

# The South Etobicoke News

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## Trade war who will get your February 27 vote

A stinging 25 per cent tariff on Canadian goods entering the U.S. is on most people minds these days as a provincial election approaches on February 27.

Ottawa quickly retaliated with its own 25 per cent tariff on U.S. goods coming here listing hundreds of U.S. made cars, food, vegetables, citrus fruits, booze, bread, fish, appliances and many others.

Premier Doug Ford, dubbed Captain Canada for standing up for Canadian goods, had all U.S. beer, wine and spirits worth \$1 billion in sales yearly removed from provincial



**PREMIER DOUG FORD CAPTAIN CANADA** role and pledged relief or subsidies in U.S. tariff war is a big topic this election against Liberal Bonnie Crombie (above) NDP Marit Stiles (top, right), the Green's Mike Schreiner. MPP Christine Hogarth (right) is also seeking re-election.

liquor stores. Ford has said Ontario stands to lose thousands of jobs with plants closing due to the increased tariffs. The Premier is now high in the polls and is attacked

daily by Liberals Bonnie Crombie and NDP Marit Stiles, who accuse him of calling a snap election to remain in power.

Ford has been taking advantage of a lack of leadership in Ottawa, U.S. tariff threats and a booming economy to call a vote, as he is riding about 46 per cent in recent popularity polls.

The reigning Tories is facing rising competition from Crombie at around 22 per cent; Stiles of the NDP at 19 per cent and just 7 per cent for the Green Party.

The Premier claims he requires a large mandate from voters to stand up to President Donald Trump, in a tariff fight that could cost Ontarians 'tens of billions of dollars' in relief to affected workers. He has committed \$22 billion to build infrastructure as part of a stimulus package in the face of a worsening trade war.

## Bloor St. W. bike lane to be gone by the Spring

The controversial Bloor Street W. bike lane, and two others on busy downtown streets, are slated to be history by the Spring.

The Ontario government has hired an engineering firm to remove the bike lanes and come up with plans to replace them on less-busy side streets.

"The province has retained an engineering company to complete design work, as it prepares to reinstate vehicle lanes on Bloor Street W., Yonge Street and University Avenue," according to Transportation Minister Prabmeet Sarkaria.

"Our government has heard loud and clear from residents and businesses about the problems with gridlock," Sarkaria said in a release, "The failed approach of installing bike lanes without a second thought for drivers or local businesses is not working."

The province is taking action following an Act which received Royal Assent last Fall that requires cities to



**AN ENGINEERING FIRM HAS BEEN HIRED** to remove bike lanes on Bloor Street W., University Avenue and Yonge Street by the Spring. The move, to curb traffic congestion, has split the community with 15,000 people signing a petition to get rid of the lanes.

receive provincial approval before installing bike lanes where the removal of a traffic lane would occur.

"The bike lanes on Bloor West have been poorly planned, sitting empty for half the year, hurting local businesses and making life harder for drivers and pedestrians," said Sam Pappas, Board Member of Balance on Bloor.

drivers, seniors, and made it harder for emergency responders to get through our community."

More than 15,000 anti-cyclists have signed an online petition for the removal of the bike lanes and about 5,000 cycle lovers have signed a second petition opposing their removal from the busy streets.

"Restoring vehicle lanes on major roads in Toronto will help our community continue to thrive."

Merchants along Bloor St. W. have complained business plummeted as customers have to park further away in public parking to get to stores and many are seniors with mobility issues.

"The bike lanes on Bloor were troubling from the start for the many residents that shop and live in the community," said MPP Christine Hogarth. "The lanes were underutilized and caused stress on

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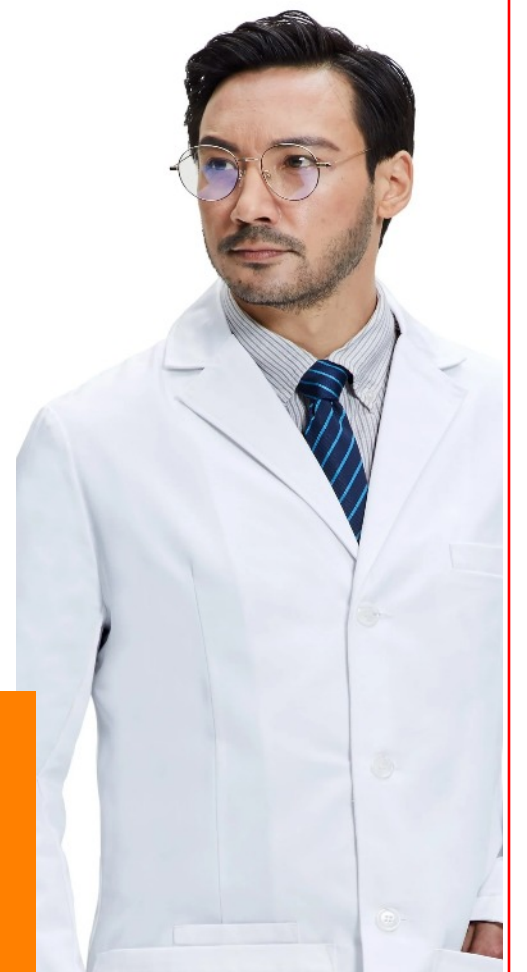
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# Toronto Police recognize their Black officers as we mark annual Black History Month



**BLACK OFFICERS** OF the Toronto Police were honoured for February's Black History Month. Here Chief Myron Demkiw presents Rosemary Sadlier (centre) with a Trailblazer Award at police headquarters. Photo Brent Symth.

The Toronto Police Service celebrated generations of Black trailblazers at the Black History Month (BHM) launch at police headquarters on January 30. The first Black officers – the late Larry McLarty and Gloria Bartley – joined in 1960, paving the way for future generations including retired Sergeant Terry James, who was among 10 women in her new class of officers in 1980, the largest at the time.

“Black History Month provides an opportunity to highlight the contributions of Black people and to celebrate their achievements,” Chief Myron Demkiw said. “We continue to do to make sure everyone has a fair chance to succeed.”

James was instrumental in starting the BHM celebration at police headquarters in 1994 and was promoted to sergeant in 2001 alongside now retired Inspector

Sonia Thomas as the first women to hold the rank in Toronto. To mark her contribution in making the Service more inclusive, a Trailblazer Award was established in her name last year. Staff Superintendent Kelly Skinner was the recipient of the second annual honour.

“During my career as a police officer, I have had the opportunity to recruit and mentor many amazing individuals,” said James. “Staff Superintendent Kelly Skinner is one of those amazing people.”

Gloria Bartley was however the first female Black police officer hired as a Toronto police officer. She was hired in 1960 a few months after the late Larry McLarty

became the city's first Black cop about 65 years ago.

Bartley was born in Trinidad and Tobago in 1934 and died in 2018 at the age of 84.

Officer George White said then “there was a buzz in the Service when Bartley broke the female colour line.”

She resigned in 1967, after seven years of service, to raise a family.

This resignation was not a voluntary choice but was mandated. Prior to 1972, female officers had to resign after giving birth. As a result, Bartley embarked on the role of raising her son Alonzo.



**FIRST BLACK MALE** Toronto officer the late Larry McLarty with his young son.



**FIRST BLACK FEMALE** Toronto officer Gloria Bartley (above) who served seven years with the force.

# Plaque laid in tribute to fallen officer Zivcic



**CONST.** John Zivcic and his memorial plaque below.

It took 11-years but a plaque has been finally placed for friends and family to remember Toronto Police Const. John Zivcic.

Zivcic, 34, died of head injuries after his police vehicle was involved in a collision in November 2013 at the intersection of Bloor Street W. and Neilson Dr. The husband and family man was on traffic duty and

responding to an emergency call for an impaired driver with his lights and sirens on when he was involved in a collision. The young officer had been stationed for more than six years at 22 Division, in South Etobicoke.

A number of family, friends and co-workers gathered on January 23 as a plaque was unveiled under a tree on Bloor St., near the crash site, in memory of Zivcic. The tree was also planted in his memory and police dog was named Zee after the officer.



“This lilac tree planted in John's honour is very significant and will have special meaning for many people,” police said then. “This tree will serve as a constant reminder of the ultimate sacrifice John made in protecting the citizens of Toronto.”

Police said the plaque unveiling brought together his family, friends, and fellow officers to honour his courage, dedication, and commitment to serving his community.

Deputy Chief Lauren Pogue said the tree and plaque serve as a reminder of what many police officers know well. Councillor Stephen Holyday, who helped make the plaque a reality, joined in the ceremony where a police bagpiper played *Amazing Grace*, and Special Constable Steven Cooper sang *Bring Him Home* as Mounted Unit officers stood as an Honour Guard.

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# Calls for a public meeting on Third St. shelter

About 100 concerned residents attended a meeting on a proposed 80-bed homeless shelter on Third Street.

A large hall at the Maple Leaf House Grill and Lounge was packed with residents who wanted to find out more about a planned shelter for the homeless on the site of a City parking lot at 66 Third Street.

There were many against the shelter and those who support the project, one of 19 proposed citywide to help the homeless population.

City shelters have to turn away more than 200 hundreds homeless nightly in this freezing weather due to a lack of beds.



CITY PARKING LOT on Third Street will be site of 80-bed shelter (below) which will be low-rise and community friendly

Many of those at the meeting were asking why there wasn't public consultation on the planned shelter, which is expected to be completed by 2030. MPP Christine Hogarth said her office has been fielding calls due to a lack of information on the shelter and a public meeting.

Hogarth has written a letter to Ward 3 Councillor Amber Morley stating that a lack of public consultation is troubling.

"I am hearing growing sentiment that such a significant decision should have involved community input from the outset, not after the site was chosen."

The proposed shelter is on a residential street and close to two elementary schools, a liquor and marijuana stores.

"These are serious and pressing issues for our community," Hogarth warned. "I strongly urge you to take immediate steps to ensure that the voices of all residents are heard."

Many of those attending the meeting made comments that Morley was not present and "that she has disappeared."

Morley on her website said she had no say in the location of the shelter, which was among 100 sites examined by City officials.

"I support a shelter at this location if it is designed and operated in a way that is responsive to the feedback shared by community members and neighbours," she wrote. A meeting is planned for February 10 at Humber College, Building G. Morley said there is only one shelter in Etobicoke-Lakeshore with 40 beds for women. City crews have already started to conduct surveys and pre-construction work on the project. There are hundreds of postings against the shelter on social media and about 2,000 people have signed an online petition against the facility.



SOME RESIDENTS warn that the proposed shelter is located on a residential street between two schools.

## Feds commit more funding for homeless

More than \$90 million in funding has been promised by the federal government to help the homeless in Toronto and more than a dozen other municipalities. Some \$91.5 million over two years was promised on January 13 by Ottawa to help people living without homes, including encampments, in Toronto and 13 other regions, including Peel, York, Hamilton, Niagara and Waterloo. The municipalities will match the federal funding, according to the Department of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities.

A broad range of activities will be supported including creating new shelter spaces, increasing transitional housing options, and providing case management services to help people find and keep permanent housing. There are an estimated 12,000 people homeless in Toronto on any given night.

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# City seeking new uses for vacant Old City Hall



**OLD CITY HALL** is more than 125 years old and is a City landmark that was occupied by courtrooms.

Toronto's heritage jewel the 126-year-old Old City Hall should be converted to a homeless shelter as its courthouse occupants are bailing out. City Council is seeking suggestions for the use of the national heritage building at Queen and Bay Streets as it is losing its long-time tenants. The provincial and municipal courthouses that have been tenants of the building will be moving to new quarters in April. It has been leased to the courts since 1972. The Provincial Courts have relocated to a new courthouse next to Toronto City Hall and municipal courts will be moving to St. Lawrence Market North.

"Old City Hall will be vacant with no further active uses planned," according to a City report.

The historic building was built between 1889 and 1899 and is an example of civic architecture. It is a city landmark deemed a Heritage and National Historic Site. Almost 1,000 people responded to an online survey and consultation in which they suggested possible uses including the iconic building be converted into a shelter for the thousands of homeless in Toronto. Other suggestions included use for food sales, event rentals, cultural programming and opportunities for local artists or businesses.

The most popular were calls for a Museum of Toronto, a TTC museum, a library or for use by Metropolitan Toronto University.

But City staff said the building is more than a century old and requires expensive restoration and maintenance. In 2019 it was estimated that a full restoration and upgrade of the building would require approximately \$225 million in 2020 dollars.

The report said given the historic and complex nature of the building, including an inefficient floor plan and heritage status, any future use will need to improve, conserve and protect the heritage character.

The building was designed by Toronto architect E.J. Lennox and was one of the largest back in the day. It took ten years to construct, from 1889 to 1899. Toronto itself was incorporated as a city in 1834.



**THE CITY IS LOOKING** for other uses of Old City Hall now that tenants are moving out. Below is some of the beautiful artwork engraved in the building.



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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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# Our iconic Canadian flag turns 60 on Feb 15

The proud Canadian flag turns 60. Community residents are asked to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canadian flag on February 15. At noon on that day there will be a celebration at the flagpole at Eighth Street and Lake Shore Blvd. W. Organizers said it is a good time to rally around the Canadian flag especially with a political leadership vacuum in Ottawa, elections in Ontario and stiff U.S. tariffs to deal with. "We have to rally and show how proud we are to be Canadian," said area resident Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, who has been spearheading the flag drive for years. "The flag is a symbol of our country," he stressed. "We have to rally around our flag."

He and others are calling for a Canadian National Flag Day for people to pay respect to our flag on February 15. This flag day there will be a birthday cake to be shared, some words by MP James Maloney, music by the Royal Canadian Navy Band and more. "It's the Maple Leaf forever," Korwin-Kuczynski said. "The flag is a symbol of

of our great country." The Canadian National Flag was officially adopted on February 15, 1965. The flag was designed by historian George Stanley and approved by Parliament in 1964. Queen Elizabeth II signed a royal proclamation ratifying the flag on January 28, 1965. The flag was showcased at Expo '67 in 1967, Canada's 100th birthday. The National Flag of Canada, though simple with its red and white colours and a single maple leaf, is respected around the world and symbolizes pride and strength throughout Canadian history.



## More love, care & beds for our seniors



The province is investing almost \$30,000 in two seniors centres to help the elderly stay fit and healthy. The funds are being distributed to the Franklin Horner Community Centre and Islington Seniors' Centre as part of a \$3.7 million Ontario investment to help centres deliver in-person and virtual programs.

The programs are for those aged 55 and older to keep fit, active and socially connected to their communities. MPP Christine Hogarth said the government's 2024 Fall Economic Statement increased funding for all Seniors Active Living Centres from \$42,700 to up to \$55,000 to ensure they have the support they need to continue providing seniors services and activities.

Minister of Seniors and Accessibility Raymond Cho said the centres will receive \$1 million more for this year over last year.

Due to the success of Seniors Active Living Centres (SALC) the government is investing up to \$17 million to expand the number of SALCs by 100 across Ontario from 316 to 416. The move will increase services for seniors and those with disabilities in under-served communities.

The Ontario government is enhancing access to compassionate, community-based end-of-life care by adding new hospice beds under the Dorothy Ley Hospice banner. This initiative is part of a broader provincial effort to expand palliative care services, with 84 new adult hospice beds being added across Ontario. Once operational, these additions will increase the total number of publicly funded hospice beds in the province to 768.

The Ontario government will allocate an additional \$16 million annually to fund the operation of these new beds once they are open.

Dorothy Ley Hospice will receive five more beds at its Kipling Acres site, three more at Humber River and two beds at Hospice Mississauga.



## In Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Canadian Flag

The LakeShore Village BIA will be presenting a Flag Raising Ceremony and then the Singing of Our National Anthem on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 12:00pm  
8th Street & LakeShore Blvd. W. (North-West Corner)

All Canadians are invited to sign a historic Canadian Flag Banner on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon on 8th Street & LakeShore Blvd. W.

This banner will be presented to government officials after the event and later placed in Canada's Historic Archives. Be a part of Canadian History by signing this special banner.

*All are welcome to our event!*

Special guests and Birthday Cake will also be presented at this event.

*Fly our flag from your home and place of business every Feb 15<sup>th</sup> - Flag Day and July 1<sup>st</sup> - Canada Day*



Contact email: [lakeshorebia@gmail.com](mailto:lakeshorebia@gmail.com)

# Canada's first Black pilot flew with Snowbirds



FIGHTER PILOT MAJOR Wally Peters in front of one of the Snowbirds jet he once flew and as a younger man.

Major Wally Peters was the first Black Canadian fighter pilot who helped to establish and flew with the beloved Snowbirds air performance team. Many who attend the yearly Canadian International Air Show to see the iconic Snowbirds, never had a hunch that the world-famous flying team was partially established by Peters, who retired from the

Royal Canadian Air Force after reaching the highest levels.

The late Peters didn't let racism stop him from becoming Canada's first Black fighter jet pilot as he worked his way up as a flight instructor before joining the Snowbirds. Peters is listed in RCAF records as being a member of the aircrew who serviced the elite Snowbirds in 1981 and 1982.

The native of Litchfield, Nova Scotia, was born in 1937, and was the youngest of six children. They were the only Black family in that county.

A gifted athlete, he won a scholarship to Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, where his presence on campus proved controversial. Some classmates refused to room with him because he was Black.

He soon earned a reputation, while completing his engineering degree, as the fastest running back on campus and won several awards for his skills on the football team, including rookie of the year and most valuable player.

While at the university, he met and married Nancy, a white woman from Sackville. The couple faced discrimination at the time due to their interracial marriage.

But, Peters kept his head down and never publicly

complained about the racism he faced at the time. He enlisted in the RCAF to be a pilot in the early 1960s at the age of 24, thinking if he could drive a car, he can fly a plane,

according to Veteran Affairs. Peters went on to a distinguished aviation career that included becoming the Canadian Armed Forces' first human rights officer, and adviser to the United Nations Security Council, offering advice on the movement of troops by air.

He also played a role in the creation of the Canadian Aviation Safety Board, which investigated Air India Flight 182 that was brought down in 1985 by a terrorist bomb. The RCAF credited him for being Canada's first Black jet fighter pilot and A1 flying instructor.



## Some Black History Months events

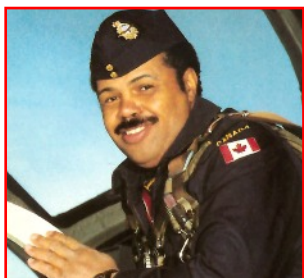
**THE ETOBICOKE CIVIC CENTRE WILL** commemorate Black History Month 2025 with the raising of the Pan-African Flag at the Municipal Offices. The ceremony will celebrate the culture, heritage, and contributions of people of African descent.

**FEBRUARY 6 VICTORIA UNIVERSITY HONOURING** Dr. Jean Augustine at the Isabel Bader Theatre as part of Black History Month celebrations. Jean was the first Black woman elected as a Member of Parliament and appointed as a federal cabinet minister. Her accomplishments include having the month of February officially recognized as Black History Month. A professorship will be created in her name. Tickets are \$100 each and for more contact vic.alumni@utoronto.ca.

**FEBRUARY 18 BLACK HISTORY** afternoon event for seniors at 1 p.m. drumming. Food and Culture Caribbean at 2:30 p.m., entertainment 3:30 p.m. To register contact erica@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 246.

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**FEBRUARY 8, 15 and 22 BLACK HISTORY MONTH** New Words at Colborne Lodge with poet *Desiree McKenzie* as she creates poetry that responds to racism, colonialism, Indigenous land and gender inequities. Takes place 11:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Colborne Lodge Museum, 11 Colborne Lodge Drive.



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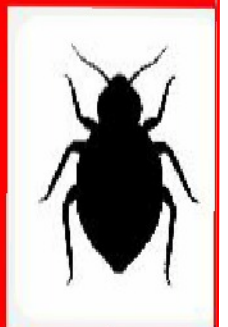
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# South Etobicoke blazing hot in condo construction boom



**DEVELOPERS VISION** of a section of the Evans and Kipling area development (above, top right) when completed in years to come.

The Kipling and Evans Avenues area is so hot with development activity these days that some say the neighbourhood is steaming. The area, which is already home of many large warehouses, may soon be home sweet home for almost 5,000 new residents as

nine towers ranging up to 42 storeys are proposed. A proposal is in the early stages to build mixed-use towers in a six-block area ranging from 12 to 42 storeys at 350, 360, and 364 Evans Avenue, and 14-16 Arnold Street, a huge lot at the northeast corner of Evans and Kipling, that now houses commercial businesses.

The mega-project, which is going through the application process, promises to deliver 4,623 residential units and include green spaces, retail areas, a daycare and public park. It will take a while for the plan to go through the application process as the development has to be approved by Community and City councils. Some residents are already complaining of a lack of health care services for the new residents and traffic congestion to travel on

local roads and the Gardiner Expressway. An Official Plan Amendment (OPA) application has been filed to transform a commercial site from Core Employment Areas to Mixed Use Areas. The proposal includes outdoor space in the podiums and rooftop spaces. Also planned is a 4,300 square metre public park at Kipling and Evans. Connecting the blocks would

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**THIS 43-STORY** condo is planned to go opposite from the Long Branch GO Station.

be a new public road and two private roads.

There would be 2,053 parking spaces and 240 for visitors in two underground levels and in two floors of a building. TTC buses connect the site to Bloor Line 2, GO trains, and MiWay buses at Kipling station, to Royal York station and Sherway Gardens. Bus stops are also located along Evans and Kipling avenues. The area will become busier with more traffic congestion as at least 12 major development proposals or projects are underway nearby and includes: 1156 The Queensway at nine storeys, Joya Condos at 12 storeys and 1230 The Queensway at 13 storeys, according to Urban Toronto.

Larger projects near Kipling includes 1306 The Queensway with three towers from 13 to 41 storeys, and 1325 The Queensway with two towers at 35 and 46 storeys, Urban Toronto reported. North of the Gardiner, proposals include 1 St. Lawrence with three towers up to 20 storeys, 10 Zorra at 28 storeys, IQ Condos Phase 3 with three towers from 18 to 42 storeys and 40-60 St. Lawrence featuring three towers ranging from 26 to 43 storeys. There is also 1025 The Queensway that proposes a large scale replace of Cineplex Queensway Cinemas with 12 towers ranging from seven to 46 storeys. No forgetting a 43 storey high-rise planned to go directly across from the Long Branch Go Station that is at the hearing stage.



**A STREET VIEW** of the Evans and Kipling Avenues mega six-block development project when it is finally completed.



**ANOTHER 35 FLOOR** tower is under construction at 36 Zorra Street, where a number of buildings are being built. There are traffic congestion concerns once the buildings are completed and people move in.



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Brad Jones (right) and his team pour hot chocolate and hand out timbits to many cold families having fun along the route of the December 7 Lakeshore Santa Claus parade.

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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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# Hot taco in the hood for a spicy winter warm-up



**WE THE TACOS** owners Kemish and Annie Martinez with some of their steaming hot tacos. **Staff photos.**

By **TANYA VIVIDLY**

New Toronto residents Kemish and Annie Martinez were tired of travelling out of the community for delicious Mexican tacos, so they decided to start one of the first taco eateries in the area.

The couple started We the Tacos, at 2765 Lake Shore Blvd. W., and food fans seem to be liking the many mouth-watering tacos and other meals.

“We specialize in traditional tacos,” Kemish said. “Our

are made daily with fresh vegetables. They serve a variety of marinated and salsa-filled meat or veggie filled tortillas. “We always wanted to have good food,” he said. “We found that we had to go further from the community for good Mexican food.”

The pair did their homework and determined there were no taco eateries in the area and worked to open We the Tacos. “We have a loyal customer base,” he said. “At first it was very challenging and now it is getting a little better.”

Most of the tacos are under \$8 and some of the popular flavours

include: steak, Baja fish, chicken tinga, rajas poblanas, combos and the favourite guacamole dip. There are also vegan and gluten free tacos. Tacos are one of the most popular dishes in Mexico and the Martinezs’ plan to introduce the food to the community.”

The restaurant is catching on which is not bad for a couple who only arrived in Canada from Mexico about six years ago. Their food can be ordered online at [wethetacos.ca](http://wethetacos.ca) and they can be followed on Instagram.



**THE COUPLE LIVES** in the community and missed not having tasty Mexican tacos nearby so they opened their restaurant.

tacos are affordable, tasty and are a nice size.”

This month they are celebrating the first year anniversary of their business and were recently presented with a GEM Award by MP James Maloney for favourite new business.

On this day there were a steady stream of taco lovers who were arriving for lunch and enjoying the food, which range from spicy to lesser hot. Kemish said area residents love his tacos because they



## Booze, cars, food prices to rise as U.S. tariff feud with Canada in full swing



Prices of groceries are already high, well they will be getting even more expensive.

Get ready to pay more for many foods, fish, vegetables, citrus fruit, melons, pasta, bread, appliances, computers and hundreds of items as a U.S. 25 per cent tariff against Canadian goods begins to work through the system.

Much needed items as gas, farming equipment, golf bags, furniture, clothing and even footwear will all be 25 per cent more expensive as

of February 3. Also rising is U.S. air travel, medicines and medical equipment.

The 25 per cent tariff applies to Canada and Mexico with 10 per cent slapped on to Chinese exports.

A 10 per cent tariff applies to Canadian oil and energy products heading to the U.S. The Canadian government quickly retaliated by slapping a 25 per cent tariff on a lengthy list of U.S. products that will affect \$125 billion of goods starting on February 3.

We will also be paying more for U.S. vehicles, beer, wine, spirits; including rum, whiskies, vermouth, cigarettes, cigars, vape and other tobacco products crossing the border.

In retaliation Ontario and some other provinces have pulled all the U.S. alcohol from LCBO shelves, in what works out to \$1 billion in sales for U.S. brewers and distillers yearly.

The tariff will work out to customers paying \$2.50 more for a \$10 item.

A list of the many everyday products subject to tariffs can be found on the Government of Canada website.

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# Iconic MP Jean Augustine who introduced Black History Month honoured for her role

South Etobicoke's Jean Augustine was honoured as part of Black History Month celebrations by the University of Toronto's Victoria College. The first Black female MP and Cabinet member represented Etobicoke Lakeshore for 13 years and was responsible for February being officially recognized as Black History Month in Canada. Dr. Augustine made history in 1993 when she was elected as the first Black-Canadian in Parliament. She was elected to represent Etobicoke-Lakeshore in 1993 and sat in Parliament until 2006. During this time, she served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Minister of State and Deputy Speaker.



**JEAN AUGUSTINE** honoured by Victoria College for her many achievements.

The College has created the Dr. Jean Augustine Professorship in Transformative Education, the first professorship named after Black woman in all three of the university's campuses.

The \$2.5M endowment will support the appointment of a professor who will specialize in Transformative Pedagogy and drive progressive curriculum development, introduce new course offerings, and forge new community partnerships.



Augustine has received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from seven universities. She also has had a number of schools and parks named after her, in photo to the left. She is still busy with the Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment, which she founded, and has helped hundreds of young women improve their lives and go on to careers. Augustine serves as a patron with a number of non-profit groups.

# Work at Sam Smith Park



**WHIMBRELS** love Sam Smith Park, now undergoing multi-year rock erosion work (below).

A large swath of prime lakefront at the wildlife-sensitive Colonel Samuel Smith Park has been taped off to allow large trucks carrying boulders as part of a three-year erosion control project.

Park users will not be able to access Lake Ontario near the foot of Kipling Avenue due to the heavy work.

Officials said the erosion measures have become necessary 'due to severe weather events and wave action that poses a potential hazard to parklands and trails.'

The Toronto and Region Conservation Area (TRCA) said their 36-month task accommodates migratory bird movement and wildlife communities.

"The area is a prominent migration stopover point and nesting location for birds and is part of the City of Toronto's Spring Bird Festival," according to the TRCA. They said in a report the park provides habitat for many plant and animal species, including bird, insect and reptile species. It is a popular spot for dog walkers, photographers and nature enthusiasts.

Whimbrel Point is a popular spot in the park, where for three to five days a year, the birds use this area to rest on their way to their breeding grounds in the Arctic.

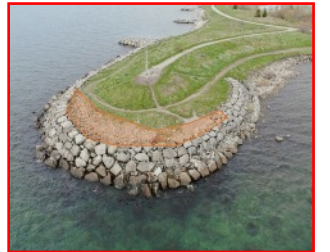
The rocky headland is favoured by the Whimbrels, and the park hosts a "Whimbrel Watch" every year to celebrate their return to Whimbrel Point.

"While repairs to shoreline protection structures on Whimbrel Point are not anticipated to negatively impact habitat used by Whimbrels and other birds," the TRCA said, adding they are 'taking measures to ensure that work on the headland is scheduled around migration periods.'

Part of the project includes trucks driving along a trail that crosses through the wetland area.

To protect species in the wetland, fencing on either side of the trail will also include turtle fencing, which will prevent threatened turtles and other animals from entering the access route.

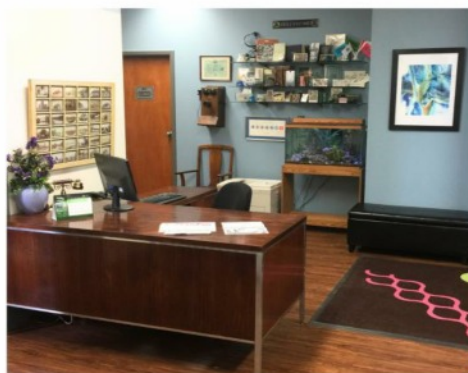
The TRCA will conduct visual inspections of the access route in the wetland area to ensure no species are harmed during work.



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# Hundreds of Maple Leafs fans show up for team



**TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS** Morgan Reilly (left) shares a joke with Max Domi in a skate as Darryl Sittler (right) chat with fans and sign autographs at the team's open skate at Prince of Wales Rink. Courtesy photo (left).

Go Leafs Go! Hundreds of NHL fans had a great time watching their favourite Toronto Maple Leafs players close up at a New Toronto outdoor lakeside rink. Auston Matthews, Mitch Marner, William Nylander and other Maple Leafs stars were live at a

January 23 to 28 outdoor street event and outdoor practice at an iconic Prince of Wales Rink, on Third Street.

The event attracts hundreds of Leafs' lovers from across the region, some who travel hours to see their favourite players and obtain photographs.

The young and old Leafs fans were awestruck as the players took part in a relaxed shinny game. There was also a game by the team's alumni. Mimico native and Maple Leafs president Brendan Shanahan said the outdoor rink brought back memories.



"I started my career here," Shanahan said. "We played in Mimico, New Toronto, Long Branch..." The park and rink are steps away from Lake Ontario. It has a beautiful view of downtown Toronto and is a favourite for locals to

**FAN WITH FLAG** cheers on his favourite team as woman with a Leafs sweater-wearing pup came to support her favourite hometown Maple Leafs and hope they make it to playoffs. There was also a very entertaining alumni game.

watch the annual CNE Air Show.

Leafs legend Darryl Sittler was surrounded by young, female and older fans seeking autographs or selfies as an Uber awaited him after the alumni game.

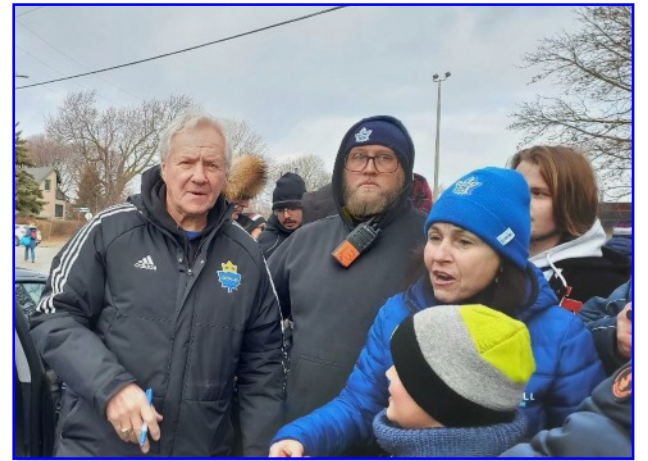
Sittler, always a professional, had the driver wait about half-hour as he smiled or signed items for fans.

City officials said the Maple Leaf's host an outdoor open practice every year for fans to come out and enjoy.

"As part of the set-up and staging of the event, the event organizers have requested a few road closures," according to City staff.

The Leafs' annual outdoor practice is a free, public event that usually

takes place at Nathan Phillips Square at City Hall. The event features activities that last year included a Toronto Professional Women Hockey League (PWHL) skills competition and a Leafs alumni signing session. There were also free giveaways and a long-line awaiting free coffee at a Tim Hortons booth.



**MAPLE LEAFS** legend Darryl Sittler (left) with fans.



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[info@etobicokequiltersguild.com](mailto:info@etobicokequiltersguild.com)

The Etobicoke Quilters' Guild (EQG) are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year with a Quilt Fever 2025 to show their beautiful textile art creations. The Guild was formed in 1975 when 60 members showed up at its inaugural meeting at the historic Montgomery's Inn. The Guild after half-century is still going strong and remains a vibrant source of quilting inspiration. Now with 175 members, the EQG is located at the Neilson Park Creative Centre, where members meet twice weekly for classes, workshops and to enjoy the camaraderie. Members also make Comfort Quilts, with more than 200 distributed annually to social agencies, hospices and hospitals. The Guild provides the supplies, often donated, for the Comfort Quilt program. The two-day Quilt Fever features quilting demonstrations, a Pick-to-Win game, a members boutique full of original pieces and bargain bins of books, fabrics and notions. There is also a Merchants Mall offering quilt and craft supplies. The Quilt Fever 2025 takes place on March 28 and 29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Neilson Park Creative Centre, 56 Neilson Drive. Tickets are \$10.

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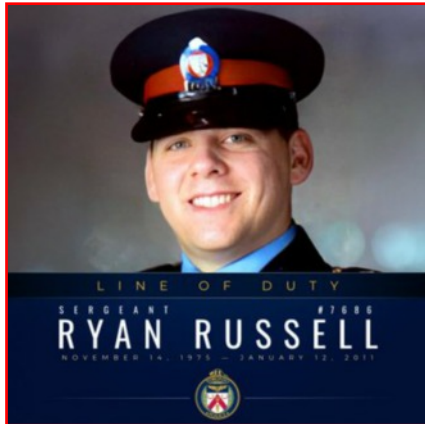


# Killer of Sgt. Ryan Russell walks free as family and friends mourn

Officers and staff of the Toronto Police Service are mourning the senseless death of Sgt. Ryan Russell who was killed 14-years-ago by a crazed snowplow driver who was later set free.

Russell, 35, an 11-year police veteran based at downtown's 52 Division, was killed on January 12, 2011, as he was attempting to stop the barefooted driver of a stolen snowplow when he was struck on Avenue Road, just north of Davenport Road. The father and husband had been promoted to the rank of sergeant just six months before he succumbed to his injuries at St. Michael's Hospital. His son Nolan, then 2, is now 16-years-old and friends said he is 'a twin of his father.'

A full honours police funeral service was held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre that was attended by hundreds of officers from across North America. Some 10,000 mourners showed up to pay their respects to the valiant officer.



SGT. RYAN RUSSELL's grieving family.

"Ryan was a wonderful dad. He loved spending time with his son Nolan," his wife Christine said then. "When you work so many crazy shifts, you really cherish your family time. He was a super hands-on dad." "Young fellows and the older ones on his platoon just gravitated towards him," according to a former officer. "He had that infectious personality." Richard Kachkar, now 60, of St. Catharines, was charged with the first-degree murder, but after a lengthy trial the defence successfully argued that Kachkar

was not criminally responsible.

Kachkar was granted a full discharge by the Ontario Review Board in April 2017. He was banned from consuming alcohol, carrying any weapons or using non-medical drugs.

"A violation of any of these conditions would mean that he'd be arrested anywhere in Canada, with or without a warrant," police said.

Two weeks after Kachkar was freed, the Russell family received more bad news: the police horse named in honour Russell had died suddenly in his stall from eating a poisonous plant.

Sgt. Russell is among the more than 280 Toronto Police officers who have died in the line of duty, who are remembered on an Honour Wall. The force was created in 1834 and today has more than 5,500 officers and about 2,000 support staff. It has a budget of more than \$1 billion yearly. It is Canada's largest municipal police service and the fourth largest in North America.



## In the Community

By TOM GODFREY

Despite the thousands of homeless people, high taxes and prices, City officials say we have bounced back from COVID with a record number of people working and businesses open.

The Toronto Employment Survey 2024 was released last month and the numbers show that for the first time in 20 years we have

the most people working, many in gig jobs or hybrid work conditions.

The survey reveals that there are now more than 1.6 million of us employed in Toronto, 'the highest year-over-year employment growth rate in the last two decades.' Some 400,000 people work in some sort of part time capacity.

The study said a record high of more than 73,000 businesses are operating in the City and more than 65,000 more people were hired in 2024, the highest surge in about 20 years.

It is no surprise that small businesses, with less than 50 employees, made up more than 90 per cent of the businesses and hire 30 per cent of residents. Large businesses on the other hand, with more than 100 employees, account for only 3 per cent of the businesses but provide almost 60 per cent of the jobs.

It says about 50 per cent of Torontonians work in office jobs, institutional employment is next, followed by service jobs which employs about 25 per cent. Manufacturing and warehousing jobs have declined but there was a rise in community and entertainment work.

The study reminds us that most of the jobs, about 650,000, are in the downtown core, with about 30,000 jobs every square kilometre. Most of the hybrid work activity is also in the core. Over half of the jobs are located in Toronto and East York areas, followed by North York; with about 20 per cent, Etobicoke York with 16 per cent and Scarborough with 12 per cent of the jobs.

The City said more people than ever have hybrid work arrangements, of about three days weekly in the office. The survey said more than

30 per cent of residents have hybrid work arrangements and one in four businesses have adopted a hybrid work model.

The study shows that Etobicoke York Etobicoke York accounts for 256,380 jobs, or about 16 per cent of all jobs in the city. The area is home to almost half of all manufacturing and warehousing jobs in Toronto.

It said last year Etobicoke Centre gained 640 mostly-office jobs, which is the second largest growth in the City.

Liberty Village had the largest increase in employment over the last five years, increasing 20 per cent in 2024. The largest decrease in employment has been in Leaside Thorncliffe Park, losing 20 per cent of its jobs partially due to the development in the area.



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

SPACE - The final frontier

Between the valentine cinnamon hearts, gold and red dragons of Chinese New Year and family weekend



getaways, there is a little known and seldom celebrated personal getaway to indulge in this winter: Adult Time-Out. This month, I invite you to discover this simple yet effective healing technique to save you from undue stress, winter blahs and even work burnout.

Embrace space, the final frontier. The word 'final' may seem so final. You are right. It is. As a healthy, mature adult, you surely recognize that certain times in your life you must take a step back, if you want to keep moving forward. You need a break. Hit pause on life. Embracing this moment of space in time is not about watching back to back episodes of Star Trek. Nor is it about day dreaming of flying through space on the Starship Enterprise, discovering galaxies. Embracing space is the act of embracing emptiness, quietude and solitude in your day. It is you welcoming down time. It is an intentional lack of programming and complete disconnect from the world around you, at least for a short period of time.

But, what is space? Madhya is a Sanskrit word that references the pause or the space between something, like the breath. Can you follow your breath to the end? No. There is no end. Yet, at some point, your inhalation stops and exhalation begins. How does that happen? There must be a pause. But where is the pause? There must be a proverbial end to the inhalation of breath. The pause, a moment of moving from inhaling to exhaling, is a moment of opportunity. It is where life is limitless. This moment can be a millisecond, several seconds, up to even three minutes in length. Experienced divers can deep dive for five minutes (or longer) underwater, before surfacing for their next breath. That is a long pause indeed. We don't have to take it so far! Just a short increase of pausing 10-15 seconds between inhalation and exhalation and repeating this for five minutes will do. Put a timer on and give it a go. That's about ten breaths total. It's so simple, anyone can do it.

This space between two actions, such as in-breath and out-breath, is your personal

escape. It is you choosing an opportunity for deep relaxation, solace, healing and direct stress reduction. Embracing a longer pause in any activity or between activities can shift you from serving to

thriving. It can promote a sense of well-being and offers you control over your environment - your body. After all, you are in charge of your breath, the errands in your day and the number of activities on your calendar.

Since it may seem daunting to reduce events on your social, work or family calendars this February, start with a short time-out instead. Your Adult time out can be as simple as ten minutes in a quiet room, focusing only on the sound of your breath and slowing down your breaths to five breaths per minute. In 2018, a systematic review in the journal of Frontiers of Human Science, was titled: How Breath-Control Can Change Your Life. This review of the included studies on breath work, concluded that voluntarily slowing down the breath "increased comfort, relaxation, pleasantness, vigor and alertness, and reduced symptoms of arousal, anxiety, depression, anger, and confusion."

In summary, Adult Time-Out is good for you. Slowing down and allowing more space between your actions directly improves your quality of life. Just taking a handful of deep breaths, in a time-out (yes, you can even sit in the corner if you want to) can reduce your anxiety and help you get through a tough day. If you need more proof, read the latest article in Salk News, November 19, 2024: "Neuroscientists discover how the brain slows anxious breathing". In between ski trips, Costco shopping hauls and running errands, find yourself a little nook hideaway and indulge in a self-imposed Adult Time-Out. It's good for you.

"Sometimes the most important thing in a whole day is the rest we take between two deep breaths."

- Etty Hillesum, An Interrupted Life: The Diaries 1941-1943, 1983

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PREMIER Doug Ford

Doug Ford: Canada's 'Captain Canada'?

While I am not a political fan of Doug Ford, mainly due to his efforts to politicize the courts, his attachment to developers and his similarities to Trump (Trump likes billionaires, Ford likes developers), I do recognize his dedication to democracy and his sense of empathy—qualities Trump lacks. In the face of Trump, Ford emerges as

the best leader, a "Captain Canada," uniting Ontario and holding East and West together. Unfortunately, he isn't in federal politics, as he "ain't" no Pierre Poilievre.

Doug Ford has devised a plan to be a strong leader for Canada by building on Donald Trump's ideas for security. Instead of directly fighting Trump, Ford suggests working with the U.S. to create a "Fortress North America." This means both countries would cooperate to keep each other safe while maintaining their unique identities. He uses the classic approach of building on an idea to change it rather than attacking, freeing, and not fixing the opponent's position to change it.

Ford shows strength and determination like a bulldog, a.k.a. Winston Churchill, by enhancing Trump's plans instead of opposing them. He focuses on energy, security, reliable supply lines, and economic growth for both Canada and the U.S., emphasizing partnership and mutual respect. Ford's approach aims to unite rather than divide, offering better ideas instead of attacks that could make opponents more stubborn. Ford takes advantage of the moment.

Instead of viewing security as a zero-sum game, Ford's approach advocates for a partnership where both countries work together as equals. This method acknowledges the strengths and contributions of each nation, fostering a more cooperative and effective security strategy. Ford's proposal enhances security frameworks by incorporating innovative solutions addressing contemporary challenges. Joint efforts in cybersecurity, intelligence sharing, and border management ensure that both nations benefit from increased safety and stability. It's a partnership of equals.

A key aspect of this vision is respecting each nation's local character and autonomy. By recognizing and valuing Canada's and the United States' unique cultural, social, and political landscapes, we can create a more harmonious and effective security strategy. Economic collaboration is essential for the success of this vision. By fostering trade and investment opportunities, we can strengthen the economic ties between our nations, creating a more prosperous and secure North America.



MARK CARNEY

Ford's approach emphasizes the importance of constructive dialogue. By engaging in open and respectful conversations, we can address concerns and find common ground, ultimately leading to a more cooperative and peaceful relationship. Unlike some other leaders, he does more than criticize or name-call.

Ford's strategy is rooted in strength and a firm stance against appeasement. Rather than yielding to pressures or threats, this approach advocates for standing firm on principles and values, ensuring that the interests and sovereignty of both nations are protected. This proposal aims to secure and prosper North America through collaboration, strength, and mutual respect rather than confrontation or appeasement. What do you think?

However, Mark Carney is another potential leader who could rise to this challenge. Carney has dealt with numerous crises both in Canada and England, including the challenges of BREXIT and COVID-19, earning respect for his ability to stand up to strong politicians. Academically respected and experienced, Carney could lead with the resolve needed in challenging times. He has international respect. He has the potential to take on a role of Churchillian strength as the leader of a "war cabinet" in a statesman-like manner without using incivility and name-calling. He offers solutions rather than points out problems.

Ignoring the party and going for the best leader may be necessary. You may dislike the Liberals, but Carney is a strong potential leader who is best to take on Trump and regain world respect. Unless Doug Ford becomes a Liberal soon or takes over the Conservative Party of Canada, Carney is the next best choice. His ability to navigate complex political landscapes and offer a vision for a strong North America makes him a suitable leader for a "war cabinet" scenario with Ford as his main strong arm.

This is the kind of leadership we need—one that does not simply give in to Trump but offers a better vision for cooperation and mutual respect. We credit Trump with the idea we build on to serve our purposes. He saves face, and we get value. With the experiences of leaders like Doug Ford and Mark Carney, Canada can navigate the challenges of figures like Trump and continue to thrive as a united nation. If only the Conservatives could change leadership now.

**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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# West TO Stamp club turns 90

# EHS at 100 years



**SID MENSINGA**, President, West Toronto Stamp Club (left) and Past-President Frank Alusio discuss member's exhibits at annual exhibition in Fairfield Seniors Centre **Photo by Ian S. Robertson.**

South Etobicoke's West Toronto Stamp Club is one of Canada's oldest philatelic organizations and members are celebrating the group's 90 anniversary next month. The Club held its first meeting at an assembly hall on March 10, 1935, three weeks after a group of hobbyists met at a private home. To mark the occasion a banquet will be held and a prize drawn for a lucky person to win a special Canada Post stamp issued for the 25th anniversary of King George V becoming the British Commonwealth's monarch in 1910. The club since its creation has had

more than 1,100 members, which has dwindled to about 120 today.

While current interests form the basis of the stamp club's activities, recognizing traditions and considering the relevance of tried-and-true pursuits is important, said President Sid Mensinga.

"Such participation provides friendship and comradery, which enables 'positive mental health and well-being,' with social and community connections, he wrote.

Club members include beginners, hobbyists and several who have won national and international exhibition awards. Some have collections based on people, places, events, historic subjects, art, animals, birds, insects, maps, plants, music and performers. The West Toronto Stamp Club "can be proud of the excellence achieved," according to Mensinga.

The Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesday between September and June, in the Fairfield Seniors Centre, 80 Lothian Avenue. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Learning Workshop and Discussion Group virtual sessions are held monthly. For more information visit [www.westtorontostampclub.org/](http://www.westtorontostampclub.org/)



**THE ETOBICOKE HORTICULTURAL** Society is celebrating 100 years of service.

The Etobicoke Horticultural Society is celebrating 100 years of community service. To celebrate their centenary the Society has introduced a new logo to reconnect with Etobicoke's original people, the group said. The society held their first meeting in 1925 at the Islington Community Centre. They meet 10 months a year and take July and August off to tend their own gardens as well as community gardens, a tradition maintained to this day.

With more than 200 members, the

Society holds annual plant sales to encourage homeowners to beautify their properties with locally-sourced plants.

They donate their time and resources to other community projects, like the gardens at Trillium Hospital, Montgomery Meadow, the Shaver House and The Gate House. They also supply the community with fresh produce through local food banks.

The Society also support the Red Cross and senior homes, as well as making donations to Etobicoke churches who supply the community with fresh produce year-round through local food banks.

The Society now provide bursaries to eligible students enrolled in the horticultural program at Niagara College, supporting horticulture through public schools in Etobicoke and have joined the Lakeshore West Garden Club to build the largest garden walk in Canada.



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B R O K E R A G E

# Looking after yourself and others in the community

**FEBRUARY 6 VICTORIA COLLEGE** is honouring Dr. Jean Augustine at the Isabel Bader Theatre as part of Black History Month celebrations. She was the first Black woman elected as a Member of Parliament and appointed as a federal cabinet minister. Her accomplishments include having the month of February officially recognized as Black History Month. A professorship will be created in her name. Contact vic.alumni@utoronto.ca.

**FEBRUARY 10 HEALTHY HEART PROGRAM** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, Unit 201, with a registered dietician to address cholesterol concerns, heart disease risks, diet and lifestyle changes to improve your heart health. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or e-mail health.promotion@stonegatechc.org

**FEBRUARY 10 THIRD STREET SHELTER** community drop-in meeting from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Humber College Lakeshore Campus, Building G, 17 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive. City officials and Ward 3 councillor expected to attend to field questions due to the large interest from the community. Contact 66third@gmail.com or call 647-946-8710.

**FEBRUARY 11 SENIORS VALENTINES DAY** paper crafts, card making and mocktails at 2:30 p.m. To register contact erica@lampchc.org 416 252 6471 ext. 246 or rosema@lampchc.org ext. 257.

**FEBRUARY 12, 19, COPING** with anxiety workshop at 6 p.m. at LAMP CHC for free workshop with wellness coach *Mary Craig* to learn coping mechanisms, mindfulness and wellness toolbox strategies. E-mail jasmind@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

**FEBRUARY 14 MARKLAND WOOD GOLF CLUB** welcomes Toronto Police **Det. Steve Hammond** to provide advice concerning cyber security scams. It cost \$20 and all are welcome. You are asked to register by February 7 to kingswaywomensclub.wordpress.com

**FEBRUARY 15 CANADIAN FLAG** turns 60-years-old and there is a tribute at 12 noon at the flag pole at Lake

Shore Blvd. W. and Eighth Street. Members of the Canadian Armed Forces will be there. The national flag was created by military historian George F. G. Stanley in 1965 and raised for the first time on February 15, 1965. All are welcome.

**FEBRUARY 16 FREE SKATE** sponsored by the Lakeshore Lions Club from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Ford Performance Centre, Rink 2, 400 Kipling Avenue. Free parking and children require helmets. There will also be a 50-50 draw with proceeds going to the Lions Club Community Benefit Fund.

**FEBRUARY 18 BLACK HISTORY** afternoon event for seniors at 1 p.m. drumming. Food and Culture Caribbean at 2:30 p.m., entertainment 3:30 p.m. To register contact erica@lampchc.org 416-252-6471 ext. 246 or rosema@lampchc.org ext. 257

**UNTIL FEBRUARY 18 FREE DRUMMING WORKSHOPS** at 1 p.m. at LAMP CHC for a free African drumming workshops and let the rhythm take control. Come unleash your inner groove and connect with fellow music lovers. For more e-mail erica@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 246.

**UNTIL FEBRUARY 20** The North Toronto Perspective art show taking place at the Etobicoke Civic Centre Main Gallery as artists celebrate diverse visions of living in northern Toronto neighbourhoods at 399 The West Mall or call 416-394-8628.

**FEBRUARY 22 HAVEN ON THE QUEENSWAY** 12<sup>th</sup> annual Coldest Night of the Year Walk to raise funds for Haven's Hope with Wheels street outreach program serving those experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness in the community. New location at Sherway Gardens. To register call 416-640-2005 ore-mail info@havenontheq.com

**FEBRUARY 20 TO MARCH 27** Tree of Life Art Exhibition discover the vibrant world of Ukrainian heritage through paintings, batiks and artworks by Olha Tkachenko at Assembly Hall. Free. For more information visit toronto.ca/assemblyhall

**FEBRUARY 20, MARCH 20, APRIL 17 QUILTING GROUP** from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the third Thursday monthly as *Sandra Kuzniak* teaches participants

how to make machine and hand-piece quilts. Some materials will be provided. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or e-mail

health.promotion@stonegatechc.org

**FEBRUARY 22 JEAN AUGUSTINE CENTRE'S** Black History Month Brunch celebrating Black achievements and advancing justice from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Famous People Players Theatre, 343 Evans Avenue. There will be performances by the Jean Augustine Centre youth and spoken artist Coco LaRain Veira, a sit-down brunch and Black Market Place. For more call 416-253-9797 or e-mail info@jeanaugustinecentre.ca

**UNTIL MARCH 21 HANDICRAFTS FOR WOMEN** every Friday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, Unit 201, for women to meet and work on their projects as knitting, sewing, crocheting or painting etc. Bring your own materials. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or e-mail health.promotion@stonegatechc.org

**UNTIL FEBRUARY 20 CHAIR YOGA WITH BRIAR** at 10:30 a.m. at LAMP CHC for a seated workout to strengthen muscles, mobility and improve balance. Contact jasmind@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 257.

**MONDAYS IS QIGONG WITH KATY** at 11 a.m. at LAMP CHC for the ancient practice of combining gentle movements, breathing technique and meditation to balance energy in the body to reduce stress, anxiety, boost energy and improve mental clarity. To register e-mail rosema@lampchc.org or call 416 252 6471 ext.257jasmind@lampchc.org

**WEDNESDAYS FOR FREE UKELELE CLASSES** at 2:15 p.m. at LAMP CHC if you're a beginner or just looking to hone your skills, join us for an engaging musical journey! E-mail RoseMa@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 246.

**UNTIL MAY 14 MONTGOMERY'S INN INDOOR FARMERS MARKET** every Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. for a variety of local food vendors selling produce, pre-made goods and hot food ready to eat. Takes place at Montgomery's Inn, 4709 Dundas Street W.

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**Lakeshore Charitable Foundation**



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

The Lakeshore Charitable Foundation is trying to raise \$10,000 to give our 500 students eight kilos of rice each. Donations can be made at Lakeshore Accounting.



**FEBRUARY 13 SEED EXCHANGE** Garden Event with Lakeshore Environmental Gardening Society (LEGS) from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Long Branch Public Library, 3500 Lake Shore Blvd. W. More info at: legsetobicoke.ca

**FEBRUARY 16 TORONTO SPEED SKATING CLUB'S** Annual Provincial Meet from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Rink 1 of the Ford Performance Centre, at 400 Kipling Avenue. Short track speed skating is like Nascar on ice with a bit of roller derby. Watch skaters try to qualify for Canada East Youth Short Track Championship in March.

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