

The South Etobicoke News

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Local group bid to halt Mimico condo towers

A Mimico group is fighting a plan to build two 43-storey towers on a busy stretch of Royal York Road.

City council will consider a proposal at its March 25 to 27 meeting to amend the Zoning By-law to permit two 43-storey buildings to be built at 327 Royal York Road, near Judson Street.

The plan was previously considered and approved by officials of Community Planning, Etobicoke York District, according to City records. The proposal includes about 1,046 residential units, 106 parking spots, 795 bicycle parking spaces and 233 square metres of non-residential uses. The condo towers will have a gross floor area of 70,700 square metres. A previous failed high-rise development had been planned for the site.



TWO HIGH-RISE CONDOS (left, right) are planned for the busy Royal York Road and Judson Street area where cyclist John Offutt (centre) was hit and killed. Council will consider the project this month.

The Mimico Lakeshore Community Network (MLCN) has written to Etobicoke York Community Council to note that Royal York Road is already very congested and a cyclist was killed at the Judson Street intersection.

“Royal York Road in that area is already very congested and not just at rush hours,” the group warned. “Sometimes traffic is backed up for blocks. People trying to turn off Cavell often need to wait for a kind person to let them in.” They said one person was killed at the Royal York-Judson intersection. Cyclist and teacher John Offutt was killed on that stretch after being hit by a cement truck making a turn in 2022. His death then sparked outrage from cyclists.

“A proposed road would only add more vehicles to the mix,” said the letter that was signed by MCLN co-chairs Angela Barnes and Les Veszlenyi.

“Cars proceeding north routinely swing around those seeking to turn onto Judson and will quickly face those turning into or off the new road,” according to the complaint to halt the proposal.

Residents organize to protect Smythe Park trees

Some west-end residents have banded together to stop what they say will be the removal of 847 to 1,800 trees as part of a flood mitigation project of Black Creek.

Almost 3,000 people have signed an online petition opposing removal of the trees that began last month at Smythe Park, at Jane Street and Black Creek, to address flooding concerns.

An independent expert has claimed the trees must be removed as part of Rockcliffe Riverine Flood Mitigation Project to curb flooding of Black Creek at Smythe Park. “The removal is specifically focused on widening the Jane Street bridge/culvert to manage Black Creek’s flow,” according to a group called Friends of Smythe Park, that was formed to fight the tree removals. “The project is expected to remove roughly 843 to 1,800 trees, clearing a significant portion of the park from Jane Street to the pool.”



WEST-END RESIDENTS have banded together to halt the removal of hundreds of trees at Smythe Park (top left, right) as part of a flood mitigation project to prevent the future flooding of Black Creek. More than 2,000 people have signed an online petition to stop the work.

The group has staged protests and petitions calling for a pause of the project, citing concerns about destroying the local ecosystem, including wildlife habitats and nesting areas. They claim the area is rich in wildlife.

They said a rebuilt Scarlett Road bridge would be more effective and less destructive solution to solve the area’s flooding.

“This destruction is absolutely unnecessary and we must stop it,” the group wrote. “This is our community oasis. Many wildlife will suffer. Save Smythe Park!”

The group said up to 80 hectares of floodplain and wildlife habitat will be replaced with cement, which will destroy sensitive wildlife areas; including snapping turtle’s breeding areas; which are an endangered species.

“Wildlife will be evicted from their winter shelters in February,” they said. The activists are calling on the City to pause the

project and conduct a public inquiry; restore and protect Lavender Creek and naturalize from Alliance to Jane Streets, which they say is a vital wildlife corridor.

They want the project area protected with a nature-based flood solution and are seeking the federal government withdraw funding until a review of the project is completed and an effective flooding solution is reached.

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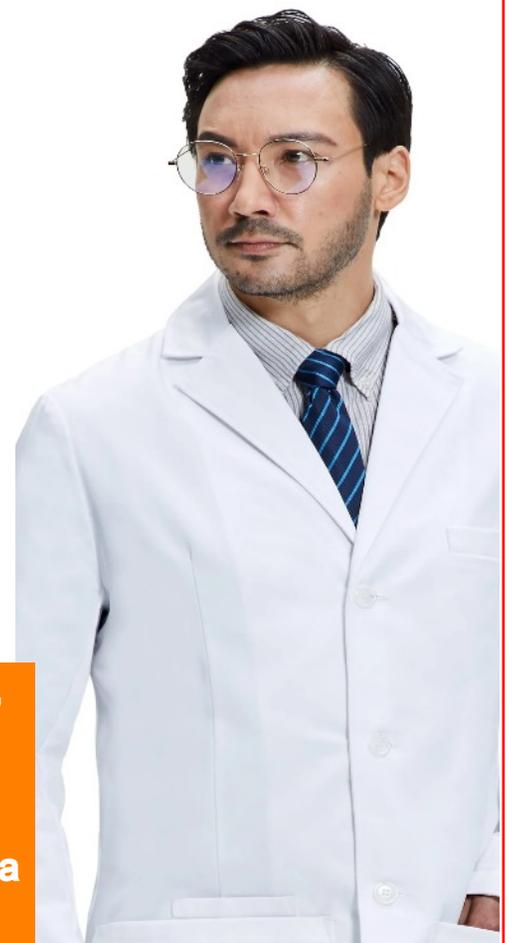
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The murder of Const. Nash six decades ago led to the last hangings at the brutal Don Jail



PC JOHN NASH

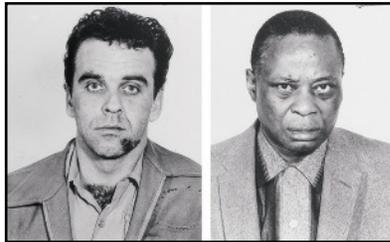
Toronto Police Const. John Frederick Nash was killed by an armed robber 64 years ago last month, who was found guilty of murder and was one of the last persons hanged at the notorious Don Jail. Nash on February

Shortly before midnight, the men were led to the small converted washroom that housed the gallows. Two dozen men had been hanged in the same room over the years, ever since



DON JAIL gallows where the men were hanged; the last in Canada.

officials had moved executions indoors to prevent them from turning into public spectacles. With their hands bound behind their backs and manacles on their feet, Lucas and Turpin stood back-to-back as the hangman slipped a noose over each of their hooded heads.



HANGED Lucas, Turpin

At two minutes after midnight, the hangman sprang the wooden trap door. They were officially declared dead sixteen minutes later. Their bodies were driven to Prospect Cemetery, where they were buried in unmarked graves. Outside the jail, demonstrators had been picketing against the hangings. They yelled "murderers" and "killers" at police. One congregation held a "death watch" at their church. The debate over capital punishment in Canada was controversial in the 1950s and 1960s as what if the convicted person was innocent of the crime.

Police major crime wrap for January is a shocker

There were 350 criminal charges laid in our community last January, including 16 sexual violations, according to Toronto Police 22 Division.



The sexual violations involved 20 victims, with four alone occurring in the Humber Bay Shores area. Of the 46 vehicles stolen in January, seven were ripped off from the Long Branch area, police said in a 22 Division Major Crime Summary. Worst, there were 172 assaults, against 182 victims, in the community. The most assaults took place in Mimico Queensway with 86, against 90 victims, police said. More shocking was the 73 assaults against 76 victims that took place at the troubled maximum-security Toronto South Detention Centre, on Horner Avenue. Detectives said there were 54 break and enters in the South Etobicoke area, with 11 taking place in Islington; eight in Etobicoke City Centre and seven in Long Branch. Police were called to probe 10 robberies last January in the Division, with five involving seven victims in incidents in Etobicoke City Centre. There were also 21 thefts over \$5,000, with five taking place in Alderwood. There were also 27 thefts from vehicles, with five taking place in Etobicoke West Mall, police said. Sadly, there were two shootings in the community, with one in Markland Wood and another in Etobicoke City Centre. Police warn there were 17 occurrences, including assault, auto thefts, robbery and break and enters in the Sherway Gardens Mall area and six incidents of assaults, auto thefts and robbery at the Dundas Kipling Subway GO parking area.



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Public hearings underway for a proposed 60-bed womens' shelter in Six Points area

A second homeless shelter is being planned for the South Etobicoke community.

A public consultation will take place this month as residents will hear details on a proposed 60-bed womens' shelter planned for the Six Points area.

An application has been filed to the City proposing a four storey shelter at 3838 Bloor Street W., near Jopling Avenue N., just west of Kipling Avenue.

The meeting will take place on March 4 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at 3819 Bloor Street W.

The location of public shelters has been a sensitive issue in South Etobicoke following protests and community uproar over initial plans to build a homeless mens' shelter on Third Street, which was switched to a shelter for seniors following public outrage.

A nursing home now stands on the site of the proposed Bloor Street shelter. The project involves converting an existing nursing home and adding a two-storey structure to provide specialized care.



ARTIST DRAWING of what the new 60-bed womens' shelter on Bloor Street W., will look like.

Once operational, the shelter program will be staffed 24-hours a day, seven days a week and will provide wrap-around supports, including: meals and laundry, counsellors and case managers to work with women, access to physical and mental health care, recreation and social programming, assessments, referrals and pet support .

The City is committed to working with the local community to support the site and has hired Community Engagement Facilitator Joe Mihevc Consulting to lead engagement. Mihevc was a former long-time councillor on Toronto City council.

The shelter is part of the City's Council-approved Homelessness Services Capital Infrastructure Strategy, which aims to open up to 20 new shelters citywide by 2033.

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.

City officials have said they have to refuse hundreds of people nightly as shelters are filled.



THIS NURSING home will be converted to a modern womens' shelter for those who need help.

The plan calls for new landscaping, updated parking and loading dock facilities, according to City documents.

The proposed shelter will provide critical services to help women experiencing homelessness gain stability and work toward permanent housing, according to the City.

The shelter will be operated by Street Haven at the Crossroad, a non-profit organization with more than 60 years of proven experience in providing shelter and housing to help empower women to grow and thrive, and building lasting, respectful relationships with clients and neighbourhood partners.

It is expected the work will be completed by 2030.

Parking an issue for new Third St. seniors shelter



DRAWING OF the seniors' shelter on Third Street and what it may look like.

A New Toronto business group is calling for an upcoming seniors shelter on Third Street to be built with underground parking due to a lack of spots in the area.

A letter was sent to City officials on February 18 by the Lakeshore Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) with concerns over a lack of parking in the area

and the shelter should have parking for the spots being removed.

"Shelter staff, local residents, and business customers and staff all need access to parking that is not currently provided," according to the letter.

The lack of parking issue surfaced during a Round Table Discussion about the shelter last month.

"The local businesses were already concerned about the loss of the Green P parking lot that was at 80 per cent capacity," the BIA stated. The City in studies has recommended there be more residential density on Lake Shore Blvd. W. with taller buildings.

"The demand for parking is only going to increase," the group explained. "This will put a strain on the surrounding residential streets and remaining Green P paid parking."

The 50-bed Third Street shelter is being built on a parking lot and is one of 20 shelters being built by the City to deal with the homeless issue.

The plan outraged the community which was first told the shelter was for homeless men.

A second 60-bed shelter, for women, is also planned for 3838 Bloor St. W.



HOMELESS in the community.



- MIMICOMBO REUNION .. Page 4
- CALL FOR AC IN SCHOOL .. Page 5
- ANTI-COVID BBQ FIGHT ... Page 7
- PANCAKE TUESDAYS ... Page 8
- THINGS TO KEEP BUSY ... Page 14
- LADY PEARL PASSES ... Page 15

What's Inside

Talks begin for HST funding



Cash-strapped City of Toronto officials have begun talks with Ottawa and the province to try to get a share of HST payments collected to help pay for services and infrastructure.

Talks began after Councillor Josh Matlow moved a successful motion that requested the City Manager begin negotiations with the two levels of governments for a share of the HST. Matlow said the payments if approved,

would represent a historic shift in the way municipalities are funded and is necessary to cover the growing costs of the infrastructure and services that have been downloaded from provincial and federal governments.

"It will be worth it if we really want to fix our city," he said. "This fight will not be easy. Success will require focus, hard work and collaboration."

The provincial and federal governments are estimated to have collected about \$160 billion and \$300 billion respectively in taxes in 2024-25, Matlow said, adding a \$1.6 billion share of the HST would be a lifeline for Toronto.

He said the \$1.6 billion is about 27% of the City's budget and can support about half the province's shelter system and other services



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Skaters look forward to Mimicombo Roller Rink reunion



THE BELOVED Mimicombo Roller Rink will be fondly remembered in a March 22 reunion by many skaters who frequented the rink back in the day when it was a hub of the community.

“The reunion is also to honour the two brothers who owned the place,” Bell said. “It was such a fun-filled place that people loved.”

The rink was owned by Wally and Joe Bobeckho who started it in 1958, until it was shut down in the 1980s. It was located at 2487 Lake Shore Blvd. W., at Mimico Avenue on the south side, which is now Amos Waites Park. People still speak fondly of the rink; which back then hosted some top bands, professional wrestling and a bowling alley. There is only about a handful of roller rinks left in the Toronto area.

“The response to the reunion has been tremendous,” Bell said. “There’s not a negative



GETTING DOWN!

thing to say about the Mimicombo.” Young people and adults from across the City flocked to the hall to skate, bowl and listen to up-and-coming

bands. There was a banquet area for weddings and the venue was a social meeting place for residents. The brothers are credited for bringing many top-named bands as blues singer James Brown in 1965, The Ardels, Bobby Kris & The Imperials, Bill Hailey and the Comets, Frank Motley and the Hitchhikers, The Motley Crew, Richie Knight and the Mid-Knights and many others.

Bell said a typical skating session would include; an all-skate, a couples only (moonlight skate), a couples waltzing only, a backward skate, a men’s

Dig out your roller skates and step back in time at the beloved Mimicombo Roller Rink.

A Mimicombo reunion is being planned for skaters to relive the bowling, live bands and good friends at the long-gone roller skating rink.

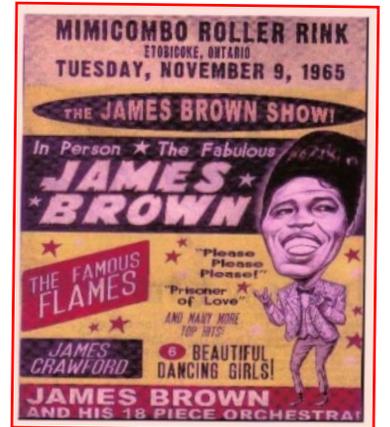
A reunion, featuring a book launch with prize draws, will take place on March 22 at Scooter’s Roller Palace, at 2105 Royal Windsor Dr., Mississauga. It starts at 8 p.m. Event organizer Kevin Bell, who was a regular at Mimicombo, said skaters can meet, greet and catch up with old friends and staff. He is asking fans to bring their Mimicombo memorabilia and fun-filled memories.



MIMICOMBO owners - brothers Wally and Joe Bobeckho.

only and ladies only skate, where a faster song was usually played and the skaters would race around the floor at high speeds.

The skaters and dancers would never know that the bowling alley doubled as a homeless shelter at night, with Joe and Wally opening their doors to the unfortunate.



POSTER FOR James Brown show at the Mimicombo in 1965.

Police busy at Sherway Mall



POLICE investigating a possible crime.

Toronto Police say there were 17 incidents involving robbery and auto thefts at Sherway Gardens Mall last January.

Just recently on February 21 an area resident reported a woman had her two-month old expensive iPhone stolen from her jacket while shopping in the mall. Others claim they have had similar experiences.

Police were called to investigate more than a dozen occurrences in one month in the Sherway Gardens Mall area, in cases involving assaults, auto thefts, frauds and robberies.

The Mall has been identified as a target for an assortment of smash-and-grab robberies, frauds, high-end retail robberies, thefts and distraction scams.

Recent reports indicate a broader trend of increased, organized, and often violent, theft targeting shoppers and luxury stores across GTA malls.

Police said customers should secure their valuables like wallets and phones securely. They should be vigilant of their surroundings and not leave valuables visible in their vehicle. Officers last Christmas issued a security alert warning shoppers to beware of pick pockets working to steal their property.

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GUYS RESOLVE

Parents call for new Catholic school with air conditioning

Some vocal parents in Etobicoke Centre are upset that there will be no air conditioning installed in a new elementary school being built in the area.

Buttonwood Elementary School was planned with air conditioning system, which was nixed by Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) officials, since it will cost \$2 million more than budgeted.

The \$42 million school is slated to open in September and will teach 600 kindergarten to Grade 8 students, and contain 88 daycare spots, in the Royal York Road and Eglinton Avenue W., area.

Trustee Markus de Domenico said kids cannot learn and staff are unable to work in 30-plus degree heat in the summer.

He is calling on the Ontario government to reverse the decision and pay for the air conditioning.



RESIDENTS UPSET that New Buttonville Elementary school will not have air conditioning to keep students cool.

“The cancellation was done without community input or consultation,” de Domenico posted online. “I moved that the air conditioning be added to plans and the Board approved.”

The school is one of a number now operated by an Ontario government appointed supervisor.

TCDSB officials said in a newsletter the spending of \$2 million for air conditioning is not a ‘prudent use of tax-payer dollars.’

“Staff do not recommend proceeding,” Board members ruled. “Staff has been able to observe and quantify the temperature reduction afforded by in-floor cooling system in two recently opened school buildings.”

They said the costs have increased since the school was planned.

“The cooling system is significantly more than contemplated when Trustees approved their motion, and therefore, staff do not recommend proceeding,” according to a Board report.”

“If you’ve spent any time in our local schools as a parent, volunteer, or community member, you know what extreme heat looks like inside a

classroom,” Jennifer Alexander wrote .

“It is an awful feeling to pick up a child from school who is exhausted, flushed, and unable to concentrate after sitting through hours in a stifling room,” she said in a social media post.

Many parents called on politicians to include air conditioning in the school and asked for Premier Doug Ford to step in.

“An overheated environment is not conducive to learning,” wrote Jess Carter.

“No A.C. is crazy and where is Ontario Health and Health Canada in the planning of schools?” Harburn asked. “This provincial government cares not for Ontarians - young or old.”

“Even one dangerously hot day is too many when we’re talking about young students sitting in crowded rooms for hours at a time,” another parent said. “Parents know this, teachers know this, communities know this.”

Norah Betty said it gets hot in many schools as some classroom windows can barely open; there are no blackout curtains; water fountains do not work and most fans are outlawed for safety reasons or due to a lack of plugs. “Climate change is resulting in more and more days with temperatures over 30 and



SIGN FOR public meeting for community to obtain information on the coming school. Some residents oppose the lack of air conditioning.

in classrooms with tightly packed bodies,” she wrote.

The new school is currently under construction at 111 Kendleton Dr, adjacent to Buttonwood Park, to alleviate significant overcrowding in local schools.

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Residents oppose Kingsway condo



A PROPOSED 39 storey condo (top, bottom) is planned for the Kingsway

Some Etobicoke Centre residents are opposed to a plan to build a 39-storey condo in the Kingsway area. The high-rise tower is planned for 69 Old Mill Terrace, near Bloor Street W. The proposed site is a corner lot along Bloor St. just west of Old Mill Station and some area residents insist that the plan is inappropriate for the site.

There was a community meeting on February 11 in regards to the building, to which many people opposed. A next virtual meeting will be held on March 19.

"The corner lot is far too small for a project of this size" according to one social media post. "A 39-storey tower is completely out of scale for this area," adding that "there's nothing like it nearby."

The proposed building would have 345 new residential units, as well as 26 rental-replacement units. There will be 82 parking spots in four levels of underground parking, as well as 279 bike parking spaces. One loading space is proposed.

Despite the nearby subway station, some residents argue the ratio of 82 parking spaces to 371 units is unacceptable,

and presumes that a lack of visitor parking would add to vehicle congestion in the area.

The unit mix is planned as two studios, 222 one-bedroom units, 109 two-bedroom units, and 38 three-bedroom units - with larger two-and three-bedroom units making up roughly 40 per cent of total units.

"As someone who's lived here most of my life, this development simply doesn't make sense for The Kingsway," according to one social media post. It asked local residents to attend an upcoming community consultation to oppose the project.

Some residents argued that high-density, high-rise development is happening all over Etobicoke. One user asked, "Sorry, why shouldn't a condo go there like everywhere else? Look at Humber Bay. It's happening everywhere."

Others said Bloor Street W., traffic is already a mess as bike lanes have safety benefits, but congestion is real. They claimed years of construction will be a nightmare. "This neighbourhood's green space and wildlife are already under pressure, including recent illegal deer hunting," one resident wrote.

Another nearby 12 storey development is also proposed for Culnan Avenue and 1230 The Queensway.

The area has become a hotbed for non stop development with proposed huge plans for the corners of Kipling and Queensway and forthcoming Sobseys redevelopment on the south west side.

The proposals are before Etobicoke York Community Council and are then considered by City Council.



Concerns about condo tower at Legion Road



NEW CONDOS planned for Humber Bay Shores.

A proposal to build a 37 and 10-storey condos in prime Mimico has picked up steam and has been approved by a City committee.

An application was filed to build a 37 and 10 storey condos at 2256 Lake Shore Blvd. W., at Legion Road, which was adopted on February 18 by Etobicoke

York Community Council.

The matter will now be considered by City Council. The applicant WND Associates was seeking and obtained Zoning By-law amendment to permit a mixed-use development composed of a 37-storey building and 10-storey building with a shared six-storey base that will include at least 600 square metres of commercial space. The complex will house about 575 units of varying sizes and non-residential uses, including an expansion of Flora Voisey Park, which caters to the neighbourhood. The park will be in the north east section of the property facing Legion Road.

The site is now used as a public self-storage, warehouse building that is slated to be demolished to erect the new condos.

Also planned is a four-level underground parking garage that would contain 393 parking spots, of which 353 will be for residents. Area residents said they were concerned about traffic congestion, lack of parking or public transit, infrastructure, flooding and there were calls for a widening of Legion Road.



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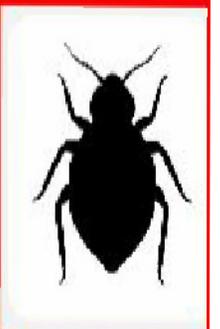
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City donates five needed medical vehicles to Ukraine



OFFICIALS with some of the Toronto donated vehicles for Ukraine. Courtesy photos.

Another five emergency vehicles declared as 'end of life' by the City of Toronto has been sent to help war-ravaged Ukraine. The vehicles, including five power generators, were provided by the City with the Canada Ukraine Foundation covering the cost of shipping, Mayor Olivia Chow said at a rally last month to mark the fourth year of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. She said Toronto has sent 17 vehicles and eight generators to help the people of

Ukraine since 2022. Toronto has been a twin city of Kyiv since 1991.

"This equipment will be used to mitigate the consequences of Russian missile and drone attacks on Kyiv," she said.

Some of the donations include paramedics SUVs equipped with lights and sirens, as well as trucks, with additional shipments authorized annually to aid in emergency responses

"The donations consist of 'end-of-life' fleet vehicles that were originally intended for auction," officials said. "Instead, they were transferred at no cost to the Ukrainian government to be used by medical centres and for emergency response."

Oleh Nikolenko, of the Consulate General of Ukraine, said the vehicles play a vital lifeline for humanitarian and medical support in its capital city.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed," Nikolenko said. "I am grateful to Mayor Olivia Chow and the City of Toronto for standing with Ukraine through action."

The vehicles are destined for medical centres in Kyiv during the "most critical situations" and help the City cope with the challenges of persistent shelling. Some vehicles, such as the Chevrolet Tahoe, come fully equipped with operational sirens, lights, and basic medical supplies, allowing them to function as immediate emergency response units. Ukrainian officials have stated they are willing to take even "junk" or decommissioned stocks because their technicians can tear them apart and keep them running.



GTA POLITICIANS at the vehicle handover event.

Adamson Barbeque anti-COVID fight faces constitutional challenge



ADAM SKELLY being arrested by police. Courtesy photo.

A former area resident who lost his thriving barbeque restaurant after standing up against COVID health rules is taking his case to court in a constitutional challenge five years later. Adam Skelly's eatery was a hive of activity for anti-COVID protestors in late 2020 as he defied City of Toronto health rules by keeping his Queen Elizabeth Blvd. eatery open during the pandemic when most businesses were shut and people ordered to wear masks.

Police were summoned a number of times to quell heated groups staging pro and anti-COVID demonstrations outside his Adamson Barbeque. A hearing was slated to take place at the University Ave. courts from February 25 to 27. More than \$40,000 has been raised by his supporters in a Go Fund Me page to help pay for his legal challenge, which is estimated to cost about \$100,000.

Skelly has returned to Alberta with his Toronto restaurants now shut. Published court filing alleges several infringements of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms against Skelly, including his freedom of peaceful assembly and against arbitrary detention. He was arrested by police outside Adamson Barbecue in November 2020.

When Skelly opened Adamson Barbecue in defiance of public health orders, "his purpose was twofold: to begin a public conversation about lockdown measures he believed were disproportionate," according to the court filing.

"What followed was not measured enforcement, but a coordinated and vicious response by the province and the City, which included the illegal seizure of the restaurant premises by the City's then medical officer of health, Dr. Eileen de Villa," and Skelly's arrest. On November 25, Skelly was ticketed for violations of COVID rules and a trespass notice issued.

The next day, Skelly broke into his own property and was arrested by the swarm of Toronto Police officers already present.

"The operation involved over 200 officers, with the City later seeking more than \$187,000 from Skelly in a civil action for policing costs," the filing stated.

Skelly has been tied up in litigation for years since and has paid tens of thousands in legal costs, not counting the City's \$187,000 for policing, the filing said.

It is not known when a court decision will be reached.



ADAM SKELLY

WANTED

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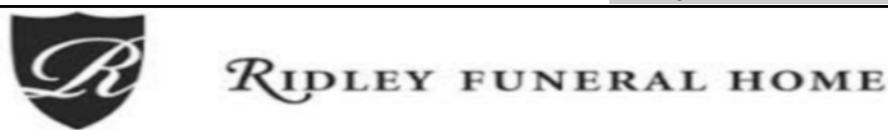
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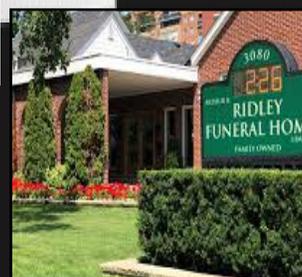


RIDLEY FUNERAL HOME

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.



3080 LakeShore Blvd. W. Toronto 416.259.3705 RidleyFuneralHome.com

Its charity Pancake Tuesday and the Grill is filled

The Sunrise Grill was packed on Pancake Tuesday as customers flocked in to order \$2 buttermilk pancakes to raise funds for a good cause.

The 150 North Queen Street grill by noon on February 17 had cooked more than 1,000 of the tasty and fluffy pancakes at the 16th annual fundraiser with all proceeds going to the Canadian Cancer Society.

All the tables in the restaurant were filled, mostly with returning customers who'd been dining at the Grill for years.

Grill owner George Kolitsopoulos said over the years his family-owned company has raised more than \$262,000 to support Canadians impacted by cancer.

"We hope to raise about \$35,000 today from pancake sales," he said. "We love these campaigns as it directly affects people in the community."

Kolitsopoulos said his company has been in business for 40 years and has about 100 of the Sunset Grills



STAFF AT Sunrise Grill proudly show pancakes being sold to raise funds for charity. Staff photos.

restaurants across the country. Manager Sarah Harrison said customers love the friendly and welcoming atmosphere of the Grill.

"Many of the people have been coming back for years," Harrison said in between orders. "We are a

family business and

we are

proud to be Canadian." Long-time customer Cherie has been eating at the restaurant since it was opened in the Sherway Mall area for 16 years.

"I always feel welcome and like a family member here," she said. "The food is good and the people are nice."

The grill boasts they only use fresh food cooked using healthy methods as flat top grills, pat dry bacon and nothing is deep fried. The eatery is known for its bacon and three eggs for breakfast or their tasty Sunset Burgers for lunch.



SERVERS SARAH and SUSAN were kept busy with pancake orders with proceeds going to the Canadian Cancer Society.



ANOTHER happy customer loving his pancakes.

Ducky from Long Branch roti shop calls it a day



DUCKY'S ROTI founder Boodnarine 'Ducky' Heerasingh is retiring after 24-years. Staff photos.

The roti maker of Long Branch is packing it in after 24 years of making and selling the tasty Trinidadian meals. Boodnarine also known as 'Ducky', and his wife Chandra Heerasingh, are retiring more than two decades after starting and operating Ducky's Roti, at 3296 Lake Shore Blvd. W., a popular spot for roti-lovers in the community. "I will be missing all my customers," Ducky says. "I enjoy meeting all the people who come to the restaurant."

The restaurateur is emotional talking about a business in which he has toiled thousands of hours to achieve success. His eatery has served thousands of rotis over the years to many regular customers,

and now their families, who love the spicy flavour. They travel here from across Toronto to enjoy the fresh, home-made rotis.

He is now serving the children of his customers who have been enjoying his curry dishes; as roti or rice with curry goat, chicken, beef or doubles, a tasty snack.

Ducky on his retirement plans to spend more time with his family and cooking at home. He is turning over the business to Donna Seebaran, who has been operating the restaurant and his long-time cook.

Donna will be changing the name of the business to reflect her name. She also plans to add some new dishes without touching any items on the menu. "I am looking forward to serving our customers," she said. "I will be making some minor changes but things will remain the same."

Ducky brought his love of food to Long Branch area after arriving here from his native Trinidad.

His restaurant has received many good reviews online due to the fresh food, in which each roti is freshly cooked.

"Best real authentic back home cooking," one customer said in a review. "Amazing food and very clean and good portion."



DUCKY with new shop owner Donna. The restaurant has been in business for more than two decades.

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Feeding the needy free in our community



FOOD FOR NOW volunteers at work feeding the needy in New Toronto on a cold day. **Staff photos.**

About 100 hungry area residents lined up for free hot meals in the cold on a busy New Toronto sidewalk. About 20 volunteers from Food For Now had set up tables with food which was dished out to the needy on February 20 near a Toronto seniors home, at Third Street and Lake Shore Blvd. W. The grassroots group had been ordered to move their weekly free meals from in front of the

to receive support with dignity without a need to travel.” They also had some items of clothing and winter gear spread on one table so those being fed can remain warm if homeless. Lauzon said the group use existing recycling and garbage facilities and are committed to cleanliness and respect for residents and property. The free outdoor meals take place weekly and all the food items are donated by area companies.



THE VOLUNTEERS kindly dishing out plates of assorted foods to those in need.

Toronto Seniors Housing building, and today had obtained permission to set up their tables two buildings away. “Food for Now is not a disruption, we are a support system,” said group founder Daniel Lauzon. More than 2,500 residents have signed an online petition calling for the group to remain outside Woods Manor, Toronto Seniors Housing building, at 2835 Lake Shore Blvd. W. “We had a positive meeting with them (seniors home) and moved right away,” Lauzon explained. “We are neighbours feeding neighbours with no barriers.” On this cool day, the meal included chicken, fish, pulled pork, pasta and salad, which were provided in take-out containers from heat-sealed bags by volunteers to the patient and anxious crowd, a majority who were seniors, including those in walkers or strollers and living on a fixed income. Lauzon said Food for Now has been serving free food and essential items outdoors for the past 16 months. “Many of the people we serve are seniors with mobility challenges who live on a limited income,” he said. “Many live directly in the seniors building which allow them

“These volunteers don’t get paid for doing this,” said Steve, a homeless man. “They find the sponsors and then bring the food here.”



THE FOOD VOLUNTEERS must have fed about 100 seniors and at risk people, including these above lining up for a meal, on a cold and wintry day. Everyone was in good spirits.

Humber College laying off staff



Humber Polytechnic is one of the largest colleges in Canada and is firmly entrenched and prominent in South Etobicoke. The school may lose some of its 86,000 students, of which about 30,000 are fulltime, as some staff will be taking packages in buyouts to leave the South, North and other campuses. The college is offering “voluntary exit packages,” to full and part-time staff as it cut costs. Officials are warning that further cuts may follow. The layoffs will affect South Etobicoke because it will mean less students attending the South campus, in the Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Kipling Avenue area. It will mean a loss of revenue for local merchants and residents renting rooms or apartments to hundreds of Humber students in the community. A reduction of foreign students has forced some of Canada’s largest colleges, including Humber, Fanshawe, Sheridan and Georgian Colleges, to lay off staff and cut programs. At one time the college had about 10,000 international students studying in its classes. Humber’s President Ann Marie Vaughan in a letter to staff wrote that “more fundamental choices” are required to stabilize its finances due to “years of constrained funding.” “Humber continues to navigate significant fiscal pressures outside of this investment including caps on international students and rising operational costs,” Vaughan told staff. She said the challenges have created a growing strain on the school’s budget. “Unfortunately, we have arrived at the time when we must make more fundamental choices,” she wrote. Since 2019, tuition for domestic students had been cut by 10 per cent and then was frozen for seven years. During that period, many colleges increasingly relied on international students — who pay significantly higher tuition. Recent federal caps on international student permits have sharply reduced enrolment projections, disrupting that model. Humber has about 4,500 employees and an update on the layoffs is expected early this month.

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City plans to beef up movie and TV productions



TORONTO IS a major hub for movie making in North America.

The City is looking at placing more resources to grow the film and television production industry following threats by the U.S. to disrupt joint productions with Canada.

President Donald

Trump last September promised to introduce a 100 per cent tariff on films made outside the U.S., as they take away business from Hollywood.

City staff in a report said Toronto's film and television production industry is highly valuable to the City, in that it generates about \$2.6 billion yearly and supports a skilled workforce of 40,000, many who live and work in South Etobicoke.

They wrote that the film activity has placed Toronto as one of the top five largest production hubs in North America, defined by world-leading talent servicing almost three million square feet of studio space.

Toronto's industry is globally competitive, with local talent winning Oscars, Emmys, Golden Globes, and Canadian Screen Awards for work done here. This strength is the product of decades of investment and support from the City and other levels of government, domestic and international partners, the report said.

"Toronto's film industry is currently navigating a period of rapid change," according to the report by an Economic and Community Development Committee to be considered by City Council at its March 25 – 27 meeting.

It said jurisdictions in the U.S. and worldwide are competing for production investment

through enhanced tax credits,

expanded studio infrastructure, and other supports. It will require a coordinated and competitive response to protect Toronto's market share, the City said.

"The risk is compounded by recent efforts by the U.S. administration to retain American film and television production domestically and by growing trade-related

uncertainty," the committee wrote. The City is being urged to promote the local film industry to U.S. producers as they grow domestic production through co-production with international partners.

The report warned that investment in the film industry has slowed down due to the expensive costs for studio space, high production costs, global inflation, tariffs on imported building materials and economic uncertainty.

The City is working to become a more film-friendly infrastructure and environment. It plans to implement stronger planning tools to protect and expand core employment areas and streamline regulatory processes to support film-friendly uses.

They are also collaborating with industry to identify strategically located lands for future studio and production infrastructure development.

The committee is calling for a five-year Strategic Plan for the film industry to protect and grow the Toronto film industry as a film hub. It said evolving technologies, new distribution models and audience growth present opportunities for Toronto to become a leading film city. "Together, priorities and actions are intended to ensure that Toronto remains one of the world's leading and most film-friendly production centres through 2030 and beyond," according to City staff.



OUR FILM INDUSTRY employs some 40,000 skilled well-paid workers who live in this City and it generates \$2.6 billion to our economy.



ONE OF OUR major movie and TV production studios and there is still demand for more space.

through enhanced tax credits, expanded studio infrastructure, and other supports. It will require a coordinated and competitive response to protect Toronto's market share, the City said.

"The risk is compounded by recent efforts by the U.S. administration to retain American film and television production domestically and by growing trade-related



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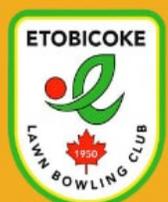
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Cloverdale Mall redevelopment gets green light to build 10 towers

The redevelopment of Cloverdale Mall to include condo towers and thousands of homes has been given the green light by City Council

A massive proposal by QuadReal Property Group to build 10 towers ranging from 25 to 41 storeys and more than 5,500 new homes was approved by Council last February 4.

Planning work is underway for the 30-acre site at 250 The East Mall, which will mean a reduced mall footprint, with towers being built in the parking lot. There will be new parks, trails, retail space, childcare facilities and three public streets.

Two new public parks totalling over 3.5 acre are positioned along The East Mall, complemented by an interconnected trail network and additional open spaces. A 2.5-acre landscaped edge trail along Highway 427 and Dundas Street introduces a green buffer.

The proposal would include approximately 5,536 dwelling units consisting of 3,088 one bedroom units, 1,886 two-bedroom units and 562 three-bedroom units.

There will be 3,356 parking spaces of which 510 will be short term, and 2,846 long term spaces are proposed. A total of 4,244 bicycle parking spaces are planned including 448 short term, and 3,796 long term spaces.



APPROVAL WAS given for developers to go ahead with building 10 condos and townhouses at Cloverdale Mall.



THE NEW DEVELOPMENT will bring 5,536 new dwelling units and 3,300 parking spots in the parking lot of Cloverdale Mall.

This proposed development plans to transform the 1950s-era shopping plaza site into a mixed-use community with residential and non-residential uses, including a main street with a retail square.

A new childcare facility, complete with a connected outdoor play area, is slated for conveyance to the City in the first phase of development, ensuring early delivery of family-oriented services.

“The proposed development creates a compact, walkable, mixed-use community,” according to documents



In the Community

By TOM GODFREY



Better screening and scrutiny are being sought to detect and punish corrupt City of Toronto workers who are ripping off taxpayers for millions of dollars.

The dirty workers should be fired on the spot as literally hundreds of the well-paid staff are stealing from the City, and us taxpayers, and many seem to be getting away with it at this time when all services are on the rise.

Last year for example there were roughly 700 complaints made to a City Fraud and Waste Hotline by friends or co-workers outlining 1,150 allegations of potential wrongdoing by staff or contractors, according to the 2025 Auditor General Fraud and Waste Hotline report.

The report was considered by an Audit Committee and will be studied by City Council at its meeting on March 25, 26 and 27.

It said there are about 1,200 allegations made to investigate or stop the fraud and waste every year. That is a lot of misuse of our assets, considering some of the frauds can be in the millions of dollars.

The hotline has received more than 15,300 complaints since 2002 and has led to a decrease of thefts or wrongdoing by City staff, fearing they would be caught.

Mind you there are about 60,000 staffers who work for City departments and agencies; and most are represented by a union, which appeal or contest the allegations made against its members. It must be noted that a vast majority of the City workers are decent, hard-working and honest.

It is estimated the hotline prevented the potential loss to the City of \$6.3 million from 2021 to 2025, which included another \$4 million in fraud of all type.

There has been many reports of Parks and Forestry staff going shopping in area malls, while they are supposed to be on the job.

There are also disturbing reports that more than \$21,100 worth of packages have gone missing from mailrooms at City facilities over two years. Some 20 packages contained expensive electronic devices that disappeared.

“We continue to manage a high volume of allegations, which has remained relatively consistent over the past five years, averaging approximately 1,210 allegations per year,” Auditor General Tara Anderson wrote.

The City was also close to having \$2.5 million stolen from its coffers in 2019 when the credentials of a retired employee were used to sign contracts, according to a hotline office probe last June.

In another case, a sewer service company last December received a five-year ban from bidding on City contracts after an audit showed they had over-billed the City of more than \$1 million.

And an investigation found a City employee was doing business for their own company during work hours. The person admitted their work involved other government clients.

There is also a list of Toronto companies that owe millions in back taxes that have not been collected.

The City, it is argued, has a budget of around \$20 billion yearly, of which many payments cannot be ratified and there are many contracts being signed for big-budget items as policing or infrastructure work.

City managers have to send a strong message that staff will be escorted out the door if caught stealing from us hardworking taxpayers; with our taxes, grocery and other bills on the rise. Better still the police should be brought in to probe the thefts and lay charges where possible. The annual report on fraud, waste and wrongdoing highlights information about Fraud and Waste Hotline activity, including background information, detailed statistics, and complaint summaries.

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

The tax filing period is in full swing. In this article I will attempt to provide information for each document that maybe required.

Before I get into next steps, I will encourage every taxpayer to set up "My Account" with CRA

T4s are a document you will receive from your employer. If you have had various jobs throughout the year, make sure that you have all the T4s, if you have moved, please ensure that your employer has your latest address. If you don't report all the income, you will get a Notice of Reassessment.

The T4A this document provides pension, self-employment commissions, Fee for service. The Fee for service is generally issued by Staffing Agencies.

T4A(P) is a document you get from Service Canada, commonly known as CPP.

T4A(OAS) another document from Service Canada, Old Age Security.

T5s cover a variety of situation- dividends, interest income and foreign income.

The RC210 is the Canada Workers Benefit, this document is occasionally missed by the taxpayer comes around mid-February.

T 2200 -Declaration of Conditions of Employment issued by the Employer, when used by the taxpayer may result in a significant decrease in the tax liability. The taxpayer should review this questionnaire in its entirety, may allow work from home expenses, automobile expenses (pro-rated to the kilometers relating to work)

T2201—Disability Tax Credit Certificate: If eligible, CRA typically updates prior years' tax returns automatically. In some situations, this credit could be transferred to a family member, thus reducing their tax liability for the recipient.

T2202 – a document issued by the Educational Institution, some students may want to transfer some portion of this credit to a parent (up to \$5,000). Any excess credit will be kept on the CRA for future use and will be used to reduce the tax liability when the individual starts work full time thus reducing the tax liability resulting in a refund.

RRSP used by most taxpayers will result in reduced tax liability or a refund. Make sure you don't exceed the allowable limit. Any over payment to the RRSP account may result in penalties.

TFSA Tax-free Savings Account has no implication for the tax return, however, over contribution will result in penalties. Another pointer here is that if you withdraw monies from this account, one has to wait for the following tax year to shore up the TFSA.

FHSA First time Home Savings Account a great deduction allows an individual to save for a potential home purchase in the future the limit per year is \$8,000 up to a maximum of \$40k lifetime. Any contribution like RRSP Should create a refund.

The RRSP, TFSA and TSFA allows are available on "My Account" with CRA.

Other deductions that a taxpayer can available themselves is a charitable deduction issued by a Registered Charity. GO Fund Me campaigns do not qualify

Medical expenses though limited can be used, make sure you have all the backup receipts.

T776 relates to Rental Income - this schedule allows the taxpayer to report rental income or loss. Reporting requirements are address of the rental property, ownership, Gross Rental Income, claimable expenses are advertising, professional fees, repair and maintenance (rental portion), Mortgage Interest and Property Tax all items are prorated to the Rental portion of the property.

T777 Self Employed and Commissioned Taxpayer have a whole range of deductions available, home office (pro-rated), supplies, sub-contract, automobile expenses (pro-rated), supplies, telephone and internet, office expenses, promotion, entertainment and professional fees.

For automobile expenses one can use Interest paid if the vehicle is financed and maybe entitled to depreciation, parking, tolls, repairs and gasoline. Any and all claimable expenses should be supported by receipts in the event of an audit The claimable kilometers should be supported by a log (at least for a period of three months).

I would strongly recommend that you get your taxes filed before April 30th and if you are getting a refund the money is in your pocket sooner and if you owe money, you will avoid penalties and interest. You have till April 30th to pay your liability.

Now that the tax return has been filed and CRA issues a Notice of Reassessment communication occasionally and is sent to the taxpayer by CRA and this communication will provide the reason this reassessment, generally is for missed income not reported or the taxpayer received a communication looking documentation that was not responded to.

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



Retired Judge Speaks

By Retired JUDGE LLOYD BUDZINSKI

In the wake of the tragedy at Tumble Ridge, our country carries a shared weight of sorrow. We feel it for the families now facing an unimaginable emptiness, for the friends who will forever miss a familiar voice, and for a community whose sense of safety has been shaken.

No words can restore what has been taken, nor can they fill the space left by those who are no longer with us. But what we can do—what we must do—is honour them with the dignity, compassion, and unity that emerged in the days that followed.

At the memorial gathering, Canadians from every corner of the country stood shoulder to shoulder. Some travelled across provinces; others came from just down the road. Many arrived as strangers, yet embraced one another as though they had been lifelong neighbours.

Representatives from communities large and small stood together not as officials or delegates, but as human beings sharing in collective grief. It was a reminder that the soul of this country is not found in our institutions or politics, but in the way we show up for one another when it matters most.

There were no divisions that day—no "us" and "them." There were only people holding hands, offering comfort, and trying in whatever small way they could to ease the burden of their neighbours.

In a world that often feels fractured, the unity at Tumble Ridge was a powerful testament to who we are at our best. Diversity did not separate us; it strengthened us.

Our different backgrounds, beliefs, and histories did not create distance—they formed a tapestry of shared humanity. This is not the moment for political debates or for searching for solutions. Those conversations will come, and they will be important, but they belong to a later chapter. Right now, grief must come first. Helping hands must come next.

Only when families have been supported and the community has begun to heal can we look toward the future with clarity and purpose.

What stood out most in these difficult days was the depth of compassion we showed for one another. It wasn't loud or dramatic. It was quiet, steady, and deeply Canadian. It was the neighbour who brought food to a grieving family without being asked. It was the volunteer who stood in the cold for hours to guide people at the memorial. It was the child who placed a handmade card at the tribute site, offering the simplest yet most profound message: You are not alone.

In our diversity, we found a common thread—our capacity to care. That is the true strength of this country. Not our size, not our resources, not our institutions, but our willingness to stand together when the world feels unbearably heavy.

The people of Tumble Ridge showed that strength to the rest of us. They showed what it means to hold one another up, to grieve as a community, and to face the unthinkable with grace.

As we honour those who lost their lives, we must do so with respect and civility. Their memory deserves nothing less. They deserve a legacy built not on anger or division, but on the compassion we witnessed in the days after the tragedy. In moments like these, many of us turn to the wisdom of our faith and cultural traditions—not to explain the unexplainable, but to steady our hearts and remind us who we are called to be.

From the Christian scriptures, we hear: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." It is a call to lift each other up, to share the weight of grief, and to walk forward together. The Jewish tradition offers a parallel truth in Pirkei Avot: "The world stands on three things: on Justice, on truth, and on acts of loving kindness." Loving kindness is not only a feeling; it is a responsibility to act with care toward one another, especially in times of sorrow.

In Islam, a well-known teaching of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) reminds us: "None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself."

It is an invitation to empathy—to see another's pain as our own and to respond with mercy.

Hindu philosophy offers a similar vision of shared humanity. The spirit of the Bhagavad Gita

teaches that when we act selflessly for the good of others, we honour the divine spark present in every being. Compassion becomes not just a virtue, but a sacred duty.

Indigenous teachings across Turtle Island echo this same truth with profound clarity. Many nations hold the understanding that all life is connected—human, animal, land, water, spirit. What happens to one happens to all. When one person is hurt, the whole circle feels the wound; when one person is lifted, the whole circle rises. This world view reminds us that community is not an idea—it is a living relationship, strengthened through care, respect, and reciprocity.

These teachings, from different paths and languages, converge on the same message: we are bound together by our duty to care, to comfort, and to stand with one another.

Tumble Ridge has shown us that even in the darkest moments, there is light in the way we come together. There is strength in shared sorrow. There is hope in the simple act of holding hands for a common cause.

Together, we are strong. And together, we will carry the memory of those we lost—not as a burden, but as a reminder of the compassion that binds us as a nation.

And perhaps, as we move forward, we can hold onto one simple truth: the next time anger rises in us, the next time frustration threatens to divide us, think of Tumble Ridge. Think of what we can do together. Let it be our quiet affirmation—when we choose unity, we choose strength; when we choose compassion, we honour those we lost.

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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Police warn area seniors of rise of distraction thefts in the community



3 Toronto women charged in jewellery thefts targeting seniors across the city

Toronto Police are warning South Etobicoke residents about a string of distraction thefts targeting seniors across in the Greater Toronto area.

Police said suspects approach seniors in public and engage them by asking for directions or some false gesture of goodwill such as requesting prayers for a sick family member.

The suspect will distract the victim with hugging, or by placing inexpensive costume jewelry on them as a so-called "gift." During this interaction, the suspects remove valuable jewellery already worn by the victim.

Victims are most often targeted while walking in public urban areas and approached roadside. Suspects are typically female and will exit a vehicle to initiate contact.

Police are asking residents to be vigilant and share the following safety tips with senior family members and friends who may be at risk.

Residents are being asked to stay alert to your surroundings, particularly in parking lots or less busy areas.

Avoid displaying expensive or sentimental jewellery in public; keep it covered when possible.

Do not allow strangers into your personal space or allow them to touch you. If someone attempts to place an object on you, treat it as a warning signs. If approached by a stranger under suspicious circumstances, walk away and seek help if necessary.

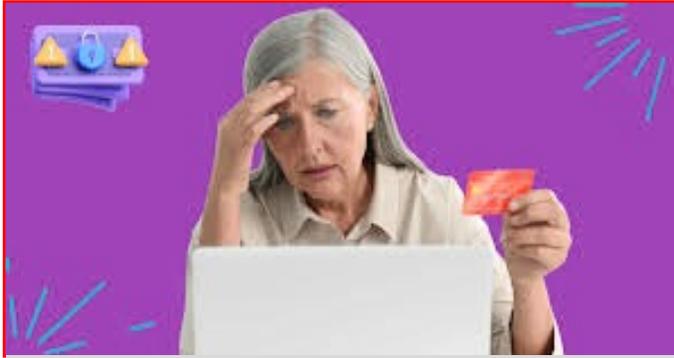
While jewellery is the primary target, thieves may also attempt to steal wallets, purses, or phones.

If you are a victim, try to recall as many details as possible, including the suspect's physical description, clothing, and any vehicle involved as make, model or licence plate.

Distraction thefts are a common tactic used by pickpockets, scam artists, and opportunistic thieves, often in public places. It can also be a tactic to gain entrance into homes. Criminals will operate in pairs or groups, with one person distracting the victim while the other(s) take the opportunity to steal your belongings.



March is fraud prevention month and be wary of scams



MARCH IS fraud prevention month so beware of scammers.

March is Fraud Prevention Month, which is an opportunity to build simple habits that can help you stay one step ahead of the scammers. Scammers thrive on pressure and fear. Requests for highly sensitive information, like PINs, passwords

or card numbers, are big red flags. No legitimate institution will reach out and ask for these details from you.

If a message or call feels wrong, trust your gut. Hang up immediately or simply ignore it. There is no need to engage. Whatever you do, don't click suspicious links or respond with personal details.

When in doubt, go straight to the source, because scammers can make a phone call appear legitimate, even the caller ID. You can keep yourself safe by only calling the official number printed on your bank card or listed on the organization's website, not the one you received a call from. A quick verification can save you from a world of hassle.

Scams involving other modes of payment, such as electronic transfers, are not protected through any federal legislation. It's important to be vigilant and keep your PINs and passwords to yourself.

No legitimate business or government agency will ever ask for payment via gift cards or Bitcoin.

Avoid high-pressure sales tactics: Legitimate businesses and companies will put the offer in writing and give you time to think it over. Avoid sharing personal, banking, or credit card information before you have even accepted an offer.

Never share personal, banking or credit card information with unknown callers, emails or door-to-door visitors. Always do your homework first to ensure you are dealing with a reputable company or a real person.

Federally regulated financial institutions can't hold you liable for unauthorized debit card transactions, while credit card issuers can hold you liable for a maximum of \$50. However, if you provide your banking information to anyone—including a spouse, a family member or someone claiming to be a law enforcement officer or bank employee—you lose that protection.

Potholes in our streets



It must be Spring with potholes popping up on most roads as vehicles steer around them. So far City officials claim they have filled almost 30,000 potholes on our roads and as many as 29 crews are working every day. City staff said they're experiencing an increase in claims for damages due to potholes after recent severe weather and tire and rim mechanic shops are being kept busy.

Last year, the City filled more than 257,000 potholes, according to public data.

Mayor Olivia Chow said the City's 2026 budget includes an increase from \$5.5 million to \$6.2 million for pothole repairs.

The potholes are caused by water flowing into cracks in the road, which gets caught and then freezes and melt due to the weather which breaks the asphalt break apart.

Once that snow starts to clear later on in March, you'll start to see more of those potholes resurface due to that freeze and thaw cycle." It costs motorists hundreds of dollars to obtain new rims, when the old ones bend.

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Originally built for Bell Telephone Company of Canada in 1926, historic building offering event space for weddings, kids parties, special occasions

Rental starting at: \$250/hr + \$5/person

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- Easy Lease Terms
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Looking after yourself and others in the community

MARCH 5 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LUNCHEON as we honour empowerment, progress and power of community. This year's theme is 'Give to Gain' and it highlights the impact of generosity and supporting one another. Please consider donating or contributing to auction items to make a difference. More details coming soon. Tickets \$50 and e-mail Jasmin to purchase at jasmind@lampchc.org

MARCH 6 CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY Art Session with local artist **Nataliya Sydorenko** for a morning of colour from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Trillium Room of Stonegate CHC at 10 Neighbourhood Lane. To register call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or e-mail health.promotion@stonegatechc.org

MARCH 10 CALLING ALL GARDENERS from the community are invited to attend an information session to learn about the Lakeshore West Garden Tour from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Long Branch Public Library, 3500 Lakeshore Blvd. W., The tour takes place on June 20. Visit lakeshorewestgt.ca

MARCH 11 MIMICO RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Annual General Meeting at Mimico Centennial Library at 47 Station Road from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Guest speakers MP James Maloney, MPP Lee Fairclough and Councillor Amber Morley. Members in good standing for at least 30 days before the AGM will elect a president and board of directors.

MARCH 19 GRIEF SUPPORT WORKSHOP for a compassionate supportive space to process loss and build coping strategies. In this workshop, we will debunk some of the common myths about grief and learn how to open a conversation, without feeling the need to "fix" anything. Expert Facilitator **Robert Jessup-Ramsay** from the Dorothy Ley Hospice is our guest speaker. Takes place at 11 a.m. at LAMP CHC, 150 Sixth Street. For more e-mail jasmind@lampchc.org

MARCH 19, APRIL 16, MAY 21 DROP IN SEWING DATES to use one of our machines to work on your project.

Call us to book a machine. The sessions run from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at Stonegate CHC, 1 Neighbourhood Lane. You must have experience in operating a sewing machine. Call 416-231-7070 ext. 307 or e-mail health.promotion@stonegatechc.org

MARCH 20 HEARING SCREENINGS (by appointment only). Canadian Hearing Services is hosting a free hearing screening Services include hearing loss screening, ear wax checks, and information provision. Appointment required. Email Jasmin at jasmind@lampchc.org

MARCH 24 WEST TORONTO STAMP CLUB invites stamp collectors for an annual night of exhibiting as members display their collections and share stories. Takes place at 7 p.m. at Fairfield Seniors Centre, 80 Lothian Ave., south of Islington and Bloor. For more contact 416-621-9982.

MARCH 25 FRANKLIN HORNER'S Annual Health Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Caring for Caregivers for presentations, prizes, draws and snacks at trade show at Franklin Horner Community Centre, 432 Horner Avenue. For more call 416-252-6822

UNTIL MARCH 27 SOUL IN FIVE FORM Turkish professional artists in GTA has upcoming art exhibition at the Etobicoke Civic Centre Art Gallery with opening ceremony on March 1. The show brings together five artists who interpret the human soul through visual forms. Contact Tatiana at 647-479-7707 or tatiana@rusanovska.com

MARCH 27 ETOBICOKE COMMUNITY BAND presents Pink Pony Club at its Spring concert at 7:30 p.m. at Etobicoke Collegiate Institute, 86 Montgomery Road, featuring **May Johnson**. Tickets \$25 or free for those under 12. Tickets available at www.eccb.ca

MARCH 27 & 28 FREE CLOTHING EXCHANGE at Sir Adam Beck Jr. School, 544 Horner Ave., from 9 a.m. to noon. Save your bags of good, used clothing that we will recycle in the community.

Donations not required and you can come and shop. No rags please.

MARCH 28 ETOBICOKE CENTENNIAL CHOIR invites audiences to step back into the golden age of swing with a concert celebrating the Big Band era. Featuring the lush harmonies and unforgettable songs of the 1930s, '40s, and '50s at 7:30 p.m. at Humber Valley United Church, 76 Anglesey Blvd. Tickets required. Call 416-695-9034. Tickets available at etobicokecentennialchoir.ca.

GROCERY SHOPPING TRIPS for those over 55-years-old bi-weekly every Thursday mornings to No Frills at The Queensway and Royal York Road. The shuttle bus will take seniors or those with disability or mobility issues. The bus will and pick up participants and return them home. If interested call 416-231-7070 ext. 239 to fill out required forms.

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. at LAMP CHC to build strength and confidence through practical exercises that support everyday movements. To register e-mail jasmind@lampchc.org or phone 416-252-6471 ext. 308.

2026 NIKE COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND helping to administer and distribute over \$100,000 to youth-focused sports groups, for funding up to \$15,000. Visit jamalmagloirefoundation.com/community

UNTIL MAY 14 MONTGOMERY'S INN INDOOR FARMERS MARKET every Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. for a variety of local food vendors selling produce, pre-made goods and hot food ready to eat at Montgomery's Inn, 4709 Dundas Street W.

IN SOUTH ETOBICOKE

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In tribute to Lisa Tucker



JAY TUCKER with late wife Lisa (top, bottom) who died last month and is sadly missed.

believed in him, and gave him strength and stability,” according to a post on social media. “She was his constant source of love, motivation and comfort.”

A grieving resident wrote Jay is an amazing tattoo artist, who raffled off many free tattoos over the years to help people facing financial burdens. “He asks nothing in return from anyone. It’s just who he is.”

Jay said he suffers from health challenges that stripped him of his tattooing craft and income.

“Heartbreakingly he lost the love of his life, his best friend, his reason to keep fighting, his beautiful wife,” another mourner wrote. “He is terrified of what is left for him.”

Donations can be made on Go Fund Me.

Some area residents are mourning the loss of the wife of a popular Mimico tattoo artist who passed away leaving behind two daughters.

Lisa Tucker, the wife of tattoo artist Jay Tucker, lost her battle and died of a sudden heart attack last February 1 and Jay said the family has been turned upside down. Friends have started a Go Fund Me page that has raised almost \$12,000 so far to help the family with funeral-related expenses, according to Jay.

He said a celebration of Lisa’s life and will be held at some point and that he may have to undergo therapy or counselling to cope with the loss.

“Removing financial stress allows him the space and time he needs to grieve and heal, while supporting his daughters through their own deep heartbreak,” according to the Go Fund Me page.

“She was more than a partner, she was his rock, the person who changed his life,



THE COUPLE in happier times.

Volunteers being sought to help turtles as they emerge for summer



VOLUNTEERS are sought for helping these turtles survive.

Volunteers are being sought to help save the lives of turtles as they emerge from their nests for the summer. Starting this month turtles will be coming out of hibernation and may be seen basking on logs, according to the website of Friends of Sam Smith Park. The spring hatchling season for turtles run from mid to late April to late May, according to the group.

Sam Smith Park has a reasonably healthy population of turtles found in the wetland ponds and the connecting North Creek, they said. The species include the at-risk Snapping Turtle, Midland Painted and the non-native Red Eared Slider.

The mature females around June leave the water to dig nesting spots on dry land surrounding the water ways.

The volunteers keep careful watch to ensure this process is protected from disturbance and that the females, after laying their eggs, are able to return safely to the water.

Wood and mesh frames are placed over the nests to protect them from predation – dogs, raccoons or skunks.

Hatchlings (baby turtles) emerge from their nests in late summer. Volunteers are present during the hatching period to ensure that the young turtles can make their perilous journey to the water safely.

Turtle protection in Sam Smith is managed by Turtle Protectors, an indigenous-led group from High Park and operating in a number of Toronto Parks.

The Protectors respond to calls about turtles on land or water, injured, or deceased. They assist turtles to cross roads safely, protect nests, and hatchlings to get safely to water. The reptiles are transported in containers.

Volunteers should be close to High Park, Rennie Park, Colonel Sam Smith Park, Etienne Brule Park, King’s Mill Park, Smythe Park or Don Valley Brick Works Park. If you see a turtle showing signs of distress you can call 647-491-4057.



TURTLE Protectors with a wire net to keep the reptiles safe.

OBITUARIES

Calypsonian Lady Pearl passes



CALYPSONIAN Lady Pearl

Calypso fans and family members are mourning the beloved matriarch of Canadian calypso ‘Lady Pearl’ who passed away last month.

Sheila Brereton Robinson, popularly known as ‘Lady Pearl,’ was born in Trinidad, and known as a one-of-a-kind singer who was loved by many fans in Canada, Trinidad and elsewhere.

Lady Pearl was a staple on the Calypso scene in Toronto and in 1992 became the first woman to win the Canadian Calypso Monarch title with her composition “Mother of All Humanity.” She also captured another Calypso crown in Miami.

The Mississauga singer passed away from an illness on February 3 and her funeral services was held on

February 23 in Oakville. She was 82.

She was known for her 1988 12-inch release that included the track ‘Winnie Mandela and Move Away.’

She had a keen sense of fashion, always dressed to the nines. On or off stage, she commanded attention through her clothes, royal dance steps and a one-of-a-kind voice.

Her enormous stage presence and confident way of delivering a composition were part of what gave her the Calypso stage name Lady Pearl.

Friends described her as an extremely quiet and classy lady who brought a special elegance and fashion flair to the art form.

Pat McNeilly, also known as Pan Man Pat, said his musical colleague had not been well for some time.

“She was simple, not loud, but graceful, and always had a smile,” he recalled. “She brought a queenly personality to the Calypso association.”

“Pearl was the perfect example of what it meant to be a ‘lady,” said her cousin Merle Ling. “It is very difficult to know that Lady Pearl will not be the bright light at family gatherings.”

“She had a voice that was uniquely Lady Pearl, and she could dress and dance. She was always a culture person and a family person also,” recalled Macomere Fifi, also known as Tara Woods.



LADY PEARL was known for her colourful attire and was loved by many fans.

Local firefighter served Etobicoke for 35 years

Etobicoke firefighters are mourning the passing of a well-liked long-time colleague who fought blazes in Etobicoke for 35 years.

District Chief Glen Murphy passed away on February 9 at Mississauga Trillium Hospital four days after his 91st birthday.

“Murph served his entire career in Etobicoke,” recalled Robin Sanders, a retired executive of the Etobicoke Professional Fire Fighters, Local 1137. “He was well-liked and a real gentleman.”

Murphy joined the Etobicoke Fire Dept., in July 1958 and retired in July 1993. He had worked in a number of stations in Etobicoke.

Sanders said Murphy, who wore Badge 53, was feared for his pitching skills playing for the firefighters baseball team in their games against a Toronto Police team.

“He was quite a pitcher,” Sanders said. “He was our pitcher for many years.”

Glen was predeceased by his son Glen Jr. and leaves his beloved wife, Jan, and daughters, Adele and Dawn. Also, daughter Amber, sons Jerry and Rick and their families.

There will be no visitation or funeral service. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.



DISTRICT CHIEF Glen Murphy



GLEN MURPHY



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2 bedroom bungalow with separate entrance to 2 Br basement suite
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509-6 Chartwell Rd, Toronto
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201-1535 Lakeshore Rd E, Miss.
3 BR condo with 2 full baths. Updated kitchen. One car parking.
\$629,900



48 Daisy Ave, Toronto
Property being sold as "land value"
Lot size is 25 x 125 ft.
\$749,000



5-3465 Lakeshore Blvd W, Tor.
Renovated bachelor apartment, includes laundry. No Parking.
\$1,375/month



1-3511 Lakeshore Blvd W, Tor.
2 bedroom apartment. Includes one car parking. Coin Laundry.
\$2,400/month



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**HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S
DAY**



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