

# The South Etobicoke News

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## Renters get a break as services cut in budget

Renters in Etobicoke and citywide are getting a break on their rents in the Toronto 2024 budget, which will hire more firefighters and paramedics. Mayor Olivia Chow said renters will face a 3.75 percent increase, rather than the 9.5 per cent homeowners face, so their rents will not be increased by building owners who will pass down the huge increase.

The budget which is trying to plug a \$1.8 billion deficit comes up for a vote by City Council on February 14. Residents also face a second increase if Ottawa doesn't cough up enough for shelters and refugees. Ottawa has pledged \$362 million nationwide. A number of popular programs like the police Mounted Unit, faces cuts to make up for the deficit. Etobicoke and



**RENTERS STAND** to pay less property tax in 2024 Budget than homeowners as services as Toronto Police Mounted Unit (centre) and the Winter Windrow Program (right) face cuts.

city homeowners, seniors and vulnerable residents may face the cancellation of a Winter Windrow Clearing Program.

The program, which is offered to more than 260,000 homeowners in Etobicoke, North York and Scarborough, will require residents to find other ways to

clear the heavy snow at the end of their driveways.

Windrows are the large dunes of snow left behind by plows when they clear residential roads. The city in its proposed budget said they will save \$16 million by cutting the program. "We have a lot of seniors and disabled people living in the community who depend on the service," warned Ward 2 Councillor Stephen Holyday. "They will be the most affected."

He said ambulances or other personnel will not be able to get close to homes in emergencies due to a mountain of compacted, heavy snow at the tip of their driveways.

Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie said she was told "loud and clear" at a town hall meeting that people in her Scarborough riding do not want to see the program axed,

## City studies plight of Blacks at Centennial Park

A City review is underway into the treatment of some Black people at Centennial Park.

A group called the Centennial Park Accountability Circle has issued a Summary Report as part of the Centennial Park Master Plan.

"In the process of developing the Centennial Master Plan update, allegations of anti-Black racism from bylaw officers at Centennial Park came to light," according to the report. "These allegations are currently under investigation." The incident was also brought up on several occasions during a youth workshop, according to the report.



**THE CITY IS LOOKING AT** ways to make an updated Centennial Park more friendly to members of the Black community following reports that they are targeted and do not feel comfortable in the park.

"The team felt it was important to create a space on how to make Centennial Park more inclusive to members of Black communities," the report state. "The

Master Plan Update presents an opportunity for incorporating ideas from Black communities into the master plan." Members of the Engagement Unit

met twice with the City Confronting Anti Black Racism team and developed a tailored approach.

The report said the relationship between the Black community and the City of Toronto is "fractured," and work has to be done to "rebuild trust" between both parties.

Black residents who experienced Anti-Black racism at Centennial Park were invited to a meeting, along with Black community centres and faith based organizations. "Historically, Black communities within Toronto have not been fully integrated into the city space because of systemic racism," the report said.

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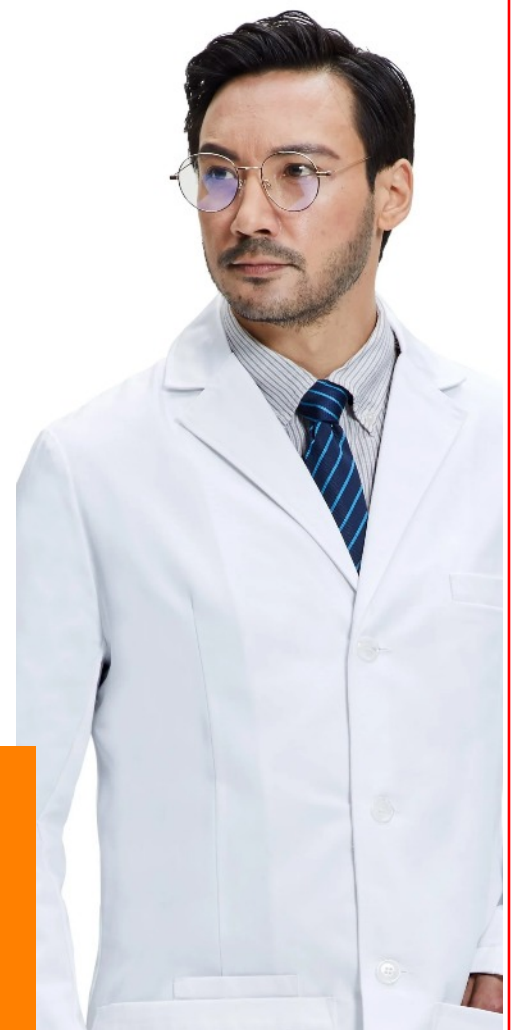
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# Crime proceeds used to help fight street gangs

Ontario is fighting crime in Etobicoke-Lakeshore by investing \$3 million in proceeds of crime money into street gang and other prevention initiatives. The funds, forfeited as proceeds of crime



ARRESTED with crime funds

following criminal prosecutions, will be used to support community safety projects by the Toronto Police Service (TPS).

The money will help TPS, Victim Services Toronto and the Toronto District School Board, deliver an annual School Safety Symposium for Grade 7, 8 and 9 students. The symposium will help reduce youth involvement in gangs and street violence. It will also increase awareness about human trafficking, intimate partner violence, online dangers as sexting, bullying, hate incidents and crimes affecting school-age youth.

“This funding will help police work with local partners to combat street violence and crimes affecting youth,” said Christine Hogarth, the MPP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

Ontario since 2018 has invested more than \$16 million in crime prevention initiatives across the province through the Proceeds of Crime Front-Line Policing Grant program.

“We’re using every tool including cash and proceeds seized from criminals to prevent crime and protect our communities,” said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. Toronto Police Chief Myron Demkiw said communities need to feel safe to thrive. “This reinvestment of proceeds of crime into crime prevention is a welcome decision,”

Ontario is investing more than \$1.7 million to help stop hate-motivated crimes across the province.

The province is also fighting auto theft by investing \$51 million over three years to help police dismantle organized crime networks and put thieves behind bars. This includes \$18 million to support new crime-fighting measures.

The province is already investing \$112 million to help police monitor repeat and violent offenders who are released on bail. This includes \$24 million to help establish bail compliance or warrant apprehension teams.

# Police officers handing out winter survival kits to those who are needy or homeless in our City



POLICE HAND OUT SLEEPING BAGS and other goods to the homeless as volunteers (below) give a hand to help the needy and less fortunate.

Toronto Police officers and partners have handed out 3,500 winter survival kits to help those cold and in need. Officers from 13 Division on January 20 took part in the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Engage and Change Project Winter Survival in which kits were handed out to more than 200 social service agencies, outreach providers and homeless shelters.

The program helps those who are less fortunate endure the hardships of winter by providing necessities as sleeping bags, toque, scarf, winter gloves and personal and health care items that often makes a difference between life and death.

“Since its inception in 1999, Project Winter Survival has placed in excess of 50,000 survival kits into the hands of people in Toronto and the surrounding area who are experiencing homelessness,” police said in a release.

Staff Sgt. John Stockfish said he and his officers were “very humbled” to help out and deliver the goods. “Just getting those basic necessities out, we see the demand, we see the effects on the street,” Stockfish said last year. “The harsh elements make it even that much more challenging for people who don’t have homes.”

Former Toronto police officer Scott Mills is still rocked by the loss several months ago of a good friend Real Leclair.

Mills remembered the native of Montreal he befriended years ago. Better known online as Homeless Joe, Leclair has lived in three homes in recent years. He died in South Etobicoke.

It is estimated that roughly 10,500 plus of the homeless population across the GTA are sleeping outdoors, in shelters, in emergency respite centres, and health and correction facilities every night.

“Ongoing challenges facing this high-risk group mean that increased numbers in need of warmth and shelter are left to fend off the elements as best they can,” theysaid.

Exhausted shelter and outreach facilities are facing an overwhelming increase in the demand for humanitarian relief exacerbated by an increase in violence in Toronto shelters attributed to city cutbacks, the opioid crisis, overcrowding and a shortage of mental health supports.

“What started out as an immediate response to help those in need survive the conditions of winter on the streets of the GTA 25 years ago, has become a milestone of misery,” according to Engage and Change.

“The appeal for kits is staggering,” said Jody Steinhauer, President of The Bargains Group and Project Winter



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# Celebrating February as Black History Month



FORMER MP, trailblazer Jean Augustine

There are a number of events taking place in our community in February to recognize Black History Month. Black History Month would not exist if not for local resident, MP and community activist Jean Augustine, who was instrumental in establishing the month in Canada. Augustine, in 1995 as MP for Etobicoke Lakeshore, introduced a motion at the request of the Ontario Black History Society that February be recognized in Canada as the official month of Black history. The motion was passed unanimously. It would be the first of many political and community feats for Augustine. She served the community for 13 years from October 1993 to January 2006 and was the first Black woman to be elected as an MP in

Parliament. She served under Prime Minister Jean Chretien with distinction winning four consecutive elections until she decided to move on to new challenges. She founded the Mimico-based Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment, on Portland Street, which has helped hundreds of girls between the ages of 7 to 17 with programs in STEM, arts, life skills and building their self-esteem. The Jean Augustine Centre on February 3 will be holding its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Month Celebration at the Assembly Hall, at 1 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be prizes, food, music and dramatic performances. For more call 416-253-9797 or e-mail [info@jeanaugustinecentre.ca](mailto:info@jeanaugustinecentre.ca) To launch Black History Month a bust was unveiled last month at Queen's Park to honour the first Black MP and Ontario Lieutenant Governor Lincoln Alexander.

Alexander served in the Canadian Air Force, returned home to Hamilton to become a lawyer, ran successfully for politics before being chosen to be the Queen's representative. For more see Page 11.

Black History Month activity is also taking place until February 29 in a Celebrating our Diversity 'Black Excellence,' a future to build at the Etobicoke Civic Centre, at 399 The West Mall.

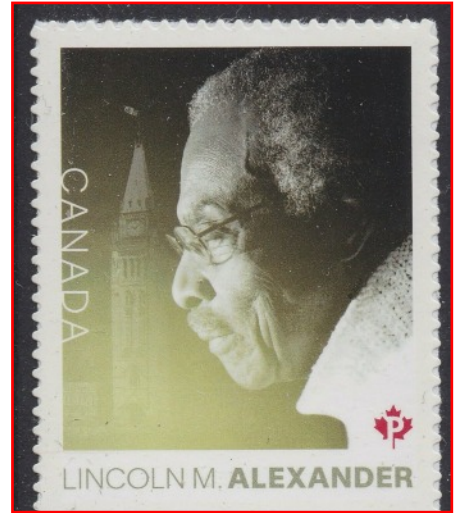
The program will take place in the Council Chambers and Board Meetings room, and will be launched on February 3 from 11 a.m.

Residents are invited to share their stories and there will be cultural foods, entertainment and vendors. Contact 647-328-7669.

On February 8 there is Humber Music Presents Reverberations II, a celebration of music of the Black Diaspora featuring Humber Music's Gospel Choir, African Rhythm 'n Jazz and Rhythm 'n Soul Ensembles.

That show starts at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of 'B' Building of the Humber Lakeshore Campus, at 3199 Lake Shore Blvd. W. Tickets are required and can be ordered at Eventbrite. Contact: Dewi Minden at [Humbermusicdegree@humber.ca](mailto:Humbermusicdegree@humber.ca) or visit <https://reverberations-ii-humber.eventbrite.ca/>

And on February 25 there is a Black History Month Carnival Edition taking place at the Small Arms Inspection Building, 1352 Lakeshore Road East, Mississauga, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Experience the rich culture and traditions of the African diaspora through music, dance, and food. Featuring live performances by talented artists to interactive workshops and games. Contact 905-615-4860 or e-mail [small.arms@mississauga.ca](mailto:small.arms@mississauga.ca)



FORMER ONTARIO LT. Governor Lincoln Alexander on a stamp

## Police warning residents of a taxi scam

A Brampton man has been arrested in a taxi scam, in which police have received more than 60 complaints and \$40,000 were defrauded from people.

In the scam, unsuspecting victims walking by a taxi are approached by a scammer who pretends to be a fare. The scammer would explain the taxi driver, who is part of the scheme, was not taking debit or credit cards and if the victim would pay using their card the scammer would repay them fully in cash.

The card is skimmed and swapped with another similar card, police said. A fake card is returned to the victim, and the scammer uses the real card to make fraudulent withdrawals or purchases.



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## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>

# Rental units coming to area in federal, city fund



THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT plans to build 494 rental units at 300 The East Mall.

More rental housing is coming to our community. Some 494 rental apartments are being built at 300 The East Mall, the Valhalla Village Phase 1 project, which will be a two-tower development providing rental housing for individuals and middle class families.

An announcement was made by Etobicoke Centre MP Yvan Baker, on behalf of Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, and by MP James Maloney, the MP for Etobicoke Lakeshore..

Valhalla Village is a mixed-use complex in which is proposed a 37, 30, 21 and 11-storey buildings designed by BDP Quadrangle for

KingSett Capital and located at the northwest corner of The East Mall and Bloor Street West. The project is expected to be completed by May 2027.

“Too many Canadians are struggling to find somewhere to rent and call home, especially here in Toronto,” said Baker. “The federal government is reversing this trend, and through the Apartment Construction Loan Program, incentivizing the development of much-needed rental units in the whole country.”

He said the project will help to increase the supply of housing and create a huge difference in strengthening our communities.

“This investment from the federal government demonstrates our strong commitment to working with all communities to meet the challenge of building more rental housing,” Maloney said.

He said the housing will create thousands of safe, well-built homes for hardworking Canadians and add much needed supply to the rental market in Toronto.

“The 172 affordable rental housing opportunities are a testament to what can be achieved when different orders of government and developers work together,” Mayor Olivia Chow said. “I am determined to create more affordable housing options so more people can continue to call Toronto home,” she said.

One building will feature community agency space and retail at ground level, and office space on the second floor.



A PROPOSED 37, 30, 21 and 11-storey buildings will be constructed on The East Mall site.

Council approved about \$10 million in financial incentives through a City Open-Door program including property tax and development charge exemptions and permit fee waivers to support the Valhalla Village project.



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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.

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# A new fun Centennial Park



**A NEW SKATE TRAIL** (above) along with cricket pitches and pickle ball courts will be built at Centennial Park.

warmer months,” according to Centennial Park information.

The skating trail will be 270 metres long and will be the longest outdoor skating trail in Toronto. It is proposed to have lights that change colours and a speaker system that plays music for skaters.

There will also be a large public plaza where family and friends can gather. During the summer long benches and temporary fencing will be removed from the public plaza for summer festivals and other public events and activities, park officials said. The trail will be accessible for skateboarders, roller skaters or walkers in the warm months. The new baseball hub will include four diamonds which can be used for both softball and baseball, as well as batting cages. There will be eight beach volleyball and 12 pickleball courts as well as new parking lots and pedestrian amenities. The hub will have a new year-round washroom and construction for most of the updates will begin this year. A new soccer hub is planned that will include six new soccer fields, a bubbled training site and a new



**WATERPARK FOR FAMILIES** and new activities coming soon to Centennial Park.

fieldhouse with a year-round washroom. The Master Plan includes the creation of an expanded cricket hub to be located in the hydro corridor, with two new cricket pitches being added to the existing two, as well as a new field house with a year-round washroom. The pathways in the park will be upgraded with new surfacing and lighting to improve circulation and accessibility. The playground and wading pool are being replaced with a new large playground and water play area with the help of community feedback. Also planned are eight full-sized beach volleyball courts with lighting, new parking lot with drop-off area, gathering area with shelter, seating and water fountain and bottle filling station. There will also be multi-use pathways and an asphalt walkway.

# Toronto Public Libraries back online after cyberhit



**NEW TORONTO** public library in South Etobicoke.

Public libraries in South Etobicoke and citywide are back online after undergoing a vicious cybersecurity attack.

A large number of files, along with private information of current and former employees, were stolen in the October 28 attack against the Toronto Public Library (TPL). Also stolen by hackers were the names, social insurance numbers and home addresses of employees dating back to 1998, including copies of government-issued identification. TPL officials said customers will be able to see a familiar version of its website this month that will include more information on services and programs and easier access to digital resources. It will not allow access to catalogue and search features and customer accounts. The library also said about a million books and other materials that include returns and new items will be processed to be put back on its shelves by mid-February. Returned books have been stored in 12 offsite trailers since the cyberattack. Some of the services unavailable included: tpl.ca, “your account”, tpl:map passes and digital collections. Public computers and printing services at branches are now available. Branches in South Etobicoke are open as scheduled and Wifi is available and telephone lines are working. Materials from next month can be borrowed and returned in branches. The library said that by mid-February, customers who placed holds will be notified by email or phone when their items are ready for pick-up. Customers can also place, cancel and manage holds with staff in branches and by telephone. TPL is one of the world’s busiest urban public library systems, with 100 branches across the city and over 10 million books.

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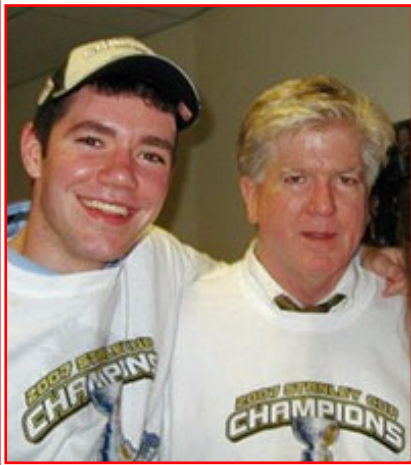
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**SOLD**



**Princess Anne Manor**

# Ex Leafs GM Burke donates 2<sup>nd</sup> horse to police



**FORMER LEAFS GM** Brian Burke (right) with son Brendan in better times.

Former Toronto Maple Leafs General Manager Brian Burke has made an \$11,300 donation to help purchase a new horse for the Toronto Police Mounted Unit. The donation comes as a plan by Toronto City Council to possibly disband the 138-year-old Unit is being

considered to save \$6 million to help fill a \$1.8 billion deficit.

A vote by council on the fate of the longest-serving unit on the force, which has about 40 officers and 24 horses, will take place on February 14.

Police said Burke's donation will allow the Service to replace retiring horses. "The Service expects two horses to retire within the near future, and the Mounted Unit requires a specified number of healthy horses to meet operational demands," according to the Toronto Police Service Board agenda.

The funds will ensure the continued viability of the unit while allowing for a donation that is purposeful and meaningful to the Service and donor, the board heard.

"This donor has previously donated a horse to the Service and wishes to do so again," according to the

agenda. "Both to help maintain a healthy complement for the Mounted Unit, and to continue the legacy of having a specified horse to represent and support the LGBTQ2S+ community."

The horse Burke previously donated is named 'Moose,' the nickname of his late son, Brendan.

Brendan, 21, was Brian's youngest son who died in 2010 following a car crash in Indiana.

He had just come out to the hockey world as a gay man and died in hospital from injuries sustained in a two-vehicle accident on treacherous, snowy roads. Another man in Burke's vehicle also died.

Brendan wanted to have a career in hockey after college and had even talked of possibly working in a management role in the NHL.

"Gay rights have also been named a "priority" by the Toronto Police Service, and they want to use Moose to



**POLICE HORSE 'MOOSE'** (top) was donated by Burke and the late Picard (right) who passed away in December.

show support and inclusion," Brian said. Brendan had decided to come out to help end homophobia in hockey circles across North America. The elder Burke said he would work to help his son bring awareness to the stigma so many gay hockey players face.

He was introduced as the president and general manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs in November 2008 and was let go in January 2013.

The mounted unit was established in 1886 and is one of the oldest in North America. It now consists of about 40 officers and 25 horses. The mounted unit's annual budget of \$5.5 million is just a sliver of the services'

total 2020 budget of \$1.8 billion. The overwhelming majority of the unit's costs go to officers' salaries. The horses live at the unit's stables at Exhibition Place and are taken out every day for exercise.

Another police horse 'Picard' died days before Christmas after experiencing 'serious' complications during a surgical procedure.



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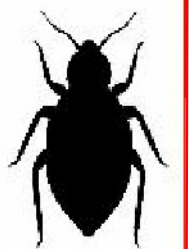
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# New updated Long Branch GO station will be better, faster



MANY MODERN AMENITIES have been added to the long-awaited Long Branch GO Station.

Members of the community were invited to a Long Branch GO Station Open House to get the latest information on the long-awaited project. Metrolinx's GO Expansion program provided updates on the every 15-minute service on the Lakeshore West Line, in addition to an upgraded and accessible Long Branch Station. The Open House took place on February 1 at the Toronto Public Library, Long Branch. Metrolinx said its GO Expansion program is delivering more GO service across the network, including trains 'every 15 minutes or better' on the Lakeshore West Line.

"Metrolinx is upgrading the Long Branch station to enable more frequent and accessible service," the company said. "This includes accessibility and amenity upgrades to serve you better." The upgraded station will include; new accessible east and west tunnel with elevator and stair connection to platform level, new east entrance building with barrier-free washrooms, a waiting area and new west entrance building with elevator and stair connection to a new west tunnel. Metrolinx is upgrading the rail network and stations to enable more frequent and fully accessible service. This includes accessibility and amenity upgrades to Long Branch GO Station to serve commuters better. There will be revisions to the parking lot, including a passenger pick-up and drop-off area, bike lanes, pedestrians and bike shelters. A new security bicycle storage room is also being added along with upgrades to communication, mechanical and electrical systems. Also added is better access from Edgeware Drive, including improvements to the existing staircase from Edgeware to the north platform that will have canopy coverage. There will also be rehabilitation of existing platforms including snow melt systems, heated shelters, elevators, stairs, accessibility platforms and integrated platform canopies.



THE LONG BRANCH GO train will be operating every 15 minutes.

In addition there will be provisions for two-way, all-day rail service, enabling works for electrification, including grounding and bonding, integration of future Overhead Contact Systems (OCS) foundations with canopies and platform architecture. The Lakeshore West line delivers two-way, all-day service seven days a week, from Union Station to Aldershot GO Station, and hourly service to West Harbour GO Station. It delivers rush-hour service from Hamilton to Toronto in the morning and back again in the afternoon. "We know this line can do even more," officials said. "We know it can be faster, with more trips all day long." An upgraded Lakeshore West GO Expansion line will provide commuters a seamless transit journey that will take them from home to every corner of the GTA. Golden Horseshoe and connections to local transit.

# Police warn of those you hire to clean snow or small jobs

Police are reminding residents to beware of whom they are hiring for snow clearing or other tasks around their home at this time of the year. The latest warning stems from an arrest of a Norval man for a series of renovation frauds that occurred from September 2021 to February 2023 mostly in Brampton and Mississauga. They are also known to target seniors in Etobicoke. Peel Regional Police said the suspect signed five renovation contracts and collected \$37,000 in deposits but never returned to complete the jobs.

Police believe there are more victims and want them to come forward. Hardish Khinda, 42, aka Sunny, of Norval, has been charged with defrauding the public. The suspect claimed to be working for Weaver Home Improvement or North Side Renovations. Police said to conduct checks on those you hire.



POLICE HAVE CHARGED Hardish Khinda with defrauding the public.



**"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

Officers are warning people to hire established contractors, who have worked for trusted friends or family. They must also check the contractor's references or search their companies on Google and never pay with cash up front. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Fraud Bureau at (905) 453-2121, ext. 3335. Information may also be left anonymously by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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# Loblaw's honoured for less waste

As Loblaw's stores take credit for bringing back its 50 per cent off sales, a local branch is being honoured for reducing waste and raising the most food for charity.

A Shoppers Drug Mart Loblaw's store at Six Point Plaza was honoured on January 8 for raising \$83,000 in food donations and reducing food waste that was given to Second Harvest food bank and local charities.

The store received a Loblaw's Feed More Families

Champions Award which comes with \$5,000 to give to a charity of its choice which went to Women's Habitat, a

local organization that supports women who are survivors of violence and poverty.

"It's great to be known as an exemplary store helping to deliver on Loblaw's enterprise-wide commitment of providing one billion pounds of food to local food charities by 2028," said Loblaw pharmacy store owner Kenny Tan.

"This recognition means a lot," Tan said. "The awards play a strong role in encouraging stores to help reduce food waste, fight climate change and



**LOBLAW'S PHARMACY OWNER** Kenny Tan (left), with Carla Neto, of Women's Habitat and official Stephen Falcao on their store's win. **Courtesy photo.**

advance social equity that are important and urgent right now." The store's contribution has enabled Loblaw's to donate more than 31 million pounds of food last year through its Feed More Families program. Since Loblaw's made the commitment in 2022, the company has provided more than 58 million pounds of food to local charities. "I'm happy that our store demonstrates this idea effectively," he said. "Besides being cashiers and staff-stackers we are also agents of change."

He said everyone has the opportunity to make changes and give purpose though their work.

"It helps when your company is purpose driven and committed to fighting climate change and advancing social equality," Tan said.

Loblaw's Companies Limited has pledged to provide a billion pounds of food to Canadians in need through several food charities by 2028 through the Feed More Families program. It is an effort to address food insecurity and the environmental impacts of

food waste. "Retail stores are an anchoring institutions, relying on local community members for business and workforce," according to Loblaw's official Juzbi Walia. "Community members want large retailers to show leadership in the locality." Company president and CEO Galen Weston pledged to help feed one million children annually by 2025 through support for its President's Choice Children's Charity. His company is Canada's largest food retailer.

# Pizza maker Dino feeding the needy



**PIZZA MASTER** Dino Ari with one of his pizzas (above and below) which he donates to those in need. **Staff and courtesy photos.**

Every year Zeynel 'Dino' Ari donates dozens of his tasty pies to feed the needy and homeless. This is his 14<sup>th</sup> year of feeding those in need and it was no different for the owner of two Dino's Wood Burning Pizza parlours in South Etobicoke. Dino and some of his workers last month travelled to the Sherbourne and Queen Streets area, as he has done for years, to give out 50 pies to the homeless or those experiencing food insecurity. He also feeds others at Moss Park, in addition to newcomers and even frontline workers during the pandemic.

He takes pride in giving back to the country and people who gave him so much when he himself was a newcomer in 2000.

His pie giveaways comes from the heart and to help others who are in need as he was at some point.

Dino likes the community and hopes to make it better. In 2022 he ran against then incumbent Mark Grimes to become the Councillor of Etobicoke's Ward 3, which Grimes handily won. He worked hard and has stores at 820 The Queensway and the second at 871 Kipling Avenue.



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# Residents say historic sites rotting from disuse



**THE HISTORIC JOY OIL** station on Lake Shore Blvd. W., has been renovated and sitting idle for many years.

Some community members are calling for something to be done to use two South Etobicoke historic sites that have been sitting idle for many years. They said great sums have been paid to restore the Joy Oil station, on Lake Shore Blvd. W., and the Mimico Train Station, which are both idle. Community activist Dan Irwin said the Joy Oil station, at 1978 Lake Shore Blvd. W., at Windermere Avenue, has been sitting idle for about 10 years after being restored by the City at a cost of about \$400,000. "There is a fence around the property and it is still sitting idle for many years," Irwin said. "The entire station is falling apart again." The Joy Oil Station was deemed a Historic Site in 1989 by the City of Toronto

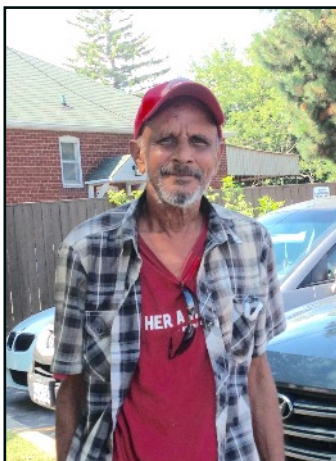
## OBITUARY

### Carl is missed by many friends



A Celebration of Carl's Life will take place on February 17, at 1 p.m., at Hogle Funeral Home, at 63 Mimico Avenue.

A Celebration of Life to remember Carl Godfrey will take place this month. The celebration of popular and well-liked Carl's life will take place on February 17, at 1 p.m. at Hogle Funeral Home, at 63 Mimico Avenue. Family and friends are welcomed to the event to mark his life. Carl passed away on December 15. He was 62. He was the loving son of Neville and Elsa Godfrey. He leaves behind a large and loving family. The celebration will be streamed live. To access the stream you can go to Carl's Book of Memories Page at [www.hoglefuneralhomes.com](http://www.hoglefuneralhomes.com) and it will be posted there. It will be listed in the service information area and under the Photos and Videos Section. It also can be accessed on this link: <https://www.hoglefuneralhomes.com/book-of-memories/5344359/GODFREY-CARL/index.php> Hogle Funeral Homes can be reached by phone at 416-251-7531.



under the Ontario Heritage Act. The station, which many will remember because it looks like a castle, was the brainchild of American businessman Charles Austin who, in 1928, opened the first of his Sunny Service Stations on Joy Rd., in suburban Detroit. The success of his discount gas business prompted him to open 16 similar stations in Toronto with a few in Montreal.

The station, which was built in the 1936 in the Chateau architectural style, is the last one standing. The city renovated the site in 2008 and turned it over to Grenadier Group as part of a deal to extend their rights to sell food to beachgoers until 2031.

The deal fell through and since then pedestrians and motorists have complained that the unique building with a fence around it has become an eyesore. Joy gas was popular from the start because it was several cents cheaper per gallon than the prices offered by the local brand name stations. The price was due to cheaper crude oil being brought into Canada by tanker, first from Texas and later Romania. The company was resold and over the years before being shut down. There was talk at one time that the station could be used as an information centre, snack bar or a community programming space but that never panned out. "The City should find some use for the building," Irwin said. "A lot of taxpayer's money went to restore it and it is sitting idle."



**THE MIMICO TRAIN STATION** was built in 1916 and has been renovated and sitting in a park unused for years.

He said the City also has to find use for the historic former Mimico Train Station now sitting at Coronation Park at Judson Road and Royal York Road. The Mimico Station was built around 1916. Originally owned by the Grand Trunk Railway, it was later taken over by the Canadian National Railway (CNR). It stopped being used as a station in the 1960's, and was abandoned in 1989 before being sold by CNR in 2001. "People had tents set up around the station," Irwin said. "That place was renovated and now it is falling apart." The Mimico Station Community Organization (MCSO) was formed to fight the demolition and restore the historic station, which is more than 100-years old. The MCSO hoped to restore the station and open it as a community hub and railway museum, but multiple setbacks and frustrations at City Hall caused the project to stall and the organization dissolved. "The station has been partially restored and sitting idle for many years," Irwin said. "There is not even a fence around it and squatters were living there." A developer was to renovate the station but the deal fell apart and it was last used as a condo sales office.

## Feedback sought for new community park being constructed near Cineplex theatre



**NEW PARK UPCOMING AT 1001 to 1037** The Queensway (above) to be located in the middle of a condo complex (below).

A virtual workshop was held for a new community park soon to be constructed on The Queensway near the Cineplex theatre. A design team has been hired and details are being worked out for the park to be built in the fall next year at 1001 to 1037 The Queensway. The park will sit between four condo towers, where restaurants once occupied, along The Queensway edge of the Cineplex Queensway theatre. The upcoming 1,849 square metre park will be part of a mixed-use development project near Islington Avenue and The Queensway, called the Islington-City Centre West neighbourhood. "The park design will be developed with the help of community and stakeholder feedback in order to meet the needs of the growing community," according to a project report. Nearly 500 people took part in an online survey to seek feedback from the community on what they would like in the park.

Some of the feedback called for the park to have open green multi-use space that can be used for various programming and play interests by residents. Some wanted diverse seating options, open air markets, trees, public art and performance space. "Community members shared their excitement and ideas for this new park district," the survey stated. "Feedback received regarding park maintenance will be shared with the appropriate City Staff." "The park should allow for community events," one person said. "With a large number of condo towers, a park is essential to build community among neighbour." Another person said because The Queensway is so busy he would like to see colourful plants to form a relaxed space so people can get out of their condos and enjoy nature. One resident said the area is so noisy and busy that a separation wall of greenery would 'create an oasis of calm.'" The area is now a hive of construction activity as two sets of paired buildings are being constructed at the corner of The Queensway and Islington. There will be two residential rental towers of 10 and 17 storeys that will rise from a shared podium. To the west will be towers of 9 and 10 storeys. The park will sit between them, next to the private road that enters the site.



# Artist Eileen Menzel honoured for her life's work

By Sabrina Soosaimuthu

Local artist Eileen Menzel's family commemorated her years as an artist through a retrospective exhibition held at Neilson Park Creative Centre (NPCC). The retrospective exhibition is a timeline of Menzel's artwork spanning her career. The exhibition began in early January and continued until January 27. The pieces were selected by her husband George Menzel and her daughter Ursula Menzel. Menzel said he picked 20 pieces that



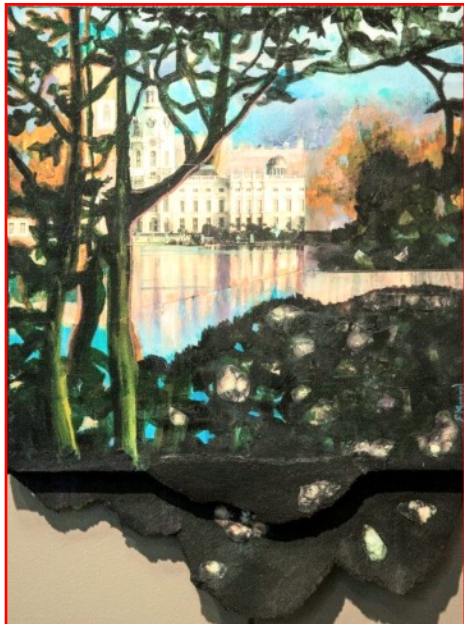
**WELL KNOWN COMMUNITY ARTIST** Eileen Menzel and some of her work, displayed at the Neilson Park Creative Centre. **Courtesy photos.**

Ontario Society of Artists, the Etobicoke Art Group (EAG) and was an art teacher and the head of the art department at Humberside Collegiate Institute. Through her contributions, Menzel left a notable impression in the Etobicoke art community, according to Helen McCusker, EAG Publicity Chair. She said it has been three years since Menzel left her position as Exhibitions Chair and they have yet to fill the



highlight the beauty of his wife's work and the pieces that have won prizes. "It essentially took us a day to go through most of the paintings," he said. Notable pieces from the exhibition are the Emblem, which was her first painting that got her into Durham University in England, and Broken Windows, which was the last artwork she created before her dementia progressed. On January 14 a reception was held at NPCC, with over 20 attendees to honour Menzel's legacy. She was a member of the

position. "Everybody's afraid to fill her shoes, she was a highly respected member," she said. Menzel said his wife loved art, it was her life, anywhere she went she had her sketchbook with her and would sketch the people and places she saw. He said even after she retired, she spent most of her days at the NPCC. "I'd look into her studio, and she was gone, there would be a note saying she would be back. This was like her full-time occupation, she loved it," he said.





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# Long Branch condo towers plan



# In the Community

By TOM GODFREY



**CONDOS RANGING** from 12 to 30 storeys are planned for 220, 230 and 240 Lake Promenade and 31 Park Blvd.

A mega plan to build five condo towers ranging from 12 to 30 storeys in Long Branch is inching ahead.

A working group has been formed to study a proposal to demolish existing apartment buildings and construct towers at 220, 230 and 240 Lake Promenade and 21 and 31 Park Boulevard.

The proposal will bring 2,021 housing units, of which 548 will be rental units and 1,444 market condo units.

The buildings now on quiet residential streets are slated to be demolished to construct the new complex, which will have a new public road and parkland.

Ward 3 Councillor Amber Morley said the development application is complex due to its location and scale with the surrounding community.

Morley plans 'to ensure that tenants of the buildings are aware of their rights and the tenant protections the City has in place in Rental Housing Demolition and Conversion applications.'

"I would like to see the applicant do more to address these concerns raised by the community," Morley said in her newsletter. "The impact of this development on the lives of nearby residents and existing tenants would be significant."

She said the working group, which has met three times, includes herself, 12 members of the community, City staff and a representative of the developer. Morley said residents at the meetings said they are concerned about the impact and displacement of existing tenants and a lack of new affordable housing in the plan.

They are also worried about the height and density of the proposal, impacts of vehicle traffic on the residential roads to access the site and on pedestrian and cyclist safety.

Community members are also impacted by the lengthy construction time on nearby residents, loss of mature trees, bird migration patterns and being exposed to asbestos during demolition. She said the developer failed to appropriately address the highest priority concerns related to the impacts of the size and number of housing units proposed.

"We have heard problems related to too many vehicles in the space," according



**ONE OF THE BUILDINGS** to be demolished for condos that are in the planning stages.

to the newsletter. "The community has been vocal about a shortage in community spaces and services available for existing residents."

She said there are some gaps and the impact to people's lives is significant. "I believe that this application, with its size and location, should be looking for what additional benefit can be provided for the surrounding community beyond additional market housing units," Morley said. City staff are working with the developer on an updated proposal.

It couldn't have happened to a nicer man.

At the start of Black History Month, Ontario's first Black MP and Lieutenant Governor, the late Lincoln Alexander, had his bust unveiled in the hallowed halls of Queen's Park on January 21.

Amid much fanfare with his family and politicians in attendance, the bust was revealed to loud cheers.

Alexander, or Linc, as he was fondly called, was a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force, who came home after the war and became a lawyer.

He in 1968 became the MP for Hamilton West and was the first Black MP in Parliament. He was made a Cabinet minister in 1979, then Lieutenant Governor of Ontario in 1985, a post held for more than six years.

Among those in attendance was another trailblazer, Etobicoke native Jean Augustine, the first Black female MP, who fought to have Black History Month passed in Parliament.

To give Alexander credit, he worked hard and earned his way through life. He wasn't born with a silver spoon and was never given anything.

I got to know Linc when he was Lieutenant Governor and his office was based at Queen's Park.

During most lunch breaks he would walk around Queen's Park Circle and the park behind the Ontario Legislature.

From time to time I would be covering stories at the Park, and would accompany him on some of his walks.

He was a very progressive man, who had done the grunt work that drove him to succeed. He kept an eye on all that was happening in the Black community and would never turn down a gig of opening a school, basketball court or talking to students on how to succeed. We both shared a value that a person had to give something back to community to help others and bring others up, mostly those who are struggling, to a level where they can obtain success and then help others.

It is our duty to help others and we often spoke about that goal in our lunchtime walks. His bronze bust at Queen's Park will surely help many minority children achieve their dreams and realize they can make it to the top as well.

Just to think that as he was working his way up in the 1950s how difficult it was for a Black man in Hamilton to run and win a seat in Parliament, where he remained for about 12 years, doing a great job.

He represented the province exceptionally well in a role as Lieutenant Governor, travelling up and down the province and inspiring others.

There is no wonder why he has had many streets, schools and other institutions named after him. People realized that he cared and respected others under him. He was also featured on a Canadian stamp.

I cannot say that Linc is my great friend, but the times I spent with him was truly inspiring.

He leaves an inspirational legacy for many of us, and for the many more who will be trekking through the darkened halls of Queen's Park in years to come.

Many minority children have told me that they would like to be like him, now that a pathway has been paved. It is only a matter of time.



**BUST OF Lincoln Alexander** at Queen's Park.

**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

This February, let's turn the heat up, way up.

The coldest day of the year is usually in February and this year is no exception, according to Farmer's Almanac. When celebrating Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, Family Day or just good old Groundhog Day (hoping for early spring anyone?), turn up the heat naturally! To cope with this extra long (that's right Leap Year!) month, take on the February 'Turn up the Heat' challenge.

Did you know that February 29th is celebrated as National Time Refund Day? All your Pisces friends finally get an extra day in their birthday sign to celebrate. On the flip side, who can we blame for adding another day to our winter? With winter dragging on, it is all the more reason to learn how to turn up the heat in our body, the way nature intended.

How can you increase your internal heat this winter? And, in turn successfully take on the 'Turn up the Heat' challenge?

The fastest way to turn up your thermostat is to exercise. But before you groan and dismiss this sage advice, read on. Exercise can be a brisk walk outdoors - yes outdoors. The cold air does the body good. Add on extra steps by skipping the escalator or elevator and do stairs instead. Regular exercise stimulates heat in the body. You don't have to become a gym rat. Just get off the warm, cozy sofa and get all your steps in. Your body generates heat from exercise, any exercise. If you add in some weights, you can increase your metabolism 5 to 15 times your resting metabolic rate. This 'burn' continues for several hours in your body, which means you feel warmer overall AND you are also burning more calories. It's really win-win if you plan on celebrating this month's festivities with a night out!

Ready to embrace a more radical approach? You could go all in and embrace the coldest month in the coldest way possible: ice baths. Take the polar dip to the next level and dip into a bathtub full of cold water and ice once a week. It may be time for you to join all the Wim Hof lovers out there. Plunging your body into an ice bath or just tolerating a cold shower for 2 minutes activates your brown fat thermostat and turns up the heat. This heat can last for several hours and help your brown fat respond better and faster. Set the timer and just do it. Or avoid the agony of freezing baths and...get hotter naturally by creating healthy fat in your body. That's right I just said make more fat! Choose brown fat. Your body actually contains a very small percentage of brown fat compared to white fat, yet the brown fat (also called

brown adipose tissue) is needed to help you stay warm. It is activated in cold temperatures. Studies also suggest that fruits like apples and dried fruits can stimulate the production of brown adipose fat - though the jury is still out on this one. There is another way to reduce white fat and make it more 'productive'. The most enjoyable way to enhance your thermoregulation is to eat your heat. If you have not yet enjoyed Winterlicious, the annual Toronto Festival of Winter Dining is the perfect venue for you. With over 200 restaurants across the GTA offering Prix Fixe (a complete meal at a set price) between January 26 to February 8, there's no time to lose. Your mission is to turn up your heat by selecting at least 3 restaurants that offer hot, spicy, well-seasoned foods! This is a sure fire-way (pun intended) to beat the winter blahs, speed through February and enjoy every moment. For all the foodies out there, you are encouraged to hashtag your favourite Winterlicious meals with #LiciousTO. By the way, February 4th is officially National Homemade soup day. Your bonus health challenge this month is to find a favourite new eatery that serves up the best 'homemade' style soup with chilies, cayenne or ginger. Ginger Pho anyone? Spices that heat up your body are called thermogenic. Though there is no magic potion to help you lose weight, increasing thermogenic foods in your diet, combined with regular exercise is the powerhouse combo this February. Hot on the heels of well-intentioned January resolutions, this can be your hottest and healthiest month if you choose wisely. Start with these top heat-inducing spices in your every day diet: black pepper, cayenne, ginger, cumin and turmeric.

Need more convincing to spice up your life? Some studies have shown that green tea and spicy chilies (and other foods with capsaicin) may activate thermogenesis or trigger fat oxidation. Oxidation is the browning of white fat. Combine regular exercise with spicy meals and your January resolution to be healthier is guaranteed to be a success. Let me know how your February challenge turns out. Email me at [monika@healingmuse.com](mailto:monika@healingmuse.com).

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## Retired Judge Speaks

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI

Back in the day, as a Deputy Director, I'd make my rounds across Ontario, conducting simple trials wherever I went. How else was I supposed to know my job's ins and outs? It was my duty to get to know the lay of the land, the local Crown Attorneys, and the folks on both sides of the law. Managers should understand their employees' needs by rolling their sleeves and occasionally doing grunt work.

So, I was in Foleyet, a small town north of Sudbury with about 200 loggers and rail workers. I'd driven from Toronto to conduct three trials. The locals referred to me as some hotshot lawyer from the big city. That is how the North looked at people from the South, so I always dressed in a corduroy jacket, sweater, and tie. I was told that people felt the professorial type was seen as more sincere than some Bay Street guy in a dark blue suit.

The courtroom, if you could call it that, was the local Legion Hall, where the band played on Saturdays. I imagined Stompin' Tom and Shania Twain doing their first shows on a stage like this one.

As I helped set up shop for the day, clearing glasses off the tables, I couldn't help but notice the smell of stale beer and cigarettes wafting all around me. The bartender was already washing glasses and preparing for Hockey Night in Canada later that day. When Judge Kendrick arrived, he asked the bar guy to keep the noise down while we worked. Boy, was it different from the glass towers of Toronto!

My witness was the town's blond-haired six-foot-six OPP officer, whose house was next door to the Legion Hall. He lived there with his wife and two children. The home also served as the local police station and jailhouse. His wife cooked up a mean meal for the inmates. I heard many drunks decided to stay in jail rather than get out on bail because of her cooking. Anyway, my mission was to prosecute Sammy Balinsky for drunk driving, just one case from my shortlist for the day - one impaired and two gun charges. In the north, gun charges are widespread, and the penalties are lighter than in the big city because people there need guns to hunt for food.

Only a handful of folks were watching the proceedings, the old timers sitting in two rows of chairs we'd set up. One elderly gentleman in the back looked about to nod off, his head tilting so forward it looked like it might fall off. The defendant, wearing a red plaid shirt and green work jeans, was accompanied by his young lawyer dressed to the nines in a three-piece suit with a bright red tie. He looked more like a lawyer from Toronto than even I did in my wrinkled sports coat. He was from Sudbury! Up in Foleyet, that's practically royalty. It must've cost the defendant a month's pay! The lawyer kept referring to me as the 'lawyer from Toronto.' It sounded more like a putdown than a sign of respect. To balance things, I told the Judge I worked in Toronto but was brought up on a small chicken farm in Lakeview. It was true when I was small; however, we all know Lakeview is a suburb of Mississauga next to Long Branch.

After I called my evidence, it was the defence's turn to call their witness. The lawyer stood up and said he had only two witnesses, the accused and a character witness who would testify that the defendant never got drunk in the ten years the witness had known him, which wasn't relevant to the impaired driving charge but could maybe lessen the sentence and save Sammy a few bucks.

The judge nodded for the defence to call their first witness. Suddenly, a drunken character from the back of the room shouted, "You're okay, Sammy; we got 'em!" The judge rightly ordered the man out of the courtroom, and we all watched as he stumbled and knocked over trash cans on his way to the bar where the washroom was located. Turning back to the counsel, the judge reiterated his request to call the character witness. Somewhat taken aback by the incident, the lawyer stammered, "I can't, Your Honor. You just kicked him out." Then, from the bathroom came a shout, "I will be there in a minute; I'm a bit busy, Judge sir."

The lawyer asked for a brief recess. In a minute he came back asking to change his client's plea to guilty.

The courtroom erupted in laughter like a volcano of chuckles and guffaws. Ahh, good times, memories. As I left the Court that evening, I saw Sammy at the Bar with his friend sharing a pitcher of fine Northern draft.



RETIRED JUDGE Budzinski reflect on his prosecutorial experience in Foleyet, near Sudbury, which is a 735 km drive from Toronto that takes almost 10 hours.

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

# The South Etobicoke News

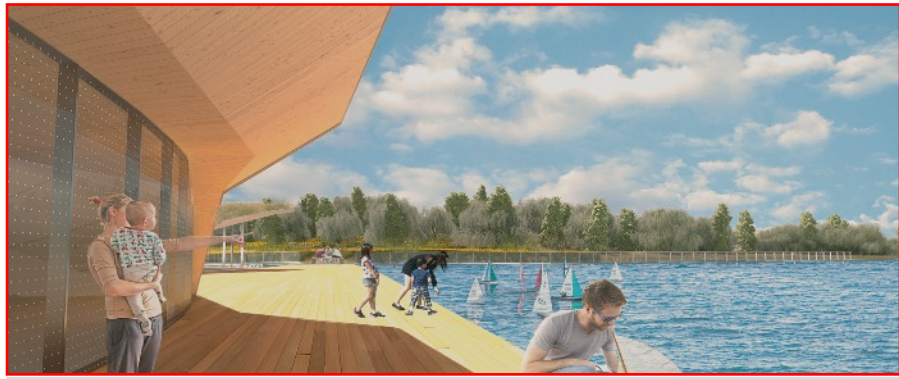
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# Pavilion at Humber Bay inching on



**CONTROVERSIAL PLAN** to build a pavilion (above, right) at Humber Bay Park East (below) gets more funding from the City.

A controversial plan to build a new pavilion at Humber Bay Park East is going ahead with more funds being sought for the lakefront complex.

A bid to obtain just under \$500,000 more in funds to complete the project was approved by a General Government Committee (GGC) and will go to City Council on February 6 to amend a purchase order issued to Baird Sampson Neuert Architects for the design of a new pavilion.

A petition by residents said the pavilion will now cost about \$7 million to complete. The additional funds are required to meet the City's Green Standards for Net Zero Carbon Plan to all City-owned facilities that came into effect after the funding was first agreed upon. "These current Council-approved requirements were not included in the original scope of work for design services," according to a report. "The updated planning and design policies necessitated a substantial redesign of the building and associated work."

The report by the GGC said additional funding is required to cover the costs to address these changes.



The funding will come from a Parks, Forestry and Recreation's Council-approved Capital Budget and 2024-2032 Capital Plan. It is not known when the pavilion will be completed.

More than 950 people signed a 2016 petition to halt work on the pavilion citing a number of reasons, including work on the ponds and destruction of existing structures.

"The community has consistently communicated that priority is to focus spending on the park itself – not development within the park," according to the petition. "There was opposition to the pavilion at every public meeting and community consultation for the last five years."

The petition states the pavilion would have a capacity of about 40 people and permits would be required to use it. It said the pavilion would only benefit small percentage of park users and the \$7 million cost and impact on the ponds is not justified. "No programming is planned for the pavilion," the petition said. "For now it is a building with no known use."

It said the Humber Bay Park Master Plan remains unfunded and a survey conducted by the City confirmed that park users are more interested in outdoor experiences at the park than indoor ones. "While the ponds and boardwalks do need maintenance, neglect does not justify or warrant their wholesale destruction and reconstruction," according to the petition. "It is possible to aerate the ponds and improve water quality for a fraction of the cost in a more environmentally sensitive way." The petition said the community already has problems with late-night bonfires, fireworks and vandalism in the park as it is extremely private. "The pavilion will not be visible from the street or parking lot, and cannot be accessed by police car, ambulance or fire truck," the document stated. "Park buildings have been vandalized and set on fire by a torched car."



**MORE THAN 950 AREA** residents signed a petition in 2016 to have the project halted.

## Long Branch residents sad iconic tree face injury in reno

Some Long Branch residents are outraged that a housing extension can proceed possibly endangering an iconic 100-year old maple tree.

Residents have been fighting to stop the extension of a home and garden at 95 James Street fearing it would injure or endanger a so-called Long Branch Black Barn Maple tree, one of the oldest trees in the area.

A Committee of Adjustment ruled on January 26 that the work can go ahead as long as the tree is not touched.

Community residents had banded together and have for years been trying to stop the extension and save the tree.

"The Black Barn Maple is the quintessential pride and joy of Long Branch, home of Canada's largest Tree Festival," said Bill Zufelt, Executive Director of the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association in a letter to the committee.

"The tree is in good condition, however given its size it is entering the latter phase of its life," according to an arborist report, which estimates the tree to be at least 100-years-old.

It said trunk protection and mulching are to be installed prior to any site work, which has to be done by hand.

"The proposed injury is minor and is not

expected to adversely impact the tree," the arborist wrote. "Silver Maple is a weak-wooded species prone to storm damage and is generally not well suited to small urban landscapes."



**THE ICONIC BLACK** Barn Maple tree.

The report said trees are 'living organisms, and their health and vigour constantly change over time. "They are not immune to changes in site conditions or seasonal variations in the weather conditions."

The tree is the largest deciduous tree in South Western Toronto, according to the Long Branch Tree Canopy and the Metropolitan University of Toronto Forestry Department.

Zufelt said the Black Barn Maple once belonged to Col. Samuel Smith, one of the first administrators of Upper Canada in the early 1800s after Lord John Graves Simcoe. Smith's portrait is displayed at Queens Park.

He said in the 1850s the land was acquired by the James Eastwood family and they lumbered the lands using Smiths saw mill to clear the property to create a prominent cattle and horse farm, which stood there for decades.

The maple is named after the largest of the three Eastwood Black Barns, and was visible from land, sea and rail and became a significant landmark on the Western Toronto Gateway. In 2021 the Black Barn Maple was nominated to be an official Heritage Tree of Forest Ontario.



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# Looking after yourself and others in the community

**FEBRUARY 1 TO 29 BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
Celebrating our Diversity 'Black Excellence' a future to build at the Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall, in the Council Chambers and board meetings room. Official launch February 3 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Come share your stories, cultural foods, entertainment and vendors. For more information call 647-328-7669.

**FEBRUARY 3 THE JEAN AUGUSTINE CENTRE 9TH ANNUAL Black History Month Celebration** at the Assembly Hall, at 1 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets are required. There will be prizes, food, music and dramatic performances. For more call 416-253-9797 or e-mail info@jeanaugustinecentre.ca

**FEBRUARY 8 HUMBER MUSIC PRESENTS Reverberations II** a celebration of music of the Black Diaspora featuring Humber Music's Gospel Choir, African Rhythm 'n Jazz and Rhythm 'n Soul Ensembles at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of B Building of the Humber Lakeshore Campus, at 3199 Lake Shore Blvd. W. Tickets required and can be ordered in advance at Evenbrite. Contact: Dewi Minden at humbermusicdegree@humber.ca or visit https://reverberations-ii-humber.eventbrite.ca/

**FEBRUARY 25 BLACK HISTORY MONTH CARNIVAL EDITION** at the Small Arms Inspection Building, 1352 Lakeshore Road East, Mississauga, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Get ready for a carnival extravaganza that will transport you to the vibrant streets of the Caribbean. Experience the rich culture and traditions of the African diaspora through music, dance, and delicious food. From live performances by talented artists to interactive workshops and games. Contact 905-615-4860 or e-mail small.arms@mississauga.ca

**THROUGH FEBRUARY BLACK FUTURISM MONTH** back to the future as LAMP CHC. At 185 Fifth Street,



Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, Suite 201. Join local artist **Nataliya Sydorenko** and experience the benefits of painting and drawing, improve memory and reduce stress. Materials will be provided. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or e-mail health.promotion@stonegatechc.org  
**FEBRUARY 4, 11, 18, 25 OLD FASHIONED BARN DANCE** with fiddler and caller Bill Russell and acoustic Birling Band at 240 Roncesvalles Ave., near Wright Ave., from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., for weekly fiddle dance with Ontario and Maritime tunes with simple steps. Call Julia at 647-889-4012 or e-mail sundaydancesocial@gmail.com

**FEBRUARY 7 SALVATION ARMY** Lakeshore community church lunch program starts February 7 and will operate on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 5 Thirtieth Street. Presently our foodbank is closed. For more information call 416-251-8372 or visit www.SalvationArmy.ca.

**FEBRUARY 21 SOUTH ETOBICOKE** community land trust by Zoom as work continues on establishing a land trust to develop affordable housing in the area. For more contact brig@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308

hosts programs and events in their Street Level Youth Space highlighting African and Caribbean history. Other Black History events takes place in other programs. Contact Jasmin at For more information contact jasmind@lampchc.org  
**FEBRUARY 2 TO MARCH 22 DISCOVER** the magic of art for adults 55-years-old and up from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at

**UNTIL FEBRUARY 22 ARTS ETOBICOKE** in partnership with QuadReal Property Group presents the fourth show in their 'Roots' exhibition series, celebrating the rich cultural diversity of Toronto. The show will feature eight European Asian artists, and will be held at the Cloverdale Common at Cloverdale Mall, 250 The East Mall. Open to the public on Wednesdays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more call 647-913-8731 or email ana@artsetobicoke.com

**UNTIL MARCH 22 FREE ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES** every Friday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in meeting room at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane. Learn and improve your English skills with an experienced English teacher. For adults only and beginners and intermediate levels welcome. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or e-mail health.promotion@stonegatechc.org

**FEBRUARY 23 FIRST AID CPR TRAINING** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in 3rd floor Community Room, at LAMP CHC, 185 Fifth Street. Workshop focuses on teaching caregivers the necessary skills to respond to emergencies taught by Red Cross instructor **Natasha Triant**. Registration call 416-252-8293.  
**FEBRUARY 23 FREE MEMORY SCREENING** at LAMP CHC, 185 Fifth Street, if you are aged 50 to 90. Contact Jasmin at 416-151-6471 ext. 308

**UNTIL MARCH 27 POLISH DROP IN** every Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Second Street Junior Middle School, 71 Second Street, Room 119, use side door #4 from Birmingham Street. To enter call 416-795-5408 or email anna.wasiak@stonegatechc.org or babarac@lampchc.org

**EVERY THURSDAY IN FEBRUARY** Learning and Growing together for Black children and families at LAMP CHC from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for children up to the age of six. Contact 416-252-8293.

**EVERY FRIDAY JOIN US FOR FUN** and safe activities for families with children up to 6-years-old at the Sunnylea Drop In every Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at 851 Royal York Road. Contact Anna or Larissa at early.years@stonegatechc.org

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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.



## Police go after auto thieves

The federal government has given \$121 million to the OPP and municipal police to fight guns, gang and increasingly violent auto thefts.

The problem of car theft is so great that Canada has been flagged by Interpol as being a major source of car thefts in the world.

More than 12,000 vehicles were stolen in Toronto in 2023, a 24.4 per cent increase over the previous year. That steep jump followed a 45 per cent jump in 2022 from 2021, according to Toronto Police statistics.

There has also been a rise in violent carjackings, according to GTA police, as well as an increase in break-and-enters — sometimes by armed perpetrators — for the purpose of stealing ignition fobs.

"That is terrifying for people ... to face that kind of fear in their own homes, the place where they should feel safest," said Minister of Justice Arif Virani on announcing the funding on January 31.

In South Etobicoke three homes were broken into in one night by thieves in search of the homeowner's car keys. Two young offenders were among three people charged.

Premier Doug Ford said thieves are flying into Toronto for weeks at a time to steal vehicles and then return home.

"You're breaking into someone's home with a weapon and threatening families? You should be going to jail, no matter what," Ford said. "Throw them in jail for 10 years."

Ford said there should be tougher rules including jail time for those being released on bail. Federal Minister of Public Safety Dominic LeBlanc there will be an auto-theft summit in Ottawa on February 8 involving government, law enforcement, the auto and insurance industries, the Canada Border Services Agency, insurance companies and other parties.

The government said gangs steal cars and work with organized-crime groups to send them in containers to the Middle East and Africa, or use them within Canada to commit crimes or change vehicle numbers and sell them.

Ontario has suffered over \$700 million in auto losses province-wide in 2022, and over \$500 million worth of vehicles stolen in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) alone," police said.

More than 30 vehicles are stolen every day in Toronto. More than 1,200 vehicles were stolen in South Etobicoke last year.



# Three homes on Mimico Strip deemed historic

Three historic homes that are around 100-years-old and were once part of Mimico's main street have been deemed by the City to have heritage value. The homes at 70, 80 and 86 Mimico Avenue will remain intact due to their historic value the Toronto Preservation Board and City Council ruled last month. The homeowners had submitted for a demolition permit to build something else on the site. The dwellings, of which two were former dairies and one a bank, were deemed by the Heritage Planning Department to have 'cultural heritage value,' and should be preserved by the City forever. A report said the properties were constructed between 1920 and 1929 as part of Mimico's main street commercial structures with residential-office uses above. "These three buildings display a remarkable level of visual cohesion, sharing architectural elements including two storey profile, cornices, parapets, storefronts, and second storey apartments/offices," according to the report. It states the commercial buildings were typical of Mimico's streetcar period from 1918 to 1939 following the First World War, when Mimico experienced significant growth on the north side of Mimico Avenue.



THIS 124-YEAR HOME at 70 Mimico Avenue has been deemed a heritage site.



HISTORIC HOMES AT 80 Mimico Ave. (top) and 86 Mimico Ave. (right) have also been deemed to have heritage value.

Then the commercial structures were grouped together at the intersections of Lake Shore Blvd. W., Queens Avenue and Station Road. The report said the 80 Mimico Avenue property was built in 1920 by John and Percy MacKenzie for their business, John MacKenzie and Son Dairy. The family sold the property in 1928 and a year later John, Percy and Clarence MacKenzie constructed the building at 78 Mimico Avenue to house their expanded dairy, which operated as Hillside Dairy from 1932 to 1943, and then Silverwoods dairy from 1944 to 1955. The property operated as a dairy for 35 years on then Mimico's main street. The property at 80 Mimico Avenue was purchased by Anthony Joseph in 1928, whose family would operate a

grocery store there from 1929 until 1969. Constructed between 1923 and 1924 for the Union Bank of Canada, 86 Mimico Avenue served as the branch of the Royal Bank of Canada from 1925-1935. It was purchased and occupied by Florence



THIS HOME WAS part of the Mimico Main Strip back in the day.

Weber in 1953, who would reside there for the next five decades. "The subject properties anchor the northeast corner of Mimico Avenue and Station Road and are important in defining, maintaining, and supporting the predominantly early-twentieth century main street character of Mimico Avenue," the report stated. Demolition permits were submitted in May 15, 2023, for the properties at 78 and 80 Mimico Avenue but someone realized their historic value. Those applications are still under review. The heritage designation enables City Council to review proposed alterations or demolitions to the properties and enforce heritage property standards and maintenance. The report said staff completed research on the properties at 78, 80 and 86 Mimico Avenue and determined they met designation under the Ontario Heritage Act and have significant heritage value.

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# South Etobicoke

## Buyer or Seller's Market?

**Good time to buy?**  
**Good time to sell?**

If you're thinking about buying or selling a home today, no doubt you're asking one of these two questions.

While it's important to note that real estate prices and market conditions are influenced by a variety of factors including location, type, condition, interest rates, unemployment rates, population growth and affordability – one of the most used predictors is the simple law of supply and demand.



Here are **3 types of real estate markets** that use the principles of supply and demand to predict success for buyers or sellers.

**1 A Buyer's Market**

A buyer's market is when there are more homes for sale (supply) than there are buyers (demand) for them. In this type of market, buyers, have the advantage with more inventory to choose from, prices remain stable or sometimes soften with sellers more open to negotiating.

**2 A Seller's Market**

A seller's market is when there are more buyers (demand) than there are current homes for sale (supply). In a strong seller's market, sellers are in the driver's seat. Prices strengthen or increase; homes sell quicker and, in some cases, sellers get multiple offers.

**3 A Balanced Market**

A balanced market is when there are equal number of buyers and sellers in the market. Homes sell in a reasonable time frame and prices remain stable. This is a healthy real estate market, one that is good for both buyers and sellers.



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