

The South Etobicoke News

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Done deal as Bloor and other bike lanes to go

Bloor Street W. motorists and businesses are celebrating Christmas with the removal of some of the controversial bike lanes. Many residents and small businesses along the busy street are breathing a sigh of relief that some bike lanes will soon be gone, maybe by next summer.

The bike lanes on Bloor Street W. have been a source of hundreds of complaints from residents, motorists and businesses, who claim their sales plummeted due to a lack of parking and customers had to park further away from the stores.

A controversial Bill 212 was fast-tracked in the Ontario Legislature on November 25 that gives the province sweeping control over municipal bike lanes. The bike



THE BLOOR ST. W. BIKE LANE and others are history as the Ontario government has passed legislation to limit bike lanes to secondary streets and remove others.

lanes targeted for placement on secondary streets also includes ones on Yonge Street and University Avenue. A plan to install lanes on busy Parkside Drive is on hold. MPP Christine Hogarth, who represents the area, said the

removal of the bike lanes will alleviate some of the traffic congestion in the City, which officials said rated fifth in North America for congestion.

The issue surfaced again last month as NHL players of the Utah Hockey Club had to leave their warm team bus and walk to the Scotiabank Arena due to traffic standstill.

Other outspoken celebrities faced similar walks to their destination due to the traffic. Hogarth said the lanes slow down firefighters and other emergency responders in times of

crisis. "The bike lanes on Bloor Street West were not working for our community," Hogarth said. "Many residents and businesses directly told me the under-utilized bike lanes created gridlock."

Fund to aid dad and kids after mom dies in crash

More than \$60,000 has been raised to help a grieving dad who lost his wife, Katie, and whose three toddlers were seriously injured, after being hit by a car at an Etobicoke crosswalk.

Mom Katie died in hospital as she and husband, Andrew, and their three young children, aged 11-days, 18-months and four years, were struck by a driver last October 2 while crossing Islington Avenue at a crosswalk.

They were hit at Orrell Avenue, just north of Dundas St. W. Police said the Toyota Corolla was driven by a 77-year-old woman.

The driver also hit Katie's husband Andrew, 45, and the couple's three children. All five members of the family were taken to hospital. They were returning home from walk at a local park.



THREE TODDLERS ARE WITHOUT their mom (above) after the family were plowed into by a car at a pedestrian crossing at Islington Avenue, just north of Dundas Street W. Mom Katie died weeks later in hospital and the kids suffered serious injuries. A Go Fund Me page has since been launched to help dad Andrew and the family.

Go Fund Me organizer Stefan Pazulla wrote that the family were on their way home from an after-dinner park visit. He said two of the children were taken to the Hospital for Sick Children with critical injuries, while Katie was taken to Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre with life-threatening injuries. "Over the following weeks, all three children were released from SickKids Hospital to complete

their recovery at home," Pazulla advised. "Sadly, on November 21, Katie passed peacefully, surrounded by family."

The funds raised will be used to help Andrew during this difficult time and assist with immediate expenses and care of the children.

You can donate by visiting gofundme.com

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

It is not known when Katie will be laid to rest or the condition of her children or Andrew.

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.

There has been no report of any charges being laid.

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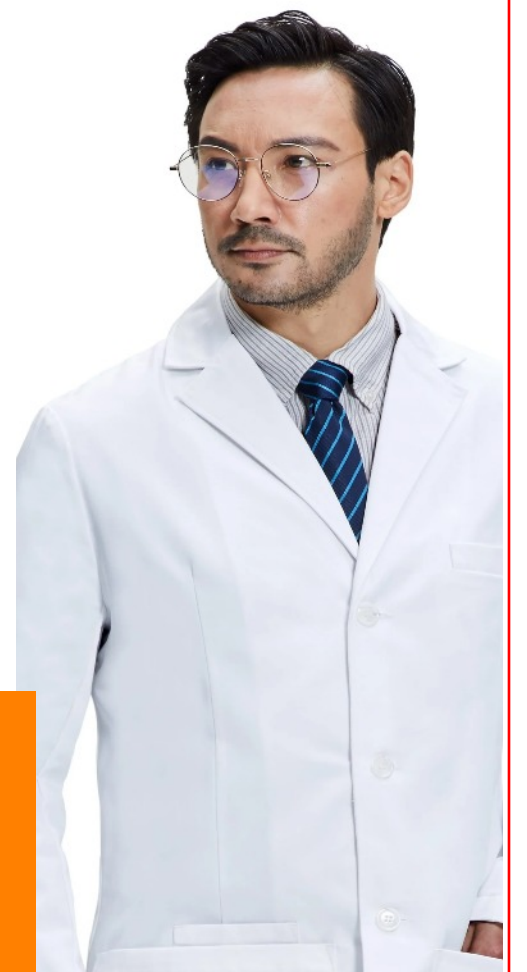
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Teen arrested for Long Branch murder



LONG BRANCHER Matthew Bergart was killed by a pistol-packing young offender.

There is no shortage of illegal guns in Toronto. A young offender rounded up in a 100-bullet downtown gun battle has been charged with second-degree murder in the brutal killing of a local man. The 16-year-old youth, who cannot be identified because he is a young offender, was arrested with 22 others following a

gunfight on November 12, near Queen Street W., and Sudbury Ave. Toronto Police after conducting background checks on the teen charged him with the April 25 murder of Matthew Bergart, 30, in the Long Branch Avenue and Lake Shore Blvd. W. area. It is believed the arrested resulted from a DNA match from samples obtained at the murder scene. Bergart, a professional gambler was shot multiple times after three suspects forced their way into a townhouse in the early morning hours. The pro poker player was best known for playing in the 2019 World Series of Poker, with one website listing his winnings at about \$19,000 U.S. Police said the suspects made a demand for valuables and the victim was fatally shot after a struggle ensued. The Brampton teen was under a firearms prohibition at the time of his arrest, police said. Police said the boy was among 23 suspects who were arrested in Parkdale after a wild-west shootout in which 100 shots were fired between two rival groups. A police vehicle with officers inside was also hit by gunfire. "Bullets pierced through the front, back and sides of the vehicle, narrowly missing the officers and riddling cars and surrounding buildings," Staff Supt. Joe Matthews said. Some 16 weapons were seized by police. Most were smuggled here from the U.S. And only recently a man was arrested for firing multiple shots at Highway 401 motorists, leaving one man injured.

Man risk to public



FRIENDS OF BURN victim Nyima Dolma still remember her dearly every year. A panel has ruled her killer is still a threat to the public and will remain behind bars.

A man who set a woman on fire on a TTC bus at Kipling Station in an incident that rocked the City is still a threat to the public and will have to spend more time in custody. Tenzin Norbu, 35, was found not criminally responsible for the 2022 death of Nyima Dolma, 28, a caregiver and

nursing student, who was also born in Tibet. The two did not know each other that fateful day, in which Norbu may have been hallucinating, a panel has ruled. An Ontario Review Board (ORB) in October ruled that Norbu, who has a lengthy history of mental illness and aggression, should remain in custody as he still poses a significant threat to the public. The ORB hearing was held last August at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), where Norbu is being held. He was charged with murder and found not criminally responsible for setting the aspiring nurse on fire with lighter fluid aboard a bus in 2022. She died in hospital from her injuries 18 days later, three months away from completing her nursing degree. Norbu stands to receive privileges as walking around the CAMH grounds while "indirectly supervised." The five-member panel ruled he could be gradually given privileges to leave his unit at the facility for other parts of the hospital. The brutal incident shook the city with people taking precautions on public transit. A Go Fund Me page raised thousands of dollars to help with the funeral of the soon-to-be nurse.

Homeless camp at LAMP moved to beds



CITY CREWS cleaning up truckfuls of litter left behind by a relocated homeless encampment.

Some New Toronto and area residents are breathing a sigh of relief. A homeless encampment that had hunkered down in the parking lot of LAMP Community Health Centre has been moved indoors by City crews as the temperature dips. This was going to be the second winter in

the Fifth Street facility for some of the encampment, who had been on a waiting list for shelter beds to open up. City crews on November 15 with trucks and equipment moved into the encampment and removed mountains of items as old tents, cooking and other equipment and garbage. It took City staff several hours to pack the items in a truck and it was driven away. There was a smell in the air as the piles of garbage were removed from the former encampment, which has racked up dozens of complaints from residents in regards to rats and unsanitary conditions. A City official said beds were found for five people living in tents and another in a car. The official said members of the encampment agreed to being moved to shelter beds in the area. At one time there were as many as 12 homeless people, including a pregnant woman, living in the encampment. Those being moved indoors included one man with bone cancer, another with one lung, one whose wife had recently died and another who had lost his job and couldn't afford rent. Mayor Olivia Chow has said there are 1,200 people in City shelters, and about 200 others are turned away nightly due to a lack of beds. She said the City is raising funds for new shelters but that can take years.

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Remembering those who gave their lives for us



ONE OF BRANCH 101's longest surviving veteran Stan McGowan, at 95, with his son. The were among hundreds of residents paying tribute to our fallen.

Hundreds of community residents braved the cold to pay tribute to the many thousands of valiant soldiers who gave their lives for Canada.

The Royal Canadian Legion Hall Branch 101, on Lake Shore Blvd. W., Branch 643, on Jutland Road, Etobicoke Civic Centre Cenotaphs and another at Kipling Avenue and Lake Shore Blvd. W., were packed as politicians and area residents remembered the men who gave their lives.

Branch 101 president Alan Roy said the veterans are dying out and that his branch lost 14 members in the last year.

The names of the fallen were read aloud and the crowd bowed their heads. A group of women stood observing the service from inside the hall.

The oldest surviving veteran Stan McGowan, who just turned 95, was sitting in the front row in a wheelchair.

"This is a day to remember my colleagues who are no longer here," McGowan whispered. "It is a big day for all of us who fought for Canada."

There was also a reading of Flanders Field and Act of Remembrance as hundreds watched outside Branch 101.

Attending the service was Deputy Mayor Amber Morley, MPP Christine Hogarth and MP James Maloney.

Members of the Toronto Police and Toronto Fire

Services were also there to show their support.

TTC vehicles on the road stopped at 11 a.m. as the service continued.

This year marks several significant anniversaries including the 80th anniversary of D-Day, 75 years since the founding of NATO, ten years since the end of the Canadian Peacekeeping Mission in Afghanistan and the centennial of the Royal Canadian Air Force. More than 65,000 Canadians died in World War I, and over 170,000 were wounded. The Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) lost 59,544 members, with 51,748 dying from enemy action. More than 45,000 Canadians died in



MP CHRISTINE HOGARTH laying a memorial wreath outside Branch 101. Cadets (below) pay their respect on a cold fall day. Staff Photos.



HAMILTON'S GORE PARK is home to the Hamilton Cenotaph Veterans Memorial made by William Russell Souter that was unveiled in 1923 and is more than 100-years old. The monument commemorates the loss of thousands of lives of brave residents of Hamilton who served in the First World War. Photo courtesy of Cameron Johnson.



World War II, and around 55,000 were wounded. More than 17,000 Canadian airmen died during the war. Many others gave their lives in recent wars. peacekeeping roles. There were many young people attending.

What's Inside

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Merry Christmas

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season and all the best in the New Year.



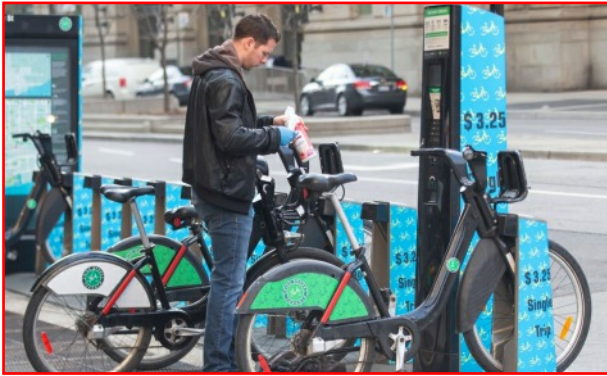
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\$12 million sought to electrify City's bike fleet



CYCLIST GEARING UP to rent an E-bike for a trip conducting chores around the City.

As the Ontario government work to remove some controversial bike lanes, the City is planning to expand its Bike Share Toronto program.

More than \$12 million is being sought by the Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) to electrify its bike fleet with the purchase hundreds of e-bikes, solar stations and e-docks as part of a Bike Share four-year expansion program.

A proposal by the TPA is being considered by City Council whose members will likely approve the spending to become a leader in the use of electric bikes and charging systems.

Some nine million dollars of the funds will be used to purchase new equipment for next summer and three million as a down payment on the order, according to the November 8 proposal.

"TPA's vision to be the world's leading provider of sustainable parking, bike sharing, and last-mile mobility solutions for our customers, partners, and the city," according to the proposal.

Bike Share Toronto plans to add 180 solar stations, 350 electric charging docks (e-docks), 450 iconic bikes and 300 e-bikes to the system next year.

It said the investments will grow the Bike Share network to 1,042 stations, 1,375 e-docks, and 10,250 bikes, including 7,930 iconic bikes and 2,320 e-bikes. It currently has 625 stations across the City.

"The expansion will prioritize neighborhoods where affordable mobility options are most needed, ensuring

greater accessibility and convenience citywide," the report stated.

"The strategy focuses on the electrification of the network through the introduction of

E-bike stations and E-V charging stations."

If approved, the plan will introduce new stations to Rexdale, Scarborough Centre, Scarborough North, and Scarborough Agincourt.

It calls for more stations in the downtown area to enhance high-demand areas, ensuring that users can find available bikes or docking stations.

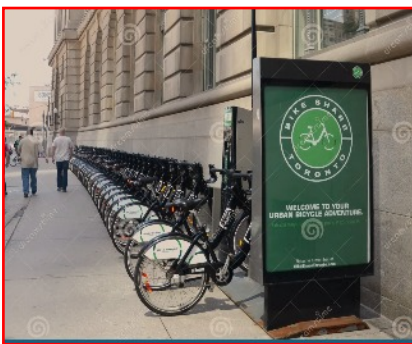
"With demand in the core continuing to surge, this additional infrastructure will help maintain accessibility for members and casual users alike," the TPA said.

So far this year, riders in Toronto have taken 4.7 million Bike Share trips, already overtaking ridership in 2022 and fast approaching the 5.7 million mark set in 2023, according to Bike Share officials.

They expect six million trips on Bike Share this year. Bike Share Toronto's ridership revenue is forecasted to reach about \$7 million this year.




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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.

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Hellen Keller Centre breaks ground for housing



HELLEN KELLER CENTRE MEMBER Angele Periard (centre) of North Bay cannot wait for the building to be complete to move in. **Staff photo.**

Area politicians and dignitaries took part in a New Toronto ground-breaking ceremony of a multi-unit Canadian Helen Keller Centre (CHKC) for deafblind people. The 56-unit accessible apartment complex, at 158 Eighth Street, is slated to be completed by July 2025.

“This is a critical step in addressing a significant housing shortage in Ontario,” said CHKC CEO

government through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. The new six-storey building will have one-, two- and three-bedroom homes alongside a range of shared spaces and amenities, including a rooftop garden.

MP James Maloney said the centre was a ‘made in Canada’ project in which all parties worked together to make happen.

“A safe and secure home is of vital importance for a better quality of life and strong communities,” he told a gathering of social workers, CHKC and construction staff. This “will provide housing stability for people with disabilities from our community along with the support they require for their success.”

Deputy Mayor Amber Morley said the project “serves residents seeking not just a home that works for them, but a community that can provide them with supports and a sense of belonging.” Angele Periard, who will be moving into the new centre, said she is excited and cannot wait to move in. “Now I can save money to buy groceries and visit my family back in North Bay,” she said. “Now I will have a safe space to live in.”



ARTIST CONCEPTION OF the 56-unit building (top, bottom left), which is slated to open in the Fall of 2025.

Jennifer Robbins. “Deafblind consumers from Toronto and beyond can apply for housing in the new building.” She said the facility will include a 6,500 square foot training centre where more deafblind people can learn essential life skills to aid in their independence while caring for their families and homes.



The complex will help reduce a lengthy CHKC waitlist and give more people with vision and hearing loss access to an independent life. People with other disabilities will use any remaining units.

“The apartment complex will also help to reduce social isolation, improve the quality of life for vulnerable deafblind individuals experiencing homelessness or living in unsafe environments,” Robbins said. The facility is a partnership between CHKC, the City of Toronto and the federal



CONSTRUCTION WORKERS, FAMILIES, supporters and dignitaries take in some of the ground-breaking speeches. **Staff Photo.**

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Remembering two Toronto officers who gave all



THE LATE Toronto Police Constable John Zivcic. RIP John.

Two slain Toronto Police officers from 22 Division were among those paid tribute to during Remembrance Day ceremonies. Constable John Zivcic succumbed to his injuries on December 2, 2013, at age 34, with six years of service on the force.

The City of Toronto after 11-years this month authorized a stone marker and inscribed plaque be placed by Parks staff on a tree that was planted in a Commemorative Tree Program to remember Zivcic.

A tree in the city boulevard at the intersection of Bloor Street West and Neilson Drive that was damaged in the collision was removed, police said, and for several years the tree stump remained, marked with the brass numbers of his police badge: "9824".

The stump was eventually removed and a memorial tree was planted at that location honouring the legacy of Zivcic, who died in the line of duty. The commemorative lilac tree was unveiled in a ceremony attended by family and co-workers on September 2023.

The Toronto and Canadian police community are also mourning the loss of Constable Henry Snedden who was shot dead by a deranged man in Etobicoke 46 years ago.

Snedden and his partner, Donald Chadbold, responded on September 15, 1978 to what they thought was a domestic dispute on Mooreshead Drive, near the Etobicoke Civic Centre, in the Renforth Drive and Burnhamthorpe Road area. "Upon arriving at the disturbance, the officers found two groups of people standing outside 16 and 18 Mooreshead," according to police records. The officers separated. Suddenly a man, Arthur Hayden Packwood, began struggling with Constable Snedden, according to police



A TREE PLANTED in memory of Const. John Zivcic.



TORONTO POLICE Constable Henry Snedden was killed by a deranged man some 46 years ago.

documents from the incident.

Chadbold rushed to his partner's aid. Momentarily the two officers appeared to have the situation under control, police said.

"They didn't realize Packwood had managed to get Snedden's service revolver out of his holster," according to police. "Shots rang out. Constable Snedden was dead before reaching the then Queensway General Hospital." "Snedden's partner cradled him, trying to keep the veteran alive," records show. It was too late.

The young officer was shot twice in the chest by Packwood, 27, on the front steps of the home with his own gun.

He had been on the force for just over two years. Packwood, who had a mental illness and believed he was acting in self-defence, was eventually found not guilty of murder, due to insanity.

Another officer suffered serious injuries when he crashed his motorcycle rushing to the scene to help his brothers.



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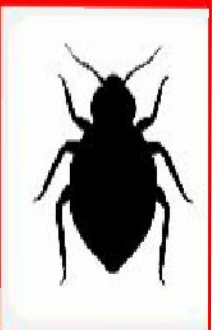
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75 more auto speed cameras



MOTORISTS BETTER GET USED TO more automated speed cameras like these that will soon be on our streets.

Plans are underway by the City to install 75 new automated speed cameras on Toronto roads next year despite a rash of vandalism to the devices. A Vision Zero Road Safety Plan by Transportation Services is also proposing a reduction of speed limit on local roads to 30 miles an hour and narrower roadways to slow down vehicles. Staff are now identifying areas across the city where the new speed cameras can be installed.

The Vision Zero plan will be presented to an Infrastructure and Environment Committee and then City council for consideration.

It said vandalism is a concern and called for the new cameras to be installed on secure extended poles that will be make it harder to be tampered with. Just last month, one of the City's most prolific ticket-issuing camera on Parkside Drive was cut down by vandals. The notorious camera had issued a staggering 63,633 speeding tickets to date, earning the City almost \$7 million based on the average ticket amount of \$107.

The plan said the devices will be installed using a data-driven approach that considers vehicle speed and collision history rather than evenly distributed between wards.

"This will provide an opportunity to target locations in the city with the most problematic vehicle speeds and provide the greatest safety benefit," according to the report. A minimum of three of the cameras will be provided for each of the City's 25 wards.

"It does require considerable time and resources to relocate the cameras, so initial location evaluation time is well-spent," the report stated, adding that warning signs must be posted 90 days prior to their use.

A Toronto Police Vision Zero Enforcement Team targets aggressive, distracted, impaired driving and speeding. The team this year has issued some 42,929 tickets: consisting of 18,593 for speeding, 3,429 for aggressive driving, 3,934 for distracted driving and 16,973 tickets for other infractions.

The report recommends that the speed limit on local roads be decreased to 30 miles an hour and the creation of 20 new Community Safety Zones with speed cameras near schools to improve safety.

Also being considered are more traffic calming measures, mobile watch-your-speed signs, in-road flexible speed signs and the narrowing of roads to slow down traffic.

City staff also have a plan to issue automated tickets to red light runners, those who block bike lanes, signs or parked illegally through the use of cameras connected to transportation ministry databases with the tickets of offenders mailed to the owner of the vehicle. As of last September some 30 people have died in traffic incidents in Toronto, including 12 pedestrians, eight motorists, six cyclists, and four motorcyclists. The Vision Zero strategy is to reduce traffic-related deaths and serious injuries to zero.

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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.

Brad Jones, the funeral director believes this year 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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Queensway Fish & Chips marks 47th anniversary



FISH MASTER Richard Yong is celebrating his 47th year in business at The Queensway Fish & Chips (below).

Richard Yong is celebrating the milestone anniversary of his Queensway Fish & Chips restaurant which has been a mainstay of the community for 47 years.

All day long-time customers have been dropping in to wish Yong well and enjoy a meal at his 1236 The Queensway restaurant for a range of their favourite fish meals. The eatery is one of the few left operating in the community, which at one time was home for many restaurants that served fresh fish and chips.

The business served its first meal on November 16, 1977, when the price was \$1.45.

Yong, in his 70s, said the price of fish today, as most goods, has soared in price, making the dish more expensive. A plate of fish and

“The secret to staying in business is hard work and not to cut any corners,” Yong says. “We make everything here fresh and with the best ingredients.”

He boasts that his fish is from Alaska and are prepared in-house. The potatoes for his French fries are purchased from local farms and are sliced freshly every day.

“Our fries are not frozen,” he says. “We make our fries fresh for our customers.”

On the walls are a number of awards and certificates the restaurant has earned over the decades.

“When we came here there was little around,” Yong recalls. “All that was here was the



YONG SERVING two of a constant stream of customers there to wish him a happy 47th anniversary. **Staff photos.**

Queensway Kipling Mall and it was busy.”

Dining today was Michael, who travelled here from Mississauga, with his three children.

“I have been coming here at first with my sister decades ago,” he said. “The food is great and here is the only place we go for fish and chips.” His many customers love the food and have been returning for decades. Queensway Fish & Chips can be reached at 416-252-7061. There is a 10 per cent discount for seniors every Tuesday.

chips can sell for as much as \$17.50.

Born in China, he grew up in Guyana, before immigrating to Canada in his 20s; first working at an uncle’s fish and chips restaurant in the east end.

At around 25, he purchased the west-end unit, where he grew his family in the apartment above and started the popular Queensway institution.

He is proud of his five grown children, who all worked at the restaurant while growing up. His hard work helped to pay for the university tuition for several of them.



CELEBRATING THEIR OPENING in New Toronto are Yamisha Hope (right) and husband Lenroy, owners of Tallawah Tropics Jamaican food at 2834 Lake Shore Blvd. W. They specialize in oxtail, jerk and curry chicken, goat and other dishes at affordable prices. They also sell freshly peeled coconuts, patties and home-made tropical juices, all natural and good. Customers swear by this restaurant and all said the food is like that made at home. They are nice people and the food is tasty. Call them at 437-258-2741.

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FACEBOOK

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our community

We would like to wish all our readers and community members a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy 2025.

We wish you and your family a productive and less-stressed New Year considering all that is going on worldwide.

We have been publishing *The South Etobicoke News* for almost six years and it is our pleasure to serve our community and link us all together, considering the ground-breaking changes taking place at our doorstep.

We thank you for your many e-mails and phone calls with tips, ideas and news stories so that we can inform the community. Keep them coming.

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Seniors home, condos on Evans

Construction plans are underway for a huge mega-development that will include a nursing home and four towers in the Evans Avenue and East Mall area.



A NURSING HOME and four towers are proposed at Brown's Line and Evans Avenue east to The East Mall area that will change the landscape.

Notices have been erected to alert residents of a proposed change of zoning as the site is before the Etobicoke York Community Council. A ruling is expected soon.

Plans include construction of a major subdivision with a nine-storey seniors residence, two blocks of three-storey townhouses and four condo towers on the north side of Evans Avenue, from Brown's Line east to The East Mall, from 564 to 580 Evans Avenue.

The high-rises ranging from 21 to 38 storeys in height and will face Highway 27 and the Gardiner Expressway, The developers want to construct townhouses and four towers 21, 29, 32 and 38 stories on a shared three-storey base building and new roadway.

Also included is a new 4,129 square metre park and three 20-metre-wide streets that runs north-south and east-west, according to the proposal. There will be more than 1,000 parking spaces and the same amount of bicycle spots in total.

The development will have a total gross floor area of 100,841 square metres and will house 1,196 residential

units, which includes 678 one-bedroom units, 397 two-bedroom units and 475 three-bedroom units. The existing Active Green and Ross Tire store, which has stood there for decades, will be demolished to make room for the development. There were at one time about 65 of the franchise tire stores in Southern Ontario.

The proposal calls for the townhouses to be parallel to the new park, Evans Avenue on the south, and the new public north-south and east-west streets on the east and north.

A sidewalk in front of Evans Avenue would be reconstructed with a minimum width of 2.1 metres to improve pedestrian comfort and safety and comply with City standards.

The surrounding land includes a low-rise industrial building at 24 The East Mall, a two-storey motel at 560 Evans Avenue, storage units and a

gas station with a car wash.

Notices have also gone up to notify residents of a 26-storey tower, with 352 dwelling units, planned for 99

Birmingham and 210

Islington Avenue, where a temple now stands.

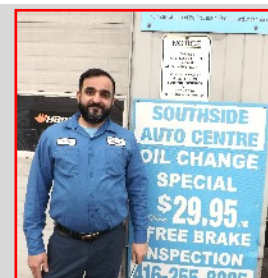
A similar notice has also been placed on the site of the Cineplex Theatre Queensway where 12 condos, some 46-storey tall, are planned, with a daycare and park.



TRAFFIC CONGESTION WILL be an issue in an area where there are ramps to the Gardiner Expressway, Highway 427, Brown's Line and Evans Avenue.

Tips from local mechanic to keep car safe and on the road

Here are some tips for motorists by New Toronto mechanic and Southside Auto Centre Ltd., owner Shaffique Bani for you and your family to stay safe in your vehicle this winter.



- install winter tires, check tire pressure
- check your battery
- check your wipers
- check windshield washer fluid
- check brakes and brake fluid
- check all lights and signals
- check the front end suspension
- check serpentine belt
- check heater and defroster
- stay on top of your regular oil change

THE OWNER OF Southside Auto Centre (below) Shaffique Bani is offering residents some helpful tips to stay safe on the road.



Southside Auto Centre Ltd.'s special for this winter: With a purchase of a synthetic oil change they will top up your windshield washer fluid and perform all the above checks for free.

Have a happy and safe holidays .

They are located at 3021 Lake Shore Blvd. W. You can contact them at 416-255-8885 or by email rahimabani786@gmail.com

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Condos and maybe subway proceeding at Sherway Mall

Maybe we will get a TTC subway stop at Sherway Gardens Mall one of these days. Sherway Gardens Mall is moving ahead with plans to build mixed housing on its massive parking lots and again prepare for a possible extension of the Bloor Danforth subway line. City officials are seeking Council's urgent directions on amendments to the Sherway Gardens



MORE THAN 6,000 PEOPLE will be moving into the community if 15 new buildings, some up to 45 storeys, are allowed to go up in the parking lot Sherway Mall Gardens.

Secondary Plan at an upcoming Ontario Land Tribunal hearing on December 9. "City Council's consideration of this matter is urgent and should therefore not be deferred," according to a motion considered by City Council on November 13. Sherway Gardens Mall is seeking approval to redevelop its surface parking lots into a mixed-use community in which 15 new buildings ranging from 17 to 45 storeys are proposed, including parks. The development will create more than 6,200 residential units and over 14,000 square metres of new retail and office uses, according to the developers. The plan calls for a transit hub at the northwest of the site to allow for the extension of the Bloor-Danforth subway line from Kipling Station.

At one time there were widespread calls from residents and political leaders for the subway to be extended to Sherway, but that has since faded. Also planned is a multi-use trail with pedestrian and cycling infrastructure along the entire Queensway frontage of the site.

And a private ring road around the mall would be designed to City standards and dedicated as public streets through redevelopment. "The surface parking lots surrounding the mall would be redeveloped with a mix of uses to create a walkable and more hospitable pedestrian environment," according to planners. "The lands where the existing shopping centre is located were designated Mixed Use Areas to maintain the retail focus of this part of the precinct."

Development of tall condos and town homes are also taking place in the parking lots of Cloverdale Mall, Dixie Outlet Mall, Yorkdale Mall, Fairview and others.



THIS IS WHAT Sherway Mall Gardens will look like in years to come if the development is approved.



In the Community

By TOM GODFREY

If you watch the news regularly, you would know that Toronto and other police forces and City officials seems to have lost their battle against illegal weapons.

The gunplay these days is fierce and the amount of automatic and other types of illegal weapons on the streets of Toronto takes us right back to the violent and deadly gang wars we lived through in the 1980s.

Every night there are three to five or more gun incidents in the City in which multiple innocent people are shot or killed by criminals with weapons, mostly smuggled from the U.S. Seniors and others in our community are terrified by the daily bloodshed and are locking themselves indoors or not going out at night, or day, fearing they will be shot or have their vehicles carjacked or stolen.

You are also likely to be shot while driving your vehicle on the highway, or in a carjack bid as a motorist was recently, in which one person was arrested.

It was only last month that more than 100 shots were fired by warring parties on densely populated Queen Street W., near Sudbury. An undercover police cruiser with officers inside was even shot up in the fire fight, in which about 16 illegal weapons were seized.

A number of suspects out on bail were among the more than 20 rounded up. Police and politicians have been calling on Ottawa to keep repeat offenders incarcerated for longer periods of time.

A 16-year-old, with a violent criminal history, was one of the suspects arrested with a weapon in that shootout. Police discovered through checks the youth was wanted for a murder right here in Long Branch last summer.

Similarly, almost half of the car theft suspects being arrested by police these days seem to be out on bail or release conditions, and some foreign students. It is troublesome since a vehicle is stolen every 40 minutes in Toronto.

So far this year there have been more than 70 expensive vehicles carjacked, many by armed thieves, who are teenagers. Just imagine that more than 12,300 vehicles were stolen in Toronto in 2023 and we have surpassed that this year.

We have lost the battle against weapons smuggled across the border. It seems like every punk criminal is carrying a piece these days. Youths as young as 14, or younger, have access to weapons and do not fear using them.

The slayings are similar to the bloody 1980s, when there were up to three or more people daily being gunned down on our streets by gangs or drug cartels.

I remember one criminal who was shot dead just as he stepped outside a Toronto jail after serving time for an assault. The shooter fled the country and is still at large.

I know Toronto police officers are working hard to curb the gun violence, but lately it seems the criminals are becoming more fearless by committing offences in broad daylight with witnesses present.

We are living in violent times when residents fear going out to visit friends, shop or conduct their business.

Something has to be done to curb the daily gunplay and killings in our community. More young offenders are being used by gangs to conduct vicious crimes that harm us all.

It is sad when we become climatized to a daily line-up of mugshots of those shot dead.

Like many people these days I am reluctant to venture far or to some neighbourhoods fearing being shot at.

What's worst is that the loved ones of residents are being shot and killed daily and even with the many arrests it seems that all the authorities are doing is playing catch up and carting bodies to the city morgue.

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

The 12 Days of Living December just snuck up on me. How about you? Are you ready? Here we are in the midst of the darkest days but also first snowfalls, holiday dinners and baking extravaganzas. The holiday music is on full swing in every mall, office and coffee shop. Does anyone still go into the office? The



mindful of my job and personal health requirements, and family's needs of course). That provides me with an additional 10 to 30 minutes of 'free' time. I can use that time to "Live" more.

Between now and December 12th, I will create a list of a few chores I've been neglecting. Those two Aunties that I need to call: on the list. Sending a thank you note to a longtime friend, adding that in now.

Organizing a bunch of my favourite photos to get printed: definitely yes. These small chores enhance our life. They are some of the most festive, heart-warming ways to prepare for the holidays. But they seem to always fall through the cracks of our jam-packed schedules.

This is my opportunity, and yours, to adapt the Medieval holiday tradition to live fully with your family, friends and community.

The twelve days before Christmas can still be full of holiday parties and dinners but we can choose wisely. As we choose to focus our minds on our heart's wants, we expand our heart, not our waist lines. 12 Days of Living as Wind-down Starting on Christmas Day, for twelve days, I will do my best to wind-down for at least a couple hours of each day. I am writing my list of slowing down activities now and you can too.

We seldom follow through with plans stuck in our head. Say I love to swim weekly. After Christmas, I will head to the pool and just lazily float around. I will book a massage and enjoy some leftovers, happily ignoring the stove for a couple of days.

Even my gym workout or outdoor hike may turn into a full hour long 'nap' on the yoga mat. I am testing out this updated version of Medieval Christmas with my 12 Days of Living before and after Christmas. I plan on living fully and I hope you do too! Tell me if you try this 'old new' tradition this season.

"Happiness is not something you postpone for the future; it is something you design for the present." – Jim Rohn

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The holiday season is here, filled with warmth, connection, and the spirit of giving. Imagine the comforting smell of cookies baking, the sounds of hopeful music playing, and the feelings of love and generosity in the air. However, in our digital world, actual human interaction has become rare. Social media connects us in many ways but also isolates us. We scroll through feeds, like posts, and send emojis, but we need to pay attention to the importance of face-to-face interaction.



This Christmas, let's try to reach out to someone in person, share a meal, and bring back the lost art of direct human connection.

Empathy is crucial for healthy people and communities. It helps us understand and share the feelings of others, promoting compassion and cooperation. When empathy thrives, we see our neighbours as friends, resolve conflicts peacefully, and build strong support networks. Without empathy, society becomes fragmented, leading to loneliness and mental health issues. Studies show that empathy is hard-wired into us, but as we depersonalize our contact, we are losing it. This holiday season, let's use the spirit of Christmas to nurture empathy and build stronger, more caring communities.

I remember when my son sent his grandmother a birthday card by e-mail. She sent it back, saying that if he didn't take the time to put pen to paper, he didn't care. The effort in sending a handwritten note shows thoughtfulness and a bit of yourself in the message. It's personal and caring. It's like saying thank you and then explaining why you are thankful. The explanation and effort show you care. Look at soldiers or lovers whose relatives were killed in war. They save the letters as if they were part of the person, not so with e-mails.

Remember the power of a hug. Reaching out and touching is how we connect on a personal level. It is a necessary ingredient for creating empathy and generating wellness. When we hug or feel, we share a moment of genuine connection that words alone cannot convey. These simple acts of kindness bind us together as a community.

Simple conversations humanize us to strangers. A smile or a "have a good day" means more than we think. Especially reaching out to a lonely elderly person can mean so much. People need a sense of identity. Taking kids to a senior's home to give out cookies teaches them values and reinforces that intense feeling of empathy while making the residents feel like people again. Direct contact encourages empathy. When we see someone's face, hear their voice, and share a meal, we connect on a deeper level. We understand their joys and struggles, and we become more compassionate.

Let's counter loneliness this Christmas by reaching out to those around us. Invite a neighbour for dinner, visit a friend you haven't seen, or volunteer at a local charity. These actions help others and enrich our own lives.

Social media has changed how we communicate but also makes us feel more isolated. We lose the personal touch of face-to-face conversations, making us less caring and more prone to conflicts. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened this isolation, with lockdowns and social distancing taking a toll on our mental health. In Canada and other places, mental illness has tripled during the pandemic. We have started seeing our neighbours as strangers or even enemies.

Politicians like Donald Trump have made incivility regular, further reducing our sense of empathy. This divisive rhetoric makes it hard to find common ground, risking the very fabric of our diverse and multicultural society. If we do not address this issue, we could destroy our success as a nation.

Involving the kids can also be an excellent way to spread joy and teach significant values. Get them to bake cookies and take them to a few seniors on your street. This simple act of kindness can mean so much to a lonely elderly person. It teaches the children about compassion and reinforces that intense feeling of empathy while making the seniors feel valued and remembered.

Christmas is a time of hope and renewal. It's an opportunity to make meaningful connections that build empathy and understanding. Instead of sending an email, write a handwritten note. Instead of making a phone call, pay a visit. Instead of using a self-checkout machine, say hello to the cashier and ask how they feel. These small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

Loneliness is a growing problem with severe consequences. Studies show loneliness can be as harmful to our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. It increases the risk of heart disease, depression, and anxiety. By making an effort to connect with others, we can combat loneliness and improve our overall well-being.

In conclusion, this Christmas, let's embrace the season's spirit by reaching out to others meaningfully. Social media and technology have their place, but they must maintain the value of face-to-face interaction. We can build empathy, counter loneliness, and strengthen our communities by making direct contact. Let's use this holiday season to positively impact the lives of those around us and create a more caring and connected world.

Wishing you a warm, joyful, and connected Christmas!

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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TO Councillors seeking a pay increase



The City is hurting financially and some councillors say they work hard and are seeking a pay raise to get by. Toronto Councillors now earn about \$128,000 yearly and there are calls for a pay increase due to their large ridings and heavy workloads. A motion to increase the compensation and office

budgets of the City's 25 Councillors is being considered by Council. A motion by Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Chris Moise, is seeking an updated review of Councillor compensation; to adjust their payments to their counterparts, and regularly review their compensation, and that of their office staff. Council "request the City Clerk to report to City Council by the fourth quarter of 2025 on options to modernize the job descriptions, salary bands, and the compensation envelope for staff in Members' offices," according to the motion. It said in 2018 Toronto City Council was reduced from 44 to 25 councillors by the provincial government. "Toronto now has perhaps the most populous wards of any major city in North America and Europe," according to the Councillors. "In order to manage this volume of work, Council increased their staff budgets." Council requested the City Manager and the Chief People Officer to report back on the motion at the December 17, 18 and 19 City Council meeting. Some residents are crying foul since Mayor Olivia Chow said the City is broke and our Councillors are among the better paid politicians in the province. Councillors earn about \$128,000 yearly, depending on the committees they sit on. Mayor Olivia Chow earns about \$206,000 yearly. Regional councillors outside the city earn about \$40,000 yearly. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is paid about \$410,000 yearly. Premier Doug Ford rakes in about \$210,000 annually and MPPs \$166,000. A federal MPP earns a base salary of \$116,550 and additional responsibilities come with more money, ranging from \$16,000 to \$50,000.

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DECEMBER 4 & 11 LINE DANCING with Allie free classes on Wednesdays from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Call to register at 416-252-6471 ext. 308 or email jasmind@lampchc.org

DECEMBER 7 ETOBICOKE CENTENNIAL CHOIR presents a Baroque Noel and timeless 17th century European holiday music from around the world taking place at 7:30 p.m. at Humber Valley United Church, 76 Anglesey Blvd. Tickets \$35. Call 416-695-9034 or visit www.etobicokecentennialchoir.ca

DECEMBER 7 HOLLY DAY POINSETTA FUNDRAISER at the Church of Atonement at 256 Sheldon Avenue from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with poinsettias for \$8 plus, with free raffle and bake sale. Contact 416-259-5748 or visit www.jubileecentreetobicoke.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

DECEMBER 7 WARM UP before the Etobicoke Lakeshore Santa Claus parade at the Bell Garden Event space at 80 Birmingham Street for hot cocoa from 9 a.m.

UNTIL DECEMBER 8 HOLIDAY Toy Drive as LAMP CHC is seeking new unwrapped toys for children in South Etobicoke for any age, gender is appreciated. Gift certificates welcome. Drop off until December 8 at 185 Fifth Street. For info call 416-252-9701 or email nasdaal@lampchc.org

DECEMBER 13 KINGSWAY WOMEN'S CLUB welcomes men and women to a holiday lunch with entertainment by guitarist Mike Daley. Tickets \$75. Lunch at Markland Wood Golf Club at 12 p.m. RSVP by December 7 to kingswaywomensclub.wordpress.com

DECEMBER 14 A CHRISTMAS SHOW free from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Alderwood Church, 44 Delma Drive., featuring String Hoppers. There will also be a Christmas Candlelight Service at the church on December 24 at 6 p.m. Join for a candlelight service to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

DECEMBER 14 JEAN AUGUSTINE CENTRE Holiday Party for families to mingle and celebrate the holiday season from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at their office on 101 Portland Road. The theme is Gingerbread Land. For more contact 416-253-9797 or visit jeanaugustinecentre.ca

DECEMBER 14 CAROLS BY THE LAKE at 4 p.m. at Mimico Square. Come join our singers carolling by the lake. Sponsored by the Mimico-by-the-lake BIA. Free event and dress warm.

DECEMBER 14 CHRISTMAS MARKET from 11 a.m. To 5 p.m. At Mimico Presbyterian Church, 119 Mimico Ave. Free entry shop local vendor for unique Christmas gitts and handcrafted goodies. For more Instagram: @completelyhandmade.

DECEMBER 20 MP YVAN BAKER of Etobicoke Centre is sponsoring the Community Recognition Awards and nominations are open until December 20 for those who are making a difference in our community for outstanding volunteer service. The awards will be presented on January 26. Nominate someone by calling 416-249-7322 or sending an e-mail to Yvan.Baker@parl.gc.ca

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.

DECEMBER 23 SETTLEMENT SERVICES from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, Unit 201. Free support, advice, information, permanent resident card renewal and citizenship applications, newcomer referrals and other services offered. Call 416-231-7070 or visit stonegatechc.org.

DECEMBER 23 SUNNYLEA FAMILY DROP-IN from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Royal York United Church, at 851 Royal York Road. Free drop-in for families with children up to six years old. Interactive play, story time and crafts. Call 416-231-9401.

DECEMBER 25 SPANISH SPEAKING Women's Group from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and take part in informative and motivational chats, arts, crafts meditation and cooking demos. For more info call 416-231-7070 or visit stonegatechc.org.

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

THE GOOD FOOD BOX Stonegate CHC is again presenting its food box drive in which a \$25 donation will purchase a local family dealing with hunger security a box of fruits of vegetables as a gift. They are seeking donations for boxes or sponsors. For more information call 416-231-7070 ext. 229 or visit stonegatechc.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 Qiqong. To register email jasmind@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 257, 308.

EVERY THURSDAYS CREATIVE WRITING group from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for 12 weeks and discover the joy of writing stories, letters, poetry and improve your communication skills. Contact robertc@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext 242.

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DECEMBER 6 TO 15 MISSISSAUGA Festival of Trees from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Nightly at the Small Arms Inspection Building at 1352 Lake Shore Road E., for art installations, twinkling lights, live performances and workshops. Stroll through our artisan and culinary holiday market, showcasing more than 80 local vendors offering one-of-a-kind artisan goods and mouth-watering culinary creations. You can e-mail them at info@creativehub1352.ca

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West Region Champs put Basketball on ECI sports map



BROOKE MANCUSCO shows some of her amazing basketball moves.

Etobicoke Collegiate Institute (ECI) is a well-regarded high school in the athletic space, winning championships across a number of sports. Known primarily for its football program, one sport that has been steadily on the rise at ECI is girl's basketball. This season the junior girls team (consisting of students in Grade 9 and 10) put it all together to make a memorable run, winning the West Region championships. During tryouts and early in the season head coach Justin Garcia and assistant coach Sadie Becker were unsure of the talent level on the team. "The team was predominantly one of Grade 9 students, some who had never played competitive, organized

basketball before," said Garcia. "Luckily we had a good core of returning players who were instrumental with their leadership."

Two of these players were Sophie Lipman and Naomi Tipping who played considerable minutes last season for the team that lost to HumberSide Collegiate in the West Region semi-finals. "Naomi has a solid, all-around game; she can score, defend and got us baskets when we needed them the most," Garcia said. "And Sophie plays with so much energy and passion. She just wills herself to get to the basket."

In their first game of the season, they defeated North Albion Collegiate 60-18 and won game two 50-19 over Weston Collegiate. They would push their record to 3-0 before their first big test of the season against archrivals HumberSide. In a tight, back and forth contest they squeaked out a two point victory.

They went undefeated in the regular season with a 5-0 record before heading into the playoffs where they would meet up with HumberSide again.

"The benefit of winning games is that everyone gets to play so they can develop and help the team down the road," Garcia said. "Throughout the year everyone had a

chance to contribute in some way, big or small."

In the West Region final the team fell behind early, a position they were not used to. "I just wanted everyone to relax. We didn't panic. I figured we would eventually make a few baskets." ECI trailed at half-time but grabbed the lead early in the third quarter and never looked back, winning the game 38-26 with Naomi Tipping scoring 22 points. The win advanced the team to the City Championships where they dispatched Agincourt 32-11 in the semi-finals by playing smothering defence. In the final game of the season they met another undefeated team, Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute, and in a tight contest Etobicoke suffered their first and only defeat of the season, 33-28.

Although it was disappointing to lose the game the players and coaches are proud of the accomplishments and the steps they took to get to this point. "It was a journey, a real team effort," Garcia said. "This year was foundational and it sets us up well for the future. There will be more players coming to tryouts, practices will be competitive with players wanting to be a member of the team that eventually wins a city championship."



ETOBIOKE COLLEGIATE'S starting back-court of Sophie Lipman and Naomi Tipping hoist the West Region plaque after defeating HumberSide Collegiate. Tipping led all scorers with 22 points in the game.



ETOBIOKE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE'S Junior Girls basketball team celebrates after winning the West Region and advanced to the City Championship.

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Etobicoke Lakeshore Christmas Parade - Sat Dec 7



Join us for a cup of hot chocolate in front of our office located at 3385 Lake Shore Blvd W. (SW corner of 28th St), while supply lasts.

Starts at 10am. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair and cozy blanket to watch the parade.

Breakfast With Santa



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Franklin Horner Community Centre.
Located at 432 Horner Ave on Sat Dec 21 9am-11am. We have sponsored the bouncy castle. Come have some pancakes, photos with Santa, arts and crafts. Fun for the kids! \$10/ticket