

The South Etobicoke News

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Number 57

City Summit to stop thefts to small businesses

Police, politicians and business owners have joined forces to curb an epidemic of break-and-entry thefts plaguing small businesses in South Etobicoke and across the city.

More than 12 small businesses have been robbed in smash-and-grab thefts in the last few months in Mimico, New Toronto, Long Branch and Alderwood. There have been few arrests.

Toronto Police said there has been a 40 per cent increase in break and enter crimes over the past six months with thieves targeting small businesses to steal goods and point of sale terminals (POS).

Deputy Mayor Mike Colle hosted a summit on March 1 at City Hall with police, payment provider services and small businesses to find ways to deter the thefts. "These businesses are looking for help. They want to work with the police," Colle said. "We need to help them because we



TARGETED BUSINESS OWNERS (left) police and politicians held a Crime Summit at City Hall (right) to curb an alarming amount of break and enters targeting our small businesses.

can't have criminals running around kicking in doors all over the city."

More than 300 small businesses had their terminals stolen last year including about six fast food restaurants, variety and a computer store in South Etobicoke.

Chris Korwin Kuczynski, of the Lakeshore Village BIA, said his merchants are more than willing to work with police and stakeholders to share information to stop the thefts. An action plan from Toronto BIAs, police and insurance officials, will be presented to the City later this year.

The robberies are costing small business owners thousands of dollars in damages and lost sales.

"These break-ins cause a disproportionate impact on the cost of repairs, lost business and increased insurance to name a few," Colle said.

The City is examining ways to make cameras and security systems more affordable for small businesses by buying them in bulk through local Business Improvement Areas (BIAs).

Residents voice crime concerns in community

Auto thefts, violent crimes and a rash of break and enters against small businesses were among the many concerns from residents at a Community Safety Town Hall meeting.

Turnout was low at the February 27 safety meeting held at Etobicoke Civic Centre.

"Both of my neighbours have been broken into lately and there were thefts of jewellery," said long-time community resident Valerie Gibson. "Something has to be done."

She is concerned by the increasing violent crimes in the community. Among those in attendance were Councillor Amber Morley and Toronto Police officers.



VIOLENT CAR THIEVES (left) and robberies to small businesses (centre, right) were on the minds of residents at a Safety Town Hall meeting at Etobicoke Civic Centre.

The meeting heard that car thefts have increased 40 per cent in the last year. There has also been a rise in the break and enters of small businesses in South Etobicoke,

where there has been more than 12 incidents in the last few months.

In most of the robberies, the glass door or windows are smashed with heavy objects,

as the thieves run in and grab goods or point of sale machines, which are used to defraud customers.

Many residents fear the ongoing violent rash of vehicles being stolen in which brazen thieves break into homes or use weapons to obtain car keys from homeowners.

There has been about 300 cars stolen in the area in the last year, to which police are warning residents to lock their vehicles, park in their garage, install anti-theft locking or tracking devices, security lights or cameras on their premises. Since last September there has been 89 arrests, 559 charges laid and 109 vehicles seized by a police Carjacking Task Force.

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Thieves using tracking devices to steal vehicles

Patrons going shopping at Sherway Gardens and other malls are being asked to be vigilant for people acting suspiciously around their vehicle due to car thefts. The warning stems from the arrest of a man at Yorkdale Mall who was charged for placing tracking devices on high-end vehicles.



POLICE WARN people to be wary of those acting suspiciously around their vehicles as they may be planting tracking devices.

Toronto Police said on February 10 at around 3:20 p.m. officers responded to a call of a suspicious incident at the busy mall.

A customer observed a suspect kneeling beside a parked Range Rover Sport vehicle before walking away, according to detectives. The sharp-eyed citizen alerted mall security who called police.

Police investigated and allegedly found a tracking device hidden on the Range Rover.

“Further investigation revealed the accused had attached a tracking device on another vehicle of the same make and model in the mall parking lot,” police said.

Officers said a man was arrested and a firearm was found. Yannis Demmouche, 26, of Montreal, was charged with 12 counts of firearms-related offences, criminal harassment, possession of proceeds of crime, fail to comply with probation and a slew of other offences.

He was slated to appear in court at the Toronto Regional Bail Centre, 2201 Finch Avenue West.

Police suspect the accused would track the vehicles to the home of the owners and steal it from the driveway.

The arrest was made by members of the Provincial Carjacking Joint Task Force (PCJTF) that target the rising incidents of violence due to auto thefts in the GTA.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 416-808-7350 or Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS (8477).

Five City of Toronto workers fired and almost \$30 million in fraud called in on waste hotline



THE CITY COFFERS was defrauded of almost \$500,000 last year that led to five workers being fired and others disciplined. The majority of workers (below) are hardworking and honest.

Five City of Toronto workers were fired and action taken against 25 vendors after the City was defrauded for more than \$495,000 last year.

A report to the Audit Committee on February 8 stated that almost 14,000 complaints were received on a Fraud and Waste hotline since 2002.

An Attorney General report said the City suffered \$27.7 million in losses from fraud, and \$1 million in potential losses, stemming from complaints to the hotline from 2019 to 2023.

Last year alone some \$495,000 was defrauded and another \$100,000 in potential loss was flagged from calls coming into its Fraud and Waste hotline.

The fraud included a city employee who was found to own a subcontracting company that was being granted municipal contracts, in breach of conflict of interest rules. And a member of the public was found to have used fake identities to claim 31 fraudulent subsidy payments worth \$61,000.

The report said five City workers were disciplined last year and there were 25 instances where actions were taken against vendors, employees or members of the public, who may have been subsidy recipients.

The report said 125 complaints from previous years were closed last year and 31 of those were substantiated in whole or in part.

About 52 per cent of those defrauded ever recover any of their losses, according to the association of Certified Fraud Examiners. About \$31,000 was recovered according to the Auditor General on the hotline activity. Auditor General Tara Anderson said last year there were 1,450 allegations received on the tip line that led to 1,054 investigations. The report said some 144 of the complaints were investigated by Auditor General’s staff or the City’s Divisions, agencies or corporations. Some 30 of the 144 complaints investigated were substantiated in whole or in part and eight of those were made by anonymous callers. It was “the highest in a year since the launch of the Hotline Program,” the report stated. “The Hotline Program has helped to reduce losses and resulted in the protection of City.”

The office said the ‘complaint data is used to identify trends, address risks, make action oriented recommendations to management, and inform our Audit Work Plan.’

The information is also used to deter fraud or wrongdoing, strengthen internal controls, improve policies and procedures and increase efficiencies.

The Fraud and Waste Hotline Program began as a six-month pilot program in March 2002 and was made permanent in November that year. The Auditor General is required to make a report yearly to the Audit Committee. The Hotline is managed by the Auditor General’s Forensic Unit, whose members collectively possess the expertise to resolve a range of complaints and conduct investigative work into complex allegations. Due to the small size of the team, the Unit occasionally leverages audit staff or outside experts to assist in complex investigations. City workers aware of wrongdoing are required to notify their manager or department heads.



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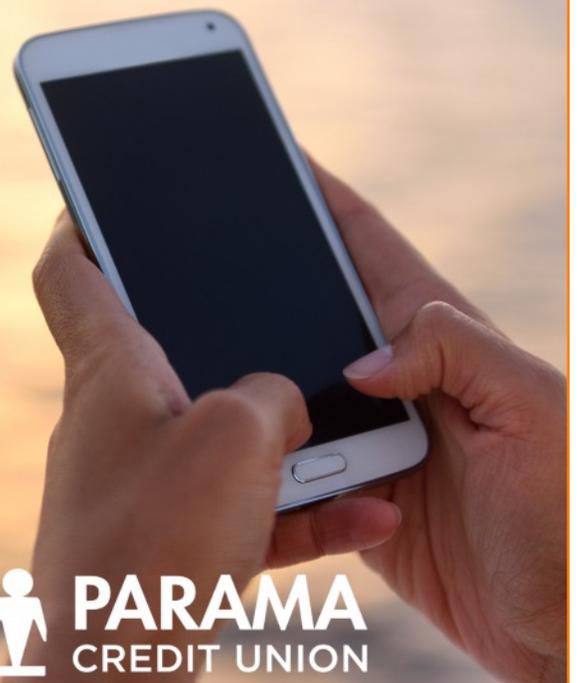


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Centennial Park to play big role in World Cup



CENTENNIAL PARK will receive \$34.4 million in upgrades as a training facility.

Etobicoke's Centennial Park will receive a \$34.4 million upgrade for the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup soccer tournament, the most-watched sporting event in the world, according to the City of Toronto. Centennial and Sunnybrook Parks will be upgraded to world class facilities and will be used as World Cup training and event facilities for the teams. The matches will be played at BMO Field, which will undergo about \$30 million in upgrades in preparation for the games.

A report to the City's Executive Committee said the FIFA World Cup will cost a whopping City \$380 million and it will be the 'most watched sporting event, with a global viewership of four billion people for the entire competition and upwards of 200 million for each match.'

The 2026 World Cup was awarded to a joint bid by Canada, Mexico and the U.S., with 80 matches to be staged across 16 cities in North America. Canada will host 13 of the 104 games, with seven in Vancouver and six in Toronto

"The World Cup will bring global media attention and positive economic and cultural benefits for the city that will sustain COVID-19 recovery in hard hit sectors, such as tourism, hospitality and entertainment," according to the report.

The World Cup is expected to create 3,000 jobs, attract 174,000 overnight visitors, who will purchase 292,000 hotel room nights which will generated \$3.5 million in



CENTENNIAL AND Sunnybrook Parks will be left for community use after \$40 million in FIFA upgrades.

municipal accommodation tax. The six matches are estimated to generate \$307 million.

"People will travel from all over the world to watch this event and will find a small piece of home on Toronto's main streets which are filled with the small businesses that drive neighbourhood vitality," according to the report.

The World cup is estimated to cost the federal and Ontario government some \$186 million.

The cost of hosting the World Cup will be partially offset through access to commercial rights and related revenue opportunities delegated by FIFA to event organizers, such as the City of Toronto. The report said about \$40 million will be spent to upgrade Centennial and Sunnybrook as training facilities for the FIFA teams. "The facilities will be used as competition, training, and festival venues during the 2026 World Cup period," according to the report.

"The City will enhance City-owned assets at BMO Field and sports fields and facilities at Sunnybrook Park and Centennial Park for training purposes," according to the report. "This will lead to both increased employment opportunities and access to world-class recreation facilities."

The report said the upgraded parks will provide long-term community use by residents after the World Cup games.

"Facility improvements would be a tangible legacy for Toronto's residents," the committee was told. It said in 2026 the World Cup will be expanded to 48 countries and 80 matches from the current 36 countries playing 64 matches.



THE CANADIAN NATIONAL team will get worldwide recognition and exposure in the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Women professional soccer team on way

With the success of professional women's hockey, a pro women's soccer league may soon be on the field.

Members of City Council has supported the establishment of a professional women's soccer league in Toronto and to championing gender equity in sport. Council officials and FIFA World Cup 2026 were asked to "explore opportunities to support the establishment of a professional women's soccer team in Toronto.", Women's professional sports are on the rise and teams as Angel City Football Club in the American National Women's Soccer League show that women's sports franchises can draw significant crowds. Council said Project 8, led by two-time Olympic-medallist Diana Matheson, plans to launch a new Canadian women's soccer league in 2025. The professional league will include eight teams across Canada and three teams have signed on to the league to-date, including AFC Toronto City, along with teams in Vancouver and Calgary.

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More than 250 trees to be cut in plant expansion

Some 254 trees are proposed to be cut down with the construction of a new building to expand the R.L. Clark Water Treatment Plant in Long Branch, according to a study and a local wildlife group.

The building will be located on the eastern side of

Pumping Station at the filtration plant site, at 45 Twenty Third Street, near the western boundary of Colonel Samuel Smith Park.

“The building will be located on their property in the south-east corner of the large open space south of the dog park,” according to a newsletter by the Friends of Samuel Smith Park (FOSS). “It will house a new generator system which will be used to power the operations of the existing water treatment facility.”

The group said the generator system will be connected to the electrical distribution system inside the buildings via a buried duct and a service driveway will be built over top of the duct bank along the east side of the property.” The existing generators are more than 60-years-old and it is difficult to find parts for maintenance. The new generators will provide sufficient electrical capacity to power the plant for up to 72 hours during a utility power outage and to reduce energy costs when utility power is available.



COL. SAMUEL SMITH PARK will be undergoing vegetation changes with the expansion of the R.L. Clark Water Treatment Plant in Long Branch.

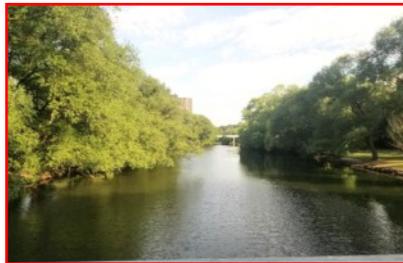
Construction is due to start in the winter or spring of 2025. The facility will provide more clean water required in the growing Toronto and York Region. The group said of the proposed 254 trees to be removed from the property, 19 may face injury and only 15 replacement plantings are required by Toronto Forestry private property bylaws since all the trees are small, being less than 30-centimetres in diameter and 1.4-metres in height. “It does appear that the small woodlot just northeast of the dog park will be gone as well as a portion of the woodlot at the

south-east

end of their property inside their boundary fence,” the FOSS newsletter said, adding no public consultations seems to be planned.

“Replacement trees will be planted south and west of the plant as well as some new plantings alongside the service road,” according to FOSS. “Some of the impacted areas mentioned above will no doubt have an effect on natural space and wildlife habitat in the park’s adjacent environs.”

FOSS said ‘trees selected for removal pose a barrier to construction or are not healthy and may pose a hazard.’ “Trees selected for injury may be encroached upon and require pruning; however, permanent adverse effects are not expected,” according to the newsletter.



THE R.L. CLARK WATER TREATMENT plant supplies clean water seven days a week to the growing City of Toronto and York Region at edge of Col. Samuel Smith Park (below).

“Planted trees shall be in good condition with healthy roots and no damage or presence of disease, and shall have a healthy caliper (minimum 50-mm), preferably balled and burlapped,” the group wrote. “Selected trees shall be native and planted as soon as possible after construction has finished, within locations within locations proximal to the affected areas.”

The survey said replacement trees shall be watered with deep, infrequent soakings for at least two years during the dry season. Follow-up inspections shall be carried out to confirm species growth and health. The R.L. Clark Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is one of four water treatment plants operated by the City of Toronto’s Water Division, according to the facility. The plant operates year-round to supply water 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is a conventional water treatment plant that began operation in 1968. The current average daily production at the plant is 356 Megaliters per day (MLD), with a maximum capacity of 615 MLD, supplying treated water for residents and businesses across the City of Toronto and York Region.



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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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Keeping at risk turtles alive



ENDANGERED snapping turtles (top, bottom) at Col. Samuel Smith Park.

“They (HPTP) will provide the protectors for nesting Snapping Turtles and Midland Painted Turtles as well as a storage shed for them in Sam Smith,” Smith said. “They will put up signs around the wetland area with a hotline number to report laying females and emerging hatchlings.”

The group will also provide a training programme for volunteer monitors and FOSS will have access to a biologist with experience with turtles.

He said to preserve the hatchlings, protective covers are placed over where the eggs are buried in the soft sandy soil and when they are hatched around June the baby turtles are escorted to the water by volunteers.

“We are advised by the High Park Turtle Protectors that Snapping Turtle eggs, unlike Midland Painted, cannot survive the winter,” Smith said. He said statistics show the highest density of painted turtles amongst the Lake's coastal wetlands at Samuel Smith Park.

The baby turtles are eaten by foxes, skunks or raccoons and have to be protected.

“The loss of even a few adult turtles from a population every

A life-saving program is underway to help preserve the endangered Snapping Turtle living at Colonel Samuel Smith Park. The project by the Friends of Samuel Smith Park (FOSS) and High Park Turtle Protectors (HPTP) has saved about 90 Snapping Turtle hatchlings around the North Creek Wetland in the five-hectare lakefront park. “Our inaugural Turtle Monitoring Project has been a success,” FOSS members said. “About 90 Snapping Turtle hatchlings have to date been successfully “escorted” to the water by turtle monitors.” FOSS member Terry Smith said by joining forces with the Indigenous-guide High Park group, FOSS will benefit from their expertise and operational procedures.

year is enough to cause that population to decline, and this makes snapping turtle populations very vulnerable to threats such as road mortality, hunting and poaching,” officials said. Many are killed by vehicles as they try to cross roads in search of mates, food and nest sites. The Snapping Turtle is listed as Special Concern under both the Ontario Endangered Species Act and the federal Species at Risk Act. They can live up to 70-years-old. FOSS has also set up boxes to protect another endangered species, the Tree Swallows, which arrive early from their winter vacation in the southern states and Central America. The birds inhabit Swallow Field, which is located south of the waterfront trail that runs through the park and immediately east of the yacht club. FOSS has been installing dozens of Tree Swallow nest boxes there over the past ten years. There are now more than sixty boxes in the park.



Plan to protect Toronto endangered animals, birds

Toronto is rich with endangered species of birds and animals that we must protect. As a result, a plan for developers to replace habitat of endangered species is before City Council for approval.



AT RISK birds includes the piping plover and chimney swift (below).

Council last month was called on to approve a plan that requires developers to rebuild at least two high-quality replacement habitats for each habitat destroyed.

Councillor Dianne Saxe said ‘developers intending to destroy endangered species habitat often wish to save money by constructing their replacement habitats in parks or other City

property, to avoid having to purchase replacement habitat lands.’ “The City should not permit public property to be used for this purpose unless at least two high quality replacement habitats are constructed for each existing habitat destroyed,” Saxe said in a letter to Council.

She said the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario has recommended that at least two replacement habitats be constructed before permitting destruction of the original habitat. Ellen Schwartzel, of Toronto Field Naturalists, said some birds at risk in Toronto includes chimney swifts, common nighthawks and piping plovers.



Schwartzel noted at risk reptiles living here includes the threatened Blanding’s Turtle and other species as the Snapping Turtle, the Northern Map Turtle and the milk snake. “The need for action is real,” she told Council. “Many species “at risk” under federal or provincial law continue to survive within City of Toronto limits, especially along the lake shorelines, ravines and parklands.”

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City plans to use AI to reduce traffic congestion



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE is being tested for helping to keep traffic moving in congested Toronto.

The City is considering the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other technology to tackle traffic congestion issues in Toronto.

A City Traffic Congestion Management Plan (CMP) is considering AI for coordinating traffic signals, motorists making illegal stops and other uses.

A Transportation Services Committee said the AI can be used to detect parking in intersections and other illegal parking, including stopping or parking in bike lanes. The technology can also be used to monitor traffic lights and movement patterns.

"It will require to test the technologies so it does not negatively impact traffic," according to the committee.

The CMP was presented at the Infrastructure and Environment Committee and then to a Council meeting last November. It is being studied.

To battle traffic congestion the committee is looking at having major construction on roads or highways conducted overnight from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., to lessen

inner-city noise and for deliveries to take place off peak during early hours or late at night.

The measures were conducted during the 2015 Pan Am Games and there are plans to repeat them for the upcoming FIFA World Cup Soccer in 2026.

The City has established a Transportation Innovation Zone (TIZ) for the testing of transportation and public realm technologies in a real-world environment at Exhibition Place. The zone has been working on measures as a moving, self-cleaning sidewalk and codes or talking signs at construction zones for those with visual challenges.

"Envisioned is an application that is GPS-based, developed for the blind, deaf-blind and partially sighted that will voice construction work zone details once the user is in relative proximity to the work zone," according to the CMP.



Information on the construction signs would include the contractor's name, duration of the project and way-finding details if there is a need to divert traffic, pedestrians or cyclists.

Also proposed are traffic red light cameras being used to detect motorists stopped in intersections, no standing or stopping zones, for which fines would increase from \$90 to \$450 and \$500. The City also wants construction

companies to pay more for blocking lanes of traffic or sidewalks during their builds. "After a major

complete street design project is installed, Transportation Services will publish data on completion and feedback from the public for residents and other stakeholders, including emergency services," the Committee was told.

"Toronto is in a period of significant growth and development with a focus on building affordable housing, expanding transit and the necessary infrastructure updates is required to support this growth," according to the City.

Officials said 'the volume of construction work is resulting in direct impacts to daily travel in Toronto despite current capital coordination efforts.'

City officials said they plan to increase construction efficiency while mitigating congestion and inconvenience to the public.

The City said it will cost \$1 million daily in loss revenue when the Gardiner Expressway is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Dufferin Street and Strachan Avenue from March to December due to road repairs. It costs motorists about \$20 hourly to use a major road.



IT IS ESTIMATED it will cost the City \$1 million daily when the Gardiner Expressway (below) is reduced to two lanes each way later this year.



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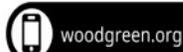
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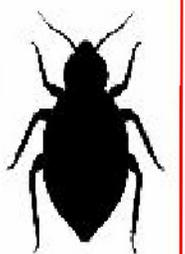
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Hundreds pack school for Bloor bike lanes consultations



MANY RESIDENTS at the Cycling Network meeting was opposed to bike lanes on Bloor Street. Cyclists on the lanes (below). **Top photo by Sandy Cameron.**

Hundreds of concerned residents showed up to speak their mind as part of the City's Cycling Network Plan which has Bloor Street W. down to one lane each way. Many of an estimated

reviewing the locations before advancing a report to council for approval consideration," he said. Attendees said it was a boisterous and sometimes unruly meeting as many people were opposed to the bike lanes on Bloor Street W. Residents have "pressing concerns about the recent bike lanes that have been added to our Bloor Street community streets," according to petition organizer Cody MacRae. "We believe that the current method of bike lane implementation requires reconsideration and a more balanced approach." The petition said a Bloor Street cycling study was based on inaccurate data that has led to little usage by cyclists, as many 'residents and businesses along Bloor Street W. have observed a limited number of cyclists using the designated lanes.' "With the added congestion and limited cyclist patronage, businesses along Bloor Street W. are reporting reduced foot traffic, which threatens their livelihoods and impacts the vitality of our local economy," it stated. "It's crucial for Bloor Street to maintain two lanes of traffic in each direction to accommodate the heavy vehicular flow," the petition state. "The reduction to a single lane has caused significant congestion and has been a source of constant frustration for motorists." MacRae said the transition from two-lane roads to single lanes to accommodate bike lanes has significantly reduced the efficiency of vehicle flow.

"This change has caused increased congestion, prolonged travel times, and a heightened risk of accidents," he wrote on the petition. It said the loss of lanes can lead to delayed emergency response as it can significantly hinder the rapid movement of emergency vehicles, leading to potential delays in critical responses. The petition calls for a re-assessment of the bike lanes on Bloor Street W. to "engage with the local community, business owners, emergency service providers, cyclists, and traffic experts to develop a well-rounded solution." "Local neighbours report near misses caused by cars diverting to side streets," petitioners were told. "Our intention is to advocate for a re-evaluation to emphasize the need for Bloor Street W. to retain two lanes of traffic in each direction."

Long-time Mimico resident Sandy Cameron said he attended the meeting to protest the narrowing of Superior Avenue for the addition of bike lanes as part of the Mimico Mobility Plan.



650 people who gathered on February 28 at the Etobicoke Collegiate Institute meeting chaired by Ward 2 Councillor Stephen Holyday seemed to be opposed to the Bloor Street Bike lanes. More than 12,000 area residents have signed a petition opposing the bike lanes that narrowed Bloor Street W. to one-way in both directions. Holyday said the meeting was to provide information and gather community feedback on candidate cycling locations that are being considered for study and installation in 2025 to 2027. "City staff are currently

A \$75 ticket proposed for parking in Electric Vehicle spot

The City is looking at having parking enforcement officers issue \$75 tickets to motorists illegally parked in electric vehicle charging zones. The Infrastructure and Environment is considering a penalty for motorists who park in electric vehicle charging stations in municipal, on-street and off-street electric parking facilities. A Transportation Committee has recommended that signs be erected stating Electric Vehicle Parking Space will become a ticketable offence if used by motorists who are not charging their vehicles.

"No person shall park a vehicle in an electric vehicle parking space in a car-park unless the vehicle is an electric vehicle that is actively connected to the electric vehicle charging station," according to the proposed bylaw. The change will be considered by the Infrastructure Committee on February 27 and full City Council on March 20. Transportation Services has been working with City agencies to review the parking violation notices issued by the City of Toronto and has looked at several Canadian



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 Asks me to come - I go!
 I know not when the bell may toll,
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 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

municipalities to compare similar offences and their penalty amounts to those of Toronto. The penalties will 'match those of other jurisdictions, encourage compliance, reflect the seriousness of the offence and that all penalty amounts for the violation remain consistent.' Currently, Parking Enforcement officers cannot ticket or penalize motorists for parking improperly in electric charging stations due to a lack of municipal or provincial regulations. It is estimated the City can collect up to \$62 million in revenue and the parking enforcement unit will require \$150,000 from City funds to buy 400,000 updated parking tickets as the stock will be outdated.

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Pizza Therapy for best Indian-style and fresh pies

Harpreet Singh is trying to catch up after his Mimico Pizza Therapy store was one of more than a dozen that were broken into by thieves causing havoc in the community. The glass door of his store was smashed as crooks ran in and stole items including a point of sale machine.

The machine is used to commit frauds by the thieves who seek refunds from the cards of customers, police said. "We had just opened up and it was hard," Singh said. "The thieves caused more than \$900 in damage and we have them on camera."

There has been a few arrests by police in the January smash-and-grabs as small businesses ranging from restaurants to a computer store were robbed from Mimico to Alderwood. The owners suffered thousands of dollars in lost sales and damages after their glass doors or windows were smashed. Pizza Therapy, which is located at 2382 Lake Shore Blvd. W., near Superior Ave., is bouncing back. It is making a name for itself by being one of a few parlours in the community to offer Indian-style pizzas in its line-up, which also features the popular offerings, as pepperoni, pineapple, vegetarian and others.



HARPREET SINGH outside his Mimico Pizza Therapy restaurant, (above) and his tasty pie (centre). **Photos by Susie Basheir.**

Some of their popular pies includes; Canadian eh!, Meatzaa, Surf's up Hawaiian, Pepperoni explosion, Sizzling Paneer Tikka, butter chicken and Sizzling Tandori chicken; with green peppers, cilantro and mozzarella cheese. Sides includes cheese sticks, Jalapeno popper, cauliflower bites, chicken wings, dry ribs or boneless chicken bites among others.

"People like our Indian style pizzas and they are very popular," he said. "Customers are coming in and asking for them."

He said customers love his pizzas because he only uses freshly-made dough and fresh vegetables.

"Both styles of our pizzas are very popular and people come from all over to try them," Singh noted.

He loves the pizza business and has been making pies for more than eight years. It was one of his first jobs after arriving in Canada from his native India about 12 years ago. Singh chose Mimico to establish his business because he has friends who own businesses in



the area and he loves the people.

"We have had incredible support from the people in the area," he noted. "Even when we were robbed community members were stopping by to help and support us."



HARPREET AND WIFE KAREN in front of Pizza Therapy.

The pizza maker was taken back by the tightly-knit community and all the support he has received. And community residents it seems love his delicious thin-crust pizza.

"They are really delicious," said Susie, who was trying Pizza Therapy for the first time. "It is spicy, tasty and it tastes like a home-made pizza." Some teens sitting in the parlour devouring one of the pies said it was delicious and gave it a thumbs up. Pizza Therapy can be reached at 416-201-0807. They are also available on Uber Eats and are open seven days a week. There were many people coming and going.

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Seniors home, towers planned for Evans Avenue

Plans to build a major subdivision with a nine-storey seniors residence, townhouses and four condo towers at Evans Avenue and The East Mall is steaming ahead. An application to amend the zoning by-law from commercial to residential development was slated to be considered by Etobicoke York Community Council on February 26. A report by the Director, Community Planning, Etobicoke York District recommends approval of the application to amend the Zoning By-law. The developers want to construct a nine-storey seniors' residence, two blocks of three-storey townhouses and four towers 21, 29, 32 and 38 stories on a shared three-storey base building at the 564 – 580 Evans Avenue site. Also included is a new 4,129 square metre park and three 20-metre-wide streets that runs north-south and east-west, according to the proposal. There will be more than 1,000 parking spaces and the same amount of bicycle spots in total. The development will have a total gross floor area of 100,841 square metres and will house 1,196 residential units, which includes 678 one-bedroom units, 397 two-bedroom units and 475 three-bedroom units.



A SENIORS RESIDENCE is among the four towers planned for 564-580 Evans Avenue at The East Mall.

“Vehicular access to the proposed development would be from Evans Avenue via the proposed new public north-south street and from The East Mall via the proposed new east-west public street,” according to the proposal. The plan has been in the works for about nine years and the first public consultation meeting was held in June 2015. A number of minor tweaks and requirements were sought in previous hearings. Nearly all the variances have been met. The site is located at the corner of the Highway 427 north on-ramp and Evans Avenue, on the north side of Evans Avenue.



THE DEVELOPMENT (as also seen below) will create a new subdivision with new roads running through the area.



The existing Active Green and Ross Tire store will be demolished to make room for the development. The franchise auto repair store has been there for decades. There are about 65 of the stores in Southern Ontario. “The existing low-rise commercial/industrial buildings on the site would be demolished to allow for the proposed development,” according to the proposal. The surrounding land includes a low-rise industrial building at 24 The East Mall, a two-storey motel at 560

Evans Avenue, a film studio called Studio 550, storage units and a gas station with a car wash. The proposed seniors' residence would be placed parallel to a proposed new park, which will face Evans Avenue. The building would also enhance a cul-de-sac in front that terminates the public east-west street, and the intersection of Evans. The towers would be placed mostly parallel to the Highway 427 north on-ramp on the west. There would also be a Ministry of Transportation building setback of 14 metres consisting of landscaping. The three-storey townhouses will be parallel to the new park, Evans Avenue on the south, and the new public north-south and east-west streets on the east and north. A public sidewalk in front of Evans Avenue would be reconstructed with a minimum width of 2.1 metres to improve pedestrian comfort and safety and comply with City standards. Trees are proposed at the edges of all streets.

Community works of art for sale by local artist for charity

A New Toronto artist is auctioning a set of his framed community landmarks artwork in aid of charity. Andreas Lara is donating a numbered set of his L.A.K.E. Project pieces called Alderwood, Long Branch, Mimico and New Toronto on his website www.laragroup.com to the highest bidders. You have until March 15 to bid on the works. All proceeds from the numbered pieces that are framed by Darrell Kobza Art Services will be donated to LAMP Community Health Centre, on Fifth Street. “Each frame boasts a contemporary, stylish design crafted from high-quality extruded aluminium, ensuring strength, quality, and durability,” Lara said. “The prints

are backed with acid-free materials, guaranteeing protection against discolouration over time.” You can log into Lara’s site and place a bid on the beautiful works. “Let’s give them a hand while giving your walls a makeover that screams ‘I love South Etobicoke,’” said the artist, who works in real estate. LAMP is a family practice in which physicians and nurse practitioners work together in a team setting. It provides a range of services including well and sick child care, prenatal care, minor office procedures, gynaecologic care, adult health maintenance and management of chronic disease conditions.

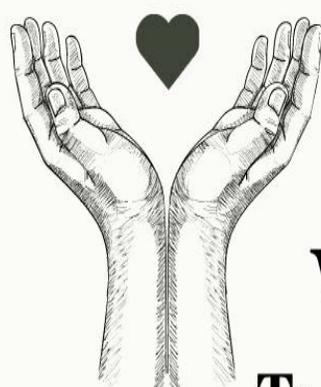


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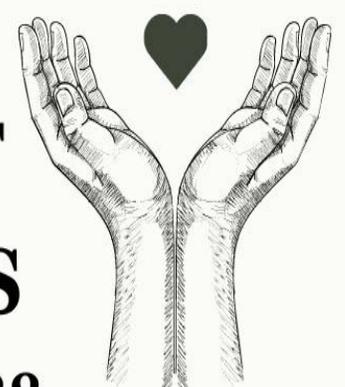
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Ex-MP and mentor Jean Augustine a key speaker

By Tanya Vividly

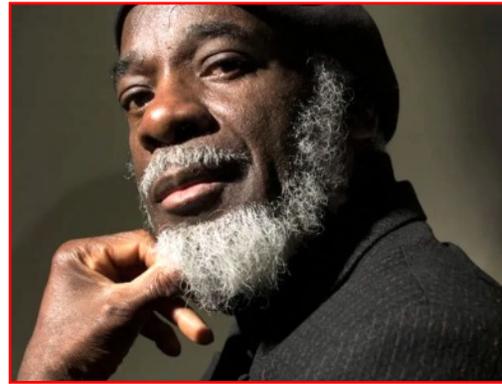
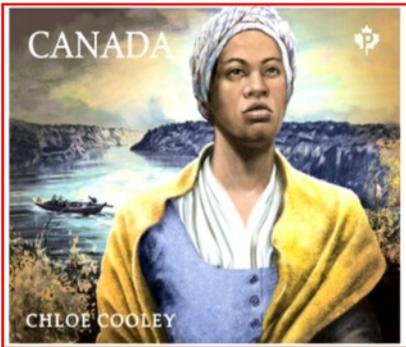
Former politician and community activist Jean Augustine was a Black History Month speaker at a fundraiser for youth and kids programs. The event was held on February 25 at the St Josaphat Catholic School auditorium, on Tenth Street.



FORMER MP Jean Augustine (top) with Chloe Cooley (below) who fought against being enslaved.

Pastor Veta Saunders, of Etobicoke Praise Centre, said Augustine helped to uplift many young minds and fans of all ages by her deeds. Proceeds raised went to the Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment, on Portland Street, which works with girls aged from 7 to 17, who attend school programs, workshops and camps.

Augustine was the first African Canadian woman elected as a Member of Parliament in 1993 to represent the riding of Etobicoke Lakeshore. She was instrumental in getting Black History Month recognized in Canada. She served as the Minister of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women in the Cabinet of Canada from 2002 to 2004 and was the Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien from 1994 to 1996. Before her election, she had been a school principal.



ACTIVIST DUDLEY LAWS (top) with civil rights lawyer Charles Roach (right) whose names are proposed to grace City facilities.



The former politician was a National President of the Congress of Black Women, former chair of the Metro Toronto Housing Authority and was Ontario's first Fairness Commissioner in 2007.

The musical segments of the event included the EPC Gospel Singers, singer Vereen Whitton-McDonald and students performing songs of faith that helped to transform the crowds' experience of joy, togetherness and audience participation.

In related Black History Month news, the City of Toronto's Executive Committee approved the naming of City assets after Black activist Dudley Laws, civil rights lawyer Charles Roach, Chloe Cooley, who fought against being enslaved in 1793 and successful 1840s Black construction company owner John M. Tinsley.

Their names will be considered to replace that of Henry Dundas, who was linked to the slave trade, at the Jane Dundas Public Library, Dundas TTC subway station, Dundas Street and other facilities.

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In the Community

By TOM GODFREY



MPP CHRISTINE HOGARTH with Peel Regional Police Chief Nishan Duraiappah (centre) with another participant at an Auto Theft Summit.

89 arrests, 554 charges and recovery of 109 vehicles. We have invested \$51 million in police services to help identify and dismantle organized crime networks. This includes \$18 million for 21 projects to train officers, procure equipment, and form anti-auto theft units. We have also created a prosecution team solely focused on auto theft cases. Car theft is not just property theft. It robs our sense of community safety and is often associated with other violent crime. Our government's dedicated funds of \$256 million to Guns, Gangs and Violence Reduction Strategy and \$112 million for Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension Grant (BCWA) is also

helping us catch these criminals. Disrupting car theft networks is a complex issue that requires a multi-pronged approach from all levels of government. Our government has reached out to Ottawa repeatedly to encourage action to keep our communities safe from auto theft. We are pushing for a change in the Criminal Code to recognize car theft as a serious offence. Due to many of these cars being shipped overseas and sold in other countries illegally, we have requested enhanced outbound inspection at ports and rail yards. The Ontario government is determined to slam the brakes on auto theft because a safe Ontario is strong Ontario. Protecting Ontarians' and their safety is at the heart of what we do every day. That is why we are pushing back against car thieves to put them in jail where they belong. If you need to address any issues, please reach out by calling my office at 416 259 2249 or christine.hogarth@pc.ola.org.

I really appreciate the opportunity to address an issue that I consistently hear from our community when I knock on your doors, take your phone calls, and read your emails. We all deserve to feel safe in our own home and community. When criminals steal our vehicles, we feel unsafe, insurance costs go up, and it funds organized crime. That is why our government has rolled up its sleeves to break this vicious cycle and make you feel safe. First and foremost, we have invested in our police services. As the severity of the auto theft problem grew, we quickly responded by leading the way and putting money behind dedicated crime fighting teams. For example, we have funded the Toronto Police Service (TPS) and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) to launch a Provincial Carjacking Joint Task Force. The Task Force, which has police services in the Greater Toronto Area working in sync, has already made significant strides with



MANY RESIDENTS are happy to see the windrow snow cleaning program saved .

Many Etobicoke residents are delighted that snow clearing services to remove heavy snow at the end of our driveways is being restored. The windrow snow clearing program was about to be axed for residents in Etobicoke, North York and Scarborough to save \$16 million for the 2025 Budget until Mayor Olivia Chow stopped it even though we did not see a lot of snow. Chow also changed her mind on a \$12 million shortfall sought by Toronto Police, which was seeking and had been approved for \$20 million, but the city was only able to come up with \$8 million due to a \$1.8 billion deficit. Windrows are the large dunes of snow left behind by plows when they clear residential roads. The city currently clears them and will thankfully continue to do so. Most of us who shovel snow are all too familiar with windrows, which is heavy compacted snow that is difficult to lift and can lead to many seniors having cardiac arrests. Etobicoke apartment dwellers and homeowners, seniors and vulnerable residents dreaded losing the hard-fought for service. The program, which is offered to more than 260,000 homeowners in the three former boroughs, would have required elderly residents to find other ways to have the heavy snow cleaned. Many thanks for politicians like Councillor Stephen Holyday who fought alongside a few others to ensure the program was not chopped. "We have a lot of seniors and disabled people living in the community who depend on the service," warned the hard-working Ward 2 Councillor. "They would have been the most affected." We have the largest amounts of seniors in the City now residing in Etobicoke and Scarborough. Many have been living in their homes for decades and still cut the grass and do other household chores. Holyday said fire trucks, ambulances or other personnel would not have been able to get close to homes in emergencies due to a mountain of compacted, heavy snow at the tip of their driveways. People in the suburbs have large driveways and require their vehicles to go to their doctors, or shopping or to the bank. Even Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie heard the calls from her Scarborough Rouge Park residents who want their snow cleared. McKelvie said she was told "loud and clear" at a town hall meeting that people in her ward do not want to see the program axed, since roughly 20 per cent of residents are seniors. Some of the windrows can be several feet tall, depending on the snowfall, and the snow is heavy and it can take hours to remove it shovel by shovel. It was just one of the services we have, and pay for, which makes Toronto such a wonderful city to live in. It is for little things like this why we even choose to live here, considering we have a 9.5 per cent property tax to deal with. Many of us are already peeved over the ending last year of the mechanical leaf removal program that saw the vacuuming of autumn leaves from our curbs by City crews. At least we are able to save the windrow removal program before that too was chopped. I know we have a massive budget shortfall to fill and many services will have to go or be scaled back. But it is wise to see clearer heads prevail and that the program saved for all of us as we get older.

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.

B'ball, pickle ball for Centennial

A new baseball hub and pickle ball courts are being proposed among the many changes upcoming for Centennial Park. Ward 2 Councillor Stephen Holyday in a letter asked the Infrastructure and Environment Committee at its February 20 meeting to consider the baseball and pickle ball amenities to fill the vacancy of a Mini Indy amusement complex that ceased operations late last year. Dozens of workers were laid off and a petition with more than 1,000 signatures were collected to prevent the closure of the Mini Indy, which had been there for decades. Holyday said park users and residents wanted their batting cages back at the park. "Public input, including feedback at the consultation in January 2024 for the next phase of park improvements, indicated an interest in seeing the batting cages portion of the Mini Indy amusement complex return to the park," the Committee was told. "The batting cages were an enjoyable compliment to baseball and softball players, and the former location was a unique opportunity within the region to practice batting," Holyday wrote. The matter will be considered by City Council on March 20.

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Your Health

By MONIKA MEULMAN

Spring is the birth, the beginning of a new season. It is the beginning of a new story and life cycle.

For us, spring can be a beginning, a fresh start much the same way it is for our gardens, a blade of grass or baby chicks waiting to hatch. But before we take on a new growth, it's wise to revisit our origin. Take a moment to see the path that got you here. Was it difficult? Was it light and easy? What is worth noting? What lessons did you learn?

Doing this honours your origin story. In film and television the origin story is the back story and summary of experiences that reveal how a character or group of people become a protagonist or antagonist. You are the protagonist in the story of your life. As spring approaches, use this energy to initiate a new stage in your life and begin a new life cycle. Spring can beckon our spiritual rebirth, emotional and energetic upgrade and mind awakening. You are the lead in your story and you have the right to choose which way you grow this season. Birth of all things as origin story. East versus West.

In many cultures, your birth determines your life story. Your physical origin, where you were born and when you were born is essential to your identity. In Asia, your birth year and birth sign as well as your family ancestry are tethered to you for life. The stars' configuration and your astral chart is a template of your strengths, weaknesses and your life journey. Your life story is so closely tied to nature, heavens and the earth that your success is determined (at least in part) by these ties. According to Astrology, all origins depend on time. Asian or Chinese Astrology is Vedic based: defined by nature. Western Astrology is based on the 12 months of the year and follows the seasons. Our Spring Equinox is heralded as the beginning of a new energy cycle. The Chinese Zodiac signs are noted in records as early as 5th century BC (Zhan Guo Dynasty). But the Western Zodiac signs and astrological system was also incorporated into Asian disciplines and philosophies as early as 700 AD. Both systems use time and the cycle of nature to offer insight into what was and what will be.

Often, you will hear of a caste celebrating a rite of passage that has no relation to the calendar. You may have a 100 beginnings in a lifetime. In some tribes and cultures, accomplishing a task such as hunting a buffalo successfully, completing a walkabout or reaching a pinnacle point in your life, marks you as worthy of a feast. You are honoured with a community celebration. As part of some extreme

mystical sects and monasteries steeped in ancient practices, you may be buried alive and thus be initiated into a new birth, before you can take your vows. In the Western world, a candle on a birthday cake is often our most welcome annual 'birth celebration'. No matter the culture or practice of our origin, we have options on how and when we choose our next beginning. We are constantly adding layers and revising our origin story. March to a new story.

Springtime is a wonderful time to explore this rebirth, renewal and a chosen new beginning. Create a new story for yourself, where you are hero and leader empowered with wisdom, strength and vitality. Start in a new direction. Allow spring showers to bloom colourful flowers in your heart's garden. Rise up with the earlier morning sun and adopt a new mindfulness practice.

Celebrating spring, from a traditional St. Patrick's Day green pint of beer or painting your face with green Shamrocks, to dancing under the moon during spring equinox, the gardens of spring await you. Nature is always waiting. Go see her. Walk barefoot in the forest. Join the many people that choose to celebrate a new cycle and spring in these ways.

But we can choose to celebrate a beginning and 'new origin of us' each morning, each hour, every minute. Our cells are constantly dividing, and our body is continually producing new, genetic material and new cells to keep us ticking. This fast cycle allows for the quickest and easiest way to practice rewriting our origin story at any moment we choose. In the words of Naomi Judd (and many others), "Your body hears everything your mind says." What you feel, think and say, your body hears and strives to build within. The most valuable lesson and invitation of spring may be that we choose to recognize we can grow at any level, at any time. Since we are continually renewing, our spiritual birth and rebirth, our story of origin is constantly evolving. When we zoom far out over across ancestry of time and our generations, we see our story of origin is something deeply profound and interconnected with very many people in our lives. Yet it is never fully defined. Our story is responding to every breath, to every step, to every path we take. We are the lead character choosing our next adventure. We are always on time to our destiny.

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Retired Judge Speaks

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI

Here is where I get my ideas.

I'm chatting with my wife about getting a new car, which makes heads turn. Hey, it's my late-life crisis, right? But guess what? She shuts me down faster than a judge's gavel. "No way!" she says. "Someone might steal it." Boom, just like that, her decision stands like an appellate court ruling. But you know what? Her concern got me thinking about the more significant issue here: auto theft. It's a problem that's been frustrating folks like you and me.

So today, I want to dive deep into the notorious world of auto theft, explore the best remedies, and expand on this topic to give you a more detailed perspective. Buckle up! Let's peel back the layers and look at this auto theft problem. It's not just about some random person swiping a car for kicks. Oh no, it's much more complex than that. Young folks often find themselves cruising down the fast lane of car theft. They're playing a high-stakes game fuelled by the thrill and excitement.

Organized crime sees big money in these deals, especially in parts and overseas sales' Mr. Big tends to hire young kids, knowing their penalties, if caught, are generally more lenient, and kids are usually less risk-averse.

The part of the brain that manages risk doesn't fully develop until 25 years of age. Mr. Big insulates himself from capture by attracting young people. You need more police resources to tackle the problem, not an increase in jail.

What happens next? You've probably heard politicians talking tough, promising to crack down on crime with a call for minimal jail terms. It's tough, but there are flaws with minimal penalties. Let's tackle the issue of minimal penalties.

Now, let's talk about imposing increased sentences for auto theft. We often rely on legislation, but here's the thing - judges have the power to make a difference, too. They can dish out harsher sentences for this widespread crime without waiting for new laws. It just requires the Crown to make an effort and take the time to present solid evidence regarding the accused, the offence, and its community impact. If the result still needs a more efficient sentence, the Crown can appeal to set a new standard.

Of course, this takes time and effort. Justice is worth it, right? We don't always need more laws. It's a bit of a political scam.

The government passes a law at no cost but doesn't provide the court resources to make the law effective. Generally, only 10% of cases go to trial. When you impose a minimum, the accused would instead roll the dice and take a chance. They have nothing to lose. The trial rate may increase by only 2%, but that can dramatically affect caseloads. Unfortunately, managing court dockets is a challenging task.

The government sometimes encourages plea negotiations to keep the system from crumbling under its weight. There's nothing wrong with plea negotiations if they're based on fairness and facts. But when the government talks brutally about putting offenders away, only to settle for a bargain deal to save costs, it leaves us scratching our heads. We need government officials, like the Attorney General, to walk the talk and prioritize justice over cutting corners. Any delay and increased detention creates another problem, especially for young offenders.

Here's an interesting tidbit: jails acted as a training ground for young offenders, making matters worse. Why? It turns out that when you gather young people together in one place, they start swapping ideas on how to be better crooks. They form connections with more experienced criminals or even create their own networks. It's like a crime academy. Delay creates even more problems. We assume general deterrent works because people read about the penalty and think twice before committing the crime. It's the idea of connecting the act with the result.

If a fellow student is arrested for a crime when he is in grade eleven and waits two years for his trial, schoolmates who know about the arrest never get to hear the results; why? Because they have graduated and gotten on with their lives and don't know or care about the results. To be relevant to the public, trials and convictions must be heard in three to six months.

So remember, increasing sentences without resources means more trials, more delay, less effect on the public, and more criminal training in jails, and it doesn't work.

Alright, let's brainstorm some alternative strategies to tackle auto theft head-on. One approach that holds promise is leveraging technology and integrating various police forces to focus on crime prevention. In Ontario, for example, there's this excellent idea called "police teams" suggested by Premier Doug Ford. It's all about bringing together law enforcement agencies to crack down on auto theft.

But wait, there's more! We must rely on something other than law enforcement to solve this problem. The onus is on the federal and provincial governments to advance their game. This is a Canadian problem.

We need the combined efforts of the federal and provincial governments, such as the RCMP, Railway Police, and Border Security, to put pressure on these car manufacturers. It's time for them to demand upgraded security measures for the cars they sell in Canada.

That way, we can make it harder for these criminals to profit from stolen vehicles. So, here's the deal. Auto theft is a real headache, and we must address it seriously.

Those simplistic promises made by politicians might sound good, but they often oversimplify the solutions. Writing a law is easy, but enforcing it can be costly and challenging.

We've got to stay informed and hold our elected representatives accountable. A good old chat with your local MP or MPP can make a difference. Ask them tough questions about their plans.

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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City cracks down on noise pollution

A City report is calling for a Dedicated Noise Team of by-law officers to crack down on the increasing amount of construction and other noise in Toronto. The By-Law Enforcement Officers will be armed with devices to measure the levels of noise from construction sites, vehicles and home air conditioners and issue tickets if it is over mandated limits.

The report if approved will see increased fines for noise. Mobile noise radar guns erected in noisy areas of the city, will be monitored and tickets issued for loud vehicles by the Dedicated Noise Team.

The OPP and Toronto Police will also be called to help monitor the noise.

Toronto Police will be able to ticket for loud city noise and the OPP will be given powers to test the loudness of vehicles on the Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway, once details are worked out with the Government of Ontario.

Residents can also be ticketed for noise from a stationary vehicle as sounding a horn or revving an engine 'or any sound that is clearly audible at a point of reception,' according to the report to be presented to City Council on February 6.

Residents also face fines for loud air conditioners to be measured by by-law officers with noise measuring guns.



POLICE OFFICER WITH NOISE measuring gun that residents may begin to see more of (above) and noise detecting technology (right) to be set up in parts of the city to measure the level of noise, as from heavy equipment (bottom). Fines will be issued for noise above set levels.

Sound limits will range from 45 decibels from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. or 50 decibels from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. People can be exempted from loud noise citations providing they obtain a permit certified by a professional engineer or acoustical consultant. The report said provincial environmental noise guidelines will be updated to provide clear communications to the public and industry regarding the province's role and authority.

The City said the provisions if approved will take effect by June this year and the sound level guidelines includes; 13 to 16 decibels for amplified sound, 17 decibel for construction noise, 18 to 19 for motor vehicles, stationary sources or residential air conditioners, 20 for unreasonable and 21 for persistent noise.

It said a full-time Coordinator will be hired to lead the Dedicated Noise Team, who will work in the City's By-law Enforcement, Municipal Licensing and Standards Division.

"In a City as large and vibrant as Toronto, certain levels of noise are reasonable and reflect life in a densely populated city," according to a summary by the City. "The (noise) by-law works to set out clear and enforceable noise rules across the City, while providing flexibility to meet local needs."

It said there should be a pathway for residents to submit complaints on waste collection noise and for City staff to communicate with industry on persistent noise issues.

The report called for the provincial government to change legislation to allow for the City's use of automated noise radar when the technology is ready.

"Managing and regulating noise is a complex undertaking and proposed changes attempt to maintain the balance of multiple competing interests of people living, working, and visiting the city," the report stated.



A public list of vicious dogs being created to warn people

In light of a vicious dog attack of a woman at a Rexdale bus stop, the City is looking at putting more teeth into its dangerous dog laws.

The owner of two dangerous dogs has been arrested after the animals on February 9 jumped on a woman throwing her to the ground and began mauling her that she received more than a dozen stitches. The dogs have not been found.

The dogs attacked the woman and bit and ripped her cheek and arm and left her with a broken arm. The dogs were not on a leash and the owner fled with the animals and was arrested weeks later. An Economic and Community Development Committee at a meeting on February 20 adopted amendments to the Serious Dog Attacks bylaw.

The Committee is being asked to create a list of dangerous dogs that will be available on a City website. The list will have a description of the dangerous dog, part of an area code where the dog lives and offences committed by the animal.

The City wants to amend bylaws "to create and maintain a public record listing information, including the dog's owner, first three digits of the postal code, ward number, the dog's name, photograph, breed and colour, and dates of all served Dangerous Dog Orders," according to a report.

The public list of dangerous dogs will allow residents be aware of vicious animals in their area Ali Ismael Stanley, 36, has been charged in the Rexdale attack.

"Dangerous Dog Orders are not currently posted on the City's website, and the City does not have a public list of dangerous dogs," according to a report by Municipal Licensing and Standards. The City wants to make owners responsible for damages or injuries suffered by victims after dog attacks.

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Looking after yourself and others in the community

MARCH 13 SOUTH ETOBICOKE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST at 6 p.m. online via Zoom as we continue to work on establishing a land trust to develop affordable housing in South Etobicoke. For more information, contact brig@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

MARCH 15 FREE HEARING SCREENING at LAMP CHC, 185 Fifth Street to get tested by the Canadian Hearing Services to obtain screening for hearing loss, check for ear wax or for information and resources. Call 416 252 6471 ext. 308 or e-mail jasmind@lampchc.org to sign up for the next session.

FROM MARCH 19 TO APRIL 16 Etobicoke Master Gardeners a non-profit charity to provide gardening support is sponsoring a lecture series on garden design featuring horticulturist **Frank Kershaw** as he talks about creating garden mysteries and the oft-neglected front and side yards from 7 p.m. at the Kingsway Lambton United Church, at 85 The Kingsway. For more visit

www.etobicokemastergardeners.ca

MARCH 20 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY featuring keynote speaker from MP Jean Augustine at fundraising luncheon hosted by the Mimico Cruising Club, 200 Humber Bay Park Road W. Doors open at noon. Tickets \$50. All proceeds going to LAMP CHC programming. Contact jasmind@lampchc.org or 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

MARCH 21 HUMBER MUSIC PRESENTS LATIN NIGHT for an evening of salsa, Brazilian jazz and Latin jazz Ensembles to herald the optimism of springtime at 7 p.m. at the Lakeshore Campus auditorium at B Building, 3199 Lake Shore Blvd. W. No tickets required. Contact: Dewi

Minden Humbermusicdegree@humber.ca

MARCH 22 FREE MEMORY SCREENING for those 50 – 90 who are noticing changes in their memory taking place at LAMP CHC sign up with Jasmin at 416-252-6471 ext. 308

UNTIL MARCH 22 DISCOVER the magic of art for adults

55-years-old and up from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at 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

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 as a Second Language 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

MARCH 25 MOVIE MATINEE at LAMP CHC, 185 Fifth Street, at 1 p.m. for a family-friendly film in our community room. Contact jasmind@lampchc.org or 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

UNTIL MARCH 25 LEARNING ACTIVITIES FOR children up to 6-years-old and their caregiver from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane. Contact Anna or Larissa at early.years@stonegatechc.org

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

UNTIL MARCH 27 TIMELESS TORONTO: A FREE VISUAL JOURNEY through the 6ix Art Exhibition runs from Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday until 1 p.m. at the Assembly Hall, 1 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive. Engage in an exploration of Toronto's dynamic urban narrative and the vibrancy of its cultural tapestry through artworks that encapsulate the city's evolving identity. For more call 416-338-7255 or visit www.toronto.ca

MARCH 28 GLUTEN FREE COOKING WITH MAKI at 10:45 a.m. join them to learn how to make some nutritious gluten-free recipes with our dietician Maki. Learn tips and tricks for healthy gluten-free meals complete with a taste. Email anthonya@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 308

UNTIL APRIL 7 ANNUAL SUGAR BUSH MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL, at Kortright Centre for Conservation, at 9550 Pine Valley Drive, Woodbridge, enjoy demonstrations, family activities and discover the process of making maple syrup with lanterns and campfires. For more contact the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority at 416-661-6600 or e-mail afiya.jilani@trca.ca

EVERY FRIDAY JOIN US FOR FUN and safe indoor gross motor 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. Running shoes required. Contact Anna or Larissa by e-mail 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.

UNTIL MAY 24 FREE ENGLISH CLASS runs every Friday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, for adults only. Experienced ESL teacher. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or health.promotion@stonegatechc.org

JULY 2 TO AUGUST 23 TORONTO POLICE is hiring 2024 Youth in Policing Students summer program. Work 35 hours a week and pay is \$16.55 hourly. Must be a student 15 to 18, in school, live in Toronto, be eligible to work in Canada and pass a security clearance. Family of current or retired TPS members cannot apply. Visit YIPI@TorontoPolice.on.ca

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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.



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Humber Bay residents sign petition to save beach

Some Humber Bay Shores residents are concerned and disappointed that their once-sandy Humber Bay Park East beach is now a wall of grapefruit-sized rocks. More than 250 residents have signed an online petition claiming their beloved beach has been restored with a 'five-foot high wall of grapefruit-sized rocks.'

"Our beloved beach was a cherished community asset," said petition organizer Aman Somal. "It is facing a threat of over-development that undermines the promises made during community consultations." Somal said residents were assured the beach, which is between the eastern and western headland, would remain an enjoyable and accessible space for the community.



MORE THAN 250 Humber Bay Shores residents have signed a petition to try and save their beach (above) from being filled with rocks (right).

"Unfortunately, the shoreline project has left the beach in a state that is far from what was promised," Somal wrote. "We now have a five-foot-high wall ... that has effectively eliminated any possibility of residents enjoying the beach."

He said residents understand the importance of erosion control measures to protect the park, but believe that the approach is excessive and has altered the landscape.

"The beach is effectively covered in these large stones, losing all of its recreational value, something that the community cherished very much," the petition state.

It said not everyone has the means to travel abroad or book a cottage to provide their families with a nature or a beach experience.

"Access to nature has been proven to have positive effects on mental well-being, and to interact with elements such as sand, trees and water," according to the petition. It 'is integral to fostering a healthy and balanced community.'

The petition is calling for smaller pebbles or gravel be used instead of the large size stones on the beach.

"The current steep edge is dangerous especially when the stones are wet," Somal wrote. "Especially for children and people with mobility issues in our community."

They want a reassessment to explore methods to protect the park from erosion, without compromising the therapeutic benefits that the beach provides.

Area residents took to social media to explain their frustrations.

"I enjoy this park and access to the water," wrote Jack Glab. "The current state of this beach is unacceptable." Others agreed.



Thursday, March 28th

MIMICO

ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKSHOP



The Mimico Residents Association cordially invites homeowners to a workshop to learn about heat pumps, home solar, and other home retrofits to help save money on heating and energy bills while reducing carbon pollution.

Several government programs exist to help pay for your home improvements. Learn more from offices of:

- ✓ Councillor Morley
- ✓ MPP Hogarth
- ✓ MP Maloney
- ✓ Q & A with all 3

Date: Thurs, March 28th
Time: 7 pm - 8:30 pm
Venue: Mimico Public Library (47 Station Road)
Hybrid: via Zoom



Register: bit.ly/MimicoWorkshop



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