

The South Etobicoke News

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Local MPP Hogarth falls in Fords' election win

Etobicoke Lakeshore residents switched sides from Conservatives on February 27 and elected Liberal Lee Fairclough who defeated Christine Hogarth in a major stunner. Former MPP Hogarth, who has held the riding for almost seven years, was defeated by about 4,000 votes by health care worker Fairclough.



RE-ELECTED PREMIER DOUG FORD with newly elected Etobicoke Lakeshore Liberal MPP Lee Fairclough (centre) with Christine Hogarth, who held the riding for seven years.

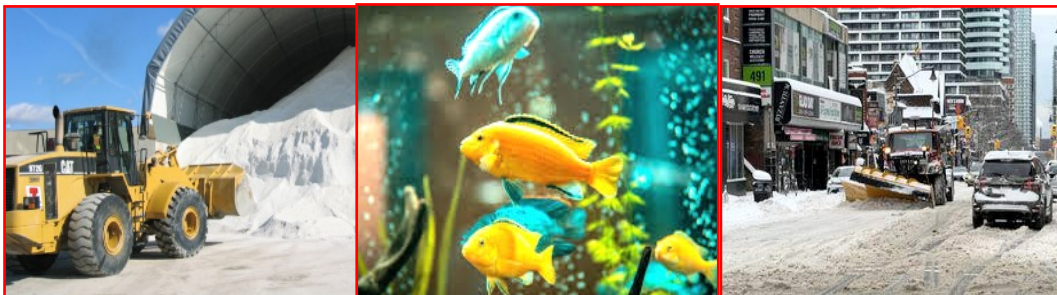
Hogarth was one of a few Conservatives to lose their seats in an election in which Premier Doug Ford was swept back to office for a third term by a huge majority. The Opposition NDP now has 27 seats and Liberals 14. Hogarth was elected to represent Etobicoke Lakeshore in 2018 and was a parliamentary assistant or member of a number of committees.

Many supporters cheered and wished Fairclough well. "Thank you Etobicoke Lakeshore for putting your trust in me," she said after her win. "I will work tirelessly to address the issues important to you." She plans to bring a

and a strong voice to Queen's Park to make progress on healthcare, education and housing issues. "I also look forward to working with constituents and community partners to find solutions on local issues." It will be an uphill battle at Queen's Park as Liberal Leader Bonnie Crombie lost her own seat. Fairclough has over 25 years of leadership in healthcare. She has dedicated her career to improving the lives of people in that she started out as a radiation therapist at Princess Margaret Hospital. She was at one time the President of St. Mary's General Hospital, where she guided her team through the challenges of COVID-19, working with public health and community leaders to protect vulnerable populations. NDP candidate Rozhren Asrani received almost 4,000 votes in a first attempt at political office.

Mimico Creek fish life face risk due to road salt

Etobicoke Creek and the Don River are the worst in the Toronto area for being the saltiest waterways due to runoff from truckloads of road salt being used to melt our mountains of ice and snow. Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) data from 2024 shows chloride concentrations in many waterways have been increasing for 10-years with Etobicoke Creek and the Don River among the saltiest. The study shows the salty waterways can pose a risk to aquatic, plant and even human health.



TONNES OF ROAD SALT ARE USED every winter (left) to maintain our roadways of ice and snow as we have experienced lately (right) and the salt runoff through rain that enter our streams and waterways have a devastating impact on our fish and aquatic life new studies indicate.

Too much salt can be toxic for fresh water life, and many GTA waterways are over the safe limit, according to the data. TRCA officials tested the water quality at Mimico Creek last February 7 with a device that measures chloride concentration and the results were not encouraging.

"We look kind of longer term, and what we're seeing is that of the 47 stations across our jurisdiction, 36 of them are showing increasing trends in chloride over time," research scientist Lyndsay Cartwright told the CBC. She said the salt will affect a number of aquatic species that lives and breeds in the rivers.

"Different aquatic species are going to have different tolerances to chloride, but a lot of the more sensitive ones will die," Cartwright said. South Etobicoke residents are sensitive over the health of our waterways since the August 2023 six-alarm fire at Brenntag Canada, and resulting runoff from firefighting efforts that entered Mimico Creek and Humber Creek. Crews worked for weeks to clean up the dead birds, wildlife and chemical runoff that had made it to Lake Ontario. To make matters worst, there were 17 major bypass events in 2023 at the Humber River Treatment Plant, in which about a billion litres of wastewater was released into the Humber River that did not pass through the secondary treatment process. The City uses up to 150,000 tonnes of road salt yearly to melt snow and ice.

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Nine City staff and 23 vendors disciplined in fraud and waste hotline that saved us \$1 mil



ALMOST two dozen vendors of the City and nine staffers have been disciplined for allegedly ripping off taxpayers.

Nine City of Toronto employees were disciplined and action taken against 23 affiliated vendors last year for ripping off taxpayers. Almost 700 complaints were received from the public last year citing 1,050 allegations of wrongdoing by City staff or its vendors in a Fraud and Waste Hotline.

The complaints were investigated by a forensic team of the Toronto Auditor General's Office to determine their credibility. More than 120 complaints led to further investigation by the City's agencies and divisions. Some 17 of 32 investigations were substantiated in whole or in part. Most of the allegations were left as tips anonymously.

The probes led to nine City employees being disciplined, 23 cases in which action were taken against vendors, employees or members of the public who were part of a scheme.

The study said there are about 1,250 allegations filed yearly to City officials and the program has saved the City \$2 million in losses and \$1.1 million in potential losses from 2020 to 2024, during which more than 14,500 complaints were filed by City staff and residents. It said the report helps reduce waste and deters wrongdoing and abuse by City staff, detects emerging trends, strengthens guidelines and keeps workers honest. Since the program launch in 2020 some 19 City employees have been disciplined and actions have been taken against 52 City employees, vendors or members of the public.

The disciplinary action against employees can include suspension to dismissal if the allegation against them is substantiated.

The complaints include fraud by employees or vendors, theft or waste of City assets or subsidies, breaching public trust of conflict of interest provisions.

All City employees who are aware that wrongdoing has occurred are required to notify their manager, their Division Head, or the Auditor General's Office.

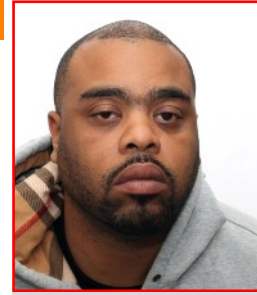


TORONTO City Hall



TORONTO POLICE officers hug a fellow new hire at a graduation ceremony of 91 cadets last month at the Toronto Police College. We now have more new officers on the street.

22 Division officers arrest violent gang



SUSPECT O'Neil

A group of South Etobicoke criminals dubbed the sledgehammer gang has been rounded up by Toronto Police 22 Division officers. Officers of the Major Crime Unit in Project Sledgehammer arrested three suspects, seized \$20,000 in Canadian cash and 5.5 kilograms of methamphetamine and heroin with an approximate street value of \$140,000.

Police in a release allege group members were investigated for two last December break and enters to homes in the Islington Avenue and Dundas Street W. area in which a sledgehammer and crowbar were used to smash the front doors. In one of the attempted robberies there were people inside the home and in another police made an arrest at the scene. There were no injuries.

Detectives issued a search warrant last December and seized the haul of drugs, cash and burglary tools. Charged with a long list of break and enter offences are Alden O'Neil, 45, of Whitby, Inderdip Singh Sahota, 36, of Brampton, and Shivansh Sharma, 34, of Kleinburg, who was arrested in Montreal.



SAHOTA face charges

Officers are still trying to identify four suspects wearing hoodies and have released images of the men captured on security cameras. Anyone with information is asked to contact the investigators at the 22 Division Major Crime Unit at 416-808-2200, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 416-222-TIPS (8477), or at www.222tips.com.



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City sued for \$10 million over Bloor bike lanes

The Bloor Street W. bike lane removal saga continues. Some 40 outraged business owners have filed a lawsuit against the City of Toronto seeking the removal of five kilometres of bike lanes that runs from Runnymede to Resurrection Roads and connects Bloor Street West Village to the Kingsway.

Ward 3 Councillor and Deputy Mayor Amber Morley and Barbara Gray, the City's General Manager of Transportation Services, have been named in the legal action that was filed on February 21 before the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. The two are accused of 'misfeasance of public office.'

The business owners are suing the City for \$10 million in damages for 'negligence and nuisance' caused by the bike lanes.

The small companies have repeatedly complained their business have plummeted with the installation of the bike lanes as it is difficult for customers to park and the elderly with mobility issues to get to their stores.

The Ontario government have banned the installation of bike lanes from busy roads and vow to remove them from Bloor Street W., University Avenue and Bloor Street W.

The lawsuit alleges the City has failed to properly monitor the impacts of the bike lanes, including how



THE CITY is being sued for \$10 million due to bike lanes and declining business on Bloor St. W..

they affect emergency response times. Police and fire officials have said the lanes slow their response time for emergency calls.

A Statement of Claim states that the bike lanes have eroded the character of the neighbourhood, decreased surrounding property values and reduced business and foot traffic in the area.

The group, which consists of a variety of businesses, is seeking an injunction that would require bike lanes to be removed to make way for motor vehicles.

The action claims the bike lanes have negatively impacted business and resulted in traffic congestion issues.

Residents are also complaining that side roads in the area are clogged with motorists trying to race around the Bloor Street W. bike lanes.

The Statement of Claim alleges Morley gave preferential treatment to an advocacy group over the voices of local businesses, and deliberately misrepresented the nature and extent of consultations on the project.

It claims Gray was being unlawfully lobbied by the pro-cycle group during consultations, and that she deliberately misrepresented or ignored bike lane data. The allegations have not been proven in court and no date has been set for a hearing.

City officials did not provide a comment as the matter is before the courts.

The group is also requesting a court injunction to remove the bike lanes along Bloor Street West and restore the streets to their original condition.

Sam Pappas, owner of The Crooked Cue and board member of Balance on Bloor, said most of the time the bike lane is empty.

"From day one, 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," Pappas has said.



BLOOR ST. W. businesses in their lawsuit claim the bike lanes lead to huge traffic congestion and are an emergency hazard for fire, police and paramedic crews.

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Officer's gun stolen from car at Sherway Mall

A former Toronto Police Drug Squad officer was forfeited 10 days with pay and ordered to take a firearms safety course after his service weapon was stolen at Sherway Gardens.

Const. Eugene Lee, 51, was off-duty when he went to Sherway Gardens on February 2023 and left his gun in a backpack on the back seat of his personal vehicle.

When he returned after about six hours of shopping his vehicle had been broken into in the parking lot and the backpack with his Glock firearm was gone.

The 14-year veteran of the force was suspended with pay after being charged with careless storage of a firearm and careless storage of ammunition, which were dropped.

A Toronto Police Disciplinary Hearing in a decision last month said the weapon has never been located and can be used to injure someone if it ends up in the hands of a 'bad actor.'

Lee faced Police Act charges of insubordination and discreditable conduct.

"The firearm was stored unloaded and without ammunition," according to the decision.

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Donors pay \$100M for St. Joseph's new Emergency



A SERVICE DOG comforts this senior in a stay at St. Joe's. Photos courtesy of St. Joseph's Health Care Centre.

West-end residents can expect improved care and service at St. Joseph's Health Centre as a major six-year redevelopment of its Emergency Department is now complete. Hospital officials thanked donors for

raising \$100 million for, among other projects, an overhaul of the Emergency Department that made it 40 per cent larger with new areas for ambulatory, geriatric care and better spaces for kids and for those in crisis due to mental illness.

"St. Joe's has one of the busiest emergency departments in the city and we need to keep pace with the growing population in Toronto's west end," said Dr. Tim Rutledge, President and CEO of Unity Health Toronto. "Our patients deserve that, and so do our physicians and

staff." The busy 100-year-old hospital receives 100,000 visits annually, making it among the busiest emergency departments in the GTA. The expanding facility serves 500,000 plus people who live in the west end of Toronto. Hospital records show that 100,000 people visit St. Joe's for emergency care yearly, of which 15,000 are seniors, 14,000 children and 6,600 of those seeking mental health and addiction care. The hospital began its Emergency Department redevelopment in 2019 with the opening of the Mental Health Emergency Services Unit, ensuring extraordinary care and support for patients with mental illness or addiction.

The Department includes one of Canada's first Geriatric Emergency Zones and a new Resuscitation Centre. There is also more room for equipment, technology, and private patient spaces.

"People often come to Emerg at the most frightening time of their lives," said Dr. Joan Cheng, Chief of Emergency at St. Joseph's. We "want to alleviate



DR. JOAN CHENG the busy hospital Chief of Emergency (left).



INSIDE THE NEW modern Emergency Department.

people's fear and anxiety at a time when they're at their most vulnerable."

Patient Jenna Campea like many other west-enders like the St. Joseph's staff and health care.

"Whenever I need care, it just feels good going to St. Joe's," said Campea, a donor.

Hospital staff said the work to the Department was '100 per cent paid for by donors.'

"Our donors have made an extraordinary difference in the promise to improve the Emergency Department at St. Joseph's Health Centre," said Maria Dyck, President and CEO at St. Joseph's Health Centre Foundation.

The hospital was founded in 1921 by the Sisters of St. Joseph on the site of the Sacred Heart orphanage. It started with 25 beds and a school of nursing. Today it has more than 400 beds and 1,000 staff members.

Officers hurt in traffic stop



TWO OFFICERS suffered minor injuries in a traffic stop on Evans Avenue.

Two Toronto police officers were hospitalized with minor injuries after being assaulted by a driver when they stopped a vehicle from entering a film shoot on Evans Avenue.

Toronto police say the incident happened on February 12 just before 1 p.m. in the area of Evans Avenue and Browns Line, south of the Gardiner Expressway.

There are a number of film studios in the area with film shoots taking place.

The officers sustained non-life-threatening injuries in the assault, police say.

A male driver of a vehicle, in his 40s, has been arrested and charged.

The incident comes days after another police officer sustained a head injury while responding to a call in North York on February 10.

Toronto police said there has been more than 10 officers who sustained various non-life-threatening injuries in the last month.

The officers are fortunate and believed to be back on the job.



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The **South Etobicoke News** is a free, independent monthly newspaper that serves Humber Bay Shores, Mimico, Lake Shore Village, Long Branch and Alderwood areas. Established in 1999.

We live in the community and cover local news, amateur sports, business and civic life while honouring those who gave so much of themselves so we can have the lives we enjoy today.

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Loud and Proud our Canadian flag at 60



PROUD RESIDENTS BRAVE the cold to celebrate the 60th birthday of the Canadian National Flag last month at the New Toronto flagpole. **Staff photos.**

More than 100 flag-waving area residents braved the snow and cold to celebrate the 60th birthday of the Canadian National Flag in New Toronto. The celebration at the Eighth Street flagpole was one of hundreds held across the country on February 15 to mark the birthday of the Canadian National Flag and show the love and patriotism for our country. Those attending the noon-time event were treated to pieces of two birthday cakes, which had pictures of the Maple Leaf beautifully featured. There was much camaraderie, smiles and speeches by residents about the love of our great country. The Royal Canadian Navy Band performed the national anthem and Maple Leaf Forever as 22 Division officers looked on. They both received loud applause from an appreciative crowd. Local politicians MP James Maloney, former MPP Christine

Hogarth and first-time NDP Etobicoke Lakeshore candidate Rozhen Asrani, made the rounds shaking hands or handing out flags. Noticeably absent was Ward 3 Councillor Amber Morley. Those at the celebration signed a large banner in honour of our country and birthday of our flag. The banner will be taken to the archives in Ottawa by Maloney. Organizer Chris Korwin-Kuczynski reminded those gathered that the Maple Leaf became synonymous with Canadian courage during the Second World War. "It was more than an emblem; it was a promise to protect freedom, to stand with our Allies and never waver in the face of tyranny," he told a cheering crowd.

"Today, in cemeteries far from home, countless of our fallen lie under headstones marked with the Maple



MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN NAVY BAND performed the national anthem and Maple Leaf Forever for an appreciative crowd.

Leaf." Maloney said he still gets emotional when he sees the Canadian flag outside Parliament Hill. "It makes me proud when I see our flag waving," he told the crowd. "We are lucky to live in a great country and in this great community." Hogarth has family members in the military and said the flag reflects our proud heritage and history.

"I am proud to be here and represent this community," she said. "We have a great history that we should be proud off."

Asrani had been attending community events trying to meet as many residents before the February 27 election.

"We live in a great community," she said. The Canadian National Flag with the red Maple Leaf was raised for the first time on Parliament Hill on February 15, 1965. The flag was designed by George Stanley, who was a Canadian Army Lieutenant-Colonel and military historian. He proposed the design in 1964 while working at the Royal Military College in Kingston.



PATRIOTIC RESIDENTS CHEER and applause as the Canadian National Flag was raised on the Eighth Street flagpole.



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NATIONAL FLAG OF CANADA DAY



A big thank you to Aby Toor owner of 409 Collision for donating Canadian Forever hats during the National Flag of Canada Day celebration on February 15, in our BIA.



Toronto deemed World Tree City by UN body



SOME 11 MILLION TREES are growing mightily in our parks and ravines, according to the City.

South Etobicoke residents love our trees, some of which are more than a century old. The City of Toronto has been recognized by the United Nations as a Tree City of the World with more than 11 million trees and plans for a 40 per cent canopy cover by 2050. The UN Environment Programme's General Restoration has designated Toronto as a Tree City of the World for the last five consecutive years, according to a

City staff report.

"Toronto is a recognized leader in urban forest management and biodiversity conservation," according to the Executive Director of Environment, Climate and Forestry Department.

The designation by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN "recognizes the City's commitment to ensuring sustainable and healthy urban forests, protecting local ecosystems and enhancing its resilience to climate change."

The tree report was reviewed by an Infrastructure and Environment Committee last month and will be considered by City Council at its meeting on March 26, 27 and 28.

The report said Toronto's urban forest consists of over 11.5 million trees and provides ecosystem services as creating oxygen and removing pollutants from the air, reducing energy costs, improving water quality and mitigating extreme heat. Trees also 'provide food and habitat for the many birds, insects, amphibians, and mammals which contribute to the city's biodiversity.' It stated many cities invest in greening plans, strategies and actions which promote urban forests as



THOUSANDS OF trees were planted by City staff and volunteers.

nature-based solutions for thermal regulation, such as New York, Seattle, Paris, Melbourne and London.

City Council is committed to achieving a 40 per cent canopy cover using a tree equity approach to grow trees where they are needed most, ensuring that all Torontonians enjoy the benefits of a healthy and resilient urban forest.

The Infrastructure Committee is asked to devise a plan this year to protect and enhance Toronto's tree canopy as 'climate change intensifies, with particular attention to the importance of trees in reducing the adverse effects of extreme heat on children, seniors and other vulnerable populations.'

The changing climate is partially blamed for the major floods and forest fires that we had last year and previously, officials said.

Toronto's trees are essential to the City's green infrastructure and provide cooling benefits, through evapotranspiration and shade provision, as well as carbon sequestration, air pollution mitigation, wildlife habitat and stormwater management.

The report said the urban forest contributes over \$55 million annually in ecosystem services, including \$8.3 million in energy savings, \$4 million in gross carbon sequestration, \$37.9 million in pollution removal, and \$4.8 million in avoided runoff.

A joint study by the Canadian Institute for Climate Choices and Smart Prosperity Institute noted that from 1990-2018, urban trees removed an average of 2.4 million tons of greenhouse gases (GHG)

"Urban trees offer health benefits by reducing heat-related illnesses, as trees can lower temperatures by up to 12 degrees Celsius while providing shade and reducing exposure to harmful ultraviolet rays," according to the study.

City staff have planted more than 13,000 trees on public land, created a Tree Seed Program to restore areas with native plants and introduced tree maintenance measures.



ONE OF THE OLDEST TREES in South Etobicoke (top) is about 130 years old and still growing strong..



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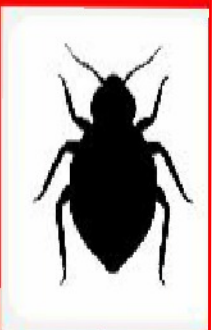
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Bridge work on the Gardiner



TRAFFIC GRIDLOCK is an everyday event on the Gardiner Expressway and will only get worse.

the Gardiner meets Kipling Avenue, Islington Avenue, Parklawn Road, Mimico Creek and west-bound on-ramp over Mimico Creek. The bridges are major connections for west-end residents to access the already busy highway. Construction is expected to begin this month and is slated to be completed by November next year, with a pause

We could face more traffic congestion than expected as early as this summer on the Gardiner Expressway. City plans are underway to rehabilitate five busy bridges over the Gardiner Expressway that runs from Highway 27 east to Humber River in South Etobicoke.

The work was adopted by a General Government Committee on February 25, according to City records.

It appears the contract may go to EllisDon Civil Ltd., who submitted a winning multi-million dollar bid. The giant company has been 'the supplier with the lowest compliant bid meeting the specifications and requirements of a Request for Tender.'

It is not known when the job may begin or end.

The City said to curb traffic congestion and noise they are asking the company work 24-hours, seven days a week, to finish the job without much disruption.

The work, which will take months, will rehabilitate the bridges where

for the FIFA soccer tournament between May 2026 and July 2026.

Toronto is one of the worst city for traffic congestion in North America and the average driver can lose up to 63 hours yearly due to the traffic jams, according to recent studies.

In recent weeks entire NHL teams had to leave their bus and walk to Scotiabank Arena or they would be late for games due to downtown traffic congestion.



CONSTRUCTION underway at a highway bridge. Five bridges will have to be restored in big job.

Haven on the Queensway agency fundraising to renovate new building



HAVEN ON THE QUEENSWAY is moving to a new location.

Long-time community social agency Haven on the Queensway which has helped thousands of needy area residents is moving and seeking donations to help restore a donated building nearby. The charity that helps about 3,000 people weekly is trying to raise \$250,000 by May when they have to move into a spacious office next door to their current 1533 The Queensway building. Aretha Khaloo, Haven's Director of Operations, said the building,

which was donated by a developer, requires renovation work, including to the roof and sections of the inside, which the agency is responsible for. "We have been working hard to find a larger facility that can meet the growing needs of our community while remaining accessible to our clients," Khaloo explained. "Our agency has grown and we will have move space to help our clients."

The agency has launched a fundraising drive for the renovation and a planned new mixed-use building complex at 1543 - 1551 The Queensway they will occupy with other charities as Habitat for Humanity, Community Affordable Housing Solutions and St. Clare's Multi-Faith Housing Society.

The complex will be made up of four towers ranging from 30 to 45 storeys constructed on a site that is now light industrial properties to be demolished.

A development application involving Hariri Pontarini Architects is going through the hearings process and will take some time. When completed the complex will have 342 affordable units out of 1,819 homes.

Haven on the Queensway would operate an over 3,750 square-metre facility across three levels of the podium. It will maintain its core housing services as a food bank, clothing donation centre, support services for senior citizens and its mobile street help and other services.

Also planned are a daycare and playground, drop-in space capable of hosting a range of events, and an centre teaching ESL programs and helping equip people with the tools and resources to find employment.



PLANNED CONDO complex will be the new site of Haven and other charity agencies at 1543 The Queensway.

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LIFE'S UNDERTAKING a podcast

RIDLEY FUNERAL HOME
Ridley staff including Tammy (centre) and colleagues shovelling snow and having fun after the Family Day snowstorm.

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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Tasty Tibetan food at Mimico's Pemako Kitchen



TSERING TASHI owner of newly-opened Tibetan Pemako Kitchen restaurant (below) at 2416 Lake Shore Blvd. W. In Mimico.

A new Tibetan restaurant in Mimico is attracting some attention. Pemako Kitchen, at 2416 Lake Shore Blvd. W., just west of Superior Avenue, has been open for about a year and features tasty traditional Tibetan dishes along with meals sprinkled with Indian and Chinese influences.

Owner and chef Tsering Tashi named the cosy restaurant after a region in Tibet where his parents grew up. The remote hilly region is one of the four in southeastern Tibet, where the Brahmaputra River descends into India.

Tashi's trek to Canada is an immigrant success story. He was one of 1,000 displaced refugees from Tibet sponsored by the Canadian government in 2013 to resettle in Ottawa and Toronto as a part of a federal program that allowed them to become permanent residents. He is active in the Tibetan community and is proud of a photo of him meeting the Dalai Lama in India. His restaurant has pictures of the Dalai Lama, posters and photos that remind patrons of home.

He was resettled in Mimico by officials on arrival here and has worked his way up to finally open his restaurant, which has been a dream since childhood.



MIMICO RESIDENT Tashi meeting His Holiness the Dalai Lama.



The menu includes the popular chow mein meat and vegetable dishes, assorted noodle dishes, a range of Mo Mos, delicious soups, Thali and Bhutanese cuisine. The filling dishes range from \$10 to \$15.

Tashi said he wants to help make Tibetan food more popular with Toronto food lovers. This City is known worldwide for its diverse restaurants and foods from all over the globe.

"I always wanted to open a restaurant," he said. "I like food and to watch people enjoying our Tibetan food."

There are more than 10,000 Tibetans in Canada, with most living in the Toronto area. Most have resettled in the Parkdale area with many living in South Etobicoke. You can visit the restaurant or place orders at pemakokitchen.com.



TASHI in dining room.

Beer prices to rise next month



Better stock up as the price of beer is increasing next month.

The LCBO is set to increase the fee it charges brewers on April 1, a 4.4 per cent jump in what the liquor agency refers to as the 'cost of service' across all beer products, imported or domestic.

Local breweries said it's going to hurt their wallets and that it will likely trickle down to the consumer. "It's already hard enough to compete against the big guys and this is going to further impact how viable it is for a small producer like myself to even bother

working with the LCBO," said Carl Pratt of Beaches Brewing Company.

For beer sold at a retailer, the fee is currently set at 74.11 cents per litre and would rise to 77.37 cents per litre next month. That translates to a total of \$8.78 on a case of 24 "Tall Boy" (473 ml) cans, a 37-cent increase from the current rate.

Retailers are not obligated to pass on the fee increase to consumers, but a spokesperson for craft brewers says beer prices will rise as a result.

The newly-relected Doug Ford government can decide to intervene and scrap April's price hike. The Conservatives have pledged there was a proposal to get rid of the minimum retail price for liquor.

Meanwhile, about a dozen Brewers Retail beer stores have closed or closing soon due to competition from beer sales at corner stores.

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BIA says parking lot much needed on homeless shelter site



MEETING ON SHELTER proposed drew hundreds of concerned residents. Photo by Tanya Vividly.

A New Toronto business organization has written the City requesting the return of a Third Street parking lot which is the site of a proposed homeless shelter. The Lake Shore Village Business Improvement Association (BIA) on February 24 sent a letter to Toronto Parking Authority's Aviva Levy seeking the return of the lot as more density and taller buildings are being recommended for the area.

"The BIA business members

rely heavily on this Green P parking lot for their customers," said vice-chair Chris Korwin-Kuczynski. "We are extremely concerned that this loss will mean a significant loss in customers and potential business closures."

The group is seeking the data used to declare the Green P parking lot at 66 Third Street a surplus.

He said a Lake Shore Study is being conducted through City Planning Dept.,

with recommendations for taller 11-storey buildings and higher density.

"Please provide the statistics and reasoning used to justify this decision as soon as possible so we can share it with our BIA Directors, our membership and the community," Korwin-Kuczynski said. Meanwhile, about 200 concerned residents showed up to express their opinions at a meeting last month in regards for the planned 80-bed homeless shelter.

A large hall at Humber College was packed with an overflow crowd as Toronto Police and security officers looked on as residents tried to obtain information from speakers on the planned facility.

There were many against the shelter and those who support the project, one of 20 proposed citywide to help the homeless population. Many said they support the facility but not the location.

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

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.

Ward 3 Councillor Amber Morley, who has fully support the shelter and faced a number of questions. Morley has said she had no say in the location of the shelter, which was among 100 sites examined by City officials.

Many residents against the proposed shelter warned it will be close to two elementary schools and a seniors' residence.



THE PROPOSED homeless shelter as it would look like when completed in 2030.

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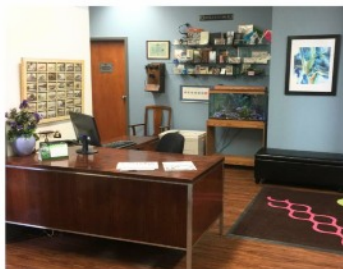
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World class local marathoner Drayton is mourned



WORLD CLASS runner Jerome Drayton (top) and during a marathon (bottom).

A world-class New Toronto marathoner who won the Boston Marathon and represented Canada in the 1976 Olympics is being mourned by many in the community. Jerome Drayton, who was well-known in the area, died unexpectedly on February 10 at the age of 80.

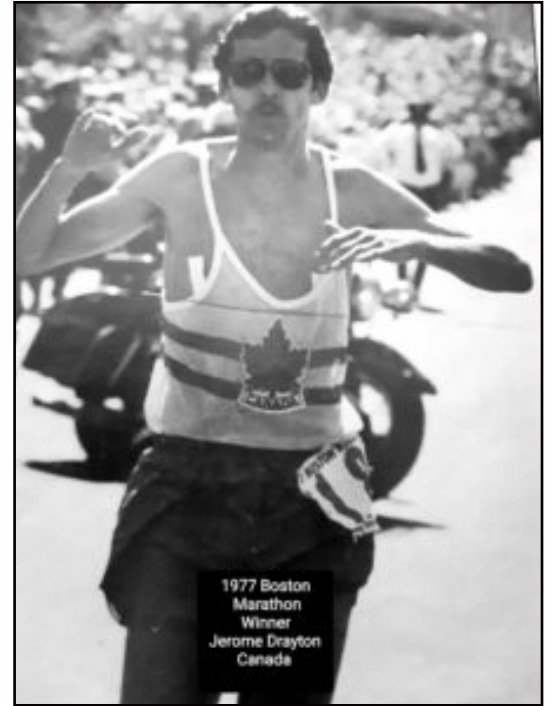
Drayton competed for Canada in the marathon at the Montreal Olympics, and was among a handful of Canadians to win the famed Boston Marathon. He was the last Canadian to win the legendary race.

He beat thousands of top runners in the Boston street race to make it to the finish line in 2 hours, 14 minutes and 16 seconds.

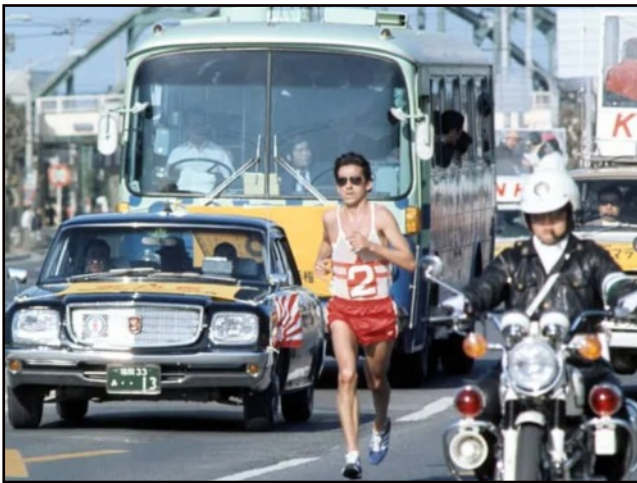


DRAYTON'S PORTRAIT can be seen on the New Toronto Wall of Fame, at Sixth Street.

Some area residents are trying to have the runner be immortalized on a Canadian stamp or coin for his running skills. He was once described as 'the Gretzky of Canadian marathon running.' The athlete will be immortalized in a name unveiling ceremony on June 7 at 1 p.m. when a laneway off Sixth Street, behind Conrad's Bar, will be named after him.



DRAYTON WINNING the Boston Marathon (top) a Japanese race (centre) and being inducted in Canada's Sports Hall of Fame (bottom). **Archive photos.**



placed second in the New York City Marathon in 1975 and placed sixth in the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal.

Drayton held the Canadian Men's Marathon record for 43 years. In 1978, he was inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame.

Canadian Gerard Cote won the event four times in the 1940s. "The Boston Marathon was a tough race," Drayton recalled in an earlier interview. "The race often intrigued me as it had not been won by a Canadian since 1948."

Drayton during his running career won dozens of races; including the Fukuoka International Marathon in Japan, which he won three times. He also

He has lived in South Etobicoke since 1957, first for decades in Mimico, before moving to New Toronto. The athlete moved to Canada from Russia with his parents as a young boy and at one time ran back and forth from Mimico to downtown Toronto to work at a government job.

You may have passed his portrait many times as it is painted with other high-achieving residents on a Lake Shore Village BIA Wall of Fame, which graces the side of a pharmacy on Sixth Street. "I loved the running which I did for enjoyment," he said in 2024. "I also loved travelling to different places to race." His funeral service was held on February 14 at St. Volodymyr Cathedral on Bathurst Street. Donations in his honour can be made to the Canadian Olympic Foundation.



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The Etobicoke Quilters' Guild (EQG) are celebrating their 50th 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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City officials studying if we need more warming centres for at-risk



CITY STAFF are studying if we need more warming and respite centres for those in need.

The City is looking at opening up more warming centres following repeated calls from social workers for more places for the homeless to remain warm in South Etobicoke. The move comes as City officials plan to build an 80-bed shelter for the homeless on Third Street which has been met with mixed feelings in the community. City staff have launched a study into warming centres and winter respite sites in a bid to open up more beds or warming spaces for

the homeless.

An audit was conducted by Toronto Shelter and Support Services (TSSS) into our winter warming centres and respite sites and the findings were considered by City Council on February 12.

The audit calls for data to determine how many winter program spaces are needed, and how many people are turned away every night, directed elsewhere, or leave without accessing a bed or warm space. City officials also want to know how many people are able to stay inside a site to keep warm but are not able to access a bed.

The study calls for a review of the procedure involved in deactivation of warming centres and respites. Workers have complained that homeless people in South Etobicoke have to travel downtown to find a bed or place to warm up due to a lack of facilities. The TSSS is looking at ways to maximize the beds made available by the winter respite sites, warming centres, and surge sites during the cold weather. City agencies have been asked to be on the lookout for possible sites for warming centres or respites.



HOMELESS man with his beloved dog.

“People experiencing homelessness are particularly vulnerable to illness and injury as a result of exposure to cold temperatures,” the audit warned. It calls for TSSS to secure temporary sites and come up with a plan as to where to send people when shelters are filled.



ENCAMPMENTS as this one have taken over City parks and have to be housed in shelters.

In the Community

By TOM GODFREY



On Family Day last month I saw an appreciative resident purchasing a coffee and treats for a City snow plough driver in recognition of his hard work.

The driver had worked a long shift removing snow from our streets during that blustery overnight dump that left traffic and the City crippled.

The mountains of snow have many people still complaining about a ‘terrible’ job by the City and snow removal workers, who left many streets reduced to one lanes due to the large amount of snow.

Many of our seniors with strollers, or with mobility issues, are still saddened that they couldn’t leave their homes to visit doctors or pharmacies due to the heavy compacted windrows of snow left at the foot of their driveway.

Others cited the slap-dash snow cleaning of our sidewalks that left, with much still there, clumps or waves of heavy uncleaned snow that when frozen became slippery, dangerous ice. It is one of the worst City snow-cleaning jobs we have experienced in Etobicoke and suburbs for many years. It has been weeks already and still mountains of snow sit waiting to be cleaned from the side roads. It was so bad that Mayor Olivia Chow called for an inquiry.

I don’t know if this snow cleaning effort was worst than that of the late Mayor Mel Lastman bringing in the army to cleanup years ago. At least the snow was quickly cleaned.

City officials said it will take about three weeks to clean the white stuff, even with the use of hundreds of dump trucks and other heavy machinery.

Many residents complain that with another 6.9 per cent property and other tax increases this year, and almost 10 per cent last year, they are not receiving the services they pay for. We are a nation of winters and we get many inches of snow and ice yearly and still every year it is the same with untimely or sloppy snow removal.

City officials claim the tax increase only works out to about \$200 a year and is affordable. But, it is not if you talk to the elderly or those challenged with fixed incomes who are struggling to hold on to their family homes.

Not only can they visit their friends, doctors or go shopping because of the snow-packed icy sidewalks, but have to decide if to buy groceries, pay rent or their taxes.

Chow and most of the councillors only want to take more from our pockets, while returning less or reduced services compared to what we are used to.

I see people complaining all the time that our bike lanes receive a top priority for snow cleaning with a handful of users as thousands of motorists have to sit and navigate through snowbanks. There are many photos of the cleaned bike lanes being posted on social media. Toronto residents are being overtaxed with little in return. The City has a budget of more than \$18.8 billion yearly and there is a lot of fat in that amount that can be trimmed. Sure, we need funds for more police, ambulance or front-line workers. No one will dispute that. A closer look at the budget reveals some shocking, wasteful spending of taxpayers hard-earned money.

One example of the use of our cash is to purchase 400 air conditioners in a pilot program to cool down those who are low-income and vulnerable residents in multi-family buildings. Another is the allocation of \$1 million to a Rent Bank to help up to 2,700 households in financial needs. Many did not know the City operates a Rent Bank to help those in need. On the other hand, funds will be used to expand school food programs to reach 257,210 students, or in total 48.4 million meals, which is great so kids can spend more time learning. What it comes down to is that our elected politicians have to stop squeezing residents and give us back our basic services – as snow removal – that we all pay for heavily and deserve.

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

Lost and Found. Heavy clumps of melting snow plummeted from shingled roofs, on my walk along the slippery sidewalk. Nearby evergreens bowed wearily under the weight of their captive snow. Record snowfalls buried us knee deep this past February. But the big melt is coming and so is spring, I thought.



I was lost in thought, when a sloppy glob of slush hit me on the head and brought me back to reality. I realized everything is lost and found, not just me in my thoughts. In the fall, nature may seem lost but then is found again. The trees stand barren and empty. Earth grows cold and dark. Time passes and the loss fall is reborn this spring.

The warmth is coming; it is inevitable. Spring is almost here and she brings us new life. Despite the late-winter blustery winds and the snow covered branches, buds grow quietly, determined. In no time at all, they break through to the warmth of the spring sun. March rallies new found hope in hearts worn down by the cold, dark nights of winter. This is a month of beginnings.

However many trees lose leaves, no matter what branches break in the winter winds and how many garden plants may have wilted away, many more are returning. Nature grows more each spring. We cannot stop her. She is robust and determined in her emergence.

This graceful life lesson of all that exists, is understated and so often overlooked. Life is expanding. We are expanding with every breath. My gentle nudge to every client is: 'No Breath is Ever Wasted'. Thus, no step is in vain. Every step we take is the right step along our path. We are of nature. We are of all that is. As the snowdrops reveal their slender white caps through the late winter snow, we are reminded to accept what is. Because, 'what is' is continually transforming and growing. What is today, is no longer tomorrow. Knowing this fundamental truth, our biggest challenge is to choose our direction. Spring, the season of re-birth, naturally supports us in setting a new goal. A new direction.

But which way do you grow? Are you a meadow or a forest? Are you learning another language or growing a family? You can't grow everything at once. After all, even nature only grows in one direction at a time: first roots below then plants above. Simple.

This spring, what five plants or animals grab your attention? What is it about each one that you find interesting? There is a connection and life lesson there for you. Every lesson on your path is like a day in the season of your life. The moment you ask yourself a question, your mind starts to figure out the answer. The trick is to take time. Sit with the question long enough (at least a few breaths, ideally longer!), as if you are thawing from a winter of rest. The question of direction is like planting a seed in the garden. At this moment, you truly are in charge of your destiny. What will you plant? What will you grow with your mind, with your heart?

You have the ability, the skills, the experience and resources to grow in any direction you choose. No matter how small a change you make, it creates a world of difference in your life. Remember the Chinese proverb: a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step (Lao Tau, Tao Te Ching) You may be inspired by the migration of the monarch butterflies as you spot the first butterfly of the season. This could mean you are ready for big migrations. Perhaps the returning hummingbirds catch your eye. Some Indigenous cultures view hummingbirds as good luck, harbingers of joy and love. It may be a sign to open your heart to joy of life this season. Whatever the lesson may be, know that is there just for you. You are right on time.

"A tree as great as a man's embrace springs from a small shoot; A terrace nine stories high begins with a pile of earth; A journey of a thousand miles starts under one's feet." — Tao Te Ching Chapter 64.

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Retired Judge Speaks

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI

Sitting by my kitchen window, sipping my coffee and watching the snow accumulate, I do my best to avoid the inevitable 'shovelling.' I had hoped my wife would return home soon—she loves shovelling snow—my ideal marriage!

I find myself reflecting on this crucial time in our world. It seems we are living in constant confusion. Everything is changing. We reminisce about the stability of the '50s to '90s—the prom, the children, and peace. We just had an election, and the next day, Trump goes off on Zelenskyy. These are dire times of significant change. We cannot simply shrug and say these things, too, will pass. We must confront reality.

I read in the newspaper about how my riding addressed local issues related to health and education while balancing Ontario's national interests. When I saw Trump on TV attacking the Ukrainian Prime Minister, I believed the conflict between Canada and the USA was genuine. Vance's desire for Zelenskyy to grovel before Trump was disgraceful, highlighting our need for a true adult leader with a strong global reputation. This is a war, and sacrifices will be necessary. All Canadians must work together as neighbours. In our riding of Lakeshore Etobicoke, we performed well. We needed a "Captain Canada" to unite the provinces and lead the charge against the USA — someone with Trump's boldness and Bill Davis's commitment to unity. Despite Ford's friendship with developers and his tendency to politicize the judicial system, I often found myself at odds with his policies. Nevertheless, he embodied the spirit of democracy, empathy, and the capacity to admit mistakes, unlike Trump. Ford resembled a tough bulldog, steadfast in confronting the president; he was reminiscent of Bill Davis and the old Red Tories—extending both arms to bring the provinces together to create a Charter.

We had two challenges. We needed someone at the local level to engage with the riding and address our issues regarding health, education, and the destruction of local neighbourhoods. We required someone who would attend meetings and fulfill their community responsibilities. Our incumbent fell short, she avoided public debates and distanced herself from questions, merely echoing Ford's ideas and downplaying teachers' efforts when I spoke to her a while back.

Fairclough, however, was available and experienced in the health sector, making her a valuable addition to the Legislature. We took a gamble, hoping the province would re-elect Ford while choosing Fairclough locally. It was a risk, but it paid off. Lakeshore Etobicoke was a win-win with Ford and Fairclough.

Federally, we require a mature, proven, and experienced leader, regardless of party affiliation, to work alongside Ford—a challenging and savvy team, a one-two punch. The Federal Liberals have fallen out of favour, but the alternative is a man of doom and gloom. In psychology, you are believed to become what you think; if someone adopts that mindset, they give up. This perspective doesn't inspire; instead, it fosters a sense of helplessness and despair, making it more challenging to overcome obstacles. The current leader of the Conservative Party is notorious for his divisive rhetoric and name-calling, using terms like "corrupt" and "incompetent" to describe his opponents. Poilievre has labelled responsible media as "biased" and "fake news."

This sort of name-calling and divisive language isn't exclusive to Poilievre; it is a common tactic populists employ to rally their base and discredit their rivals. It's akin to a "mini-me Trump." Such rhetoric amplifies polarization and negativity within the political landscape. One doesn't initiate a dialogue with an insult.

We need unity, not division. We need experience in significant economics—someone who has worked for both Conservatives and Liberals, steering two countries through economic crises and delivering success even when he disagreed with the government's policies like Brexit. Mark Carney was initially chosen by Prime Minister Harper and praised by the UK Chancellor Osborne as the "best person in the world for the job, Governor of the Bank of England. Osborne, like Harper, admired Carney's skills, confidence, and experience, which he believed were crucial for steering the UK through the challenges of Brexit and the beginnings of the COVID-19 pandemic, despite some strained relations over Brexit, PM. Boris Johnson still appointed Carney as an adviser after his tenure at the Bank of England. Johnson recognized Carney's expertise and valued his contributions to the UK's financial stability). Someone with real crisis experience is arguably the most essential trait. This experience provides invaluable insights and practical knowledge that can help prevent economic collapse and promote a resilient economy.

It's not a time for party affiliation; it's a time for the best leadership choice. A war cabinet of Liberals, Conservatives, and other parties must join to fight a common enemy. A person who cannot achieve that by name-calling opponents will not succeed. We need a leader with the brains and an international reputation for professional respect, as well as a bulldog with the tenacity of Ford, to take on figures like Trump and Musk. Carney's global recognition as a saviour of economies provides the support and credibility needed to navigate these turbulent times. With his brutal and determined approach, Ford can stand up to Trump and protect our values and interests. Together, they form a formidable team that can tackle the challenges ahead.

As I finally motivated myself to shovel the driveway, my wife phoned, telling me the traffic was terrible and she would be late. I was reminded that complex tasks require both strategy and determination. Canada stands at a crossroads, facing challenges that demand our collective wisdom and strength. The path forward requires leaders who can unify rather than divide and bring expertise rather than empty rhetoric. In Carney and Ford, we have the potential for a partnership that combines intellectual prowess with practical tenacity. This powerful combination can unite conservatives and liberals nationwide.

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

The South Etobicoke News

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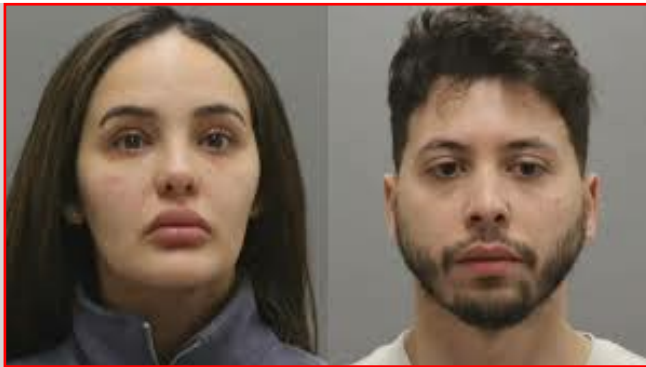
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RCMP

An RCMP Cyber Crime unit has arrested two Toronto residents who are accused of scamming more than 500 victims of millions of dollars in a bank teller or police calling schemes. The Mounties believe the two used technology to hide their phone numbers, deceiving people into thinking they were speaking with their bank, a government employee or police staff.



SUSPECTS ACCUSED of scamming hundreds of victims many elderly of millions of dollars from their life savings..

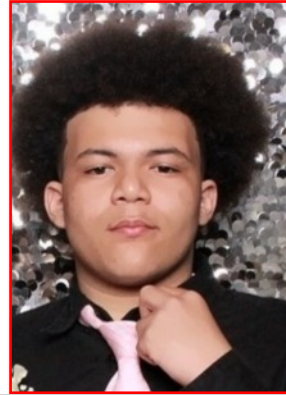
Cybercrime investigators raided the suspects' residence, seizing a "trove" of items including "electronic devices," police said in a press release. The RCMP says they are aware of 570 victims of the phone scams and hope more will come forward now. Many residents of South Etobicoke have complained about the scam calls, which displays a legitimate official number on caller ID.

The scam involved residents receiving calls from suspects posing as bank, police or Canadian government workers claiming that criminals had accessed their bank accounts and they required money, their passwords or account numbers to catch the thieves. The information was then used to steal from their accounts.

Police allege the pair used a website that allow "criminals to impersonate corporations by displaying a fake caller identification." Chakib Mansouri, 29, and Majdouline Alouah, 31, have been charged with unauthorized use of computer, laundering proceeds of crime, unauthorized possession of credit card data and possessing the proceeds of crime. Both were in custody and appeared in court last month.



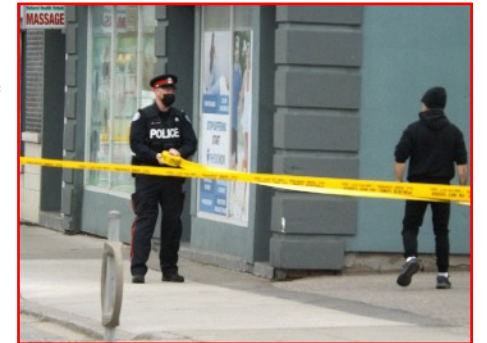
Duo charged with brazen shootings including killing of teen at Capri Rd.



ISIAH FOGAH dead at 16.

A man and a teen have been charged with murder in the shooting death of 16-year-old at an East Mall apartment last month. Isaiah Fogah and a 19-year-old were found suffering from gunshot wounds inside a Toronto Community Housing complex on Capri Road in The East Mall and Rathburn Road area on February 4. Some tenants of the high-rise said they heard loud noises, running in the hallways and deadly

screaming in the stairwells. Tenants were outraged the shootings occurred in a public area of the apartment building. Police said two masked suspects exited the building after the shooting, which spanned several floors of the apartment building.



OFFICERS searching for evidence (top) at scene of the brazen murder (bottom) where teenager was gunned down

Both victims were taken to hospital, where Fogah was later pronounced dead. He is the second homicide of 2025. Elliot Xavier Yera, 18, and Shamone Pompey-Thomas, 20, both of Toronto, have been charged with second-degree murder, attempted murder, unauthorized possession of a firearm and possession of a loaded or restricted firearm. Police are not sure what the relationship, if any, the pair had with Fogah and the other victim.



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MARCH 6 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY Luncheon fundraiser at the Mimico Cruising Club, 200 Humber Bay Park W. Always a wonderful experience. Tickets \$50 includes a three course meal. Starts at 12 noon p.m. Contact jasmind@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 308 for tickets.

MARCH 8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY Fighting for our Lives, Building our Resistance, 11 a.m. rally and 1 p.m. march. Takes place at the OISE Auditorium, 252 Bloor Street W. All are welcome and sign language services available. For more visit iwdtoronto.ca

MARCH 9 TRY LACROSSE FOR FREE at St. Leo Catholic School, 271 Royal York Road, for those aged 7 to 16 all you need is running shoes, helmet and gloves (optional). From 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. try box lacrosse and from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. try womens' field lacrosse. You can register at mimicolacrosse.com

MARCH 10-14 MARCH BREAK CAMP at the Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment from March 10 to 14 for girls and young women ages 7 to 17 and includes hands-on activities and workshops, free breakfast, snacks and after-camp care for a fun field outing. Cost \$75 a child. Etobicoke Camp from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 101 Portland Street. Camp also in Brampton. Call 416-253-9797 or daniela@jeanaugustinecentre.ca

MARCH 14 KINGSWAY WOMEN'S CLUB welcomes **Karen Pierce** author of *Recipes for Murder*. 66 dishes to celebrate the mysteries of Agatha Christie at 1:30 p.m. at Markland Wood Golf Club. Costs \$20 and register by March 7 to kingswaywomensclub.wordpress.com.

MARCH 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY to celebrate the spirit of Irish song and stories at 11 a.m. in the community room at LAMP CHC, at 185 Fifth Street. Come sing with *Briar* to some of your favourite tunes for an enjoyable hour of fun and friendship. For more information contact RoseMa@lampchc.org or jasmind@lampchc.org call 416-252-6471 ext. 257.

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

MARCH 20 MYSTERY BOOK CLUB discusses *Game of Lies by Clare Mackintosh* from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, 2nd Floor. Copies of the book can be borrowed at the Humber Bay Library. Call to register at 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or e-mail health.promotion@stonegatechc.com

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

MARCH 22 REPAIR CAFÉ TORONTO to learn, upgrade your sewing skills from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at LAMP CHC, 185 Fifth Street. Skills taught in each workshop. Register at rosema@lampchc.org or jasmind@lampchc.org, or by phone: 416-252-6471 ext 257 or 208. #sewingclass #sewingskills #southetobicoke

MARCH 28 THE ETOBICOKE COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND presents their Spring concert at 7:30 p.m. at Etobicoke Collegiate Institute, at 86 Montgomery Road, with special guest **Sean Bellaviti**. Tickets are \$25 at the door or by phone 416-410-1570 or online at tickets@eccb.ca

MARCH 29 SPRING ARTS MARKET at Humber College, Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Kipling Avenue, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Lakeshore Environmental Gardening Society (LEGS)members will be there selling or organic herbal teas and garden seeds for Spring. Support our fundraiser. Contact Monika at 416-347-5449 or store@healingmuse.com

MARCH WILL MARK THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY of Montgomery's Inn as a museum, after the Etobicoke Historical Society helped save the landmark 1830s heritage building in the 1960s, when ownership was transferred to the City of Etobicoke. The City officially opened the Inn as a museum on March 1, 1975. There are many events that still takes place at the building which was built in 1832, at 4709 Dundas Street W. It continues to provide visual evidence of early 19th century life in this region. For more visit www.etobicokehistorical.com

APRIL 5 ETOBICOKE CENTENNIAL CHOIR concert at Runnymede United Church, 432 Runnymede Road, at 7:30 p.m. The program includes *Duke Ellington's* iconic composition *Caravan* in hot Latin arranged by **Paris Rutherford**. Lead singers will perform *Cheek to Cheek* an *Irving Berlin* jazz standard and *Manning Sherwin's A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square* and many other tunes. Come early for a pre-concert chat with Music Director **Henry Renglich** at 7 p.m. Tickets \$35 and children 12 and under free. For more info call 416-695-9034 or e-mail info@etobicokecentennialchoir.ca or visit etobicokecentennialchoir.ca

APRIL 26 POPULAR REPAIR CAFÉ from noon to 4 p.m. at LAMP CHC, on Fifth Street. Do you have a broken household item. Bring your small appliances, computers, electronics, clothes, jewellery, books, and more, and we will show you how to fix it for free! At a Repair Café event we have fixers with expertise on repairing computers, electronics, small appliances, clothes, jewellery, book and paper repairs, toys, among others. Volunteers are also sought. For more contact jasmind@lampchc.org or visit repaircafeto.ca

SEEKING MEMBERS OF MICHAEL POWER/St. JOSEPH Class of 1975 Reunion taking place on June 5 at Islington Golf Course. Still looking for members of the Class of '75! To provide your contact info and for more information e-mail mcachia75@gmail.com.

MARCH 21 - 22 THE 30-UP DANCE CLUB 75th Anniversary Gala Celebration of serving the Ballroom and Latin dance community at 22 Dorchester Avenue. March 21 for big dance party dancing through the decades with **DJ Alex Rivas**. March 22 is a semi-formal event with **DJ Haida Wang**. Dancing starts with a free lesson at 7 p.m. A light dinner is served. There is also an afternoon Tea Dance on Tuesdays from 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more contact Marjorie at 1-647-239-1918 or email; mwhite@jobchart.com

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Higher density, taller buildings and more greenery in Lakeshore study



A CITY STUDY is recommending taller buildings as this one and more density on the Lakeshore Strip.

There big plans to update the Lakeshore Strip by increasing density in permitting taller buildings and sprucing up wider sidewalks with more greenery and street furniture.

A public meeting was held in a City study that will increase the heights of buildings to 11 stories, upgrade and beautify sections of Lake Shore Blvd. W. corridor. About 100 residents attended the Lake Shore Boulevard West Avenue Study community feedback drop-in meeting that was held on February 26 at Lakeshore Collegiate Institute.

City officials said

recommendations for the area have been developed through community input, technical research, industry feedback and city by-laws.

“The recommendations are to be resilient, forward thinking, and make for a thriving, safe and accessible avenue,” according to a City notice.

The study said the four kilometre corridor in New Toronto and Long Branch is ideal for intensification and increasing building heights from Dwight Avenue west to Brown’s Line, with gaps at Humber College.

The corridor contains mostly two or three-storey commercial buildings with angled or parallel on-street parking, with some newer townhouses and some six-to-eight storey residential buildings.

The study proposes mid-rise buildings up to 11 storeys high along Lake Shore Blvd. W., west of Kipling Avenue and up to eight-stories along Lake Shore Blvd. W., east of Kipling.

The City’s Planning Department Staff also intend to streamline the development application process for proposals to meet new performance standards.

The plan will improve the ‘sub-standard sidewalk widths, lack of street trees, angled, perpendicular or parallel street parking, lack of street furniture as benches, waste bins, bicycle posts and lock up rings.’

The Strip will be more friendly to shoppers or pedestrians and will help stores in the community.

“This study seeks to evaluate opportunities to improve the public realm to better support, facilitate, and accommodate the expanding population of South Etobicoke and the local economy,” according to the study.

Staff said the proposal for the area supports public transit, will integrate green infrastructure, make it safer, more attractive and vibrant to support local businesses.

Feedback from the community called for more greenery or tree canopy for the Corridor. Other concerns includes the installation of bike lanes along the boulevard in addition to easy accessibility to the TTC. The study is not looking at the installation of bike lanes at this point.

A revised plan will be considered by Etobicoke York Community council later this year.

NOTICE TO BENEFICIARIES

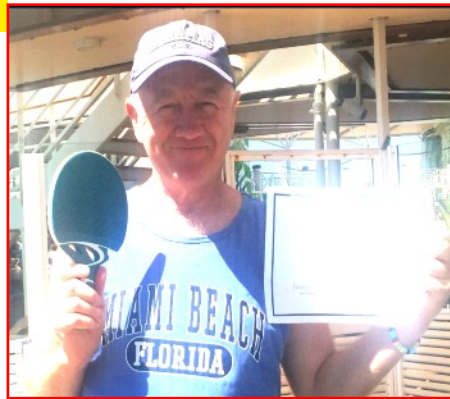
ATTENTION: DAVID NISHIHAMA & EMILY NISHIHAMA

You are potential beneficiaries of the estate of Homer Grant Miller, late of the City of Toronto in the Regional Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, who died on or about the 24th day of February, 2021. If you wish to receive a share in the estate, you must contact the undersigned Estate Trustees on or before the March 5, 2025, failing which the undersigned will distribute the assets of the said estate in a manner such that you will be presumed to disclaim any gift to you and any amounts otherwise payable to you may be forfeited.

DATED at Belleville this 14th day of February, 2025.

Barry D. Thomas, Estate Trustee, by his Solicitors, HENDERSON WILLIAMS LLP, 214 Pinnacle Street, Belleville, Ontario, K8N 3A6. Attn: Kelly Henderson. 613-969-9995, Email khenderson@hwlaw.ca

Local man fighting against pickleball courts being installed in some parks



ANTI-PICKLEBALLER Chris Morren

A South Etobicoke man is taking on the City in a bid to halt the expansion of the sport of pickleball in some neighbourhood parks.

The City of Toronto is conducting a survey until March 3 on the best use and popularity of pickleball, which they plan to install to about 20 Toronto tennis courts across the city.

Chris Morren says he will purchase residents a Tim Horton’s coffee if they vote no to the expansion of pickleball on the survey.

City staff is conducting community engagement to review the sport before construction of pickleball courts begin in the Spring. The work is set to be complete by December.

Morren in his invitation on social media said he will purchase a large coffee, with proof, to the first 500 people who vote against pickleball being installed in Laburnham Park, at 23 Evergreen Avenue, in Long Branch.

“I am willing to engage with an independent auditor to verify this is all on the up and up,” Morren wrote. “Pickleball is a fad and requires less exercise.”

He is willing to go to court to stop the pickleball. “I’ll go to court if have to.”

Morren said he will ‘take the Bloor Street W. bike lanes over pickleball in tennis courts.’

He claims to be with a group called Torontonians Against Pickleball (TAP).

City staff is working with communities to collect feedback about upgrades to tennis courts across the city, including improvements to lighting, fencing and court surfaces.

“The community engagement process will also explore opportunities to introduce new facilities to support the growing sport of pickleball,” Staff said.

They are seeking feedback on amenities needed to support successful improvements at each park, the preferred improvements and options for adding pickleball at each park.

Some of the parks included for pickleball are: Baycrest Park, Graydon Hall Park, Hendon Park, High Park, Howard Talbot Park, Kingsview Park, L’Amereaux Sports Complex, Laburnham Park, Lanyard Park, Malvern Park, Maple Leaf Park, Martingrove Gardens Park and McDairmid Woods Park among others.

You can respond to the survey by calling Rosemary McManus, City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry and Recreation at 416-396-7826 or visit www.toronto.ca/CourtImprovements.



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