

# The South Etobicoke News

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## Huge condos are changing the face of Mimico

Public discussions have begun for feedback into a massive multi-tower development project that will change the face of Mimico by adding thousands of new residents.

Two community open houses were held on September 26 at Mimico Coronation Park Clubhouse, in which developer Dimante Development outlined plans to build four towers on a site at 21 through 31 Windsor Street, 18 Buckingham Street, 93 Portland Street and 60 Newcastle Street.

Dimante hopes to replace the existing low-rise light industrial and commercial buildings with a transit-oriented mixed-use development. The buildings proposed includes two towers rising to 32 and 48 storeys, with an eight-storey podium. Also planned is a 12-storey and seven-storey buildings. The developer has



**BIG CHANGES ARE COMING TO MIMICO** as more condo towers are on their way some at 522 Royal York Road (left) and in the Portland Road area (centre, right) which will bring more traffic and people changing the face of the community. **Courtesy photos.**

submitted applications for Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments for the site, which is within walking distance of Mimico GO station. Residents have mixed feelings about the traffic, high density and many people the condos will bring to Mimico.

A separate project at 35 and 17 storeys is proposed for 522 Royal York Road at Queen Elizabeth Blvd.

“The development will be good and bad for the community in that there will be more high density,” said Dan Irwin, a community activist. “It will change the face of the community and add some vitality.”

The tallest Portland Street area tower will have 978 apartment units and contain Elisa House's new transitional shelter, which houses 40 women and is proposed to contain 100 single-bedrooms. It is run by the Society of St Vincent de Paul, and has served the area since 2001, offering emergency housing for women. Also proposed is a park and underground parking.

## Etobicoke Creek water quality polluted and poor

The water quality and aquatic habitat conditions in the Etobicoke Creek is poor and contaminated with chlorides from road salt and phosphorous from fertilizers, according to a draft report by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). The draft report states the contaminants include E. coli bacteria from sewage and animal wastes and copper and zinc from industrial sources or roadways.

“Exceedances of chlorides and nitrates were also observed in groundwater,” the TRCA said in its Etobicoke Creek Watershed Plan that was the subject of two meetings last month. The report follows outcry from residents over a heavy chemical fire retardant that covered, and is now mostly vacuumed, from watersheds as Humber River and Lake Ontario following a six-alarm



**ETOBICOKE CREEK IS IN POOR SHAPE** with bad water quality, bacteria from sewage or animal wastes and polluted with zinc and copper from industry, according to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). Area watersheds were hit hard with a chemical spill from a six-alarm Rexdale fire. **Courtesy photos.**

factory fire in Rexdale. The TRCA and GTA municipal governments are working to educate commercial and industrial partners to maintain chemical spills. They are working “in collaboration with industrial landowners and the province to identify high-risk spill area and implement spill prevention an contingency plans in accordance with provincial regulation,” the report states.

This will “educate commercial and industrial property owners on effective maintenance of oil and grit separators, and other pollution control infrastructure,” the authority wrote. They are working “to identify sources of microplastics and emerging chemicals of concern, and to work with other levels of government to manage and remove these pollutants from the environment.”

The report said Etobicoke Creek’s “aquatic habitat conditions are poor, and the watershed has a high amount of runoff and in-stream barriers.”

The creek is second annually to the Don River in runoff in all TRCA watersheds “The average habitat rating for fish is ‘fair’ and for benthic communities is ‘poor,’” they said. Benthic communities are composed of macroinvertebrates, such

as annelids, mollusks, and crustaceans, which inhabit the bottom of estuaries and play a vital role in maintaining sediment and water quality. “With increasing urbanization, more sensitive fish species will be replaced with species more tolerant of disturbance, and benthic communities will shift towards more pollution tolerant species.” the report warned.



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# Happy Thanksgiving Day October 9

# More cameras on the streets to fight crime

Toronto Police are getting \$120,000 from the province to beef up its video surveillance program to better protect the city against gun and gang violence.



POLICE GET more cameras to fight crime. File photo.

The funding can be used to replace outdated equipment, expand or enhance current technology and install new or additional CCTV surveillance cameras in areas where gun and gang violence, illegal drug activity and human trafficking are prevalent.

“Community safety is our highest priority as a government,” said MPP Christine Hogarth. “It is essential that police forces across the GTA have access to cutting edge technology to keep our streets safe and crack down on carjackings.”

“Today’s funding will ensure that those who protect us have the most advanced equipment available for the job,” said Hogarth, the Parliamentary Assistant to the Solicitor General, a member of the Standing Committee on Justice Policy and Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs.

She said the force is one of 24 police services receiving funds, with more than \$2.8 million being allocated through an Ontario Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Grant Program.

The grant enables the OPP, First Nations police, and municipal police services to install or upgrade CCTV cameras in locations where criminal activity is known to happen. The presence of cameras is a deterrent to perpetrators and aids police in criminal investigations. It is one of many initiatives under the Guns, Gangs, and Violence Reduction Strategy to help police, prosecutors and partners fight organized crime across Ontario.

“CCTV surveillance systems are an important part of local police work to detect, prevent, and deter criminal activity,” said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. “The systems also enhance police to investigate crimes.”

# A very emotional service attended by hundreds of officers for service dog Bingo who was shot dead

Hundreds of saddened Toronto Police officers attended a memorial service for Bingo, the first police dog killed in the line-of-duty in the 189-year history of the force.

Sgt. Brandon Smith, of the Canine Unit, who was Bingo’s partner credited his ‘best friend’ for saving his life last July 25.

“Bingo took the bullet before we were shot,” an emotional Smith told his colleagues at the Woodbine Banquet Hall on September 22. “He was my partner and hero. He saved the lives of others that day.”

Smith said a gunman, sought for a murder and possession of a gun, was hiding in a dark area of a Dixon Road backyard which officers were searching when Bingo was shot.

“Bingo never had a chance to bark before he was shot,” said Smith, with wife Heather at his side. “I wouldn’t be standing

here if it wasn’t for Bingo.” Chief Myron Demkiw presented Bingo’s police badge, his leash and a Canadian flag to the grieving officer and his family.

“Bingo served the residents of Toronto and he did it with pride,” Demkiw said. “He was always there when needed to serve and to protect our officers.”

The Chief said the canine ‘made the ultimate sacrifice’ and saved other officers that day.

“When Bingo was at a scene officers knew he was there to back them up,” Demkiw said. “Bingo was a beloved



POLICE SERVICE dog Bingo (above, below) being remembered. Police photos.



member of the Toronto Police Service and his legacy will live on in our hearts.”

Mayor Olivia Chow expressed condolence to Smith, who cared for Bingo since he was a pup and was his partner on many calls.

“Bingo was a hero with four legs and he made the ultimate sacrifice,” Chow told the gathering. “He never wavered and had an unbreakable bond with his handler.”

Supt. Colin Greenway, the unit commander of specialized emergency response, said ‘it was the worst day of his life’ attending

the scene and witnessing Bingo lying on the ground. “It is heartbreaking that today we are celebrating his life,” Greenway said. “Sgt. Smith lost his partner and best friend to a cowardly act. He was truly man’s best friend.”

Bingo joined the Police Dog Services in July 2022 and was partnered with Smith. After completing extensive training together, the K9 graduated in December 2022.

Kenneth Grant, 44, of Toronto, has been charged with second-degree murder in The Queensway and Kipling Avenue shooting death of a man the previous day.



SGT. BRENDAN SMITH with his best friend Bingo. Police photo.



BINGO IS GIVEN a police escort to his final resting place (top, bottom).



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# New Islington Station site to have four towers



**PROPOSED FOUR TOWERS** to be built by the City's Housing Initiative next to the new Islington Station at Bloor Street W., and Islington Ave. **Courtesy photos.**

Construction of a new Islington Station began in the Spring and when completed it will include a new bus terminal, elevators, more accessible platforms with four 40-storey towers on the property for housing. Once finished in 2026 the station at Bloor Street W. and Islington Ave. will have two new elevators to connect customers between the passenger pick up/drop off area, concourse level and subway platform. The replacement terminal will connect with Islington's current subway station concourse level and the platform below via a new underground connection lined with retail, and also containing back-of house service rooms.

There will also be improved signage and wayfinding and an accessible bus terminal, which will accommodate five bus bays including one designated as a Wheel-Trans stop. The rebuild is part of the TTC's Easier Access Program which is making subway stations accessible by 2025. Some 56 stations are now accessible and 14 are under construction. The proposed massive Islington Station Redevelopment will be a one storey transit station located at 1226 Islington Avenue, at the northwest corner of Bloor Street West . Hundreds of condo units will also be

built on part of the sprawling property next to the station. "With Islington's vast space for buses unused, CreateTO has identified this land as an area for redevelopment, including for significant new affordable condo units," according to plans. Shuttle buses will be deployed during closure, and access to buses will not be disrupted. The 534 total parking spots will be permanently reduced to 316 spots during the construction. To facilitate the redevelopment, Islington station's existing bus terminal, south entrance, and north entrance/passenger pick-up and drop-off areas will be demolished.

The City of Toronto's Housing Now initiative, an ambitious plan to bring thousands of new affordable housing units adjacent to rapid transit across the city, has been charging full steam ahead since it was announced in 2019, with 17 sites across Toronto earmarked for development. The City is planning to add the most density to what is referred to as the Bloor-Islington site, with four towers rising as high as 40 storeys. Split into two phases of two towers each, the towers will be mixed-use, with over 5,000 square metres of non-residential space on the lower two floors. The towers are aligned along the south portion of the Bloor-Islington site fronting onto Bloor Street, while the northern portion will be retained for transit uses with the new bus terminal. The site is located on a triangular plot of land directly adjacent from Islington subway station. It is bounded by Bloor Street W. to the south, Islington Avenue to the east, and the rail corridor to the north.



**A NEW ISLINGTON TERMINAL** is planned to replace the old one, which is being demolished.

## New Clairville trail for outdoor enthusiasts

A new 3.7 kilometre Claireville North multi-use trail is now open for hikers and outdoor lovers. Two pedestrian bridges were built to span the picturesque West Humber River and the establishment of parking area and two new community trail connections, according to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). "The project also included the addition of nine hectares of new forest, 2.2 hectares of wetland habitat, and the planting of approximately 14,000 new trees and shrubs," the TRCA said in a release. The 9624 Goreway Drive trail was made possible by the TRCA, the City of Brampton, The Region of Peel. It opened last September 15.

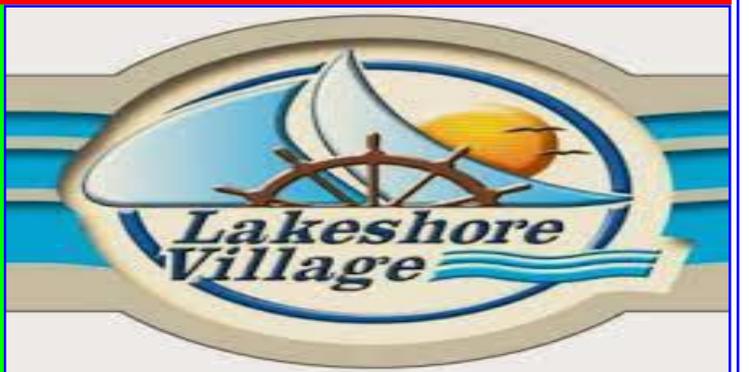
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# Rotary Etobicoke Peace Park's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary



**ETOBICOKE ROTARY CLUB** president Lynda Ryder.

The Rotary Etobicoke Peace Park in New Toronto was filled with friends and supporters as they marked its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of serving the community. The 25 Eleventh Street Park was dedicated to the community on September 21, 1993. Some 300 Rotarians and members of the community last September 21 celebrated with the event with a large community BBQ attended by three Rotary clubs who brought



**MEMBER OF** Toronto Tibetan Rotary Club having a good time.

The Etobicoke Rotary Club, Rotary Club of Toronto West and our newest the Rotary Club of Toronto Tibetan gathered for this anniversary, she said.

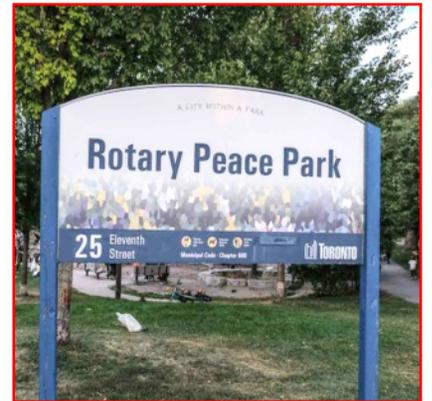
The 2.8 hectare park features a lit ball diamond, two tennis courts, a splash pad, and a children's playground. There is also a Rotary Peace Park Outdoor Pool, Toronto Lawn Bowling Club, bowling green and pickle ball court.

The Etobicoke Rotary Club has a long history in the community. It was formed in 1930 at the beginning of the Depression. It was a time of massive unemployment and one of the first club projects was to help unemployed people by providing more than 2,000 parcels of food and milk.

"The main thoughts and efforts were directed towards helping the children in need," according to the Rotary website.

The Town of New Toronto made parkland available which the Rotary Club equipped with playground equipment. The property was named Rotary Park with picnics frequently provided for underprivileged children.

One of the picnics entertained 1,500 children. The club provided disabled children with boots, braces, wheelchairs, and other equipment with funds raised by an annual "Theatre Nights and Draws". The Rotary Club of Etobicoke includes professionals and volunteers who give their time and energy to make a positive difference in the lives of thousands.



**ABOUT 300 PEOPLE** gathered at the Rotary Peace Park to mark its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. **Below:** members of the community celebrated with good food. **Photos by John Stevenson.**

food and drinks to share with others.

"I was fortunate 30 years ago, along with then Mayor Bruce Sinclair, to dedicate this area as Rotary Park," said Lynda Ryder, the Rotary Etobicoke president. "I was the Etobicoke club

president then, first woman in Canada, and am now doing a repeat as president 30 years later."

Ryder said "our aim this year is partnerships and to that end, we are inviting our three Etobicoke clubs to celebrate together with our community."



**ROTARIANS** from three clubs gathered for a good cause to mark the anniversary of the Rotary Peace Park. **Photos by John Stevenson.**



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## Ontario dishing out millions to tackle local intimate partner domestic violence

The Ontario government is investing more than \$4 million to help support victims and survivors of intimate partner domestic violence, human trafficking and child exploitation, Etobicoke Lakeshore MPP Christine Hogarth says.

The funding is being delivered through the Victim Support Grant program and includes \$100,000 for the Support for Survivors program for 2023-24 for Toronto Police Services (TPS).

TPS will work with Support for Survivors, a partnership with Victim Services Toronto (VST), to improve capacity to better support victims of human trafficking and Internet child exploitation, as well as secondary victims such as their families. A VST-trained crisis intervention counsellor will join TPS' Sex Crimes Unit, which is responsible for identifying and charging human trafficking and Internet child exploitation sex crimes.

"From sponsoring a Clare's law for Ontario – which would help support women who feel under threat from abusive former partners – to supporting a variety of measures this government is tackling intimate partner violence and human trafficking," Hogarth said. "Support for victims and survivors is a crucial first step to recovery," said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner.

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

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

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# Two officers launch teen aviation program

Things are flying at Toronto Police's 22 Division.

A new innovative aviation program is headed by two police officers of 22 Division to teach kids about aviation and the passion for flying. The unique program is the first of its kind by Toronto Police Service and is gathering a lot of interest.

Consts. Jermaine Watt and Dave Evans, of the Division's Community Officer Team, have begun a Take Flight Not Fight program that teaches youths between 10 to 16-years-old the basics on aerospace, aviation and how to fly an aircraft.

'It is the first of its kind within the Toronto Police Service,' Watt said. 'It provides the youth participants with an opportunity to learn how to fly an airplane.'



CONST. JERMAINE WATT (above) with some of his students in an aircraft receiving real-time lessons. Courtesy photo.

The officers, with the sponsorship of ProAction Cops & Kids, developed the program. Watt is a licensed pilot and has flown planes for about 16 years while working as a cop. Evans was a former mechanical engineer. 'We have combined our skills and passion to teach these youths using Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) all about aviation,' he said. The program runs from March to the end of August and the kids seem to love it. The teens are all interested in aviation and are recruited from local schools, through their teachers or principals. 'Some of the kids didn't want to go home after a class because they were so interested,' Watt said. 'Two of them want to be pilots and

another a mechanical engineer.' The program has caught on and there is now interest from other police forces who want to start a similar program. They have also formed partnerships with Brampton Flying Club, Pearson International Airport and other forces.

He said there are many jobs available in the aviation industry ranging from pilots, flight attendants, navigation planners, aerospace engineers and mechanics. The sponsor ProAction Cops & Kids work to establish a positive relationship between cops and kids to strengthen our community today and for the future.

The group helps to create an environment of mutual understanding and respect. Connections between police and kids are made with a view to increasing community safety while supporting young people to reach their full potential. ProAction has been able to engage over 420,000 youth, 19,800 officers and deliver 2,200 programs, that are funded solely due to the generosity of individuals, corporations and family foundations. If you are a student interested in the aviation field you can get in touch with Watt by e-mail at [jermaine.watt@torontopolice.on.ca](mailto:jermaine.watt@torontopolice.on.ca) Students have to be aged from 10 to 16 and live in the 22 Division area.



WATT WITH eager youngsters outside an aircraft.



STUDENT CHECKS out his nice aircraft. Courtesy photo.



INTERESTED YOUTH learns how to fly an aircraft. Courtesy photo.

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## Pearson Airport at bottom of list when it comes down to traveller satisfaction; study



PASSENGERS WAIT AT Pearson Airport. GTAA photo.

Toronto Pearson International Airport is ranked the second-worst largest airport in North America when it comes to traveller satisfaction. According to J.D. Power's annual North American Airport Satisfaction study, Canada's busiest airport ranked 20th out of 21, scoring 749 out of 1,000. Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey came in last. This score factors in six components include: terminal facilities, airport arrivals and departures, baggage claim, security check, check-in and baggage check, food, beverage and retail service. The study was conducted between August 2022 and July 2023, in which 27,147 travellers across North America, who flew through at least one U.S. or Canadian airport covering both departure and arrival experiences, took a survey. Pearson is one of the largest and busiest airport in North America.

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# Long Branch residents fight to save Maple tree



LONG BRANCH RESIDENTS are trying to prevent this 160-year-old Black Barn Maple tree (above) from being cut. Courtesy photos.

Residents of the Long Branch community are facing a tough fight to save a historic Black Barn Maple tree that is estimated to be 160-years-old from being cut. An application to build two oversized houses and garden suite on two lots at 36 Ash Cres. was heard by

the Committee of Adjustments last April and is being appealed.

The committee on September 14 deferred a decision on the application until the applicant obtained an arborist to develop a Tree Protection Plan.

More than a 80 residents have written letters opposing the build that they claim would injure and remove the Maple tree.

"This application results in an overbuild to what is permitted on the lot and if approved would be directly responsible for the removal of two significant trees," Christine Mercado, chair of the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association (LBNA) wrote in a September 6 letter to Barbara Bartosik, Deputy Secretary Treasurer, of the Etobicoke York District Committee of Adjustment.

"... There is significant doubt that the Applicant has any intention of upholding this Toronto Local Appeal Body (TLAB) decision and preserving the Silver Maple or a Spruce Tree on the abutting lot," Mercado told Bartosik. She said the Maple tree has the potential to be a heritage tree due to its health and size.

Max Dida, Supervisor of the city's Tree Protection and Plan Review – West District, wrote that "Urban Forestry requests that the Committee of Adjustment panel defer this application until the applicant/owner provides Urban Forestry with the necessary information to confirm whether the following bylaw protected tree can be adequately protected."

Councillor Amber Morley in a letter said two trees would be impacted by the build and called for the application to be deferred "to allow the applicant to develop a suitable Tree Protection Plan and to provide Urban Forestry with the time necessary to conduct a site

review, impact study, and submit their comments."

Residents said the tree is close to a property line and if approved it will lose at least half its roots and tree canopy.

"The Black Barn Maple is protected as potential to be a Heritage Tree even though for it to formally go through the process it requires

the owner to agree and sign off," wrote Judy Gibson, chair of the LBNA's Tree Canopy Preservation and Enhancement Committee.

"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," residents said. "The oversized house would require the Black Barn Maple of Long Branch to be destroyed."

This Silver Maple is one of four trees in Long Branch recognized as a Historical Tree by Forest Ontario.

"This tree cannot be replaced by planting any number of new trees, not in this generation," residents claim.

A flyer noted the tree was a sapling in the 1860s when James and Martha Eastwood purchased 500-acres of the Samuel Smith Tract. That area of Long Branch near Lake Ontario is home of some of the oldest trees in Canada, officials said. Some are older than Confederation which forged us into a country, from a Dominion, in 1867.



LONG BRANCH black maple.



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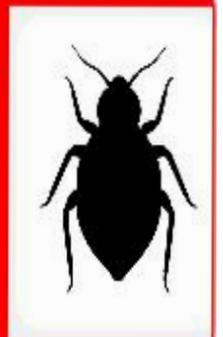
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# Beloved Natale Bozzo remembered with lane in his honour

The late and beloved founder of SaNRemo bakery Natale Bozzo will live on forever. A laneway behind the popular 374 Royal York Road bakery has been renamed Natale Bozzo Lane, which extends from Simpson to Hay Avenues.

There was an outpouring of love and support for the Bozzo family after the patriarch passed away from COVID-19 at the age of 75 in February 2021. Hundreds of mourners left messages on social media to console his grieving family members after his death.

A long-time customer gathered signatures and petitioned the City to have the lane renamed, said Bozzo's son, Rob.

"We are thankful and very appreciative that they did this," Rob said. "The sign will be here long after the family has moved on."



**THE LATE NATALE BOZZO** was the beloved founder of SaNRemo bakery. Photo by Bozzo family.

There is also a beautiful large mural dedicated to Bozzo on the exterior of the south wall of the eatery.

Bozzo was a hard worker who came to Canada at the age of 15 from Italy and began working at a bakery in Little Italy. He opened SaNRemo Bakery in 1969 with his three of his six brothers, becoming not only an "incredible baker" but a friend to many in the community, his family said.

Bozzo would become the sole owner of the bakery in the 1990s with his three sons. Even after retirement, the family said Bozzo would often "help out around the bakery as

it was his passion."

"He was an incredible baker, and most hardworking man we know. He was resilient and resourceful. He was kind and a friend to all," the family said in a social media post. The baker left behind his wife of 49 years, Nicoletta, along with his sons and five grandchildren.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford called Bozzo a "true local champion who followed his passions."



"A family-owned business, the SaNRemo Bakery and Café has been a staple in Etobicoke for many years. God bless the Bozzo family," Ford wrote. The bakery is popular with area workers and there are lengthy lineups during lunch and dinner hours as regulars purchase their favourite Italian fare. "He was larger than life and we will miss him dearly and will work very hard to keep his memory alive and to honour him," his family said.



**MURAL IN HONOUR** of Natale Bozzo. Photo by Ian Robertson.

# Friends say goodbye to Homeless Joe who will be missed

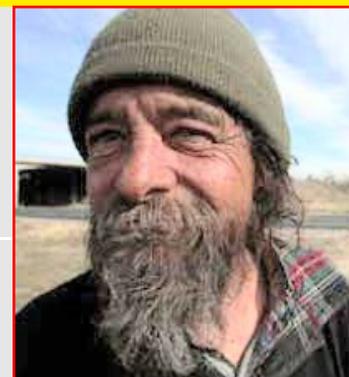
A Go Fund Me account has been set up to help a friendly and well-liked homeless man from Quebec who died in South Etobicoke.

More than \$2,000 has been raised by friends to send the body of Real Leclair, also affectionately known as Homeless Joe, to his native Quebec.

Scott Mills, a former Toronto police officer who befriended Leclair, said his friend died from a heart attack while gathering water from a river near his shack in South Etobicoke.

"Réal's body was found by a mountain biker," Mills wrote on social media. "22 Division Toronto Police led by Officer Rich Nimmo and team, as well as Coroner Dr. Kumar Gupta, have gone above and beyond to determine what happened and honour Réal."

Street Nurse Anne Marie Batten and Mills are in



**REAL LECLAIR**, aka Homeless Joe, was loved by many.



**"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 unknown-  
'Tis fate that turns the wheel  
–The tangled skein of human life  
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 grey."  
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**

touch with his relatives to take Leclair's remains home for cremation and burial at a family cemetery.

"Réal's family did all they could to help him, as did many people," Mills wrote. "Mental illness is a bitch."

Mills said any excess funds raised will be donated to agencies chosen by the family who help homeless people with mental illness.

A ceremony to honour Leclair and a number of homeless people who died recently was held on September 12 at the Toronto Homeless Memorial at Trinity Square outside Holy Trinity Church in downtown Toronto.

"Real was an inspiration," wrote Karen Reed, who has been following Leclair's plight on social media. "My condolences to his family and all who loved him."

Darylene Foster said Leclair was a special person. "May you rest in peace," Foster wrote. "May you find the happiness that you could not in his world."

Cal Millar, a former journalist, who also followed Leclair's hard life expressed his condolence. "Scott, sorry to hear that Réal has passed away," Millar wrote. "You did so much through the years to help make his life better and he appreciated your friendship."

There were dozens of tribute on social media as people paid tribute to Leclairé.

"I'm so sorry to hear this Scotty. You've been a champion for the cause for as long as I can remember," said Rebecca Boyd. "I know he meant something special to you."

Emily McKiernan said she met Leclair briefly and it was sad to hear of his death. "He was a very decent down to earth man," she said. "My heart goes out to his family in this difficult time."



**RIP REAL LECLAIR** aka Homeless Joe, who was loved by many people. Courtesy photos.

# Cloverdale's Relish the Foodie had grub for all



**HUNDREDS OF HUNGRY FOODIES** turned out for the annual Relish the Foodie event at the Cloverdale Mall parking lot. **Photos by Suzie Basheir.**

The Jamaican-style jerk chicken was spicy and the ox tail with rice and peas quite tasty. Foods from all over the world were on the plate at the fourth annual Relish the Foodie Event featuring 16 highly-visible food trucks in the parking lot of Cloverdale Mall on September 16 and 17. Hundreds of food lovers attended the two-day event to enjoy a smorgasbord of dishes; live music, artisanal market vendors selling their wares; to picnic on the grass or enjoy food-themed workshops and activities. The parking lot was filled with many residents who wanted to test their taste buds and try the different international foods available.



**FOODIE FRIENDS** Suzie (left) and Tracey loved the food.

There was Liko's Hawaiian Barbecue featuring grilled mahi mahi, bbq chicken or beef short ribs. There was also Los Vietnamita Taqueria that served a Vietnamese-Mexican fusion like bao sliders or banh mi tacos. Also doing brisk sales was The Arepa Republic with 'the best Venezuelan flavours that will surprise you bite by bite.' "The event was nice what I really liked about was that it was accessible for wheelchair," said first timer, Suzie. "It was very difficult to choose from all the different food trucks and I had a good time." Also doing well was the Tropical South truck that offered Cuban sandwiches and frita burgers. The Alijandro's Kitchen truck featured a Mediterranean-Mexican fusion as Taboon

"I really enjoyed myself, I really liked the variety of food truck choices," said Alderwood resident Tracey Phillips. "There was something there for everyone. I had the jerk chicken with rice and peas and coleslaw. I loved it." I had the oxtail and rice and peas, which was pricey at \$20, but was quite good. The meat was well cooked, so was the rice and peas.

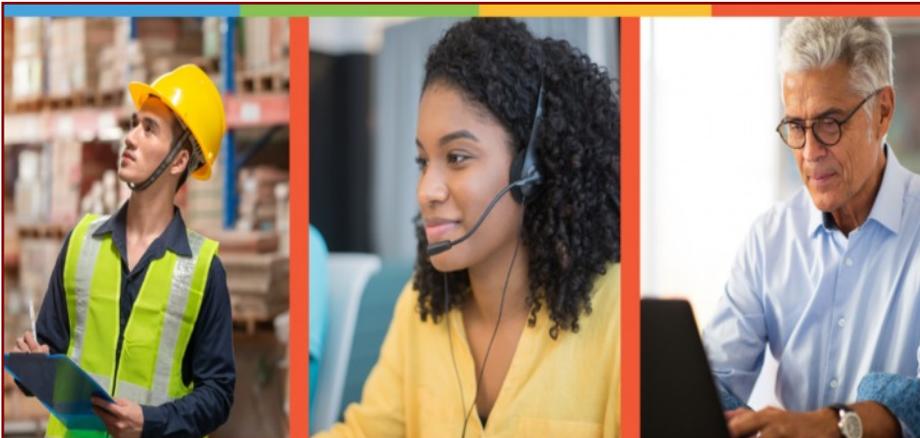
Trucks with names like the Jerk Brothers were busy serving foods featuring hot Caribbean cuisine.



**THE DELIGHT BITE** food truck (above, below) selling burritos and tacos was among the 16 trucks doing brisk business at Cloverdale.

tacos and fawaffles. Beaver Tails with its flat doughnuts was busy. So was Communal Eats with Canadian and Caribbean cuisine as rum cake waffle, Trinidad-style BBQ fried chicken and tasty roti shark taco. Nearby was the Delight Bite truck with burritos, tacos, quesadillas and poutine.

Not to forget vendors selling their wares like honey, hot pepper sauce, cotton candy, popsicles, soup mixes, 'Toronto's best fresh cannoli,' gourmet candy nuts and even Turkish coffee and baklava among others. The foodie event has grown over the years. It attracted more than 7,600 food lovers last year and more than 20,000 since 2018.



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**MARKING TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY** in which flags at City of Toronto facilities were flown at half mast last September 30 in respect for our Indigenous people and to remember the hundreds of lost children. The day honours residential school survivors, their children and communities and commemorates Orange Shirt Day. **Photo by Reuters.**

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# Iconic Humber rededicated a heritage river for rich history

A celebration was held to mark a section of the Humber River used by early settlers and Indigenous people for trade, travel and to live.

“The Humber River was an ancient Indigenous trade route,” said Mireille Macia, president of the Etobicoke Historical Society (EHS). “It was a very important route used by the English, French and Indigenous peoples for trade.”

A ceremony was held on September 9 that was attended by Chief R. Stacey Laforme, officials of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, La Societe d’histoire de Toronto, EHS and other dignitaries for the



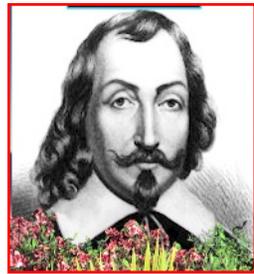
**HUMBER RIVER** (above) is a heritage site for its rich history. *Courtesy photos.*

rededication of a plaque to mark the river’s rich heritage. Macia said the Humber was designated a Heritage River in 1999. It is the only heritage river in Greater Toronto of the 40 deemed as such across Canada.

Indigenous peoples used the Humber River portage route or Carrying Place Trail for millennia, establishing villages on its banks amongst a diverse array of plants, fish and animals, the EHS said.

French explorers used the trail and fur traders later built several posts in the valley. Beginning in the late seventeenth century, the Humber route to the Upper Great Lakes played a key role in

the strategic defense of the province, and it provided a source of power for the operation of Etobicoke’s first mills and settlements, according to the EHS website.



**ETIENNE BRULE**

EHS Board had planned to erect a monument to mark Étienne Brûlé’s travels along the Humber and the historic Toronto Carrying Place portage. The Brule monument was unveiled in 1967 in South Humber Park.

Over thousands of years, the Humber River and its valley provided Indigenous peoples – the Wendat (Huron), the Onondowagah (Seneca) and the Michi-Saagi (Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation) among others – with water, food and shelter, and with means for travel and trade via the Toronto Passage.



**OLD MILL DAM** (above) is part of the massive Humber River.

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[christinehogarthmpp.ca](http://christinehogarthmpp.ca)



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# Popular Etobicoke fireman packs it in after 32 years on the job and loving every bit of it



**CAPTAIN** Geoff Hoar retires

Popular long-time Etobicoke fire Captain Geoff Hoar has retired after almost 32 years of fighting fires and tending disasters. Hoar spent almost 15 years at

He said today's fire fighters face "increasingly complex standards and training requirements on the one hand juxtaposed by the need to generate 'value' to the community on the other." "We can't do everything with less than it took us to do some things," the fireman said. Word of the popular fire fighter retiring sparked a lot of feedback from colleagues on social media. "Enjoy your well-deserved retirement,"

Etobicoke Fire Department before serving the Town of Caledon Fire and Emergency Services, where he was past-president of the Caledon Professional Fire Fighters' Association.

"While a great career, it has not always been an easy career," he said. "Were it not for the support of my family, I don't know that I would have made it this far."

He plans to "enjoy many, many years of the pension that I have worked so long for."

Hoar during his distinguished career served as a fire fighter, Acting Captain, Captain and Certified Company Officer. He was at one time an instructor at Seneca College where he taught a pre-service fire program.

"Lots of memories of the amazing people I have worked beside," Hoar wrote on social media. "It is time to transfer to "R"(retirement) shift."

He will miss his colleagues and called his last day on the job 'bittersweet.' "Once I walked through that door though the job is who I am I couldn't imagine doing anything else," Hoar recalled. I love "never knowing what is coming next." The veteran fireman has fought hundreds of blazes and tended as many emergencies and disasters during his more than three decades in the service.



**CAPTAIN GEOFF HOAR** (centre, top and below) with colleagues on his 'bittersweet' last day on the job after almost 32 years as a firefighter. **Courtesy photos.**



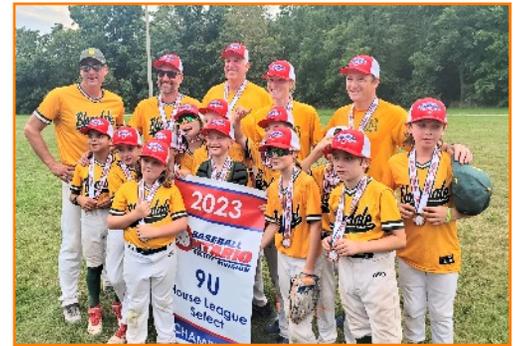
wrote Cheri Mollison. "A new adventure begins for you." "Congratulations Geoff, I wish you many happy years of retirement," said Bruce Bottum. Rick Stella wrote "retirement is nice Geoff. Pleasure working with you." "Welcome to crew five," joked Bruce Zimmerman.

# Bloordale 9U is champ

By Craig Christie

After capturing the Etobicoke city title, the Bloordale 9U (under) Select Green team had one goal in mind: winning a provincial championship to cap off an exciting season. And over the course of the Labour Day weekend that is exactly what they did.

The 9U Select championships, hosted by Royal York Baseball League, took place at Rotary Park and Etobicoke Valley Park with teams from across the province looking to be crowned champions. As tournament got underway it was becoming clear that Bloordale would be tough to beat. In their opening game they defeated Guelph 14-3 to advance to the second round. There they met up with their rivals, Royal York Red, and won a high-scoring game, 21-10. As hosts, Royal York had two entrants in the tournament and Bloordale met Royal York White in the third round. After a tight, back and forth game, Bloordale defeated Royal York 12-10 to earn a spot in the semi-finals.



**CONGRATS TO Bloordale 9U Select Green team** for a great season and winning the championship. **Photos by Craig Christie**

Over the course of the tournament Bloordale's offense consistently put pressure on the other teams. Supported by timely hitting and smart base running, Bloordale defeated East York 18-0 in the semi-finals to set up a rematch with Royal York Red in the championship game. To cap off the weekend Bloordale defeated Royal York Red, going undefeated throughout the tournament, to capture the provincial crown. "I thought we had a great team, we had a great chance to be here," said head coach Derek Churchill-Smith. "We worked hard; we practiced for two hours on Monday nights in January, February and March."

Taking extra ground balls, working together and having a positive attitude all paid off for the members of the team, the coaching staff and parents who supported them all season long.



**AVERY MARTIN** (left) was named the MVP of the 2023 9U Select Provincial Championships while teammate **Riley Lawlor** was named MVP for the championship game.

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**Lakeshore Charitable Foundation**

Letters for Santa Claus are being picked up from students at three schools in the Philippines and answered by students at Etobicoke and Richview Collegiates and Upper Canada College.

The Lakeshore Charitable Foundation is trying to raise \$10,000 to give our 500 students eight kilos of rice each. Donations can be made at Lakeshore Accounting.

# A tribute to Indigenous, soldiers

By HARK SAVINSKY

Friends of the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital Cemetery will host a 50-minute memorial on October 22 to remember World War 1 Veterans, Indigenous people and others buried there. The memorial will feature music, Indigenous smudging, drumming, poetry and a military remembrance service, including a march. "This service commemorates the lives of individuals, including Indigenous persons and World War I Veterans; who faced challenges in the walls of what is now Humber College Lakeshore Campus," said spokesman Hark Savinsky. Many of the 1,511 buried at the cemetery were taken from small towns in northern Ontario and would often be institutionalized for the rest of their lives, he said.

Savinsky said the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital, formerly called the Mimico Asylum, had a storied history, bearing witness to the struggles of countless individuals who battled mental health challenges, and faced treatments and procedures which today would be deemed inhumane.



THE LAKESHORE Psychiatric Hospital Cemetery. Staff photo.

"This service seeks to pay homage to their unique stories which have shaped the progress Canada has made in defining mental illness, in recognizing the dignity, worth and rights of those struggling with mental health," he said. Among those being honored are World War I Veterans who perished at the hospital. "These brave men returned from the trenches, scarred by the horrors of war and burdened by the invisible wounds of PTSD," Savinsky said. "In the early 20th century, understanding and support for mental health conditions were limited." "The wartime belief they were exaggerating was never fully dispelled," he explained. "We want to stand with them with honour and recognize the panic that gripped their lives."

Savinsky said it is important to recognize and honour the Indigenous heritage of the land since 'it reflects a commitment to reconciliation and respect for the rich cultural history.' "The anguish of separation and loss of identity experienced by First Nations and Metis residents added an additional dimension to the loneliness and anguish to people in their 'home and native land," he said.

The operations of the asylum experience mirrored that of Residential Schools from its architecture to the abuses within its walls and to the disposal of its dead. "The service embodies the spirit of unity and respect for all who have been part of the institution's history," Savinsky said.

The service is open to those who wish to pay tribute to the Indigenous patients or World War I veterans, or simply want to show their support for the principles of reconciliation, remembrance and mental health awareness.

The service is at the cemetery, 231 Evans Avenue, on October 22, at 10 a.m. All are welcome.



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# In the Community

By TOM GODFREY

We are all living in stressful times with the rising cost of food, goods and services. Never has it been so hard for people in our city, or country, for that matter. Just to think of the rising cost of housing when a one-bedroom apartment can cost \$3,000 monthly and \$2,000 for a single room.

The price of food, which used to cost let us say \$50 weekly, is now \$100 or more; with one tomato costing \$1 or more. How are people supposed to afford these skyrocketing costs, when a young person will never be able to afford even the smallest home in Toronto, and even smaller towns.

It is jaw-dropping for many people; many who have work at two or three jobs just to make ends meet.

I recently had to take our company van to the mechanic for a service repair and for a job that would have cost maybe \$400 even a year or two ago has risen to \$800 today.

"It's the parts and getting the parts," the long-time mechanic said. "We have problems with the supply chain and it's hard to get good workers and everyone is raising prices."

Supply chain issues seems to be getting all the blame these days; from fruits to car parts. The mechanic complained he cannot get good people to work and that goes for restaurants and even takeout food joints.

One person was telling me that in the town where he resides, a major coffee shop is only offering takeout service with the inside shut and the chairs placed on the tables because they cannot get staff to work.

At the same time one Kitchener Indian restaurant recently advertised for seven job openings for foreign students and more than 400 young people showed up for interviews. "I had to bring in another person to help with the interviews," the restaurateur complained. "All I had was openings for seven people."

We hear about the many refugees sleeping outside shelters on the sidewalk as there is no space inside. It's about time that the federal government issue them permits so they can work to help fill our manpower shortage.

Send them to work here, or in some of our smaller or northern towns or cities, where they are closing businesses due to staff shortage.

Most of these refugee claimants are healthy and strong and would love to work and start moving up the Canadian ladder so they can send funds home or sponsor their families.

It gives them, like many of us, pride and honour in having and holding a job, and getting up in the mornings to earn our keep and doing something productive.

Some 200 plus claimants are arriving in Canada daily at Montreal's Trudeau International Airport and staff there say they have no place to put them or process them. Many of them will fan out and live in different cities.

Those are only the number of claimants arriving at one port of entry and there are dozens more entry points across the country.

So instead of having them sleep outside or in crowded shelters, it's time the feds step up and help find them jobs, even if it is the kind of work Canadian citizens refuse to do.

Maybe that will help the supply chain run smoother and we can start getting prices down, as it used to be. But that I doubt, if you listen to large food store executives.

It is about time that Ottawa stops shirking from its responsibility and fund cities like Toronto and others, that are undergoing a refugee and housing crisis.

Mayor Olivia Chow and other Big City mayors are complaining about a lack of funds for asylum claimants. And they should because immigration and resettlement is a federal responsibility.

I have many seniors on the street where I live, and they tell me things are so tough these days that they, on fixed incomes, have to decide if to buy food, pay their rent or purchase clothing. The luxuries we used to enjoy are no longer and life has become so serious that we have to count every penny, which is depressing and a sign of the times.

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.

# Jean Augustine Centre gets boost

Serving young women in the community for many years, the Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment, has received a financial boost. A Resilient Communities Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) awarded \$162,700 to former MP Augustine on September 14 which was presented by MPP Christine Hogarth.

"We are so fortunate to have The Jean Augustine Centre, which is an invaluable resource for young girls located in our community," Hogarth said. "The Young Women's Empowerment program contributes every day to the goal of opening up opportunities for young women to achieve their true potential."

The Resilient Communities Fund supports community-based organizations that deliver programs and services in Ontario and need funding to recover and build capacity, resilience and sustainability.

The grants support organizations as they develop new approaches to generate revenue, start new activities to meet community need, adjust strategies and plans or plan for future challenges.

The mission of the OTF is to build healthy and vibrant communities throughout Ontario by investing in community-based initiatives and strengthening the impact of Ontario's non-profit sector. Last year, the OTF invested more than \$110 million in 1,022 community projects and services.



JEAN AUGUSTINE with Nabeel Ranmall of MPP Christine Hogarth's office. Courtesy photo.

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## Your Health

By MONIKA MEULMAN

October is a month of celebrations and lessons. It is a wonderful teaching month for us, after all, October 5th is International World Teachers day.

With a month of school behind us, I thank all the teachers that strive to show our children the way, in this complex world. If you want to thank a teacher this month, rethink the classic apple and swap it out for some coffee...

Coffee lovers wanted.

I propose that this October, the most important day of all is not Thanksgiving, but International Coffee Day. October 1st is dedicated to celebrating the aromatic coffee bean. Did you know that coffee is grown in over 70 tropical countries?

I know what you're thinking tea drinkers: coffee has nothing on tea! But here's the tea (you see what I did there?), coffee is actually the second most exported commodity in the world, second only to oil. That's a lot of caffeine! (More on caffeine benefits below.)

I urge you to raise a glass of rich, brewed coffee this month because this celebration paves the way for all our other special occasions this October. This year, International Coffee Day is dedicated to promoting safety at work and increase awareness of coffee supply chains. Be inspired to drink a cup of java with me, to support diversity in farming all over the globe. 'Welcoming diversity' may be a catch phrase these days, but it is heralding the much needed growing diversity of plantings and farming practices in food production.

Small coffee farms grow over 80% of the world's coffee. "Around 125 million people worldwide depend on coffee for their livelihoods, according to FairTrade.org

Farmers big and small are being forced to adopt innovative strategies to survive environmental impacts, market changes and changing policies, here in Canada and abroad. In response to these global changes, local farms, niche markets and small scale importers are popping up all over our city; thus, making healthier food more accessible every day.

In Etobicoke, you can join our local environmental gardening group (LEGS - Lakeshore Environmental Gardening Society) and be a part of this healthy, vibrant change.

We may not be able to grow our own coffee, but we can support those that do. Let's drink some bean juice and support a local, organic, fair-trade coffee producer at the same time. But wait, there's one more reason to choose coffee over tea, with your Grannie's famous apple pie, this Thanksgiving. Or maybe, Papa Frank will

bring his famous Drambuie Pecan Torte which obviously has to be accompanied by a classic cappuccino! But I digress. A recent research study (Chemistry Letters, Japan, June 2023) showed that chlorogenic acid, one of the key components of coffee, is the polyphenol that can directly improve the health of your DNA. The researcher could see that this component of coffee protects your DNA strands from braking.

Make your caffeine drink supersized if you want to feel younger! And, just in case your friends or family need one more persuasive argument to 'choose organic,' tell them that an organic coffee plant makes three to four times more chlorogenic acid than a conventionally farmed plant. That means you get healthier and possibly younger with very sip.

Make mine a doppio (a double shot of espresso) this Thanksgiving. Here's your healthy exercise for this month: give your favourite teacher some brain juice (slang for coffee!) as a thank you gift for International Teachers Day. Then, enjoy your cup of fair-trade, organic cup of Joe, knowing you are supporting millions of farmers while your DNA thanks you.

Lastly, reach out and join your local garden community group and grow strong neighbourhood ties over the winter, while your garden sets in for a well-deserved rest.

Cuppa wisdom

For the true coffee lovers:

"Do you know what the Turkish say about coffee? It should be black as hell, strong as death, and sweet as love." – Holly Black, *Black Heart*

For the eloquent creative types:

"I have measured out my life with coffee spoons." – T.S.Eliot

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## Retired Judge Speaks

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI

It's teachers' and government's negotiating time. I canvassed several teachers and wanted to put their point of view forward. I taught high school math during law school. Let's try to imagine what it is like to be a teacher. Suppose your spouse was going away. She asks you to host your ten-year-old son's birthday party. You'll need some snacks and organize a game or two. You're told the party will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. You will have to care for five of them to 6 p.m. by taking them to swimming lessons.

Your son comes home announcing he invited the whole class of 34. There is a shortage of teachers after COVID-19, and budget reductions have resulted in larger classes. He tells you, he promised the kids you would teach them how to play Monopoly.

He cautions you that four have attention deficits and three take medication at certain times. You gasp. He says, "Ms. Smiley handles the class easily." You reply, "She has a teacher's aid." He laughs, "They cut them out last year to reduce costs."

You organize your thoughts. You'll need several hours of the day before to plan the events need three hours the day after to clean up. Teaching requires about one hour out of class for each hour in class.

See the analogy. The class size, the health and special issues of the class, the need to organize and maintain discipline, your need to socialize them, and the fact that during all this, you must educate them by teaching a game.

Of course, you will volunteer to provide extra-curricular coaching time at the pool.

Luckily, you don't have to deal with the infamous cell phone. It's common for teenagers to bring their phones into class, either with or against parental wishes or knowledge.

Some parents demand the phone be there. If the teacher takes the phone, they are liable for it. Often, kids sleep with their phones attached to them like Cyborgs.

Recently, visiting my grandson, I had more fun with him after he lost his phone than before. That evil phone was possessed. This demon wanted to possess him exclusively. Discipline is not as we remember.

Teachers must refrain from sending their students to the office. Teachers accept some disciplinary issues must be handled as part of their role in socializing the student; however, increasing threats and physical contact have complicated some situations.

Today, the ability to discipline a student is limited. You send them to the office, and the office sends them back. The solution is more positive family and public role models.

People like former U.S. President Donald Trump and other politicians, social media and bullying have destroyed civility. How often have you shown anger or contempt in front of your family?

Family abuse or lack of good conflict resolution is too familiar in many homes today. Social media and the pressure of living in a complex, changing world have stressed the family. The teacher ends up being either, the target of a student's frustration or an empathetic confidant. The teacher has only a few hours with a student each day. The family and friends have the other 80%. Concepts of respect and dignity must be taught in the home, there is no time left in the classroom to teach manners.

Another problem is, students don't fail anymore and with a shortage of remedial programs, the student arrives at high school ill-prepared to handle the subject level. A high school teacher told me, Give me 20 students, and I will ensure each one achieves their maximum abilities. Give me 30, and I have to practise triage, picking and choosing those with the best chance to survive.

Extra-curricular activities are engaging. Coaching is a voluntary action. Many teachers enjoy the interaction with the students. It requires about two or three hours a day and, some evening or weekend preparation, another 10 hours per week. That's hours without pay. Even if the work is voluntary, the government tells the parents it's part of the education experience. In other words, some teachers subsidize the child's education. How much is all this worth? The family and society depend more on teachers than doctors, lawyers, dentists and nurses. Next to you, they spend the most time with your kids.

So why doesn't the government bargain in good faith instead of waiting two years after a contract has ended to start.

**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**

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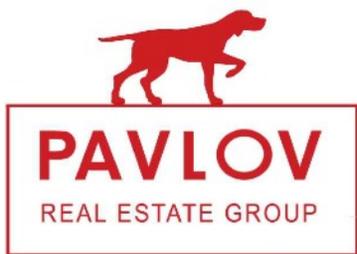
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6 +1 Bed, 4 Bath. High Park Grande Dame. Exceptional Location, Stupendous Lot And Generous Floorplan. Currently 4 Spacious Suites. Transform Into Stunning Single Family (& Keep Income Suite If Desired) With Little Effort. Highly Ranked School District. Impactful And Inspiring.

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**Beautiful Balmuto St.**

1 Bed, 1 Bath. Crystal Blue Represents One Of The Rarest Addresses And Spectacular Vertical Locations In The City. Yorkville, U of T, Two Subway Stations & Luxury Alley Are All Within A Few Dozen Steps. Escape The Ordinary And Feast In The Extraordinary! Outstanding Functional Layout, 10' Ceilings, Unobstructed Views, 24 Hour Concierge, Fantastic Amenities Including Guest Suites And Visitor Parking.

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**Marvellous Madison Ave.**

7 Studio apartments, 2 One Bedroom Apartments. Exceptional Legal Multiplex In Prime Annex. Renters' Paradise: Steps To U Of T & TTC. Fully Tenanted, Grossing Approx 150K Annually. Unrivalled Century Architecture. Superb Addition To Any Investment Portfolio.

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# Looking after yourself and others in the community

**OCTOBER 2 TO DECEMBER 11 DANCE AND SWEAT** join Anny for a fun high-energy cardio workout with Latin-inspired music and dance from 11 a.m. to 12 noon at Stonegate CHC, Trillium Room. Registration opens September 18 and you can call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or e-mail [health.promotion@stonegatechc.org](mailto:health.promotion@stonegatechc.org).

**OCTOBER 3 TO DECEMBER 19 FREE MARTIAL ARTS** for children 6 to 12 years old every Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Available for intermediate and advance class. Instructor will test skill level. For more information call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or e-mail [health.promotion@stonegatechc.org](mailto:health.promotion@stonegatechc.org).

**OCTOBER 5 and 6 is the 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LATIN FESTIVAL** celebrating the culture of Latin America at the Living Arts Centre, 4141 Living Arts Drive, Mississauga. On October 5 there will be Latin American Folk Dance Groups featuring Afro-Cuban diva Marta Elena, Panamanian musician Juan de Sedas and Indigenous Ecuadorian band, Imbayacuna, one of Canada's most popular bands. On October 6 there will be arts and crafts workshops and more bands. Visit [www.latinfestival.ca](http://www.latinfestival.ca) for more information.

**OCTOBER 11 AND 18 LINE DANCING** from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at LAMP CHC in the community room which will be turned into a dance hall. A great opportunity to learn new moves in a friendly, supportive setting. Register by emailing [jasmind@lampchc.org](mailto:jasmind@lampchc.org) or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

**OCTOBER 11 AFFORDABLE HOUSING** at LAMP CHC at 6 p.m. as The South Etobicoke Land Trust is holding working groups and a community meeting online and in person. The purpose is to acquire land to develop and protect affordable housing. Working groups include: property acquisition and development, organizational development, fundraising, finance and business planning, monitoring and evaluations. For more contact [brig@lampchc.org](mailto:brig@lampchc.org)

**UNTIL OCTOBER 12 INDIGENOUS ART EXHIBIT** takes place from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Small Arms Inspection Building, 1352 Lakeshore Rd East, Mississauga. See the Art Mashkiki Indigenous Art

Exhibit. Meet the artists and hear their stories. Speakers includes Chief Stacey Laforme. Contact 905-615-3200 ext. 8446 or e-mail [small.arms@mississauga.ca](mailto:small.arms@mississauga.ca).

**UNTIL OCTOBER 13 HOUSING RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE** applications are being accepted by the City of Toronto for members of the public to sit on the new committee. Residents can apply at [www.toronto.ca/ShapeYourCity](http://www.toronto.ca/ShapeYourCity). The application period will remain open until October 13 and the candidates are expected to be considered by City Council in December.

**OCTOBER 16 BETTER SLEEP WORKSHOP FREE** from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in person and online with wellness coach **Mary Craig**, who will facilitate three workshops to help you understand the nature of sleep and how to cultivate a mindset to invite rest and relaxation into your daily routine. You will practice relaxation exercises and design your own sleep wellness toolbox. To register e-mail [jasmind@lampchc.org](mailto:jasmind@lampchc.org) or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

**OCTOBER 17 BASKETBALL SKILLS DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM** at Lanor Junior Middle School, 450 Lanor Avenue, for children 8 to 11 years old. Learn from coaches on how to take your child's skills to the next level.

**OCTOBER 19 WILL BE A DISCUSSION** of the book **Proof by Dick Francis** from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. Borrow your copy of the book at Humber Bay Library. The book is available as an e-book or e-audiobook on the library's website. Contact Stonegate CHC to register at 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or email [health.promotion@stonegatechc.org](mailto:health.promotion@stonegatechc.org)

**OCTOBER 22 MEMORIAL SERVICE** to pay tribute to forgotten World War 1 Vets and Indigenous people at the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital cemetery, 231 Evans Avenue, at 10 a.m. There will be a march, Indigenous leaders and others there.

**OCTOBER 27 THE ONTARIO POPS ORCHESTRA** under music director **Maestro Carlos Bastidas** open the Heritage and Diversity Concert Season with the Hispanic / Latin American Heritage

Month Gala Concert at 8 p.m. at the Glenn Gould Studio, 250 Front Street West. Tickets \$30. For more information e-mail [www.ontariopops.com](http://www.ontariopops.com).

**UNTIL DECEMBER 2 FINANCIAL LITERACY** by Zoom every Saturday at 10 a.m. until December 2 for a series dedicated to Reclaiming Your Credit Power, with **Tefari Bailey**, CEO and co-founder of Hutsy Financial and **Shaquille Hall**, Investor and Mortgage Agent. Contact the Black Business and Professional Association by e-mail at [marketing@bbpa.org](mailto:marketing@bbpa.org) or phone 416-504-4097.

**EVERY WEDNESDAY SENIORS SPANISH SOCIAL GROUP** with speakers, for motivational discussions, cooking demos and arts and crafts meet at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, Unit 201, at 10 a.m. For more contact 416-236-7070 ext. 239 or e-mail [sonia.demartinez@stonegatechc.org](mailto:sonia.demartinez@stonegatechc.org).

**EVERY THURSDAY BI-WEEKLY STONEGATE CHC** join ESS Support Services for a shuttle bus to take seniors and those with a disability, or mobility issues for grocery shopping at No Frills, at The Queensway and Royal York Road. The bus will pick you up and drop you off. Call 416-231-7070 ext. 239 to register or visit [www.stonegatechc.org](http://www.stonegatechc.org).

**OCTOBER 31 HALLOWEEN CORNER** at the Gazebo, at Eighth Street and Lake Shore Blvd. W., from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. There will be Halloween treats. Sponsored by the Lakeshore Village Business Improvement Association. For more call 647-459-8727 or email [lakeshorebia@gmail.com](mailto:lakeshorebia@gmail.com),

**OCTOBER SAMBA-INSPIRED DRUMMING** - No musical experience necessary. This free group invites you to learn to drum together, make music, create connections and express creativity. Contact [jasmind@lampchc.org](mailto:jasmind@lampchc.org) or 416 252 6471 ext. 308. Space is limited.

**MINDFUL MEDITATION WEDNESDAYS** at 3 p.m. at LAMP CHC. You can start anytime. The class aims at helping you to develop strategies to build your coping skills and resilience. Sessions will include: simple techniques to focus on breathing and muscle relaxation. For more contact [jasmind@lampchc.org](mailto:jasmind@lampchc.org) or 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

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# Young entrepreneur wins grant for online biz



**ENTREPRENEUR** Marley Alles and some of her clothing for rent. *Courtesy photo.*

Young South Etobicoke entrepreneur Marley Alles is on top of the world after winning a \$40,000 grant for her online clothing rental company.

Alles, who developed a peer-to-peer wardrobe rental app, called rax, was chosen by Coors Original Legacy Lift in a pitch event for the prize in Toronto. She got the idea after being invited to a wedding and thought that instead of buying a

dress and wearing it once she could borrow one from a friend to wear for the day.

"I was very surprised to win," Alles said. "I was completely shocked."

She competed against four other Canadian start-ups, all which had to submit a 60-second video made on an elevator. Alles also won a mentorship with Coors family member David Coors, a board member and vice-president of the international brewing company.

She now rents items of clothing, shoes and bags to women on the rax app, an idea that has caught on.

"As a startup, access to capital is one of the hardest things to obtain and lack of funding is one of the main ways startups fail," Alles said "Winning this grant from Coors Original enables rax to reach new heights that wouldn't have been possible."

The start-up consultant for small companies applied for the Coors grant last August and it paid off after she was chosen as a winner last month.

"We all have a closet full of clothes we'd love to make money on and on the other hand, we often want to wear items once or for a couple of months," she said.

"Consumer preferences are shifting with disposable income shrinking."

Alles said the 'horrible ethical and environmental impacts of the fast fashion industry,' enabled her to make a difference by empowering individuals to become their own entrepreneurs.

"rax is a community-driven marketplace that redefines the way we consume fashion without hurting your wallet, while saving the planet," she said.

Alles said women can make money by lending out their wardrobe to others or save money borrowing other people's closets.

"It's a great way to reduce your carbon footprint while finally giving you access to the closet of your dreams, without the cost associated," she asserted.

Her app displays photos of models wearing the fashionable, formal clothing for women and lists a rental fee. The lender and borrower are then hooked up and she receives a 20% commission on items being lent. The company has a website with photos posted of some of the outfits that can be rented for four days, 10 days, 20 days, a month, three months or six months

"We were honored to award the Legacy Lift grant to Marley Alles of rax after learning more about how she took an inspiring career leap to build a lasting, sustainable business that would create a positive impact for the people of Canada," said Leslie Malcolm, Senior Director of Marketing for Molson Global Brands. Borrowers fill out a form and can pick up or have the item shipped to them, which must be returned cleaned.

You can view some of her rental selection at [www.raxapp.ca](http://www.raxapp.ca)



**MODEL** wearing a white lace two-piece dress. *rax photo.*



**RAX MODEL** wearing a body-fitted white dress. *rax photo*



**RAX MODEL** wearing a red mini sequin dress. *rax photo.*



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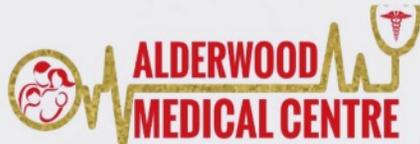
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To learn about the current market or to compare sales history year over year, contact me 416-259-9639

### TRREB MLS <sup>®</sup> Sales Activity

August 2023

5,291

August 2022

5,584

### TRREB MLS <sup>®</sup> Average Selling Price

August 2023

\$1,082,960

August 2022

\$1,079,048

Source: TRREB



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