind words sharing your connection with someone are the smallest, simplest act of kindness and love. It helps you grow. It helps the other person grow. Your life exponentially improves and it has nothing to do with how fast you must go. Whether you choose to live metal to the pedal or stop and smell all the roses, this September I encourage you to examine

what's your preferred speed. Vary it up a

bit. After all, variety is the spice of life. I

fully everyday, in every lane. Choose to

learn at every intersection, merge with

care and love your experience deeply.

will run out of fuel.

The truth is: None of us know, when we

life is a highway, I want you to live it

The second 'must-follow' life rule is nourishment. That may seem so obvious to you since we all need to eat. When I mention nourishment, I mean food, liquids (water or fancier aromatically brewed options), oxygen (bare minimum requirement for life) and also food for your mind, nourishment for your heart.

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## **Retired Judge Speaks**

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI

We need to gain trust in governments.

We are inundated with speaking notes rather than honest opinions. We need a shot of transparency and integrity to restore our faith.

We can change it by asking questions. I refer to the Greenbelt Fiasco and the recent Long Branch Tower. I am worried that our representatives aren't expressing their views but merely mimicking the boss's view.

I want to know what my MPP thinks. Once elected, a Parliamentarian represents all the people in their community. They are the link between government and the electorate. We may disagree on policy but not on their obligation to inform us what and why something is happening, especially on matters of ethics.

Ethics isn't a political policy. A wrong is a wrong is a wrong. It's a matter of personal integrity. Transparency is fundamental, regardless of the party you or the MPP supports. The MPP, not the Premier, generates community respect for the Parliamentary System. This is an invitation to write your local MPP, ask questions and seek a personal response instead of a generic script. Only we can change the system. A case in point is the debate regarding land development and the association between developers and politicians. Historically, a contentious issue in politics is the acceptance of you scratch my back, and I scratch yours—an ethic famous in business but unacceptable in government. I was involved in several such investigations in my former life.

I wrote our MPP asking for a comment regarding the Long Branch Tower and the Greenbelt fiasco and was quickly redirected to the Premier's speaking notes. Our Etobicoke Lakeshore MPP is essential here since Christine Hogarth sits as Parliamentary Assistant to the Solicitor General and a member of the Justice Committee. Issues of corruption, ethics and justice are very much her responsibilities. We should know what she thinks. I could not obtain a personal response from her. They referred me to the Premier's Statement. I understand there may be difficulties regarding the Greenbelt since there is an ongoing RCMP investigation, but I wondered about her opinion regarding ethical relationships between politicians and developers.

We need to ask our elected representatives more questions about what we see happening around us so they hear our voices, not just those of the party members. I don't expect them to agree with everyone, but at least give an informed reason for their actions and why. We need to write them more often. That's the point here. Concerned about the Greenbelt decision, the Long Branch Tower or politicians and developers, a toxic problem, you, the voter, must ask questions.

I mean, write, not email or text. Electronic responses are too easy to ignore. Politicians usually respond using pre-formulated electronic answers. When I asked our local MPP to comment on some issues regarding the Greenbelt and the Long Branch Tower proposal, they emailed me to read the Premier's pre-written notes.

They push a button to send a scripted reply. I know, I often had to answer these letters. Politicians take handwritten notes more seriously. A natural person must read each letter, understand it and draft a reply. If not, the reader quickly notes a brush-off with a form answer. We need to make sure they are aware we are watching them. Attacking a Premier is less effective than questioning your local MPP.

There is a growing public feeling of insider trading because the Long Branch waterfront and the Greenbelt condos don't appear as low-cost housing. The Greenbelt Fiasco raises a cloud of unethical relationships between developers and the government.

It is impossible for a political staffer to have so much power in critical decision-making without the knowledge of the Minister responsible for the Greenbelt, his Deputy, (the public servant in charge of the Ministry) or the Premier and his chief public servant. I know because I was responsible for these types of decision-making. I would have raised the irregularity with the Secretary of Cabinet, who is accountable to the Premier. Let's encourage our MPPs to answer our questions with responsive, transparent answers. Let's all write them, hand write them, with polite letters asking the questions you want answered, and we can start to encourage transparency with a demand for real answers rather than pre-fabricated speaking notes.

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



## Local pest controller busy as every day different



**LOCAL PEST CONTROLLER ERWIN DARRA** takes a break from his busy job chasing mice, bugs and assortment of rodents. **Photo by Susanna Basheir.** 

It's a busy time of the year for local exterminator Erwin Darra as the weather turns colder.
Darra is on the road most of the time working as a pest controller helping residents curb pests, rodent or bed bug infestations that come with the changing season.
"At this time of the

"At this time of the year we are busy with mice and rodent infestations," he said.

"They are coming into homes through cracks in the wall for the heat and forage for food."

Darra has been operating a company called Entom-X for about six years and has a list of regular customers.

If it is not rodents, then he is tackling bed bugs, a huge problem, which stick around year round.

"We get calls for bed bugs all the time," he said. "They are constant and in some homes year round."

The bed bugs are treated a number of ways which usually means getting rid of where they live. They prey on humans or pets, Darra said.

He will visit your home or office and conduct a free inspection. This allows him to examine the affected areas by bed bugs or other issues and come up with the right approach to tackle the problem.

They use advanced heating treatment to eliminate the bugs from your home or commercial locations. It is safe and effective unlike chemicals that can cause damage to

your property or be harmful to your health.

"I have a good success rate," Darra said. "We usually start off with an inspection and may have to conduct multiple visits."

On any given day, he may get called to take care of cockroach, wasps, hornets, ticks, ants, spiders, beatles and other infestations.

Regardless of whether you encounter sow bugs, silverfish, ants, centipedes, or spiders, an Entom-X professional can take care of your pests.



**MICE (top) AND BED BUGS** (below) pose some of the main threats to people who call the exterminator for help. **Courtesy photos.** 

"These pests tend to follow the general human population," said the exterminator. "They get into the home through humans, baggage or through the walls or vents." Every day is different since customers have different issues or pests in their homes. "There is never a dull minute," Darra said. "Each case is different since everyone has

different sorts of infestations."
It usually cost customers by the job and the number of visits required to get rid of the pests.
Darra can be reached at 647-883-2789 or e-mail entomx@tutanota.com





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## Looking after yourself and others in the community

SEPTEMBER 7, 14, 21 & 28 LEARNING AND GROWING Together for Black Children and Families from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. for newborn to those six years of age at Stonegate CHC,10 Neighbourhood Lane, Unit 201. Contact early.years@stonegatechc.org

SEPTEMBER 8 MEMORY SCREENING register for our free memory screening service at LAMP CHC, presented by the Toronto Memory Program Fund for Education. To register call 416-252-6471 ext. 308 and ask for Jasmin.

SEPTEMBER 9 ETIENNE BRULE rededication of the South Humber Monument at 2 p.m. of formerly what's called the Brule Monument, in South Humber Park. Attendees include Chief R. Stacey Laforme, officials of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, La Société d'histoire de Toronto, the Etobicoke Historical Society and Ward 3 Councillor Amber Morley.

#### SEPTEMBER 9 FRANKLIN HORNER

EXTRAVAGANZA, at 432 Horner Ave., from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be a bouncy castle, beer -wine garden, BBQ, live bands, donut eating contests, stage games, vendors and silent auction. Also face painting, games, ice cream truck and much more. Phone 416-252-6822 or franklinhorner.inquiries@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 14, 21 & 28 SUNNYLEA BABY

CLUB from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for newborn 12 months of age and their parents or caregivers at 851 Royal York Road. Please contact early.years@stonegatechc.org

SEPTEMBER 11, 18 & 25 SUNNYLEA DROP IN from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for kids up to six years of age at 851 Royal York Road.

SEPTEMBER 5, 12, 19 & 26 TAKE LEARNING OUTDOORS program for parents and caregivers with children up to six years of age from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Bell Manor Park, 1 Bayside Lane, Etobicoke. Rain or shine meet in the park. For more info contact early.years@stonegatechc.org.

FROM SEPTEMBER 8 SUNNYLEA DROP IN families with children up to six years of age for fun

and interactive songs, crafts on Mondays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Royal York United Church, 851 Royal York Rd. For more information contact early.years@stonegatechc.org SEPTEMBER 11 AND 25 BELL MANOR DROP IN Stonegate CHC Family programs with children up to six years of age for an afternoon drop-in at Bell Manor Park from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at 1 Bayside Lane, Etobicoke. For more information contact early.years@stonegatechc.org

SEPTEMBER 11 TO 25 WEN-DO WOMEN'S COMMUNITY SAFETY at 6 p.m. Join us for an empowering women's self-defence & community safety workshop hosted by LAMP. Register by emailing jasmind@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-

6471 ext. 308
SEPTEMBER 12 DO YOU WANT YOUR CATS and dogs to be spayed or neutered at a low cost? Make an appointment and register your pet for the next visit of the SNYP Truck to LAMP. The SNYP truck will be at LAMP's parking lot from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You must register in advance

at 416 - 338 – 6281 or

email spayneuter@toronto.ca.

SEPTEMBER 13 LAND TRUST WORKING

GROUP at 6 p.m. online on Zoom as we continue work on establishing a land trust to develop affordable housing in South Etobicoke. For more information, e-mail brig@lampchc.org

**SEPTEMBER 13 FIREHOOD SUMMIT FOR** 

GIRLS aged 9 to 19 as the Jean Augustine Centre and the Firehood bring you the Firehood Summit for Girls, a day of workshops, stories, strategies, tools, and mentorship to help girls. It runs from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Contact 416-253-9797 or e-mail at info@jeanaugustinecentre.ca.

SEPTEMBER 15 HEARING SCREENING register for our free adult hearing screenings through the Canadian Hearing Services at LAMP CHC. To register call 416-252-6471 ext. 308 and ask for lasmin

SEPTEMBER 21 LAMP 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 7 p.m. at Humber College G Building.

For more information call 416 252 6471. SEPTEMBER 27 GLUTEN-FREE COOKING WITH *MAKI* at 10 a.m. LAMP is hosting a free Gluten-Free Cooking Workshop! Learn how to make some healthy, easy, gluten-free dishes, ingredient substitutions, and how to avoid hidden sources of gluten led by our community dietitian *Maki*. Space is limited. To register email crystaln@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

CHAIR YOGA ON TUESDAYS in September at 1 p.m. in person or online with *Meaux* for a gentle workout to strengthen muscles and improve balance. Stretch and enjoy some music and movement. For more information contact jasmind@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN SEPTEMBER LINE

DANCING from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. as we turn our community room into a dance hall! A wonderful opportunity to learn new moves in a friendly, supportive setting. Register by emailing jasmind@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308

OCTOBER 16 BETTER SLEEP WORKSHOP from 6 p.m.-to-7:30 p.m., in person and online. Do you have trouble sleeping? Wellness Coach *Mary Craig* will share tips and ideas on improving your sleep. Register by emailing jasmind@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

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## Ex Blue Jays local boy now hitting for Saltdogs

#### **By Craig Christie**



FORMER ETOBICOKE COLLEGIATE TEACHER Connor Panas once played with the Vladdy and Bo and the Toronto Blue Jays. File

Baseball can take you anywhere in the world and no one knows this better than Etobicoke native Connor Panas. Over the years he has played in the U.S., Canada, and even Australia. This summer he is playing independent baseball in the American Association in Nebraska for the Lincoln Saltdogs with one goal in mind: getting back to the big leagues with a major league affiliate team.

"I've been enjoying Lincoln. It has great restaurants and a nice downtown core," said Panas. "The American Association is an experienced league

with a lot of players who have AA, AAA and major league experience. It's very competitive.'

Panas was drafted in the 9th round by the Toronto Blue Jays in 2015 and rose through the ranks playing with Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Bo Bichette, Cavan Biggio and Danny

**CONNOR PANAS** in Saltdog uniform. He has played in Canada, Australia and U.S.

"I'm happy for them being there and I think I have the talent to be there as well. People have different journeys."

The season in Lincoln has been a grind with the Saltdogs playing 100 games in cities such as Chicago, Milwaukee, Fargo and Winnipeg, the lone Canadian team in the league. Long bus rides are common at the lower levels of baseball and Panas cannot stress enough how important it is to stay mentally focused to play every day. From the moment he saw Connor in spring training, Saltdogs manager Brett Jodie was impressed with his game. "I love the way he plays; he is pretty good at all the facets of the game. He plays a good right field, has a good, strong arm. (He) can hit for power, average and

drive in runs. He's a total player who plays the game the right way."

"As long as you play at a high level you have a chance to be picked up and he definitely has the skill and athletic ability to do it."

The left-handed-hitting outfielder was selected to play in the American Association's All-Star game and competed in the Home Run Derby where he finished second. At mid-season, he was hitting .323 with 9 home runs and although the numbers and his production are not where he would like them to be he hopes he has done enough to be noticed.

"I have turned some heads with what I was doing for the majority of the season. That is ideally the goal. I still think I have a lot left in me. I don't see 30 as being old because I see guvs in this league who are 36, 37. If not affiliated ball I would love to play overseas;

((top) loves the game. Mexico would be a pretty cool opportunity." The Saltdogs are headed to the playoffs but when that is over it won't be the end of Connor's season. He plans to play in a showcase event in

Dubai for Baseball United, a league co-owned by former major leaguers, Nick Swisher,

Adrian Beltre and Felix Hernandez. "It is an opportunity to promote the game of baseball by bringing in players like myself. That's the beauty of baseball. It has allowed me to play for Team Canada, travel, and experience different parts of the world."

During the summer he continues to grow the game at the grassroots level by offering private coaching to the next generation of players or through his camp, Train Like a Pro. "I get professional players from around the GTA and run a huge clinic for kids. (Jordan) Romano has been out every time so I CONNOR PANAS at bat. look forward to doing things like that."



**ETOBICOKE's** Connor Panas

Although he is not ready to hang up his glove yet, Panas does have a backup plan. He is a supply teacher with the Toronto District School Board working at schools such as Etobicoke Collegiate and Silverthorn.

"Once I do retire from baseball I do see myself in a full-time teaching role."



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