



The South Etobicoke News

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Bill C-52 face vote to target loud aircraft noise

Aircraft noise from planes using Toronto Pearson International Airport has left many South Etobicoke residents sleepless and agitated for years and now there may be relief to help curb the din. Residents of Alderwood, Long Branch, New Toronto and Markland Woods who live under the flight paths have long complained to the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA) about loud and low-flying jets coming and going from Pearson.

Pearson officials last June issued an apology for the noise and claimed it was due to a \$30 million rehabilitation of "Canada's busiest runways," which include Runway 05 for departures and Runway 23 for arrivals.



HELP ON ITS WAY TO CURB AIRPORT aircraft noise as Bill C-52 has been tabled and working its way through Parliament to create noise committees to monitor loud and low-flying airplanes.

"Last night an airplane came over top and scared the living daylights out of me," Alderwood resident Ruthmary James told airport officials then.

To curb the problem for residents, the federal government last June tabled Bill-C52: An Act to enact the Air

Transportation Accountability Act and amend the Canada Marine Act. The Bill, which is working its way through Parliament, will lead to more transparency and accountability from airports, including the creation of noise committees. C-52 will legislate airport operators to establish and oversee a noise management committee to address questions and concerns from the public regarding the din of aircraft. The Bill will set out notice and consultation requirements related to aircraft

noise, establish a complaint process and impose fines up to \$5,000 against airlines for breaking the law. The committees would hold meetings four times yearly and publish when and where there will be runway work and more noise from aircraft.

A 101-year-old face eviction from nursing home

An Etobicoke senior has launched a Go Fund Me page to help her 101-year-old sister remain in an assisted living home. Gwen Rawlinson, 82, said Phyllis Robson's health is "very fragile" and by the end of December, her older sister will run out of money needed to stay in the Orillia residence.

"I am worried the stress of the move will kill her," Rawlinson wrote on Go Fund Me. "She has done well on her own but never expected to live to 101."

She said Phyllis "means to pass peacefully in the place where she feels safe at home." Phyllis has made friends and is quite happy at the Paradise Shores retirement and assisted living residence in Orillia, "where she feels loved and cared for." "It is my



ETOBICAN GWEN RAWLINSON HAS CREATED A Go Fund Me page to help prevent her sister Phyllis Robson, 101, (middle) from being evicted from a Orillia nursing home (right) where she has lived for years. She fears her sister will not survive the move. Courtesy photos.

wish to keep her there," she said. "The staff is extraordinary, genuinely loves Phyllis, and are heartbroken at the thoughts of her moving." She said the home has only six patients who with staff have "gone above

and beyond to help her." More than than 130 people have donated more than \$15,000 of the goal of \$24,000 to keep her in the home. She doesn't want to leave her friends.

"At 80 pounds, she is very frail and has not been able to walk independently for years plus she is deaf and has a myriad of age-related conditions," her sister pleaded. "It breaks my heart to think of her having to go through the upheaval of a move and likely passing away due to the stress instead of peacefully at her current home," Rawlinson wrote.

She and Phyllis are the only two alive of 10 siblings, who grew up in a farm in Oro-Medonte. Phyllis is the second oldest and Rawlinson is the youngest of the siblings. Phyllis' husband, daughter and grandson have predeceased her. She helped to raise the younger siblings when they were kids. Her birthday was last month.

You can donate to help her at Go Fund Me.

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Two local men nabbed in huge police drug bust



POLICE show the drugs removed from the streets.

Two Etobicoke men are among seven people charged in what Toronto Police say is their largest drug seizure in the force's 189-year history.

Undercover officers during a three-and-a-half month operation, dubbed Project Finito, seized 992 kilograms of drugs, which included 551 kilos of cocaine and 441 kilos of crystal methamphetamine, with an estimated street value of \$90 million.

Detectives also seized a firearm, a vehicle and about \$95,100 in Canadian currency.

Superintendent Steve Watts, of Organized Crime Enforcement, alleged the suspects were runners in a drug ring who were each moving a large amount of drugs. "They were more high-level runners," Watts said at a press conference at Toronto Police Headquarters on November 17. "The drugs were crossing the border by land crossings from the U.S. to Canada and beyond." He said the drugs ended up in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, which are some of the large distribution areas and from these cities the drugs were sent across Canada. "The cocaine is mixed with fentanyl and other drugs for more toxicity," Watts said. "This is the largest seizure we have seen and it is extremely significant."

He said the seizure led an increase in the price of cocaine on the streets of Toronto. "This seizure will lead to less people overdosing on the streets," Watts said.

Police accused the suspects of being in a network that distributed large volumes of drugs in the GTA.

Charged are Bryan Sherritt, 37, Abubakar Mohamed, 30, both of Etobicoke, Bashir Hasan Abdi, 34, Lucho Loder, 43, both of Toronto, Tenzin Palden, 25, of Mississauga, Camron Longmore, 20 and Zubayul Hoque, 25, of Ajax.

There has been a record number of hate crimes in Toronto since brutal war in the Middle East began



TORONTO POLICE CHIEF Myron Demkiw and graffiti sprayed on store window (below).

The deadly war in the Middle East has led to a spike of hate crimes in Toronto with more than 300 incidents so far this year, police say.

"The impacts of the events in the Middle East on Toronto are ongoing, including a concerning rise in reported hate crimes," Chief

Myron Demkiw told members of a Police Services Board meeting on November 23.

He said between January 1 and November 23, there were 323 reported hate crimes in Toronto, compared to 224 the same time last year.

Included in those numbers were 129 reported anti-Semitic hate crimes and 34 reported anti-Muslim, anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab hate crimes.

Demkiw said from October 7 to November 20, there were 78 hate crimes reported, compared to 22 last year. This included 38 reported anti-Semitic hate crimes, versus 13 the same period last year, and 17 reported anti-Muslim, anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab hate crimes compared to the same period last year.

"There has also been a marked increase in reported hate crimes targeting LGBTQ2S+ communities during this period," he said, adding there were nine incidents compared to five last year.

Among all of the hate crimes reported between October 7 and November 20, some 49 per cent were anti-Semitic.

The expanded Hate Crime Unit since October 7 has been responsible for 25 arrests and 64 charges laid in relation to hate incidents.

In early November, police increased the size of its Hate Crime Unit from six officers to 21 investigators and eight

Special Constables, along with an analyst and researcher.

"This is being done by temporarily re-assigning members from other areas of the Service in order to prioritize the response to these crimes and expand investigative capacity," the Chief said.

The Service also launched a web form on TPS.ca for the public to alert police to hate-motivated graffiti.

The website allows officers to attend, gather evidence and arrange for the hate-motivated graffiti to be removed as quickly as possible.

The site is monitored 24 hours and police have received 90 web submissions so far.



EXPLOSIONS rock city in Middle East war.

He said in the last month there has been 'a significant spike in reported hate-related graffiti,' with 63 occurrences that were anti-Muslim, anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab, compared to two the same period last year.

There have been 217 hate graffiti occurrences that were anti-

Semitic since October 7. Last year, there were 19 reported at the same time period.

The Service has stepped up their presence in communities across the city to ensure safety and provide residents with a sense of security.

"The impact of crime motivated by hate is far-reaching, and extends beyond the physical and emotional trauma suffered by the victim," Demkiw told the Board. It affects "all members of the targeted community."

He warned residents of our city will not be intimidated.

"Violence and hateful acts will not be tolerated," Demkiw said. "We will pursue any suspected incidents."



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Work started on new Etobicoke Civic Centre



ARTIST RENDERINGS of new Etobicoke Civic Centre. Courtesy photos.

A construction firm is in the process of being hired to build the new Etobicoke Civic Centre, which city officials say will be "The jewel of Etobicoke Centre."

A contract to build the centre was slated to be issued in October and if all goes well, officials said the state-of-the-art buildings will be completed by August 2027, with staff moving in by December.

The new Etobicoke Civic Centre (ECC) will be located at 3755 Bloor Street W., in the newly-redeveloped Etobicoke Civic Centre Precinct, which was formerly the Westwood Theatre Land adjacent to Kipling Ave.

Once completed, the ECC will have a community recreation centre with municipal offices, market office space, an outdoor civic square, a community recreation centre, a medical clinic, a childcare centre, a café, a public art gallery and a new Toronto Public Library district branch.

The proposal includes a gymnasium, aquatic centre, multi-purpose rooms and fitness rooms in the community recreation centre.

The civic square is slated to have various types of landscaping including large erratic (boulders) landscape elements, including a water feature, a garden area, an events plaza, a sacred fire vessel and outdoor seating.

"The varying heights of the building structure allow the rooftops to be accessible and used as playgrounds and breakout spaces," according to planners. "The gymnasium, pool, library and main entrance are located towards the Civic Square, animating the facade and creating a backdrop that provides animation throughout the day."

The Council Chamber will be located on the first floor directly above the main entrance and will be highly visible from the Civic Square, planners say. The building's second



MASSIVE CIVIC CENTRE will house chambers, gym, aquatic centre and lots of space (below).

level will have a child centre outdoor playground and a wedding chapel roof terrace.

"The new ECC will contribute positively to the area and be the jewel of the Etobicoke Centre," city officials said, adding a number of city services will be housed there.

The tallest portions of the building will be located along Bloor Street West, with a 16-storey section that descends

to one that is 12 storeys, and other portions reaching nine and six storeys.

It will have 427 parking spots in two floors of underground parking. The ground floor bicycle storage area will have 72 short-term and 67 long-term bike parking spaces, and a bicycle repair area.

"The new Etobicoke Civic Centre is a landmark project that represents architectural design excellence in the Etobicoke Centre," according to a city report. "The current design was selected through an international design competition and provides for new jobs within underutilized lands on a site that is designated for growth."

The Six Points area was originally a web of roads until the city began work on a new intersection in 2017. This work cost \$77 million and involved demolition of bridges and creation of regular intersections between Kipling Avenue, Bloor Street W., and Dundas Street West.

Removal of the bridges unlocked new City-owned land for future development and created further opportunities for the evolution of Etobicoke Centre as a vibrant mixed-use transit-oriented community, officials said.



Few library services due to cyberattack

The Toronto Public Library says its branches in South Etobicoke and elsewhere will have its computer systems down until next year due to a cyberattack. Some 100 branches citywide will be down until January as technicians work to get them back online.

"Given the complexity and magnitude of this task involving our data centre and computers across 100 library branches, and the inter-connectivity of our systems, we anticipate library services will take several more weeks," officials said. The library's website, as well as its public computers and printers at their branches, have been down since the system was targeted by a ransomware attack on October 28. The data of current and former employees, including social insurance numbers and copies of their government identification, were likely stolen.

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Some want to remove Etobicoke's Coat of Arms

Some Etobicoke residents believe our Coat of Arms has run its course and want it retired.

There has been much discussion over the past five years, with some claiming that the Etobicoke Coat of Arms features anti-Indigenous stereotypes and should be scrapped. Some critics are upset the depictions include an Indigenous figure kneeling above a banner that reads "tradition," facing a European explorer above the word "progress."

The Indigenous hunter's days may be numbered.

Councillor Stephen Holyday, who represents Ward 2, planned to bring a motion on November 8 before Etobicoke York Community Council, calling for a pause until a review is conducted.

Holyday, who represents Etobicoke Centre, said he planned to call for a staff report on the origins and meaning of the Coat of Arms by the end of this year.

"There's deeper meaning here," Holyday told CBC Toronto. "And the meaning that I don't want to lose is an earnest effort by the City of Etobicoke back in 1977 to recognize the Indigenous history on this land."

The councillor said he researched the Coat of Arms origins and concluded that it represents the peaceful co-existence of Indigenous people and Europeans in Etobicoke.

The city acknowledges the harm and pain this imagery may have caused to staff and Indigenous community members.

Concerns were raised by city staff and members of the public about the outdated, stereotypical imagery of an Indigenous person that can be considered "cultural



CONTROVERSIAL Etobicoke Coat of Arms.

appropriation," city spokesperson Russell Baker told CBC Toronto. "Engagement with several city divisions, including the Indigenous Affairs Office and People & Equity ... determined that the Coat of Arms does not reflect the city's values of reconciliation and inclusion."

The Coat of Arms is displayed prominently at Etobicoke Civic centre on The West Mall, above a chamber room, and is on some of its stationery.

It is also displayed at the Kipling Subway station and other venues. The controversy began in 2019 when several members of the community suggested to city staff and politicians that the



COUNCILLOR Stephen Holyday.

Indigenous figure was drawn in a way that could be considered a racist caricature, according to Holyday, chair of the Etobicoke York Community Council. The issue wasn't pursued by staff or politicians then, he said. But recently there have been renewed complaints from staff at the Etobicoke Civic Centre and members of the public that prompted staff members to re-examine the issue, Holyday added.

A City Manager said the Coat of Arms were removed from two prominent spots in the middle of the council chamber at the civic centre and from a window above the door to an adjacent meeting room.

"Removing the Coat of Arms from this location will contribute to creating a safe and inclusive space for members of the public and city employees, which is a top priority," one city bureaucrat

said, as the dispute rages on.

The matter was brought to the front burner by Chief Stacey Laforme of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation in 2019, who called the imagery disturbing and has been seeking a public discussion on its use.





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

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

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Community turns out to honour our soldiers

Thousands of people gathered in South Etobicoke and across Canada to pay tribute to our veterans on Remembrance Day. The front lawn of the Royal Canadian Legion (RCL), Branch 101, at 3850 Lake Shore Blvd. W., was packed with residents who paid their respects to the surviving veterans and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

By IAN ROBERTSON

A lament was followed by Reveille and the Canadian flag being raised, then reading of an Act of Remembrance by Padre Hipperson, a Commitment of Remembrance, a response to that, followed by wreaths being laid, recitation of "In Flanders Fields", a benediction, a closing prayer, singing of "Amazing Grace", then "God Save the King", a march-off colours and falling out. Numerous visitors brought poppies to lay with the wreaths, after which guests were invited into the RCL. The first wreaths were laid by representatives of the Federal Government, Veterans, Veterans Affairs, the Provincial Government, the City of Toronto, and District 'D' zone branches.



SOLDIER LAYING a wreath in honour of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Below wreaths by Long Branch cenotaph. Photos by Ian Robertson.

There were more than 200 people, ranging from infants to seniors, at the RCL Long Branch service, with cadets lined up at the front, people surrounding, including several veterans - a couple seated in chairs. Printed programs were available inside the branch. Recorded music was included. The service began with a March on the Colours, led by Sergeant-at-Arms Cole Hayes, then "O Canada" sung by everyone, followed by lowering of the Maple Leaf flag on the pole in front of the legion hall. The opening hymn was 'Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory of the Coming of the Lord.' A message was delivered by Branch 101 President Tom Flockary, after which he read names of the five RCL comrades who passed away over the past year. The opening prayer was delivered by Lieutenant David Hipperson, of the Salvation Army Lakeshore Community Church, who is Padre of the RCL Branch.



At the Long Branch Cenotaph at noon, a shorter service was held with some of the same participants, led by Sergeant-at-Arms Cole Hayes. Several dozen people were in attendance, with the service much shorter but memorable. As they did at the RCL Long Branch, City Councillor/Toronto Deputy Mayor Amber Morley and MPP Christine Hogarth were among those who laid wreaths. The Long Branch Cenotaph was



LOVED ONES laying wreaths outside Long Branch Legion Hall. Below, Todd McAlary before Remembrance Day Service, Royal Canadian Legion, Long Branch, with photos of his grandfather, Burton McAlaru, 8th Hussars, Sussex, N.B., who served in First and Second World War.

constructed in 1933 in memory of residents who lost their lives in World War I, WW II and the Korean War. The Cenotaph stands in a small park on Long Branch Avenue south of the Lakeshore Boulevard. The Wright Family, extensive land owners in the community, donated this small parcel of land to the village of Long Branch to be held in perpetuity. At a service downtown Mayor Olivia Chow said 125,000 Canadians saw service at home and abroad. Some 10,000 fallen soldiers died in conflicts over the years. There were also services at New Toronto Cenotaph, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 643 and the Etobicoke Civic Centre.



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Women made weapons for troops during WWII

Mississauga's Small Arms Inspection Building was a bustling weapon producing centre in Remembrance Days of the past. Building 12 as it was known, was designed in 1940, and used as a large munitions plant for the Canadian Army through the Second World War until 1974.

Small Arms Limited played a critical role for women, who made up about two-thirds of the factory's 5,300 workforce.

At the end of 1941, the factory had 1,200 employees and had made 7,589 rifles, according to the City of Mississauga.

In 1942, the factory was in full production making pistols, Mark II Sten sub-machine guns, Lee Enfield No. 4 rifles, ammunition, and a myriad of other military supplies. By 1943 the factory employed more than 5,300 workers, 65% of whom were women. This factory was an important industry in Lakeview, and led to a rapid increase in population, as well as housing.



WOMEN FIRING weapons and making them (below) during WWII. **Courtesy photos.**

In 1942 Wartime Housing Limited constructed 200 prefabricated homes and a dormitory for the employees.

On March 1943, a large dormitory with accommodations for 422 women opened at the northwest corner of Dixie and Lakeshore Roads.

The increase in population also led to the building of two modern schools in Lakeview, Lakeview Beach and Lakeview Park public schools. Many of the officers, it is said, lived in the wartime homes built in Alderwood by the federal government to house staff. Then it took an army of workers several

weeks to build a home, since they mostly followed the same design. Wartime production ceased in December 1945. By the end of the Second World War, Small Arms Limited had manufactured 126,703 9 mm Sten sub-machine guns; 905,731 Lee Enfield No. 4 rifles; and 1,141 No. 4 MKI Sniper Rifles, as well as pistols and machine guns and played a significant role in the allied war effort during the Second World War.



MISSISSAUGA'S Small Arms Inspection Building now (above) and then (below).

After the war, the factory continued to operate, switching to the fabrication of component parts for vehicles as a division of Canadian Arsenals Limited. The factory closed in 1974. In 1981 the factory was transferred to Canada Post, and in 1992 to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Today the facility is owned by the City of Mississauga.

The Small Arms Inspection Building (SAIB) is located on the 15.7-hectare parcel of land known as the Arsenal Lands on the eastern border of Mississauga's waterfront, which borders with Etobicoke.

It was deemed a heritage building in 2008.

The City of Mississauga acquired ownership of the building in 2017, and

together with the Small Arms Society, turned it into Creative Hub 1532, a space for creative activity and shows.



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Mimico TMC is base for VIA's new fleet of trains



TORONTO MAINTENANCE CENTRE, on Drummond Street, is a base for VIA Rail's new fleet.

VIA Rail's Toronto Maintenance Centre is a hub of activity as it is the Mimico home of the railway's new fleet of environmentally-friendly trains. The Canadian Crown corporation has obtained 32 new state-of-the-art trains, which began operating on October 24 along the Windsor-Québec City corridor. Via Rail Canada Inc. said the trains will be serviced at the Toronto Maintenance Centre (TMC), at 50 Drummond Street, in Mimico. Parts of the Toronto Maintenance Centre (TMC) are being modernized and about 475 jobs will be created to complete the project by 2026. "The TMC modernization will stimulate local economic growth with an estimated 450 to 475 jobs created

throughout this project," VIA said on its website. The endeavour will include partial demolition and modification of the main building, the removal and addition of rails, various infrastructure improvements throughout the maintenance yard and construction of a new wheel lathe facility to maintain wheels and ensure their smooth operation on the tracks, VIA said. It said several mitigation measures have been conducted to "limit the disruptions caused by the upcoming work." VIA stated: "We are committed to ensuring the safety of our employees and communities and to minimizing disruptions. The quality of life of our neighbours and residents of the Etobicoke-Lakeshore borough is important to us and the construction team." The trains will be "one of the most environmentally friendly fleets in North America," according to the corporation. We are "improving the environmental footprint through advanced energy-efficient technology." According to VIA, there will for now be one daily round trip between Toronto and Ottawa. The train journeys will vary by day of the week. The new fleet reportedly can travel up to 201 kilometers an hour and can carry about 200 passengers in different classes. The project to modernize the maintenance centres in Montréal and Toronto is part of the corridor fleet replacement program, for which \$1.5 billion in funds were allocated by the federal government.

The funds are for the fleet, the modernization maintenance centres, implementation and integration of various IT systems, plus the transformation of maintenance processes. VIA rail has almost 3,400 employees and serves about 400 communities in Canada. It moves about 3.3 million passengers yearly and generates some \$335.3 million in revenue annually. To meet the challenges of passenger rail transportation in the Québec City-Toronto corridor, VIA Rail proposed the High Frequency Rail (HFR) project to Ottawa in 2016. It is an endeavour that would offer a faster, more frequent, accessible, and sustainable service in densely-populated regions of the country. The federal government has acted on this proposal, preparing and launching its procurement process in 2022, for what could become Canada's largest infrastructure project in generations. VIA is hiring workers and you can obtain more information by visiting viarail.ca



ONE OF the eco-friendly trains. VIA photos

One of City's oldest home to become 9-floor seniors abode



HERITAGE home built in 1843 is being converted.

One of Toronto's oldest buildings that was built in 1843 and deemed a heritage property is being proposed to be converted into a nine-storey seniors home. The buildings at 4946 and another at 4941 Dundas Street W., and 4-16 Burnhamthorpe Road, were approved for redevelopment by the city's Heritage Planning and Urban Planners and sent to City Council to consider. The ancient

building at 4946 Dundas Street W., which was most recently a Fox and Fiddle Restaurant, started off as Islington Methodist Church built in the mid-19th century, and later the first Etobicoke Township Hall. City Planners said the building is composed of three parts. In the front, a 1946 Georgian



ONE OF THE CITY'S oldest home at 180-years is getting a nine-storey addition.



"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.*

older facade of the building was kept intact. The complex in 1979 was designated a historical landmark as the first municipal hall for the Township of Etobicoke and 'for its value within the streetscape its architectural design value.' The proposed seniors home would include 199 residence rental suites, 29 memory care suites, 90 assisted living suites, 80 independent living suites and retail stores. The former Etobicoke Township Hall will be incorporated into the development and used for restaurant purposes on the ground floor with a private dining and amenity space on the upper floor.

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Try Good Food Mantra for tasty Assamese dishes



Good Food Mantra is a new Indian and Hakka food restaurant that is gaining popularity and has recently opened in Long Branch and residents are loving it.

The restaurant prides itself on

serving Assamese delicacies on the weekends. Assam is a gateway to northeast India that is famous for its tea, one-horned rhino and muga silk.

Owners Janesh Singh, a lawyer, and Surajit Basihya said the Assamese community in Canada is strong and growing, with most of the newcomers, who are mostly computer specialists, settling in the Toronto area. There are about 2,000 Assamese living in the Toronto area.

"In recent times, a lot of highly skilled Assamese, who are mostly IT professionals, are adopting Canada as their home-land," said Singh. "To those living thousands of miles away from their homeland our purpose is to bring to them the flavours of India/Assam and add to the mosaic of Canada."

He said the Assamese community is well known for their love, fondness and celebration of good food.

"This is the first restaurant in Canada to serve Assamese food and we were in the news in India recently for being the first of its kind," according to Singh.

Their cuisine uses a lot of green leafy vegetables and herbs. They claim their dishes are filled with medicinal



FAMILY ENJOYING a nice meal at Good Food Mantra (left) **Courtesy photos.**

properties, healthy, well balanced, unique in taste, very flavorful and tempting.

Singh said every region in India has a distinct and unique culture, traditions and culinary treasures with an incredible variety of rich tastes.

"This is our small attempt to introduce the variety of rich tastes of unexplored parts of India," according to his wife Mayuri Gogoi. "Our food is distinct for its ability to taste good despite the use of minimal spices and oil. Its earthy and rustic scent is truly inviting to food lovers."

The restaurant was busy on Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, which took place on November 12.

The Good Food Mantra is known for its original Kathi Roll, which are stuffed with lightly pickled onions, meat and a secret blend of spices.

"We believe in using all-natural, preservative-free ingredients and we make everything in-house from scratch," Gogoi said.

"We have been getting a good response from the community so far," she said. "People seem to love our food."

The Mantra also offers takeout and the food has received many good reviews online on social media.

"This place is new but the taste is awesome and prices are reasonable considering they use pure

ghee, halal meats and certified chefs," wrote Ravi Agarwala. "It is not some home kitchen."

Michele Worth highly recommends the eatery. "This food is fantastic.

Perfectly prepared with very subtle spices and flavors," Worth said. "If you crave great fusion Indian, this is the place."

Nandita Agarwala said the meals are delicious and the kabab rolls are tasty.

"Amazing food. Delicious biryani," she said. "Kathi kabab rolls were out of this world."

The Good Food Mantra is at 3583 Lake Shore Blvd. W., and can be reached at 437-880-8315, by e-mail at foodmantra.canada@gmail.com or visit goodfoodmantra.com



GOOD FOOD MANTRA co-owners Janesh and Surajit (bottom). **Courtesy photos.**

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Humber College staying put



HUMBER College South classroom

Good news for Humber College students. Ongoing plans to relocate the University of Guelph-Humber (UoGH) north campus to Brampton have been nixed.

Talks have been underway to locate the campus at a yet-to-be-constructed Centre for Innovation in the City of Brampton.

The site was described as 'an iconic gateway building that will offer a new central library, collaborative space for post-secondary institutions and office space.'

Humber shared the news with Mayor Patrick Brown and members of Brampton City Council last October 6. The letter has since been posted on the school's website.

The college has a large presence in South Etobicoke with a campus in the Kipling Avenue and Lake Shore Blvd. W. area and its north campus in Rexdale. It has about 8,000 students at the lakefront campus and 4,200 students attending the North Campus.

The students are crucial for the local economy since they rent living spaces, shop and eat at restaurants in the area. "Not just the architecture of the buildings but the education facilities of Humber College Lakeshore are excellent," the college said on its website. Students had complained that a campus in Brampton was too far for those living in the Toronto area.

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New Longo's and Sobeys coming to Queensway

A new grocery store and shopping centre have been given the green light to be constructed on The Queensway.

A proposal to build a huge new Sobeys and Longo's grocery stores and shopping centre with other stores is closer to becoming a reality at 1061 The Queensway, just east of Islington Ave.

Sobeys own a major stake in Longo's and the stores will be massive and side by side.

"The entire centre will have a combined 5,126.77 square metres (in size), 180 vehicle parking spaces with seven accessibility spaces and 23 bicycle stalls are proposed to service the development," according to the proposal.

The plan was approved after revisions by the Committee of Adjustment, Etobicoke York District, on November 9, and is expected to proceed.

Sobeys already has a store at the Kipling Queensway Mall, but that is expected to close as a large chunk of the property will be used for condo towers and a highway interchange to the Gardiner Expressway.

"The proposal is to redevelop the lands for a shopping centre, anchored by a Longo's grocery store," according to the proposal. It said vehicle access is provided to the west of the site along Caven Street and on the east of the site along St. Lawrence Avenue. Both streets are located off The Queensway.

"Both entrances to the subject lands provide access to the parking spaces as well as providing for an adequate fire route," the grocer said. The company was seeking to have the property rezoned to mixed use lands. "Mixed use areas will create a high-quality



NEW CONDOS at 1061 The Queensway, at Islington Ave., will have a new Longo's and Sobeys.

commercial space that meets the needs of the local community while creating and providing new jobs for a growing population on an underutilized site," the committee heard.

Lawyers for Sobeys argued that there is much access to public transit and the development will increase walking and cycling and reduce the need for vehicles.

The proposal they wrote will make 'more efficient use of this underutilized site and serve the needs of the surrounding community.'

Another major development by another company is proposed for the rear of the grocery stores site. A 22 and 27-storey towers are also planned for the rear of 1061 The Queensway that will be parallel to the Gardiner and contain almost 1,000 units.



THE SOBEYS and Longo's will be in shopping centre on the ground floor of the condos. **Courtesy photos.**

Oldest tree saved for now



THIS 330-YEAR OLD tree has been given a reprieve and will not be taken down due to a deadly fungus (below).

One of Etobicoke's oldest tree that lived to be 330-years-old is getting a new lease on life after being threatened by a deadly fungus.

A 330-year-old white oak dubbed the 'Great 335 of Thorncrest,' at Islington Avenue and Great Oak Drive, faced removal due to a Sulphur Fungus disease.

The tree faced being cut down since it posed a danger of falling and injuring someone.

Now, the City Forestry of Toronto, said they can mend the tree without taking it down.

We "feel confident that we can be successfully surgically remove the Sulphur Fungus in the infected area' of the ancient tree, according to city official Vojka Miladinovic.

Miladinovic said the white oak was 'inspected by staff last week and they determined that the removal of this tree is not an emergency.'

"They (staff) confirmed that the tree is in slow structural decline," Miladinovic wrote in an e-mail to concerned residents.

"As this tree is of significance to the neighbourhood and based on the inspection findings and opinions of the Area Manager and Supervisor, tree does not warrant removal at this time," he told jubilant tree lovers.

He said a work order was created to 'remove the large deadwood and perform minor weight reduction on south scaffold.'

Miladinovic said a large branch was broken off from a 2014 storm and there are stress cracks and decay evident.

"At root flare on east side of main stem there is active with sulfur fungus (Laetiporus Sulphureus)," he said. "Tree is still vigorous as it is building reaction wood around storm break area and healthy bud set."



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Plan to use vacant lands on Evans for movie studios voted down



In the Community

By TOM GODFREY



INDUSTRIAL land to be developed into movie studio was voted against.

A plan to convert a large chunk of land in the area of Kipling and Evans Avenues from employment to mixed use areas has been turned down by City Council.

Councillor Amber Morley moved a motion for the conversion of 340-364 Evans Avenue and 12-16 Arnold Street from core employment to mixed use or regeneration areas by removing the lands from Official Urban Structure Plan.

Morley told council the huge tract of land can be used for mixed use and by the film industry to shoot movies to be next to other studios in the area. She envisions 'a hub on the site' and met with film industry officials to seek their input.

"It is a unique site and a unique opportunity," Morley told a council meeting on October 12. "It will be a site that Etobicoke Lakeshore will be proud off." City of Toronto Chief Planner Gregg Lintern told council there are a number of large studios in the area and the industry hires thousands of people. City staff said Toronto is the fifth largest movie making hub in North America and two of the top film schools are located here. Staff said the industry requires large spaces to build sound stages and brings in about \$2.6 billion in business a year to the city. Council was told there is only 13 per cent of employment lands left in Toronto and the companies there hire more than 400,000 workers who hold good paying jobs. Councillors were told there are only about five large tracts of lands deemed for employment left in the city and they have to be preserved to create jobs and companies will have room to expand.

They heard in many cases the proposed mixed use buildings are not built and the lands are sold for high prices due to the rezoning from employment to mixed use. Councillors voted 17 to seven to turn down Morley's motion. Over 5,000 businesses here are active in all aspects of film and television, including production and distribution, animation, music publishing and recording, and radio and television. The Toronto film currently employs over 35,000 residents.

Residents of Long Branch are concerned and stressed about a plan by the City to turn their community into an all-night party mecca. They are anxious and fear that their quiet community, with some of the oldest trees in the country, will be swamped with noise and night-owls looking to party.

A plan is in the works to turn parts of the city, including Long Branch and the Dundas Street strip, in Etobicoke, into Night Time Economy areas where bars, restaurants and night clubs, will remain open 24 hours for those who work shifts or searching for something to do at night.

There will be similar Night Time Economy areas designated for Scarborough, North York and East York.

The City claims most of the night life occurs in downtown Toronto, with about 10 per cent of the activity taking place in the outskirts. They said the Night Time Economy will bring more revenue from parties to the designated communities.

The plan has been in the works for years and was slated to be debated before an Economic and Community Development Committee on November 28 and Planning and Housing Committee on November 30.

A Night Time Economy will allow Long Branch and the Dundas Strip, and other areas to permit bars and live music clubs to remain open 24-hours.

City officials are working with the TTC to operate longer hours in the designated areas to transport night-club and bar patrons.

A report by a city-hired consultant group said some of our by-laws were created from the 1960s to the 2000s and haven't kept up with modern times, like the abundance of many shift and gig workers; in addition to the our many diverse cultures.

The city has sent an e-mail to update community groups on 'licensing and zoning regulations for restaurants, bars and entertainment venues' and in support of the Night Time Economy.

Three separate city staff reports are to be considered by the Economic and Community Development Committee and the Planning and Housing Committee.

The by-law amendments if approved are expected take effect on January 1.

The recommendations include the modernization of regulations for bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues, with the aims of reducing administrative burden on operators and providing flexibility for establishments.

They ensure an 'appropriate level of regulatory oversight to mitigate community nuisance and public safety concerns.'

A consultation with clubs, local and diverse groups and those in the arts was held to seek input. The review involved groups like Arts Etobicoke and the Lake Shore Village BIA. A City report said the proposed amendments seek to support live music, align zoning and business licensing regulations, support emerging entertainment areas outside the downtown core, modernize licensing and zoning regulations for restaurants, bars and entertainment venues, and address impacts of problematic establishments.

Judy Gibson, of the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association, in an e-mail said there has been no local consultation to seek input into the matter.

"There are no noise restrictions in place for this," she wrote. "Not sure whose idea this was but we need to send a response to this."

Gibson said it may not be a good idea for all-night clubs in the quiet community.

"Think about a night club operating with DJ's light and music outside to all hours of the night on top of one of the newly constructed buildings on Lake Shore in a few years," she wrote.

Some Etobicoke residents who appeared for consultative meetings said there is no night activity in the area at late hours and they have to drive 15-minutes or more to dance late into the night.

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

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Your Health

By MONIKA MEULMAN

Tis the Season for Hope - Grow your own.

'Tis the season to be joyful, giving, sharing, and spending time with our friends and families. Yet, with all the turmoil in the world, the season doesn't feel that joyful.

It seems like everywhere you search online, every store you stop into, you see someone (or many people) struggling to make ends meet and survive. Traditionally, this is a time of year we light candles and THIS year, more than ever before, we need this candle light to guide our way to peace, to hope and joy. A gift of light comes from one candle. Before we can strive for peace in the world around us, we need to find some peace in our hearts. Maybe you find peace in the light of a candle on your ledge.

My glimmer of hope comes from a nostalgic record turning on my record player. Any small act of hope or joy can make a difference. A thousand small acts bring about great compassionate change. A thousand rain drops quench our thirst. We start with one small step at a time. But, let us all start together. That is the key to success; that is the way to hope. A thousand steps, a great journey makes. As people around the world sit down together to celebrate families, faith, hope and the coming of light into the darkness, I ask you to join them and choose light. The light of hope is always underestimated but never overstated. How can you join them, you ask? Consider the thirty days of giving hope. Allow each day of December to be an opportunity to give something freely to this world, to your family, to your neighbour, to the stranger in the store. And when you say 'I have nothing to give', I disagree. It is untrue. And, I wish to shed some light on that untruth.

Recently while listening to an interview with Anne Michaels, a Canadian award-winning author, and Tom Power (the interviewer) on CBC radio, I was illuminated and enlightened. He was asking Anne Michaels about her third novel, *Held*, finally out on bookshelves everywhere. It is a novel that explores generations, pain, war and hardships. The one line that stuck with me from the interview was Anne Michaels saying 'that which you freely give away, can never be taken from you'.

That is a profound way of looking at giving. When you choose to give something away it offers you so much control and power, that your heart can grow bigger and light of hope can grow brighter.

I was so moved by Anne Michaels' line that at my next workshop, at the Weston Hub, teaching about nutritional natural health and wellness, I had to include it in our lesson plan, when sharing food and giving thanks.

I asked my community friends and participants to write down at least three things they had so much of, they could always give some of it away. Most people listed things, items, clothing, books, tupperware... One participant understood what I was getting at. She wrote down 'smile and laughter'. And that is where our December of Giving begins.

The 30 Days of Giving Hope this month. When we see the hardships around us, we might be feeling heavy in the heart. Maybe the light of this season is not so bright in your life. Consider the following. What if each day that you give away something abundant in your world, your light glows brighter? What if it really is that simple? Write down your list of items now, so you are ready to share one at a moments notice every day this month. I will start you off.

The resources I have in abundance include: smiles, hugs, forehead kisses (ok, maybe this one is not for strangers!), laughter, silly jokes, opening doors, funny faces, eye contact and kindness with the cashier at the store, patience in the line at the deli counter, a listening ear, picking up the phone and calling a friend, cuddles with my dog, baking extra cookies for friends, sharing spontaneous compliments with work families, picking up debris in the park and so much more. Kindness is so abundant in our lives. I think we just forget to use it and give it away. Each time we share a form of kindness it creates even more in our world.

So go ahead and make your list now. Write down all the resources you have at your disposal to share freely. What are some things you can give away knowing that no matter how much you give, you will always have plenty more to share? This is where your Giving Hope in December begins. And, this is where hope and the light of the season grows. Let's grow hope together this season.

"Compassion is an action word with no boundaries." - Prince.

"True compassion means not only feeling another's pain but also being moved to help relieve it." - Daniel Goleman.

Monika Meulman

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Retired Judge Speaks

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI

This story is about a young man who once appeared before me. I have changed his name and have written it as a story, reminding myself that sometimes a criminal isn't what he seems to be; the message is that when you read about a crime, there may be two sides to the story. The rule is to know the whole story before you judge.

Alex was a troubled teenager from a single-parent home. He was a good kid and an honours student until Grade 10; suddenly, he seemed to draw within himself. He quit studying, went out late every night and constantly fought with his older sister. His Mom was having troubles of her own, cancer, but didn't want to tell her children. He failed Grade 11 and quit school. He just hung around the house listening to his mother, who wasn't well, nag him to get a job. One day, he stole a car and crashed it after a short police chase. It was Christmas Eve. Fortunately, Alex didn't sustain any injuries, but he was charged with auto theft and dangerous driving. This conduct usually called for some jail time because of the chase.

Alex had not always been a troubled teenager, and his life had been turned upside down ever since his mother's death in early December. He was still grieving the loss of his mother when he decided to steal the car. Alex was lost and didn't know how to cope with his emotions. But when he appeared before the judge, he was genuinely remorseful, and he explained what drove him to steal the car and get into trouble with the law – he needed the money for some drugs. Strange comment, thought the Judge because Alex had no record of drug use.

The Judge, that's me, felt Alex was greatly upset by his Mom's illness and had some potential if he promised to go back to school. Alex was placed on strict terms of probation and was warned that if he ever got in trouble with the law again, he would be sent to jail. Alex took the judge's warning to heart, and he made a promise to himself that he would turn his life around. I placed him on two years probation with tough reporting terms.

Over the next year, Alex worked hard to stay out of trouble with the law, but he also worked hard to improve his life. He went back to school and started focusing on his studies. Alex knew education was the key to a better life and was determined to make the most out of his second chance.

As the holiday season approached, Alex remembered the day he appeared before the judge and decided to write the judge a letter. He wanted to thank the judge for giving him a break and believing in him. Alex also poured his heart out in his letter and told the judge the truth.

He confessed that he had stolen the car not for drugs but to kill himself. He chose the most dangerous way to go, both for himself and the public. Alex explained that he was still struggling with the loss of his mother, the trouble he caused her during her illness, not appreciating she was dying, his failure to give her what he thought she deserved, "a good son," He had failed her. He thanked the judge for giving him a second chance and promised to improve.

I was touched by Alex's letter. I felt proud of the young man. As a Judge, I seldom change a person's life, but this was the rare occasion I had an effect. I knew that Alex had been through a tough time, and he was impressed by his determination to turn his life around.

The judge wrote back to Alex, offering him reassurance and encouragement. I told Alex he was proud of him and always there to support him. He had given his Mom the best gift he could, A life, in honour of her wishes, a Good Son".

Though he had been through so much, Alex had finally found some peace and knew he had a bright future ahead of him. As the holiday season rolled in and the snow started to fall, Alex smiled, knowing he had come a long way from the troubled teenager who stole a car and got into trouble with the law.

Alex had transformed into a young man who had overcome adversity and was ready to take on whatever challenges lay ahead.

Moral: There are always two sides to a story. Merry Christmas.

Judge Lloyd Budzinski retired after 28 years and was a former Crown Attorney, Defence Counsel and Ontario's Assistant Deputy Minister of Criminal Law. He was Chief Prosecutor in the trial of ex-RCMP officer Patrick Michael Kelly, found guilty of murder for throwing his wife from a 17th floor balcony in March 1981. He can be reached at lbudzinski@talkjustice.info

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Report on Brenntag fire and damage

Community residents are concerned about the environmental damages caused by a massive six-alarm fire at Brenntag Canada Inc., more than three months ago.

The company said about 700,000 litres of soybean and petroleum-based oil, transmission fluids and solvents were stored at the Vulcan Street site at the time of the fire.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has completed a technical report on the August 11 incident called Brenntag Canada Inc. Fire Off-Site Environmental Monitoring Summary Report.

The report by Dr. Rachael Fletcher, a Director of Central Region, Drinking Water and Environmental Compliance Division, states the blaze caused heavy emulsions/slurry of oils and fire suppression materials along with fire douse water to enter the municipal storm sewer system and discharge into Mimico Creek, Humber Creek and the Humber Bay Park area of Lake Ontario.

Ministry officials said they sampled the air, sediment and water between August 11 and 23 for impacts from the fire to the environment and human health. It also included stream bank soil sampling and vegetation survey results.

“All measured air contaminant levels were far below their respective emergency screening values, confirming there were no local air quality concerns resulting from the fire,” according to a Ministry mobile trace atmospheric gas analyzer.

The report said officials ‘conducted extensive sampling of water, sediment, stream bank soil and vegetation to identify potential impacts of the run-off to Mimico Creek, Humber Creek and Lake Ontario.’

It said water and sediment samples were collected along Mimico Creek, Humber Creek, and Lake Ontario, and analyzed for petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile organic hydrocarbons, per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and metals.

“The main sources of contaminants were petroleum hydrocarbons and fire suppression materials,” according to the Ministry. “The results showed a decline in the concentration of contaminants over time and with increasing distance from the discharge points in the impacted waterways.”



THE SIX ALARM Brenntag fire led to a chemical spill in South Etobicoke waterways killing habitat. Courtesy photos.

They said the affected waterways are ‘returning to pre-spill/urban background conditions, with low levels of residual contamination remaining in the impacted waterways following the incident.’

“Sediment sampling results suggest that the current concentrations of contaminants would not have a significant impact on the resident organisms,” according to the report. Stream bank soil and vegetation samples showed elevated concentrations of contaminant compared to samples collected in non-impacted areas, the findings stated.

“These results suggest that the elevated concentrations in the creek bank vegetation adjacent to and downstream from Brenntag likely originated from the fire incident,” investigators determined.

Officials are now in the process of verifying the status of the cleanup before restoration work can begin; which was expected to be completed last month. They said the cleanup’s effectiveness will be based on visual observations of the cleaned-up waterways, by monitoring results to applicable guidelines and background conditions, and assessment of whether additional cleanup is necessary or would cause greater harm to the environment.

“Should additional cleanup work be required, the ministry will ensure Brenntag will initiate the work immediately,” officials said.

They said Brenntag has submitted a restoration plan that outlines how the water, soil, sediment, and vegetation will be assessed, restored, and monitored to demonstrate the effectiveness of cleanup efforts.

The Toronto District Office Duty Line can be contacted at 416-326-3381 during regular business hours or email environment.toronto@ontario.ca.

The report can be assessed at [Brenntag-Canada-Inc.-Fire-Off-Site-Environmental-Monitoring-Summary-Report.pdf](#).



VOLUNTEERS CLEANING a chemical-soaked duck (top) as workers clean up the spill (bottom). Courtesy photos.



Community members gather to cry, remember loved ones

More than 100 grieving residents paid their respect to loved ones who passed away in the community at a service at St. Margaret New Toronto church.

It is the second year that a service was held to remember those who died of COVID, drug overdoses or due to street-involved living.

“It was an open community gathering to acknowledge and witness the grief in our community,” said Rev. Jacqueline Daley. “We honour the lives of our deceased loved ones and share in a collective expression of grief and mourning.”

The November 12 service was partnered by LAMP CHC, The Dorothy Ley Hospice, Lakeshore Arts and Haven on The Queensway. About 100 ribbons of different colours to remember those who died were tied to a fence in front of the Sixth Street church, which is 117 years old.

“Members of the community came to remember, cry and share their grief and stories. Some people have not grieved at all,” Daley said, adding that many of the deaths of younger people were from fentanyl overdoses, now a crisis in the community.

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Looking after yourself and others in the community

DECEMBER 2 ETOBICOKE-LAKESHORE SANTA CLAUS parade starts at 10 a.m. and runs from Dwight Ave. to Thirtieth Street. This is the 33rd annual parade and there will be dozens of floats and Santa. Skate with Santa event to follow at Sam Smith skate park.

DECEMBER 2 ALDERWOOD CARES Christmas Toy Drive donate and bring a smile to a child from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Alderwood Church, 44 Delma Dr. Also on **December 16** there is a free Christmas Show from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the church. And on **December 24** a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6 p.m..

DECEMBER 6 HOLIDAY SENIORS PARTY heartwarming Seniors Party from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at LAMP CHC to celebrate the season with older adults. Line dancing, chair yoga, live music, Latin dance, Tips and a talk on gut health and refreshments. Sponsored by LAMP and The West Toronto Ontario Health Team. E-mail jasmind@lampchc.org or call 416 252 6471 ext. 308.

DECEMBER 6 HOLIDAYS & HOPE Bereaved Family and Friends are invited to the Ridley Funeral Home's annual Candlelight Service of Remembrance at 7 p.m. at 1 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive, at the south end of Kipling Ave. Enjoy encouragement and music. Contact for more 416-259-3705.

DECEMBER 7, 14, 21 & 28 LEARNING AND GROWING together for Black children and families at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane. For more call 416-231-7070 ext. 309.

UNTIL DECEMBER 11 BEYOND THE BAR GRAPH EXHIBITION exploring arts and culture in Etobicoke at Cloverdale Commons, 250 East Mall. Phone 416-236-1668 or www.cloverdalemall.com/stores/the-cloverdale-common/

UNTIL DECEMBER 11 DANCE & SWEAT join **Anny** for a fun, high-energy cardio workout that involves Latin-inspired music and dance from 11 a.m. to 12 noon at Stonegate CHC's Trillium Room. All levels welcome. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or e-mail health.promotion@stonegatechc.org

UNTIL DECEMBER 12 LET'S DE-STRESS AND CONNECT from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, for collaborative activities,

mindful games to build communication and have fun. And until **December 18** Let's Nourish Ourselves Inside & Out Re-group to explore mindful eating and relationship with food. Call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or visit

health.promotion@stonegatechc.org
DECEMBER 13 HEALTHY HOLIDAY COOKING for new holiday recipes that are delicious and good for you with community dietician **Maki** at 10 a.m. **ALSO DECEMBER 20** at 10 a.m. rescheduled Gluten Free Cooking workshop for previous registrants, To register e-mail anthonya@lampchc.org or 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

UNTIL DECEMBER 27 THRIVING WITH MINDFULNESS on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. via Zoom. **Corin De Sousa** provides programs and workshops. She is a teacher with the Canadian College of Educators. Email norkyit@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 257.

DECEMBER 13 LAND TRUST WORKING GROUP join us at Zoom at 6 p.m. as we work on establishing a land trust for affordable housing in South Etobicoke. Share ideas to acquire land for social housing with rent geared to income units. For more e-mail brig@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

UNTIL DECEMBER 15 WoodGreen's Community Services, at 2930 Lakeshore Blvd W., is seeking applicants for a Skills for Success for Experienced Workers program to train for jobs some 106 residents, aged 45 plus. Those interested can e-mail mkabir@woodgreen.org or call 647-201-5273.

DECEMBER 8 TO 10 FESTIVAL OF TREES followed by Culinary Market December 15 to 17 by Creative Hub 1352, at the Small Arms Inspection Building, at 42B Woodlawn Avenue, in Mississauga. There will be vendors, market and performances by local musicians. E-mail info@creativehub1352.ca.

NOVEMBER 20 TO DECEMBER 8 you can drop off new unwrapped toys for the annual LAMP Annual Toy Drive at 185 Fifth Street, for children in South Etobicoke. Any age or gender is appreciated but there is a need for kids aged from 12 to 18. Gift certificates are welcome for tweens. For more

phone 416-252-9701 ext. 292 or e-mail camisha@lampchc.org.

DECEMBER 18 SANTA'S COMING TO MIMICO with his friends and will be at Mimico by the Lake from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and at Mimico Village 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. They will be walking the streets saying hello and spreading some holiday cheer. For more contact 416-452-5682 or mimicovillage@gmail.com
UNTIL DECEMBER 18 Ukrainian Weekly Social Group every Monday from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room, of Stonegate CHC, at 10 Neighbourhood Lane. Make new friends and socialize with other Ukrainian speaking participants. Call 416-231-7070 ext. 229 or register by e-mail at julia.graham@stonegatechc.org

DECEMBER 23 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA at Franklin Horner Community Center, 432 Horner Ave., From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Enjoy a pancake breakfast and visit from Good Old St. Nick this holiday. Tickets are \$7 and available from December 4. Contact 416-252-6822.

THE STONEGATE CHC Good Food Box drive to purchase boxes of food for community members dealing with food security and hunger. A \$25 donation buys a family a large big box of good food brimming with fresh fruits and vegetables as a gift. For more or to make a donation contact Stonegate CHC at 416-231-7070 ext. 229 or visit www.stonegatechc.org.

STONEGATE CHC THE GOOD FOOD MARKET runs every Thursday from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at 10 Neighbourhood Lane, 2nd floor, for affordable produce. Any questions call 416-231-7070 ext. 307.
GROCERY SHOPPING TRIPS for those over 55, or with disability or mobility issues, to No Frills at The Queensway and Royal York Road. A bus runs bi-weekly on Thursday mornings and will pick you up and return you to home. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 239.

SALVATION ARMY LAKESHORE COMMUNITY church lunch program Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 5 Thirtieth Street. Family Christmas Assistance now open register online www.salakeshore.com or call 416-251-8372 ext. 104. Volunteers needed.



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Friends remember late Beer Store worker Attard



FORMER BEER STORE WORKER Joseph Attard was loved by many in the community. **Courtesy photos.**

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

This is the sixth year they have raised funds in memory of Joseph Attard, a longtime area resident. Joe was known by many for his love of people and the community. He passed away in 2018.

Staff and patrons of the Maple Leaf House Grill & Lounge, at 2749 Lake Shore Blvd. W. and the LAMP/ Pay It Forward Committee have raised \$4,400 from the Joseph Attard Memorial Tee Off for Mental Health Golf Tournament.

The funds will be donated to LAMP Community Health Centre for their

Amongst Friends Community Mental Health Program.

“Without the amazing incredible generosity of our golfers, sponsors, donors, and supporters, this wouldn’t have been possible,” Maple Leaf owner Dave Cole said.

“A special thanks is due to the wonderful ladies from the Pay It Forward Committee who helped organize, set up, and reach out to our community for donations to make this a day to remember,” he said.

Our community needs our support and we are proud to support LAMP, one volunteer said, adding Attard was well-loved and had many friends from years of working at The Beer Store.

“He was highly respected by all who knew him.” said Ashley Cormier. He touched the hearts of many people in his lifetime - including hers.

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

“There was a real sense of community that would not have been possible without the support of local businesses,” she said. “Your contributions make a huge difference.” “Together with your support, we hope to make this annual event even bigger going forward.”

E-mail organizers at teeoff4mentalhealth@gmail.com or payit4wardcommittee@gmail.com if you are interested in donating or taking part next year.

A special thank you to all our Hole Sponsors and Donors including: GLB Breweries, The Keitner Group, Maltese Eric Bested, Mimico Lacrosse, Jeff’s No Frills-Royal York, Ridley Funeral Home, T.J. O’Sheas Irish Snug, Neatly Organized, The Beer Store, Poster One, Apex, Armstrong, Protection Plus, ADI, The New Flower Drum Restaurant, San Remo Bakery, Southern Oasis Designs, Black Collar Barber Shop, Queen’s Pasta, Funny Bones, South Shore Bar and Grill, Southside Auto, Darren Clarke Windows, Long Branch Social House, Deerfield Golf, GMD Wholesale, John S, Pirates Life and Drayton Entertainment.



ATTARD WITH A BEER STORE co-worker (above) and friends who took part in the memorial golf tourney (bottom).



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Lakeshore Charitable Foundation



Letters for Santa Claus have been picked up at three schools in the Philippines and being 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.



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