

The South Etobicoke News

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Another 2% tax hike may be coming: Mayor

Here we go again. Mayor Olivia Chow is sending signals that our property tax may rise again by two per cent or more due to a lack of Ontario and federal funding for refugees. A potential property tax increase was floated by Chow at City Hall last month as her officials determine how to cover a decrease in funding from the province and federal governments.

Ontario will be allocating less than \$8 million to Toronto under a housing benefit, a decrease from the nearly \$20 million received in 2025. There is also a shortfall of \$107 million from Ottawa for



REDUCED REFUGEE FUNDING for Toronto has led to a \$107 million shortfall that can lead to a 2 per cent tax increase for tax-weary residents. There are concerns the hundreds of refugees will return to City streets as shelters are filled.

support housing costs for claimants and asylum seekers already in the shelter system. "As a result of this funding cut through the Interim Housing Assistance Program, the

increase to the police budget. Back then there was a surge of refugee claimants, mostly from Africa, which led to a shelter crisis in the City.

city is facing a projected \$107 million shortfall this year, which is equivalent to more than a 2 per cent property tax increase," Chow wrote. She said she does not want to raise taxes, but it might come down to that or cutting services if the City doesn't receive funding from other levels of government.

It was only in February 2024 that council approved a 9.5 per cent property tax hike, the city's largest property tax hike in more than 25 years, along with a \$20-million

Feisty senior fighting ticket for unpaved driveway

An 81-year-old Long Branch senior on a fixed income has been ordered by the City to pay thousands of dollars to pave the driveway of her 115-year home or she faces a huge fine.

Zandra Forbes-Roberts says she has not been able to eat or sleep as she does not have the money to pay to have her 100-foot driveway paved.

The resident of Walnut Crescent received a hand delivered mail last August 15 from City officials ordering her to pave her gravel driveway as it is an alleged by-law infraction. The long-time area resident has been living in the same house for about 50 years. The home is a former area cottage, with no basement, which was built in 1910 and still in good shape, she said. Forbes-Roberts said there has been flooding issues with



LONG BRANCH SENIOR Zandra Forbes-Roberts (left) holds a pending ticket she has to pay if she does not pave her flood-reducing gravel driveway (right). She is with friend Shirley Clark (centre, right) in front of her 115-year-old renovated cottage-style home. Staff photos.

the home and the driveway was paved with gravel to absorb the runoff from heavy rains as the water drains to Lake Ontario.

"I am in my 80s and this has left me totally stressed out," she complained. "There are many other neighbours around here with paved driveways." Her friend Shirley Clark has been helping her cope with the anxiety. "She is

overwhelmed and calls me every day to talk," Clark said. "It has been hard on her and all of the other neighbours."

She has been in touch with Councillor Amber Morley's office, who in an e-mail advised Forbes-Roberts that she has until October 14 to appeal the order to a Property Standards Committee and that will cost a non-refundable \$350 fee.

A letter by a City official said the property was inspected by a Bylaw Enforcement Officer last August 7 who found the property is in contravention of the standards prescribed by Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 629. "The driveway area used for motorized traffic is not paved with either asphalt, concrete, interlocking stone, or other approved environmentally safe and dust-free equivalent," Officer Stephan Tetrault wrote.

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Armed Forces wants you



LIEUT.-COL. JOHN IM

Veteran Mimico soldier John Im is making a call for young people to enlist in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) as the pay has increased and the opportunities are endless. Lieut.-Colonel Im said there is a new interest in the military as Prime Minister Mark Carney has pledged billions of dollars more in funding, including increased pay for personnel and new equipment. Im was the Commanding Officer of 32 Service Battalion, a combat service Support Reserve Unit of the CAF, for the last three years. He is now part of the academic faculty at the Canadian Forces College. The Battalion has about 300 Reserve officers and is based at Denison Armouries in North York. Its members were busy in COVID response, fighting floods in Ontario and some are now deployed on Operation REASSURANCE in Latvia.

Im said hundreds of recruits are being hired for different opportunities to serve their country. The 32 Canadian Brigade Group employs 3,000 soldiers and 14 units in the GTA, with 32 Service Battalion being one of them. The CAF starting pay has risen to \$127 daily for non-commissioned members and that increases to \$185 daily for trained positions, as cooks, vehicle or weapons technicians, according to the force's website. The military pay increases by rank and time served as a top Major General can earn up to \$590 plus daily, according to the site. The CAF also covers full benefits, including health support and casualty services to its full time staff, provides a pension for time served, education and training and helps with military housing. Carney in August vowed to meet NATO's defence spending target of two per cent of gross domestic product this year. The government has committed \$8.7 billion for defence spending; including \$370 million for the Communications Security Establishment (CSE). Increased funds will go towards better compensation; health care and infrastructure for personnel; new equipment such as aircraft, armed vehicles and ammunition.



MEMBERS OF the 32 Service Battalion based at Denison Armouries..

The government is also expanding the Canadian Coast Guard and moving it under the Department of National Defence; repairing and maintaining existing ships, aircraft and other assets; and developing new drones and sensors to monitor the sea floor and the Arctic. They are also looking at purchasing new submarines from Germany. The CAF consists of about 68,000 active personnel and 27,000 reserve personnel, with about 5,000 Canadian Rangers. If you are a Canadian citizen, 17 years or older, and interested in enlisting call 416-200-ARMY (2769) or e-mail 32cbgrecruiting@forces.gc.ca or visit www.canada.ca/en/army

This is Cyber Month and how to stay safe



October is deemed Cyber Security Awareness Month or Cyber Month to alert the public of cyber security and how to protect yourself online.

Here are some simple tips that you must follow to be fraud smart and prevent yourself of being scammed by criminals on the Internet.

Police warn that you should never share your PIN or passwords for your computers; create strong passwords by using upper and lower case, numbers and special characters.

It is recommended that you use anti-malware and anti-virus solutions and firewalls to block threats.

Avoid opening suspicious links and attachments; never respond to phishing e-mails and enable multi-factor authentication.

If you are shopping online make sure the website you're buying from is secure. Cyber criminals will often create spoofed websites that are made to mimic legitimate retailers.

You can identify a fake site by looking for suspicious signs like: deals that are too good to be true; typos in the URL; pixie-related company logos and images; unlocked or crossed out padlock icon at the front of the URL.

Also stay away from a URL starting with http. A secure encrypted website should use https.

And remember that a free gift is too good to be true. If you're being "gifted" an all-inclusive trip to the tropics, being "transferred" thousands of dollars or "receiving" high amounts of money in electronic gift cards, it's likely a scam.

Finally, clear your cache and your browsing history when you're finished browsing so that you don't leave a record on your computer of any login IDs, passwords, banking information or other sensitive data. Log out of your accounts when you are done.



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Long Branch church clothing the community



WOMEN CHECKING out free clothing and other items at a popular program on Fridays at the Long Branch Baptist Church. The program has been operating for decades.

clothing at an outlet at Long Branch Baptist Church, at 3381 Lake Shore Blvd. W. There is usually a line-up outside the church waiting for the mostly garments hanging neatly on racks in a large room. The program has helped thousands of at risk people in 40 years of operation.

The patrons are allowed into the room in groups of 14 for about 20 minutes and are free to take the pieces they can use.

The mood is friendly and most of the people know each other. They are provided with coffee and bring large bags for the clothing. They can obtain permission to take items for their children or close family members.

“We know most of the people by name who come in here,” program coordinator Olga says. “Right now with the weather getting cold people are looking for coats, jackets, boots, hats or gloves.”

A large amount of the families are new to Canada and many are staying in shelters, with some unhouse.

She said they are very appreciative of the help and learn of the program from social agencies. “Many of the people who we see are newcomers or those facing difficulties in their lives,” Olga explained. “They are from all over and speak different languages.”

Pastor ‘Bob’ Miner said those seeking warm clothing are from a range of countries.

“A couple years ago we had many Nigerian refugees and they have now moved on and we are



SUPER VOLUNTEER NERISSA has been volunteering at the Long Branch Baptist Church for almost 50 years. The front door of the church with clothing outside. (below). **Staff photos.**

seeing other groups seeking help now,” Miner observed. Nerissa, at 88, has been volunteering at the church since 1974, almost getting to 50 years.

“I am part of the church congregation and I want to help people,” Nerissa said. “We all live in the save community.”

Another volunteer Robert, aka as ‘The Food Man,’ today brought a box with bananas, potatoes, baby food and other items to feed the hungry.

“I have been doing this for years,” he said. “Whenever see items at a good price I pick them up.”

As he spoke a senior brought in a bag filled with socks to help stock the shelves.

The clothing outlet are in need of coats, boots, socks, hats and other items

for use in the cold weather.

The items can be left in a bag outside the front door of the church.



Olga Shevchenko and other Long Branch church volunteers have been working hard to outfit hundreds of needy area residents and newcomer families with free clothing.

Every Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. Shevchenko, with Pastor Robert Miner, Nerissa and other volunteers distribute the donated clean and gently used and free



PROGRAM COORDINATOR Olga Shevchenko and Pastor Bob Miner helping new families. **Staff photos.**

Former MP Jean Augustine turns 88 and still giving back to her community



STILL ACTIVE JEAN AUGUSTINE with Jasmin Dooh (centre) from LAMP CHC with Rita Cox, formerly of Parkdale Public Library. **Courtesy photo.**

Happy Birthday Jean Augustine and may you live to see many more.

Friends and family members gathered on September 6 to celebrate the 88th birthday of former Etobicoke MP and Dr. Jean Augustine in a party at the Harbourfront Centre Theatre.

The evening was part of the CaribbeanTales International Film Festival’s 20th anniversary featured three inspiring short films and a performance by Pan Fantasy Steelband.

A Jean Augustine Excellence Award was presented to Steelpan Ambassador Wendy Jones, followed by a toast to Augustine.

The former politician and community activist said she was happy to be alive and to have helped hundreds of girls as founder of the Jean Augustine Centre for the Empowerment of Young Women, based on Portland Street. She is also active in the community and still appears at many public events.

Augustine in 1993 became the first Black woman elected to the House of Commons, as the MP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, a riding she was re-elected to three times.

She held a number of portfolios in Ottawa, including as Parliamentary Secretary to then Prime Minister Jean Chrétien; Minister of Multiculturalism and the Status of Women; Chair of the Foreign Affairs and International Trade committee; Chair of the Human Rights Committee, three-time Chair of the National Women’s Caucus. The long-time South Etobicoke resident was instrumental in Parliament in having February designated as Black History Month in Canada.

Augustine in 2007 was appointed by the province as the first Fairness Commissioner, to advocate for Canadians with foreign professional credentials. She has a Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community & Diaspora named after her at York University, in addition to a secondary school in Peel Region and a park in Humber Bay Shores.

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VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATE the 7th Annual Long Branch Tree Fest’s successful event on September 21 at Marie Curtis Park. Hundreds of residents visited the festival that featured live music, food, childrens’ activities, food and comradery. There were exhibits, talks and lots of information about the beautiful trees in our community.

Residents vow to fight second shelter in the area



JOE MIHEVC

Etobicoke Centre residents vow to fight a proposed 65-bed women's City shelter to be located on a busy street. And the City has hired former long-time Toronto and York City councillor Joe Mihevc to spearhead relations with the community.

Concerned residents say the proposed shelter will be located in a well-travelled shopping area in their community and are calling for a public meeting and that the project be paused.

Tempers are flaring as irate residents say they haven't been able to obtain much information on the planned shelter, which will be located at 3838 Bloor Street W., near Kipling Ave.

Residents were told the shelter will be located in a 'commercially sensitive' area. The building was a former retirement home that has to be converted to a shelter. City officials faced a similar backlash in New Toronto with a plan to locate a 50-bed seniors' home on Third Street, due to a lack of public consultations and concerns from residents. These two are among 20 shelters being built by 2033 by the City. Ward 2 Councillor Stephen Holyday has brought forward a motion to City Council seeking more information and a pause in the building of the planned shelter.

The matter was considered by an Economic and Community Development Committee on September 16 and is to go before City Council at its meeting on October 8, 9 and 10.

The City on its website said they have secured the property for use as a municipal shelter that will provide critical services to help women experiencing homelessness gain stability and work toward permanent housing. Staff said the City is committed to working with the local community to support the success of the site and has hired

Community Engagement Facilitator Joe Mihevc Consulting to lead engagement. "These sites will help respond to demand, stabilize the shelter system and allow the City to move out of more costly temporary hotels, achieving important cost savings," according to the site. Holyday is seeking public consultation before the project can go ahead.

He said City staff stepped up their efforts to speed up the real estate procurement process after receiving his letter. "This information came as a surprise, and was in complete defiance of my response letter," the motion stated. "New shelters which omit public consultation in the early stages and commence under heavy opposition in the community start out with a disadvantage." Holyday said the proposed facility is not in the 'best interests of the constituents of Ward 2.'



THIS PROPERTY at 3838 Bloor St. W., is the site of a proposed women's shelter.



NEW TORONTO residents in a rally in the summer about the planned Third Street seniors shelter that sparked mixed feelings in the community.

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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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Plaza face demo in Long Branch

Stiffer fines and bylaws for illegal tree removal in the City



THIS 39-STOREY CONDO is proposed for Long Branch as a plaza and some small businesses have been approved for demolition so the construction can proceed.

A large demolition project to build a 39 storey condo may soon be underway in Long Branch.

An application has been filed to demolish a number of properties across from the Long Branch GO Station to build a 39-storey high-rise condo on the site, with a small park.

The proposal was considered by the Etobicoke York Community Council on September 17 and will lead to the demolition of 3807-3815 and 3819-3829

Lake Shore Blvd. W., at Browns Line. A final decision on the project will be made by City Council at a meeting in October. The site is comprised of four two-storey buildings containing a mix of commercial uses at grade and residential uses on the second floor, inclusive of 14 existing rental units. It also includes a small two-storey commercial plaza. Community Council will also consider another

application by the developers to amend zoning by-laws to build a condo tower. The proposal calls for the construction of a 39-storey mixed use building with 490 dwelling units, including 14 rental units. The base building is proposed at six storeys, including a mezzanine floor. It includes a Tenant Assistance Plan that will place impacted tenants in other units at similar rents and provide financial compensation to mitigate their hardship.

The proposal includes parking for just 72 vehicles, compared to the over 558 bicycle parking spots, including two pick up and drop off areas and two loading docks. "This site is within approximately 250 metres from the Long Branch GO station entrance, and roughly 150 metres from the



AN 11-STOREY building is also planned across from the Long Branch GO Station.

future east station entrance," according to a City report. City staff said they are satisfied that the proposed height fits within the emerging context of the Lake Shore Boulevard West Avenue area.

"The proposed development incorporates numerous public realm improvements, which provide a high-quality conceptual streetscape design and pedestrian experience," according to the report.

Area improvements would include wide nine-metre sidewalks, more space for street trees, planters, patios, street furniture and bicycle parking along Lake Shore Blvd. W.

City staff said some roads may have to be widened and traffic lights in the area optimized to better control a busy intersection. They do not expect any major congestion issues.

"The report concludes that the projected traffic generated by the development will have minimal impacts on area intersections and can therefore be accommodated on the adjacent road network," the developers warn.

The Long Branch Go Station is being expanded and features being added to handle the hundreds of new residents who will soon be moving into the community.

A long-awaited City survey is looking at ways to enforce Toronto's tree canopy laws through stiffer fines or bylaws. There was a



BEAUTIFUL Long Branch tree.

public meeting to obtain information on the Toronto Tree Survey on September 17 at the Long Branch Library.

City staff in a report have been asked to strengthen protections for Toronto's tree canopy by improving enforcement tools, clarifying how tree bylaws relate to building permits and exploring public transparency around violations.

The City is considering higher fines for tree bylaw contraventions, as the illegal removal of healthy trees. The concern surfaced after a beloved decades old tree in Leaside was removed by a developer to build a home sparking outrage from the community.

A dedicated fund is being considered to support the care of mature trees on private property, specifically those identified as Distinctive Trees, which are more than 61 centimetre in diameter. Qualifying private property owners would be eligible for an incentive that would help offset the cost of maintenance.

The report noted that 55 per cent of the city's trees are located on private property and there are no initiatives that help with the maintenance of mature trees on private land.

The City is also exploring changes to better protect trees during new development to encourage builders in residential areas to keep more trees that are protected under bylaws, by giving them more flexibility in how they design buildings to preserve protected trees.

"If a new home needs to be moved closer to the street to save a tree in the backyard, and that change doesn't meet current zoning rules, the City could approve it," council was told. "The City would support this kind of exception because it helps protect a bylaw protected tree."



SOME OF THE small businesses that have been approved for demolition.

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Handmade Inuit art in demand local dealer says

Former top stockbroker Gary Notar love the Inuit people and their beautiful artwork. He and wife, Donna, have one of the largest collection of Inuit art in Canada. The couple have been living in Long Branch for decades and operate GTA Inuit Art, which purchases mostly high-end Inuit carved sculptures of people and outdoor scenes for resale. The intricate pieces are painstakingly carved by skilled artisans from Cape Dorset, in



ART LOVER Gary Notar

Nunavut. His showroom has shelves of Inuit carvings of all sizes and price range, made by a host of artists.

"All the pieces are hand-carved by talented artists from one of 25 Inuit communities across Canada," Notar explained. "When you purchase Inuit art you are providing an economic benefit to our citizens in the north."



THE POPULAR Inukshuk sculpture that brings good luck. Courtesy photos.

The artists use locally-mined Serpentine stone, or marble, to carve their art, which are sold to corporate clients for gifts or awards, or to the public as presents, or those travelling abroad who want to take a gift of Canadiana for their host.

"Inuit art makes a great first impression," he said. "Perhaps you need a retirement gift or award for a valued employee or perhaps you need a special wedding gift." Cape Dorset is said to be Canada's premier carving community. Sculptures are the main forms of Inuit art, and popular pieces include the dancing bear or the cross-like or good luck Inukshuk sculptures. "Many Inuit carvers practice direct carving and do not sketch their subject before carving," he noted. Notar is familiar with many of the Inuit artists, and credits multimedia artist Nuna Parr as being one of the popular Inuit artisan at this time. "Parr began carving at a young age as a way to earn extra income and had an affinity for wildlife, rendering them in soapstone," according to a biography. "His careful observation of arctic wildlife serves



THE Dancing Bear

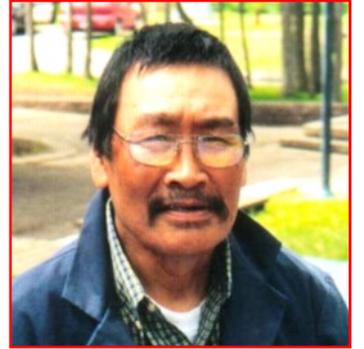
him well in his art practice with his realistic rendering of animals."

Parr is well-known for a large Serpentine sculpture of a seal with two pups which weighs 50 pounds and sells for more than \$23,000. The Notars' are active in the community as volunteers with Food for Now and recently won a LAMP CHC Awards of Merit for their work in the community.

"A lot of time goes to carving one of those pieces," he said. "It takes many hours of work to create a piece." The couple appreciate hard work as Notar worked previously as 'one of the top stockbrokers in Canada,' before retiring to work in art.

There are about 50,000 Inuit in Canada, who live in 53 communities across the Arctic and to the south.

Nunavut is the largest and northernmost territory of Canada, which encompasses more than two million square kilometres and has a population of almost 37,000, of which 80 per cent are Inuit.



INUIT ARTIST Nuna Parr



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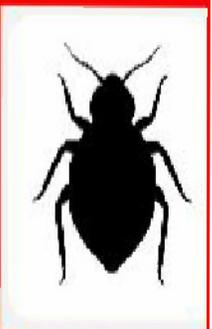
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Church helping the homeless in New Toronto get by



UNHOUSED Aleksandar Sopcek with Pastor Jacqueline Daley, of St. Margaret's church.

Distinguished musician Aleksandar Sopcek never thought he would end up homeless in New Toronto. Sopcek, 65, who is from Serbia, has been homeless and receiving help for the last month from an adult drop-in program operated by LAMP Community Health Centre at St. Margaret's New Toronto Church, on Sixth Street.

The father of three plays the drums, bass and sings. He has recorded an album, shot a documentary that was aired on television and performed before crowds in European countries for about 50 years. On this day he was playing the guitar and singing for more than 100 people who attended St. Margaret's annual BBQ on the church lawn.

At one time he performed for a Serbian band called Hazari, on New Balkan Music, which in 2003 produced a tune *Poreklo Slovena* on one of their albums. The band was popular in Europe and performed at jazz festivals in Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Belgrade, Greece and other countries.

They also played at charity gigs for the International Red Cross Organization, Iranian Cultural Centre, Serbian

Orthodox Church and other organizations. After moving to Toronto in 1988, he shot a documentary called *Into the Night* that was aired on TV Ontario and is available on You Tube.

Sopcek also holds a degree in Belgrade Academy for drawing and design. He shows a concrete floor outside the front door of the church where he, and another unhoused man, Wayne, have been sleeping for the last two nights. "I got soaked the other night because of the rain," Sopcek said. "I have been looking for a place to stay but it's very expensive."

He is taking advantage of the hot sun to dry his clothing on the lawn. Nearby is a suitcase filled with his documents and other worldly possessions.

Pastor Jacqueline Daley said unhoused people drop in daily seeking help from the church. "Somebody has to help these people," she said. "You just can't turn them away."

The church has been targeted by some residents recently for the program that helps the unhoused, as some of those seeking help are sleeping on the lawn. The Bishop had to issue a statement stressing his church cannot turn people away who are seeking help.



ALEKSANDAR SOPCEK entertaining at the church's BBQ.

New parkland coming to Hydro One Corridor lands



THE HYDRO CORRIDOR can be used for gardens, dogs off leash spaces or picnic areas.

City officials are working to create a park with paved trails on a seven hectare grassy strip of Hydro One corridor that runs between Islington Avenue east to Royal York Road.

The 60-metre-wide corridor splits into two parcels at the eastern end, near Royal York, and is used for recreational purposes by the community.

Staff is examining if an East West Hydro Corridor Linear Park can be built with a paved three-metre all-purpose trail from Islington to Royal York, according to a report by the Parks and Recreation Dept.

Also being considered for possible use is dogs off-leash spaces, allotment garden opportunities, or picnic areas. The plan has to be approved by City Council and there has to be a public consultation process.

"This small corridor currently provides informal pedestrian connections visible through a network of well-worn foot paths," according to the report. "Many of the private residential rear-yard fences backing onto the corridor have gates for easy access to enjoy this quiet greenspace."

The grounds are filled with green grass, trees and shrubbery. The corridor houses two sets of Hydro One transmission lines in the centre of the greenspace and two Toronto Hydro transmission lines on wooden poles along the northern and southern edges.

The funds to build the park is expected to come from an Etobicoke Community Benefit \$2.9 million fund.

The City of Toronto leases about 485 hectares, or 1,200 acres, of Hydro One corridors from Infrastructure Ontario for recreation purposes across the city. The lands support a network of multi-use trails and a variety of recreational uses as well as meadow re-naturalization projects.

There are 13 of the corridors in Toronto, mostly dominated by high-voltage hydro transmission towers, but occasionally sharing space for oil or gas pipelines. They stretch a total length of 160 kilometres and covers an area of almost 1,400 hectares.

The project will require environmental and archaeological investigations, community consultation and full detailed plans, according to the City. Once formally approved by Hydro One, these lands will be added to the Master License Agreement and construction can occur.



MUCH OF the Hydro land can be used for recreational purposes.

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RIDLEY FUNERAL HOME

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

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.



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Annual Foodie Event at Cloverdale Mall a blast



THE 22 FOOD TRUCKS did a thriving business at the RELISH Foodie Event at Cloverdale Mall. **Staff photos.**

Area food lovers were treated to quite an assortment of tasty foods and crafts at the annual RELISH The Foodie Event at Cloverdale Mall. Some 22 food trucks selling everything from watermelon lemonade, tacos, jerk chicken to

There were brisk lines outside most of the food trucks at the September 19 to 21 event, which carried a range of diversified foods for all tastes. In the tent, Barbara Singer was one of the small craftspeople peddling their mostly home-made goods. She was selling her Singers Caesar Mix, which she said is the best in Canada. Singer was also extolling the benefits of tasty snacks made by Superior Meats in Barrie that features spicy pepperettes; each contains the meats of either crocodile, kangaroo, boar, elk or other animals.



BARBARA SINGER with her meaty kangaroo and crocodile tasting pepperettes.

shrimp dumplings lined a large section of the mall parking lot, which featured a large white tent with more than 30 vendors peddling local products.



This was food truck owner Samer's fifth time at the event and today he has a lineup of people awaiting his thirst-quenching watermelon drinks.

He drills a hole in a small watermelon; uses a mixer to blend the contents and then adds lemonade to the mix. It sells for \$15 each.

"People love these when it's hot," he said. "We have two boxes of small watermelons ready to go. They will all sell out."

JUICE VENDOR SAMER (left) makes a thirst quenching watermelon and lemonade drink that is popular on a hot day.

"They are well-blended, tasty and people love them," she said. "The pepperettes sell well as they are made out of exotic meats which are unique for people who like something different."

Closeby is Chef Rachel Adjei, of The Abibiman Project, who makes more than a dozen African spices, four teas and a coffee blended with cinnamon and clove that people like.

"I make spices from 13 African countries," said Adjei, who is originally from Ghana. "I sell a lot of spices and people seems to like the flavours."



CHEF RACHEL ADJEI with some of the many African spices and teas that she makes for sale.



SOME OF THE TROPHY WINNERS of the annual Etoibicoke Ribfest 2025 held on September 19 to 21 at Colonel Samuel Smith Park, which attracted more than 10,000 people who enjoyed world-class ribs, good live music and had fun. The trophies were awarded for best rib, sauce, brisk and other categories. **Staff photo.**

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City staff now eligible for gender affirming care as part of their benefits



The City of Toronto is now extending its generous health benefits to staff requiring gender-affirming care. The care improvement benefit was adopted by a General Government Committee on September 19 and will affect a range of staffers. "The City is improving care, services and quality of life for Two-Spirit, Lesbian Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and gender- and sexuality-diverse (2SLGBTQI+) residents living in

long-term care homes, and for Toronto seniors, with ground-breaking programs and initiatives," according to a City motion.

"This process enables the City to maintain a strong, comprehensive coverage that reflects the changing needs of our workforce," staff said.

The motion was on the agenda under the heading of "Trans-Inclusive Benefits: Expanding Health Benefits for Toronto Employees to Include Gender-Affirming Care."

The changes to the benefits plan apply to unionized employees as a result of collective bargaining and required City Council approval. The Toronto Civic Employees Union Local 416 and Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 79 now provide benefits not covered by OHIP.

"This process helps the City maintain strong, comprehensive coverage that reflects the changing needs of our workforce and community leaders," according to the report.

Some of the services covered includes: laser hair removal, chest or breast contouring, facial feminization, vaginal dilators, face-eyelid lift, lip-check fillers, hair transplant or implants, nose surgery liposuction or gluteal lift among other treatments.

Also offered are products as hormone therapy, electrolysis, breast or penile prosthesis, wigs, gaffer underwear, chest binders, voice classes, medical-related travel expenses and "leaves of absence."

The gender-affirming benefit is estimated to cost taxpayers about \$420,000, according to a City document.

Ward 2 Councillor Stephen Holyday said the new entitlements originated in the union bargaining process.

"Gender-affirming benefits have been negotiated into the two new collective agreements for city employees" Holyday said. "...these benefits will probably be extended to non-union (and management) staff."

The City of Toronto has the largest amount of employees in Canadian municipal governments with more than 44,000 workers.

Elisa House Women shelter to get larger, new facilities in condo



THE ELIAS HOUSE shelter is set to get new space for women in a proposed Mimico condo.

A long-time Mimico womens' shelter may soon be housed in a large new office in a condo that is being built.

City Council will decide at a meeting on October 8 and 9 if a Municipal Capital Facility Agreement can be reached so Elisa House Women's Shelter can move from its 60 Newcastle Street facility into a new seven-story building being built on the same site.

"The new shelter proposed on site will replace the existing Elisa House shelter along Newcastle Street," a City report said.

Council last April approved a massive development at 21-31 Windsor Street, 18 Buckingham Street, 60 Newcastle street and 95 Portland Streets. Work is underway on the multi-year project.

The City approved an application to permit three buildings on three development blocks

to include two towers at 36 and 42 storeys, with 933 dwelling units. There will also be a 14-storey mixed use building and the seven storey shelter.

Elisa House's new 36,000 square feet space will contain 36 supportive dwelling units and 32 emergency shelter beds and 72 shelter beds.

The shelter is owned by the City and operated by Toronto Shelter and Support Services. It caters to single homeless women 18 years and older, who may be suffering from addiction, mental health or housing issues.

The agency opened in December 2001 as a combination transitional housing program and emergency shelter for women. Now it operates as an emergency shelter.

The development will also include an 868 square metre park, and a 240 square metre publicly-accessible space along Newcastle Street.

The City said it will lose about \$760,500 in development charges for the space to be used as a shelter.



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Firefighters will be missed



FIREFIGHTER DAVE PALMER

Two veteran Etobicoke firemen will be sadly missed by members of the fire fighting community. The retired Toronto Fire Service

Palmer was able to enjoy a very fulfilling retirement with Jean, and their many memories include those at their cottage and trips to Texas to escape the cold winter months. They never slowed down. Dancing, curling, gardening and many trips to the theatre. What a wonderful life together. "Though our hair has turned to silver, our love is pure gold," Dave and Jean said. A celebration in memory of Palmer's life was held on September 13. The firefighting community also lost Toronto Fire District Chief Manick Noormahamud who passed away on September 18. He was 64. He had served three decades with Toronto Fire Services.

firefighter Dave Palmer was well known by many in the Etobicoke community. Palmer passed away July 28 from lung cancer at the age of 86. He died with his family at his side at a hospice in Alliston. He started with the Etobicoke Fire in October 1965 and retired in 1996, according to his obituary. The fireman was a proud and dedicated member of the Etobicoke Fire Department. He was a Firefighter/Captain for 31 years. He was the beloved husband and best friend of wife Jean for 66 plus years and loving father of Dan, Gary, and Greg. Also missed by grandchildren Cory, Danny, Kayla, Kelsey and Brett.



DIST. CHIEF MANICK NOORMAHAMUD

Assembly Hall to get a facelift



The Assembly Hall at Colonel Samuel Smith Park is more than 125 years old and is slated for a long-awaited \$2 million facelift. The City is in the process of hiring a company to conduct heritage restoration for masonry and windows of the Assembly Hall, which was built in 1898. A report to a City Council Bid Award Panel estimates that it will cost about \$2 million to perform the work on the previously restored building, which is on the grounds of Humber College, at Lake Shore Blvd. W. and Kipling Avenue. The contract is expected to be issued later this year and end in June 2026. The historic Assembly Hall was built as a multipurpose building for the then Lakeshore Psychiatric Institute. The main room on the second floor was used for dances, religious services and plays. The first floor also originally contained a store and an office for the storekeeper. A beauty parlour was added in the 1950s. As with the rest of the hospital, the Assembly Hall was closed in 1979 and the site is occupied by Humber College for community use.

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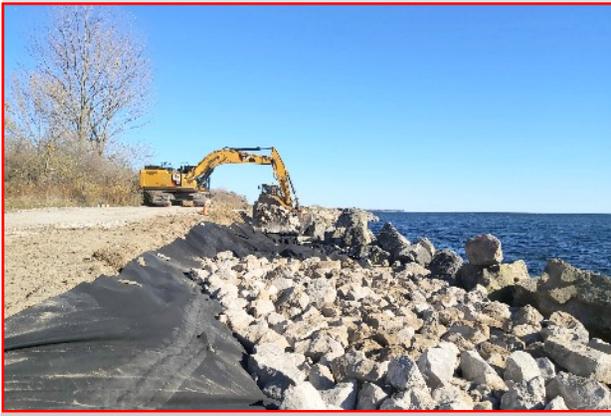
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Western beach breakwaters in bad shape and need help



THE WESTERN BEACHES breakwaters (top, bottom) is in poor to terrible condition and in dire need of repair.

The Western Beaches breakwaters from Humber River to Ontario Place was built more than 100 years ago is in poor shape and has to be restored, warns a City study.

It said there are five locations, mostly across from Sunnyside Beach and the Boulevard Club, that pose a threat. The section totals about 580 linear metres, 'where conditions are serious

with a high risk of failure within an estimated 3 to 5 years.'

An assessment by City staff and Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) last July and August stated there are no areas where imminent failure risk is extreme but immediate stabilization is required. The report was considered by the City's Executive Committee on September 29.

"These locations require plans for repair or rehabilitation within five years," according to the report. "Most of these five locations are within the length of breakwaters that City staff have identified as likely under federal ownership." Negotiations are ongoing with Ottawa in regards of ownership.

Staff wrote that restoration work must start next year as it takes a long time to design, obtain permits and construct the infrastructure in high-risk locations. City staff are developing a repair, rehabilitation program for the high-risk Western Beaches breakwater locations, including funding requirements; a state of good repair management program and will report back next year.

The study said "32 linear metres of breakwater (near Ontario Place) that is owned by the City is in high-risk condition."

It noted the remainder of the breakwater structures are in 'poor or fair condition, with a few locations in relatively good condition' due to repairs or reconstruction in the last 20 years.

The Western Beaches breakwaters extends about 4.1 km from the Humber River to Ontario Place. Most of the structures have deteriorated, with partial failures that occurred in 1990, 2006, and 2011.

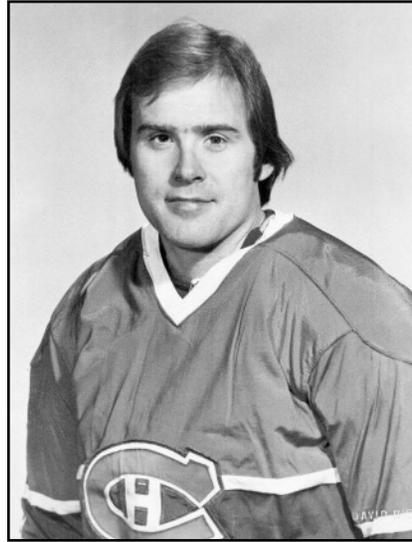
"These breakwaters are critical for shoreline protection and are an important asset supporting many western waterfront activities and marine users," the report explained. "The structures continue to decline and need attention."

It will cost millions to repair the breakwater as full rehabilitation can cost between \$80,000 and \$100,000 per metre.



In the Community

By TOM GODFREY



A YOUNG KEN DRYDEN

Many of us are still mourning the loss of proud Etobian and Hall of Fame hockey goaltender Ken Dryden.

Dryden, who many saw in the community from time to time, helped the Montreal Canadiens win six Stanley Cup titles in the 1970s. He passed away last September 5 at the age of 78.

He would show up at a New Toronto subway sandwich shop once in a while to chat with owner George.

"He (Dryden) was a normal guy," George recalled. "He would come for something to eat whenever he was in the area."

Dryden was born in Hamilton and grew up in Etobicoke. His parents the late Murray and Margaret were well-known in the community for their charity work.

The elder Drydens in 1970 founded the charity Sleeping Children Around the World (SCAW), whose mission is to "give bed kits to needy children in developing countries."

After the family moved to Etobicoke, he attended Humber Valley Elementary School and then Etobicoke Collegiate Institute (ECI) from 1960-1965. At ECI, Dryden played basketball and in hockey he progressed to the junior-B level.

He developed his goaltending skills playing with the Etobicoke Indians of the Metro Junior B Hockey League and the Humber Valley Packers of the Metro Toronto Hockey League. His older brother Dave was no slouch either. He was a long-time NHL and WHA goalie, who died in 2022 at the age of 81.

Dryden was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1983. His sweater number 29 was retired by the Canadiens in 2007 and he was inducted into the Ontario Sports Hall of Fame in 2011. He was inducted into the Etobicoke Sports Hall of Fame in 1994.

The 6-foot 4-inches tall goalie was a cornerstone of Canada's 1972 Summit Series team that defeated the Soviet Union, starting in goal in the decisive 6-5 victory in Game 8. The athlete later wrote a book *Face-Off at the Summit*; a diary about the series. He would go on to write six books.

He also worked as a TV hockey commentator at three Olympic Winter Games and in 1997 was hired as president of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

After hockey, he was politician, lawyer, businessman, author and inducted as an Officer of the Order of Canada. He was elected as a Liberal MP from 2004 to 2011 and Minister of Social Development from 2004 to 2006.

He also taught at various universities across Canada, while holding his seat in Toronto's York Centre riding in 2006 when the Liberals were ousted, and again in 2008, but lost in 2011.

"Ken Dryden was the personification of excellence in everything he did," then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reflected in a statement that captured the sentiment of many Canadians. "His legacy extends far beyond his legendary hockey career to his meaningful impact on our national policies and public discourse."

"His advocacy for national childcare wasn't just policy work—it was a passionate belief that Canada could do better for its families and children," noted Karina Gould, a former Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. "Many of the frameworks we operate under today bear his intellectual fingerprints."

Ken may be physically gone from South Etobicoke, but his spirit will never be forgotten. He is survived by his wife Lynda, their two daughters and four grandchildren.

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

Saving Money with RATTAN GANDHI

This article begins by addressing the prevailing economic uncertainty, including tariffs, inflation, and increasing unemployment. Things one cannot manage but one can be sure of managing one's finances. In this article I will be referring to budgets a lot.

I will attempt to reflect upon the various topics regarding day-to-day spending covering grocery shopping, transportation, kids' expenses, travel and finances services and taxes. Here are some tips that the readers might find valuable some maybe doable and some may not apply to your lifestyle.

The first topic I will start with is grocery shopping. The key here is never go shopping on an empty stomach (people tend to buy more on an empty stomach. Look for house brands they are cheaper than the brand names without sacrificing quality.

Compare prices on a per unit of measurement. It is all on the label or displayed on the supermarket shelves. Watch out for some pre-packaged goods like precut vegetables and grated cheese. You save by using a knife or grate instead.

Remember, meat is more expensive and you can get your proteins from beans and other legumes.

Let's talk about transportation, travel by bike, save on transportation and get some exercise. If owning a bike is an issue, use bike share offered by the city.

If your car usage is lower, inform your insurance provider to reduce your premium. If you are buying a car comparison shop and find a less expensive model, maybe a hybrid or an electric vehicle. Used cars are always a good option from a third party or a dealer. A dealer will sell you a certified car meaning it has been through various points of inspection, though more expensive but will give you a peace of mind.

If driving, reduce your fuel consumption by lowering your speed or easing on the gas pedal when coming to a stop or accelerating. This will lower your gas expenses.

Another option in regards to transportation maybe using public transit or carpooling. Entertainment- Internet, TV and cell phone bills. Review your cell phone bills, mobile data is one

key area. Renegotiate your cell phone plan regularly. Need another phone how about a second-

hand phone, resist the temptations to buy the latest phone.

Bundle your services TV, Internet and cell phone and reduce your monthly payout.

Look at all the steaming services that you have subscribed to, are you getting your money's worth.

Eating out or using delivery services can be an expensive, take the morning coffee, compare the cost, home-made or using high end coffee outlets. A few dollars every day certainly add up.

Now apply the same percentage cost differential to eating out, there is definitely a few dollars that can be added to your savings and financial independence in the future.

Kids' expenses, how about home-made toys or second-hand toys. Clothes consider thrift stores;

kids grow up fast so why buy new clothes. Sporting equipment, use speciality stores they offer rentals and give you credit in exchange for other equipment when kids have outgrown.

Schooling, buy used textbooks from the institution and or bookstores, maybe consider digital versions. Keeping in mind the future, contribute to a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) and avail the eligible government grants.

Various products or services offer discounts with a student card make sure it is always with the student.

Financial services, avail student packages offered by various financial institutions and other packages given your day-to-day banking activities. Any savings are they being invested regularly and optimally, talk to your friend circle and family for insight.

Taxes are you contributing to ones' Registered Retired Savings Plan (RRSP), or Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) to the maximum within the constraints of ones' cash flow.

The newly-announced First Home Savings Account (FHSA) is a great plan if you are aspiring to be a first-time home buyer. Other items to consider at tax time are donations, medical (though limited), child care and digital news subscription, these are some of the items that come into mind.

All the points I mentioned should be included in a good budget.

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

There's a persistent misconception I've encountered throughout my career—one that deserves to be corrected. Many Canadians, understandably influenced by the media coverage of the American justice system, assume our judges are appointed based on political loyalty or ideology. They imagine our courts divided along partisan lines, with rulings shaped by the party that appointed the judge. That may be true in the United States, but it's not how things work here in Canada.

I know this firsthand. I was appointed to the bench by an NDP government, despite having spent most of my professional life working under Liberal and Conservative administrations. Our appointments aren't about politics—it was about merit, experience, and a demonstrated commitment to public service. And that's precisely why I'm writing this article: to clarify how Canada's judicial system operates.

Let's start with the comparison that causes so much confusion. In the United States, federal judges—including Supreme Court Justices—are nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. These appointments are often highly politicized, with nominees grilled on their ideological leanings and past decisions. Once confirmed, judges serve for life, and their rulings can reflect the political values of the administration that appointed them.

State-level judges in the U.S. are often elected, sometimes in partisan contests. Campaigns are funded, endorsements are sought, and may feel pressure to align with public opinion or party platforms. It emphasizes democratic accountability—but it also opens the door to political influence and polarization.

Even more concerning is the lack of binding ethical oversight at the highest level. Until recently, the U.S. Supreme Court operated without a formal code of conduct. Justices were not bound by external rules and were not subject to independent review. Only after public outcry over allegations of undisclosed gifts and luxury travel did the Court adopt a code of ethics in 2023—but even then, it remains self-policed. The justices themselves interpret and enforce their own standards.

Canada's approach is fundamentally different. Judges here are appointed, not elected. At the federal level, candidates are vetted by independent Judicial Advisory Committees composed of legal professionals, judges, and lay persons. These committees assess candidates based on legal excellence, integrity, and professional experience—not political affiliation.

At the provincial level, the process is equally rigorous. Ontario, in particular, has earned praise for its transparent and merit-based system. The Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee publicly advertises vacancies, interviews candidates, and submits shortlists to the Attorney General. The committee includes a majority of lay members, ensuring that appointments reflect the public interest—not political patronage.

But what truly sets Canada apart is our commitment to judicial ethics. All judges in Canada are governed by strict ethical standards, overseen by independent judicial councils. These bodies—such as the Canadian Judicial Council at the federal level and the Ontario Judicial Council provincially—investigate complaints, enforce codes of conduct, and ensure accountability. Judges are not left to police themselves. They are held to high standards by impartial bodies that protect the integrity of the bench and the public's confidence in the justice system.

There are many examples of bipartisanship. Chief Justice Richard Wagner was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada in 2012 by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, a Conservative. Five years later, Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promoted him to Chief Justice. Two leaders from opposing parties—yet both recognized Wagner's qualifications and leadership.

Or take Patrick LeSage, one of Ontario's most respected jurists. He was appointed as a judge in 1975 by Progressive Conservative Premier Bill Davis. Nearly two decades later, NDP Premier Bob Rae promoted him to Chief Justice. Again, the decision was based on merit, not politics.

Canada's judiciary is designed to transcend political cycles. Judges are chosen for their ability to uphold the law, not advance a party's agenda.

The Supreme Court of Canada rarely splits along ideological lines. Many decisions are unanimous or near-unanimous. Judges appointed by different governments often agree, reflecting a shared commitment to legal principles rather than political ideology.

Ontario's model is often called the "gold standard" in judicial appointments. And for good reason. It limits political interference, promotes diversity, and ensures that judges are selected based on merit.

As someone who has gone through this process, I can attest to its fairness and integrity. The committee reviewed my qualifications, interviewed me, and made its recommendation without regard to my political history. That's how it should be.

In today's polarized world, it's easy to become cynical about institutions. But Canada's judiciary remains a beacon of impartiality. Judges are not political operatives—they are guardians of the rule of law.

When people confuse our system with the American model, they risk undermining that trust. They imagine judges as partisan actors, when in reality, we are bound by legal precedent, ethical standards, and a deep respect for justice.

I was appointed by an NDP government, but my career has spanned Liberal and Conservative administrations. I've worked with ministers from all parties, and I've seen firsthand how our system prioritizes competence over ideology. That's why I believe so strongly in its integrity—and why I felt compelled to write this article. We serve justice—not politics.

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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OCTOBER 8 DECLUTTERING MADE SIMPLE Speaker Plus speaker monthly series to help senior adults and their families by realtor **Selena Pollard** from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall, Branch 643, at 110 Jutland Road. For more e-mail info@thryveandco.ca

OCTOBER 9 THE ETOBICOKE GENEALOGY Group will be holding their meeting from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Richview Public Library, 1806 Islington Ave., for a presentation on how AI can be used to trace family history. Costs \$5. Contact Joanne at jjenn@rogers.com

OCTOBER 14 WEST TORONTO STAMP CLUB meets twice a month on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Fairfield Seniors Centre, 80 Lothian Ave., south of Islington and Bloor Street. The club was established in 1935 and would like to meet collectors or those who like to collect stamps. For more call Don at 416-621-9982.

OCTOBER 16, NOV. 20, DEC. 18 QUILTING GROUP third Thursday of every month join Sandra Kuzniak as she leads participants in making their own machine and hand-pieced quilts at Stonegate CHC, Unit 201, 10 Neighbourhood Lane. All levels welcome. Some quilting materials provided. To register e-mail health.promotion@stonegatechc.org or call 416-231-7070 ext. 307.

OCTOBER 18 FALL FEST 2025 Presented by Ward 3 Councillor Amber Morley at Fairfield Park, 90 Lothian Ave. from noon to 4 p.m. Participate in fall-themed activity. All ages welcome.

OCTOBER 18 & 19 ANNUAL LAKESHORE ART TRAIL as visual artists exhibit their artworks out of their

studios at 24th Annual Art Trail at the Small Arms Inspection Building, 1352 Lakeshore Rd. E.

OCTOBER 21 CHAT CAFÉ newcomers are invited to practice English, explore local opportunities and connect with others in a welcoming space from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at LAMP CHC. Meet new friends, share experiences or get involved in your neighbourhood. To register e-mail jasmind@lampchc.org

OCTOBER 25 REPAIR CAFÉ – Got a broken household item. Don't toss it. Repair it for free at Repair Café at LAMP CHC, 185 Fifth Street, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your small appliances, electronics, clothing, or jewellery. We're also seeking volunteer fixers to help and share your knowledge and help people reuse their appliances, clothing etc. Register with Jasmin: jasminD@lampchc.org or call 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

OCTOBER 25 AND 31 HALLOWEEN EVENTS Latin Ballroom dancing by The West-Way Dance Club in dress-up events at a Halloween Latin dance party on October 25 at 7 p.m. and Latin Halloween Fiesta on October 31 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 a.m., at 291 Evans Avenue. There will be door prizes and for best costume. Tickets required. For more visit www.thewestwayclub.ca

UNTIL OCTOBER 26 LAKEVIEW FARMERS MARKET every Sunday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for fresh local produce, baked goods, pantry staples, artisanal creations, and more in a vibrant, community-focused setting. Shop for a variety of warm treats at the live food booths. Taking place at the Small Arms Inspection Building, 1352 Lakeshore Rd E, Mississauga.

OCTOBER 28 SERVICE ONTARIO free seminar at Ridley Funeral Home, 3080 Lake Shore Blvd. W., for an overview of Ontario's Estate Administration Tax at 3 p.m. A Service Ontario representative will address the Administration Tax, how it is calculated, what assets are included and more. For more call 416-259-3705.

UNTIL OCTOBER 31 ART EXHIBITION free by local fine artist **Ann Hollingworth** at Mimico Centennial Library, at 47 Station Road, Mimico. The show demonstrates that libraries are a place of exploring and learning in other ways in addition to books. For more contact annehollingworth@gmail.com

EVERY MONDAY DANCE AND SWEAT Exercise Sessions join **Anny** for low-impact exercise and dance cardio yet high energy. Mondays 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. program runs until December 15 at Stonegate CHC, 10 Neighbourhood Lane or email health.promotion@stonegatechc.org or call 416-231-7070 ext. 307.

EVERY TUESDAY FUNCTIONAL FITNESS at 2:15 p.m. at LAMP CHC, 3rd Floor Community Room, for a high-energy, feel-good workout designed to keep you strong and moving. This class is also available online, features full-body movements that boost strength, balance, and coordination. To register contact jasmind@lampchc.org or Erica at 416 252 6491 ext. 257.

UNTIL TUESDAY UNTIL DECEMBER 2 YOGA with **Stephanie** for indoor yoga sessions from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Stonegate CHC, Trillium Room, 10 Neighbourhood Lane. Please bring your own mat. To register e-mail health.promotion@stonegatechc.org or call 416-231-7070 ext. 307.

OCTOBER 23 IS DEADLINE Calling all dance artists for Process Practice Dance Residency at Assembly Hall, which offers rehearsal and performance space and community engagement. Presented by the City of Toronto in partnership with TOES FOR DANCE, and supported by ANANDAM, and Lakeshore Arts. For more call phone 416-338-7255 or toronto.ca/assemblyhall

HAVEN ON THE QUEENSWAY would like to let the community know they have moved to a new facility at 76 Fordhouse Blvd., which is close by. On September 29 they held an Open House and ribbon cutting to show their larger more accessible office. Their number remains the same at 416-640-2005.

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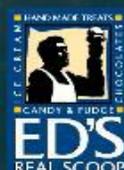
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City Green Strategy to fight climate change



CITY HALL IS planning to introduce a pilot program to provide rain barrels and downspout diverters for residents to fight flooding from climate change.

City Council is looking at introducing a one-year pilot program to provide rain barrels and downspout diverters to residents at subsidized rates for collecting stormwater on private property to avert possible floods. The Program to Subsidize Rain Barrels for Collecting Stormwater on Private Property is

City staff are looking at the use of permeable interlocking paving stones, porous asphalt or concrete that can absorb water, sunken garden beds, planting more grass and trees or using underground storage systems for stormwater. It is estimated the program will cost just about \$400,000 and require some employees. All City of Toronto residents are eligible to receive a rain barrel subsidy. The program will be most applicable to those who live



A BEAUTIFUL Long Branch tree is popular with visitors.

proposed by the City's Environment, Climate and Forestry Dept., to battle climate change.

The issue will be considered by City Council on October 8, 9 and 10. City staff in a report said extreme weather events have become more frequent, intense, and severe due to human-caused climate change.

"In the last 20 years, Toronto has seen at least four intense storms that have exceeded the 100-year storm, which historically has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year," according to the Forestry department.

It said the storms have caused widespread flooding in Toronto, in addition to power outages and disrupted transportation, City services and people's daily lives.

City staff said green infrastructure can reduce flooding by capturing water from small, frequently occurring storms and help manage stormwater by improving water infiltration or solutions that collect and store limited amounts of stormwater.



RAIN BARRELS as this one is proposed to be handed out to residents by the City

in single residential buildings, as a single-detached or semi-detached house or townhouse. Most other buildings do not have the capability to connect to rain barrels. When not absorbed into the ground or collected in rain barrels, stormwater runs off hard surfaces into catch basins, flowing through the City's underground pipes to local waterways. As water runs over surfaces it picks up oils, grease, fertilizers and other pollutants that end up in Lake Ontario. When severe storms occur the stormwater can overwhelm the municipal drainage systems, leading to flooding, erosion, and water pollution and can impact City-owned infrastructure. In areas like Toronto, the many impermeable surfaces cause stormwater runoff and the City's existing stormwater management incentive programs as tree planting on private property provide limited incentives for reducing impermeable surface areas.

Congratulations to Team Canada!



Etobicoke Lakeshore MPP Lee Fairclough (below) held a viewing party on September 27 to cheer on the Canadian Womens Rugby Team as they captured second place 33 to 3 against the powerhouse English team before a record 82,000 fans in Twickenham's Allianz Stadium. Fairclough was a competitive swimmer for many years including as a Varsity Swimmer for McMaster. After university, Fairclough was a member of the Canada women's national rugby union team from 1995 to 1998. She was elected as MP in February 2025.



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