

The South Etobicoke News

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Controversial bike lanes on Bloor St. W. may go

The controversial Bloor Street West bike lane and others that cause traffic congestion may soon be gone if Premier Doug Ford has his way.

Side-stepping municipal politicians Ford has introduced laws that prohibit future bike lanes; like those planned for Parkside Drive, The Queensway, Dundas Street W., and parts of Lake Shore Blvd. W.

Ford doesn't just plan to block the installation of new bike lanes in some cases but also to remove routes that have already

been built claiming they lead to "traffic in our cities to a standstill." Hundreds of South Etobicoke residents attended a meeting last month hosted by Councillor and Deputy Mayor Amber Morley. The gathering at Etobicoke Collegiate Institute consisted of vocal pro-and those who



THE BLOOR ST. W. BIKE LANE and others may be history if Premier Doug Ford has his way. The provincial government has tabled legislation if passed will halt the construction of new lanes.

are anti cycling. Small businesses on Bloor Street W. are complaining that their earnings have plummeted due to a lack of parking from the bike lanes. Store owners said their customers have to park blocks away which is hard for seniors or those with mobility issues.

"It isn't enough to keep an eye on future bike lanes," Ford told the Empire Club on October 17. "We need to and will remove and replace existing bike lanes on primary roads that are bringing traffic in our cities to a standstill."

The province has unveiled a plan to limit new bike lanes in Ontario's towns and cities by making municipalities demonstrate they won't negatively impact the flow of traffic on busy roads. The proposed law was tabled on October

21 and has authority to require" information on "an existing bike lane that previously removed a traffic lane" on a local road.

Mayor Olivia Chow and Morley are both cyclists and support more bike lanes.

Some help coming from City to help homeless

It looks like it can be a long, cold winter for the many homeless people living in tents or cars in the parking lot of a New Toronto social agency.

City of Toronto officials last month (OCT) addressed the homeless situation in a winter plan that would add 530 spaces to existing shelters, plus 218 spaces in four warming centres when temperatures reach -5 C or a winter-weather warning is issued.

The City also expects to open 286 new social housing units throughout the winter.

City staff and outreach workers warn the extra beds won't be enough to meet rising demand.

Some of those encamped at LAMP Community Health Centre, on Fifth Street, are gearing up for a second winter outside.



MANY OF THE HOMELESS in our community and City are readying for another winter outside sleeping in tents, vehicles or bus shelters as City politicians claim there is no more beds which are half-filled with refugee claimants and hundreds of people turned away nightly.

Councillor Alejandra Bravo said the City shelters accommodate about 12,200 people nightly, and more than 200 are turned away daily.

Outreach worker Greg Cook, of Sanctuary Toronto, said the city has failed to keep up with the soaring need for shelter and people are suffering.

"I'm really concerned for the hundreds and hundreds of people who can't access shelter right now who are stuck outside," he said.

Pastor Jaqueline Daley, of St. Margaret New Toronto church, said a number of local Out of the Cold programs have been shut leading people to sleep in parks, staircases or bus shelters.

Her church every Sunday provides hot meals to the homeless and an opportunity for them to do their

laundry, charge their devices and seek help on issues. There is also a free meal on Monday evenings provided by volunteers and Food For Now charity near First Street, in New Toronto.

There are also pockets of homeless in area parks like Coronation, Col. Samuel Smith or Marie Curtis Parks. Many pass their time in local restaurants or coffee shops.

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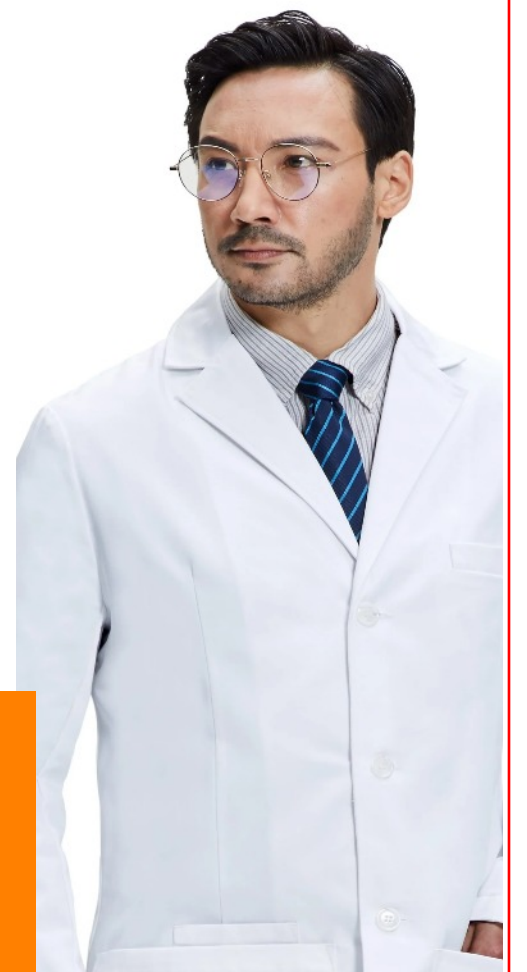
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Calls for more green less-polluting ambulances in our City fleet of vehicles



GREEN E-AMBULANCES (top, bottom) are being called for on the City's fleet.

The Toronto Paramedic Services (TPS) which has about 400 vehicles on the road is being called on by City officials to have a much greener fleet. City staff wants the TPS to purchase greener less-emission-producing ambulances and support vehicles in its upcoming purchases.

Moves for a greener fleet stems from an October 1 Climate Action report by the TPS Chief in response to a City General Government Committee and will be considered by City Council.

A motion requested the TPS explore the feasibility of purchasing zero-emission ambulance vehicles for future procurement and examine opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint of TPS operations.

The TPS said there are no suitable e-vehicles on the market to serve as ambulances and most of its carbon footprint stems from 45 stations it operates citywide. Paramedic officials said there are no electric ambulances that currently meet the Ministry of Health's stringent certification requirements for use in Ontario.

They provide paramedic care 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year. Its staff responds to more than 320,000 emergency calls yearly.

The fleet consists of 234 ambulances, 56 rapid response vehicles/supervisor vehicles, and 105 support vehicles. They said the TPS has installed green anti-idle systems and solar panels on all ambulances and is replacing end-

of-life combustion engine vehicles with electric, or hybrid vehicles.

"Toronto Paramedic Services continues to evaluate opportunities to green the fleet, including exploring electric ambulances that comply with the Ministry of Health's certification requirements," according to the report.

They said there are funds in their budget to support upgrades to reduce the program's carbon footprint. The report said since 2017 the TPS has installed photovoltaic solar panels in eight ambulance stations and Tesla batteries in two others.

"Work is underway to retrofit additional stations with technology that aids in reducing greenhouse gas emissions," the Services said. "TPS continues to examine further opportunities to reduce its carbon footprint." They are building a station in Scarborough that is targeting Zero Energy and Net Zero Carbon through a highly-insulated and airtight building, with high performance windows, triple glazing, well calibrated

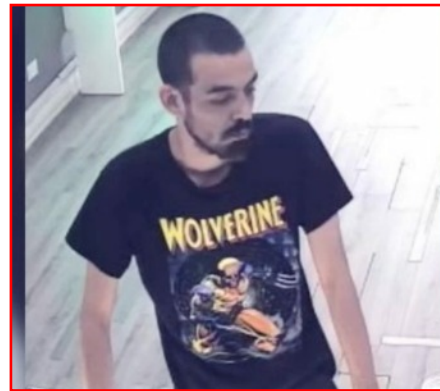


window-to-wall ratio and building placement and orientation to optimize solar gains.

The facility will have a photovoltaic canopy in the parking lot that is expected to generate 800 megawatt hours annually.

It said an energy retrofit project of their Emergency Services Headquarters, on Dufferin Street, has become one of the most energy-efficient buildings in the City, featuring a solar carport which will produce enough to power 50 homes.

Is this killer still alive or dead, community ask



CALL POLICE if you see Joseph Ayala at top or bottom, who is wanted for two murders. Alderwood residents are still concerned due to a killer on the loose.

Is he dead or alive. Concerned Alderwood residents are still locking up tight at night as they worry if Toronto Police will ever arrest a suspect sought for killing two well-known women. It has been almost three months since a manhunt was launched for Joseph Ayala, 33, who is sought for the

deaths of an 82-year-old and 60-year-old female relatives last August 23 in a home in the Sheldon and Silvercrest Avenues. The police and media have gone and the street is back to normal as neighbours whisper about the victims and a killer next door.

Police are tight-lipped about the search, which they have said is still very active and believe the killings were well-planned and the killer still out there hiding out.

Officers have been searching local parks, railway tracks and other areas. There has been no credible sightings of the suspect who may be stealing food from homes as the weather gets cooler.

Some residents said there have been break-ins in the area and claim the killer has snuck back to the crime scene.



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In Vimy Ridge to remember those who gave all



FORMER JUDGE BUDZINSKI reflects from Vimy Ridge.

VIMY RIDGE – Canadians hold a special place in their hearts for this ridge. The area was busy as people prepared to mark Remembrance Day on November 11 for the many troops who gave their brave lives. Canadian troops also earned a reputation as formidable fighting force because of the stunning success. But it was victory at a heavy cost: 3,598 Canadians were killed and another 7,000 wounded. The Canadian Corps was ordered to seize Vimy Ridge in April 1917. The heavily-fortified seven-kilometre ridge held a commanding view over the Allied lines. The Canadians would be assaulting over an open graveyard since previous French attacks had failed

with over 100,000 casualties.

Canada's role in the Battle of Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele is a source of immense pride. Our soldiers' bravery forged a new identity for Canada, and Passchendaele, with its mud and blood, was another chapter in our story of resilience.

For me, It was more than a visit; it was a pilgrimage to where Canadian history and sacrifice are etched into the very ground.

The Vimy Memorial stood tall and solemn, its white pillars and guardians with bowed heads remembering the young men who died for us.

The fields around it, once a muddy battleground, now lay serene and green, dotted with grass-covered craters like ghostly reminders of bombs past.

The words of "In Flanders Fields" echoed in my mind, urging us to "take up our quarrel with the foe; To you, from failing hands, we throw the torch; be yours to

hold it high" and to ensure their dreams and deaths were not in vain.

Walking through the trenches, we could almost hear the echoes of the soldiers' voices. The kids learned about the tunnels stretching kilometers beneath the earth, where bombs were placed under enemy trenches.

We stood by the monument, reading the names of the fallen, their sacrifices a sad reminder of the cost of war and the price of peace.

Travelling through Europe gave us a unique perspective on how fortunate we are to be Canadian. Despite what some politicians may argue, we were greeted with respect and a sense of envy wherever we went.

It was clear that Canada's reputation for being a mosaic of cultures and experiences is something to be cherished. Don't let feuding politicians try to convince you that our humanity isn't respected.



THE VIMY RIDGE Memorial (top) and shots being fired below in the bloody battle. Photo by Lloyd Budzinski.



Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 643

Flight Lieutenant David Hornell, VC

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES

NOV 11, 2024

Sunrise Service
New Toronto Cenotaph - 7:30am
Lake Shore Blvd W near Kipling Ave

Etobicoke Civic Centre - 11am
399 The West Mall, Etobicoke

Legion Branch #643 - 11am
110 Jutland Road, Etobicoke

What's Inside

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WE REMEMBER
and honour our heroes





The Poppy is a symbol of Remembrance for the many who lost their lives



WILLIAM Law

The Poppy...A Visible Symbol of Remembrance
On the last Friday of October each year, we begin to see Poppies in stores, workplaces, schools, and in boxes carried by volunteers in communities across Canada. The Poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance in Canada since 1921. It honours Canada's Fallen during war and peace. It was first introduced to Canada by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, a

Canadian Medical Officer during World War I, who wrote the poem "In Flanders Fields" in May 1915, the day after the death of a fellow soldier. The Poppy is worn during the Remembrance period from the last Friday in October until Remembrance Day on November 11. The Poppy may also be worn at funerals of Veterans, during memorial services, and at other times to commemorate Fallen Veterans.

The Poppy should be worn with respect on the left side, near the heart. It is an important symbol of Remembrance and should not be attached using other types of pins which may obstruct the Poppy. A reusable black Poppy center pin is available from most Legion Branches if it is preferred to the straight pin provided. Some choose to remove their Poppy at the end of the day on November 11 while others choose to remove it at the conclusion of a ceremony and place it on the cenotaph or on a wreath as a sign of respect. When a Poppy is removed, it should be stored appropriately, or it may be disposed of respectfully.



The Poppy Campaign is organized and run by local Legion volunteers. Poppies are always free, though The Royal Canadian Legion gratefully accepts donations to the Legion Poppy Fund. These donations are held in trust and used to assist Veterans and their families in need. The Poppy fund provides necessities such as accessibility modifications for Veterans with disabilities, emergency assistance for food and housing, Veterans transition programs, funding service dog training, and supporting other programs for Veterans and their families.

We invite everyone to honour and remember Canada's Veterans by proudly wearing the Poppy as a symbol of Remembrance and taking a moment to reflect on their sacrifices. William Law is a Veteran, having served 20 years in the Canadian Armed Forces (Reserve). He is Currently the 1st Vice President and Veterans Service Officer at Royal Canadian Legion Branch #643 in Etobicoke.

LEST WE FORGET

The year 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day, when Allied Troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, France; Juno, Omaha, Utah, Gold and Sword. Canada participated in the Juno Beach campaign and while it was a difficult battle, Canadians overcame the Germans.

Today, the Juno Beach Centre is Canada's Second World War museum and cultural centre located in Normandy. The Centre pays homage to the 45,000 Canadians who lost their lives during the War, of which 5,500 were killed during the Battle of Normandy of which 381 people on D-Day alone.

The year 2024 also marks the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). In times of war and peace, members of the RCAF have shown unwavering courage. The Second World War marked the first significant challenge for the RCAF, with over 200,000 Canadians joining the Air Force to fight against tyranny and fascism.

One Remembrance Day a few years ago, Etobicoke-Lakeshore resident and at the time a Michael Power student, Jamie MacDonald, had an assignment to tell the story of a Canadian soldier.

She chose to report on her great-grandfather, the late George Joseph MacDonald. Aided by his flight logs, which her mother Tammy had given her, Jamie discovered an amazing story that revealed her great-grandfather was one of those RCAF heroes.

Taking on the position of a rear air gunner was a risky job, a death sentence in most cases. Life expectancy was bleak. Historical records point to rear air gunners usually only making it through three missions. George Joseph MacDonald flew a record 36, that included 272 hours in the air. Not only that, but he also survived an abortive crash, two days before Christmas, 1944. He suffered a head injury but was back at it on January 5, 1945. (He passed on in 1959, in part to the long-term effects of that head injury.)

His story piqued the interest of his great-granddaughter. "I've always been intrigued by World War Two history. The Lancaster plane seemed to be the mightiest plane the Canadians flew. What he did in one of those planes was quite amazing. I wish I had a time machine. I have so many questions for him."

Instead of becoming a teacher, she followed her heart, went to flight school and eventually got her pilot's licence, inspired by her great-grandfather. While that alone puts her in a league of her own (estimates are roughly only six percent of professional pilots in Canada are women), it is her love of World War II planes that sets her apart.



"When I first started flying, I got even more interested in the war birds (vintage military aircraft now operated by civilians.) I got excited about the Curtiss C46 Commando, the Douglas DC3 and the Harvard, and it's my dream to one day fly the Lancaster at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum," she said.

The next time you are flying WestJet, keep your ears open to hear Jamie MacDonald's name as your First Officer. And while her RCAF hero, her great-grandfather, inspired her, she is now a mentor to other women, encouraging them to explore the aviation industry.

And it all goes back to her great-grandfather.

As Tammy MacDonald, Jamie's mother says: "None of what they did is something we should take for granted. We are here today because of these efforts of the RCAF and other members of the military."

Indeed.

To all Canadian military personnel, past and present, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice, we are grateful. And thank you for continuing to inspire the next generations.

Lest We Forget.

Keep up to date on federal matters by subscribing to my electronic newsletter.

Email me at james.maloney@parl.gc.ca and we will sign you up!

TOGETHER, WE WILL CONTINUE TO DELIVER RESULTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

James MALONEY

Member of Parliament for Etobicoke-Lakeshore



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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.

Please feel free to drop us a line if you would like to advertise your business or leave any comments, tips or news of upcoming events.

Publisher: Tom Godfrey

Proofs: Ian Robertson

Circulation: Charles Smith

PHONE: 647-739-2235

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Mom of two hit by GO Train is lucky to be alive



GO TRAIN HIT VICTIM Manal Srouji (top, right) is in good spirits as she undergoes a long road to recovery. **Courtesy photos.**

A mom of two who was hit by a speeding GO Train at Long Branch Station says she is lucky to be alive and can't even sit up in bed in what will be a long recovery.

Manal Srouji, 46, who has two boys, one 22, says she is a careful person who routinely used public transportation to get from home to work. She lives in Mississauga and works downtown as a court reporter for the Ministry of Attorney General. All that changed last September 17, when around 8:15 a.m. she was hit by a train and rushed to hospital with life-threatening injuries.

She is thankful to be helped on the platform by kind-hearted passengers. Srouji was left face-down on the yellow

strip on the platform with half her body hanging over the edge.

She was rushed to the hospital, where she remained on life support for at least a week, unable to move or speak. She had two broken legs and multiple fractures, including to her pelvis and elbow.

'I can't even sit up in bed,' Srouji told Global News reporter Shallima Maharaj in a bedside interview.

She has regained her ability to talk and can move her upper body. She cannot remember the moment the train hit her, or the hour it happened.

More than \$14,000 has been raised on a Go Fund Me page to help the ailing family.

A bedridden Srouji has the support of her sons and from members of the community, who has been kept her going. 'I'm overwhelmed, not just by the support that I'm seeing from loved ones, but even members of the community I don't even know,' she told

Global News on October 17.

'The response, the reaction from people — it's just a lot.'

She was told her backpack got caught on a passing express train at the station, but few details have been released about what transpired at the station. The mother and wife would like to see more safety measures implemented to protect riders.

Many Long Branch residents

have been complaining about the packed trains, ongoing construction and risky conditions from ongoing construction at the station which is being refurbished.

'September is when everybody comes back,' she recalled. 'More kids to school, a lot of people came back to work in person after that, so there's a lot more people on the platforms.'

A major construction project has been underway at the station since last year, as part of the GO Expansion program.

'I made friends with passengers that came to visit me that tell me how they hear young kids wondering what happened to that lady that got injured in the accident.

You know,

I'm thankful, but I'm also concerned.'

Her first memory is of being in a hospital bed without any idea of how she came to be there.



MOM OF TWO is in good spirits to be alive and improving.



VIEW OF LONG BRANCH GO Station on which work is underway leaving a busy, congested facility with train activity (right).



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Gatehouse fundraiser to continue its great work



TORONTO POLICE Superintendent Lisa Crooker.

helped thousands, including children, youths plus adults with programs that include art as therapy for healing. Crooker reminded those attending a packed fundraiser at the Liberty Grand in Exhibition Place that “sexual abuse strips you of any ability to love and trust yourself.” “It is a deep betrayal of trust,” she recalled. “I have spent a lifetime trying to protect myself from this pain. Policing became a way for me to armour up and keep my secret safe.”

“I didn’t realize the painful impacts that suppressing my shame would have on my entire life,” Crooker said in a touching speech. “As a survivor, shame is the dark beast I fight every day.”

Shame is not easy for anyone to talk about, she explained, especially when it is cloaked in the secrecy of childhood sexual abuse.

“I believe that when we share the stories of our abuse, we begin to release the hold shame has on our lives,” Crooker said. “One of the most important moments in my healing journey was when I had the courage to share

with my mother about my abuse.” Crooker applauded The Gatehouse for playing a vital role in her healing at the 6th Annual The Voice Within Art gala in the Artifacts Room of the



SUPT. LISA CROOKER gave a keynote speech at successful The Gatehouse fundraiser. Photo by Guray Gul. And at the bottom is The Gatehouse volunteers and staff at a recent anniversary celebration at their facility. Gatehouse photo.

Toronto Police Superintendent Lisa Crooker is a sexual abuse survivor who always wanted to become a cop in order to protect other vulnerable people. “I wanted to become a police officer so I could serve and protect others because as a child I was not protected,” Crooker said in a recent speech to The Gatehouse fundraiser. “My misguided hope was that by helping others, my pain and suffering would go away.” Crooker today is one of the highest-ranking women in Canada’s largest police force, and Co-Chair of The Gatehouse Board of Directors. The Gatehouse, at 3101 Lake Shore Blvd. W., offers peer support programs, information and a safe environment for those impacted by childhood sexual abuse. It has



Liberty Grand. The event was hosted by CTV’s Michelle Dube. The non-profit Gatehouse was founded by Arthur Lockhart in 1998 to help survivors heal from the trauma of childhood sexual abuse. The charitable organization offers peer support programs, information and a safe environment for those impacted by childhood sexual abuse.



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Local woman Bird Photog of the year



PATRICIA HOMONYLO's photograph of dead birds led her to be chosen Bird Photographer of the Year.

A Long Branch conservation photojournalist has made international headlines in being selected as the Bird Photographer of the Year in an image highlighting bird deaths. Patricia Homonylo's photo of 4,000 dead birds beat out 23,000 others from around the world to win the sought-after distinction and prominence from bird lovers worldwide. The title, and about \$6,000, are awarded by the Natural History Museum in London, which can receive more than 30,000 images yearly for consideration.

"I am honoured, thrilled and overwhelmed having been awarded the Bird Photographer of the Year," Homonylo said. It is "considered the most prestigious bird photography competition in the world." Her goal is to bring attention to the deaths of birds from flying into windows. "It has been my mission to bring attention to the global and catastrophic issue of bird-window collisions," she wrote on social media.

Her photo, called 'When Worlds Collide,' shows the birds arranged in a circular fashion. They were all killed by colliding with glass in Toronto. Their bodies were collected and arranged by members of the Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP), a charity where Homonylo volunteers, which helps birds injured in these kinds of collisions. "Unfortunately, most of the birds they find are dead," she said. "Those bodies are never left behind."

She said each year more than one billion birds die in North America alone due to collisions with windows. The image also netted gold in the competition's Conservation category.

All the birds in her award-winning picture died preventable deaths, the Etobicoke conservation photographer said. Homonylo began taking wildlife photography seriously about 10-years ago. Originally from Oakville, she has been living in Long Branch for many years and takes part in the Bird and Tree Fests in the community.

She said the bird deaths can be prevented by making windows bird-safe by turning off the lights, and by demanding that governments create bird-safe building standards.

Environment Canada said as many as 42 million birds die from collisions with windows every year in this country. Already this year, FLAP has recorded 331,718 fatal bird collisions in North America.



PATRICIA HOMONYLO

One of oldest trees in the community gone



THE 330-YEAR-OLD tree after on top and below as crews with heavy machinery took it down including many memories. Courtesy photos.

Area nature lovers are mourning the loss of one of the oldest trees in Toronto due to ill health. The so-called Great White Oak, which was estimated to be 330-years-old was cut down last October 4 by City crews, in a process that required many hours and large

construction cranes. Long Branch historian Bill Zufelt said the massive tree was located on Great Oak Drive, in the Islington Avenue and Rathburn Road area.

"It was already showing severe decline with deadly fungi growing out of its trunk," Zufelt said. "Toronto Forestry removed the fungi and it lived another year." He said the tree was suffering from internal rot and decay, which was becoming increasingly evident. "The tree was Red Tagged as a possible falling hazard risk, so for public safety and liability issues, Toronto Forestry had it removed," said the avid tree lover. Zufelt said City arborists based on tree's enormous girth, determined it to be about 330-years-old and one of the oldest in Toronto.

He said local folklore had given it the dubious title of 'The Hanging Tree.'

This oak had survived the American Revolution, War of 1812, Canadian Confederation, World War 1 and 11.

"The Great White Oak of Etobicoke will always be a stoic legend to the thousands of us who have passed beneath her consoling branches for over three centuries," he said.





RIDLEY FUNERAL HOME



RIDLEY FUNERAL HOME'S Lindsey Karpowicz (left) and Laura Latham, Executive Director of the Franklin Horner Community Centre, working the Ridley booth at the Lakeshore Village Grill Cheese Challenge, where all proceeds went to Franklin Horner Centre.

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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Funding for local agri-food businesses

Soup weather!

MPP Christine Hogarth say funds from an AgriTech Innovation Initiative will help some local companies to succeed.

“Home to the Ontario Food Terminal, Etobicoke-Lakeshore is also the place where our government continues to support agri-food businesses to boost their growth,” said Hogarth. “I look forward to the positive ripple effects these investments will have throughout our local economy.”

Steam Whistle Brewery, on Evans Avenue, will receive a cheque for \$100,000 for its High Gravity Brewing Project, according to a release.

Veg-Pak Produce, on The Queensway, will receive up to \$100,000 for facility upgrades for advanced energy efficiencies.

Solmaz Foods Inc., on Jutland Road, will receive up to \$100,000 for refrigeration and freezer investment to enhance energy efficiency and capacity.

Mascot Brewery, on Advance Road, will receive up to \$93,800 for modernization and expansion of existing facility.

EggSolutions, on Horner Avenue, will get up to \$100,000 for Advanced Liquid Egg Filling System to Improve Growth and Productivity

The Agri-Tech Innovation Initiative will support 319 farming and agribusinesses across the



SOLMAZ FOODS was among the local firms recognized by the province in the agri-food field. **Courtesy photo.**

province through an investment of up to \$22.6 million.

Funding will be used to help them invest in innovative technology, equipment or processes that will increase their resiliency, productivity and efficiency.

“The government’s continued support of businesses like ours helping us create more high-

paying jobs in Etobicoke and invest more in this fantastic community,” said Greg Taylor, Co-Founder and CEO of Steam Whistle Brewing.

SOUP LOVER Susanna enjoys a chicken soup, a favourite at Mangoes Restaurant, at 2491 Lake Shore Blvd. W., in Mimico. The restaurant features tasty Jamaican foods as jerk and curry chicken and ox tail soup. Contact them at 416-253-1920.



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New minimalist mural of Mimico landscape reflects community beauty with thumbs up from residents

By IAN ROBERTSON



MIMICO MURALIST Christiano De Araujo works on his latest creation on a building on Royal York Road, near Simpson Avenue. **Photos by Ian Robertson.**

A recently-completed mural covering the wall of a commercial building beside Royal York Road provides a new greeting to the Mimico community. Begun on October 14 and completed eight days later, the colourful piece of artwork was created and applied by Christiano De Araujo. The Toronto artist depicts several buildings in what in 1858 began as a town in the former Township of Etobicoke, then was an independent municipality from 1911 until becoming part of Metropolitan Toronto in 1967.

Five people painted in minimalist style without facial details are on

the mural's lower left, with a green-and-white GO Transit passenger train crossing a bridge behind them. On the far right, a man wearing blue-and-white jersey and pants game gear is playing hockey beside a woman dressed in red while playing lacrosse. Large light blue capital letters spell 'MIMICO' in a sky featuring fluffy white and grey clouds plus a flying pigeon. The design "has to be about Mimico, and Mimico represents family, churches, diversity, hockey and lacrosse," Josee Gosselin, owner of The Bread Essentials, said about the mural south of Melrose Street, on the north side of the building where the was opened in 2016. The hockey player was inspired by the Toronto Maple Leafs practising in the Ford Performance Centre, formerly Mastercard Centre For Hockey Excellence, on Kipling Avenue, she said. The Toronto Marlies also practise there. The lacrosse theme was based on the Royal York Road building's owner having played that game locally.



MIMICO SKYLINE as depicted in mural painted by Christiano De Araujo.

A board member of the Mimico Village Business Improvement Area, Gosselin said it received a \$7,500 City of Toronto Mural and Street Art Program grant, with additional funds for the project to be provided by the BIA and the building's owner. She was inspired to contact De Araujo because of his popular large mural on the outer wall of nearby SaNRemo Bakery.

Completed three years ago at the nearby corner of Simpson Avenue and Royal York Road, it commemorates bakery founder Natale Bozzo (1946-2021). De Araujo, who prepared the MIMICO mural artwork "was the only artist who came back with the representation of the BIA idea, Gosselin said. Other artists who were asked to consider the project "said only their ideas" would be acceptable.

While completing his final work on the mural, using a portable machine to spray paint onto the brick wall, the artist said he began drawing when he was four, sketching comics on paper. The son of a magician, whose wife "did beautiful calligraphy," De Araujo completed his first mural 11 years later in Brazil, on a friend's bedroom wall. It featured John Lennon, the late Beatles' band co-founder. Five years after relocating to Toronto in 1994, De Araujo said he completed his first mural, at a restaurant.

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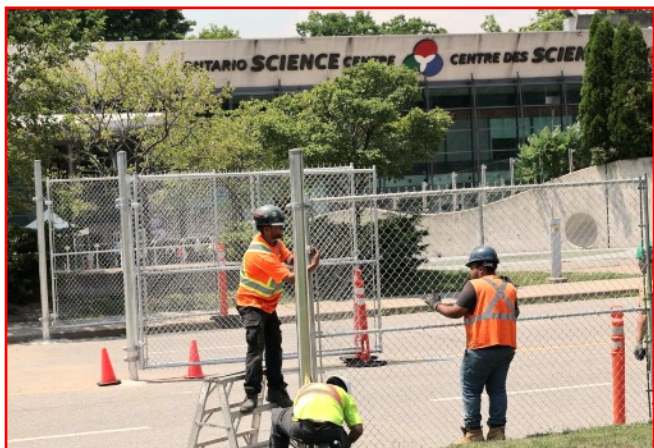


Edenbridge Humber Valley



New Toronto

Science Centre west at Sherway



ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE being fenced off as some its attractions (bottom) are moved to Sherway Gardens mall.

The ticketed exhibition runs from November 6 to January 19 and will feature 20 of the world's most recognizable skyscrapers constructed entirely of LEGO bricks, including the CN Tower and Empire State Building.

At the exhibition, you can create your own towers using the thousands of LEGO bricks available in the hands-on construction areas.

The second exhibition at Sherway Gardens, titled *Circus!* is a hands-on experience that explores how math, physics, and anatomy make circus feats possible. This experience will be open from November 6 until March 16.

The science museum's popular KidSpark exhibit will also be relocated to the Harbourfront Centre, and will run from December 4 until

May 4.

The

temporary

locations

for the

Science

Centre

are going

to give

a

reprieve for

some

workers whose

contracts expire

on October 31.

They

will be extended

to February.

The workers

have no

access to the

Don Mills building.

Floyd Ruskin,

of the group

Save Ontario

Science Centre,

said taking

some science

to different

parts is probably

a pretty good

idea.

"But it doesn't

change the fact

that we need a

full-sized,

properly funded

institution here

on Don Mills

Road."



LEGO ATTRACTION now at Sherway.

Lakeshore Santa Claus Parade may have to park due to a lack of funds, organizers say



Organizers of the Etobicoke Lakeshore Santa Clause Parade say this may be the last year of the popular family event due to a lack of funds.

The annual parade has been a fixture in the community for 33-years and organizers said it attracted as many as 60,000 people in some years.

Chris Korwyn-Kuczynski, vice-chair of organizer the Lake Shore Village Business Improvement Area (BIA,) said the non-profit parade cannot afford the \$15,000 to \$17,000 it will cost for Toronto Police officers to secure, control traffic and help with the event.

"This could very well be the last year of the parade," he said. "It is sad as this is a popular event that is one of the largest Santa Claus parades in the City."

He is appealing on Ward 3 Councillor and Deputy Mayor Amber Morley, who also sits on the Toronto Police Services Board, to help negotiate a reduction of police costs.

Korwyn-Kuczynski said the much-loved parade is a 'City event' and they should help with funding.

The Santa fest takes place on December 7 at 10 a.m. and runs from Dwight to Long Branch Avenues.



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Man sought for sexual assault in Mimico



A Toronto Police search is underway for a man who is accused of sexually assaulting a victim in Mimico after the person ceased dating him.

The alleged assault occurred in the Royal York Road and Mimico Avenue area in December last year, Toronto Police said in a release. Officers said the suspect met the victim on a dating app in June 2021 and they dated for a couple months before the victim ended the relationship. It is alleged on August 6, 2021 the suspect entered the victim's home and sexually assaulted the victim. Alistair Olumide Salako, 41, of Toronto, is wanted for sexual assault, break and enter and being unlawfully at large.



In the Community

By TOM GODFREY



THE CITY'S PARKS AND FORESTRY WORKERS are accused of not pulling their weight at work and for taking time off, according to Auditor General. **City of Toronto photo.**

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A plan to install of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) on 600 vehicles to keep track of dishonest City's Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff has been canned by Council. Installation of the devices were to begin in November to track staff after an Auditor General report found almost half the park staff went shopping, drinking, dining or performing other tasks while the job and wrote false statements on their Daily Logs, which each crew must fill out at the end of their shift.

The report found on average crews report spending only four hours, or 51 per cent, of their eight-hour shift on location performing actual park work.

Also proposed was a measure to have the Daily Logs matched against GPS readings every two weeks or monthly. Also nixed were stiffer checks of lunch check-in and out time and ensure crews are on the job and not at the mall.

The Auditor General wrote that a sample of 85 Daily Logs indicate nearly half of the logs did not match the GPS record.

The GPS showed 46 per cent of the time park staff did not attend locations as stated; 75 per cent of the time GPS indicated in-and-out times clocked at locations were not accurate and in 86 per cent of the locations stated turned out on the GPS to be shopping malls, eateries and non-parkland locations.

"We found that daily logs were not always properly completed," according to the report.

"Park locations and working times were not always accurately reported on daily logs and did not always match GPS records."

It found that nearly half of park staff took more than the permitted 60 minutes per day permitted for lunches and breaks which is mind-boggling.

Installation of GPS on Parks Branch vehicles started in 2022. There are about 604 vehicles used by Parks Branch to maintain the City's 1,500 parks. More than 30 per cent of the vehicle do not have the GPS installed.

The Parks Branch 2024 operating budget is over \$190 million, with \$57.5 million dedicated to general summer parkland maintenance. The Parks Branch workforce includes 700 staff in the winter season to over 1,300 staff in the spring/summer season.

The average City of Toronto worker hourly pay ranges from approximately \$18.78 per hour for Camp Counsellor to \$55.25 per hour for Senior Planner. A park worker can earn up to \$41 hourly on the top end for some jobs.

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



Retired Judge Speaks

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI

Spark of Trust

It's cold, rainy and miserable. That's how I view the colder days of November.

Thankfully, years of experience have taught me to believe and trust nature. She knows the way.

I take comfort in the words of Abraham Lincoln, "this too shall pass". November leads to the coldest season. It is a gateway to hiding away under layers of clothing, seeking out roaring, warming fireplaces and soothing cup of cocoa spiked with Bailey's. I am ready.

Nature is full of lessons on trust.

Trust the sun will rise in the morning.

Trust the falling leaves will pave the way to snow covered paths.

I believe the shift from shortest day in December to the warming sun of spring is guaranteed. I trust in that. Each day brings me a fresh opportunity to trust. For me, a spark of trust is ignited daily at the crack of dawn.

I start with a morning meditation and gentle stretch. I converse with nature, listen to myself and then visualize the day ahead. In a recent podcast by Lewis Howes, where he interviews Dr. Joe Dispenza, I learned this invaluable take-away question.

First thing in the morning, Dr. Joe recommends to say "What is the greatest ideal version of myself that I can be today?" I adopted this just like nature adopts a gentle breeze: with ease.

If we are nature, if we are of nature, if we are all that is, then why do we struggle with trust? Why the doubt, when faced with life decisions? Even when I know, in my heart and body, I am on the right path, my mind will jump in and question everything.

At every turn on my life path, I continue to greet endless choices and offerings.

Trusting the process of choosing the best 'ideal version of myself' is my daily lesson. It is my daily practice. The struggle to choose well is real.

The struggle to trust my gut is ever present. It is not a challenge to choose well because my gut is yelling with gusto in a hundred different voices, but rather because it is silent. Or is it?

In reality, our body is never silent, just very, very quiet and subtle. Our body is talking and to that I like to ask: are you listening?

To sit in silence and allow a few moments to pass is often the hardest thing to do for most people. To embrace the passing of time in complete contentment and



inactivity may seem like a pointless exercise, but in fact is incalculably critical in sparking trust within.

November invites this slowing down and listening. November offers opportunity for this quieting and discovery of our spark within. Before the mayhem of December schedules creeps in, I invite you to explore a practice of trusting and listening to your inner voice, the one that lies within you.

Take the thirty days of November as a personal challenge to tune-in and listen to your heart and body, as it softly shares its wisdom. Allow yourself to choose a path daily, to your 'ideal version' of yourself. Be daring and explore a new path.

Explore your personal path of changing seasons. The measure of mankind, is not in the accomplishments but in the willingness to boldly go where he has never gone before.

Nature accomplishes this task daily.

Everyday is completely new in our gardens, on our way to work through parks and along the riverbank.

We may not see it, but it is. Our environment is continually changing. In that constant change I find solace. As I step out into the cold (yes, 10 degrees is cold!), I remind myself nature is changing and so am I.

As I advance with every step, I trust that I follow in the steps of greatness that is mother nature. Come walk with her and learn the rhythm of your trust this November.

"Nature never hurries. Atom by atom, little by little, she achieves her work." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

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The Battle of Vimy Ridge is often hailed as a defining moment in Canadian history. It occurred during World War I from April 9 to April 12, 1917. It was the first time all four divisions of the Canadian Corps fought together as a single unit. The objective was to capture Vimy Ridge, a strategic position held by German forces. Despite previous attempts by French and British troops to take the ridge, it remained under German control.

Before Vimy, Canadian forces primarily operated under British leadership. The success at Vimy marked a significant shift, showcasing Canada's military capability and independence.

Under the meticulous planning and leadership of General Julian Byng and Major-General Arthur Currie, Canadian troops employed innovative tactics such as the creeping barrage, which allowed them to advance behind a curtain of artillery fire. The meticulous preparation and execution led to a significant victory. The Canadian Corps succeeded in capturing the ridge, though at a heavy cost—over 10,000 Canadian soldiers were wounded or killed.

His victory at Vimy Ridge is a pivotal event in forming Canadian national identity. It demonstrated the courage, skill, and determination of Canadian soldiers and marked Canada's emergence as a nation capable of achieving significant military feats. This battle became a symbol of unity and sacrifice.

Canadian Corps, consisting of four divisions, played the central role in capturing Vimy Ridge. The British XVII Corps supported the Canadian attack on their southern flank. Regarding the composition, approximately 97,184 out of 170,000 troops in the Canadian Corps were Canadian soldiers, making up about 57% of the total force involved in the battle.

After the Battle of Vimy Ridge, the Canadian soldiers earned a formidable reputation among the German forces. The Germans respected the Canadians for their tenacity, skill, and effective tactics. The Canadians were seen as "shock troops," soldiers who could carry out complex tasks and achieve their objectives. This reputation was further solidified by subsequent victories at battles like Hill 70 and Passchendaele.

The Germans recognized the Canadians as one of the most competent and determined forces within the British Empire. This respect was rooted in the Canadians' ability to execute complex operations, such as the creeping barrage, which played a crucial role in the success at Vimy Ridge.

Canadian Corps earned a highly respected reputation among their Allied counterparts and were seen as elite troops—a reputation our small army still holds today. The success at Vimy demonstrated the Canadians' exceptional military capability, discipline, and effectiveness. This victory boosted the Allies' morale and solidified the Canadian Corps' status as one of the most reliable and formidable fighting forces within the British Empire.

The Vimy Memorial, designed by sculptor Walter Seymour Allward, is a tribute to the Canadian soldiers who fought and died in France during World War I. Unveiled in 1936, it is on the ridge where the battle occurred. The monument features a pair of towers representing Canada and France and the "Canada Bereft" statue, a grieving woman symbolizing the nation's mourning for its lost sons. The names of over 11,000 Canadian soldiers who have no known grave are inscribed on the monument.

We often forget that there were Indigenous Canadians among the troops who fought at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Notably, Francis Pegahmagabow, an Ojibwa sniper, served with distinction and is considered one of the most effective snipers of the war. He was among the top snipers in the Canadian forces, and his contributions were highly valued. Indigenous soldiers, due to their skills and knowledge of the land, often gravitated toward roles such as sniping and reconnaissance. Their participation and bravery significantly contributed to the Canadian Corps' success at Vimy Ridge.

As we approached the monument, the hill around it seemed like a rolling grass-covered moonscape or waves of a rolling ocean covered with grass; among these waves of land were the trenches where the men took refuge. These waves fill the entire area. They weren't the creation of nature but the remnants of thousands of bomb craters amongst the trenches.

At night, the bombardment by the German troops holding the higher lands soaked by days of rain and mud must have been a living hell for these brave men fighting for our destiny. Especially the Indigenous troops who had limited Canadian Rights and were like the Black soldiers fighting for a country that was yet to see them as equals.



VIMY RIDGE MEMORIAL. Photo by Lloyd Budzinski.

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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

Campfire art at Humber Bay Shores

New in the community



A new public art installation called *Campfire* is shining some light on Humber Bay Shores. The 12-foot-tall piece was created by Anishinaabe sculptor Michel Belmore, in collaboration with Herman Mejia, an artist originally from Honduras, who now lives here.

Campfire, is made of Corten and stainless steel. The work reflects the spirit of Indigenous place-keeping, inviting the community to gather around its symbolic hearth.

The piece of art is the latest addition to the City of Toronto's Public Art and Monuments Collection, a growing collection of close to 400 public art pieces across the city.

"Etobicoke now has a significant addition that will serve both as a gathering place and a reminder of the enduring presence of

Indigenous cultures," Councillor Amber Morley said at the October 26 unveiling. It will cost the City more than \$300,000 to create and install the large work of art.

Three outstanding community members have been chosen this year as recipients of the 2024 Daniel G. Hill Human Rights Award. The Awards recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to advancing and fostering human rights culture across Ontario. It is named after Dr. Daniel G. Hill, the Ontario Human Rights Commission's (OHRC) first Black director, chairperson and rights trail blazer. The recipients include: Stefan Enrique Joseph Kallikaden in the Young Leader category, Lorin MacDonald for Distinguished Service and Rosemary Sadlier, for Lifetime Achievement. Kallikaden serves as the Youth and Access to Education Program Coordinator at the FCJ Refugee Centre. Stefan is committed to advocating for the human rights of all. MacDonald is a human rights lawyer and a disability/accessibility advocate and educator. Born with profound hearing loss, Lorin has dedicated her life, education and career to advocating for people with disabilities.



REAL ESTATE AGENT Lynda Todorovich is the owner of Art Gallery by the Lake by Lynda's Ministries in Long Branch. The gallery carries an assorted collection of art including African, West Indian and Indigenous art. She also carries 100 per cent natural honey and maple syrup. The store, which is located at 3350 Lake Shore Blvd. W., features art classes for all ages, gifts, collectibles and event planning. Call 647-869-1768.



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B R O K E R A G E

Looking after yourself and others in the community

NOVEMBER 3 TWO ART EXHIBITIONS by the **Etobicoke Art Group (EAG)** at Neilson Park Creative Centre from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for the closing reception and lecture on 'Great Women Artists,' by Jeff Fortinsky. View the work in the Art Space Connect Gallery, is **HIGHLIGHTS 2024** - a large annual show featuring all of our members' work. Visit www.neilsonparkcreativecentre.com

NOVEMBER 6 & 13 HEALTH and WELLNESS WORKSHOPS from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at LAMP CHC, on Fifth Street. to examine how stress presents itself and coping mechanisms to ease the impacts of stress on our mind and body. To register e-mail Jasmind@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

NOVEMBER 7 & 9 DOUBLE BILL with Rakeem Hardy and Tanveer Alam at the Assembly Hall, 1 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive. Show times vary and tickets up to \$45. The event features "running from and towards" choreographed by Hardy (western contemporary dance), and "Muhandis" choreographed by Alam. For more e-mail info@toesfordance.ca

NOVEMBER 8 FREE HEARING SCREENINGS at LAMP CHC, on Fifth Street. Members of the Canadian Hearing Services will be available to screen for hearing lost. To book an appointment e-mail jasmind@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471.

NOVEMBER 8 KINGSWAY WOMENS CLUB meeting at 1:30 p.m. welcomes renowned weatherman, Dave Phillips, the Senior Climatologist from Environment and Climate Change Canada. Dave will help us understand what's happening to our weather and climate. The event takes place at Markland Wood Golf Club, 245 Markland Drive W. Guest fee \$20. For more call 416-231-4627.

NOVEMBER 8 TRAKKERS CROSS-COUNTRY SKI club Open House from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Swansea Town Hall, 95 Lavinia Avenue, in Bloor-West Village. Trakkers offers Sunday ski bus trips, multi-day trips and free ski lessons to members. The event will

feature food and drinks. For more info call Henry at 416 707-9491.

NOVEMBER 10 CHRYSANTHEMUM EXTRAVAGANZA from 12 noon to 4 p.m. in the Centennial Park Conservatory put on by the Friends of the Conservatory, a volunteer fundraising group associated to the Conservatory. The event showcases the new installation of exotic chrysanthemums in the Conservatory. There will be a lucky draw. The Conservatory is located at 151 Elmcrest Road. Phone 416-394-8543.

NOVEMBER 14 - 24 Is the 15th annual Toronto Polish Film Festival for an unforgettable cinematic journey, showcasing some of the best in Polish cinema. Visit ekran.ca/films.

NOVEMBER 15 FAMILY FEUD at Franklin Horner Community Centre, 432 Horner Ave., from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Put together your team and come out and join our audience. Tickets are \$10 each and include a delicious lunch. Call the office at 416-252-6822 for details.

NOVEMBER 21 COPING WITH GRIEF at Ridley Funeral Home at 3 p.m. for a free seminar relating to end-of-life planning and support. We will focus on helpful tools for coping with grief over the holiday season. To register, please call Ridley Funeral Home at 416-259-3705.

NOVEMBER 21 RENT-GEARED-TO-INCOME housing workshop at 1 p.m. online via Zoom. Do you know how to apply for Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) Housing? Details on how the program works and other resources will be offered through this free educational workshop. To register, contact Jasmin at jasmind@lampchc.org or 416.252.6471 ext. 308.

NOVEMBER 23 CHRISTMAS MARKET fundraiser to support St. Margaret New Toronto church from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 156 Sixth Street. For more information call 416-259-2659 or visit smnt.ca.

NOVEMBER 30 INDOOR CHRISTMAS MARKET at Franklin Horner Community Centre, at 432 Horner Ave., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a wide range of

vendors and artisans in our gym and auditorium for an indoor market. There will be a bake sale and a BBQ lunch. Call the office at 416-252-6822 for details.

NOVEMBER 30 is 5th ANNUAL NEW TORONTO Holiday Market from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lakeshore Grounds at 2 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive. Contact NewTOHolidayMarket@gmail.com

DECEMBER 7 IS THE 33RD ANNUAL ETOBICOKE LAKESHORE Santa Claus Parade which starts 10 a.m. at Dwight Street and Lake Shore Blvd. W., and runs west to Long Branch Avenue. Santa's Elves have been working hard on a brand-new float. Come out and see the floats, bands, the community groups, your favourite walking characters, Santa's elves and animal friends and of course the Jolly Elf himself, Santa Claus. For more e-mail lakeshoresanta@gmail.com, visit www.lakeshoreparade.ca or on Instagram [@lakeshoresanta](https://www.instagram.com/lakeshoresanta)

DECEMBER 21 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and enjoy a delicious pancake, a bouncy castle and visit Good Old St. Nick as the holiday continues at Franklin Horner Community Centre. Tickets are \$7 and available from December 2. . Contact the office at 416-252-6822 for tickets.

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

MONDAYS AT 10:30 a.m. CHAIR YOGA with Briar at Barsa Kelly Cari-Can Co-Op, 1 Coin Street, for a gentle-seated workout. Stretch and enjoy some music and movement with Certified Hatha Yoga instructor Briar Boake. Build your core strength and improve your flexibility. For more information, contact jasmind@lampchc.org call 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

MONDAYS WALKING GROUP & Qigong from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. meet at LAMP CHC and join as we experience nature and take in the Fall beauty.

Walking with or without poles, move at two speeds and enjoy gentle Tai Chi-like practice called Qigong. To register email jasmind@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 257, 308.

CHAIR YOGA with Meaux Tuesdays at 2 p.m. Contact RoseMa@lampchc.org or 416-252-6471.

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Irate pedestrians sign online petition to regulate e-scooters

Almost 3,000 people in one week have signed an online petition to regulate electric scooters in Toronto. More than 500 irate residents signed the petition on one day. The petition, which was started by scooter-owner Dana Patcas, said the e-scooters are being operated too fast by un-helmeted minors or others and can severely injure the riders, pedestrians or pets.

“These electric scooters lack necessary regulations,” the petition state. It “results in minors riding them without helmets, endangering themselves to extreme risks such as fatal accidents.”

The petition warns that some of the unregulated scooters and e-bikes can travel faster than provincial speed limits. “The accident risk induced by these scooters also amplifies damage potential,” it said. “They can cause severe injuries to pedestrians, both adults and children alike and even their pets.”

The petition called on the City of Toronto to ‘step up and enact robust regulations on the sale and use of electric scooters to ensure the safety of everyone involved.’ It noted the City can keep our streets and sidewalks safe for everyone by imposing age restrictions

for use of the devices, introduce mandatory helmet use and speed limit enforcement for electric scooters and e-bikes.

It warned that it will be difficult to enforce a ban against the devices.

The petition proposed no riding on sidewalks and that riders should only use bike lanes or the roads and obey bicycle-riding laws.

There should be no speeding and the scooters or e-bikes should have devices to limit their speed to 25 miles an hour.

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