

# The South Etobicoke News

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## Big battle for April 28 votes in our community

It's a battle between the Liberals and Conservatives for the federal ridings of Etobicoke Lakeshore and Etobicoke Centre on April 28.

Etobicoke Lakeshore Liberal incumbent MP James Maloney has been out there campaigning hard against Conservative Bernard Trottier, who previously held the riding and is attempting a comeback.

There are no NDP candidates listed for both ridings on an Elections Canada website.

Trottier is attempting to reclaim the riding from Maloney who defeated him in 2015. Maloney has held the riding for 10 years after defeating Trottier, who defeated then Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff in 2011.

Maloney, a lawyer and native of Thunder Bay, handily won the riding in the 2015, 2019 and 2021 elections. Also



PC BERNARD TROTTIER (left) is trying to reclaim Etobicoke Lakeshore riding from incumbent James Maloney (centre) and Yvan Baker of Etobicoke Centre.

running for Etobicoke Lakeshore are Afam Elue, of the Green Party; and Thomas Fanjoy of the People's Party of Canada (PPC). In Etobicoke Centre Liberal Yvan Baker has held the riding since 2019. He is running against

Conservative Ted Opitz and PPC's Kirk Hansen. Those who want to vote in advance polls can do so from April 18 to 21 at three Elections Canada offices in the area, which are open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.

To vote you must be a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years old on election day and be able to prove your identity and address. You can show two pieces of ID that have your name, with one that also has your address, like your driver's licence, OHIP card or utility bill. Here are some of the polls you can vote on election day. They include Elections Canada at 4195 Dundas Street W.; the Sussex Centre at 50 Burnhamthorpe Road W.; Elections Canada at 501 Alliance Avenue, Suite 400; Elections Canada at 200 Ronson Drive, Suite 400. For information about your candidates, polls or how to vote by mail you can call 1-800-463-6868 or visit [elections.ca](http://elections.ca).

## Hundreds locally face job loss at Hudson's Bay

It is a sad day for thousands of employees at Hudson's Bay at Sherway Gardens Mall and across Canada.

Canada's oldest retailer, which has been a fixture at Sherway Mall, is in the process of closing 80 stores and laying off 9,300 staff, with some managers on the payroll operating six remaining stores.

Hundreds of South Etobicoke residents who worked at Hudson's Bay Sherway will be laid off with the store slated to shut by June. Two

Bay-owned stores Saks Fifth Avenue and Sports Chek are also in jeopardy of being shut. Many of the irate and loyal staff have been working at the iconic store for many years and have family members there. They shake their heads and wonder what will be their next move.



HUNDREDS OF LONG TIME HUDSON'S BAY employees at Sherway Mall and nationwide will be losing their jobs as Canada's oldest retailer closes 80 stores and winds down its storied 355-year history. Employees of a B.C. Store (centre) just before that store was shut for good and at right customers look for liquidation sales.

Hudson's Bay has another Etobicoke location at 500 Rexdale Blvd., which is also being closed. The chain was given approval on March 23 from an Ontario Superior Court Judge to begin selling off inventory at most of its 80 Hudson's Bay store, three Saks Fifth Avenue locations and 13 Saks Off Fifth shops in Canada.

Customers said the savings have 'not been great' during the liquidation sales, which runs until June 15. The company will vacate its stores by June 30.

The 355-year-old retailer was facing significant financial challenges and desperately in need of cash to continue making even basic payments.

Mall owners are worried the liquidation will leave their malls and properties with enormous spaces to fill, with less customers coming in looking for deals.

Hudson's Bay was one of largest stores at Sherway, which drew 20,000 people on its opening day in 1971. The retailer has stopped its loyalty program, which had 8.2 million Canadian members with about \$58.5 million in unused points. It will stop accepting gift cards and most other services on April 6.

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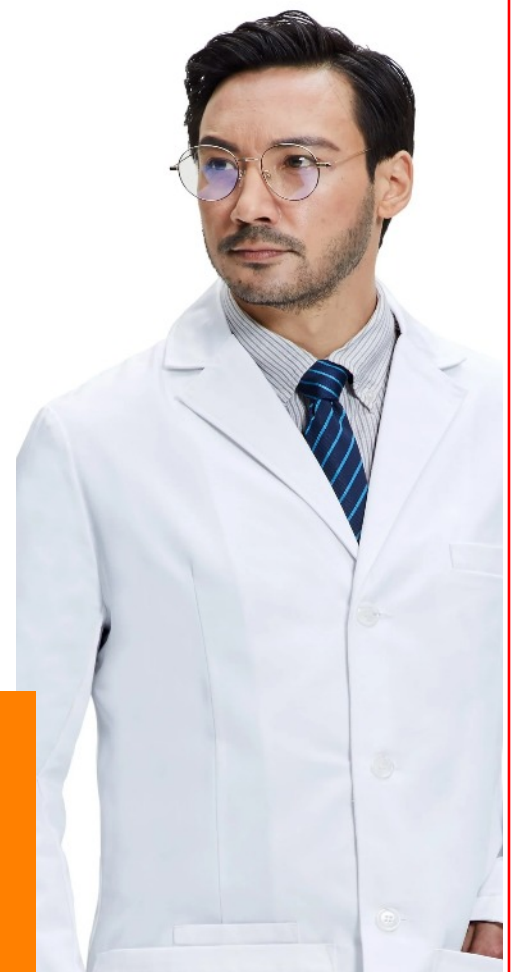
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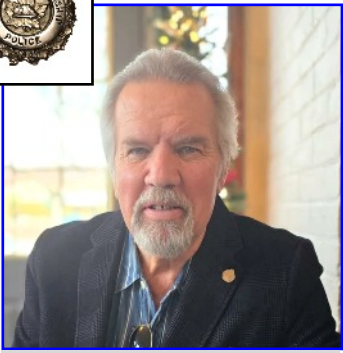
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# Retired officer tends the graves of lawmen



RETIRED Theo Holtzheuser

Retired Toronto Police Sergeant Theo (Ted) Holtzheuser spends many hours providing tender loving care to the mostly-forgotten gravesites of his fallen colleagues. The former 22 Division and Traffic Unit officer has found cleaned, refreshed and left Canadian flags and

The officer's motorbike had swerved to avoid hitting a car and somersaulted three times in the air before the fatally wounded Lennon ended up under a parked car. The former member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary left behind wife, Ruby, and a young son. Holtzheuser has had to track down some of the long-forgotten gravesites of officers over the years through records or cemetery staff. In many cases the sites were overgrown with weeds and required a good cleaning and tender loving care. Each site is left spotless, with the headstone polished, and new Canadian flag left behind along with two metallic flowers; one blue for law enforcement and a

white flower for justice, he explained. His interest in cleaning the graves of fallen officers stemmed from him missing the funeral of a friend Constable Henry "Harry" Snedden in the 1970s who was shot with his own revolver in Etobicoke. He couldn't attend the funeral as he was attending police college but it stayed with him that he later went to visit Snedden's grave at Sanctuary Park Cemetery, on Royal York Road. "I couldn't find it and needed help from a groundskeeper," Holtzheuser recalled. "He too had difficulty finding it as it was overgrown. I was disgusted with myself for not having paid attend to him over the years." "I was disappointed with the police and police association for not having tended the grave," he said. "Henry's family was lying next to him. They could not look after him." He gathered up some fellow retirees, including former Detective Carey Norman, and began to take care and sharing some love with his comrades in death. He said of the 45 fallen Toronto officers; some five were buried at Park Lawn Cemetery, three at Sanctuary Park, two at Riverside Cemetery and one at Glendale Memorial Garden, in Etobicoke. Six officers were buried at Mount Pleasant and four at Pine Hills Cemeteries.



OFFICER Kenneth Lennon



OFFICER KENNETH HOLMES LENNON and his family (above) before he was killed in the line of duty in June 1954.



OFFICER LENNON's grave is nicely maintained and adorned with a Canadian flag and flowers. Photos courtesy of Theo Holtzheuser.

flowers on the graves of about 35 of 45 fallen Toronto Police officers memorialized on an Honour Roll.

"I have taken a keen interest in those police officers who are memorialized in the Honour Roll of Toronto Police," Holtzheuser said. "I have chosen to locate all of the actual resting places of the Toronto officers and clean, trim, flag and flower each grave." He has keenly researched the circumstances of each officer's sacrifice to provide more information and integrity about the brave men and their families.

The former officer speaks about the late Officer Kenneth Holmes Lennon, the only constable of the Etobicoke Township Police to die in the line of duty. Lennon, 27, was killed on June 19, 1954, when his police motorcycle went out of control in the Kipling Avenue and The Queensway area.



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# More speed traffic cameras hitting area streets



IT COSTS THE CITY about \$50,000 to replace an automated traffic enforcement camera as above.

Area motorists in a hurry are being warned of at least six new City of Toronto automated traffic enforcement cameras being installed on South Etobicoke streets. The City is in the process of doubling the number of traffic speed cameras on our streets from 75 to 150 to crack down on speeders. Signs have been installed warning drivers there will be cameras installed in certain spots as the City is required to provide a 90-day notice. Cameras are being installed on Birmingham Street, just west of Kipling Avenue; Stanley Avenue, near Elizabeth

Street; Bloor Street W., just east of Dundas Street W., and Kipling Avenue, just south of New Toronto Street. The devices are also planned for Sixth Street, south of Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Thirty First Street, near Ash Crescent, according to the City website. The traffic cameras are already in place at many major intersections.

City staff said the new cameras will include 25 in permanent hard-to-remove pole-mounted locations and the other 50 rotating every three to six months in the wards they are installed.

The devices are installed along busy roadways, or near school zones; where pedestrian safety and speeding are an ongoing issue.

City workers are concerned that a number of the \$50,000 cameras are vandalized as a notorious one on

Parkside Drive that was cut down by vandals at least three times. Others like one on Horner Avenue was repeatedly shoved to the ground until it was removed.



THIS POLE MOUNTED camera at Parkside Drive has been cut down three times.



“We look at the data where we have the most challenges with speeding and other factors, collision history,” said Transportation Services General Manager Barbara Gray. “They’re put in places where speeding is traditionally an issue and where we have perhaps a higher rate of collisions.”

The average fine issued by the cameras is \$107 with no demerit points. The City has collected more than \$50 million since the money-earning program began in 2020.

The TTC is also looking at adding the automatic enforcement cameras to streetcars to catch vehicles that illegally drive through when the streetcar doors are open endangering disembarking passengers. The TTC cams are much needed on the Lake Shore Blvd. W. line.



## Win a free South Etobicoke News T-shirt

Lucky South Etobicoke News reader Karafil Hajrullahi is the winner of a spiffy T-shirt. You too can be a South Etobicoke News shirt winner by being the third person to send us by e-mail the answer of our skill-testing question: Who was the last Mayor of Etobicoke before it was amalgamated with City of Toronto in 1998. Send answer to [thesouthetobicokenews@gmail.com](mailto:thesouthetobicokenews@gmail.com) Some of the T-shirts are available for sale for \$40. All we have left are some large sizes.

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## Smash and grab bandits rounded up by police

A man and three young offenders were rounded up by Toronto Police for a series of smash and grabs including a vicious incident at the Kipling Queensway Mall.

Police from 22 Division said between March 1 and 12 officers responded to three calls in the Yonge Street and Steeles Avenue East area; the Kipling Avenue and The Queensway area and Sheppard Ave. E. and Kennedy Road area.

Officers allege the suspects travelling in a stolen vehicle wore masks as a disguise to rob the stores by using a hammer to break store showcases and fleeing with expensive electronics equipment.

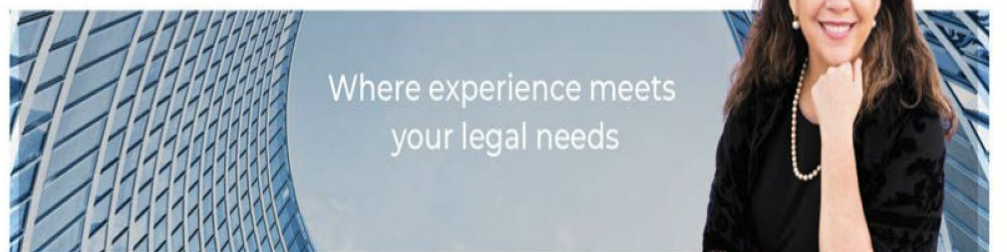
Members of the Hold Up Squad last March 12 conducted a high-risk takedown in the Bathurst Street and Wilson Avenue and were able to take the young people into custody. They face a long list of offences related to theft, wearing disguises and weapons violations.

Police also seized a loaded Glock handgun with an extended magazine.



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# King Charles Medals awarded for helping others



**KING CHARLES III's** Coronation Medals were awarded to residents for their service in helping others.

A former Ward 3 Councillor and a lengthy list of community volunteers and social workers have been awarded a King Charles III Coronation Medal each for their service in helping others. The Canadian commemorative medal was created to mark King Charles coronation on May 6, 2023.

medals were awarded to select members of the Canadian Armed Forces, public service and individuals who made 'significant contributions to our country or achieved accomplishments that brought credit to Canada.'

"All nominees and recipients in Etobicoke-Lakeshore have made enormous contributions to our community," said MP James Maloney. "All have made our community and neighbourhoods better places."

The recipients included former Ward 3 Councillor Mark Grimes who represented the riding for 20-years. Chris Korwin Kuczynski, a former City councillor and now with the Lakeshore Village Business Improvement Association (BIA), was recognized at a March 18 function.

Also receiving the medal was realtor and community volunteer Graham Rowlands, LAMP CHC Executive Director Keddone Dias and Laura Latham, the Executive Director of



**GRAHAM ROWLANDS**



**MARK GRIMES**

Franklin Horner Community Centre. Diane Dupuy, of Famous PEOPLE Players theatre, was recognized with a medal. So were volunteer Derek Reid and publisher Peter Foy.

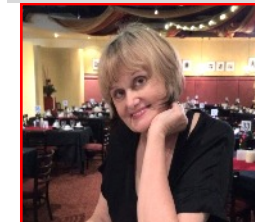
Also receiving the award was Slawko Borys, of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Ukrainian Credit Union. Tracy Louise Bowie was awarded for giving back through Ronald McDonald House and Habitat for Humanity.

Peter Bulut, President of Great Lakes Brewery, received a medal for supporting local charities, and Susan Carbone was picked for her work with Haven on the Queensway.

Other recipients included Mary Allison Christian, Timothy Aaron Crone, Julien Diciano, David Hahn, Roger Kenneth Harris, Mary Kancer, Salden Kunga, William James Law, Fraser McKee, Lobsang Mentuh, Oscar Ortolan, Dilkhush Panjwani, Ric Rangel-Bron, Jim Reekie, Donna Lynn Sampson and Ruth Schembri.



**KEDDONE DIAS**



**DIANE DUPUY**

Some 30,000 of the



**JAMES MALONEY** giving certificate to Great Lakes Brewery's Peter Bulut and Slawko Borys, (right) of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

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

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

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

**Publisher:** Tom Godfrey  
**Circulation:** Charles Smith  
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# Millions spent on Centennial Park for FIFA Cup



THE FIFA WORLD CUP attracts thousands of soccer fans all over the world and Toronto is no exception.

All the upgrades will be left for the South Etobicoke and wider communities to enjoy after the World Cup.

The park is also slated to receive a domed full-sized soccer pitch and other amenities as part of a 20-year revitalization plan, that will usher in new pathways, lighting, benches, a waterpark and cricket pitches.

There will be a World Cup Training Site and fieldhouse for the teams to use.

A report presented by City Council by the World Cup Toronto Secretariat said 12 mini soccer pitches will be created across the City that will be left as a legacy after the tournament is completed.

“The location of the mini-pitches will prioritize high-need, underserved neighbourhoods across Toronto, ensuring equitable access to safe play spaces for youth,” according to the study which promised the pitches will be maintained and remain accessible to disadvantaged people.

Looks like Centennial Park may be one of the big winners in the upcoming FIFA World Cup soccer tournament next year.

Some \$20 million is being spent to upgrade Centennial Park in preparation for the World Cup tournament which will run from June 11 to July 19, 2026.

The City is upgrading the facilities at Centennial and awarding the naming rights for a Soccer Hub at the park, which will be used as a practice field for FIFA teams competing in the matches at BMO Stadium, on which millions have been spent to upgrade and add more seats. Council have awarded a multi-million dollar Centennial Park Soccer Facilities Refresh contract to a Gormley, Ont., company Mopal Construction Ltd.



A DOMED INDOOR soccer pitch will be erected for FIFA teams to practice at Centennial Park

Canada will host 13 of 104 games at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, with seven games to be held in Vancouver and six and Toronto. It will cost about \$380 million to host the World Cup, of which the City will cough up about \$83 million and the remainder paid by the province and Ottawa.

The report said the 38-day sporting event will benefit suppliers, under-represented groups and pump in millions of dollars into the local economy.

“Toronto aims to deliver a FIFA World Cup that leaves a lasting legacy of cultural enrichment and economic vitality,” according to the report.

The City is planning to spend more than \$10 million to install private suites at BMO in a Host City Commercial



MEMBERS OF THE Canadian National Soccer team after a goal.

Hospitality program to sell ticket packages to the private suites.

A FIFA Fan Festival is also planned that will run for 28 days with free events, entertainment and the broadcasting of some of the matches.

Fans will be able to hang out, watch the matches and have a ‘curated food experience.’



PLAYERS TAKING IN the agony of a FIFA defeat which can make or break careers or teams. Toronto will be packed with fans for the games.

## Wishing you & your family a Happy Easter!

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# Made in Canada and real proud of our work



**GARFIELD AND MEETA INGRAM** run a global theme park design firm from their Etobicoke headquarters. Photos courtesy of MI Concept + Design.

World-renowned theme park designer Garfield Ingram chose to remain in Canada and grow his global business right here in South Etobicoke.

Garfield and his wife, Meeta Ingram, the firm's current president, founded MI Concept + Design, a well-respected architecture, design and creative agency, which designs and executes massive large-scale theme leisure parks, entertainment venues and experiences around the world.

The company is this year celebrating its 10th anniversary and has opened an office in Singapore and opening another in Mumbai to complement an Orlando satellite office and its head office in Toronto.

"As one of the only independently owned themed entertainment design studios in Canada, we are extremely proud to be celebrating a decade of innovative global excellence while embracing an exciting new chapter of growth," said Garfield.

The company designs amazing water and theme parks, including shopping malls and visitor experience facilities in Saudi Arabia, Dubai, U.S., United Arab Emirates, Qatar, South Korea, Japan, China, India, Macau, Mexico and others.

They lead both small-scale projects and partner with others on billion-dollar projects that takes years to plan and complete. There are photos of some of their designs including a themed resort in the British Virgin Islands and the spectacular Six Flags

Qiddiya City in Saudi Arabia; one which features a small lake in the middle of a the desert surrounded by roller coaster rides.

The couple founded the company in 2015 in the basement of their Etobicoke home and has since moved to a 5353 Dundas Street W. office. In 2016, seasoned urban designer and landscape architect Walt Kuniec joined as partner and CEO to help



**DESIGNS OF WATER PARKS** (top, bottom) are in the works for theme parks abroad. The company employs more than 70 staffers and are busy building parks in many Middle East and Asian countries.

expand the business. The firm now employs more than 70 architects, graphic artists, designers and other technicians.

The award-winning team can bring to life imaginative theme and water parks, museums, aquariums, resorts and guest experiences. Some projects they have worked on includes: Legoland, Nickelodeon, Universal, Lionsgate, Six Flags, Kennedy Space Centre, Islamic Civilization Village and more.

"From exhilarating water slides to interactive play areas and stunning theming, we craft unforgettable experiences that bring joy, laughter and endless fun to guests of all ages," Garfield explained.

"Our new satellite offices will position us closer to our clients and their audiences, providing creative tailored services with a globally informed perspective," Meeta said. "This ensures our projects receive full support from both our Toronto corporate office and Orlando, Singapore and Mumbai satellite offices around the clock."

The company at home is involved in designing the 'Ramara Water Park Development Project,' a proposed Halton Hills complex near Lake Couchiching, which includes in addition to a 58,500 square foot large-scale water park, hotels, restaurants, condo units, stacked townhouses and a retirement residence.

"We are excited to develop the entertainment, culture, education and service industry in our local communities using home-grown Canadian local talent," said Kuniec. "There are several opportunities in our area especially with new developments in the Toronto region."



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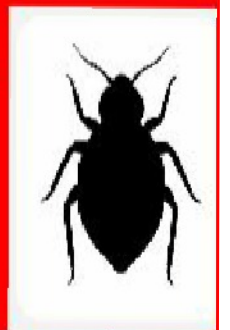
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# Nelson & Garrett lighting our nation for 100 years



**CHRISTOPHER NELSON** a third-generation owner of Lighting Nelson & Garrett beside a photo of his grandfather, a co-founder of the company. **Courtesy photos.**

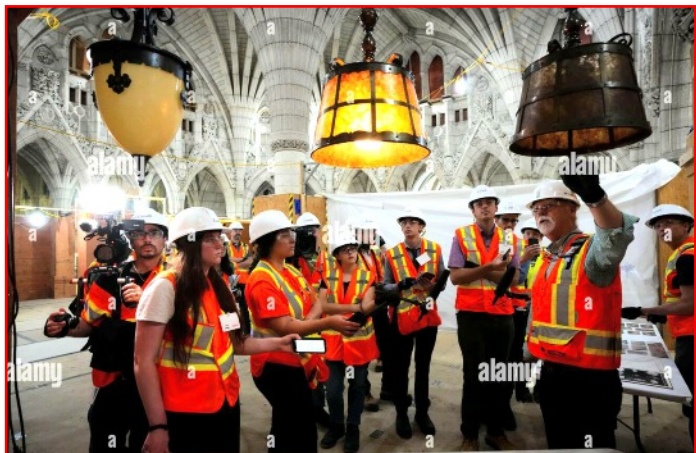
One of Canada's top custom lighting manufacturers is located in the heart of the community and has more than 100 years of history and experience.

Third-generation craftsmen Christopher Nelson and Industrial Designer John Garrett established their lighting fixture company in 1991 and made the world a brighter place. Their company Lighting Nelson & Garrett Inc., at 106 Birmingham Street, has a team of 14 designers, engineers and skilled craftspeople with a keen eye and passion for creating new fixtures and restoring heritage fixtures to their former glory, all while incorporating state-of-the-art LED lighting solutions.

The company has worked nationwide manufacturing and restoring lighting at museums, churches, the Parliament Buildings, including the Senate Chambers and Ontario Legislature. The Parliament Hill heritage restoration is still ongoing.

Their handcraft and artistry can be seen at the automotive building at the CNE, Mount Pleasant Cemetery fixtures, Union Station, and several Canadian Embassies worldwide.

All the heritage lights are updated and replaced with energy-efficient LEDs, said Emily



**ATTENTIVE WORKERS** inspecting heritage lighting fixtures in the Senate Chambers (above, right)

Vender, one of the firm's Industrial Designers.

"We are quite unique in that we specialize in high-quality fixtures and heritage restorations," she said. "We are one of the long-established companies that is carrying out this work."

"The initial emphasis was contemporary architectural fixtures but an increasing call for



**NELSON & GARRETT** staff work on elaborate and historic light fixtures.

historical restoration and reproduction work has grown," according to the company's website.

The historical library, drawing archives, patterns and specialized machinery goes back to Nelson's father and grandfather in 1918, some 107 years ago.

The items allowed them to carry on the bright Nelson family tradition.

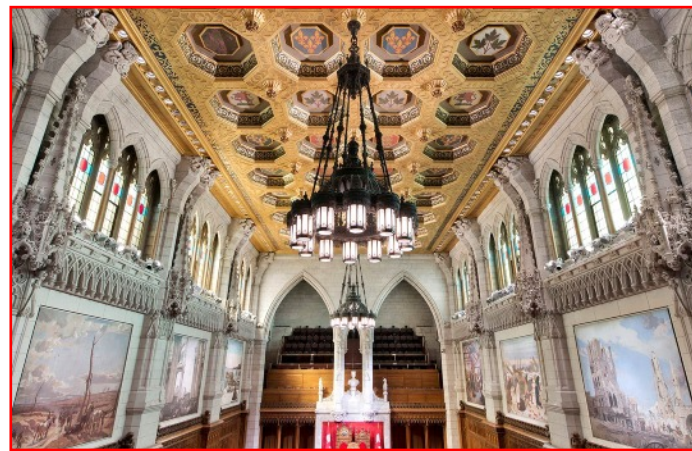
"These assets uniquely position them to design and execute custom fixtures of most any period, style and material ...." according to the company.

It enabled them to take on projects ranging from private homes, government buildings, museums, universities and shopping malls.

The company will take on projects 'anywhere where high quality architectural lighting fixtures, hand-crafted with time tested sustainable materials and attention to detail are desired.'

They are not sure how they will be affected by a cross-border tariff as some goods are used for their fixtures are obtained from the U.S.

"We are very proud to be making our goods in Canada," Vender said. "We promote local businesses and manufacturing in the community."



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**RIDLEY FUNERAL HOME**  
Ridley staff including Tammy (centre) and colleagues shovelling show 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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# Food truck showdown between Cuba vs Jamaica



**WELL-KNOWN CHEFS** Chuchi Rivero (left) and Al Foster, owner of What a Jerk! Restaurant in Long Branch with some of their Cuban and Jamaican dishes.

It was a showdown between food truck drivers to showcase Jamaican and Cuban cuisine at What a Jerk! Restaurant in Long Branch.

The March 16 event at the fairly-new 3303 Lake Shore Blvd. W. restaurant featured What a Jerk! owner Al Foster, who operates a food truck by the same name that features Jamaican jerk chicken, curry goat, rice and peas and a lot more.

The noon-time event attracted

those who love the tasty and spicy foods from both Caribbean islands.

Facing off against Foster, was his long-time friend Chuchi Rivero, who drives a truck called 'Tropical South,' that offers authentic Cuban dishes. Today he was cooking black beans, on a bed of rice, with strips of cassava and shredded chicken.

"We also feature Ropa Vieja the national dish of Cuba," Rivero said proudly. "It is a very popular everywhere in Cuba and people love it." He is well known for making freshly-squeezed juices, of which today orange and pineapple were being chilled. The juices, along with the food, were excellent. The men have been working in the food industry for decades before becoming food truck operators. The food showdown is an attempt to lure business inside on a cold day.

"Two chefs, two islands, one kitchen one time," they boast on a promotional poster. "Come have lunch at the islands without a plane ride."

Foster said the club frequently stage events as a live music night, children's games day and other activities.

Both men are gearing up their trucks for a busy summer of festivals and shows. There are no shortages of such gatherings that occur in Toronto, as Caribana, the Pride Festival, Molson Indy and others.

Rivero is former TV producer originally from Miami. He has been driving a food truck for about five years in Toronto.

"We serve freshly made authentic Cuban cuisine," he said.

"We have a passion for food and usually sell-out at most festivals."

The event was attended by a number of people who follow them on social media.

One couple, Brett and wife Genevieve, said the Cuban meal was one of 'the best we have had in Toronto.'

"We are not disappointed," Brett said. "We have followed them on Instagram and decided to come to this pop up and it was great."



**CUBAN AND JAMAICAN** dishes by Chefs Chuchi Rivero and Al Foster.

## Pizza for charity to help needy



**PIZZERIA OWNER ADRIAN STOLAJ** of Adriano's Pizza, at 3329 Lake Shore Blvd. W. is raising funds from the sales of his pies to help neighbour Concord of the City agency in Long Branch. This is the third year the charitable Adrian has been raising funds to help Concord and other groups.

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# Officer resigns from force to be a Baptist minister



**TORONTO POLICE** Retired Const. Jonathan Reid retired from the force after 17 years to become a Baptist Minister.

Former Toronto Police Const. Jonathan Reid has turned in his firearm and bullet proof vest for a Bible and a cross.

Reid, 42, retired from the force last month after serving 17 years, mostly at 22 Division as a Community Neighbourhood Officer.

He knows the community well and said it was a tough decision to leave the force but he had to follow his calling.

"I have always been a religious person since an early age," Reid says. "I always dreamed of being a police



**ASSISTANT MINISTER REID** will be leading prayer services on Sundays at Cornerstone Baptist Tabernacle.

officer and I have done that. It's time to do something else."

The former officer has been recognized by community members for his work with teens and helping them stay on track and out of trouble. He is credited by parents for helping their children stay in school and get an education.

He loves South Etobicoke, has patrolled certain areas by bike, and at one time took part in a program for teens at Franklin Horner Community Centre.

"It's all been through word of mouth," Reid says. "I will miss the comradery with my former co-workers."

Reid said he will miss helping people as a police officer, but now he can help them spiritually and in other ways.

In his new role, he will be an Assistant Pastor at the Cornerstone Baptist Tabernacle, at Blackthorn Avenue, in Toronto.

"I will still be working with youths in different programs but in a different capacity," he insists.

His new job will have him conducting home visits, counselling and speaking to congregation members and hosting pray services on Sundays.

He was born in Toronto after his parents emigrated here from Barbados.

Long Branch parent Sandy Donald said Reid was able to provide guidance to his son during a rough time. "He has helped my son, who considers him a friend," Donald said. "Jonathan has helped many teens with issues in the community."

Reid has spoken to students at many South Etobicoke schools as a policeman and his name gets passed around by students.

Another young man, Bernard, credited Reid for helping him in a time of need.

"He is a very decent man who cares about people," Bernard said. "I could always talk to him."

Reid advises students who want to become police officers to stay in school and get a high school diploma, stay out of crime and know what they want in the long-term and go for it.



**FORMER COP** Jonathan Reid is an Assistant Minister at Cornerstone Baptist Tabernacle, who counsels others.

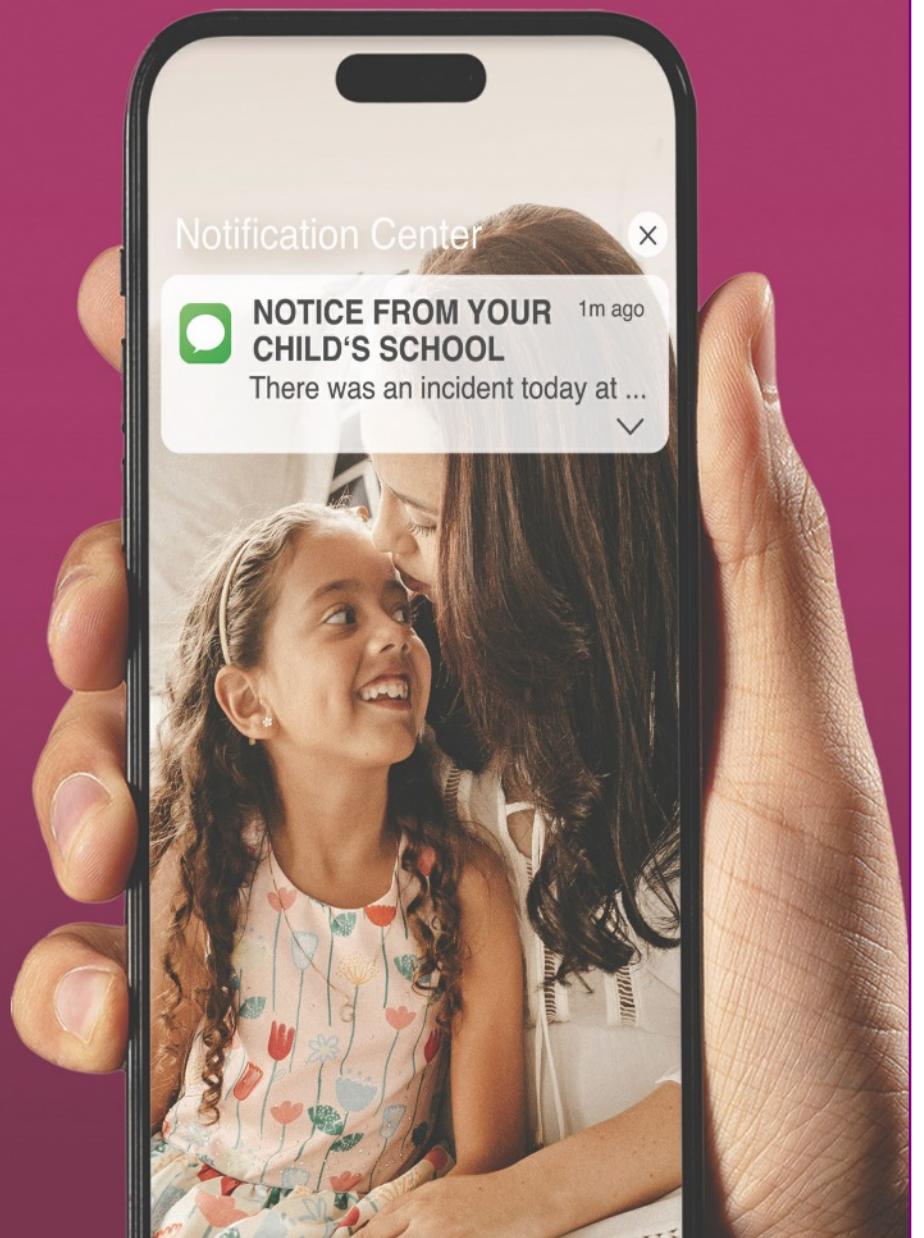
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# Hundreds mourn for musician Gerry Williams



ALDERWOOD's Gerry Williams had many friends in the music industry and in the community.

Some 470 people turned out to mourn the sudden death of well-known Alderwood musician Roger 'Gerry' Williams who performed in Toronto and area clubs for many years. Gerry passed away on February 21 in a vehicle accident while on his way home from work on a snowy day from Canada Post, where he worked as a letter carrier for three years. He was 59. Grieving long-time partner Michelle Walker said she is heartbroken by Gerry's death.

"Gerry was returning home from a long day of work at Canada Post," Michelle recalled. "No car crash, he simply drove into a snowbank and went into heavenly sleep." The well-respected guitarist was well-known in the community and had performed in dozens of Toronto-area clubs, including in Scarborough, where the band had a following. They had performed a number of shows at South Etobicoke clubs. He and Michelle and their DNGOLE band played Soca, Calypso and other house favourites. They had performed at What A Jerk! Restaurant days before his death. She said Gerry was a beloved son, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin, and partner and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Gerry was born and grew up in Trinidad before emigrating to Canada in 1988.

He became interested in music at an early age and was a vocalist in his parish youth group and quickly became immersed in the Toronto music scene. He followed his big sister's footsteps and "learned to play acoustic guitar and later the bass guitar." He has left a lasting musical legacy at Our Lady of Good Counsel Caribbean Catholic Church (OLGC), where he served in the Music Ministry, as well as in parang groups, jazz bands and steelpan groups. Michelle said Gerry had played and sang with several Catholic worship groups over the years. "His undeniable talent and genuine spirit left a lasting impact on those with whom he interacted," his family said. The packed funeral service for Gerry took place on March 8 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Caribbean Canadian Catholic Church, on College Street, in Toronto. He will be missed by many.



THE LATE GERRY WILLIAMS played the guitar and bass in a band with partner Michelle Walker in GTA clubs.

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The Etobicoke Lawn Bowling Club is this year celebrating 75 years of fun-filled activity on its greens at Tom Riley Park. The club has planned a series of special events, including the re-dedication of their clubhouse in honour of J.A.L. Macpherson, the club's founder. In 1941, Macpherson persuaded the Montgomery Family, owners of the historic Montgomery's Inn, to donate land stretching from Dundas Street south to the railroad tracks. He later donated land that is now Tom Riley Park. He founded the club in 1950. The club welcomes new members and provide them with complimentary access to club facilities, bowls and equipment. "Our residents have enjoyed years of friendly competitive activity while engaging in many social activities the club offers," according to club officials. For more information visit [www.etobicokelawnbowling.com](http://www.etobicokelawnbowling.com)

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# Protestors on both sides of the Third Street shelter stage demo



**SIGN CARRYING PROTESTORS** against a proposed Third Street shelter (below) say it will be near schools and a seniors home as supporters argue the homeless must be housed somewhere. **Photo courtesy of CBC.**

About 150 anti-Third Street shelter protestors braved the rain to demonstrate at the site of a proposed facility. Protestors with signs filled the City parking lot, at 66 Third Street, where a controversial 80-bed shelter is proposed. Another group who were supporting the planned shelter said the homeless have to be housed somewhere, and the site was close to public transportation and social services. Those opposed to the shelter in that location said it can be moved elsewhere. They said the proposed shelter is close to a seniors residence and two schools in a residential area. The planned shelter is one of 20 planned in different areas of the City to be completed by 2033. The issue has created heated feelings in the community and a virtual town hall meeting with City officials is slated for April 15 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. You are asked to register as only 80 people can be accommodated. A Go Fund Me page organized by New Toronto Initiative, a group of community members who are against the location of the facility, has raised almost \$10,000 to fight the shelter. The group in its post said they believe in providing safe supporting housing for those in need.



**THIS IS** what the Third Street shelter will look like when completed in 2030.

“It’s important that this decision involves more thoughtful planning and community input to ensure the best outcome for both shelter clients and local residents,” it said. The shelter is part of the city's efforts to meet a demand for shelter spaces. In addition to temporary housing, the facility will provide access to harm reduction and mental health supports, and counsellors to help clients find housing.



## In the Community

By TOM GODFREY

The face and history of South Etobicoke is changing rapidly right before our eyes. It seems like every time you take a drive, there is a new building or development that grabs your attention. If you have driven by the Six Points Interchange area recently you would be in awe by the major construction activity taking place as work crews build a new Etobicoke Civic Centre.



**BUSY CONSTRUCTION** site at the Six Points Interchange as crews build a new Etobicoke Civic Centre.

There are large cranes in the sky, dump trucks going in and out of sites as workers go about their jobs. It is a busy spot, as other construction projects are going on in the area. Nearby at the former theatre site a City housing project is being constructed to eventually house almost 3,000 families in affordable townhomes. This area bounded by Bloor St. W.; Dundas St. W., Kipling and Islington Avenues is being described as the new hub of South Etobicoke. New developments are proposed along the Kipling and Islington subway lines, including an application to build a 49-floor mixed housing complex that is going through the hearings process. The old Civic Centre, at 399 The West Mall, will be wound down and property sold for condos. Staff will have to move from one office to the next. The iconic Etobicoke Civic Centre Clock Cenotaph that was made in 1968 will likely be moved to the new location. The new Civic Centre will cost about \$525 million to build and is expected to be completed in 2028. It will consist of four towers up to 15 storeys high with a council chamber, public library branch, medical clinic, gym, swimming pool and large public square. It will feature a childcare centre, an art gallery and the offices of various City services. Seems like everywhere you go in the community, there is change with buildings being torn down or constructed. The Six Points plaza is being demolished for what else, but condos; so is the Dundas Street Grill, to become a 42-storey high-rise. Condos are taking over the once-cherished parking lots of shopping malls as Sherway Gardens, Cloverdale, Dixie Outlet Mall and even the expensive Yorkdale. It is a new trend as fewer people are going to the malls these days. Times are tough and things have changed when you have iconic stores as Hudson’s Bay, the oldest retailer in Canada, laying off thousands of workers and shutting 80 of its stores, including three at Sherway Gardens Mall. Who would have ever thought of such an end to a historic brand. Welcome to an era of Amazon and other online merchandisers that deliver to our door, often on the same day. The booming home-delivery business, with many of the delivery vans on the road, are chipping away at the brick and mortar stores. Our industrial plants, factories and manufacturers will be affected as prices of goods skyrocket due to U.S. tariffs. South Etobicoke was the busiest area at one time for our industry and transportation sectors since we are located close to Pearson Airport and downtown Toronto. We all should be ready for the changes coming to our lives and the way we conduct business. We cannot stop the changes and have to adapt to a changing City. This area will be unrecognizable in 10 years from now and as it will be mostly high-rises. **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

A fool's errand. Did you know that April is the perfect month to run a fool's errand? The obvious April fool's day demands a prank or two from each of us. But this feisty and dicey month can make fools of us, in all the days.

The term 'a fool's errand' dates all the way back to the mid

16th century, where it was used to define a "sleeveless errand" [n John Heywood's dictionary published in 1563].

You see? Sleeveless!

Remember that time you set out on a sunny warm April day, with your short sleeves, or even more optimistic sleeveless top, and the sudden April showers turned into a full on blizzard? Yes, you and me both: going out on a fool's errand. I would like to say 'only in Canada' does this unpredictable weather shift happen, however, such weather events, as they are called now, span the entire world.

Let us band together. United, we can get through this month's storms! With the ongoing capricious USA tariffs, our hasty national election at month's end and the ever growing uncertainty of spring weather patterns, I dare say, this entire month shall be renamed a 'fool's errand'. Together, we can get through it. How? I share with you a simple road map of coming together.

First, take a walk on the wild side, in your short sleeves if you dare. April 4th is the official 'Walk to Work Day'. Truth be told, many of us live too far from work to walk there, but we can carpool and consider walking to a friend's meet up or even walk to dinner after work. You can make this holiday event work for your feet, your heart health and grow your community. On the heel's of your extra walk is April 7th - World Health Day. Started by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1950, World Health Day marks the beginning of an international awareness campaign that brings to light one health issue each year.

This year with so many changes, their 2025 mission appropriately focuses on healthy mothers and babies, acknowledging they are "the foundation of healthy families and communities, helping ensure hopeful futures for us all." Supporting the health of mothers and children everywhere helps us all. We can all start at home and work our way out



into the community. And, that leads us to celebrating our great mother earth on Earth Day, April 22nd. Did you know this year marks the 25 year anniversary of Earth Day and is still to this day, the largest secular day of protest in the world? Indeed, this is a community worth growing each and every day.

By participating in any of these community celebrations, you decidedly avoid running a fool's errand and choose wise action instead. That's something to be proud of on Earth Day.

Lastly, end of the month our fate is sealed on April 28th election day. Whether a fool or wise wo/man be, remains to be seen. Don't fret. Vote. Decide and take action. Then, clear your head with a must visit to High Park. The most beautiful part of April is just around the corner. End of this month and well into May, the Sakura Cherry blossoms will be at their peak spring bloom. Your April journey concludes here. Find a bench near the blossoming trees and pat yourself on the back. You've made it through the April fool's journey.

This April, let us get together with our family, friends, open hearts, on strolls in the park, at bbqs and picnics on the porch, in journeys exploring what our beautiful Canadian land has to offer and grow our community and spirit. If we must run a 'fool's errand', may it be one that is full of hope.

"Spring has its own secret and it's called hope; hope for better days." – Joyce Meyer

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## Retired Judge Speaks

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI



The Rise and Fall of The Bay and The Lakeshore Community.

The story of The Bay and the Lakeshore is deeply intertwined—a shared narrative of connection, community, and inevitable transformation. Both began as intimate spaces, full of life and relationships: The Bay as a trusted trading post, a cornerstone of Canada's retail history, and the

Lakeshore as three closely-knit communities—Long Branch, New Toronto, and The Lakeshore—where neighbors united, creating the heartbeat of a flourishing local culture. The Lakeshore was once alive with activity, offering a unique blend of camaraderie and entertainment. Friday nights felt like a scene out of *American Graffiti*, with cars cruising up and down the main streets, young people searching for excitement and connection. It included Friday night of dancing at the Met to Robbie Lane and the Disciples. The neighborhood boasted five local movie theaters—the Royal, the Capital, the Rex, the Biltmore, and the whimsical "Scratch and Itch," rumored to have fleas. These theaters were more than just places to watch films; they were communal hubs that brought people together, fostering the bonds that defined the Lakeshore. Lovers would find privacy in the Biltmore's balcony.

Similarly, The Bay's origins in the Hudson's Bay Company were rooted in personal connections. Local traders worked hand in hand with Indigenous peoples and settlers, providing goods sourced from the very regions they served. In those early days, every transaction was steeped in mutual respect and reliance. People would meet and discuss the news and exchange ideas. The Bay's stores were less communal but still shared the community much like the Lakeshore's shops—a place for relationships, not just commerce. The Bay, much like the historic trading posts of its predecessor, the Hudson's Bay Company, became a central hub drawing customers from far and wide. In the mid-20th century, department stores like The Bay were not just places to shop—they were destinations. Families traveled from surrounding neighbourhoods, from Long Branch, New Toronto, and beyond, to experience the variety and quality that The Bay had to offer. This mirrored the way trading posts historically attracted settlers, fur traders, and Indigenous peoples from distant regions to exchange goods and supplies. Both served as gathering points that transcended simple commerce, creating a sense of community and purpose. While trading posts provided essential resources to sustain life, The Bay offered a curated shopping experience that catered to the evolving needs of modern families in one location. This dynamic fostered a unique connection between shoppers and the store—a relationship rooted in the shared journey to acquire something valuable, whether that was a staple from the trading post or a prized item from The Bay. Going downtown no longer meant local shopping in New Toronto at Silverts or Mahers Shoes it meant a day off school going to the new Bay Store in Toronto.

As time passed, change began to ripple through both stories. Cloverdale Mall marked the first major shift for the Lakeshore. The Bay had built a new grand store there. Families like those in Long Branch redirected their energy and routines to this the new shopping region. The Lakeshore started to lose its central role, but Cloverdale, for a time, preserved a sense of togetherness as people gathered at its Bay store. The difference was we no longer went east to Toronto we went North to Cloverdale

This was echoed in The Bay's own evolution. As it expanded into a nationwide department store, the intimate relationships it once fostered gave way to serving larger populations. Customers became less personal connections and more just numbers, as The Bay grew to prioritize scale over the human touch that had defined its origin.

Centralization replaced diversification

Sherway Gardens amplified this shift. Grand and modern, Sherway pulled loyalty and business away from Cloverdale, leaving its stores—and the community they had sustained—struggling to survive. The Bay at Sherway became the new center of shopping life, reflecting the new era of commerce. Big was everything. Yet this change came at a cost. Sherway was sleek and convenient, but it lacked the warmth of earlier shopping experiences. Much like the cruising cars and bustling theaters of the Lakeshore began to fade, the personal aspect of shopping diminished, replaced by impersonal transactions. But as nature tells us there is always a bigger fish to eat the smaller one. The arrival of Amazon sealed the transformation. With its promise of anything, anytime, anywhere, it introduced unparalleled convenience—but at the price of human connection. Shopping became solitary, conducted from screens rather than in stores. Robotic cashiers and automated checkout systems further isolated people from the once-social aspect of commerce. What had been vibrant shared experiences—whether cruising the Lakeshore streets on Friday nights or spending hours browsing The Bay—disappeared, replaced by quiet clicks and solitary deliveries.

Yet amidst these stories of decline, hope remains. Just as The Lakeshore is rediscovering its roots through new developments replacing the industries, with boutique shops, artisanal restaurants, and creative spaces, there is a possibility for The Bay to do the same. The Lakeshore's transformation into a hub of individuality and community echoes the intimate spirit of its past, reminding us that while change is inevitable, the essence of connection endures. Both The Bay and the Lakeshore have shown us that their legacies are not simply stories of what was lost, but also of what can be regained—a return to the values that once made them great.

**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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# Cirque opens show and not all Humber Bay locals are happy



A LARGE TENT STRUCTURE is being built for the OVO show by Cirque du Soleil at Humber Bay Shores and not all is pleased.

Humber Bay Shores residents are bracing for more noise, lights and traffic congestion as Cirque du Soleil opens a new show in a massive complex at the former Mr. Christie's cookie plant site.

The company is building a pavilion about the size of 22 tennis courts for its upcoming show "OVO" at 2150 Lake Shore Blvd. W., at Park Lawn Road. The show runs from May 1 to June 28. There are well-documented and long-running concerns by condo residents

over the noise and lights from the shows and traffic congestion with show goers parked illegally in private parking areas.

The Humber Bay Shores Residents Association(HBSRA) said last year they had a positive meeting with Cirque officials to address their concerns.

"The HBSRA stressed the significance of addressing sound and light pollution, especially in the summer when residents wish to enjoy open doors, windows and outdoor gatherings," the Association said on social media.

They said residents enjoy their peace and natural beauty of the area and "considers disturbances from loud music, traffic and lighting to be unwelcome."

The Cirque du Soleil has used the former cookie factory for their shows for several years despite complaints. They have previously performed at Ontario Place and Port Lands but those locations are undergoing development.

This year the production is building the largest free-standing event complex in the world to accommodate hundreds of fans and the entertainers alike.

Cirque officials said the show 'plunges the OVO audience into the hidden universe alive at our feet; an ecosystem teeming with life and unseen beings - insects that work, eat, crawl, flutter, feast, fight and court among each other in an ongoing explosion of energy and movement.'



# City Councillors vote for whopping 24 per cent pay raise despite deficits



COUNCILLOR STEPHEN HOLYDAY with dad Doug, who was Etobicoke's last mayor.

Hundreds of hardworking residents have taken to social media to express outrage over a 24 per cent pay raise that Toronto City Councillors gave themselves. Councillor Stephen Holyday was one of eight who opposed a whopping increase as the City desperately grapples for more funding.

The pay raise and benefits for Councillors adds almost \$1 million to City coffers despite a huge \$1.8 billion deficit that led to an eight per cent property tax increase.

The increase that was approved by Council 15 to 8 on March 27 will see the wages of councillors jump to a whopping \$170,588 annually from \$137,537.

Holyday said he opposed the pay increase because he doesn't think it's appropriate.

"I just believe that, if we do this, it further erodes people's confidence in government. And I don't think we should do it," Holyday said.

The increase does not apply to Mayor Olivia Chow, who called it 'steep'. She earns more than \$225,000 yearly.

Councillors have long been seeking an increase in pay and wages claiming they are overworked with meetings and work in the community. They claim their workload surged after the number of council seats were reduced from 44 to 25 in 2018.

Council requested the City Clerk to report later this year on options to modernize their job descriptions, salary bands, and the compensation envelope for staff in Members' offices. "Toronto now has perhaps the most populous wards of any major city in North America and Europe," according to City staff.

Councillors last year were allocated about \$60,000 for their office budget, with a staff salary of \$534,000 and with the Mayor's Office having an operating budget of more than \$3 million.

Meanwhile, Councillors are being attacked online for being greedy "like pigs in a trough" by angry residents who can't make ends meet.

"They are tone deaf. Should never have passed," wrote Cynthia Bond. "Especially with tariffs and sacrifices on the doorstep."

"Typical politician. In it for the money, from Ottawa right down to the dog catcher,"

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# Looking after yourself and others in the community

**APRIL 3 HUMBER COLLEGE'S LATIN NIGHT** the last public concert of the year at 7 p.m. at Humber Cultural Hub Recital Hall (A109), 3199 Lakeshore Blvd. W., featuring the Latin Jazz Band directed by Hilario Duran, the Salsa Band directed by **Alex Naar**, and the Brazilian Jazz Ensemble directed by **Joaquin Hidalgo**. Pay-What-You-Can Tickets at [latin-night-2025-humber.eventbrite.ca](http://latin-night-2025-humber.eventbrite.ca)

**APRIL 4, 5 & 6 TRAVEL BACK IN TIME** The Mod Musical SHOUT by Theatre Etobicoke at the Assembly Hall Theatre, 1 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive. Tickets \$25 at [theatreetobicoke.com](http://theatreetobicoke.com)

**APRIL 5 GTA WRITERS FAIR** if you are an independently published writer who wants to promote, share or sell your work from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Stonegate Health Centre, 10 Neighbourhood Lane. We are looking for GTA writers to promote or sell their work to the public. There is no table rental cost for the event but authors must register for this free event. Contact [jill.madonald@stonegatechc.org](mailto:jill.madonald@stonegatechc.org) or [rosalynn.santos@stonegatechc.org](mailto:rosalynn.santos@stonegatechc.org)

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

**APRIL 6 NOVI SINGERS** presents a Lenten and Easter concert Te Deum: from Lament to Glory at 4 p.m. at Our lady of Sorrows Church, 3055 Bloor St. W. The Passion and Resurrection of Christ will be expressed through memorable works as Allegri's Miserere Mei, Mozart's Regina Coeli and Haydn's Te Deum Laudamus. The choir will be joined by

Mosaic Canadian Vocal Ensemble, Toronto Sinfonietta and guest soloists at Our Lady of Sorrows. Advance tickets \$35 at Eventbrite or \$40 at the door. Visit [novisingerstoronto.com](http://novisingerstoronto.com)

**APRIL 7 TO JUNE 9 UKRAINIAN WEEKLY SOCIAL GROUP** make new friends and socialize in this eight-week group for Ukrainian speaking participants at the Stonegate CHC Multi-purpose room, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Space is limited and you must register. Call 416-231-7070 ext. 229 or e-mail [julia.graham@stonegatechc.org](mailto:julia.graham@stonegatechc.org)

**APRIL 8 BY THE LAKE BOOK CLUB** Where Waters Meet by **Zhang Ling** from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the Assembly Hall, 1 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive. Cost \$10 - \$28. Join Ling as he discusses his deeply moving novel deals with family, loss and self-discovery. For more call 416-338-7255 or visit [toronto.ca](http://toronto.ca).

**UNTIL MAY 8 SUNRISE, SUNSET ART EXHIBITION** at the Assembly Hall Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Journey through and inspiring collection of paintings that reflect the sun rising and setting that mirror the life cycles of sorrows and joys. Based on a 2,900 km trip from Toronto to North Carolina by artist **Young Hee**. For more information call 416-338-7256.

**APRIL 10 LEGS** Annual General Meeting and Spring Gardens talk at 7 p.m. at the Long Branch Public Library, 3500 Lake Shore Blvd. W. For more info go to: [legsetobicoke.ca](http://legsetobicoke.ca)

**APRIL 11 THE KINGSWAY WOMEN'S CLUB** is celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a luncheon at the Markland Wood Golf Club followed with entertainment by jazz pianist **Mark Eisenman**. All are welcome. Tickets are \$55. Register by April 4 to [kingswaywomensclub@wordpress.com](mailto:kingswaywomensclub@wordpress.com)

**APRIL 16 TOWN HALL 22 DIVISION** Community Police Liaison Committee's Meet 22 Division and Toronto Police Service Teams and how are they working to keep our community safe from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Toronto Police College, 70 Birmingham Street free

parking. Division leaders, major crime and community officers are to be present. Contact 416-808-2200 or e-mail questions to [secretary@22divisioncpic.ca](mailto:secretary@22divisioncpic.ca)

**APRIL 22 FUTURE OF CO-OP HOUSING** Part 3 at 6 p.m. at LAMP CHC, on Fifth Street, as **Michael Norris**, Manager of Co-Op Housing Development at CHFC will lead a workshop on how to develop, build and grow a co-op housing development. All are welcome. Contact [Jasmind@lampchc.org](mailto:Jasmind@lampchc.org) or call 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

**APRIL 24 HEALTHY COOKING CLASS** eating well doesn't have to be complicated. Join a Healthy Cooking Class at 10 a.m. at LAMP CHC and learn how to create delicious, nutritious meals that fuel your body and delight your taste buds. From fresh ingredients to easy recipes, we can show you how to make healthy eating a lifestyle. To register e-mail [AnthonyA@lampchc.org](mailto:AnthonyA@lampchc.org) or call 416-252-6471 ext. 246.

**UNTIL APRIL 30 FREE INCOME TAX CLINIC** Stonegate CHC is hosting income tax clinics for low income community members. By appointment only and must be in person and must be earning a maximum of \$35,000. You need 2023 Notice of Assessment all income and deductible receipts and a rent receipt from your landlord. To book an appointment call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or e-mail [health.promotions@stonegatechc.org](mailto:health.promotions@stonegatechc.org)

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

**EVERY TUESDAY IN APRIL** Write your Own Life Stories from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane. Beginners or experienced writers can take part in writing their stories which is a great hobby and stimulates memory exercise and to de-stress. For more contact 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or e-mail [health.promotion@stonegatechc.org](mailto:health.promotion@stonegatechc.org)

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**Lakeshore Charitable Foundation**



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.

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



**NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR LAMP CHC'S 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards of Merit.** Help us to recognize the incredible contributions of individuals, businesses, and organizations in the South Etobicoke and East Mississauga communities. The nomination form can be found on LAMP's social media or in person at the LAMP front desk. Nominations are due on May 4th. For more contact [BriG@lampchc.org](mailto:BriG@lampchc.org), or call 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

**APRIL 26 REPAIR CAFÉ** if you have any broken item that needs fixing from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at LAMP CHC free repair café, where members of the community come together to mend broken items one repair at a time. LAMP is also looking for volunteer fixers if you are good with tools, electronics or a sewing machine email [jasmind@lampchc.org](mailto:jasmind@lampchc.org) to sign up.

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# Go Fund Me to help senior who lost all including cat in fire



A GO FUND ME account has been created to help Jack MacDonald, 77, who most of his belongings in a fire (right). Jack also lost his beloved cat Smokey in the intense blaze (right) at the housing Co-op.

Family and friends are rallying to help a 77-year-old New Toronto man who lost all his belongs including a pet cat in a devastating apartment fire.

Jack MacDonald, who is affectionately known as 'Grandpa,' is lucky to be alive after a his ground floor apartment at William Punnett Housing Co-op went up in flames on March 24.

He "sadly lost nearly everything in the blaze," according to a Go Fund Me page. "His neighbours are now coming together to support him in its aftermath."

The senior, who is a long-time resident of the co-op, lost his beloved cat Smokey in the fire, in addition to his clothes, furniture, family photos and memorabilia.

Jack and his dog, also named Jack, are dubbed 'Double Jack,' by many in the community.

"They are valuable members of our community, helping with maintenance throughout the co-op and putting a smile on everyone's face," said organizer Essie Patcheson.

He "has long been a positive and giving member of our community, who now needs our support."

Jack lost his wife, who was his best friend in 2021. He had recently retired from working for a moving company.

Patcheson said Jack has minimal insurance coverage and cannot afford to purchase new possessions. All he has left are the clothes on his back.

She said he will require help in paying for temporary accommodations, basic cooking supplies, furniture, linens, towels, food, and medical necessities for both Jacks.

"Any donation is greatly appreciated and will be used to help Jack pay for the items listed as he navigates this very traumatic experience."



# South Eatonville group fights planned 49 storey condo tower



RESIDENTS oppose this tower.

A local group has launched a campaign to ban a 49-storey tower from their residential area near the heavily developed Kipling Subway. Residents of the South Eatonville

Residents Association (SERA) in a bulletin said they are against the high-rise proposed for 5208 Dundas Street W., at Acorn Avenue, where a sushi restaurant now stands. A zoning by-law amendment application has been made for

the development and it is before the hearings process. A virtual hearing was slated for March 13.

"We have serious concerns with the increased traffic, shading, lack of amenities and the precedent for a corridor of tall towers along the north side of Dundas right to East Mall," according to SERA.

They said if the tower is built it will overshadow the single-family homes that have been in the area for decades.

"This is not about opposing development for needed housing; it's about saying no to 49 storey towers that do not fit next to homes," the group said. "We need to stand up and oppose developments that do not make sense in

South Eatonville for the future quality of life for all residents."

The application states the tower will contain 541 residential units, with 71 per cent planned as one-bedroom suites. The design's massing features a three storey podium that fronts Dundas and Acorn.

The building is proposed to have three levels of underground parking, with 39 parking spots for residents and eight for visitors. It would have parking for 500 bicycles.

Just a block away a 41-storey high-rise is also planned for 5238 Dundas St. W., the site of the former Dundas Street Grill.



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