

The South Etobicoke News

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Number 55

Merchants upset over 11 smash-n-grab thefts

A New Toronto computer store is among the most recent of about 11 smash-and-grab thefts against small businesses in the community.

Toronto Police are searching for a suspect who was involved in a brazen robbery of the popular Tech Zone, at 2867 Lake Shore Blvd. W.

The suspect took a heavy brick or rock and smashed a large pane of glass at the store around 7:30 a.m. on December 29, according to the store's owner.

It was the 11th known smash-and-grab incidents in the last month to plague businesses in Long Branch, New Toronto and Mimico.

At least six Long Branch businesses, including a Korean and Filipino restaurants, a variety store, Tim Horton's and a Holy Cannoli dessert shop were robbed. Also hit were a coffee shop at North Queen Street and a Mimico pizza place. The thieves smashed the glass doors or large panes of glass to gain entry into



OUTRAGED BUSINESS OWNERS want something done after about 11 small businesses were hit by smash-and-grab thieves, including a Filipino restaurant (left), a computer shop (center) and pet store.

the premises. "I will be losing sales and money because of this," said Ali, the owner of Tech Zone. "I don't know what is going on the community with all this crime."

neighbourhood. "I will be talking to the police superintendent," he said. "We would like to have something done about all these crimes."

He said cameras should be installed in public areas so police can obtain descriptions of the crooks.

Ali said the thief stole headphones, Bluetooth and other hi-tech gear worth more than \$1,000. His store has been in New Toronto for years and is frequented by shoppers from around the GTA.

Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Chair of the Lakeshore Village BIA, said such brazen smash-and-grabs are rare and he will be asking police for more patrols of the

Calls for a warming centre for our homeless

As the weather turns cooler many homeless people in our community are forced to sleep in doorways, staircases, cars or bus stops due to a lack of shelters or warming centres.

One church has to turn away the homeless nightly after their warming centre was forced to close due to a lack of resources.

"We have reached a crisis situation with the homeless in the community," said Pastor Jacqueline Daley, of St. Margaret New Toronto church, on Sixth Street. "We have to turn away people every night." Daley said there is a lack of warming centres in the South Etobicoke area and



HOMELESS IN THE COMMUNITY (left) are turned away nightly says Pastor Jacqueline Daley (centre) of St. Margaret New Toronto church, (right) on Sixth Street. She is pleading for more warming centres.

there are no spaces available in downtown shelters, with the spaces mostly taken up by refugees. The City recently

opened the Better Living Centre and some warming centres for the homeless but they are filled. "People are sleeping in cars and

doorways on the coldest nights." Daley said. "Something has to be done to help them." She knows of some people who are sleeping in a car. "There are no places for people to get warm or seek help in South Etobicoke," Daley said. "It breaks my heart when we have to turn people away." She is urging the City to open some warming centres in South Etobicoke.

Daley said most of the homeless in the area may not want to travel or have the resources or transportation to get to the Better Living Centre. A Sunday meals program at her church is always filled.

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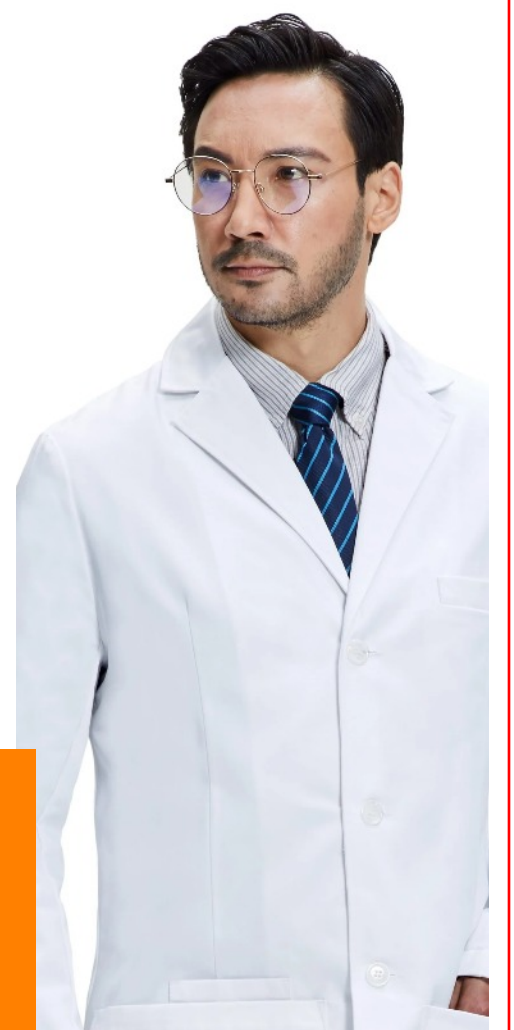
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Funds sought for new motorcycles for FIFA Cup

Extra funds are being sought by Toronto Police to purchase some 15 motorcycles for the FIFA World Cup of Soccer in 2026. Thousands of fans from around the world are expected to descend on the City of Toronto in June and July 2026 as it hosts a portion of the FIFA World Cup of Soccer.

“A comprehensive traffic management plan will be implemented to streamline the movement of the teams, FIFA officials, referees, and visiting dignitaries, including those classified as Internationally Protected People (IPP),” police said in a budgetary document.



TORONTO POLICE Motorcycle Unit will be busy for FIFA World Cup



“Efficient escorts for these individuals are crucial, and motorcycles have proven to be the most effective means for facilitating such movements,” police said. Police said their fleet of motorcycles are insufficient to meet the demands to move FIFA officials, referees, players and dignitaries to venues. The force is seeking about \$600,000 purchase an additional 15 motorcycles to meet the demand. They said the City is so congested that motorcycles are the best to move around and direct traffic so motorcades can pass.

“Before and after the FIFA event the motorcycles will be used operationally to support the daily needs to enable smooth traffic flow and enforcement in the city,” the document states.

The City is home to more than three million people whose diversity make this one of the world’s most diverse and livable cities. As the fourth largest city in North America, Toronto will host the FIFA World Cup along with 15 others in Canada, Mexico and the U.S. According to a 2022 projection from the city, FIFA World Cup 2026 is expected to create 3,300 jobs, book 292,000 visitor room nights with projected tax revenues of \$3.5 million, and generate \$307 million for Toronto.

Some residents call for mega New Years Eve fireworks show in South Etobicoke just like T.O.



SOME FIREWORKS seen here and abroad to kick in 2024. Some people want fireworks displays here on the South Etobicoke lakefront. They said the shows will attract visitors and will be good for local businesses.

There are calls from some area residents for the City to stage a fireworks display in South Etobicoke as they did on New Year’s Eve in what was called the largest fireworks display in Canada. Thousands attended the City of Toronto’s so-called biggest fireworks display in Canada at the Toronto Inner Harbour on December 31 to ring in 2024.



BIA’s Korwin-Kuczynski

Some community members claim the fireworks are only staged in the downtown area and Ashbridges Bay in the City’s east end, which is difficult for South Etobicoke residents to attend or view. They said a west-end fireworks display would bring in revenue for small businesses in the area from those wishing to see it and also be a boost to the morale of residents. In addition there are many places along the lakefront where a show can be successfully staged.

“We are being treated as second class citizens,” said Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Chair of the Lakeshore Village Business Improvement Association (BIA). “There is a fireworks display in the

east end and Toronto but nothing here for us.” He said a display can easily be staged on the lakefront near Humber Bay or even at Marie Curtis Park.



“Ten minutes of fireworks is not a big deal,” Korwin-Kuczynski said. “City officials shouldn’t discriminate and give us something in the west end.” He said shows can be staged on Victoria Day or Canada Day. The cost will be minimal since the City already stages the two large shows. On December 31 at midnight, thousands of residents attended the downtown countdown to the New Year to witness a beautiful, free 10-minute, high-altitude fireworks show synchronized to music. It was visible from anywhere with a view of the city’s inner harbour and also live streamed online. Designated viewing areas for the fireworks included seven venues in the downtown area with none in Etobicoke. Headliners included Toronto-based artists DJ Sofia Fly, DJ Cosmic Cat and local sensation Tynomi Banks.



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Six Points Plaza to be turned into a condo city



SIX MIXED USE condo towers are planned for Six Points Plaza in a redevelopment proposal. Courtesy photos.

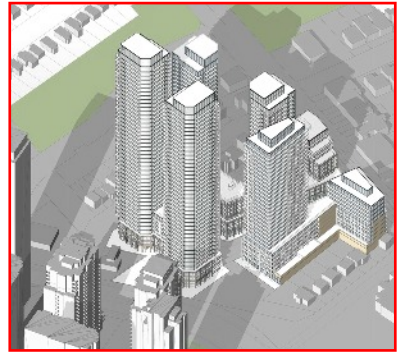
Many of us still like this outdoor plaza because it is quick. A plan to redevelop Six Points Plaza to build six mixed-use condo towers is working its way through the application process. The project by Liberty Development is an ambitious venture that will feature six high-rise buildings ranging from eight to 45 storeys on the plaza site, at 5230 Dundas Street W., the northeast corner of Dundas Street W., and Jopling Avenue South. Six Points Plaza Redevelopment will feature a 45, 43, 41, 36, 25 and 8-storey condo towers designed by IBI Group. The condos will accommodate some 2,387 residential units, along with commercial

spaces, and promises to be a significant transformation of the area. Liberty Development has resubmitted Zoning By-law and Official Plan Amendment applications for the Six Points Plaza Redevelopment, the original versions of which were submitted to the City in 2021. The plaza which was built in the 1960s has undergone hard times in recent years. The site is designated Major Transit Station Area, with a goal of fewer cars as called for by a City of Toronto's Official Plan. There will be two two levels of underground garage with 741 parking spots, with 129 spots for visitors. There will also be 1,838 bicycle parking spots, with 195 for visitors. The builders boast that the site, described as a communal hub, is within walking distance of Kipling Station, where residents have access to GO Bus and transportation downtown and beyond. The massive redevelopment would include four blocks

consisting of high-density and medium-density buildings as well as parkland, on the property that is located on the south side of Bloor Street West, between Jopling Avenue South and Beamish Drive, and north of Dundas Street West. The site is a block and a half west of Kipling Avenue, across from which a new Etobicoke Civic Centre is to be built at the Six Points Interchange. The towers, when completed will be surrounded by other high-rise development applications, which include 4 to 8 Beamish Drive that would see a residential tower rising to 35 storeys atop a four-storey podium, consisting of 329 units . There is also another development at 8 to 14 Jopling Avenue South, which proposes two towers of 35 and 38-storeys, with 697 residential units, and 306 parking spaces. Also proposed is a building at 5238 - 5243 Dundas Street West on which a tower is planned rising to 41-storeys atop a 3-storey podium and consisting of 378 residential units. A massive 55 storey building is also planned at 5359 Dundas Street W., and Subway Crescent, metres away from the Kipling subway.



ALMOST 2,400 RESIDENTIAL units (top) will be built when the six condo towers (bottom) are built on the site of Six Points Plaza after it has been flattened.



Proposal sought by City for golf course

A Request of Proposal is being sought for City Council approval to enter into a sublease or sub-licence agreement with the Centennial Park Golf Centre for someone to operate the Centennial Park Golf Course. The agreements have an initial term of seven years, with an option, in favour of the City, to extend by four years, and a further option to extend for up to an additional six years, according to a request document. The City is hoping to ensure an operator is in place ahead of the 2024 golf season. The City provides access to high-quality and affordable golf at seven golf courses, five of which are City-operated, and two of which are leased-out to private third-party operators. Centennial Park Golf Course is one of these two golf courses. There was much furor earlier this year as almost 12,000 people signed a petition to stop the removal of the go-karts and batting cages from Centennial Park.

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Have a Happy & Prosperous New Year

LAKESHORE VILLAGE BIA



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL FOR THEIR SUPPORT DURING CHRISTMAS AND THE SUCCESSFUL PARADE. MANY THANKS TO TORONTO POLICE SERVICE, TORONTO FIRE SERVICES AND THE TORONTO SCOTTISH REGIMENT. ALSO EXCALIBUR TROPHY & AWARDS.



BIA BEST CHRISTMAS TREE

Helen Reis, of Rhea Flower Shop, (centre) winner of the Lakeshore Village BIA Best Christmas Tree with BIA chair Chris Korwin-Kuzynski and board member Danuta Gumienik. Second place went to Valentina's Boutique, at 2862 Lake Shore Blvd. W, and third to Alterna Savings, at 3001 Lake Shore Blvd. W.

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Bars, clubs to open longer for night time crowds



THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY will take effect in January next year and will bring about longer hours of operation for bars, nightclubs and restaurants.

Long Branch, New Toronto and Mimico will soon become Night Time Economy areas in which nightclubs, bars and restaurants can remain open for longer hours to attract the late-night crowd.

The motion was approved by City Council on December 14 and will take effect in January 2025.

City staff will host a series of in-person and virtual Town Hall meetings this month to get people in some communities on board with the change.

Residents from Long Branch and the Dundas Strip, where the changes will take effect, have voiced concerns about increased noise, crime and drunken behavior from the late night clubs.

A staffer from Ward 3 Councillor Amber Morley's office said the proposed changes are the result of a Night Economy Review. Morley's Chief of Staff Lisa Brody Hoffman wrote the City's initiative will support and

enhance the Night Economy in Toronto by modernizing the city's zoning, licensing and regulations for businesses such as restaurants, bars, and entertainment venues operating at night.

Hoffman wrote in an e-mail the many by-laws regulating this industry create confusion for both businesses and by-law enforcement.

"The existing by-laws are a patchwork assembly from pre-amalgamation municipalities," Hoffman said.

"Many of the bylaws for modernization are out of date, originally put in place in the 1980s or earlier."

The new framework proposes licensing and zoning regulations that are clear, standardized, enforceable, and better reflect the nightlife in Toronto, she said.

The changes reflect feedback from restaurants and bars, Business Improvement Areas (BIAs), artists and

producers, music venues, residents' associations, and residents who took part in consultations which has been underway since 2018.

"The most frequent concerns we have heard from residents are about the changes which will allow nightclubs to open outside of downtown Toronto, and how that may affect their neighbourhood," she said.

If approved, nightclubs will be allowed in mixed-use residential areas and only be permitted in non-residential



THE MOVE IS meant to regularize City by-laws and cater to night owls (below) outside the downtown area.

buildings. If a building contains a single residential unit, a nightclub cannot operate there.

The clubs must be located on the ground level; located within 6.1 meters of a residential zoned area and will be restricted in size. To prevent bunching, a maximum of only one nightclub is allowed in a building and a strip mall cannot contain multiple venues licensed as nightclubs.

A licensing requirement that requires the submission and compliance with a "Level 2 Noise Control Plan" will involve review by sound engineers and City staff.

"Much of Lakeshore Boulevard would not be eligible as they are storefronts with residential buildings on top," she wrote.

Hoffman said venues will be approved to be open until the standard 2 a.m. and require a special permit to remain open until 4 a.m. "A different permit application must be submitted, reviewed, and approved where a venue stays open later than the 2 a.m. close time," she said. The City hopes the change will bring revenue to outlying areas rather than downtown Toronto alone.



MORE BUSINESS are expected to come to outlying areas with the Night Time Economy for shift workers and others.



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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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Starlight helping children



QUADIM, 9, at centre and below, with his family at a Toys "R" Store in Etobicoke as part of a program by Starlight Children's Foundation. Photos by Kristina Hopp.

"In an effort to provide comfort and smiles during this difficult time," Hopp explained. "Toys"R"Us Canada is providing Starlight Children's Foundation Canada families across the nation with a private "Herb's

The program was expected to reach some 750 families across Canada in 2023. This year marks 25 years of partnership between Starlight Canada and Toys"R"Us Canada. Kopp said thanks to the support of their employees and customers in that time Toys"R"Us Canada has raised over \$28 million for Starlight Canada since 1998 – reaching tens of thousands of seriously ill and hospitalized children.

In addition to private shopping

Secret Santa." She said the children



events this holiday season, Toys"R"Us Canada also fundraised for Starlight Canada through the sale of a limited edition annual Starlight Bear and an in-store Star Campaign, where customers donated \$1 directly to Starlight Canada. That campaign finished last month.

Some 128 families with critically or chronically ill children had their dreams come true in a spree at Toys "R" Us store in Etobicoke.

The event was organized by Starlight Children's Foundation Canada, whose goal is to brighten the lives of seriously ill children and their families in the GTA through distractive hospital-to-home programs.

Starlight spokesperson Kristina Hopp said between hospital visits and medical challenges, the holidays can be a stressful time for families with seriously ill children.

were provided with a private in-store shopping session at their local Toys"R"Us Canada while the store is closed to the public.

Gift cards were given to each Starlight child and their siblings to spend in-store. The children also got a chance to meet Santa Claus, super heroes, princesses, and more of their favourite characters. They left with a Mega Play From Home Pack, which is a super-sized toy pack containing board games, crafts and more from Starlight Canada.

Etobicoke Hockey Club donates food to the needy



SOME OF THE 500 pounds of food and \$3,000 donated to the Daily Bread Food Bank by the Etobicoke Hockey Club.

Hockey players are helping the less fortunate in the community. Members of the Etobicoke Hockey Club (EHC) have donated five large bins of food and cash to the Daily Bread Food Bank in a campaign to help the needy.

The 500 pounds of food and almost \$3,000 in cash were handed over to the Food Bank, on New Toronto Street, on December 18 so they can continue to help others in the community.

The Food Bank is at its busiest this time of the year as a record high of more than 12,000 new people access member food banks for the first time each month.

They said with staggering food inflation and rising rents, they are bracing for these numbers to keep rising.

"This far exceeded last year's donations and will go a long way to assist many in need in our community," said club member Dave Clancy.

The items were raised during a free EHC Christmas skate at the Ford Performance Centre, in which about 125 skaters brought food and cash.

The EHC was founded in 1975 and members include former NHL and AHL players, including former Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman Mike Pelyk, and former politicians Doug Holyday and Morley Kells. "We have been supporting different charities for many years," Clancy said, adding they also collected some pet food which was presented to a Mississauga animal care centre.

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JoAnne Gludish



Norseman

This charming bungalow is perfectly suited for first-time homebuyers. Located in the wonderful neighborhood of Norseman Heights with a great-sized lot, this delightful home features 3 bedrooms on the main and a large rec room on the lower level, providing ample space for a growing family or guests. The main level boasts a kitchen with an additional side entrance. Situated in a sought-after area, this property provides a safe and friendly atmosphere. With its versatile layout and cozy living spaces, this home presents a unique opportunity for those looking to make it their own.



Long Branch

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Richmond Gardens



Princess Anne Manor

Launching of newest mural to grace New Toronto



MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS of the Lakeshore Village BIA in front of an eye-catching mural (above and below) the most recent in New Toronto that is receiving good reviews since its launch.

The newest mural in the community based on the life and habitat of New Toronto has been unveiled after two months of work. A number of community residents cheered on December as the work was unveiled.

Artist Margaret Cresswell said the large artwork is based on the New Toronto community.

MURAL ARTIST Margaret Cresswell, who has painted many works in the city.
Photo by Susanna Basheir.

"I received my inspiration from the observation deck

at Samuel Smith Park," Cresswell said at the December 9 unveiling. "It is all about the neighbourhood."

The work includes residents' pet dogs, a skunk, blue jay, seagulls, ducks, oriole birds and a butterfly. More pets from the community will be added to the mural.

The eye-catching landscape mural is located at Ninth Street at Lake Shore Blvd. W. It takes up almost the entire side of a building. Cresswell said the butterfly is in memory of her mom who passed away in October.

"The butterfly is the spirit of a person that is visiting," she said. "It is in memory of my mom."

Cresswell has been painting murals from about 20 years and has created more than 40 of them across the city.

Lake Shore Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) sponsored the artwork, along with the City of Toronto. BIA chair Chris Korwin-Kuczynski



LAKESHORE VILLAGE BIA CHAIR Chris Korwin-Kuczynski (left) with best Christmas tree winner Helen Reis, of Rhea Flower Shop, and board member Danuta Gumienik (right).



described the work as fantastic. "It is a nice addition to the neighbourhood," he

said. "It is a great piece of art that looks exactly like Samuel Smith Park that you can walk into it."

The community is rich with street art as a nearby mural in Mimico Village called Tangled Geese was days ago chosen as best mural in the City by the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA).



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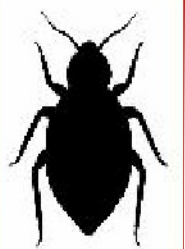
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Group calling for a ban on trucks and warehouses in area



A GROUP WANTS to ban large trucks as these (above) from the community as they move goods 24-7 to and from online warehouses as on Birmingham Street (centre).

A local group has their eyes set on a large warehouse being built on Evans Avenue that they want to see stopped.

'No Shipping Terminals' is a non-profit community-based group that is trying to prevent a further influx of shipping terminals and trucks coming and going in our community.

Group members said the 450 Evans Avenue site will be a massive 60-loading door Amazon distribution warehouse that will have truck traffic at all hours.

The site was occupied by one of the largest packaging company in Canada, Cascades Inc., for almost 80-years and is being demolished to construct a new Amazon warehouse, residents say.

Cascades has been a leader in the recovery and manufacturing of green packaging and tissue products since 1955. The company operated in 90 locations and had 12,000 employees when the branch was closed for strategic repositioning in Ontario and globally. No Shipping Terminals spokesman Alex Ladaouer said the truck traffic makes it dangerous for area children, increases noise, dust and air pollution in the community. "Our mission is to prevent the influx of shipping terminals and trucks coming to our community," he said. "There are already many shipping terminals operating in South Etobicoke."



He said at least five more warehouses are being developed.

The group in a release said a warehouse is being developed at the former Campbells Soup site at 60 Birmingham Street that will have 86 doors. Another is slated for 121 Thirtieth Street, with 60 loading doors or stalls, another at 260 Eighth Street with 116 doors and 541 Kipling Avenue with 78 doors. They said the large amount of trucks cause traffic congestion on local streets, are in close proximity to residential

areas, diminish property values, cause a lot of noise, worsens already-poor air quality and there is a lack of enforcement of trucking violations.

No Shipping Terminals is advocating for a by-law freeze on additional terminals or distribution centres in South Etobicoke and to raise awareness about development and building permit applications they said threaten the community fabric. They also want City staff to reject any minor variance, site plan or building permit application that would place the large distribution centres close to residential areas.

They have created a petition with upwards of 1,500 signatures calling for a truck ban. A boom in online shopping during the COVID-19 pandemic is making it tough to find warehouse space in many provinces. Industrial space is being gobbled up at a dizzying rate as companies expand their storage and fulfilment centres. Online sales are up 110.7% over last year to \$3.5 billion.



ANOTHER AMAZON 24-hour warehouse soon to be opened at 450 Evans Avenue.

Mimico mural Tangled Geese voted top artwork in the city

A much-talked-about mural of two geese in Mimico Village has won the top prize of all murals across the city. The mural called 'Tangled Geese' by artist Kayla Buium, which graces the side of 394 Royal York Road, has won the TABIA City of Toronto Mural Award. A framed print was awarded to the Mimico Village Business Improvement Association (BIA) which sponsored the mural that depicted a black and white geese in flight. A presentation was made at a Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA) gala dinner on December 5 at the Palais Royale

Ballroom. The mural was selected from a number of street art submitted from 84 BIAs across the city. The artwork was launched with a catchy light show that made the geese look animated as if they were in flight. People loved the show. "It feels great to win," said Montreal artist Buium. "It feels pretty good to be recognized for my work by the City of Toronto. She thanked projection artist Nathan Bruce for putting together the light show. TABIA head John Kiru said the calibre of competition was very good and The Tangled Geese mural stood out. Some 30 awards were handed out.



"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



TANGLED GEESSE mural by Kayla Buium sponsored by Mimico Village.

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Christmas dinner for less fortunate at area church

Hundreds of people were treated to a free delicious take-out Christmas dinner at St. Margaret Church in New Toronto. Dozens of volunteers were preparing the take-out meals, which were distributed on December 24, to help feed up to 200 of those homeless or financially challenged.

About 30 volunteers take about three days to prepare the dinner, which includes the cooking of about 20 turkeys (400 pounds) in five ovens, 150 pounds of potatoes and about 25 turnips, Brussel sprouts, carrots and peas. The dinners have been take-away meals due to concerns about numbers that can safely eat in the church hall, as they were in previous years.

“Before 2020 up to 250 people came in to sit and have something to eat,” said organizer Cara Wigle. “Due to COVID now it is take-out prepared meals that people register for ahead of time so we can still distribute a large number of meals that are requested.”

“It was great and there are the regulars who come back year after year,” said Wigle, who with husband, Bob, have been helping to organize the dinners for 31 years. She said the dinner was first started by church volunteer Alan Oliver with about 40 to 50 people and now they have up to 200 people showing up due to the high price of food or places to stay.



VOLUNTEERS (top, centre) WORK hard to prepare the turkey dinners with trimmings at the annual St. Margaret New Toronto Christmas dinner. **Photos by Cara Wigle.**

“We cater to a whole range of people from those who are reasonably housed, those who are marginally housed or actually experiencing homelessness.” About 20 children with their parents are also served and given toys as well. The fact that the Wigle and Oliver children and grandchildren have joined to support the endeavour has meant the dinner has been able to continue for the past 31 years. Son, Matthew Wigle and his wife Christine Ma now organize and oversee the preparation, cooking and distribution of the food. “It is a big operation that takes a lot of work but we all enjoy it.”

The guests each received a large take-out bag with three hefty take-out containers with food. One contained turkey and ham with gravy, stuffing and cranberry sauce and another with vegetables - potatoes, turnips, Brussel sprouts and carrots/peas. Another dessert container included a clementine, some cookies, squares, brownies, butter tarts, scones all of which were individually wrapped. Also included in the bag were various gift items like personal items, scarves, mitts, toques and socks as well as gift cards for Tim Hortons.

“Many of them have enough left over for a second Christmas Day dinner or lunch,” Wigle explained. “We give them enough for two days.” The former teacher said some of the dinners can be heated up at the church for those with no place to go. “A lot of the people are seniors, who may be lonely,” Wigle

said. “Some are precariously housed and a few are living in cars or on the streets.”

Over the years, the Christmas dinner has always relied on support from various businesses. Much of the food is donated by local companies that includes Streef Produce in the Ontario Food Terminal. Virtu Financial, Canada is the major financial donor along with present and past church members and their families. Former Toronto Maple Leaf Baseball Club owner Jack Dominico donated turkeys for St. Margaret's community meals for many years and even left in his will that the group receive turkeys three times yearly. St. Margaret New Toronto, which is more than 115-years old, also hosts a lunch every Sunday, with the help of Haven on the Queensway, that is attended by about 60 people. There they can take showers, charge up their telephones, do their laundry, stay warm and conduct other chores.

St Margaret and the Wigle/Oliver group also host a community dinner on the third Monday of the month supported by local businesses with chief donor being Penske Trucking. Pastor Jacqueline Daley said her church is proud to do its part in helping others in need in the community. “If not, many may not be having a meal.”



EACH PERSON receives a full dinner with turkey, potatoes, gravy, veggies and desserts.



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Cloverdale Mall will have 10 towers and be a hub



TEN CONDO TOWERS (top, bottom) ranging from seven to 48 stories are proposed for the Cloverdale Mall site. Photos courtesy of Quadreal Property Group.

Plans are moving ahead to convert Cloverdale Mall into a large community hub. The massive project is in the zoning stage and construction is expected to begin in 2026, according to



There will also be a daycare and community centres, which will be open for residents. "We have been listening to the community and their needs," Knight said. "We want this project to be community oriented and to focus on their needs." Taking a long term phased approach, Quadreal Property Group aims to redevelop the site keeping several goals in mind including a focus on sustainable design, robust transit integration, improved connectivity, and thoughtful assimilation into the neighbourhood.



CLOVERDALE MALL when completed (above) will also have two parks and underground parking. The mall as it will look inside (bottom). Photos courtesy of Quadreal Property Group.



OBITUARIES

Carl will be missed by many



RIP CARL - You may be gone, but not forgotten by your family and many friends in the neighbourhood..

God so loved us, that he gave us Carl Godfrey to show us how to love. Carl, also fondly known as "Quick", was the son of Elsie and Neville Godfrey. On the early morning of December 15, he took his journey home.

Carl was also a brother, uncle, and a great uncle. Most of all, he was a very dear friend to his Mimico and New Toronto families.

He had a generous heart, a gentle manner, and a sense of humor that was indescribable. His humility, compassion, and selfless demeanor gave us all strength and courage to laugh through hard times.

His smile was mischievous, and the twinkle in his eyes will never be forgotten. He will forever be missed and loved. Until we meet again – We love you more. He has gained his wings of an angel.

Carl is now at rest in his Heavenly Father's arms, in a place of peace.

God Bless You!

A Celebration of Life for Carl will take place sometime in January or February at G.H. Hogle Funeral Home Ltd., at 63 Mimico Avenue. Friends and family are asked to check Hogle's website for future updates. The website can be accessed at hoglefuneralhomes.com, or they can be reached by phone at 416-251-7531.



Alderwood born Ronald Bowie is being mourned by family and many friends

Family members and friends are mourning the sudden death of well-known Ronald John Bowie, a born and bred native of Etobicoke.

Bowie, who was born in Alderwood, passed away at his home. He was 68.

He worked for about 40-years as a custodian at Lakeshore Collegiate Institute before retiring, when he volunteered as a bartender at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 101. Long-time friend Dan Irwin said Bowie loved his family and was well-known in the community.

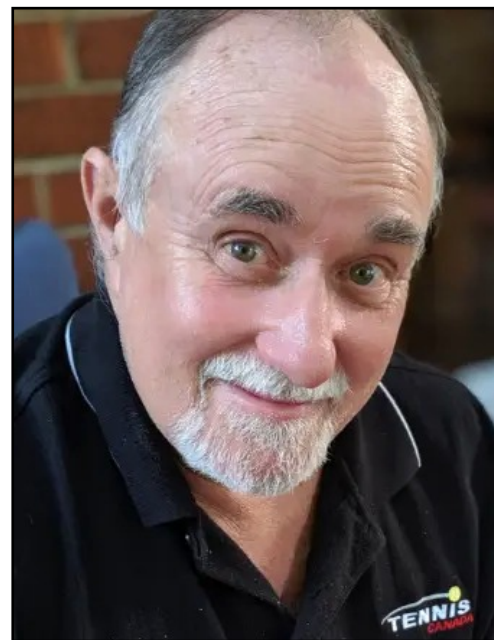
Irwin said Bowie was supposed to be leaving this month on his annual holiday in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. He already had a beachside condo and air flights booked.

"I went down with him on a few of his trips there," he recalled. "He has been going to Puerto Vallarta every winter for many years."

Bowie was the most social person you could meet, according to his obituary.

"He was always happy, positive, warm, kind and easily made friends everywhere he went," his friends said. "He loved his community, having been born and raised in Alderwood, and worked for his entire career at Lakeshore Collegiate Institute."

He loved the Toronto Maple Leafs and enjoyed Blue Jays baseball.



ETOBICOKE native Ronald Bowie is sorely missed by many in the community.

Bowie was always there for his children and coached their teams as 'he was a real family man.'

"He was the kind of person that would give you the shirt off his back," his obituary state. "All those who knew him will remember his often repetitive Dad jokes." Bowie was a loving life partner to Dianne, a caring father to Meagan (Thomas), John (Kate) and Carly (Kyle) and a wonderful Papa to Thomas, June, Finley and Owen.

He will be greatly missed by Dianne's children, Danielle (Rob), Mark

(Nicola), and Chris (Deb), along with her seven grandchildren who affectionately called him Gramps.

Bowie will be missed by his siblings Cath (Don), Carolyn (Larry), Janet (Wayne) and Paul (Kelly). He will be fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, extended family members and his many friends. He is predeceased by his parents John and Eileen.

There will be a Celebration of his Life on January 5, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the Legion's Branch 101, at 3850 Lake Shore Blvd. W.

In lieu of flowers his family asks that donations are made to Legion 101 in his memory.

Haven on the Queensway may soon shut its doors

It could be a bummer for many this New Year.

A long-time agency that helps the needy and those down and out may soon be shutting its doors due to a lack of resources and huge demand for its services.

Haven on the Queensway, at 1533 The Queensway, is trying to raise \$100,000 in 30 days so it can continue helping people.

“We are reaching out to you with an urgent plea,” wrote Haven’s executive director Roger Berg. “Without financial support Haven on the Queensway is facing the imminent possibility of having to cease our operations.”

The agency said they’re experiencing more people who are facing food insecurity and in the past 24 months have seen an increase of clients from about 450 weekly to now over 1,000 people every week.

“The demand for our food assistance has surged significantly, reflecting the harsh reality faced by many who are struggling to put food on their tables,” Berg said.

The Daily Bread Food Bank in Mimico has also complained about the large amounts receiving food in the community with many working people collecting food because they cannot make ends meet.

Berg said statistics reveal that one out of 10 Torontonians are using food banks for their meals.

The non-profit organization was formed in 2009 and has been providing food, clothing and other essential items to those in need in South Etobicoke.

He said Haven serves about 6,000 individuals a week across all its programs.

“That’s 51 per cent more than this time last year,” staffers said. “Just with our clothing closet, we’ve seen a request for clothing, a 300 per cent increase month over month.”



HAVEN ON THE QUEENSWAY has helped thousands of needy people in the community over the many years.

They had 150 requests for clothing in October alone as it gets cooler outside.

Clients are grateful to receive food, diapers, clothes, boots and coats for themselves and children as it gets cooler.

“In the last few months, demand for the food bank specifically has skyrocketed,” Berg said. “We’re confronted with the reality of growing operating costs and a significant shortfall in our financial donations.”



COMMUNITY MEMBERS receive food from a pantry (above), also clothing and other needs.



He said the demand for clothing has soared by 333%, jumping from an average of 30 new intakes to a staggering 130.

Haven officials said one staffer recently encountered a mother standing before her with her baby, expressing the desperation of having nothing to feed her child.

“This heartbreaking reality is becoming more prevalent, and our community is facing a crisis,” the agency officials said.

They said the number of people experiencing homelessness served by a Hope with Wheels program has risen by 120% over the past year alone.

“Our seniors rely on our deliveries of food and hygiene kits and look forward to our weekly friendly phone calls,” said Aretha Khaloo, Director of Operations. “The demand for these deliveries has surged, and we are now confronted with a long wait-list.”

Khaloo said there is also a First Care program for new parents with children under the age of two where they hand out diapers or formula

until they run out. And workers hit the road two or three times a week and feed people living on the streets. “We try to provide them with some warm clothing, sleeping bags, as well as chili, soup, sandwiches and hygiene kits,” explained Khaloo.

Visit www.havenontheq.org to make a donation or to find out how to give.



Christine HOGARTH
MPP ETOBICOKE-LAKESHORE

Looking back, Looking forward: 2023 Wins & Vision 2024

by Christine Hogarth

What a year, Etobicoke-Lakeshore!

2023 was as much about challenges as it was about resolute progress. I am extremely proud of what we – government and people in partnership – achieved in the year gone by. I am even more excited about what lies ahead.

Despite the odds, we pushed forward by improving access to healthcare services, getting tough on violent crime, managing government’s finances, and investing in Ontario’s infrastructure.

Let us look back at the distance we covered in 2023, and what we delivered for Etobicoke-Lakeshore:

- ✓ Over 75 million in new dollars for Unity Health Toronto and Trillium Health Partners
- ✓ School re-builds at Holy Angels and St. Leo – both expected to open Fall 2024
- ✓ Over \$1 million for Toronto Police to combat crime including auto-theft
- ✓ \$260 average saving for households by extending the gas tax cut
 - ✓ \$300 million in additional funding for Toronto to enhance subway and transit safety
 - ✓ Over \$750 million in funding for 55 new subway trains for TTC Line 2
 - ✓ Over \$500,000 in Ontario government funding for six local non-profits

- ✓ Over \$470,000 in additional funding for Dorothy Ley Hospice
- ✓ \$60,000 for Ivan Franko Homes to improve accessibility

A really satisfying moment for me in 2023 was leading the unanimous passage of my Motion to create a **Clare’s Law for Ontario**, a significant legislation to protect victims of intimate partner violence.

A few years back, my first Private Members’ Bill – Protecting Our Pets Act – spotlighted the issue of puppy mills. Another cherished win this year was the introduction of the **PUPS Act** that will see Ontario become the first province in the country to put a leash on those who treat dogs as litter-churning machines.

Clearly, we have much to be grateful for, and we have so much more work to do during the coming year.

So as the curtains go up on what promises to be a wonderful year, I am sure that together we will harness the enormous potential of our community to meet our broader challenges.

Continuing to generate more jobs, building new schools, houses, roads, and safer communities is good vision for the New Year.

Welcome 2024!

Happy New Year, everyone. Let us get to work!



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Seriously ill kids wishes come true



QADIM, 9, with his family at Toys "R" Us in a Starlight Children's Foundation drive. Photo by Kristina Hopp.

Some 128 families with critically or chronically ill children had their dreams come true in a spree at Toys "R" Us store in Etobicoke.

The event was organized by Starlight Children's Foundation Canada, whose goal is to brighten the lives of seriously ill children and their families in the GTA through distractive hospital-to-home programs.

Starlight spokesperson Kristina Hopp said between hospital visits and medical challenges, the holidays can be a stressful time for families with seriously ill children.

"In an effort to provide comfort and smiles during this difficult time," Hopp explained. "Toys"R"Us Canada is providing Starlight Children's

Foundation Canada families across the nation with a private "Herb's Secret Santa."

She said the children were provided with a private in-store shopping session at their local Toys"R"Us Canada while the store is closed to the public.

Gift cards were given to each Starlight child and their siblings to spend in-store. The children also got a chance to meet Santa Claus, superheroes, princesses, and more of their favourite characters.

They left with a Mega Play From Home Pack, which is a super-sized toy pack containing board games, crafts and more from Starlight Canada.

The program was expected to reach some 750 families across Canada in 2023.

This year marks 25 years of partnership between Starlight Canada and Toys"R"Us Canada.

Kopp said thanks to the support of their employees and customers in that time, Toys"R"Us Canada has raised over \$28 million for Starlight Canada since 1998 – reaching tens of thousands of seriously ill and hospitalized children.

Toys"R"Us Canada also fundraised for Starlight Canada through the sale of a limited edition Starlight Bear and an in-store Star Campaign, where customers donated \$1 to Starlight Canada. That campaign has ended.



In the Community

By TOM GODFREY



MAYOR Rob Ford

It is good news for most Etobicoke residents and about time the City of Toronto honoured the late Councillor and Mayor Rob Ford.

Council voted in favour of renaming the Etobicoke Stadium after Ford, who had his faults but was wildly beloved by many of us.

The former 10-year Councillor of Etobicoke North and four-year Mayor was a man of the people who got things done for his community.

He is the kind of politician, unlike most of them today, who talked to everyone of their concerns and was well known for returning all his phone calls. Ford would carry a large writing pad and dutifully record those who wanted to speak to him and the issues involved.

I have been with him on the campaign trail and people would literally line-up and wait for many minutes to greet, take a selfie or speak to him about issues.

I remember once he met a senior citizen who was almost in tears as she related a story about how her landlord was trying to evict her.

Ford listened and took some notes and sure enough within a couple days had spoken to the landlord and they reached an agreement where the woman could stay in her apartment, where she had lived for about 20-years.

Sure he had a downside and weak spot for some drugs and partying in his off hours, but when he was on duty things were different.

Ford knew almost every corner and nook and cranny of his Ward 2 riding, and many of his constituents and where they lived.

He is still missed today by many who feel neglected and forgotten by those they elected to represent them; who are only interested in a big salary, garnering newspaper headlines and moving up the political ladder.

Ford didn't like talking about the many at-risk and needy Black and minority boys he coached on his football teams over the years. He spent many joyful hours at the same Centennial Stadium, to be named the Rob Ford stadium later this year, working with the young men, teaching them discipline and how to become better people.

Many of the young footballers went on to a productive life and unlike others averted police or going to jail.

Too often, we in the media and others, like to bring up his troubled past, but he did a lot of good things to help others, for which he will never be forgotten.

Mind you, he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, and didn't have to associate with the poor and downtrodden, or tour the many Ontario Housing complexes he did to see firsthand the conditions some people faced.

He didn't have to go to bat for the single mother who couldn't afford food, the immigrant family living in fear of being deported or not having a job or those being bullied or picked on because they were newcomers who did not speak English.

Ford helped them not only in Etobicoke, but across the city, when he was elected Mayor. Thousands sobbed and lined the streets on his passing at the age of 46.

He was a giant among some of the lame politicians we have today, and the City did the right thing by keeping his legacy alive for many of us who will make it a point to visit the Rob Ford Stadium, and even take a selfie there.

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

YOUR New Year Resolution: TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH

A leap of faith is the best New Year resolution for you. This year honour yourself with a resolution that is sensible, ambitious and achievable. Taking a leap of faith requires no actual time or money. It is literally a resolution of belief in something: FAITH. It is elemental in pursuing excellence, success or goals on any level.

What is a leap of faith if not a beginning into the unknown. As January unfolds so does a brand new year. We are taught to celebrate the last day of each year because we made it through, some of us with flying colours (What does that even mean? The idiom comes from nautical terminology and refers to times when ships would return home to safety with their flags flying in the wind). By that token, January 1st presents us the great uncharted territory of this new year. We all set sail on the seas of a new year together. Time is the great equalizer. None of us can set sail on a new day before anyone else.

If you want a New Year Resolution that really makes sense (but is not built on facts): Take a leap of faith. I'll tell you why. There are hundreds of programs on how to improve your life and this month they are marketing to you, with glitz, glamour, discounts, value ads and all kinds of promises. "Come get this, buy this, enjoy this, get better with this". And on and on it goes. How do you choose which program, latest diet or nutritional supplement will help you get healthy or sleep better? What podcast teaches you the fastest, where do you need to focus your energy?

When our New Year resolution revolves around a healthy new habit, most of us fail. We fail to reach our goal. We fail to follow through. And let's be honest, that's not a good way to start this year. Faith is here to save the day (err, year). When we have faith, we choose to believe we can do something. Action is the key to success. With faith, we also have the strength to believe we can be someone different today than we were yesterday. That is a crucial step in achieving our goal, any goal. In a 2009 JSTOR journal article on Faith and Goodness (by J.E.R. Staddon, Duke University)

"Science...cannot tell us what to value [JS & MH may not agree], just how to get it". In other words, our faith and belief system dictates what we value and the facts around us, the programs, the workshops, the myriad of 'get better' options just show us how. If you don't believe you can do it, 'just do it' doesn't

usually work. Believe you can do it...'just do it' doesn't usually work.

Without faith in your life, you may feel lost at sea when help isn't close at hand. To step confidently into this new year, practice faith daily. How? Follow these three steps, action steps.

1. Clearly write out your belief. 'I believe I can walk more than 10,000 steps a day. I have faith in me'

2. Set aside 2x a day, everyday when you sit and remind yourself of your faith. Draw on your belief in spiritual origins, your religion, your culture or nature. This is usually in the form of a journal, prayer and/or meditation.

3. Allow your connection to your spiritual community, religious group or tribe to support you daily, weekly, monthly in meetings and events. Growing your community grows your faith.

Notice that faith AND action are needed to pursue a target or a goal. Set your resolution to be: I believe in faith religiously. FAITH and RELIGIOUSLY I pair together to get your attention. Faith is not religion and religion is not faith. They complement each other. To adopt an action religiously means 'in a regular manner', choosing this new habit regularly, regardless of feeling, inspiration or motivation. We choose it because we believe we must. That is the fundamental pillar of any goal oriented program.

If we have Faith in a particular religion or in nature, or even in science does not matter. What matters is that we cultivate Faith. Just like cultivating compassion helps it grow, nourishing and choosing our faith regularly strengthens it. With faith in our hearts, or by our side (wherever we choose to keep it) we can excel. Faith is the compass direction for our next step. Before you take on yet another New Year Resolution, I ask you: what do you believe? Do you believe in yourself? How will you define your faith today?

In that answer you will find your ideal first step toward your goal. Cultivate faith today and every day this month and you can guarantee yourself a successful beginning in the year 2024.

Faith is building on what you know is here so you can reach what you know is there. – Cullen Hightower

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Retired Judge Speaks

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI



Welcome to the New Year. Let's make this the year of hope and second chances.

As a judge, I understand that the justice system is not just about rules but also requires empathy. Justice without empathy or feelings isn't Justice. It becomes harsh, rigid, and inflexible, potentially leading to outcomes not aligned with political and modern considerations.

Now and then, I would like to share some human insights into a judge's life, but make no mistakes; all my cases aren't these fairy tale types where "they lived happily ever after."

Many involve hurt, human destruction, tragedy, cruelty and abuse. In many, there are no options other than to lock up the dangerous person to protect society. But those feel-good cases, which are few and far between, make my job worthwhile.

One such case involved John, who had been charged with selling drugs. He had a lengthy record of drug addiction and had sold drugs to pay for his habit, leading to more trouble than he cared to remember.

This time, something was different - John's partner was pregnant, and for the sake of their baby, he was determined to get clean.

When John appeared before me, he asked not to be sent to jail. He had enrolled in a drug program for the third time and was trying hard to stay sober.

He asked me to confine him to his home, where he would always be with his baby. He said he had changed. I was skeptical at first, given his history of drug addiction. The jail is full of people who promise to change. In sentencing, past behaviour is often the best indicator of future behaviour.

I was about to impose a twelve-month jail term when John looked directly at me and said he wanted to turn this mistake into something good.

His words hit close to home for me. Years ago, I had a conversation with my teenage son when he was caught experimenting with drugs. It had caused a lot of tears and upset in our family, and I struggled to reconcile the roles of a prosecutor and a father.

After a day of tears, upset, and silence, my son came to me and asked, "Dad, if you learn from a mistake, does it mean it's still a mistake, or is it a lesson of life?"

His maturity and wisdom had taken me aback. That conversation had been a turning point in our relationship, and he went on to lead a successful life. When I heard John's plea, I listened to my son's voice.

I allowed John to transform his mistake into a learning lesson and sentenced him to two years of probation.

Life for a Judge can vary from minute to minute. The next man on the docket had pleaded guilty to impaired driving, having killed a man. He had multiple previous offences and past offers of help but kept drinking. I sentenced him to 15 years in jail. One day, two years later, my clerk came to my chambers and told me that a man wanted to see me. She didn't know what he wanted, so I told her he could address me in open court.

When the man entered the court, I didn't recognize him at first. John had a smiling little girl in his arms, and he introduced himself and his daughter.

"Your Honour, I just wanted to thank you for believing in me. I have been free of drugs for two years, and I even work in a rehab program, helping others find their path to sobriety.

But most of all, this little girl, her mom, and you are my reasons for success," John said. Seeing John's face filled with pride while carrying his daughter was one of the most satisfying experiences I have ever felt.

I was relieved that I had made the right decision by giving John another chance, and I knew then that every judge has an opportunity to make a real difference in someone's life. I don't want you to think I ignored victims. As a prosecutor, I helped initiate the Wife Abuse and Victim Witness programs in this province.

I just wanted to start the new year with a message of hope. Next time, I will write about the saddest victims I have ever encountered.

If you want to suggest topics for columns, e-mail me at lbudzinski@talkjustice.info. Sorry, but I cannot give legal or personal advice.

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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Local swimmer is athlete of the year

Etobicoke swimming sensation Summer McIntosh has been named The Canadian Press Female Athlete of the Year 2023 for her outstanding performance in international swimming. The Etobicoke resident outvoted other top women athletes in Canadian sports to cop the prestigious Bobbie Rosenfeld Award.

The 17-year-old swimmer became a double world champion for the second year in a row, defending her titles in the 200-metre butterfly and the 400-metre individual medley at the World Aquatics Championships in Fukuoka, Japan.

The former student of the Exceptional Athlete Program at Silverthorn Collegiate swam for the Etobicoke Swim Club and trained at the Etobicoke Olympium before moving to Florida about a year ago to train for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. Silverthorn Collegiate has a nationally acclaimed program that caters to high performance cream-of-the-crop athletes, allowing flexible timetables for students to stick with their intense sports training schedules.

She is currently a Grade 11 student at the Ontario Virtual School.

"I'm very honoured to have it and it's just really cool," McIntosh told Swimming Canada after being named for the award on December 27.

The Etobian was the first swimmer in history to hold both the 400-metre and 400 freestyle world records at the same time, which McIntosh did for almost four months until Australia's Ariarne Titmus reclaimed the freestyle record in Fukuoka last July.

"What I'm most proud of is just how much I've learned about myself and kind of how much I've gained from each experience," McIntosh said. The Canadian Press began recognizing male and female athletes of the year in 1932.



ETOBICOKE SWIMMING sensation Summer McIntosh (top, bottom) selected as The Canadian Press Female Athlete of the Year 2023. **Photos by Swimming Canada.**

McIntosh earned 24 of 52 votes cast in a survey of sports journalists and broadcasters across the country.

She began as a member of the Etobicoke Swim Club, which was founded in 1954, to support young people with the drive, determination, talent and desire, to realize their maximum potential in competitive swimming.

The Club has a long and rich history of service to the Etobicoke community.

It has produced many national, international and Olympic swimmers and has been Provincial and National Champion many times over.

McIntosh mother Jill was also an Etobicoke swim star who competed in the 1984 Olympics.

"We are extremely proud of our swimmers and their successes; however, as parents, we are equally proud of the outstanding citizens that our children have become for the community," Club officials said.

Today it has more than 270 swimmers competing for Etobicoke, from the novice level all the way to National Team members.

The Club has had 34 swimmers placed on the Canadian Olympic teams since 1956, two swimmers on the 2000



Olympic team and 14 who were junior Provincial Championships from 2001 to 2008.

Hamilton basketball star Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was awarded the Canadian Press Male Athlete of the Year 2023.

He led Canada to its first-ever FIBA World Cup medal last September, earning bronze with a win over the United States. His performance for Canada at the tournament earned it its first Olympic berth since 2000.

Previous winners of CP's female athlete of the year include hockey players Marie-Philip Poulin in 2022 and Hayley Wickenheiser in 2007, tennis players Leylah Fernandez in 2021 and Bianca Andreescu in 2019, soccer star Christine Sinclair in 2012 and 2020, golfer Brooke Henderson in 2015, 2017, 2018 and swimmer Penny Oleksiak in 2016.



HAMILTON's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was selected Male Athlete of the Year.

A 26-storey condo proposed for Birmingham and Eighth

A proposal to build a 26 storey condo tower on the site of a Hindu temple in New Toronto is raising eyebrows from residents.

The proposed development at 210 Islington Avenue and 99 Birmingham Street will take up two lots that is bounded by Islington Avenue to the east, and Birmingham Street to the north and Eighth Street to the west.

The tower will contain 352 dwelling units with stores on the ground floor. It features a three level underground parking for 147 vehicles.

A zoning by-law amendment has been filed for the construction of the building and the application is going through the hearing process.

The site has been the site of the Sidh Shakti Babaji Mandir temple for many years. The temple will be demolished to construct the building. The proposal said the site is located near the Waterfront LRT,

which is being planned by the City of Toronto, the TTC and Waterfront Toronto, which will introduce higher-order transit along Lake Shore Blvd. between Long Branch and the Leslie Barns Maintenance and Storage Facility to the east.

It said the site is well served by the nearby cycling network.



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STARTING JANUARY 9 AND 10 CHAIR YOGA join us on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. or Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in person or online with **Meaux** for a gentle workout to strengthen muscles, mobility and improve balance. Use bands or light weights. For more contact anthonya@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

JANUARY 10 COMMUNITY LAND TRUST join us online via Zoom at 6 p.m. as we continue work on establishing to develop affordable housing in the South Etobicoke Community Land Trust. For more information, contact brig@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

STARTS JANUARY 11 HATHA CHAIR YOGA at 10:30 a.m. stretch and enjoy some music and movement with **Briar** a certified Hatha Yoga instructor in the community room at LAMP. Build your core strength and improve your flexibility. For more information contact norkyit@lampchc.org

JANUARY 12 HEARING SCREENINGS as the Canadian Hearing Services will be at LAMP Community Health Centre, at 185 Fifth Street, to support individuals with a hearing loss. They will provide hearing loss screening, check for ear wax and provide information. To sign up for an appointment e-mail jasmind@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

UNTIL JANUARY 17 NEW VISTAS: Next Step Art Exhibition to uncover diverse perspectives of our shared world in a free art exhibition that celebrates and showcases the talent of emerging visual artists at the Assembly Hall. Presented by Humber College's Art Administration and Cultural Management Program and the Etobicoke Civic Centre Art Gallery, at 399 The West Mall. Contact 416-394-8628 or e-mail toronto.ca/eccartgallery

UNTIL JANUARY 24 MINDFUL BASED RELAXATION on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. online on Zoom with **Corin De Sousa** for a four-week series on relaxing through mindfulness. The certified mindfulness teacher provides evidence-based mindfulness

programs and workshops in the GTA. To register e-mail norkyit@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 257.

FEBRUARY 6 CALLING ALL GARDENERS from Alderwood, Mimico, New Toronto and Long Branch for meeting at 7 p.m. at the Long Branch Public Library to learn about how to be part of the Long Branch Garden Tour for 2024. For more e-mail info@longbranchgardentourinfo@gmail.com

UNTIL JUNE 24 SUNNYLEA BABY CLUB a program for babies from newborn to 12-months-old and their parents or caregivers every Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to enjoy songs and activities at Royal York United Church, 851 Royal York Road. To register contact Larissa or Anna at early.years@stonegatechc.org

ACTIVE FRIDAYS for fun and safe indoor activities for families with children up to six years old with drop-in every Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Royal York United Church, 851 Royal York Road. To register contact Larissa or Anna at early.years@stonegatechc.org

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. Cash and debit accepted. 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. The 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 has a lunch program every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 5 Thirtieth Street. Also Family Christmas Assistance registration is now open please register online at www.salakeshore.com or by calling 416-251-8372 ext. 104. Volunteers are needed for various programs call Jennifer at same phone number.

JEAN AUGUSTINE CENTRE FREE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS: From January 15 to March 8. Let's Experiment and participate in hands on STEM and other activities to learn, explore and have fun. **NEW JAC WARRIORS** Learn intermediate and advanced martial arts skills to better defend yourself.

CRAFTASTIC Learn how to create and design your own candles, bath bombs and more with hands-on program. **NEW - EMPOWER HER** learn how to express yourself in a drama class. From stage techniques, special awareness, body language and facial expressions, become your best self while bringing characters to life on stage. **MARISE STITCHING CORNER** if you have a passion for fashion, join us every Thursday to bring your fashion to life by learning how to sew. **COOKING CRAZE** enhance your culinary skills by learning to cook your own meals with Centre chef. **NINJAS BEGINNER** learn the basics of self-defence and advance into intermediate-advanced martial arts class. Located at 101 Portland street. To register call 416-253-9797 or e-mail info@jeanaugustinecentre.ca

JOIN A YOUTH COUNCIL the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has an opportunity for Toronto youth aged 16 to 18 who care about the environment to make a positive difference in their communities and gain professional experience. The Youth Council is a chance for youth to discuss environmental issues while having access to resources that can help turn their ideas into action. It is for youth interested in a career in the environmental field to get hands-on experience. To apply or learn more visit trca.ca

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Lakeshore Charitable Foundation



Letters for Santa Claus have been picked up 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.



22 Division officers help kids



OFFICERS AT 22 Division (top) and at a Stuff the Bus drive (right) to collect toys and donations for needy children. Police photos.

Police officers from 22 Division in South Etobicoke passed a hat around to raise \$1,700 which has been donated to help kids at The Hospital for Sick Children. Officers said an anonymous donor generously matched their donations and they managed to hand over \$3,400 to the world-famous teaching hospital.



“We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all frontline workers, irrespective of your roles during this holiday season,” police said on social media. “Your unwavering dedication does not go unnoticed, and we express our gratitude for embodying the essence of remarkable humanity.”



They told the vulnerable children at Sick Kids ‘we empathize with your challenges and sincerely hope for your return to the comforting embrace of your parents soon.’ “May this contribution serve as a beacon of hope and support for those facing adversity,” said Detective Sgt. Dan Pravica and Assistant Superintendent Sgt. Natasha Zver, of the Neighbourhood Community Officer Program, on behalf of the Division. “As we approach the holiday season, let us collectively embrace the spirit of compassion and unity, extending our thoughts and goodwill to those in need.” The officers wished everyone ‘Merry Christmas - Happy Hanukkah - Happy Kwanzaa - Happy New Year.’ “Wishing everyone a joyous holiday season filled with warmth, kindness, and the spirit of giving,” they concluded.

Santa Claus parade drew huge fun-loving crowd



SANTA AND HIS reindeer received the loudest cheers at the parade that attracted many parents and their kids. A marching drum band at bottom. **Photo by Marilyn Charenko.**

Hundreds of area residents braved the cold to gather along Lake Shore Blvd. W., to cheer and get a glimpse of the Big Guy in red at the annual Etobicoke Lakeshore Santa Claus Parade.

“It was a great event and the kids just loved it,” said Henry, who was there with his two children. “We are glad we came here rather than going downtown.”

The large Santa Claus float, pulled by his reindeer, received the loudest ovation from attendees as children waved and shouted at a jovial Santa, who ‘hoed’ his way down the Lakeshore.

There were dozens of colourful floats, old fire trucks, antique cars and members of the Toronto Scottish Regiment, who were collecting pet food for charity from members of the crowd.

This was the 33rd year of the long-awaited parade, which began as a way to re-invigorate the community more than three decades ago.

“Residents and their children come from near and far because they love the event,” said Kris

they love the event,” said Korwin-Kuczynski. “It is good for area businesses and the community.”

Organizers said the parade was a success and worth it just to see the faces of the many children.

This year LAMP Community Health Centre’s Executive Director Keddone Dias was the Grand Marshal of the parade. She joined others such as author and former NHL goalie Ken Dryden, Raptors superfan Nav Bhatia, Toronto Argos boss Mike ‘Pinball’ Clemons and NHLer Johnny Bowers as previous Grand Marshals.



A HOT ROD (top) and Thomas the Train and Friends (right) are always crowd favourites, like the antique fire truck (below). **Photos by Marilyn Charenko.**



Korwin-Kuczynski, Chair of the Lakeshore Village Business Improvement Association.(BIA). “It is good for area businesses and the community.” Many people said they attended this event rather than the large one in downtown Toronto because it is near, easier to park or to meet their friends or neighbours.

There was a skate for those enjoying themselves after the parade that was held at Col. Samuel Smith Park. Organizers said the parade was a success and worth it to see the faces of the children. “Residents and their children come from near and far because



MAYOR OLIVIA CHOW (centre) with Councillor Amber Morley (second on right) with some friends at the Santa Claus parade.

The Lake Shore Blvd. W. strip was closed to traffic as hundreds of costumed adults, marching bands, organizations and smiling children danced or walked behind the many colourful floats that wound their way on December 2 from Dwight Avenue to Thirtieth Street. Area stores were open for the parade and did brisk business as some people looked for Christmas presents. There were many smiling faces of residents on this day.



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