

The South Etobicoke News

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Manhunt for double killer as residents lock up

Is he dead or is he alive.

Toronto Police have stepped up their manhunt for a so-called Alderwood double-killer as residents lock their doors and leave lights on fearing a murderer on the lam.

Neighbours and residents are mourning the senseless deaths as they prepare for services.

Officers were in the air, on back streets, parks and lakefronts in the Brown's Line and Evans Avenue area searching

for Joseph Ayala, 33, following the discovery of the bodies of an 82-year-old grandmother and 60-year-old woman, believed to be his sister.

The women were relatives of the suspected killer, police said. They shared the same home. Police were called to



TORONTO POLICE OFFICERS scour the Alderwood area for clues to find suspected double-murderer Joseph Ayala (centre, right) on the run from second degree murder charges.

the Sheldon and Silvercrest Avenues area on August 23 before 1 p.m., to conduct a wellness check when they found the women.

A number of women and seniors in the Alderwood area said they are locking their doors and leaving outside lights

on with a double-killer on the loose. "My parents are worried," a resident said. "We have to lock the door and be careful in case this guy is still around."

The suspect has not been seen or heard off since the incident. He faces two counts of second degree murder. Reports claim he was spotted in Mississauga.

Ayala is well known in the area and is described as a white male, 5-foot-11, with a shaved head.

Police said he is known to wear a cowboy boots, hat, a cowboy style jacket with tassels on the sleeve and black cowboy boots.

He was often seen by many in his cowboy gear walking on Brown's Line. Many have seen him panhandling outside No Frills on Lake Shore Blvd. W.

Concerns about big 34-storey condo in Mimico

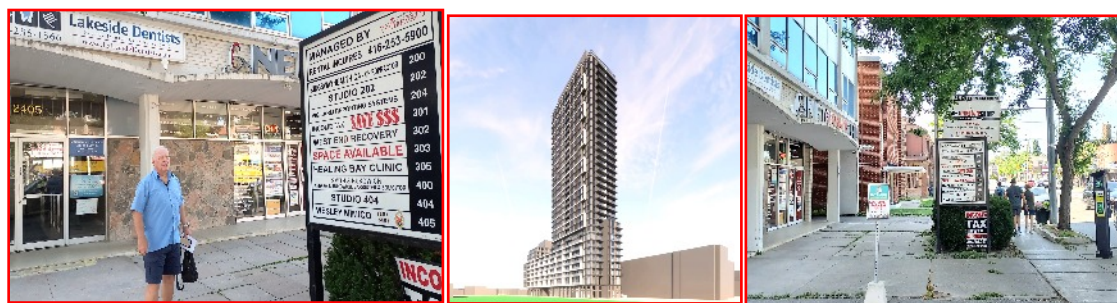
Dr. Don Henderson is concerned the face of his beloved Mimico is about to change and look more like Humber Bay Shores.

Henderson is outraged that a proposal to build a 34-storey condo tower at 2405-2417 Lake Shore Blvd. W., has been given another green light for development in the near future.

He said the tower once built will change height restrictions and lead to more density to the area.

Many residents are not pleased with the planned complex, which include a few mid-rise buildings and two public roads.

"Mimico residents have serious concerns over a plan to redevelop a prime strip of Lake Shore Blvd. W.," wrote the retired doctor. "The community has expressed concerns of height and density."



RETIRED DR. DON HENDERSON (left) takes a fond look of his former building at 2405 Lake Shore Blvd. W., which is poised to be developed into a 34-storey condo (centre) displacing residents in a multi-year construction project.

Henderson is sad that 2405 Lake Shore Blvd., W., that he owned and practised at for 12-years will be demolished at some point.

There are a number of small businesses, including restaurant, medical offices, print shop and other facilities which will be affected due to the demolition.

contested because City council has voted to adopt the recommendation.

The popular park will not be touched and there will be a nine-storey mid-rise building along Lake Shore Blvd. W. with a six-story street wall with improved massing, according to the agreement.

Ward 3 Councillor Amber Morley said in an update that a settlement has been reached on the file with the Ontario Land Tribunal.

She said full disclosure of an appeal board is still pending and more details will be released after a settlement hearing between parties.

The agreement now goes before a settlement hearing, which is not

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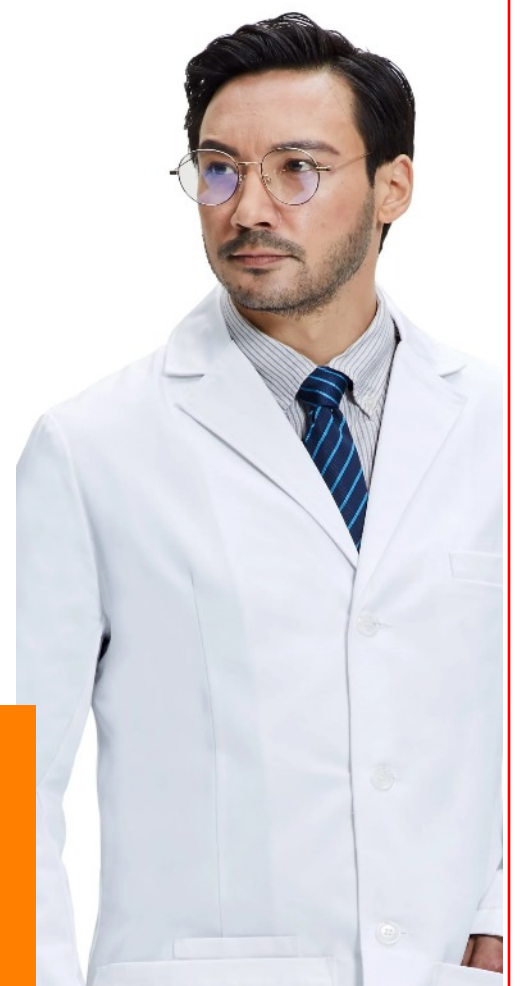
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FUNDRAISING Gala event

Some deserving students will be the benefactors of an upcoming 22 Division Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) Scholarship/Bursary Fundraising Gala.

The inaugural Gala will take place on September 14 at the Markland Wood Golf Club to support a Future Leaders Student Scholarship Bursary (FLSSB) their newest, and much needed, community outreach initiative. The goal is to raise \$10,000 through ticket sales and a silent auction during the event. In attendance will be members of the Toronto Police Services, politicians from all levels of government, corporate members from 22 Division and members of the public.

The CPLC is made up of volunteers and police representatives from 22 Division. It reflects our community and tasked with establishing and maintaining a meaningful community and police partnership through community outreach.

Starting in 2025, funds from this scholarship bursary will be used to provide financial support to a number of graduating high school students in 22 Division for their next level of education.

Recipients will be awarded based on financial need, academic merit and community involvement.

For those who want to donor, volunteer, obtain tickets and other information can e-mail co-chair@22divisioncplc.ca or visit www.22DivisionCPLC.ca



22 DIVISION OFFICERS hand out bicycles to a group of eager children (top) as some kids and parents just love horses at a community day. Staff photos.



Some South Etobicoke families had a chance to bond with officers from 22 Division and other services at a community meet and greet.

The 3rd Annual 22 Division Community Summer festival was held on August 10 at the Bloordale United Church, on Bloor Street W.

A number of lucky youngsters received free bicycles collected by police from the public and were shown proper riding techniques.

Members of the Fire Services, Paramedics and other services were at the festival showing off their gear.

One of the more popular attractions was the Mounted Unit which drew the attention of most of the children, who wanted to pet the well-trained horses.

Police said bicycles are being accepted at 22 Division and will be distributed to children in need.

Inspector Jeff Bangild said officers are seeking feedback so they can better serve the community.

"It has been great interacting with the community and to listen to their concerns," said Bangild, who has been on the force for almost 30 years.

Female cyclist killed after being hit by car



A FEMALE cyclist is killed after being hit by a vehicle. She died in hospital days after from her injuries. Photo CBC.

A 26-year-old female cyclist has died after being hit by a vehicle in the Burnhamthorpe Road and Kipling Avenue area.

Police in a release said they responded to a call for a collision involving a cyclist around 8:19 p.m. on August 24.

Police wrote a woman, whose identity has not been released, was riding her bike, heading west on Burnhamthorpe when a 28-year-old man driving a 2019 Volkswagen Jetta heading the same direction, reportedly struck the cyclist.

The woman was taken to hospital with serious injuries. She died August 31 as a result of her injuries, the release said.

The investigation is ongoing by members of Traffic Services.

Police are asking local residents, business, and drivers, who may have security or dash camera footage of the area or incident, to contact investigators.

Cyclists are also urged to install lights on their bikes as the days get shorter with darkness sooner.

Riders of more powerful electric bikes, scooters and other forms of transport are also asked to watch of pedestrians.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 416-808-1900, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 416-222-TIPS (8477), or at www.222tips.com.

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Woman wins five medals at Transplant Games

New Toronto transplant athlete Jennifer Choo Chee is a proud five-time medal winner for sports. Jennifer would like to let the community know that she won three golds and two silver medals after competing in the 10th Canada Transplant Games that took place August 3 to August 9 in Ottawa. She won the medals for competing in bowling, petanque, swimming, table tennis and track and field. Jennifer, 62, was one of more than 120 organ recipients, living organ donors, deceased donor family members, and supporters competing at the Games, which was her third. She was on dialysis 15 years ago in desperate need of a kidney transplant, which she received in September 2008. Her 13th kidney transplant birthday was in 2021. Jennifer wears a number of hats and is a mom, wife, sister, kidney transplant recipient, former waitress, former Canadian soldier and athlete. She was also a former hospital secretary and president of the parents' council for her son's school. "I would like to thank the donor family for this kidney transplant because this allowed me to see my son grow up to be an adult and to do a lot of exciting activities with my husband," the athlete said.



JENNIFER WITH some of her five medals (above) that she won in the recent 10th Canada Transplant Games. Courtesy photos.

For more than 15 years she was diagnosed with depression until she spoke to her family. She's now living life to the fullest with husband Steve, her son Jonathan, and dog, Jas. The event is the premiere celebration of sport for transplant recipients from across the country. It brings together hundreds of transplant recipients aged from 4 to 74 and their supporters to 'celebrate their second chance at life' and showcase the power of organ donation. Some of the sporting events includes: bowling, track and field, cycling, road race, tennis, badminton, golf, lawn bowling and swimming. There are also social events as the opening ceremonies, family picnic and gala and a donor family walk.



FIVE MEDAL WINS for a proud athlete Jennifer Choo Chee.



JENNIFER WITH MP James Maloney at a beadonor.ca event.



It is turtle hatching time again. Nature lovers may see in area parks square wire turtle cages installed on the ground in certain places by a group called the Turtle Protectors to keep baby turtles safe. The group posted a photo of the turtle cages on social media to alert park users. This one is placed near a path leading to Marine Parade Drive.

"We are keeping an eye on it," group members warned, adding the endangered turtles can be eaten or killed by predators as they try to make their way from their nests to water or swamp.

An array of community volunteers gently remove the babies from the cages and take them to nearby ponds or swamps in a Born Free moment.

"As we approach turtle hatching time, the hatchlings in most of the protected nests are in danger when they emerge through the holes in the four sides of the frames because of the proximity to bike paths and roadway."

The post stated that most of the holes (in the cage) have now been covered but hatchlings sometimes become trapped under the frames.

"It is vital that any evidence of emerging hatchlings needs to be reported immediately to the Turtle Protectors' hotline - 647 491 4057," the group said.

There are eight species of turtles in Ontario, of those four are endangered species and four are of special concern. Some of the endangered species include the Spiny Softshell turtle, Spotted turtle, Wood turtle and the Blanding's turtle.



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Finding shelter for the many homeless in our community

The fate of 14 homeless people camped in a New Toronto parking lot is up in the air as City officials try to find them shelter before winter arrives. A meeting was held last month by City and social agency officials to determine what will happen to the group, some who have been living in tents since last winter in the parking lot of LAMP CHC, on Fifth Street. The City has a shortage of shelter beds for those who are homeless. Many may recall the hundreds of African nationals who were sleeping for months on downtown sidewalks due to packed shelters. This encampment, which some said includes a pregnant woman, claim that they are not making noise or problems with their neighbours. Some good-hearted residents, and local group Food for Now founded by David Lauzon, have been taking food and other goods to help the folks living in the tent city.



OFFICIALS ARE TRYING to find shelter beds for up to 14 people in a homeless encampment in a New Toronto parking lot (above, right). **Courtesy photos.**

Unless scarce City shelter beds can be found for some in this group, they are already gearing up for a cold winter. Pastor Jacqueline Daley, of St. Margaret New Toronto church, said many from the encampment visit her Sixth Street church on Sundays to have a meal, shower, do laundry and even recharge their phones.



“We try to help as many as we can on Sundays,” Daley said. “We are like them barely surviving ourselves due to a lack of resources.”

She said funding has been cut to help or provide services those who do not have a place to stay.

Meanwhile, residents in the Judson Street area said the encampment at Coronation Park seems to have been cleared out and garbage gone at that site, following complaints from people.



WHAT HAS BECOME everyday life at a community park. Some have more tents than others.



THERE IS SOMEONE under all the blankets sleeping on a sidewalk in the community.

Some members of the Judson Street community have been complaining about the mess and rodents in the area from leftover food items.



LIZ PORRITT (from left) with MP James Maloney, Carl and Shelley Porritt for their firm Royal LePage Porritt Real Estate receiving a GEMs Winners Award 2024 nomination and for Liz Porritt receiving a Michael O'Connor Thomson award last month for her commitment to the community. See story on Page 15. **Courtesy photo.**

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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. Established in 1999.

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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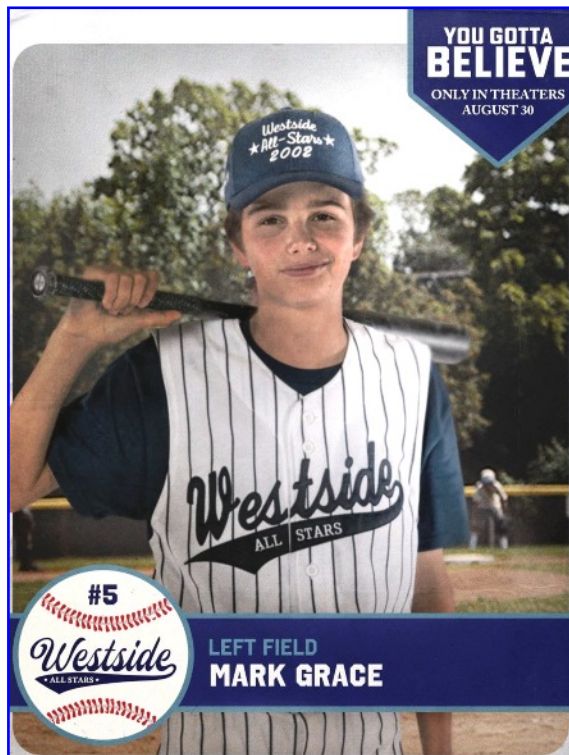
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Etobicoke actor in the opening of second movie



ETOBICOKE actor Scott MacKenzie in a scene from 'You Gotta Believe.' Courtesy photos.



LOCAL ACTOR Scott MacKenzie in a shot wearing the black armband in the movie which opened across North America on August 30. Some of the film was shot at Centennial Park and at locations across Ontario.

Aspiring Etobicoke actor and high school student Scott MacKenzie is busy these days. The teenager celebrated the opening of his second movie 'You Gotta Believe,' in Canada and the U.S. on August 30 in Dallas, Texas. He watched the

opening with friends and relatives at the Queensway Cineplex theatre. The flick about the trials and tribulations of players on a youth baseball team was filmed last June and July at Centennial Park and in locations across Ontario. "I had an absolute blast filming this movie last summer," said the Grade 11 student at Etobicoke Collegiate Institute. "It is a great story about community and determination. I can't wait for people to see it."

His love for acting started at the age of six when he first took to the stage in a local Christmas pageant. This is MacKenzie's first major motion picture. In it he plays left fielder, Mark Grace.

MacKenzie was previously featured in 'Christmas in Wolf Creek,' his first made-for-television movie.

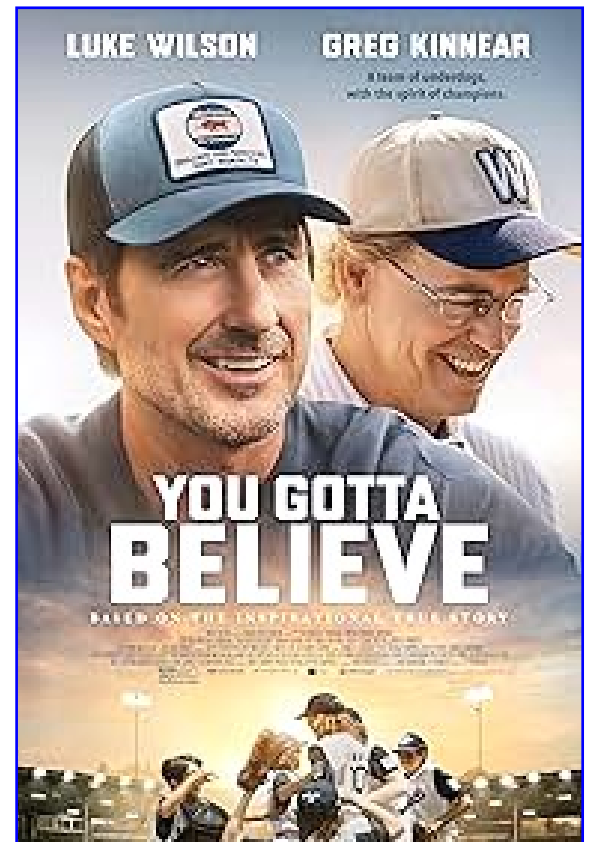
'You Gotta Believe' is a true story of hope and glory. In the movie, the team dedicated their season to a teammate's ailing father. The underdog youth baseball players

overcome and makes it all the way to the 2002 Little League World Series, culminating in a record-breaking showdown. It is a "triumph of the underdogs" father-son sports movie based on the true story of a last-place youth baseball team from Fort Worth, Texas, that went on to compete in the Little League World Series in 2002.

The movie is based on the inspiring story of one team's transformational journey from district underdog to taking its place in the Little League record books, according to its promotion. The film stars Greg Kinnear as coach Jon Kelly, Luke Wilson as co-coach Bobby Ratcliff, Director Ty Roberts, co-screenwriter Lane Garrison, and star Luke Wilson, all from Texas.

The movie shows a deep love of sports and of the people who play and coach, not to achieve any particular record but to show all who participate the best they can be and the best they can bring out in each other.

In between film duties, the Etobicoke native will be busy attending school.



A POSTER to promote the movie 'You Gotta Believe' with stars Luke Wilson and Greg Kinnear.

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Three homes to be demolished for towers



PLANS ARE UNDERWAY for a quiet residential area of Royal York Road at Queen Elizabeth Blvd., to build a 35 and 17 storey condo towers. (above, right).

City Council has delegated authority for this matter to Community Council and therefore, the decision is final.

This development, which will be near a major highway, will have a combined 967 residential units along with commercial, retail uses. It will offer a total of 1,000 square metres of non-residential floor area and 5,000 square metres of non-employment-industrial floor area.

The proposal includes 646.5 square metres of outdoor open space with frontage on Queen Elizabeth



Boulevard. The development would have a total gross floor area of 86,602 square metres.

The City in 2023 received a Zoning By-law Amendment application for 2, 7 and 10 Queen Elizabeth Boulevard, 506, 514, 516, 520 and 522 Royal York Road and 3, 5 and 15 Sinclair Street to permit a mixed-use development.

The plan was first refused and appealed that led to the demolition of the homes for space. Community residents have argued against the development claiming there will be too much noise and pollution as the development is near one of Canada's busiest highway.

The developer has to install a fence around the demolition project, remove the garbage and plant grass after the project is completed.

It was just a matter of time.

Three detached homes on Royal York Road, at Queen Elizabeth Blvd., in Mimico, are being demolished soon to begin construction of a massive three high-rise condo complex. Etobicoke York Community Council approved the demolition of 514, 520 and 522 Royal York Road, at the Gardiner Expressway, to make way for a 35-storey, 17 storey and mixed use buildings seven and nine-storey podiums. The item was considered by Community Council last July 15 and was adopted with amendments.



AT LEAST THREE homes next to the site will have to be demolished and levelled after decades for the development.



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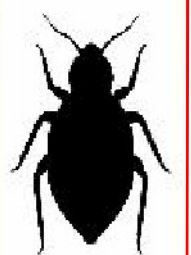
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Celebrating Jean Augustine 87 birthday



FORMER MP JEAN AUGUSTINE is a very busy woman as she turns 87.

One of the icons of our community Jean Augustine is turning 87 this month.

Jean plans to have a big party to mark the occasion. And she has many friends who would like to attend.

The former 13-year MP for Etobicoke Lakeshore is described as a Canadian legend, and was the first Black woman to be elected to Parliament, under Prime Minister Jean Chretien. She introduced a motion which was passed to recognize February as Black History Month to the House of Commons in 1995. She was sworn in as an MP in 1993.

A former high school principal, she had long and successful career working in education, government, and social causes.

An activist, Jean devoted herself to making improvements in society and sought out others in the community who she could work with to push for causes together.

She is the founder of the Jean Augustine Centre for the

Young Women's Empowerment that has helped hundreds of teens with life and to become better persons. The Centre, on Portland Street, celebrated its 10th anniversary this year.

The Centre has a variety of free courses from culinary classes to financial literacy to leadership and to STEM. There is a focus on helping girls succeed by way of community, mentorship, and self-development and provides an opportunity for them to learn, build relationships and gain confidence together.

Jean has contributed to many milestones in Canadian history: such as the founding of the Toronto Caribbean Carnival in 1967; she was the National President of the Congress for Black Women of Canada in 1987; Chair of the Metro Toronto Housing Authority in 1988 and Ontario's first Fairness Commissioner.

She the recipient of several Honorary Degrees and hundreds of awards, including the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and being appointed to the Order of Canada and Order of Ontario.

Her legacy continues with the school and parks bearing her name and mostly from serving our community. Thank you Jean and hope that you see more birthdays to come.



FORMER MP JEAN AUGUSTINE IN FRONT of her namesake park, at 2115 Lake Shore Blvd. W.

Huge fine for polluting the Etobicoke Creek



A Mississauga fuel-supply company has been fined \$100,000 for leaking diesel fuel into the fish-bearing Etobicoke Creek.

The firm, that has not been identified, was fined by the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on August 16 after pleading guilty to an offence under the Fisheries Act.

The company plead guilty in relation to the unlawful deposit diesel fuel into fish-bearing waters from February 7 to March 5, 2019, according to a release from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). The fine will go to an Environmental Damages Fund. The ECCC said on February 8, 2019, enforcement officers responded to complaints relating to a diesel fuel spill in Etobicoke Creek.

"Officers conducted an inspection at the company's diesel fuel station on Dixie Road in Mississauga," the release explained. "During the inspection, officers observed diesel fuel entering Etobicoke Creek, a body of water frequented by fish."

Water samples were collected and an order issued to the company requiring them to stop the release and prevent any further deposits to Etobicoke Creek.

The agency through laboratory analysis determined the samples contained diesel, a 'substance that is deleterious to fish.'

An investigation found that poor maintenance of the on-site-oil-water separator led to a system failure which allowed diesel fuel to be discharged through the storm sewer into Etobicoke Creek.

The court ordered the company's name to be added to an Environmental Offenders Registry, which contains information on convictions of corporations registered for offences committed under certain federal environmental laws.

The federal government said it is committed to protecting the health, safety, and environment of Canadians. The ECCC enforces the laws that protect the air, water, and natural environment in Canada.

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LIFE'S UNDERTAKING a podcast

Brad Jones, the funeral director believes this spring we're all travelling toward new beginnings and positive potentials. You can listen to Life's Undertaking Podcast wherever you listen. You may even hear a story or two about his Purple and Yellow VW Camper.

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Krispy Kreme doughnut factory cater to fans from across city

One of the world's largest doughnut shop Krispy Kreme is draped with balloons and has been open in Mimico for several days and already business is brisk. The location at 2458 Lake Shore Blvd. W., is the 17th in the Toronto area and is part of a global company with 14,000 stores in 39 countries around the world. The company is more than three times larger than Tim Hortons, which has 4,000 locations in Canada.



DISTRICT MANAGER PERMJIT MAHAR with April Webster, of events 365.ca outside the just opened Krispy Kreme in Mimico.

from all over Toronto and Mississauga." He said the company looked at a number of locations before choosing Mimico. "We looked at a lot of locations until we found this one," Mahar said. "It was a perfect area for the accessibility of people." There has been great support from area businesses and residents in general. He said his company is active in the community and work with local group in raising funds for charity.



PERMIT MAHAR (front) with his proud staff on the opening of the Krispy Kreme's 17th store in the Toronto area. Photos by Suzie Basheir.

District Manager Permjit Mahar said the Mimico location opened on August 27 and will be open seven days a week.

The facility employs about 90 employees, most who live in the Mimico area.

The store is an actual factory that prepares and bakes about 480,000 tasty Krispy Kreme doughnuts every day that are sold retail or shipped to other stores in its chain. "We have had a good turnout and support from the community," Mahar said. "We have people coming



Founder Vernon Rudolph opened his first Krispy Kreme shop in the 1930s and from there built a corporation which he led until his death in the early 1970s. His dream was continued by others after his death. Visit the company at www.krispykreme.ca

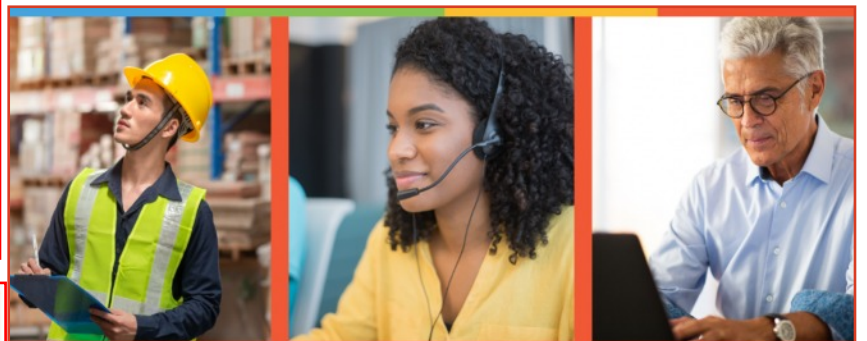
The Canadiana Grill keeps busy with its regular customers

The Canadiana Grill co-owners John, George and dad Pete Poulakos are busy serving mostly returning diners on the Mimico Avenue strip. "We have our regulars who come in every day," says John. "There are a lot of people who are repeat customers." The property at 2454 Lake Shore Blvd. W., at Mimico Avenue, was a service station in the 1950s and 1960s and later converted to a coffee shop, then restaurant.

John said there are no plans to apply for an Ontario licence to serve beer and wines starting this month since the restaurant does not sell booze. But, Mimico residents love their food, which is affordable. The family is pleased that a new 34-storey condo tower has been almost approved for construction across the street and a Krispy Kreme doughnut factory beside them as the places will attract new business. "We hope will be get some new customers," John said. "There will be a lot of potential when the condo is opened for residents." The restaurant will be introducing a new home-made burger in a couple weeks and the most popular meals includes meatloaf and chicken souvlaki is the most popular.



CANADIANA GRILL Co-owner John Poulakos (left) take a break with co-worker Andy outside the popular Mimico restaurant.



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More bike lanes as Parkside Drive on the list



RESIDENTS AND MOTORISTS have mixed feelings about planned dedicated bike lanes on Parkside Drive, as they do with the lanes on Bloor St. W. **Courtesy photos.**

Many area residents are not happy with a plan by the City to install bike lanes on busy Parkside Drive citing gridlock caused by the lanes on Bloor Street W. There is a plan to revamp Parkside Drive to include bike lanes with barriers, wider sidewalks, separate left-turn lanes, and reducing lanes from four to two; one in each direction.

Still, others worry the changes will divert more traffic onto side streets, and create more traffic on a route that people take to Lake Shore Blvd. and the Gardiner Expressway. There has been mixed reaction on social media about the impending bike lanes. Some people note cyclists have also taken over High Park since traffic have been banned.

Others said speed bumps or other options can be installed to slow traffic down. Some support of the idea of bike lanes before the street is fully reconstructed and congested.

One said Parkside is the only direct route to the highway in the west end with other streets in the area including High Park being more cycling and walking friendly.

Many walkers have been complaining about the high rate of speed of cyclists.



MORE PEOPLE ARE taking to cycling to work or conduct chores with the high price of gas and traffic congestion.

A report by the City calls for the roadway to be reconfigured, upgraded and 'support multi-modal travel options.'

Many motorists and small business owners complain the bike lanes and lane reduction on Bloor Street W., causes traffic congestion and loss of business.

Plans are also underway to install bike lanes on The Queensway to downtown linking with the Martin Goodman Trail.

Eventually the bicycle lanes will link most places in Toronto reducing lanes of traffic in an already congested city.

Police warn many motorists speed along Parkside Drive and an automated roadside camera there is one of the busiest in the City issuing thousands of tickets monthly.

There have also been many traffic accidents, including fatal, that have occurred on that strip of road due to speeding.

Small businesses the winners at annual Gem awards

By **TANYA VIVIDLY**



TANYA at the Gems

One of the end of summer's social event The Gems Award was a splendid affair that was held on August 20 at the Mimico Cruising Club in the Humber Bay Shores area.

The packed event was presented by MP James Maloney and his team.

The crowd was a mixture of small to mid-sized business owners, guests and community members.

Our group were guests and it was great to see other honorees who included former MP Jean Augustine, who is celebrating her 87th birthday this month; Vanessa Chiara from Holy Cannoli and David Lauzon from Food for Now.

The Micheal O'Connor Thompson Award winners included Peter Bulut Jr., of Great Lakes Brewery, the Daily Bread Food Bank's Neil Hetherington, and Liz Porritt, of Royal LePage Porritt real estate.

Other categories included favourite retail business, event venue, service business, new business and non-profit. Some businesses that received honourable mention or plaques included Bell Telephone Historic event space, Mangoes Caribbean restaurant in Mimico and Moonshine Gaming, in Long Branch.

The event was a great time and we enjoyed ourselves. MP Maloney and his team did an awesome job.

Also a special thanks to the Business Improvement Areas (BIA' s) in Mimico, Kingsway, Islington, Lake Shore Village and Long Branch for making the evening possible.

In my opinion this is what community building looks like. Celebrate our gems.



James MALONEY

Member of Parliament for Etobicoke-Lakeshore

GEMs Winners 2024!

Each year I run the GEMs Awards, now in their 21st year. Residents nominate favourite businesses and service organizations that go above and beyond in making our community special. All nominees are GEMs, but our 2024 winners stood out. Congratulations!



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Daniel Lauzon - Food for Now

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MICHAEL O'CONNOR THOMPSON AWARD

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City is hiring part-timers

Province provides funding to help with retraining of in-demand fields



IF YOU ARE SEARCHING for a part-time job you may want to check out the City website as they are hiring for winter recreation positions.

Approximately 5,000 employees were needed during the Winter 2024 season to support community recreation programs. The City of Toronto is consistently one of Greater Toronto's Top Employers, as well as one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers. . To learn about available winter recreation positions and other after-school programs, visit jobs.toronto.ca/recr

Some workers are receiving training for in-demand careers in the area due to funds from the province. The Ontario government has invested more than \$1.2 million to train workers in Etobicoke-Lakeshore for in-demand careers. The project – Elevating Opportunities and Advancement for Marginalized Apprentices – is designed to build valuable network of wrap-around supports for workers in the construction industry. The funding will also help serve marginalized and vulnerable youth in a new partnership.



MPP CHRISTINE HOGARTH with members of a PTP Adult Learning and Employment Program in the Etobicoke Lakeshore riding. Courtesy photo.

“Giving young people pathways to meaningful employment is a top priority for our government,” said MPP Christine Hogarth. “We are glad to be delivering programs that will prove to be life-changing.” The Fund will give marginalized and vulnerable youth the opportunity to develop the skills they need to build rewarding careers,” said Hogarth. Since its launch in 2021, the fund has helped connect more than 500,000 jobseekers with the skills and training they need to find well-paying and fulfilling careers close to home. The program has supported more than 700 training projects across the province. Some 420,000 participants are expected to be from an under-represented group as women, youth, persons with disabilities, racialized groups and Indigenous. Nearly 219,000 jobs are going unfilled across the province, according to a release.

The City of Toronto is actively hiring thousands of students and adults for part-time winter recreation positions. The City is looking to fill employment opportunities in ski, skate, snowboard, indoor swim, fitness, sports, arts and after-school programs this winter.

Additional job postings for winter recreation will continue to be added in the coming weeks! For tips on how to apply and get hired, visit the City's website.

Part-time winter recreation jobs help local students, adults and seniors build leadership skills, gain experience and prepare for future job skills and training. The City is the largest employer of students in the city, with thousands of good jobs at fair wages available for anyone seeking part-time employment. Each year, as Toronto's largest recreation program provider, the City employs approximately 9,000 recreation workers.



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New piece of public art to feature people and flame on Lake Ontario

A stunning new piece of public artwork is coming this month to entertain art and nature lovers at Humber Bay Shores. A beautiful piece by Michael Belmore and Herman Mejia will be installed near Humber Bay Shores plaza, between the recreational trail and the waterfront, according to the City.

The artwork, which will cost the City \$485,000, will be 12 feet tall and made of Corten and stainless steel.

“An Indigenous-led project, the new public artwork will be an iconic waterfront landmark and gathering place,” according to a note from Councillor Amber Morley’s office. The installation of the large artwork will occur in two phases: the concrete foundation will be poured this month and left to cure. The installation of the sculpture will take place over ten days this month.

Construction hoarding will block off approximately 85 square metres for the installation to occur safely and pedestrian access along the walkways will not be interrupted.

After installation, mediation and landscaping will occur at the end of the month.



A STUNNING NEW piece of art is being installed on the lake front at Humber Bay Shores. The work when completed will cost \$485,000 and will be 12-feet tall. The piece, dubbed The Flame, was created by artists Herman Mejia and Michael Belmore. will be installed near the plaza.

The sculpture is similar to the outline of a flame, which sits in a grassy area with a cityscape in the background.

Residents said they welcome the artwork and cannot wait to see what it looks like with the city in the background.

City staff said the Indigenous-led project will be a waterfront landmark and gathering place.

A selection panel of artists and community members awarded the commission to Belmore and Mejia, who will produce the new public artwork, which represents a campfire, through community engagement with local youth.

The sculpture is an Indigenous-led project and the finished public artwork will be a landmark and gathering place.



In the Community

By TOM GODFREY

The entire community is reeling in shock and we send our condolences to the grieving families in Alderwood who are suffering the tragic loss of two caring and well-loved women.

Many people knew, loved and had relationships with the 82-year-old and 60-year-old women whose lifeless bodies were found in the Silvercrest and Sheldon Avenues home around 1 p.m. on August 23 in broad daylight.

The older woman was known as a grandmother, daughter and devoted family member. She was well-respected and described as “tiny” and “lovely lady” who would often sit on her porch. She loved attending church.

“It’s tragic. It’s unbelievable,” one neighbour said. She has been living in the neighbourhood for decades. “She was a sweetheart.”

The younger woman was a sister and both were beloved members of the church and a tightly-knit community, where there are many family members. Many of the residents attend St. Ambrose Catholic Church, near Brown’s Line and Evans Avenue.

Police have been searching from the air, water and land for a relative Joseph Ayala, 33, for the second-degree murder of the women. They are warning the public not to approach him and instead call 911 if he’s seen.

The quiet residential area with many mature trees is silent today as neighbours mourn the loss of an entire family, who had been living there for years. They cannot believe the sorrow and violent bloodshed that has struck their street.

Toronto Police officers had, until a few days ago, the small home on the tidy street sealed off with police tape as residents joined passer-bys and motorists to slow down to watch the crime scene.

A large police forensics truck was parked on the street as officers went back and forth into the home to gather evidence search of clues.

A police grid lock search of the community for Ayala has not been fruitful so far. Residents complain that the suspect suffered from mental health challenges and may have not been taking his medicines.

Some Alderwood residents remember Ayala walking on Brown’s Line dressed in his usual cowboy gear with the hat, boots and other clothing. Others have seen him pan-handling outside No Frills, on Lake Shore Blvd. W.

We grieve for all the families and those in the Sheldon and Silvercrest Avenues as the incident has changed the entire Alderwood community.

Our local church will be packed filled with grieving community members for a funeral service and the women and their family will be forever be remembered and prayed for.



THE ALDERWOOD double murder scene that was sealed off by police and the suspect Joseph Ayala below.



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

As schools open, we close our gardens this season. When we put our garden to bed what are the best steps to follow? What does it mean 'put our garden to bed'?

If you're like me, an avid gardener and plant lover, you resist closing up your garden as long as possible. You hope the extended Indian summer will linger well into November. Just like a reluctant 10 year old shuffling his feet to the school bus on the first day of school, I scratch my head in disbelief looking at September on the calendar. I sip coffee on the back porch and admire vibrant beds of purple Echinaceas, yellow Coneflowers and tall Goldenrods.

Did you know that Indian Summer, actually 'Second Summer', occurs after we have at least one kill frost (cold enough to kill most perennial growth) but also before the first snowfall. Ideally, a substantial period of normally cool weather precedes this warm spell.

There are a number of plants that are best harvested during Second summer, such as Rosehips, Horseradish Root, Echinacea Root and Seed (Cultivated only), Burdock Root, Dandelion Root, Pinion Pine Nuts, Chicory Root, Mountain Ash berries and Marshmallow Root.

Sun rising later, drifting further south makes the mornings cooler. It's inevitable. I can't avoid it much longer and take steps to prepare. As the kids scramble off to school, I walk the garden paths and formulate a plan. The basic steps to follow are simple. This four step guide for putting a garden to bed can be very similar to getting the kids ready for school.

Kids stock up on pencils, pens, crayons and paper. Similarly, you stock up on mulch, straw bales, seed collecting packets and string (for tying back branches and perennials). Mulch around your more sensitive perennials covering up your strawberry beds with straw and make sure to water all your trees thoroughly, before the cold weather hits and the ground freezes over. You can protect the roots all winter by watering well in the fall.

Collect and share is the next step for 'putting your garden to bed' (the term actually means cleaning up your garden and tucking all the 'sleepy plants' into a cozy warm slumber for the winter). As little Azra and Kieran bring their camp photos to their sharing circle, the diehard gardener is busy saving seeds all summer and well into the fall. Collecting seeds and cuttings from his favourite plants, flowers, vegetables, getting them ready, all packed up dried and ready for a good

seed swap at a garden meet up. In the fall, sharing (plants and seeds) really is caring!

Lastly, get warm clothes for back to school. Stock up on sweaters, warm clothes, hats, mittens for wind protection on those long walks to school. Does anyone walk to school anymore? Is that a thing of the past? Anyway, as Gigi and Olie need their fall sweaters, so does your garden. Especially sensitive plants like Mediterranean herbs and perennials may need extra protection from the cold winds of winter. Did you know that snow is a very good protector for plants over the winter? It guards against wind burn and wind damage. With the drastic changes in our climate, snow fall is less and less predictable. Therefore, you better wrap young shrubs and bushes (such as roses) and small evergreens, like cedars, with burlap or protective cloth so that they're warm and cosy in their own sweaters, just like the kids.

Bonus tip. The tradition of back to school haircuts was a big thing (maybe it still is?) As kids get all spruced up, look fresh with a new look, so can your garden and the same tradition holds true. Give your garden a 'haircut'; ok maybe just a trim. Before the cold winds make you hide by the fire on a comfy sofa, cut back deadwood, clean up withered perennials and remove damaged or diseased leaves on overgrown plants. Your garden will be freshened up and ready for spring. Leave only healthy stalks on perennials as homes for insects to winter over and seed heads for wildlife 'recess' snacks.

One more way to clean up and tidy your garden is to keep growing your favourites indoors. Pot up plants that are sensitive to frost and keep them indoors. These plants may include: zinnias, marigolds, basil, rosemary, geraniums, parsley, thyme and even calendula. I had a happy parsley grow all winter long in a sunny window. Like kids starting a new class every September, trying out these methods and garden tips is a process. They don't work the same for everyone. Do your best to keep your garden clean, covered and settle in for a season of indoor learning.

"The heat of autumn is different from the heat of summer. One ripens apples, the other turns them to cider." - Jane Hirshfield, *The Heat of Autumn*

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Retired Judge Speaks

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI



Growing up in Long Branch in the early 1950s was like living in a storybook, much like the whimsical tales of Stephen Leacock.

Long Branch was a quaint village on the outskirts of Toronto, a former resort town known for its charming cottages and serene beaches. My family moved there

when I was just three years old, and it quickly became the backdrop of my childhood adventures.

The heart of our small community was the grand hotel by the lake, with its outdoor dance floor and music pavilion. Every summer evening, the air would be filled with the sounds of laughter and music as couples danced under the stars.

The hotel was more than just a place to stay; it was the social hub of Long Branch, where locals gathered for events and celebrations.

One of the most anticipated events of the year was the annual Halloween contest organized by the hotel and local merchants. It was a time when creativity and community spirit shone brightly.

For three consecutive years, I won third prize in the contest, thanks to my mother's ingenuity and resourcefulness. She made me a brown skirt out of dried sugar bags and a sheet sewn with maple leaves from our two large trees out front. I went as a tree, and later, I wore a bushel basket as a skirt and covered my top with a sheet adorned with leaves, transforming into a bushel of leaves. These costumes were a testament to my mother's creativity and the close-knit nature of our community.

Life in Long Branch was simple yet filled with memorable moments. The village was small, and everyone knew each other. Our days were spent exploring the beaches, playing in the parks, and riding our bikes along the quiet streets. The sense of freedom and adventure was palpable, and every day brought new discoveries.

When I was about eight years old, a loud explosion woke us in the middle of the night. It was the Silver Star Grill, a beloved local eatery, that had blown up just past midnight. The entire village seemed to turn out to watch the fire, their faces illuminated by the flickering flames. It was a terrifying yet mesmerizing sight, and the sense of community was stronger than ever as neighbours checked on each other and shared stories of the event for years to come.

The local merchants played a significant role in our lives. There was Mr. Thompson, the friendly grocer who always had a smile and a kind word for everyone. Mrs. Jenkins ran the bakery, and the aroma of freshly baked bread and pastries would waft through the air, drawing us in like a magnet. The corner store, run by the elderly Mr. and Mrs. Patel, was a treasure trove of candies and treats that we eagerly spent our pocket money on.

School was a short walk from home, and the teachers were more than just educators; they were mentors and friends. Miss Anderson, my third-grade teacher, had a knack for making learning fun. She would often take us on nature walks, teaching us about the local flora and fauna. Her passion for teaching left a lasting impression on me and many of my classmates.

Summers were a time of endless fun. We would spend our days swimming in the lake, building sand castles on the beach, and having picnics with our families. The annual summer fair was a highlight, with its colourful rides, games, and delicious food. It was a time when the entire village came together to celebrate, and the memories of those carefree days still bring a smile to my face.

As I grew older, Long Branch began to change. The once quiet village started to see more development, and the cottages were gradually replaced by modern homes. The hotel, which had been the center of our community, eventually closed down, and the outdoor dance floor and music pavilion became a distant memory. But the spirit of Long Branch, the sense of community and togetherness, remained strong.

One of the most exciting changes came when my parents decided to open a fish and chips store next to our house on 33rd Street. They named it "The Boulevard," and it quickly became a local favorite.

Every Friday, we would count the number of pails of potatoes sold, and it wasn't long before we realized we were selling 40 pails each week. This made The Boulevard the second busiest fish restaurant in Toronto. The success of the store brought our family closer together and became a source of pride for us and the community.

Looking back, growing up in Long Branch was a unique and enriching experience. It was a time of innocence and simplicity, where the bonds of friendship and community were cherished.

The memories of those days are etched in my heart, and they continue to shape who I am today. Long Branch may have changed over the years, but the essence of that small village by the lake will always be a part of me.

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



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Local homeowners clean up homes after heavy rain causes major floods



HOME AND PROPERTY owners are still drying and cleaning up after last month's floods, including in our community. Courtesy photos.

The storm and flooding last month led to many peoples' homes being flooded, including many residents in the South Etobicoke area. Nine next door homes had their basements flooded which caused major drywall and other damages in the Judson Street and Harold Street area, near Royal York Road.

The stressed-out homeowners are still cleaning up and repairing damage or dealing with insurance companies to restore their homes, which they claim were built on a river bed.

"I believe something went terribly wrong with this underground waterway on July 16th," said long-time resident Al Moyseuk. "I believe the catch basin has been compromised and led or added to this tragedy."

He said the residents have been seeking help from City officials with little luck. He took photos of the flood and damage to circulate to officials.

"The water was flowing like the Niagara River going over the Falls," Moyseuk wrote. "The water continued to flow continuously even after the rain and flooding stopped."

Resident Dan Irwin said his basement was flooded with almost a foot of water. "Most of it has dried out now but there is drywall and other damages and it's inevitable it will happen again," said Irwin, who estimates it will cost about \$40,000 to rebuild and replace.



EMERGENCY WORKERS helping to rescue others in the raging waters.

Local Housing Co-op residents raise funds and food for needy



VOLUNTEERS at the Daily Bread Food Bank who are helping so many in the community. Residents of the William Punnett Housing Co-op (below) raised food and funds to help them out.

Residents of the William Punnett Housing Co-op (WPHC) are holding a food and cash-raising drive on August 31 in support of the Daily Bread Food Bank to help those in need.

The Co-op, at 3077 Lake Shore Blvd. W., is where the Goodyear Tire plant once stood between Kipling and Islington Avenues. The residents of the 99 apartment and 29 townhouse units, were rallying to raise 500 pounds of food and \$500 to support the food bank. "One of our seven core principles is concern for community, and we are very

concerned about our neighbours ability to eat regular healthy meals and keep a roof over their heads," said Sue-Ellen Patcheson, an organizer, in a release. She said housing affordability and rising grocery prices are having a very dire effect on food bank usage.

Patcheson said there were over 350,000 visits to a Toronto food bank in one month alone and record amounts of people are using them.

A local blues band "Blue Dog Rodeo" was slated to perform. There were raffles for prizes provided by local merchants, and fresh corn on the cob available. For more information email friendsofwilliampunnettcoop@gmail.com.



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Looking after yourself and others in the community

SEPTEMBER 4 TO OCTOBER 5 QUANTUM OF BEAUTY at Assembly Hall, 1 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive. Open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This exhibition is by The Westway Artists Group. A reception will take place on September 5 at 6 p.m. For more phone 416-338-7255 or visit www.toronto.ca

SEPTEMBER 7 FAMILY EXTRAVAGANZA at Franklin Horner Community Centre, 423 Horner Avenue, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Once again Royal LePage Porritt Real Estate is sponsoring a bouncy castle. Fun activities for all.

SEPTEMBER 11 IS LAST DATE to get your order in for the *Tree for Free* giveaway. Pre-register and order from 12 different trees for pick up on September 14 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Colonel Sam Smith Park, at Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Kipling Avenue. Unclaimed trees will be given away for walk-ups at 12:45 p.m. For more information visit www.lbna.ca

SEPTEMBER 12 TO OCTOBER 31 2SLGBTQ+ family planning on Thursdays at 6 p.m. at LAMP CHC, 185 Fifth Street, facilitated by Dr. Rachel Epstein, will explore practical, emotional, social, and legal issues when thinking about becoming a parent, pregnancy, adoption, co-parenting and surrogacy, parenting with a partner, with one or more co-parents, or as a solo parent. To register email WillIR@lampchc.org

SEPTEMBER 12 MIMICO GO STATION TOWN HALL meeting from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Zoom and at the Mimico Station Library, 47 Station Road, to discuss the twice-suspended "Grand Central Mimico" development and options for moving the project forward. Event by Mimico Residents Association and the South Etobicoke Community Land Trust.

SEPTEMBER 13 EATONVILLE CARE CENTRE'S all day Community Day event in the courtyard as vendors and local businesses connect with residents to showcase their services to the community at 420 The East Mall or call 416-621-8000.

SEPTEMBER 14 TREE FOR FREE get your order in and pick up from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Col. Samuel Smith Park, at Kipling Ave. and Lake Shore Blvd. W. A number of native trees available including Ontario's official tree the White Pine. For more info email trees40@lbna.ca.

SEPTEMBER 14 ETOBICOKE MASTER GARDENERS Annual Fall Plant Sale from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 6 Kingsway Crescent. Free advice clinic, native plants, herbs and more. For more visit www.etobikokemastergardeners.ca

SEPTEMBER 15 ETOBICOKE TERRY FOX RUN for cancer research at West Deane Park from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lots of fun for all ages with live music, face painting, a bouncy castle, BBQ and more. For more email s.sprenger@rogers.com

SEPTEMBER 19 MEET THE MAYOR at LAMP CHC's 47th Annual General Meeting at the Assembly Hall, at Humber College, at 6:30 p.m. There will be a keynote speech by Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow at 7:30 p.m. For more e-mail anthonya@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 246.

SEPTEMBER 22 SIXTH ANNUAL LONG BRANCH TREE FESTIVAL sponsored by the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association and City from 12 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Marie Curtis Park for fun, bring your family and have learn about trees. There will be vendors, food booths, live music and historical walks. For more visit www.lbna.ca

SEPTEMBER 25 BBQ for welcome back affordable housing movement at LAMP CHC, 185 Fifth Street. For more e-mail anthonya@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 246.

30 PLUS WOMEN'S PILATES on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. at LAMP CHC, 185 Fifth Street, child-minding can be provided. If you seek more info e-mail FatimaA@lampchc.org

HEART HEALTHY COOKING on Tuesdays at 12 p.m. at LAMP CHC, 185 Fifth Street. Learn easy and affordable methods of cooking heart-healthy food. For more information e-mail FatimaA@lampchc.org

SENIORS GENTLE EXERCISE on Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Stonegate CHC, Trillium Room, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, Unit 201, with a registered kinesiologist who will lead the group with exercises to increase strength, balance and flexibility. To register call 416-243-0127

SENIORS SOCIAL GAME GROUP for adults 55 and older last Friday of each month from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, Unit 201, to play euchre, dominos, Uno, bridge and more. Light lunch served. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or e-mail health.promotion@stonegatechc.org.

FREE DRUMMING WORKSHOPS on Fridays at 2 p.m. and then free Latin Dancing at 4 p.m. at LAMP CHC, 185 Fifth Street. No partner or experience required for any of the activities. For more e-mail NikiM@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 246.

THE GOOD FOOD MARKET every Thursday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, second floor, for affordable produce. Bring your own bags and cash or debit accepted. For more call 416-231-7070 ext. 307.

TORONTO POLICE 22 DIVISION officers are collecting gently used bicycles that can be given to local kids without one. Bikes in good condition can be taken to the Division at 3699 Bloor St. W. or contact Community Officer Anthony Alexander at 416-808-2200.

OCTOBER 5 MABELLE park public launch set for Oct. 5 at 2 p.m., with Nuit Blanche programming expected in the evening. The Dundas Street W. and Islington Avenue area park has undergone a unique revitalization project. MABELLEarts said it's the first park in the country designed by and for a low-income community. ABELLEarts is located at 5005 Dundas Street West. Contact 416 239 4900.

SEPTEMBER 7 & OCTOBER 5 HIGH PARK ACCESS FOR ALL rally meet at the Bloor gate at 11 a.m. and bring signs. High Park has been closed to vehicles on weekends and statutory holidays and plans are

underway to close the park to cars permanently. Thousands have signed a petition to have City Hall revisit the matter to allow disabled, mobility challenged, seniors and others into the park free. Petition can accessed at www.change.org

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The Lakeshore Charitable Foundation sponsors about 500 students with books, some food and other classroom gear at three schools in the Philippines.



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Karaoke is popular and going strong in community venues



By **RON JAMIBSON**

In my last column, I wrote about how karaoke has been demonized by the musical community.

I wanted to write about the other side about how karaoke has a lot of benefits to offer both patrons and bar owners.

First, karaoke is almost the definition of audience engagement.

Members of the audience participate in the show. They ARE the show. Audience members will cheer and applaud – especially when the singer is very good. It is considered rude to jeer or boo. So, karaoke can also be supportive.

For people who love to sing in the shower, karaoke is a chance to test out their vocal skills in front of an audience.

It doesn't mean all karaoke singers are aspiring recording artists, but the applause provides feedback on how well they sing and can encourage them to try to sing more. Karaoke can be an opportunity to develop someone's vocal skills. These can include technical skills, such as how to use the microphone as well as discovering their vocal range and how to "project" their voices.

I rediscovered karaoke when I was invited to play in a classic rock band. Everyone in this band took a turn doing lead vocals and up until then, my vocal contribution amounted to the odd "oooo" or "aaahh" in the background (I just played guitar). So, this put some pressure on me to learn how to sing while playing guitar. At the same time, I was playing in a jam at the Rockpile and, during the summer, we played outdoors on the patio on Wednesday nights, which happened to coincide with karaoke



night inside the club. When I wasn't playing outside, I'd sometimes go inside to see what karaoke was all about.

But also, a couple of the karaoke singers wanted to try out singing with a live band.

We got to know each other and they suggested I try coming out for karaoke to

work on my singing.

They introduced me to the karaoke hostess and showed me how to select backing tracks – which ones were the best and which ones to avoid (karaoke tracks are produced by a variety of publishers)

Most importantly, I got coaching from my new friends on using the mic and a lot of encouragement along the way.

One of the things I found about karaoke was that I got exposed to a lot of songs I'd never heard before because each singer brings their own unique tastes to the bar.

I use karaoke to try out songs that I wanted to play guitar on as well as sing. This helped me get more familiar with the lyrics – which I never really had to get to know thoroughly when I just played guitar – as well as the key that worked best for me. It took me a while to build up enough songs that I could play guitar and sing that would represent a set for a band.

I learned which genres of music were good fits for my vocal skills and range and which were not. You can explore karaoke Sundays at The Rockpile, The Old Sod from 8 p.m. until midnight. The Long Branch Social House on Mondays from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.



THE ROCKPILE (above) is a popular spot as The Old Sod (below).

Etobicoke lacrosse and the tough battle for the Minto Cup

By **REJEAN CANTLON** - It was a mid-August night filled with anticipation and the 2024 Mimico Mountaineers had their backs against the wall - Game 6 of a best of seven series against the regular season champions, Orangeville Northmen leading 3 games to 2.

Do or die!

A victory before the packed home crowd would force the deciding game the following night up Highway 10, with the winner taking home the prestigious Iroquois Cup as the Jr. A Ontario lacrosse champions. The local boys didn't disappoint, staying alive Saturday with a wild 11-8 victory.

Nothing comes close to winning a provincial title.

Game 6 started out quick for the Mimico home team with captain, Finn Thomson scoring the opening goal and setting off the crowd into a frenzy within 30 seconds of the first face-off. From there, it was a back and forth battle with the teams coming to a near even heat after 2 periods of play.

The last period witnessed the urgency and hunger of the Mountaineers to bring the series to a final and deciding Game 7.



The team's defense was impenetrable along with tender, Nate Whitton standing on his head at times with the Northmen offense thinking nothing could surpass his mighty stature.

In the 3rd and final period, Angus MacDonnell, Justin Lee, Lucas Dudemaine, Finn Thomson and Mark Watters, all stepped up with high-light reel goals to help post the victory.

What a night for the Mimico home team

Unfortunately, the next night in Orangeville, the local boys dropped the series finale, 12-20 to a very formidable O'ville team.

Both squads have some the best-of-the-best players in the country and some imported talent from the U.S.

To be this good at this level these athle

tes have been honing their skills since the time that they could walk and hold a stick.

For some, it came so naturally that they looked like they were butterflies prior to releasing their punishing shots on net. For others, it was a craft that took time and many hours of hard work with persistence to compete at such a high level.

The Jr. A Mountaineers consisted of 24 elite players ages 17-21. The next level is pro, the National Lacrosse League (NLL).

This year's Mimico crop had 11 graduating 21 year-olds who had their last kick at the can to win the coveted Ontario championship.

Orangeville moves on compete for the national championship, the Minto Cup (Aug 17-25), which dates back to 1901. They will face off against the champions of Alberta, BC and the host city team, Coquitlam, The last time Mimico won the national championship was 73 years ago in 1951.



MINTO CUP

OBITUARY

Long-time New Toronto restaurateur Garnell and her food will be missed



RIP GARNELL

Many in the community are mourning the loss of Garnell Lorrain Henry, the long-time owner of a popular Caribbean food restaurant in New Toronto.

Garnell was a loving mother, sister, cousin, grandmother, and friend. She passed away on August 11 at the age of 55.

She was a source of boundless love and warmth to all who knew her. Her kind heart and vibrant spirit touched many lives, and her memory will be cherished by her family and friends.

Her legacy of affection and kindness will forever live on in the hearts of those who were fortunate to be part of her life.

Garnell worked hard at her restaurant to make it a success. Her delicious curry goat and rice and peas dishes will be missed by many in the community.

A service was held to pay tribute her life on August 30 at New Haven Funeral Centre, in Mississauga.

"She was a great lady and she will be missed," wrote Orchid Henry. "She fed our boys for over

20 years. We hold her ox tail and rice and peas as a standard of excellence for all others." "My heart is broken in pieces," said Tiney Beckles. "You fought to the end and I admire how strong you were and I am proud of you."

She is expected to be buried in Jamaica, her lovely homeland, which she was so proud of and often talked about.



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\$1,600,000



**510-1535 Lakeshore Rd E
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Congratulations to Liz Porritt on being awarded the Michael O'Connor Thompson Award 2024 for her dedication and commitment to our community.



Shelley Porritt, Broker of Record
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Congratulations
LIZ