

The South Etobicoke News

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Number 74

Bike lanes or no bike lanes and the war rages

Another saga in the Ontario government war against bike lanes has left cyclists peddling for joy. Ontario's Superior Court of Justice has blocked a plan by the province to rip up the Bloor Street W. and two other bike lanes in Toronto, calling it unconstitutional.



Justice Paul Schabas in a July 30 ruling sided with Cycle Toronto, which brought the suit, and found that the Ford government's decision to remove bike lanes installed by the city violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Ford government introduced the legislation back in November,

A SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HAS stopped the Ontario government dead in its tracks in a plan to rip up the bike lanes along Bloor Street W., University Avenue and Yonge Streets as it is unconstitutional and can lead to the injury or deaths of cyclists. No doubt the Doug Ford government plans to appeal the decision.

saying the bike lanes were contributing to gridlock and making it harder for emergency vehicles to get around. Among other things the law required the removal of stretches of Bloor, University Avenue and Yonge Street.

Cycling advocates argued the removal of the bike lanes would make them less safe, a position the judge agreed with. Businesses in the area have said their sales have dipped with the lanes as customers have to park in Green P lots, which makes it harder for many seniors with mobility or health issues.

Schabas said the lane removals can lead to injuries or deaths.

"... the evidence is clear that restoring lanes of motor vehicle traffic by removing the bike lanes, or reconfiguring them so that they are no longer physically separated from cars, will lead to more accidents, injuries and deaths," Schabas wrote in his ruling. The province plans to appeal the decision.

City moving ahead with building Third St. shelter

The City is ploughing ahead with plans to convert a New Toronto parking lot into a shelter for unhoused seniors. The property at 66 Third Street is one of six across the City in which zoning by-law amendments were approved to go ahead and build the residential shelters.



CITY OFFICIALS HAVE given the green light to construct six shelters, including a controversial shelter for seniors on Third Street (top left). Zoning changes have been made so the construction can proceed. The shelter will provide 50 beds for unhoused seniors.

A motion to proceed with the zone changes was considered by a Planning and Housing Committee and then by City Council at its July 23 to 23 meeting.

The amendment will permit the construction of a four-storey residential building at the Green P lot on Third Street. The facility when completed will accommodate 50 seniors chosen at random, who are over the age of 55. A City report said the six shelters will provide 420 beds and

to the report. "This plan focuses on developing purpose-built shelters, increasing permanency across the shelter system, and a gradual transition out of temporary shelter hotels in response to the growing need," according to a report.

It said the purpose-built shelters will save the City money, improve the stability of the system and respond to the

growing need for emergency shelter and wrap around services.

There was a great anxiety and uproar in the community after the City at first said the shelter was for the homeless.

City officials changed their mind to make it a seniors-only facility due to a fiery debate in the community.

The shelters is part of a Homelessness Services Capital Infrastructure Strategy approved by the City that is estimated

to cost \$674.5 million over the ten-year capital planning period from 2024 to 2033.

City officials to create more affordable housing are looking at converting some parking lots into sites for homes. Another plan calls for more micro-homes that can be hauled by bikes to parks.

The micro-dwellings are popping up in the community as people find a safe and affordable places to sleep at night.

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Alderwood killer nabbed

Alderwood residents are breathing easier with the Toronto Police capture of a suspect sought for murdering his mom and grandmother.

Joseph Ayala, 34, was slapped with police handcuffs on July 14 by Homicide Squad officers and charged with two counts of second degree murder.

Ayala was nabbed in the Brown's Line and Evans Avenue area, police said. There were no incidents.

They believe the suspect never left the community while on the run and that he was helped by others.

He appeared for a bail hearing on July 15 and was held for trial.

Ayala had been the subject of an almost year-long police search in connection with the horrific stabbing death of mom Sharon Fraser, 62 and grandmother Colleen Fraser, 82.

The double homicide took place on August 23, 2024, at a home in the Alderwood neighbourhood, near Sheldon and Silvercrest avenues. The home has since been put up for sale. Police say they were dispatched to the residence after receiving a call from a concerned family member who asked them to conduct a well-being check on their relatives, who were found lifeless.



JOSEPH AYALA has been charged with second degree murder.

"It is about time that they caught him," said Bill, an Alderwood resident. "People around here are relieved after living in fear for a year."



POLICE OFFICERS take down suspect Joseph Ayala who had been on the run for almost a year.



FLOWERS LEFT outside the ill-fated Alderwood home.

Police for months scoured remote area railway tracks, shorelines, bushes and forested areas without luck.

Residents were concerned that the suspected killer would return to harm others and installed security cameras and lighting to protect themselves and their property.

Gala fundraiser to help local students with tuition

Two well-known South Etobicoke community groups have banded together to raise funds to help well-deserving local students.

A fundraiser is being held to provide financial aid to four graduating high school students pay tuition for their college or university education.

The Student Leadership Awards Gala is being organized by the 22 Division Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) and venue partner Famous People Players (FPP) Theatre for September 27, at Famous People Players Theatre, 343 Evans Avenue. CPLC co-chair Michael Georgopoulos said this year they welcome FPP's Diane Dupuy, whose organization will be hosting the \$100-a-ticket event.

"FPP is a non-profit internationally-acclaimed black light theatre company that supports people with exceptionalities, also known as Players, and high school students through their Dine & Dream Theatre," he said.

A committee will select the students receiving the funds for their studies.

"It's a match made in heaven!" Georgopoulos said. Funds raised from the gala will benefit the high school students from at-risk communities as they seek higher education. Four students last year received \$2,000 each to further their studies at the first gala fundraiser last year.

The FPP has been operating for 51-years and is known as Canada's Goodwill Ambassadors to the world. They bring inclusion and integration for people with disabilities, who share duties in dining room management, arts administration, theatrical and visual arts.



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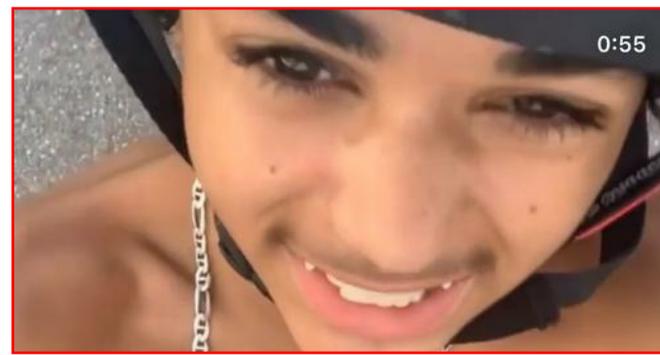
Skatepark now Jordan Carter Memorial Park

A local youth who mentored young people about life and skateboarding before being violently killed is being remembered with a popular Eighth Street skatepark named after him.



THE EIGHT STREET skatepark is being renamed as Jordan Carter Memorial Park.

The arts student from Lakeshore Collegiate Institute was shot in an apartment parking garage in the Gamble and Pape Avenues area around 11:30 p.m. on January 19, 2022. The report credited "Carter's meaningful contributions to Toronto's skateboarding community and the neighbourhoods in which he lived." "Mr. Carter was a well-known and respected member of Toronto's skateboarding community," according to the report. "Mr. Carter demonstrated a strong passion for skateboarding and was frequently seen at local skateparks, where he not only honed his



JORDAN CARTER was a mentor to many at the skatepark.

The skatepark at 160 Eighth Street is being renamed the Jordan Carter Memorial Park, according to a July 3 decision by Etobicoke York Community Council. The City in a Parks and Recreation report said the park will be in recognition of Carter's 'life and lasting impact.' More than 9,000 people signed an online petition calling for his name to be immortalized on the skatepark he frequented. More than \$15,000 was raised in a Go Fund Me page to help with his funeral services after he was shot and killed by a 13-year-old in East York.



THE EIGHT street skatepark is busy with activity during the summer months. Staff photo.

own skills but also encouraged others to participate in the sport." City staff said thousands of people from around the world signed an online petition calling for the park to be named after Carter. Six community groups also sent letters of support. "Mr. Carter played in helping build their skills, confidence, and self-esteem through skateboarding," it said. The report said the change is culturally relevant in that it 'honours a Toronto youth who demonstrated peer-mentorship skills and an unyielding enthusiasm for the sport of skateboarding.'

South Etobicoke News T-shirt winners



Congratulations to Val White (second on left), with husband Elio, for winning a spiffy South Etobicoke News T-shirt. Val's was the third e-mail to arrive with the correct answer that the Canadian flag was adopted by parliament in February 1965. Our second winner is Julia Dao (left) who is also wearing the nice-fitting shirt. Humber Bay Shores Val and Elio were leaving for B.C. to attend a family reunion. "We have been living here for 17 years and we love the community," Val said. "We love the newspaper as it is how we find out what is going on in the community." Julia said she has never won anything and now has a nice-looking shirt. To win a snappy South Etobicoke News T-shirt all you have to do is to be the fifth person to send us by e-mail the answer to this month's question. Who was the first black female MP elected in Canada. Please send your answer to thesouthetobicokenews@gmail.com

Police renew 40-year search of Nicole Morin who vanished from West Mall



NICOLE'S MISSING poster and how she would look like today (bottom)..

Nicole Morin may have been gone for 40 years now, but she is not forgotten. Toronto Police detectives are still working the case and have announced a reward of up to \$50,000 for information leading to the location of Nicole. She was eight-years-old when she vanished from her The West Mall highrise apartment four decades ago. Nicole was last seen around 11:00 a.m. on July 30, 1985, after leaving her apartment to meet a friend for a swim. She never arrived.

Despite an extensive investigation – the largest of its kind in Toronto at the time – Nicole has never been found. She would be 48 years old today. To help renew public interest, police are releasing an updated age-progressed image of Nicole, (right) showing what she may look like as an adult. "This case is not closed," said Det. Sgt. Steve Smith of the Homicide and Missing Persons Unit. "It has never been forgotten. And it only takes one piece of new information to make a difference." Each year thousands of people are reported missing in Toronto, and the vast majority are safely located – often within hours or days. Early reporting and community awareness play a vital role in those outcomes. Officers were on site on July 30 at 627 The West Mall to speak with residents, share resources, and answer questions. "Someone, somewhere knows something. If that someone, is you - please, now is the time to speak up," said Sean Sportun, of Toronto Crime Stoppers. Anyone with information about Nicole's disappearance is asked to contact police at 416-808-7411 or 416-808-2200. Tips can also be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS (8477) or at www.222tips.com.



NICOLE TODAY

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Condos to take over Kipling Queensway mall site



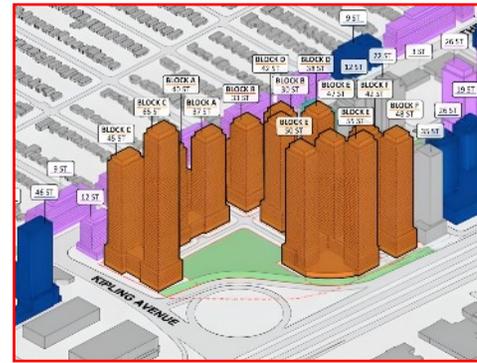
THIRTEEN CONDO TOWERS are proposed for the site of the Kipling Queensway Mall which will be demolished.

One of our longest-serving malls with an abundance of parking may soon be gone for what is being called one of the largest redevelopments in the area. An application has been filed to redevelop the Kipling Queensway Mall, at 1255 The Queensway, into one of the largest construction zones in the area with 13 towers ranging up to 65 storeys tall.

A company called Figtree Holdings Limited has proposed what's described as 'one of the largest redevelopments' on the 7.4 hectare site, that contains a Sobeys' grocery store and Service Ontario office.

It will be the second Sobeys store the community stands to lose, as another in the Park Lawn Road and The Queensway mall will be shut for another mega redevelopment. The company will still have a ground-level Sobeys store in a condo being built just east of the Zorra Street and Queensway area. Plans filed by Figtree called for mid-rise buildings to line The Queensway, stepping up to taller forms toward Kipling Avenue and the Gardiner Expressway ramps.

A large section of the mall parking lot is slated for use as a huge ramp that will lead to and from the Gardiner Expressway. The project when completed will bring about 7,400 residential units, with the ground floors being used for commercial uses. There are also plans for a new elementary school to service the



ARTIST RENDITION of the towers that is planned for the mall site.

incoming population. Two new public parks are planned, along with a green corridor and space to serve as a school yard should a school be built. Plans show there will be about 4,200 parking spots, including 370 for visitors, 119 for retail and 23 for

school use. There will be more than 5,000 spaces for bicycles.

The proposal joins a growing list of Toronto malls and shopping centres being redeveloped in a shift from brick-and-mortar retail. Among those being developed are Sherway Gardens, the Cineplex Queensway complex, Cloverdale Mall, Dixie Outlet Mall, Yorkdale Mall and many others. The complex will bring large-scale intensification and congestion along The Queensway. There are more than a dozen condo mega-projects being built or planned within blocks of the Kipling Queensway mall site, in which about 25 towers are being constructed.



RESIDENTS ARE not happy as they will be losing their Sobeys grocery store.



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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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Water sports gear rentals at some City beaches

Some South Etobicoke beach lovers are complaining about large shipping containers popping up as watercraft businesses on area beaches, including Marie Curtis Park. They claim the eyesore containers block access and views of the beach and want to see them moved to the paved, parking lot area of parks.

City Council last November adopted a 'Year-round Motorized Watercraft Storage Pilot,' in which non-motorized watercraft and rental services will be allowed on some beaches.

Witnesses have reported four of the containers are now on the beaches of Sir Casimir Gzowski Park, at 1751 Lake Shore Blvd. W., and one at Marie Curtis Park.



CONTAINERS ON THE beach (above) from which non-motorized vehicles as canoes (centre) can be rented to beach goers.

The big, square metal containers permits the year-round storage of the watercraft equipment which will be available for rent at market rates negotiated by Park, Forestry and Recreation officials.

The Toronto watercraft companies, providing they support environmental concerns, will be offered a three year contract and can renew for an additional year, according to a City report.

The companies will open from June to September and be able to rent paddle boards, sail boards, kayaks and other non-motorized flotation vehicles; in addition to providing lessons and public storage of personal crafts, according to the City.

Staff said some operators, including Toronto SUP & Kayak Inc., have made requests for year-round storage of containers at sites.

"This would allow licensees to keep storage containers in place, causing less disruption to surrounding areas, and continuity of storage for customers," the report stated, adding the rentals will only be available in certain locations based on terrain.

Area resident Stefanie Meligrana called the containers grotesque and said they should be moved to the paved parking lot area.

"Our parks are our most precious waterfront access to the public," she said. "Our beaches are now used for people to make a profit." Meligrana said the containers block access to the beach and water safety devices.



A CONTAINER dock that will be attached to the shoreline to launch your watercraft.

"I am not against encouraging people to use boats or other non-motorized watercrafts, however the location of these containers on the beach is not fair to the public," she complained.

"These containers are in a flood zone and are horrible to look at and sets a precedent."

The pilot project with watercraft vendors will run until October and then pack up until next summer.



VENDORS AT MARIE Curtis Park will begin renting the water sports.



THE CONTAINERS will be used by merchants to secure their paddle boards, sail boards, kayaks and other gear. **Courtesy photos.**

City crews rebuild shoreline at Humber Bay East beach

Work is underway at Humber Bay Park East to restore a once prized neighbourhood beach.

A large strip of sandy beach was filled with large rocks in a shoreline restoration work that took place from 2016 to 2019 at the park.

"Many residents were left with the impression that existing beach area in Humber Bay Park East would remain an accessible public beach when the construction was completed," according to a City report.

Hundreds of Humber Bay Shores residents signed an online petition protesting the changes and demanded their beach be returned.

A motion by Councillor Amber Morley for the restoration of the shoreline was adopted by council, who will dish out \$155,000 for the project, which is expected



CREWS ARE working to remove the rocks of Humber Bay Park East so residents can get their beach back.

to be completed early next year. The report said a section of Humber Bay Park East has been resurfaced with large cobble stones and 'the shoreline is no longer beach-like, and access to the water has been restricted.'

"It is also important to ensure that we are providing beautiful spaces for recreation and amenities in our parks that

serve the residents who frequent them," City staff wrote.

"Community members have raised concerns that something has been lost in Humber Bay Park East with the replacement of the former beach by the large cobblestone shoreline."

The petition said the beach is cherished by the community as not everyone has the means to travel abroad or book a cottage to provide their families with a nature or a beach experience.

"Access to nature has been proven to have positive effects on mental well-being, and to interact with elements such as sand, trees and water," said the petition. It 'is integral to fostering a healthy and balanced community.'

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Family selling homes in community for 70 years



THE PORRITT FAMILY includes patriarch Carl, (left) wife Elizabeth and daughter Shelley. They are celebrating their company's 70-years in business.

Back then agents had no computers or Internet and were forbidden from selling homes on Saturday or date offers for Sundays.

The veteran realtor said he once flew to Montreal to have an offer accepted and even did a deal through a security fence of an auto plant after hours.

The Porritts' said the real estate business has changed dramatically with more paper work required as the price of homes skyrocketed and with more construction and density in Toronto.

Elizabeth said the company has always been active in the community by supporting causes to uplift residents. She was one of the founders of the Etobicoke Lakeshore Santa Claus Parade now in its

Well-known realtors Carl and Elizabeth Porritt are among the longest-serving agents in South Etobicoke whose company is celebrating 70-years of business during which they have seen massive growth and development.

Their company, Royal LePage Porritt Real Estate, is operated by daughter Shelley, who is the third generation to run the Long Branch business, which was founded by an uncle.

Carl who was the youngest licensed Toronto agent to get a 25-year pin, said there were 3,000 licensed agents when he started in 1962. Today there are more than 75,000 registered with the Toronto Real Estate Board. "I bought my first house here in 1964 for \$5,000," he said. That same house may cost more than \$1 million today.

35th year and rated the fourth largest parade in Ontario. They are also founding members of the Long Branch Business Improvement Association, and have sponsored and helped coach baseball, hockey and lacrosse teams.



REALTORS CARL and Elizabeth Porritt are still busy volunteering in the community.

The couple in 2012 were awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal for volunteer work.



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Shelley today heads a team of agents and is amazed by the many changes in the industry her parents have witnessed over the years.

"When my father got into it, everybody knew everybody, it was such a small industry back then," Shelley explained. "Now nobody knows anybody."

Carl was a former auto mechanic, and Liz a registered nurse before purchasing the realty from uncle Hector Porritt in 1975.

The family is firmly committed to the community and can always be counted on to donate or volunteer to help others in need.

"I would not have been here this long without the help of my partner and wife, Liz, and daughter Shelley," Carl insists. He and Liz have lessened their workload but are still active in real estate and helping others.

THE CITY PLANS to sell the old Etobicoke Civic Centre (top) to build housing.

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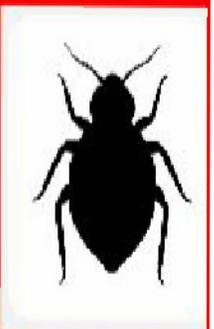
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City of Toronto wins top Bloomberg award for food



TORONTO'S FOOD PROGRAM was a winner with Bloomberg Philanthropic Award.

The City of Toronto is being awarded a high-profile Bloomberg Philanthropic Award of \$50,000 (U.S.) for its recently introduced school food program. Council has voted to accept the \$68,5000 (Cdn) Award From U.S. Bloomberg Philanthropies as Part of the Finalist Stage of the 2025 Global Mayors Challenge for introducing the universal school food program on June 6 that feeds 230,000 students daily.

"The Challenge invited mayors from around the world to re-imagine an essential city service that impacts residents' lives," according to a City report, adding the submission centered on developing a universal school food program in Toronto.

The entry to Bloomberg Philanthropies was submitted last December for the Mayor's Challenge. Toronto was one of 50 finalist cities. The top 25 cities will be awarded \$1 million in January to implement the changes and enhancements to the core city service. More than 630 applications were reviewed by Bloomberg Philanthropies and its advisory council to assess the

idea and its potential for impact and ability to deliver.

"From Boise to Belfast, Ansan to Addis Ababa, Toronto to Taipei, the 50 finalists, selected from more than 630 applications, hail from 33 countries and represent over 80 million residents," Bloomberg said in a release. Their ideas aim to increase public transit ridership, lower household energy costs, expand urban green space, speed service response, strengthen sanitation, improve youth safety, safeguard water supply, and more.

The City of Toronto is now slated to participate in the prestigious Global Ideas Camp in Colombia in July. The cities will "engage in workshops, learn from experts and network to learn what it takes to improve the City's idea." Council's approval was required to accept the prize money as it is not allowed to accept donations more than \$50,000.

The foundation is named after Michael Bloomberg, an entrepreneur and three-term Mayor of New York City, whose innovations in government and philanthropy have made him a leader on climate change, public health, education, and other critical issues facing the world.



The Gatehouse prepares for annual fundraiser at Liberty Grand complex

The Gatehouse healing centre is a hive of activity these days as they prepare for their major fundraiser. The 3101 Lake Shore Blvd. W. non-profit is gearing up for its 'Healing the Voice Within,' to raise funds in support of survivors of childhood sexual abuse (CSA). The annual event takes place on October 2 at the Liberty Grand Entertainment Complex in Toronto. Maria Barcelos, The Gatehouse Executive Director, said the event brings together survivors, community allies, and change-makers for a night of inspiration, advocacy, and impact.



MARIA Barcelos

The evening is hosted by CTV News Anchor Michelle Dube and the keynote speaker is Andrea Robin Skinner. CSA survivor Skinner will share her story of trauma, healing, and transformation. Her words will illuminate the path from silence to strength that invites all to listen more deeply and act more boldly.

"The Gatehouse exists to support survivors in reclaiming their voices, rebuilding their lives, and connecting with others on the path to healing," Barcelos said. "Funds raised will support vital peer support programs, survivor advocacy, and educational outreach." She is the recipient of a Victim Services Awards of Distinction and is widely recognized for her outstanding leadership of The Gatehouse.

Most recently, Barcelos has worked to raise governmental awareness of the impacts of intimate partner violence, the effects of childhood sexual abuse and the critical need for Erin's Law, which requires Ontario school boards to deliver age-appropriate education on preventing and reporting child sexual abuse.

A registered psychotherapist, she is a co-founder of the Survivors Council of Canada and has mentored over 300 post-secondary students to become social service change agents. The centre has helped more than 20,000 survivors of childhood sexual abuse since it opened in 1998.

Barcelos was inducted to the Portuguese Canadian Walk of Fame last May for their contributions to the Portuguese-Canadian community.



MEMBERS OF THE Portuguese Canadian community witness as Maria Barcelos (second left) is inducted in Wall of Fame.

HIGH PARK ACCESS FOR ALL

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High Park was closed to vehicles in 2020 and has continued to be closed on weekends and statutory holidays. Toronto City Council has voted to continue current closures and close the Park permanently to cars by **2027!!!!**

Help have this matter re-visited and amended to allow all including Disabled, Mobility challenged, Seniors, and Young Families free access to High Park

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RIDLEY FUNERAL HOME

SINCE 1921

TAMMY and LINDSEY (right) at the Ridley Funeral Home booth at the successful June 7 Lakeshore Village BIA's Grill Cheese Challenge. All proceeds went to the Franklin Horner Community

LIFE'S UNDERTAKING

a podcast

Brad Jones, the funeral director believes this Summer 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 of two about his Purple Yellow VW Camper.

SINCE 1921

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Hand in Hand feeding at risk in the community

Dozens of volunteers every Monday evening spend their own funds to feed more than 70 unhoused area residents at a local church.

The Hand in Hand Crew charity donate dozens of hours and spend hundreds of dollars from their own pockets to purchase and cook about 30 large foil trays of delicious, hot food to feed the needy at St. Margaret's New Toronto church, on Sixth Street.

"Hand in Hand is a volunteer-run group of residents in South Etobicoke who come together to provide community care to neighbours in need, whether through a hot meal, a warm conversation and more," said group organizer Kasia Okienska. Most group members met on social media and plan their weekly menu online.

The more than 20 volunteers this night set up a line of hot tables, containing vegetarian dishes as pastas, pizzas, curry and meat dishes as chicken, pork, meatball pasta and soups.

The recipients are provided reusable bags to place their takeout food; including fruits and vegetables, breads, pastries, cookies, sandwiches, water, cutlery and other goodies. Okienska said the recipients are also provided hygiene products, clothing and hot beverages.

"Hand in Hand isn't just a place for the community to find a meal on Mondays," she explained. "It's also a place where stories are shared, a smile is given, eye contact is made, help offered, all in a peaceful and non-threatening environment."



VOLUNTEERS OF Hand in Hand Crew take time for a selfie before the meals begin. Staff photos.

The group has partnered with St Margaret's Anglican Church, Haven on the Queensway and local businesses, including Cobbs Bakery; which donates food.

Outside the church on tables are women and mens' clothing, shoes, and other necessities that are provided free by Haven volunteers. Most of the items are snapped up by residents.

Okienska said many of their unhoused live in cars, bus shelters, apartment hallways or in the parks. Volunteers said there is a huge demand for the meals since many people, including fixed-income seniors, who cannot afford food or pay rent at the same time.

"Quite a few of our unhoused friends face a lot of challenges," she said. "We are supporting those who need it, whether is dropping off donations or visiting local schools to support nutrition programs."

The group was recently awarded an Award of Merit by the LAMP Community Health Centre for their work in our community.

Hand in Hand does not accept cash donations but will accept food items.



THE HUNGRY RESIDENTS ARE provided with fresh fruits and vegetables with meals cooked daily (bottom) at the homes of volunteers and brought in..



MaaWaa Shawarma first year



MP James Maloney is with Mohammad Siddiqui Shahzaib and his family as they celebrate the first anniversary of their MaaWaa Shawarma at 3308 Lake Shore Blvd. W.

Shahzaib said it has been a difficult but challenging year but his restaurant survived.

"We are doing our best and people love our food," he said surrounded by his family outside the business, which featured a table with free samples, that people were enjoying.

Maloney presented the family with a plaque to recognize their first year. "We have a lot of great restaurants in the community. The food was great and we wish them continued success." The small eatery offers reasonably priced shawarma and fresh fruit juices, as coconut water and sugarcane nectar.



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Police Mounted Unit, paramedics and animal services receive most donations

Concerned Toronto residents have made thousands of donations worth more than \$1 million to help improve City services or programs. Almost 6,400 citizens donated more than \$1.06 million last year, according to a Summary of the City's Donation Activity for 2024 in a report for the Executive Committee. The report was presented by Council on July 16. The City said donations were made by individuals and organizations mostly from Toronto, but some funds came from across Canada and the U.S.



OFFICERS OF the Police Mounted Unit that receives large donations from the public.



TORONTO ANIMAL Services usually gets the most donations from the public yearly.

"Most donations were received from individuals," the report stated. "While several individuals and organizations have donated on more than one occasion, donors usually give once to a particular cause."

The report said more than 5,100 of the donations were for \$100 or less, about 11 were for more than \$5,000 each, five for \$15,000 each and two with a value of more than \$50,000.

Most of the donations, almost 5,800, were directed to Municipal Licensing & Standards, primarily to help Toronto Animal Services, which obtained more than \$250,000 in donations.

The City's Parks and Recreation Commemorative Tree & Bench Program racked up \$380,698, the City of Toronto Archives \$248,370, followed by Toronto Paramedics Services Safe City Program.

City officials do not send tax receipts from donations under \$20 and gifts from foundations or in-kind donations or when a tax receipt is not requested, according to the report.

The City said most of the donations are for use with specific programs, services or City initiatives. City officials will accept donations up to \$500,000 once it is reported to Council.



TORONTO Paramedics Services

City says traffic speed cameras not cash grab and can limit use



POLICE SAID five automated traffic cameras were cut down or vandalized (right) in one week in Toronto.

This may be good news for some motorists in a hurry. City officials are trying to limit tickets issued by its 150 Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras to one per camera following complaints the devices are being used as a cash grab. Council referred the matter to an October 25 Infrastructure and Environment Committee to consider a plan to limit the number of tickets issued by the cameras to one vehicle from a single location if the motorist has no previous

infractions.

The proposal by the City Solicitor, and Transportation Services, has to be approved by Council.

The purpose of this report is to "assess the feasibility of limiting the number of ASE infractions an individual vehicle owner can receive from a single camera location prior to receiving their first ASE infraction in the mail."

"The enforcement of regulatory offences, including those for red light cameras and ASE, are not designed to be revenue generation tools for municipalities," according to the report. "The fines and penalties associated with these offences are for the purpose of deterring behaviour determined to be a risk to public safety."

The proposed change stems from outcry following the early July vandalism for the sixth time of the City's most productive machine on Parkside Drive, despite having its own security camera. That ASE has issued more than 66,000 tickets and generated more than \$7 million in fines since being installed in 2022.

City staff said if the proposal is approved it can result in a potential reduction of almost 6,000 infractions, or some \$520,000 in lost revenue. It is estimated to cost about \$30,000 to make changes to the devices.

The Toronto ASE program was launched in 2020 with 50 cameras which has increased to 150 today. Some 126 are mobile and 24 are in permanent locations. The first month of enforcement of the 150 cameras resulted in 94,250 tickets being issued to unsuspecting motorists, the report said.

"Higher speeds contribute to a higher risk of serious injuries and fatalities," the report stated. "When collisions occur at higher speeds, the impact force has a high likelihood of causing a serious injury and fatality."

ASE cameras are permitted in school zones and community safety zones, with a large volume of pedestrian activity, particularly children and older people.



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A Chief Congestion Officer to get traffic moving



THE CITY IS GETTING a Chief Congestion Officers to keep or traffic moving in Toronto.



TORONTO IS THE fourth congested City with traffic in North America and civic officials are working to keep our traffic moving..

The incoming congestion czar will provide advice and guidance to the City's leadership team, the Mayor, City Council and relevant committees, enabling evidence-based decision making to reduce traffic congestion. Video of Toronto's congested streets have gone viral after a number of sports teams disembarking from their buses to walk to hockey arenas due to the traffic standstill.

The City is moving ahead with plans to hire a Chief Congestion Officer to tackle traffic and other mobility challenges to keep Toronto moving. Officials said the position is required as Toronto is the busiest city in North America due to increased development, infrastructure and public transit renewal activity. A report by the Deputy Manager of Infrastructure Services, said the Congestion Officer will oversee a Strategic Capital Coordination Office. The hiring was approved by an Infrastructure and Environment Committee and has to be approved by City council. City staff said the largest contributor to traffic congestion stems from construction activity and the person selected must be able to work with all City agencies. "While the creation of this role will not eliminate congestion, the leadership it will provide will help to enhance how the City actively manages congestion against the ongoing pressures of growth and development," according to the report.

Toronto has been deemed by studies to be among the worst cities in the world for travel congestion. The "chief congestion officer" would work "across all of the divisions" in the city and provide "strategic advice" to the mayor, deputy city manager Will Johnston said at the city committee meeting Thursday. Some of their goals would include increasing on-the-ground traffic management, implementing a strategy for traffic around special events and planning and co-ordinating city-wide construction projects, according to a city report. Dominic Roszak, of the Toronto Region Board of Trade, said more than 500,000 has arrived in Toronto in the last two years and he expects more than three million more will end up here by 2051.

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Claudia Falquez-Warkentin

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- 2 - Keep in touch regularly with family members and friends
- 3 - Seek help from a health professional (medical doctor, social worker) or a community centre for adults, if you are feeling lonely and isolated
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Revitalize the Humber group want yacht club out and land go public

More than 1,500 people have signed an online petition calling for the City to refuse the renewal of a long-term lease with a west-end yacht club. The Toronto Humber Yacht Club (THYC) has been located at 101 Humber Valley Road, for about 70 years and some residents want to reclaim the land for use as a park or paddling club. A group called the Revitalize the Humber (RTH) in a petition said the club's lease expired on July 31 and a City staff report on the use of boat club lands is expected by the end of the year.



SOME RESIDENTS hope to make the yacht club area for non-motorized vehicles.

The report will first be considered by a General Governance and Licensing Committee and then City Council for a vote.

"... we are still fighting an uphill battle with the city to reject THYC's 20-year lease request," group member Jason Sills wrote. "It's always easier for City staff and the bureaucracy to go with the status quo vs working to create something wonderful for the general public." The RTH claim marine life are in jeopardy from pollutants as dirt and unburned fuel from boat; many which create a wake that erodes the shoreline.



THE BEAUTIFUL Humber River

The group said online that personal water craft, as jet skis, stir sediment in the shallow river, 'introducing pollutants such as unburned fuel.' The RTH said construction of 60 gazebos along the shore has degraded the riparian zone, displacing native species and disrupting natural habitats. Sills said the river is being used as a private playground "with little regard for the impacts on local residents and those who come to enjoy the peace the river provides." They are suggesting the City grant the lease to an Indigenous-led group for ecological restoration, for use as a park or motor-free paddling club.



THE TORONTO Humber Yacht Club area

In the Community

By TOM GODFREY



and in the from area residents.

Homeowners of the so-called 'home occupations,' will be able to hire up to two employees and operate from detached garages, laneway buildings and even see clients on-site, according to a City report.

Yes, you will be allowed to meet and have meetings with clients as you conduct business without leaving home. Your clients have to park somewhere and there is a lack of street parking in many areas of the City.

"The zoning updates are designed to minimize impacts on neighbours by setting clear size limits, requiring garbage to be stored indoors and limiting most businesses to the ground floor," the report states.

It said impact on neighbours is controlled through various existing city by-laws dealing with things like noise, waste, property standards and patios. No doubt, by-law enforcement officers will be busy.

These changes respond to growing demand for nearby shops and services – particularly as more people work from home post COVID and new housing is added to low-rise areas through the City's housing initiatives.

The City plans to monitor the changes over the next two years and make necessary tweaks. It 'helps small, independent businesses thrive and create new jobs that will contribute to the local economy, while strengthening its resilience and cultural vitality.'

The by-laws if approved would allow the businesses to operate on the ground floor, with waste stored in enclosed building, food and beverages pre-packaged or ready-to-eat items. Noise in some congested areas will be a concern and as a result your patio business cannot be used for performances, music or dancing and must be located in a fenced area.

And if you think parking is bad now. It and congestion are expected to become even worst with home businesses..

City officials argue the businesses bring the goods and services that people need within a short distance of their homes and are hoping they will walk, roll or cycle, reducing car dependence and contributing to a cleaner environment.

They are reaching out to residents to explain and sell the upcoming changes and how it can change your quiet neighbourhood.

The homes can also be used as an art gallery, wellness centre, production studio, repair shop, personal service shop, eating establishment, social club or performing arts studio. Live music and dancing are not allowed.

The retail stores will not be able to operate as a full-scale kitchen or restaurant. The homes to be used as businesses will include single-detached, additional residential units, multi-unit housing and affordable housing. Also allowed are industrial and commercial properties and institutional; which will include places of worship, cemeteries, long-term care homes, recreation, park and open space.

"This would allow for the establishment to serve as a small, low impact neighbourhood cafe," according to the report. Individual businesses would be capped at 110 square metres, or about 1200 square feet.

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 Money \$ Wealth

By RATTAN GANDHI

Let me start this article with a shopping experience over the last two weekends at one of the high-profile outlet malls.

I was amazed with the crowds, especially line ups at the high-end stores and most purchases were on a credit card. Before I go forward, (I would like to clarify that 70 to 80% my shopping is on a-need basis). My observation on the buyers spending, I wondered if they are fully aware of the spending. Keeping in mind my article on budgets, I am going to elaborate the who's, how's, when to undertake the budgeting endeavour.

Before I go into the breadth and depth of this article. One must understand that every successful, growing enterprise puts a lot of effort in developing a budget and they do it year in and year out, some even re-visit the budget during the year.

Successful individuals and families may not undertake this exercise on a formal basis but have a pretty good handle on their finances. A formal process would certainly be beneficial. Before starting a budgeting exercise, a good understanding of a worksheet (like Excel) is a must. Anyone can take on this task, with input from their spouse and children if applicable. Now that one is going to start the next step is to understand your spending pattern and identify categories by looking at your credit card and bank statements.

It is important to record your spending by and make sure all expenses categories should be detailed, "one of expenses" can be recorded with a footnote.

To understand why this step is important can be summarized as

"one has to know where you are coming from to move forward." In creating categories loan/mortgage payments identify the payout – principal and interest. Another item that should identified individually are the streaming services. Telephone bills should be scrutinized in detail; one may be paying for a service you are not using e.g. storage. Other items that should be considered savings and an emergency fund. Build up your emergency fund to cover at least 3

months of spending.

Now that one has a good spending history this information should be used to creating a budget going forward, keeping inflation in mind. We all know the significant food inflation we all experienced and are experiencing now. At this point one must put some thought or have foresight into upcoming events or lifestyle changes that should be incorporated into developing the budget. In the previous paragraph I alluded to getting the whole family involved, this process will give the participants a sense of ownership and will be a first step in the kids understanding, educating and exposing them to the world of finance and money. Make sure this process is by month. Now that the spending budget is in place add a top line Income=Regular income and passive income, this result in a forecasted cash flow by month.

Now that the budget and cash flow is in place, monitoring your actual spending will be important to make ongoing adjustments to one's spending. This process will force one to re-evaluate needs from wants.

Undertake this process every month on a specific date of every month and share the information with all involved in the process. Any significant lifestyle changes should during the period or as soon as the information is available will result in updating the worksheet.

Now that one has a good handle on the budgeting and cash flow process, take this step out two to three years, if not by month but on an annualized basis.

This process may result in crystalizing major purchases like buying a car and/ or house, family vacation etc.

Rattan Gandhi is owner of Quick Refund Tax, 133 Sixth Street. His opinions stem from more than 20-years of experience in helping clients in the tax area. If you have question, he can be reached at 905-616- 5253 or rattangandhi@gmail.com.



Retired Judge Speaks

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI

It was a warm summer day, and I was sitting out on the front porch, coffee in hand, swatting away one particularly arrogant mosquito and daydreaming about this year's vacation—Poland, my father's birthland. I'd been flipping through travel books, imagining cobblestone streets, pierogi-filled dinners, and maybe even a visit to the village where my dad used to chase chickens or misbehave (depending on which relative you ask). But as the breeze stirred and the birds conducted their usual gossip in the trees, my thoughts wandered—like they always do this time of year—and drifted back to past summers' epic adventures with my grandson, Teddy. A smile crept across my face. A few summers back, Teddy had earned his spot on our cherished tradition: one-on-one grandchild getaways. Each year, I take one of them on a personalized journey—equal parts bonding, storytelling, and just enough survival to guarantee retelling over future holiday dinners. And Teddy's trip? Well, let's just say it involved wildlife, Wi-Fi withdrawal, and a salmon named Larry.

Teddy was 13, a dyed-in-the-sidewalk Manhattanite. His concept of wilderness begins and ends with Central Park. The highlight of his outdoor career was a squirrel who once snatched his pretzel with no apology. So when he requested ocean fishing—specifically for wild salmon—my eyebrows practically did a double-take.

Why salmon. It turns out, his family adores the fancy cuts from the neighborhood deli. But Teddy wanted to go primal. He wanted to catch one himself, ship it home, and gift his loved ones not just dinner—but *adventure*. As a grandpa, his wish was not only granted—it became sacred duty.

So off we went to British Columbia, where the trees outsize buildings and your hiking trail might be paused by a moose looking for handouts. Teddy arrived wearing glow-in-the-dark sneakers, oversized headphones, and a hoodie that screamed "urban camouflage." His first impression: "It's so... green here."

We boarded our \$300 rental boat, which Teddy immediately assessed as lacking basic modern dignity ("Where's the touchscreen?"). The captain simply handed him a fishing rod and said, "Give the ocean your best shot," as we headed out to sea. Teddy was standing near the side surveying the ocean for his prey.

Teddy's fishing form was interpretive dance meets slapstick. He tangled his own hoodie twice, accidentally hooked the captain's shoe once, and yelled "Come at me, fish!" like he was summoning a sea dragon.

And then, with only minutes before we were to return—success. The rod bent. The fish launched into the air like a scaled firework. Teddy screamed like he'd won the lottery. What followed was less a calm reeling and more a high-stakes aquatic wrestling match. I thanked the sea gods, we caught a fish, not a very large but was a fish.

The salmon, all six pounds of rebellious muscle, was finally hauled aboard. Then came the moment of reckoning—the clubbing. *Thwack*. The captain delivered it like a Viking. Teddy gasped. "Did we just... end Larry?" he whispered. For someone raised on deli counters and cartoon food fights, it was a transformative moment. Protein had faces. Or at least, *Larry* did.

We had Larry cleaned, frozen, and shipped to Manhattan for \$375. The price was for anything up to 35 pounds. Notwithstanding its size, it was Ted's trophy. Between the boat rental, cleaning fees, and Larry's official shipment, the total cost came to nearly \$700—a stunning \$100 per pound plus.

That's right. Larry, warrior fish of the Pacific, cost more than most luggage upgrades and half a roundtrip ticket to Poland. Weeks later, Teddy hosted a dinner with his New York family that felt like a historical re-enactment. Candles, solemn music, dramatic pauses. He gave a 10-minute speech describing waves that "threatened everything" and eye contact with Larry that "sealed their fate." He conveniently left out the part where he nearly fell overboard trying to reel it in or the tears he shed for Larry.

His mom wrote me afterward: "Teddy's still riding the high. He told his sister that salmon can *smell your weakness*. He called his catch 'the wild one that chose me.' The fish was delicious—but the storytelling? Priceless." And I'll admit—I briefly considered asking his mom to quietly buy \$20 of salmon and fake a delivery next time. But no. Grandpas have honor codes. Grocery store salmon doesn't come with tales of wind and fury, or a boy growing up one splash at a time. Wild salmon tastes best when marinated in awe, grilled over exaggeration, and served with a side of love. As I sip my coffee and think about Poland—my father's fields, the rivers he likely skipped stones across—I smile again. This summer may bring castles and kielbasa. But that summer with Teddy? That was the year Teddy became a fisherman, a storyteller, and the reluctant executioner of Larry the salmon. Next time, I will tell about the summer 13 years ago with my then 7 year-old grand-daughter, as I watched her zip line across a river canyon in Costa Rica which she told her Mom was full of alligators. My daughter-in-law has since forgiven me for exposing her daughter to these dangers. And in case my grandchildren ever stumble upon this tale—whether printed in a scrapbook, retold around a campfire, or dramatized in future TikTok's—I want to gently remind you that your grandpa's memory isn't quite as sharp as it used to be. The *theme* of this story? Solid as a salmon fillet. But the *details*? Well, they may have taken a bit of creative swimming through my brain.

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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Call for tougher penalties for illegal tree removal

There are calls for the City to do more to protect our trees from unscrupulous developers.

A Long Branch group has thrown its support behind stiffer action against people or companies that violate City by-laws that protect our trees.

The Long Branch Residents Association has banded with the Leaside Residents Association in calling on the city to toughen enforcement laws of those who illegally chop down trees following a

beloved mature honey locust tree that was cut down by developers June 25. There was a public uproar from the community after the decades old law protected tree in Leaside was cut down by a developer, with little penalty or punishment.

A motion before the City calls for a list of by-law protected trees to be kept on file to check against applications from developers before the project is approved, If they violate by laws their permits can be revoked.

The issue was referred by City Council at its July 23, 24 and 25 meeting. "Long Branch has lost many well-loved healthy, mature trees in recent years due to development when options exist for these trees to be preserved," wrote Judy Gibson, chair of the Tree Canopy



LONG BRANCH HAS some of the oldest and most-healthiest trees in the Toronto area.



THIS BELOVED TREE in Leaside before it was felled angering the community.

Preservation and Enhancement Committee.

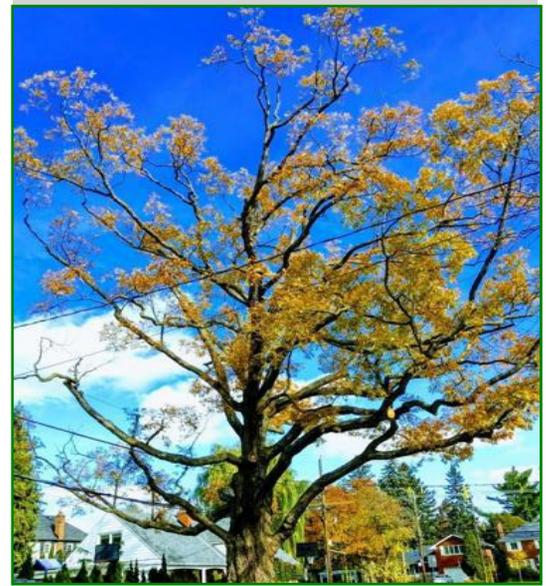
"Changes are needed to strengthen urban forestry policy to better protect private trees and plantable space for these trees to grow to their full potential and to plant new large canopy trees." She said the existing fines are often not enough of a deterrent to prevent illegal tree injuries and removals.

"These recommendations link the culling of a well-loved mature honey locust tree at 712 Eglinton Avenue East in Leaside to much needed changes in urban forestry policy by the City," wrote Geoff Kettel and Carol Burtin Fripp, of The Leaside Residents Association. "These changes are needed to prevent such incidents from re-occurring and to protect the urban tree canopy," the co-presidents said. Staff said the policy can link forestry infractions and building permit permissions, which requires urgent action by the Ontario government.

Cutting down a tree without a permit carries a fine of up to \$100,000. Geoff Kettel, with the Leaside Residents Association, said the deterrent needs more teeth, including stiffer laws and enforcement.



OUR TREES HELP clean the air and cool down our environment and is home for many species of



CITY OFFICIALS want a list of by-law protected trees to check against when applications are made to chop a tree down by a developer.

MELISSA EMOND

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AUGUST 6, 13, 20 AND 27 MINDFUL WELLNESS Online Workshop at LAMP CHC at 3 p.m. for four-week series that explores mindfulness practices to support mental well-being, stress reduction, and emotional balance. Sessions include guided exercises, discussion, and take-home strategies. To register e-mail JasminD@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

AUGUST 5 FIGHTING RODENTS A garden workshop of organic, non-invasive ways of keeping rodents and bugs away from your plants from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, Unit 201. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or health.promotion@stonegatechc.org

AUGUST 9 COMMUNITY SUMMER FESTIVAL 22 Division Community Summer Festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for free food and fun with activities for kids including soccer skills training at Bloordale Park South, 4258 Bloor St. W., behind Bloordale Campus of Islington United Church.

AUGUST 11, 18 AND 25 NEW! CHAIR YOGA with *Meaux* at LAMP CHC at 10 a.m. for this class that offers gently, low-impact movement using a chair for support. It is good for all levels for those new to yoga or living with mobility issues. The focus is on stretching, breathing and relaxation. The class is also available online and open to anyone who would like to join virtually. To register e-mail JasminD@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

AUGUST 11 to 22 JEAN AUGUSTINE SUMMER CAMP at the Jean Augustine Centre, 101 Portland Street, for young girls with daily snacks, breakfast, exciting field trips and outings for fun hands-on activities.

Free before and after camp care between 9 – 10 a.m. and 4 – 5 p.m. For more call 416-253-9797 or mail info@jeanaugustinecentre.ca

AUGUST 21 MYSTERY BOOK CLUB at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane, on second floor, as they discuss *All Good People Here* by Ashley Flowers, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. You can borrow a copy at the Humber Bay Library or obtain an e-book on their site tpl.ca. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or e-mail health.promotion@stonegatechc.org

AUGUST 23 BOY'S CLUB TAP DANCE presented by the City of Toronto and Toes for Dance for a free day of dance at 11:30 a.m. with community workshops and open rehearsals. Takes place at Assembly Hall 1, Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive. A Q & A session with dancers will take place at 2:30 p.m. For more e-mail info@toesfordance.ca

AUGUST 28 COOKING CLASS at Among Friends, 2788 Lake Shore Blvd. W., at 10 a.m. as registered dietitian Eileen guide participants in making a healthy peach crisp from scratch. This hands-on cooking class offers practical nutrition tips and a chance to connect with others over food. To register e-mail JasminD@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

EVERY SUNDAY UNTIL SEPTEMBER 28 YOGA IN THE PARK at 10 a.m. Amos Waites Park, Mimico Square. Open to all levels, bring a mat and water.

NEW INTERMEDIATE VISUAL ART CLASS August 11, 18, 25 at 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at LAMP CHC's Third Floor Community Room to improve your art skills. If you have visual art experience and want to dig deeper or challenge yourself. Join art teacher Nataliya for more advanced techniques, guided projects, and the chance to grow your artistic skills. To register e-mail or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

SEPTEMBER 14 PARK CLEANUP by Friends of Humber Bay Park with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. meet at 2195 Humber Bay Park West Trail. Tools and

refreshments provided and prizes to be won. More on their Facebook page.

SEPTEMBER 14 ETOBICOKE TERRY FOX RUN at West Deane Park., in the Martingrove and Rathburn Roads area, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Register: <http://linktr.ee/terryfoxetobicoke>

SEPTEMBER 17 THE GATEHOUSE Truth and Reconciliation Event in the Healing Garden from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at 3101 Lake Shore Blvd. W. For more information call 416-255-5900 ext. 225 or visit thegatehouse.org

SEPTEMBER 27 LEADERSHIP AWARDS GALA to raise funds for bursaries for selected South Etobicoke students organized by the 22 Division Community Liaison Committee (CPLC) Student Leadership Awards. Tickets \$100 or you can sponsor or donate. Three course meal and Twist & Shout performance by the Famous Players Theatre. Doors open at 6 p.m. at 343 Evans Avenue. For information email co-chair@22divisioncplc.ca

UNTIL OCTOBER 26 THE LAKEVIEW FARMERS MARKET is back every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Small Arms Inspection Building at 1352 Lakeshore Rd. E., for goods by local farmers, food producers and artisans with live music. The Lakeview Artisan Market takes place on August 3, 17 & 31. For more information e-mail

EVERY THURSDAY TO SEPTEMBER 25 The Good Food Market takes place from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Outdoors at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane. Affordable produce available, cash of debit accepted and bring your own bags. Phone 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or visit stonegatechc.org

DONATIONS ARE BEING SOUGHT by the Christ Church. St. James Food Pantry, at 194 Park Lawn Road as they replenish their food stock due to high demand. For more phone 416-251-8711 or send e-transfers togive@christchurchstjames.ca.

BALLROOM & LATIN DANCERS – Come dance with us at 30-Up Club! Every Friday or Saturday dinner and dance from 6:45-midnight at Dorchester Ave., across from Cineplex. For more www.30-up.com

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WOMEN'S 30 PLUS PILATES Tuesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. to strengthen your mind and body with pilates at LAMP CHC. For more information email FatimaA@lampchc.org

HEART HEALTHY COOKING Tuesdays at 12 p.m. at LAMP CHC to learn easy and affordable methods of cooking heart healthy food! For more email FatimaA@lampchc.org

FUNCTIONAL FITNESS Tuesdays at 2 p.m. at LAMP CHC Community Room to work building strength, mobility and endurance in real-life movements from carrying groceries to climbing stairs. This session improves balance, coordination and prevent injuries. To register e-mail erica@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 246.

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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.



Oscar winning actor and director Guillermo del Toro had four sound stages of Kipling Avenue based Cinespace Studios at its Marine Terminal Campus named 'The Guillermo del Toro stages.' The world-famous actor was presented the ceremonial keys of the City of Toronto after he shot a number of movies at the Terminal, including *Nightmare Alley* and *Cabinet of Curiosities*. "The renaming of these stages is a testament to Guillermo's impact and deep ties to the Toronto film industry and his commitment to storytelling," Eoin Egan, co-CEO of Cinespace Studios, said in a statement. Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow presented the Mexican-born filmmaker with the ceremonial honour on July 24, saying his history of producing films in Toronto has created jobs and supports a local screen industry. del Toro, who lives part time in Toronto, has been shooting his movies in Toronto since *Mimic* in 1997, and he shot *Pacific Rim*, *Crimson Peak* and *The Shape of Water*, which recreated Baltimore in 1962.

The TTC says its buses are greenest and fastest way to go

The TTC say they are the better and cleanest way to get around. The transit company says by next year it will have a fleet of 400 zero emission e-buses making it the greenest large transit systems in North America. A 'Red Rocket' Green Bus Program led to greenhouse gas emissions being reduced by more than 25 per cent with the procurement of 591 new hybrid-electric buses and 208 battery-electric buses.

"By the end of the first quarter of 2026, the current order of 340 e-buses will have grown the zero-emission fleet to 400, making the TTC's bus fleet the greenest of large transit systems in North America," according to a report presented at a TTC board meeting last month.

The company said more than 50 per cent of its ridership are served by electric and emission-free subway and streetcar systems.

It said the emission reductions are estimated to yield \$460 million in avoided social costs of carbon and \$2.8 million in healthcare costs avoided.

"This one action will reduce the TTC's direct organization-wide emissions by 28% by 2030," according to the report.

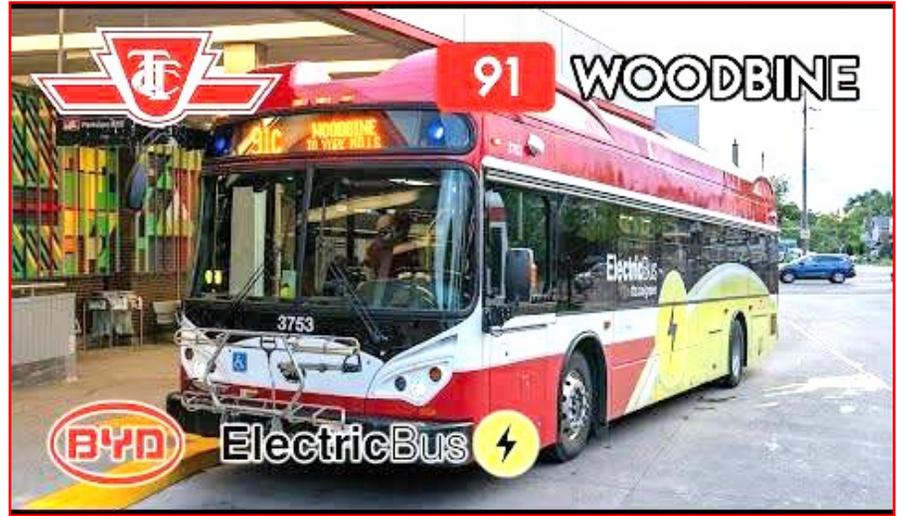
The transit company retired its fleet of Orion VII Clean Diesel buses last year phasing

out its highest-emitting buses. The diesel from buses includes; carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, sulphur oxides, and volatile organic compounds.

"Once our fleet is fully electrified, this transition is expected to avoid approximately 290,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent and 125 tonnes of criteria air



THE TTC SHOWS OFF some of its electric bus fleet which they say will be one of the greenest in North America.



THE TRANSIT SERVICE will have about 400 e-buses like this one that runs along Danforth Ave. More than 420 million people rode the Red Rocket last year.

pollutant emissions annually between 2040 and 2050," according to the TTC. Staff said low-income and equity-deserving communities are often located near bus garages and high-traffic corridors, which exposes them to diesel exhaust and related health issues as asthma and cardiovascular disease.

"Electrifying bus fleets directly reduces local tailpipe emissions, delivering localized air quality improvements to neighbourhoods that historically bear the greatest pollution burden," the report warned.

It noted e-buses have a shorter range than diesel/hybrid buses, and will require adjustments in scheduling, charging operations and fleet size.

The TTC is working with Toronto Hydro and others to develop charging infrastructure for the green fleet.

The transit company has 192 bus routes and last year had a ridership of about 420 million or about 1.5 million daily.

No arrests in burger restaurant arson as investigators probe

Toronto Fire and police are investigating a suspected arson in which the popular Burger's Priest burger joint was set on fire.

Yellow police tape sealed off the The Queensway burger joint as Fire Marshalls investigators probed the blaze, which area businessmen said was the third suspicious blaze in a month at the restaurant.

Video security footage shows an individual smashing a window and climbing into the restaurant. Moments later they're seen coming out and sprinting away as a fire explodes inside the building.

Police said no one was injured and that there are no suspects at this time.

No one was inside the building at the time of the fire. There are no

suspects. Crews were called to the eatery at 1599 The Queensway, near The East Mall,



A TORCHED Burger's Priest. burger place.

at around 3:15 a.m. on July 15 for an interior fire that had migrated to the roof.

A nearby business owner said last week there was another fire at the restaurant that appeared to be deliberately set.

"Last week it was like I was watching a Terminator movie," he told CP24 on Tuesday morning.

"Two guys go along the building, go inside... light a fire and almost blew themselves up."

Toronto Fire has not confirmed if they were previously

called to a blaze at the restaurant last week. The restaurant has six stores here.

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Toronto Caribbean Carnival jump up



PAN MAN PAT welcoming the Caribbean Carnival that had colourful costumes (below) and dancing on the road.

Iconic Mimico steelpan legend Patrick McNeilly, (left) also known as Pan Man Pat, performs at a Mimico MRKT event to celebrate the 54th annual Toronto Caribbean Carnival Grand Parade (bottom) on Lake Shore Blvd. W. August 2 that attracted thousands of revellers. Formerly "Caribana," the festival draws millions of participants and brought brand new experiences with returning highlights as top band, costume and king and queen of the parade.

Pan Man Pat is one of the foremost steelpan players in Toronto, who was a 20-year teacher, who taught the instrument

to students as part of a Toronto District School Board program.





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