

The South Etobicoke News

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Seniors trapped at home by mounds of snow

Peter Riedel is one of the many South Etobicoke residents trapped at home or can't park their vehicles due to mountains of snow on their sidewalks and streets.

"Where are drivers supposed to park their vehicles if there is no street parking available and parking in any park is forbidden?" Riedel asked.

He showed photos of snow-covered vehicles on the road where residents of the Park Lawn Road and Kings Point Drive would normally park their cars. He has contacted the City's Parks and Forestry Dept., 311, the Mayor and Councillor Amber Morley's Office with no results.



THE CITY OF TORONTO had been receiving more than 3,000 complaints daily for slow snow removal and City staff admit they are behind in clearing sidewalks, which has forced seniors, moms with strollers or the disabled, to miss their appointments due to mountains of snow on sidewalk and roads.

City officials said we were hit with 45 centimetres of snow and were receiving more than 3,000 complaints daily about the lacklustre snow removal. They said there are 1,000 City workers and hundreds of pieces of equipment in use.

But, the elderly, or moms with strollers, said they cannot make it to their doctors and other appointments due to the knee-high slippery snow on their driveways and sidewalks.

Many seniors were calling the *South Etobicoke News* in search of snow removal help. Most were referred to Morley's office, but did not receive a return call.

Alderwood senior Ruth Marie said she cannot leave home because she had a knee replacement and couldn't walk on the unpaved driveway and sidewalk.

"I called the City and the Councillor and nothing,"

Fears that the Ontario Food Terminal in jeopardy

The Ontario Food Terminal (OFT) is in jeopardy of being forced to shut if a Queensway plaza is zoned for mixed uses by City Council.

Canadian and Ontario produce marketing groups, along with local residents, are calling on Council not to re-designate for housing an open-air plaza at 125 The Queensway, which contains a Sobeys, and is just east of Park Lawn Road.

The rezoning bid was to be considered on February 4 and 5 by a Planning and Housing Committee.

An application has been made by a developer to re-designate the site from general employment to mixed use areas, so seven condos ranging up to 50-storeys can be built on the prime site. Letters have been sent to an Ontario Land Tribunal by the Canadian and Ontario



CITY COUNCIL IS BEING URGED not to re-designate a 125 The Queensway mall for mixed uses as seven high-rise condos being proposed (above right) for the site will place the next-door Ontario Food Terminal (above) in jeopardy due to complaints from residents in regards to noise, odour and traffic congestion.

Produce Marketing Associations for the site to remain the same as a proposed development would place the Food Terminal in jeopardy. Ron Lemaire, president of the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA), said the operation of the OFT would be at risk by incompatible residential development.

"The Ontario Food Terminal is a critical piece of public infrastructure," Lemaire said in a letter to the City last month. "Introducing housing beside the terminal will inevitably create land-use conflict, complaints, and political pressure to restrict or modify operations," he said, citing 24-hour truck traffic, heavy logistics operations, and noise as ongoing complaints.

Rebecca Harris, of the Ontario Produce Marketing Association, said the terminal is a critical employment hub, marketplace, and logistics centre that operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. "It is the largest wholesale produce distribution centre in Canada and among the top four of its kind in North America," Harris said in a letter to Council. "It handles up to 5.16 million pounds of food a day."

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Three police officers mourned for making the ultimate job sacrifice in losing their lives



SGT. RYAN RUSSELL

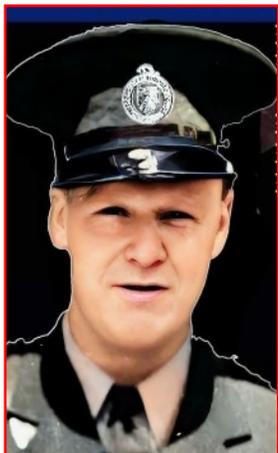
Some Toronto Police officers and families are mourning three colleagues who lived in the community and paid the supreme sacrifice while doing their dangerous jobs. It was 15 years ago last month that Sgt. Ryan

He said Nash drew his service revolver and fired six times, striking the suspect three times. The officer later died in hospital due to his injuries. A third South Etobicoke officer to die on duty was motorcycle patrol Const. Theodore Douglas Christiansen, a resident of 28 Mabelle Ave., who was killed in a vehicle collision at Keele and Dundas Streets on March 25, 1961. Christiansen had travelled only a short distance when his motorbike was struck from behind by a southbound car.



CONST. CHRISTIANSEN

“The initial impact sent Ted and machine into the northbound lanes where he was struck by a northbound vehicle,” Holtzheuser said. “He suffered life threatening injuries and succumbed to his injuries one and one half hours later at Toronto General Hospital.” “As each anniversary date of sacrifice approaches for Toronto’s fallen Police officers, I feel a sense of duty to bring their story to the attention of others,” he said. He and Retired Detective Carey Norman attend each grave yearly to clear away weeds, clean the grave markers, place blue and white flowers and a Canadian flag. Of the 44 names on the Police Honour Roll, they tend 35 graves. Of those 12 are in Etobicoke.



CONST. JOHN NASH

Russell, 35, was killed as he was attempting to stop the driver of a stolen snowplow in the Avenue and Davenport Roads area.

The six-month sergeant later succumbed to his injuries in hospital after being attacked on January 12, 2011.

“He was out doing his job in the early-morning hours, in the city, in a very dangerous situation, and put his life on the line, and tragically has lost his life doing his job,” then Chief Bill Blair said. A mentally disturbed man who killed Russell was sent to a psychiatric hospital instead of prison after a jury found that his illness was to blame.

Const. Frederick John Nash was gunned down 50-years later on February 12, 1962 by a driver after flagging down a delivery truck in the Danforth Avenue and Dawes Road area for a violation.

“While investigating the matter, the driver of the vehicle produced a handgun and shot the officer four times in the stomach,” said former Sgt. Theo Holtzheuser, who researched the incident.

Prisoner slips away from detention as a free man

An inmate serving time at the Toronto South Detention Centre managed to slip to freedom by posing as another prisoner.

The escapee Steven Alexander Guzman Marroquin, 32, managed to escape from an ankle monitoring device at a local service station and bolted. “The device was removed and located at a gas station near the maximum-security correctional facility, located near Horner and Kipling avenues,” police said in a release.

The inmate escaped from the centre around midnight on January 27 by impersonating another prisoner who was being released from custody.

Marroquin was sought for escaping lawful custody, personation with intent, obstructing a police officer, mischief under \$5,000, and theft under \$5,000.

Investigators had released an image of the fugitive, whom they described as five feet, nine inches tall and about 200 pounds. Police said he wears his hair in a ponytail and has a beard.

Authorities had warned the public not to approach him and to call police if they had any information on his whereabouts. Marroquin was arrested without incident walking on a downtown street. He is back in custody. There has been a number of escapes and incidents at the detention centre.



NABBED fugitive Alexander Guzman Marroquin (top, below)



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Jet ski rental operator seeking to set up dock in public launch area at Humber Bay West



AN APPLICATION has been made to the City to open a jet ski rental service at Humber Bay Park West.

It was just a matter of time. A Toronto jet-ski rental operator has applied to install a large floating dock near a public launch ramp at Humber Bay Park West to operate a seasonal rental service. Some Humber Bay Shores residents claim the service will infringe on the park's safety, peacefulness and place fish and wildlife in danger. Councillor Amber Morley plans to submit a letter to Transport Canada 'outlining community concerns with waterfront safety regarding the application.' Transport Canada on its website said the operation is intended to run from May to October, providing regulated and supervised jet ski rentals from a controlled waterfront location. There is an 'emphasis on safety, environmental stewardship, and compliance with applicable municipal, provincial and federal laws,' the federal body stated.

It said the project involves the installation of a floating dock system for personal watercraft (PWC) rentals, that is removable and leaves no lasting alteration to the land or lake bed. The dock is pre-fabricated, lightweight and

assembled onsite and towed into position. The application has been met with opposition from area residents on social media who claim the jet skis are noisy, will harm wildlife, pose a safety risk, create environmental damage, fuel spillage, increase traffic, speeding and end the serenity of the park. "Jet ski not needed, noise, waves, pollution," wrote Ron Reddam. "This proposal is disruptive and won't provide any significant economical opportunities," said Carlita Smith.

City Council last July approved the jet ski rentals to operate from a number of lakefront parks, including Scarborough Bluffs, Toronto Islands, Ontario Place area and Marie Curtis Park. The jet skis are rented for up to \$150 by some operators, who also offer safety equipment, fuel and in some cases, temporary licenses. Some of the major rental providers include: Sixside Jet Ski Rentals, GTA Lake Rentals and Rent Our Ski.



AN ARRAY OF jet skis that may be rented (top) and Humber Bay Park West where a dock is proposed to be installed. (below).



Encamped people to move on from City with their permission

More than 200 homeless people nightly are being turned away from beds in the City of Toronto even in this harsh, freezing weather. At the same time hundreds of encampment residents have to be asked by City staff three times if they require shelter space before sites are cleared. The encampments can be removed if they are 50 metres from a school, daycare or playground within 48 hours of being reported to the City. Outreach workers make three offers to place encampment residents in City shelters — regardless of whether there's actually enough space in those shelters — staff will then move to clear the site. The move stems from change of by-law by City Council last month. The change stems from a response to a damning ombudsman's report that condemned the City's aggressive clearing of park encampments saying staff had "chosen speed over people." The three-offer limit and directing staff to start with the 18 encampments located within 50 metres of schools and childcare centres. A cut to refugee shelter programs by Ottawa would leave the city on the hook for \$107 million this year to support housing nearly 3,500 refugees in shelters, which Mayor Olivia Chow has argued should be a federal responsibility. The City said the rights of people who are unsheltered and living in encampments are both respected and upheld in the City of Toronto's policies and practices. The number of people experiencing homelessness in Toronto has more than doubled, from roughly 7,300 in April 2021 to over 15,000 in October 2024. A significant portion of those denied shelter—sometimes up to 45%—are refugees or asylum seekers. A proposed \$50 million class-action lawsuit alleges that for much of 2023, the City excluded refugees from accessing base shelter system beds, even when space was available.

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Free snow clearing for seniors



The City of Toronto offers a free sidewalk snow-clearing program for seniors, those 65-years and older, and persons with disabilities in Etobicoke who cannot use mechanical clearing, or require a doctor's certificate. To access community services to assist seniors or disabled residents with snow clearing on private property contact 211. Many Canadian cities and provinces offer free or subsidized snow removal for seniors and people with disabilities, often through municipal programs like Ottawa's "Snow Go" or volunteer networks like Snow Angels Canada. Services vary but generally help with driveways and sidewalks, with eligibility usually requiring low income, no able-bodied residents at home, and an application process. If you are a senior or disabled person living in Toronto and require assistance to clear the sidewalk of snow, you can download an application form (PDF) or call 311 to have an application mailed to you. Eligible residents must apply, have no other able-bodied adults under 65 in the home, and provide proof of age or disability. Applicants must submit requests via 311 to determine eligibility for manual, rather than mechanical, sidewalk clearing. The program covers the public sidewalk in front of the home, typically within 72 hours of snowfall. It does *not* cover private driveways or walkways to the door.

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Final beam lifted on new upcoming Gilgan Health Centre



DIGNITARIES WATCH as the last beam is installed at the Gilgan Family Queensway Health Centre. **Courtesy photos.**

More than 100 politicians and dignitaries braved the cold to show their support for a long-awaited South Etobicoke health centre that is halfway under construction. Premier Doug Ford and others watched as a final beam was hoisted into place on the ninth floor of the The Gilgan Family Queensway Health Centre, at 150 Sherway Drive, across from Sherway Gardens. The beam, which was signed by 1,200 patients, families and supporters will stand as a permanent reminder of the commitment that has helped bring this vision to life. The centre is part of Trillium Health Partners umbrella health-care organization that operates Mississauga and Credit Valley hospitals in addition to the Queensway

Health Centre on the Mississauga-Etobicoke border, which is visited by many area residents for care. "This milestone represents important progress toward a more connected system of care that improves access, outcomes, and experiences, helping people receive rehabilitation and complex continuing care sooner and closer to home," according to hospital officials. The centre will have 350 private rooms that are designed with input from patients and care teams to meet the needs of the community. The world-class facility is 40% completed and is moving into the next phase of enclosing the building and finishing the spaces where patients will receive care. Construction of the \$1.3 billion hospital began by Ellis Don in April 2024 and it is expected to be completed in 2029.

This project is part of a broader expansion by Trillium Health Partners, which also includes the upcoming Peter Gilgan Mississauga Hospital, which is a massive 22-storey, 2.8 million-square-foot facility set for 2033.

The investment was made possible by the Ontario government and a philanthropic contribution from Peter Gilgan and the Gilgan family. The Centre brings high-quality rehabilitation and complex continuing care, delivered closer to home for people today and in the future.

More than half of the community served by Trillium Health Partners were born outside Canada, and they speak more than 130 languages.

The Centre will feature bright therapy spaces on every floor, including purpose-built areas for group rehabilitation and supportive environment for patients and families.

It will have advanced digital technology to support coordinated, patient-centred care and faster clinical decision making.

The new Peter Gilgan Mississauga Hospital is being built on the same site as the current Mississauga Hospital, at the corner of Hurontario Street and The Queensway, with construction underway to create a much larger, modern facility. It will feature a new, expanded emergency department, more beds (mostly private), and advanced facilities, integrating with the new Hazel McCallion Line light rail for improved access.



DRAWING OF the upcoming Gilgan Family Queensway Health Centre.



PETER GILGAN

Hundreds of housing units for Six Points area



NEW ETOBICOKE CIVIC CENTRE

City housing officials say construction is expected to start this Spring on some of thousands of housing units planned for the Six Points area.

A housing progress update by City officials said Block 1, at 970 Kipling Avenue, at Bloor Street W., has been approved and occupancy is expected next year.

That site is proposed to deliver 725 residential rental homes, including 218 affordable rental homes. Block 1

is one of five in the Six Points area identified for housing development by the City of Toronto. Block 3 at 25 Bloor Street West, is in the approval stage and is planned to deliver 698 rental residential homes, including 210 affordable rental homes.

Lands for Block 5 has been secured and it is proposed to deliver 586 new residential homes, including 176 affordable rental homes. Another block at 1113-1117 Dundas Street W., is in the approval stages and expected to deliver 94 rental homes, including 28 affordable rental homes. The new Etobicoke Civic Centre is also being built close by.

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

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

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

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Our top athletes are in Italy to compete in winter Olympics

Best of luck to a handful of athletes from South Etobicoke now in Italy to compete for medals in the 2026 Olympics Winter Games.

We wish all the best to the 207 athletes selected by the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) to represent Canada at the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games that runs from February 6 to 22.

Nearly 60 of the athletes are from Ontario. About half dozen are from Etobicoke but are listed as being from Toronto.

The athletes will compete across different sports to hopefully bring home an Olympic gold, silver or bronze. Professional hockey player Anthony Cirelli is one of those who identified as being an Etobicoke native. He is one of 11 NHL stars competing in men's ice hockey. Cirelli, who was born in Woodbridge, began playing with the Ottawa Generals before playing with the NHL Tampa Bay Lightning in 2018. In 2022 he signed



SOME MEMBERS competing with the Canadian Winter Olympics Team now in Italy. Their loyal fans at right. Courtesy photos.

a \$50 million contract extension with the team. The athlete scored 27 goals and 59 points in 80 games.

He was named a finalist for the Frank J. Selke Trophy for the first time in his career, having previously finished in the top five in voting twice. The player in 2019 was selected to the Team Canada roster for the IIHF World

Championship in Slovakia. He helped Canada progress through to the playoff rounds before losing the final to Finland to finish with the silver medal.

Cirelli finished the tournament posting three goals and four points in 10 games. He also participated in the 2017 World Junior Championship with Canada, winning a silver medal.

He won the Stanley Cup back-to-back with the Lightning in 2020 and 2021.



ETOBICOKE NATIVE Anthony Cirelli.

“Being named to an Olympic team isn't about a singular performance, season, or moment,” said Eric Myles, chief sport officer for the Canadian Olympic Committee. “It takes years of commitment, sacrifice and resilience from athletes and those who support



SPEED SKATER William Dandjinou

them every day.”

Canada is projected to win 27 medals at Cortina Olympic Games, including gold in men's hockey and women's curling teams based on projections and past performances.

Four time world champion short track Quebec speed skater William Dandjinou is forecasted to win three Olympic medals. He is one of six Canadians predicted to win their first medals in Italy.

About 2,900 top athletes from 93 countries will be competing at the Cortina Milano Winter Olympic Games.

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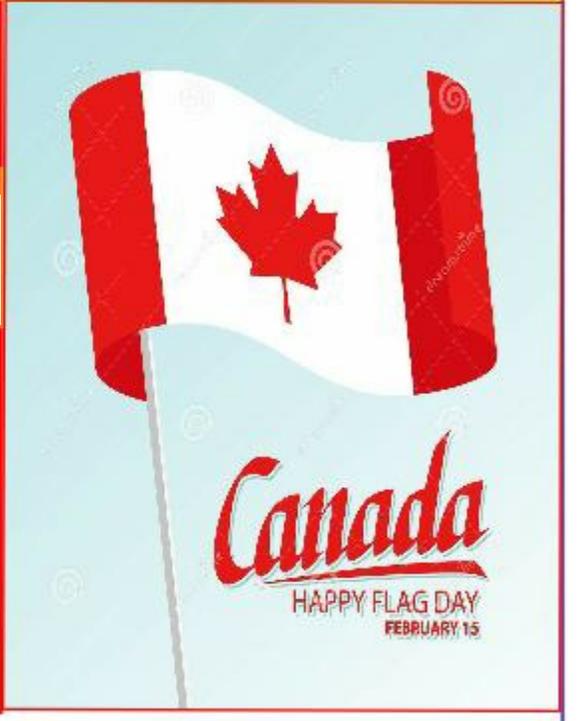
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Calls to halt Kipling-Evans condos



THE CITY IS OPPOSING this condo complex proposed for the Kipling and Evans Avenue area.

A plan to redevelop several huge industrial blocks of Evans Avenue at Kipling Avenue into condos is being met with opposition by the City and some business leaders.

A proposal to re-designate 350, 360, 364 Evans Avenue and 14 - 16 Arnold Street from employment to mixed use areas is drawing heat from City leaders.

The proposal was slated to be considered by City Council on February 4 and 5.

A lawyer was dispatched from the City to attend an Ontario Land Tribunal to oppose the rezoning.

A proposal is in the early stages to build mixed-use towers in the six-block area ranging from 12 to 42 storeys on the site, which is a huge lot at the northeast corner of Evans and Kipling, that now houses a brewery and commercial businesses.

The 11-acre site, which is located just south of the Gardiner Expressway, is around a 10-minute drive from Kipling subway station. It is split into six development blocks, with a proposed park in the southwest corner.

Councillors said they need the land to provide jobs for more Canadians, as well as condos to provide housing. City staff said there is only 13 per cent of employment lands left in Toronto and the companies hire more than 400,000 workers who hold good paying jobs.

Councillors were told there are only about five large tracts of lands deemed for employment left in the city and they have to be preserved to create jobs and companies will have room to expand.

Others want the Kipling-Evans land used to create a gigantic movie studio, as the industry requires large spaces to build sound stages and brings in about \$2.6 billion in business a year to the

City.

Patrick Blessing, of The Pie Commission Limited, of Oxford Street, is opposed to the development.

"Over the years, our business has relocated three times, each move driven primarily by the need to grow, but also due to the loss or anticipated loss of employment buildings to condominium development," Blessing wrote in a letter to Council.

"This investment represents a long-term commitment to the area," he said. "We are proud to provide full-time, quality jobs, with over 90% of our employees living locally."

He said shorter commutes support quality of life, workforce retention, and a healthier balance between work and family.



PATRICK BLESSING

FIFA banners to hang over huge City bridges

We will soon be seeing large colourful FIFA World Cup 2026 banners hanging on some of our high-profile bridges that cross highways as the tournament approaches.

City council in a report is seeking a list of bridge structures where June's World Cup banners can be placed to promote the event. Banners are banned from the structures and can only stay up for 14 days if allowed.

Staff are seeking that the banners remain hanging from this month to the end of the World Cup in July.

"This event presents a unique opportunity to showcase civic pride, promote tourism, and enhance the City's global profile," according to a City report.

The City's Transportation Services has been tasked to find bridge locations where the banners can be displayed and remain for more than 14 days.

The report said there will be no additional costs to the City, which has already dished out \$380 million to get FIFA World Cup here.

Officials said some of most high-profile bridges that cross major highways near the match venues will be selected to best display the banners.

Some of the pre-approved FIFA banner bridges includes; the Dufferin Street Bridge and overpass crossing the Gardiner Expressway; Roncesvalles Pedestrian Bridge at Gardiner Expressway and Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Sunnyside pedestrian bridge.

The World Cup will occur in Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. The tournament will run from June 11 to July 19.



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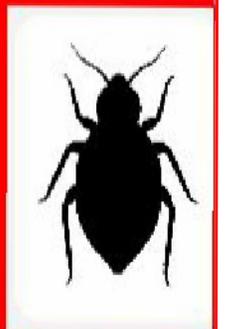
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Major area film companies call on City Council to halt a four-condo complex being re-designated for residential



MASSIVE CONDOS (above, right) proposed to Council will jeopardize the thriving film industry, officials say.

only if it can grow in these established and stable clusters," wrote Magali Simard, of Global Industry & Brand and Cinespace Studios, on Kipling Avenue.

"We are part of Toronto's robust film and television industry that has grown to welcome over \$2.6 billion in spending in Toronto annually," she said, adding the industry hires more than 35,000

Cynthia Lynch, of Film Ontario, said employment lands are well-suited for the demands of the film industry.

"They provide opportunities for the clustering of film businesses that make production more efficient, and make space for the noise, odd working hours and other attributes of the industry," Lynch wrote. "They provide job opportunities for the thousands of film and television workers who live in this city."

"The City of Toronto is truly

the centre of our production universe. Toronto is where we have the biggest workforce and cluster of production companies that support the industry," she said.

Angela Mastronardi, of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 678, said local film workers are celebrated internationally and some have won Academy Awards, Primetime Emmy Awards, Canadian Screen Awards and British Academy Film Awards.

"The film industry cannot support any land use planning changes that weaken our economic future and reduce our competitiveness on the global stage," she said, adding they will not prosper from the rezoning.

"The importance of our industry to Toronto, and the province as a whole, needs to be

recognized and protected to ensure the future of this industry," Mastronardi added.



Three major South Etobicoke film companies are among a long list of firms trying to stop a massive four-highrise condo complex proposed for The Queensway near a popular Ikea furniture store.

The more than a dozen area companies have asked City Council to block the condos that range from 30 to 45 storeys planned for 1543 - 1551 The Queensway and 66 and 76 Fordhouse Boulevard that would replace the existing small businesses on the site. The companies are against the lands being re-designated from employment to mixed use as local residents require jobs and for the expansion of plants.

Developers of the complex, which will straddle Ikea Furniture, at 1475 The Queensway, propose to build 1,819 new homes, with some 342 affordable units. A team of non-profit organizations is also involved in the proposal and includes; Community Affordable Housing Solutions, St. Clare's, Haven on the Queensway and international charity Habitat for Humanity. The matter was considered by a Planning and Housing Committee last month and was slated before City Council for a possible decision on February 4.

"The film and television industry in Toronto will be able to continue its growth trajectory

Torontonians.

She said in the last year Cinespace welcomed major productions by Netflix, Amazon Studios, CBS Television, Rogers Television, Warner Brothers, NBC Universal, the CBC and many more.

"The industry has succeeded in growing to



CINESPACE STUDIOS

record-breaking levels because of its ability to expand on Employment Lands in these areas over the years," Magali told Councillors.

She said film and television production require trucking routes, 24/7 schedules, privacy, security and not being neighbours to mixed-use buildings.



Mastronardi

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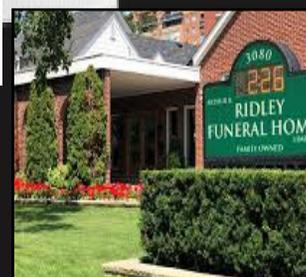


RIDLEY FUNERAL HOME

STAFF OF RIDLEY FUNERAL HOME carrying a banner wishing Merry Christmas to attendees of the annual Etobicoke Lakeshore Santa Claus Parade that attracts thousands of residents to New Toronto and Long Branch.

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.



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Local Bread Essentials is rising high in Mimico



BAKERY BOSS Josee Gosselin (second left) with some of her eager staff. **Staff photos.**

Master baker Josee Gosselin is dubbed the 'Breadmaker of Mimico.'

Gosselin in August will be celebrating her 10th year of owning The Bread Essentials, at 406 Royal York Road. Baking and selling her gluten and nut free breads was lonely in the beginning as the loaves weren't as popular as they are today.

"At first it was just me," she recalls. "We now make about

16 types of bread that people love."

The favourites are the Rosemary sourdough and brioche breads.

The store is busy with a steady stream of regular customers; many who may be allergic to nuts and gluten products. Gosselin herself has a gluten allergy and had to change her diet.

"All our bread is naturally made right on the property," Gosselin stresses. "They are all handmade by our staff."

The business reflects her love of bread so much so that she now has about 12 full and part-time staff.

The store also carries a range of local products as homemade jams and preserves, with some made by Joanne's Urban Pantry.

Some of the shelves are stocked with products made by area craftspeople that are sold at the Humber Bay Shore market in the summer.

"We carry their products in the wintertime," she said. "They are all natural goods made by local people and sold in the market." Gosselin, originally of Montreal, settled in



THE BAKERY LADIES show some of their fresh-baked products (above, below) at their Royal York Road bakery.



THE TRAYS of breads and other hand-made goodies are gluten and nut free.

Mimico many years ago and hoped to start a business close to her home and family. She took a baking class in Montreal some 20-years ago that led to her love of baking, and food. She loves the Mimico area, which she said has many good-natured and nice people.

"Mimico has been very good to us," Gosselin notes. "We are in a very central area as many customers come from Kingston, Collingwood or the Niagara area."

Bread Essentials can be reached by phone at 647-680-3490 or email at thebreadessentials@gmail.com.

Once hot steakhouse gone after 60 years



ONE OF THE LAST area Black Angus Steakhouse closed on February 1.

The once-popular Black Angus Steakhouse has served its last juicy steak after decades on Bloor Street W., near Islington Avenue.

Many steak lovers took to social media to post that they loved the restaurant, or that the steaks now were too expensive. Many patrons noted a shift in the eatery to a more modern, less traditional feel that didn't retain old customers.

The 3250 Bloor Street W. steakhouse was the last Black Angus in Canada. It had been in business for about 60 years. It closed on February 1.

The chain has faced financial difficulties for years, with bankruptcies, declining sales, and numerous closures, especially after the 2008 recession and during the pandemic. The steakhouse at its peak had more than 120 restaurants in Arizona, California, Hawaii and New Mexico. There are now just over 30 locations left.

Founded in 1964 by Stuart Anderson, the chain pioneered the Western theme that was duplicated by places like Texas Roadhouse and Ponderosa Steakhouse.

By the time Anderson passed away in 2016, the number of restaurants had been reduced to 45. Black Angus was known for its refined dining room, bar, a patio and tableside service.



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More paramedics being hired to Toronto service in hiring plan to respond to 350,000 calls yearly



SOME OF 33 PARAMEDIC recruits (top, right) who were hired to better serve City residents.

Better health care is getting here. The Toronto Paramedic Services hired 33 primary care paramedics last month to better serve the City. “Each paramedic graduate has completed a comprehensive orientation and training program,” said Services Chief Bikram Chawla. The new hires have ‘the ability to respond to medical emergencies when every moment counts.’ He said the new members bring advanced skills and expertise to deliver life-saving interventions directly in communities across the City.

The Services provide exceptional care for three

million Toronto residents 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. “Paramedics are the lifeline of Toronto,” Chawla said. “They are there in our most critical moments, providing care, compassion, and expertise when it matters most.” The paramedics are selected through a demanding recruitment process, with successful applicants bringing diverse skill and experiences. Some 300 paramedics are in the books to be hired in the next three years to serve our aging population. “By investing in training and expanding our frontline first responders, we’re ensuring that every Torontonians can count on timely, high-quality emergency care,” said Mayor Olivia Chow. About 364 paramedics are on duty daily to serve the residents of Toronto. They attend to more than 900 calls every day, or more than 350,000 emergency calls yearly.

The City employs more than 1,500 paramedics. They represent the largest municipal paramedic service in Canada, with staff operating a fleet of 236 transport ambulances and working out of over 45 stations. The service is currently undergoing a multi-year staffing plan to increase headcount due to rising call volumes.

An experienced paramedic can earn up to \$100,000 or more yearly in Toronto.



TORONTO PARAMEDICS undergo rigorous training before they hit the streets helping City residents. They handle about 350,000 calls yearly. Photos courtesy Toronto Paramedic Services.

‘Get Lit’ with a night of local comedy at Firkin



COMIC LIANNE MAULADIN

A new weekly comedy show starring local funny men and women is taking to the stage at Humber Bay Shores. The ‘Get Lit’ show takes place every Monday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and is hosted by comic Lianne Mauladin. It will feature about a dozen comics on stage at Firkin on The Bay, at 68 Marine Parade Drive.

Mauladin said the comics will perform for up to seven minutes each, and the

audience will be able to use their phones to light the performer. Once half the room has their phones lit, the comic must leave the stage, she said. “It’s like a modern day gong show,” she said. “This is particularly great in a restaurant because if anyone is offensive the audience will get rid of them.”

There will some up-and-coming comics at each show, which will feature local veterans as Evan Carter and Ernie Vincente. Mauladin is known for her comfortable, straight shooting, style of comedy and unique perspective on life.

She’s performed live on ABC’s “The View” and her comedy has been aired on ABC, iChannel, Sirius XM and CBC. In 2021 she released her album “Late for the Party,” produced by Cottage Comedy Digital.

The comic hosts and produces the monthly Merry-Janes of Comedy Show, the longest running all female stand-up showcase in Canada.

Her festival appearances include, the Hubcap Comedy Festival in Moncton, N.B., Icebreakers Comedy Festival in Niagara on the Lake, LOL Comedy festival in Sudbury, the Frigid Festival in NYC, the Out of Bounds Festival in Austin, Texas, the Women in Comedy Festival in Boston, NXNE in Toronto, and the SheDot Comedy Festival in Toronto.



COMIC EVAN CARTER

Mauladin said the South Etobicoke area is lacking entertainment in the wintertime as there are thousands of people in her block and the show is walking distance.

For more information visit www.liannemauladin.com



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Toronto councillor calls for part of HST from billions collected by feds



Toronto Councillor Brad Bradford has been pushing for the cash-strapped City of Toronto to receive a fair share of HST payments collected by the federal government. Toronto is one of Canada's primary economic engines. The Toronto region generates 20% of the national GDP, 20% of Ontario's jobs, and attracts more than 26 million visitors each year, he wrote last month. This level of economic activity is enabled

by the investments our city has made in social and civic infrastructure, including affordable housing, public health, roads and transit. "We host people from across the country and around the world at events like Taylor Swift concerts, the World Series, and the FIFA games, which generates tens of millions of dollars in tax revenue for the provincial and federal governments. Meanwhile, the City shoulders the costs of additional policing, emergency services, transit, and crowd management that make these events possible." Toronto also plays a critical role in supporting people who are experiencing homelessness, including federal refugees. Our city operates 50% of Ontario's shelter beds, representing 20% of all shelter capacity nationwide. This is an essential social service, but it far exceeds what any single municipality should be expected to fund on its own, Bradford wrote. For decades, provincial and federal governments have downloaded responsibilities onto the City without providing stable, long-term funding to match. Today, approximately 27% of Toronto's property tax revenue is spent funding extensions of federal and provincial responsibilities, he said. "Despite this growing list of responsibilities, Toronto is forced to rely on a very limited set of revenue tools, all of which are controlled by provincial legislation and which are being chipped away by Doug Ford year after year." Recently, the Mayor proposed an increase to the graduated land transfer tax (LTT) for homes that sell above \$3 million. I fundamentally believe that the LTT is the wrong revenue tool to rely on to pay for core services given that the market is unstable and unreliable. But while Council must push for efficiencies in the Mayor's budget wherever possible, we are also forced to choose between an increase to the LTT or a further increase in the property tax rate to avoid a deficit budget, he said. "I successfully passed an amendment, however, to pursue a more effective and sustainable source of revenue that grows with the economy: a dedicated share of the HST." If Toronto is expected to continue driving national prosperity, it must be granted access to revenue tools that reflect its economic contribution. No more "new deals". No more begging for one-time ad hoc program funding. It's time that we made a clear and evidence-based business case for investing in Toronto, Bradford said. "As we enter a new budget season, I'm calling on the Mayor to be strongly and persistently advocating to the provincial and federal governments to get this done." Ottawa collects more than \$51 billion through HST yearly, which portions being distributed to the provinces and cities.



In the Community

By TOM GODFREY

Another sign of the times as the Toronto Police Service join other City or Canadian departments in saving money by using artificial intelligence (AI) to answer hundreds of thousands of non-emergency calls the force receives every year. Police at a January 13 meeting said the AI technology will take calls from individuals who are not in active danger, such as reports for vandalism, a driving complaint or a break-and-enter. The force said the new tool will reduce caller wait time, a key priority in handling both emergency and non-emergency calls. Toronto Police in the last four years have received an average of about 1.9 million calls annually for help, about one-third of which were for non-emergencies, according a spokesperson. The average wait-time for non-emergency calls was six minutes and 11 seconds. Police said the technology is also expected to "reduce the volume of non-emergency calls handled by live communications operators and improve overall service quality." The force will be using technology offered by Hyper, an AI company co-founded by Canadian entrepreneurs. When a resident calls to report a non-emergency matter, the technology confirms key details — such as the location of an incident and whether anyone has been injured — and then provides information and instructions. The system has been used by Halton Police since last October. It is also used by Toronto health workers. For situations more worrisome than a damaged bumper, TPS said there are safeguards in place to ensure emergency calls are quickly transferred to a human staffer. "Transfers occur if an emergency is detected, if the situation falls outside the system's scope, or if the interaction requires judgment that cannot be automated," according to a police spokesperson. "These measures ensure that complex, high-risk, or sensitive calls are handled by a human." The company claims its AI product can serve individuals in more than 30 languages. Stephen J. Neville, a lead researcher in a project about AI and voice-activated speakers has reservations about police use of AI. He said he is worried TPS' new technology could provide users with bad information, creating "life-threatening" issues. The researcher said while this might be less of a big deal in a typical customer service environment, it is much more worrisome in a possible emergency scenario where a call is not properly transferred to a human agent. Rather than accurately telling the caller he would need to report the incident to police, the AI suggested this was not necessary since he wasn't in the vehicle at the time of the collision, according to a news outlet. He said the company also does not sell call data to other companies. "Call information is used to manage interactions and conduct internal quality assurance within the Toronto Police," an official said. "Our focus is on improving procedures and workflow, not on training external AI models." Officials said Hyper generates call summaries and transcriptions to support "call handling and operational processes." They said all of this information is managed in accordance with police privacy and records retention requirements. It is noted that voice data is "uniquely identifiable," like a fingerprint, and that calls to police to report suspected crimes deal with very sensitive personal information. Few people have intimate knowledge of the company's technology, but an assessment is based on the difficulties individuals face when automated customer responses are introduced, including the "many limitations of generative AI and chatbots in particular." Since the introduction of Hyper's technology, the Winnipeg police force has reported a 10 per cent drop in callers who hang up after calling police — from 35 per cent to 25 per cent, according to the news outlet's reporting. **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

Welcome to the winter storm, which has paralyzed the entire city over the weekend. We are Torontonians and can dig our way out over a time period. People helping strangers, elderly and neighbours is the Torontonian spirit and my thanks to one and all.

Now let me talk about money issues that impact our daily lives. Over the holidays I read a few articles that I thought would be of benefit to the readers.

The first article is on replacing your ageing car. The short answer is if your car takes to your workplace everyday then the answer is NO. When the repair cost is inching up to about 70% of monthly payment of a new car then you should consider the possibility.

Obviously personal situation will vary depending on your circumstances.

The next article I read in the *Globe and Mail* was about McDonalds value meals now \$5 down from \$5.99 a 17% drop. This article also highlighted a survey; eating out shows a drop of 64%, take-out and delivery a drop of 55%, entertainment a drop of 51% other items like travel, alcohol, membership and cannabis shows significant drops in purchases, with cannabis it dropped only 12%. These numbers are heartening; families are focusing the spending budget and hopefully created a budget and are cutting out non-essential spending.

Weight loss drugs, now that generics are available, buyers will see a 35% drop in dollar outflow.

Another article pays attention to small recurring expenses, sure this will vary from individual to individual. An example of this would be as simple your morning coffee, is it at home or fast-food restaurants or having lattes at an upscale coffee shop. This reminds me of an old saying "watch your pennies and the dollar will take care of itself".

This next piece that was an eye-opener for me was that Online betting in Ontario is worth more than \$9 billion, that is 9 zeros, the majority of this betting is by the millennium generation. The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Commission (OLGC) ticket revenue is another \$4,445.58 million. Is this productive to your financial health, I think not. Please consider saving this money or a significant portion for the retirement and security.

Now let me focus on the upcoming 2025 tax filing season, the first date CRA will start accepting 2025 Returns is February 23rd with deadline for tax filing is April 30th.

Following is a list of forms that to get the tax filer will need, T4s, T5s, RRSP slips, FHSA (First Time Home Saving Account) slips. T2200, T2201, T2202, RC210, Donations, Medical expenses and Rent/Property Tax documents. Some the slips are self-explanatory and some need further clarification. The deadline for RRSP contribution is March 2nd.

RRSP contribution up to December 31st and March 2nd can be used for the 2025 Tax Filing.

FHSA contribution up to December 31st are eligible for 2025 tax filing.

T2200 (Declaration of Conditions of Employment), is a work from home form given out by the Employer maybe help in reducing your Tax Liability. If on reading the form, as provided by the Employer, works for you then you will need all home related expenses- Mortgage interest, Property Tax, Insurance, Utilities, Repairs and Maintenance (work area only). Total square footage of the home and work square footage. Please note Property Tax and Mortgage interest -commission employees only T 2201 Disability Tax Credit Certificate issued by CRA will be required, it may provide a significant tax relief to the tax filer or an immediate family member.

T2202 Tuition and Enrollment Certificate issued by your educational institution, this may reduce your tax liability is if one has a taxable income and will be used to create a credit on your CRA profile for use when one has taxable income. It may also be used by a parent up to \$5,000.

Self-Employed and Commissioned Sales Reps, the claimable expenses are quite similar. Gather all your receipts – office expenses, promotion, entertainment, supplies, major purchases like computer etc., Vehicle Expenses-Gasoline, Repairs & Maintenance, insurance, interest payments, tolls, parking, purchases price of the vehicle and lastly total kilometres and work kms for the year. The CRA website can provide further clarification. For commissioned Reps the T4 and the T2200 will dictate expenses deductible.

HST filing for self-employed is June 16th. with payment deadline is April 30th.

All the best and if you need further clarification, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

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

I was sitting in my armchair the other night—the one whose springs have given up so completely they now function mostly as decorative acupuncture—watching a press conference with the 47th President.

A reporter had asked a pointed, uncomfortable question about the latest set of files released regarding Jeffrey Epstein. Within seconds, the conversation didn't just swerve; it teleported. Suddenly, we weren't talking about private jets or Caribbean islands; we were talking about the imminent need for "surgical strikes" on Venezuela to protect "maritime freedom."

It was a masterclass in the "Wag the Dog" strategy—starting a metaphorical (or literal) war to drown out a nagging domestic scandal. As I watched this dazzling display of verbal gymnastics, a chilling realization struck me: teenagers have been studying this stuff. Closely. If there's ever a standardized test on dodging responsibility, the average fifteen-year-old will not only ace it, they will challenge the validity of the testing environment and demand a federal inquiry into the pencil quality.

When I turned off the TV and looked across the room at my grandson, Ted, I realized I didn't need to watch national news to see world-class evasive maneuvers. I had a fully trained apprentice sitting right there on my couch, controller in hand, ready to deflect and redirect with the confidence of a seasoned Press Secretary defending a tax on air.

Ted is, in many ways, a delightful kid. He possesses a smile that suggests he may one day sell you a used car that has no engine, yet leave you feeling like you got a bargain.

However, his mother recently encouraged him to join the school debating club. This was, in hindsight, like giving a raccoon a master key to the city's garbage bins. Ted hasn't just learned how to argue; he's learned how to liquidate the very concept of a question.

During a commercial break, I summoned my most authoritative grandparent voice.

"Ted," I said, "the Xbox has been roaring like a jet engine since dinner. It's time to shut it down and start that history paper."

In my day, a teenager would have sighed and eventually opened a textbook. But Ted?

Ted belongs to The Evasion Class. Without even glancing away from his game, he launched into his opening statement.

"Grandpa," he said, his thumbs moving with the speed of a hummingbird's wings, "it's interesting that you're focusing on my homework when I am clearly operating under a state of extreme physical exhaustion. Seven hours of school. Walking the dog in a literal gale. My energy reserves are depleted. Shouldn't we be addressing this domestic healthcare crisis before discussing the French Revolution?"

I blinked. He hadn't said "no." He had simply rebranded "I don't feel like doing homework" into "I am a fragile humanitarian disaster." It was a move straight out of the Legislative Playbook: when the facts are against you, change the subject to your own suffering.

Then his mother walked in. "Ted, enough. Xbox off. History paper. Now." Ted paused the game and turned to me with the expression of a man being sent to the Bastille for a crime he didn't commit.

"Grandpa, do you hear this tone? No 'please,' no 'thank you.' I'm a human being deserving of a respectful bilateral dialogue." This was followed immediately by the nuclear weapon of both the teenager and the career politician: Whataboutism.

"Besides," he continued, "Mom still owes me five dollars from last month. Five dollars! For milk! And she has *never* repaid me. How am I supposed to focus on my education when I'm living in a household with unresolved financial disputes?"

He then gestured dramatically toward his sister, Charlotte, who was staring blankly at her phone. "And why aren't we talking about Charlotte? She's twenty, home from university, and has not cleaned her room in three days. The bread crumbs on her floor have developed a mold with legs. It's so big it registered for its own Social Insurance Number. Why am I the only one being targeted by this administration?"

His mother was losing patience. The evidence was stacked against him. He was cornered. In high-stakes politics, this is the moment when a leader realizes they need a massive, noisy distraction to bury the "Epstein files" of their own life—in this case, the fact that he hadn't written a single word about King Louis XVI.

Ted, sensing the impending "Grounding Act of 2026," decided it was time to start a war.

"You know what?" he yelled, his voice cracking with theatrical pathos. "I *was* actually going to do it. I had the opening paragraph perfectly formed in my head. But this? This constant, relentless nagging? This hostile environment? You've completely destroyed my mental headspace!" He began pacing the living room like a general in a war room.

"I am literally trembling! How can I be expected to analyze the complexities of the 18th-century France when I am being subjected to this kind of psychological warfare? My academic career is being sabotaged by your inability to give me five minutes of peace!"

It was a masterstroke. He had successfully shifted the narrative from "Ted is lazy" to "Ted is a victim of parental aggression." By manufacturing a "war" over his own emotional well-being, he made the original issue—the history paper—seem insensitive.

"I can't do this!" he shouted, clutching his forehead. "I need to go to my room and 'cool off.' I hope you're happy—you've officially made it impossible for me to study tonight!"

I looked at his mother. We both knew the truth. Behind that closed door, there would be no cooling off. Within three minutes, Ted would be deep under the covers, the "war" forgotten, his phone glowing in the dark as he played *Call of Duty*. He had successfully "invaded Venezuela" to avoid his "Epstein files," and now he was enjoying the spoils of war—complete privacy and zero homework—under the guise of emotional recovery.

Judge Lloyd Budzinski retired after 28 years and was a former Crown Attorney, Defence Counsel and Ontario's Assistant Deputy Minister of Criminal Law. He was Chief Prosecutor in the trial of ex-RCMP officer Patrick Michael Kelly, found guilty of murder for throwing his wife from a 17th floor balcony in March 1981. He can be reached at lbudzinski@talkjustice.info

The South Etobicoke News

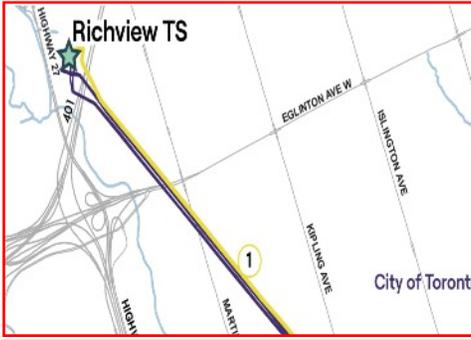
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Ontario Hydro lands to become bike trails to link many area communities



THE PLANNED GREENWAY Trail Project (above, below) will link a number of communities.

South Etobicoke cyclists will soon be getting more bike trails as The Etobicoke Greenway work its way through Council. Etobicoke York Community Council is seeking a report with proposed next steps for the Etobicoke Greenway Trail project, for the design and construction of the multi-use trail within the Hydro One Corridor, which runs four kilometres and can link an east-west hydro corridor between Islington and Royal York. "In collaboration with Hydro One, the Etobicoke Greenway Trail Project is a

significant opportunity to enhance recreational access and active transportation for Etobicoke residents," said Ward 2 Councillor Stephen Holyday. "The Greenway Trail Project is a significant opportunity to enhance recreational access and active transportation for Etobicoke residents," he said.

Holyday said the Greenway was added to the City's cycling infrastructure planning process through a motion he made in 2022.

The proposed trail will be about three metres wide, and will link to Bloor Street W. to Burnhamthorpe Road, Rivercove Drive to Martingrove Road, and from Willowridge Road and Richgrove Drive to Longburne Drive.

The proposed trail, once completed, will link several neighbourhoods with the Kipling Transit Hub at Six Points, including subway, GO trains, local and regional buses.

The report said Hydro One will lead the design and construction of the trail, to be completed by late 2027.

The current trail surface does not include amenities such as benches, lighting, signage, waste bins, gates, splash pads, dog parks, or pollinator gardens, Council was told.

The City may consider such enhancements in the future, and will begin maintenance work of the trail in December 2027.

Hydro One is investing up to \$8 million in the Greenway, for the design and construction as well as funds to support the City's maintenance through 2031.



VIEW OF THE Greenway Trail Project which will be completed next year.

More funds sought by police to outfit Mounted Unit; which critics say is a waste



SOME CRITICS question the spending of more than \$7 million to upgrade Toronto Police horse stables when the City is strapped for cash. **Photo: Toronto Star.**

Some critics are questioning the spending of more than \$7 million for Toronto Police horse stables when the City is cash-strapped with taxes on the rise.

The requested funding for the stalls is part of a larger City \$1.43 billion proposed operating budget for the Toronto Police Service.

The budget proposes a 2.2 per cent property tax increases, as well as utility services. Police are seeking \$7.5 million over three years to upgrade the Horse Palace at Exhibition Place, home of their 21 horses, according to a 2026 budget proposal for "larger stalls for the service's current horse breed."

Critics of the police question the use of horses to control crowds during protests and big events and to connect positively with the community.

Toronto Police Accountability Coalition's John Sewell say it's too much for what he views as a public relations exercise.

"We really should be talking about actually saving some money on policing without trying to reduce its effectiveness," he said.

The 2026 cost to run the Mounted Unit will be about \$6.9 million for 39 uniformed officers, two civilians and 21 horses. The budget includes \$40,000 for vet fees.

The force's canine unit building would also be upgraded for about \$4.9 million as part of Mayor Olivia Chow's budget.

This follows a 2025 expenditure of over \$450,000 to upgrade the riding ring footing at the Horse Palace. Police said the renovations are intended to improve the "comfort and environment" of the horses' living quarters rather than to house larger animals.

Etobicoke Creek bridge to open



Metrolinx say crews are working hard to finish a 100-year bridge that runs over Etobicoke Creek, which they hope to have completed this month so hikers and dog walkers can continue with their walks.

A portion of Lakeshore West GO train rail was closed from January 17-18 and 24-25 to safely complete construction work and maintenance that can only be carried out while trains are not running. During the closures, crews completed a full replacement of the rail bridge, which is just west of Long Branch GO station, and is more than a century old. The work has been underway for months to upgrade it to support future expansion of the rail corridor for increased service, as train every 15-minute service. Throughout January, crews replaced the structures supporting the third track over the bridge and removed a massive crane that helped to lift the new bridge into place. The work has been a major inconvenience for the community and those using the GO train service. **Metrolinx photo.**



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Looking after yourself and others in the community

FEBRUARY 4, 11 & 18 CHAIR YOGA WITH Meaux at 10 a.m. at LAMP CHC for gentle yoga practice blends seated and supported standing postures to help improve flexibility and calm the mind. Participants explore mindful movement and breathwork using resistance bands and weights. Contact JasminD@lampchc.org or anthonya@lampchc.org call 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

FEBRUARY 4, 11 & 18 at 11:15 a.m. ENJOY A LIVELY, low-impact dance class inspired by Caribbean music and culture at LAMP CHC. Soca dancing boosts energy and stamina while creating a joyful, welcoming space to move and have fun. Contact JasminD@lampchc.org or anthonya@lampchc.org call 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

FEBRUARY 5 & 12 MENTAL WELLNESS PEER SUPPORT Workshop at 12:30 p.m. to join a peer-led space focused on shared experiences and practical tools for managing daily challenges at LAMP CHC. Participants can learn strategies to enhance personal resilience and strengthen well-being. Topics will include resilience and the power of positivity. Contact Jasmind@lampchc.org or ericao@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

FEBRUARY 3 & 17 MUSIC THERAPY Engage with the healing power of music in a 3:30 p.m. in a supportive group setting to foster emotional wellness and community connection at LAMP CHC, 185 Fifth Street. To register, e mail Jasmind@lampchc.org or ericao@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

FEBRUARY 5, 6 THE FUTURE OF CO-OP Housing Part 2 at 6 p.m. at LAMP CHC, part of a Building Affordable Housing Series. Guest speaker is **Tom Clement**, Executive Director of the Co-Op Housing Federation of Toronto. To register e mail JasminD@lampchc.org or phone 416-252 6471 ext. 308.

FEBRUARY 7 BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2026 event from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399

The West Mall. There will be special presentations, entertainment and all is welcome.

FEBRUARY 10 VALENTINE'S DAY ACTIVITIES – join us for special social activities and community building at 3 p.m. to celebrate together at LAMP CHC. Contact Jasmind@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

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

FEBRUARY 17 PANCAKE BRUNCH at Franklin Community Centre at 11:30 a.m. as they mark the last day before Lent with a tasty pancake meal. Tickets are \$7 so get in touch to get your spot. Also play Bingo that day for \$25 (\$30 for non-members) which includes your meal.

FEBRUARY 20 TRIVIA DAY at Franklin Horner Community Centre from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Test your wits in some friendly competition. Entrance is \$5 each with light refreshments provided. Come get your tickets in the office and get your team ready for what should be a really fun afternoon!

FEBRUARY 25 FREE FAMILY DAY Seminar at Ridley Funeral Home, 3080 Lake Shore Blvd. W., at 3 p.m. to learn about pre-funeral planning to protect the people we love. Peace of mind starts with a plan. Join licensed presenter **Tammy Hepditch**, an aftercare specialist. To register call 416-259-3705. Light refreshments will be served and you are urged to bring a non-perishable food item for the Daily Bread Food Bank.

FEBRUARY 28 COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR annual fundraiser by Haven on the Queensway. Walk around the Haven building and along 76 Fordhouse Blvd. for a winterrific family-friendly walk to raise money for charity. Check in 4 p.m. and walkers are asked to dress warm and comfortable. For more phone 416-640-2005 or visit info@havenontheq.co

FRIDAYS FOR DRUMMING AT 1 p.m. to end your week through rhythm, creativity, and connection. This group drumming class at LAMP CHC promotes stress relief and self-expression; drums are provided and no experience is needed. To register e-mail jasmind@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

MONDAYS AT 9 a.m. BALANCE AND BREATHWORK (also online) for this class helps improve balance, posture, and mobility while encouraging relaxation and body awareness in a calm environment. To register e-mail jasmind@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

MONDAYS at 9 a.m. DANCING A STORM with new moves learned in class at LAMP CHC. A few members who have mobility issues danced in their chair. Always uplifting to take the class.

TUESDAY 1:15 p.m. for TAI CHAI gentle start to flowing movements that support balance and focus at LAMP CHC. E-mail jasmind@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

ONLINE FUNCTIONAL FITNESS at 2:15 p.m. to build strength and confidence through practical exercises that support everyday movements. Using resistance bands and light weights participants work on improving mobility, balance, and overall endurance. To register e-mail jasmind@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

COMEDY NIGHT EVERY MONDAY from February to April from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. as local comedians such as Lianne Mauladin, Evan Carter, and Ernie Vincente make you laugh. The shows take place at Firkin at the Bay, 68 Marine Parade Drive, Humber Bay Shores. For more contact 647-748-8877.

2026 NIKE COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND helping to administer and distribute over \$100,000 to local youth-focused sports organizations, which can apply and receive funding up to \$15,000. Visit <https://jamaalmagloirefoundation.com/community/programs/>

31-years of Black History Month and some events



JEAN AUGUSTINE

It will be 31 years this year since Canadian legend MP Jean Augustine brought a successful motion to recognize February as Black History month in Canada.

The motion was unanimously passed by the House of Commons in 1995 and is today practiced nationwide.

Augustine represented Etobicoke Lakeshore in Parliament for 13 years and still resides in the community.

She was elected in 1993 and was the first Black female MP, until her retirement from federal politics in January 2006. She won consecutive elections in 1993, 1997, 2000 and 2004.

Her Jean Augustine Centre, which she is actively involved in, is holding a Black History Month Celebration on February 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at their office at 101 Portland Street.

There will be a brunch, performances, and remarks by Augustine. Tickets can be purchased starting February 2nd on their website www.jeanaugustinecentre.ca.

There will also be a Black History Month launch at the Etobicoke Civic Centre, at 399 the West Mall, from February 1 to 20 on the main floor.

There will be performances by an Indigenous group, as well as drummers, African Dancer & Afro-Caribbean youth Dancers. There will also be displays and a message by Councillor Stephen Holyday.

There was also a Black History celebration on January 29 by Toronto Police in honour of the first Black officers on the force. They included Const. Gloria Bartley, the first Black woman



POLICE CHIEF Myron Demkiw honouring Gloria Bartley via son Alonzo at a police Black History Month event.

on the force, and the late Larry McClarty.

Among them was retired Sergeant Terry James who entered the Service in 1980 as one of 10 women in her recruit class, the largest female intake at the time.

Bartley's son Alonzo accepted a police Trailblazer Award on her behalf.

Alonzo said his mother was more than a trailblazer. She was forced to leave the force due to policies that barred married women from serving until 1972, he noted, ultimately became a catalyst for change.

"We must also recognize and reflect upon the people who lived the reality of being the first, the only, and the ones who carried the weight of opening doors for others," Chief Myron Demkiw told staff at police headquarters.

As part of the commemoration, the Pan-African flag was raised at police headquarters

and will fly throughout Black History Month. Meanwhile, Canada Post has issued its new Black History Month 2026 stamps honouring Canadian hip-hop pioneers Maestro Fresh



FIRST BLACK Toronto Police female cop Gloria Bartley is honoured for Black History Month.



—BLACK HISTORY MONTH STAMPS—

Wes, Michie Mee and Muzion. The stamps were unveiled at the Concert Hall on January 27. There were appearances by the musicians on the stamp in addition to other entertainers.

NHLer Oates sets lacrosse record that still stands



ADAM OATES still holds a Lacrosse record from 45-years ago before playing 19 season with NHL teams.

Many South Etobicoke lacrosse and hockey fans are honouring Adam Oates who set a lacrosse record that still stands 45 years today. Oates, a former NHL all star, played for the Etobicoke Eclipse Jr. A lacrosse team and one 1981 night in Kitchener, under coach Mike Fisher, he scored in one game 10 goals and 19 assists for 29 points in a feat that still stands today. He had more than 180 points that season. Fisher said Oates' record is outstanding and is one that will go down in history.

The Weston native was a star with the Etobicoke Eclipse of the Ontario Lacrosse Association, but after about four seasons of A Major Jr Series Lacrosse, Oates decided to devote his efforts to hockey.

He went on to play for 19 seasons including stints with the Detroit Red Wings, St Louis Blues, Boston Bruins, Washington Capitals and a few other teams.

The athlete is credited with 1,079 assists and 341 goals in 1,337 NHL games. He was known for his perfect passes, leadership in the dressing room and impressive accomplishments considering he was never drafted.

Oates was elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2012, when he was hired to be the head coach of the Washington Capitals. He is also a member of the Etobicoke Sports Hall of Fame. At 23-years-old he was the highest paid rookie in the NHL. He once played with sniper Brett Hull on his wing, and the "Hull and Oates" line became a feared offensive combination, with Oates recording 102 and 115 assists in his first two seasons with St. Louis.

"It was just fantastic," Oates said then. "I can't believe we only played together two and half years, because it felt like 10. It was just so special. We just really hit it off as buddies,

friends. We played the game the same way; the chemistry was just excellent."

He was also a six-time finalist for the Lady Byng Memorial Trophy, awarded for high levels of sportsmanship and ability. Six years after he retired, Oates was behind the bench as an assistant coach with the Tampa Bay Lightning. He became an assistant in New Jersey the following year, helping the Devils reach the Stanley Cup final in 2012.

"He did an outstanding job for us," then-Devils general manager Lou Lamoriello said of Oates. "He's very communicative, very intelligent, he explains things very well."

By the time he retired Oates had played in five all-star NHL games and was loved by fans.



LACROSSE PLAYER ADAM OATES played with a number of NHL teams including Philadelphia and Tampa Bay.

He credits his father, David, for his unselfish play by pointing to British soccer star Stanley Matthews - known as a pass-first player. "It was just kind of our family story growing up—"if you can be unselfish, your teammates will always like you," Oates said.

These days Oates, who is 64, remains active in hockey as a private skills coach, working with Optimal Player Performance and My Pro Hero to train the next generation. Steven Stamkos, Zach Parise, Alex Ovechkin, Teddy Purcell and Max Pacioretty are just a few of the NHL players who have benefitted from Oates' experience, attention to detail and excellent communication skills.



OATES (Number 20) with lacrosse team members before the NHL.

Some tips for saving energy and staying warmer at home in winter



(NC) As temperatures plunge below zero, homeowners face a seasonal challenge: protecting their homes from the harsh effects of winter.

With the cold snap comes a surge in furnace and natural gas fireplace use as families work to keep living spaces warm and comfortable.

As the temperature drops this season, now is the perfect opportunity to look for ways to increase the energy efficiency of your home.

Maintain the effectiveness of your fireplace. Your fireplace can keep you and your family warm this winter.

However, remember to keep the damper closed to prevent heat from escaping through the chimney. Check the glass for a proper seal and inspect the venting system to ensure everything is in working order.

When heat escapes from your home, you lose money, and your furnace ends up working harder than it has to.

Keep your vehicle fueled and ready for winter. Keep your car moving this winter. Before long road trips, plan fueling stops and check station availability. Frigid winter weather will increase the

fuel consumption of your vehicle—stay prepared so you don't get stuck.

Keep an emergency kit in your car with supplies to keep you warm, as well as a snow brush and shovel. And be mindful not to idle your car in an enclosed space such as garages, as carbon monoxide can build up to dangerous levels.

Don't forget the insulation. Adding insulation to your walls is a smart way to make your home more comfortable and energy efficient. It helps keep warm air inside during winter, reducing the strain on heating systems.

Insulation also acts as a barrier against moisture, helping reduce the risk of mould and protecting your home's structure. Better insulation can also lower energy costs, reduce natural gas use and support a healthier, more comfortable living space all year-round.

Keep the energy in your home flowing this winter without wondering if the heat in your home is escaping or going to waste.

For drafts you can seal around doors and windows with weather stripping and plastic or adding insulation (especially in the attic). You can optimize your thermostat settings by using heavy curtains to trap heat, and reversing ceiling fans to circulate warm air down.

Simple habits like closing doors to unused rooms, using rugs on floors, and dressing in layers also make a big difference.

You can find more energy-efficient tips at enbridgegas.com/energyefficiency.

OBITUARY

MP Kirsty Duncan served Etobicoke North for years



THE LATE KIRSTY DUNCAN

Well-liked and respected Etobicoke North politician, scientist and academic Kirsty Duncan is being mourned after passing away last month at the age of 59.

Duncan, who lived in Richmond Gardens, in the Eglinton and Islington Avenues area, is well known for serving as the Liberal MP for Etobicoke North for 17 years, when she stepped down.

She was elected in the 2008 federal election and re-elected in the 2011, 2015, 2019 and 2021 general

elections.

Duncan served under former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as Minister of Science; Sports and Persons with Disabilities and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons.

The popular politician died from cancer on January 26, 2026. She had been sick for some time. She grew up in Etobicoke and in 1985 graduated from Kipling Collegiate Institute as an Ontario scholar. Duncan went on to study geography and anthropology at the University of Toronto. She then entered graduate school at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, and completed a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in geography in 1992.

The author of two books on environment and health, she was an adjunct professor teaching both medical geography at the University of Toronto and global environmental processes at Royal Roads University in B.C.





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2005-1400 Dixie Rd, Miss
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\$865,000



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Shelley Porritt
Broker of Record

♥ Happy ♥
Valentine's Day

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